

RUSSIAN JACK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

6:30 PM, Wednesday, January 10, 2018

At Wonder Park Elementary School

Present: Ed Leach, Fred McLeary, Tammy Hanson, Shawn Murphy, Kathleen Plunkett, Forest Dunbar, Pete Peterson, Ivy Spohnholz, Daniel George, George Martinez, Dan Wright, Sherry Wright

Via Teleconference: Kendra Kloster, Andy Josephson, Diana Rhode

Meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm by Chair Ed Leach.

1. Legislative report

Sen. Berta Gardner – no report

Sen. Bill Wielechowski – no report

Sen. Tom Begich – no report

Rep. Geran Tarr (Diana Rhodes) – Safety programs for children resolution that looks at childhood abuse and a policy. Work on untested rape kits to get those processed – those tests are proving to assist in catching repeat offenders. Lilly Ledbetter Day (fair pay act). Alaska women make 76 cents on the dollar.

Rep. Ivy Spohnholz – Getting ready to head to Juneau. Big thing besides fiscal plan is health care transparency legislation – hopes to get it through this year. Reforming of health care system that encompasses providers, insurers, etc rather than only focusing on one aspect of health care. Group of about 50 stakeholders meetings with 5 priority areas and obtaining funding to facilitate meetings.

Rep. Andy Josephson – Juneau weather report, organizing for the next session, caucus meetings this weekend and training going on (which includes sexual harassment training). State game refuge for Tangle Lakes. Pebble Mine hearings, 11 Commissions and Boards will sunset unless the legislators renew them. April – June end game – budget and the consequences of the cuts made so far. Need to negotiate. Response to Pete's question about a bill – legislators have primarily left those type of issues up to the Board that was created to deal with marijuana issues. 20 cents tax on plastic bags – concern of the elderly and poor bearing the brunt of that cost was posed. Environment is effected in serious ways by use and waste of plastic bags. Suggested that littering laws already in place be enforced instead.

2. Assembly report

Pete Petersen – Marijuana licensing requires information available online on security measures. Person that was robbed testified about that to the Assembly. Asked Rep Josephson about creating a bill with those items being redacted. Details are being worked out to sell MLP to Chugach Electric. Ballot – capital project, public safety, road and drainage and park bonds will be on the ballot in April (which will be done by mail this time). Drop boxes will be available for those that don't want to have to send through the mail. Signature cards have been mailed out, so that those who may have filed via PFD applications will have a signature on file. Any ballots that are questioned would provide the voter a chance to confirm their votes. This will create a compressed time for politicizing as ballots will be mailed 3 weeks prior to the election. Postmarked by midnight election day. A capital reserve fund was created to help provide maintenance on some of the buildings the city owns. There is approximately 3.4 million in the

fund. Still debating alcohol taxes to help fund programs to deal with the consequences of those that abuse alcohol. May be on the ballot. Don't forget to apply for your permanent fund. Forrest Dunbar – Pete pretty much covered it – food code passed. Unmanned drones used by police - UBER and LIFT basically unregulated in Anchorage and have negatively impacted the taxi drivers. Taxi cabs seem to be neglected, appearing shabby, and wondering if there is no regulation regarding that. An ordinance reducing regulatory burden would allow businesses to do their own upkeep – and supply / demand free market would come into play. Ordinance will be introduced soon. Cab drivers are leasing their vehicles, but have reduced their lease amounts perhaps because of the competition.

Daniel George spoke about Sullivan Arena getting very old (over 30 years) – not energy efficient, running at a loss and can't see it turning around. Forest responded - The long term is murky – SMG are the contracted administrators and think they can turn things around. Suggestion of selling it. Renting some turf that they can hold rugby events.

George Martinez - Mayor's office – Question was raised if selling MLP is expected to be a budget plus for the MOA? Retirement of the MLP debt is an immediate benefit to the MOA related to economic forecast. Opportunity to not lose workers, efficiencies over time – committed to keeping rates the same. There is a dividend that will be produced that may offset property taxes. There has been increased cooperation between the electric companies over the years. There was further discussion of potential costs / benefits of the merge.

3. School board report

Kathleen Plunkett ASD Bond package - 50.7 million bonds (mostly roofs, sprinklers). Next meeting will vote on a complete re-write of school policies. AASB policies will save quite a bit of money, also more transparent. Schools are asking for a hold harmless clause from the state funding. There is a capacity study going on this year. Budget by April 1 was pleaded for.

4. Principal report

Shawn Murphy, Wonder Park – back from winter break. Pretty transient population at Wonder Park. The number one problem is attendance and Begich' office asked about it. Shawn and Tammy are going to some training that will help them answer questions and better identify trends. Pretty big mixture of cold weather and lots of flu going around is suspected.

We discussed moving the March meeting to March 21 instead of March 14 to accommodate a Samoan group of students that would like to perform at that meeting.

April meeting may be held at the Emergency Operation Center, near Central Middle school which will include a tour. Fred McLeary brought Emergency Preparedness guides from the State of Alaska. Cash is part of what is needed in an emergency. RFID blocking device will protect your credit cards. There are pretty ones at ACE Hardware, and REI also has them.

5. FCC report - no report

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Sherry Wright

