

# **Rogers Park Community Council Minutes**

## **7PM Monday, February 9, 2009**

### **Rogers Park Elementary School Library**

#### **Board Members Attending**

Jim Wright, President  
Ted Ryberg, Treasurer  
Heather Rice, Secretary

#### **Minutes**

##### I. Welcome

Jim Wright called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

##### II. Approval of Minutes

Regarding the meeting minutes for January 12, 2009, Elvi Gray-Jackson noted that the amount of funds requested to study accessible bike ramps for the Lake Otis Elementary School overpass should be \$100,000 not \$50,000 as stated in the draft minutes. She also pointed out that Assembly meetings are not on satellite.

Rich Gingras moved to accept the January 12, 2009, meeting minutes with the above amendments; Pete Mjos seconded the motion. A vote was called of all RPCC members present (only those signing in can vote):

15 were in favor  
None were opposed  
3 abstained

##### III. Agenda Update

Jim Wright noted that Bob Knieffel (Muni) would not be able to present on the 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue project, but Alison Lohrky (DOWL) could take some general questions (she's not an engineer so cannot answer engineering/design questions).

Jim Wright also noted that Teri Peters (Muni) was not able to be at this meeting due to illness and, thus, is will not present on the parks report.

##### IV. Assembly Report

Dan Coffey was not present.

Elvi Gray-Jackson was present and provided the following information:

- The legislative budget request submitted by the Assembly now includes a \$150,000 request for the Maplewood Trail and \$100,000 request to study accessible bike ramps for the Lake Otis Elementary School overpass.
- On February 3, 2009:
  - The Assembly approved 8 bonds for the April ballot.
  - The Assembly approved 2 bills providing scholarship grant programs for Alaska residents based on scholastic achievement and need.
  - Elvi Gray-Jackson and Mike Gutierrez brought forward a resolution to support House Bill 68 to make exorbitant gas prices unlawful; the resolution failed.
  - There was unanimous approval for a resolution for 2 extra budget meetings on February 17 and March 10 (with public testimony).
- Questions and comments from RPCC members present:
  - Rich Gingras asked why maintenance and repair funds come from bonds instead of coming from the operating budget for the Anchorage School District. Ms. Gray-Jackson said there needs to be a better way and her budget committee is considering this issue. Ms. Gray-Jackson noted that all bonds are 20-years bonds except maintenance bonds which are 7-year bonds.
  - Dave Evans asked whether the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes were posted on the Muni website yet. Ms. Gray-Jackson said that Jeff Dillon, Director of the Muni Parks and Recreation Department, told her they were working on it. Let Ms. Gray-Jackson know if they are not up on the web soon.
  - Ms. Gray-Jackson provided an email message to Karen Ruud from the **associate traffic engineer** regarding the Rogers Park Elementary School safety concerns.

#### V. Legislative Report

No legislative reports were given.

#### VI. Federation of Community Councils Report

No FCC report was given.

#### VII. Treasurer's Report

Ted Ryberg, RPCC Treasurer, announced that RPCC has \$145.48 in the account.

#### VII. Presentations and Discussion

##### Gateways and Traffic Calming in College Village

- Dennis Linnell (HDL), Trevor Strait (HDL) and Jenny Satterfield (Muni Traffic Department) provided a review of four alternatives for traffic calming on Stanford and Cornell including gateway designs (see handouts). Construction of the

selected alternative is expected in summer 2010, though funding at the moment is uncertain.

- Background – A 1999/2000 Rogers Park Community Council Traffic Calming Study was prepared with input from the community advisory committee. Several projects were outlined and the city has undertaken 1-2 a years since as prioritized by the community. The Stanford and Cornell proposals were included in the study.
- Questions and comments from RPCC members present:
  - Robert Smith Jr. noted the traffic issue on Duke Street. (Dennis Linnell offered to meet with him later to discuss the issues more.)
  - David Morgan noted that slowing traffic on these streets may cause a worse problem elsewhere where traffic calming measures haven't been implemented. He also stated that snow in winter makes narrowed streets too narrow.
  - Robert Smith Jr. noted that more speed bumps are needed.
  - Verne Monette asked how effective stop signs are in slowing traffic. (Dennis Linnell responded that stop sign effectiveness varies.)
  - Buck Walskey noted he liked the traffic calming proposals, including the neck-downs.
  - Randy Beltz agreed that something needs to be done and thinks a 3-way stop has to be installed.
  - Hellen Sellacik said streets should be a minimum of 20-feet wide to allow fire trucks through in the winter. If neck-down, streets become too narrow. One option she'd like to see considered (a 5<sup>th</sup> alternative) is to slow traffic using only signs and no changes to the street designs.
  - Sheri \_\_\_ said that speed dips should be considered, not just speed bumps. (Jenny Saterfield responded that dips sometimes cause drainage problems; however, Dennis Linnell will look further at this idea.)
  - Karen Ruud pointed out that Bannister speed bumps don't slow traffic down much, unlike the raised crosswalk at 27<sup>th</sup> and LaTouche or stop signs every couple blocks.
  - Dave Cole likes neck downs but would go farther and put them around the corners.
  - Randy Belze agreed that neck downs should be on both sides of the corner. Buck Walskey also agreed.
- Dennis Linnell showed three gateway sketches he'd received that day and noted they will be further fleshed out and presented for additional review and comments.
- Dennis Linnell asked that comments be sent to him (see flyer for email address), but since he'll be gone shortly the comments should also be directed to Trevor Strait at [tstrait@hdlalaska.com](mailto:tstrait@hdlalaska.com) or to Jenny Satterfield at [satterfieldjd@muni.org](mailto:satterfieldjd@muni.org).

### 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue Improvements

- Alison Lohrky (DOWL) stated that formal presentations on this project will be given by Bob Knieffel at the March RPCC meeting. There will be a signal at 36<sup>th</sup> and McGinnis and none of the other options presented earlier will be implemented (e.g., nothing is planned for now at LaCarno and Cottonwood). This is a work in progress, however.
- Questions and comments may be directed to Alison at [alohrke@dowlkm.com](mailto:alohrke@dowlkm.com) and she'll pass them on to Bob Knieffel.

### Russian Jack Springs Park Improvements

- Dave Evans provided new information on the improvements. The Parks and Recreation Department has stated that only  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre of clearing is needed to accomplish sledding and snowboarding improvements (as described in the PRC 08-72 Addendum dated 2/4/9). Dave Evans asked for a motion saying RPCC has modified its position based on this new information. Therefore, Dave Evans asked for a revised resolution that would change the January 12, 2009, RPCC resolution by:
  - Changing the 1.6 acre figure to 0.75 acres
  - Strike the “as depicted in Alternative 3...Project” language and replace it with “as described in PRC 08-72 Addendum dated February 4, 2009.”
- Ann Lorber noted that it is confusing to have multiple resolutions and recommended putting all together in one new resolution to be clear that RPCC's goal is to keep the Russian Jack Springs Park natural.
- Rich Gingras suggested a friendly amendment to further add “whereas we've received new information” to the January resolution.
- Pete Mjos asked if this meant changes in Fairway 1 would be eliminated. Dave Evans responded that Fairway 1 is an acre of clearing so now it'd be much smaller.
- Dave Evans moved to bring his revised resolution forward. Bob Williams seconded the motion.
- Rich Gingras made a friendly amendment to add “and whereas PRC 08-72 Addendum was published after the January 2009 RPCC resolution was adopted and it contains significant new information.” Dave Evans accepted this amendment as did Bob Williams.
- Rich Gingras called the question; Pete Mjos seconded the call to question. RPCC members were asked whether they were prepared to vote on the resolution:
  - Yes – 15
  - No – 0
  - Abstain – 5
- The revised resolution (with friendly amendment) is as follows:

WHEREAS, safety on sledding and snowboarding hills are a priority; and

WHEREAS, the quiet nature of the park and natural setting have value to our community; and

WHEREAS, some of the current alternatives violate the Russian Jack Springs Park Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the existing golf facilities are inadequate; and

WHEREAS, park improvements need to reflect a balance for all users and uses not be proprietary and exclusive; and

WHEREAS, PRC 08-72 was published after the January 2009 RPCC resolution was adopted, and it contains significant new information;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the RPCC supports upgrading the existing golf facilities as depicted in Alternative 2 AND the sledding and snow board hill safety improvements as described in PRC 08-72 Addendum, dated February 4, 2009, (with a maximum clearing of 0.75 acres), because this combination of alternatives best represents the values of our community; and

IT IS FURTHER resolved that RPCC supports the continued winter use of summer improvement areas; and

BE IT FURTHER resolved that the RPCC supports the continued use of the current access road for Russian Jack Springs Park.

- A vote was called of all RPCC members present (only those signing in can vote) regarding the above resolution.
  - 14 in favor
  - 0 opposed
  - 5 abstained

#### Final Items

Jim Wright asked if those present agreed that RPCC should combine with other community councils to hear the mayoral candidates. All agreed.

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Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm.

Minutes submitted by Heather Rice, RPCC Secretary