

Rogers Park Community Council
Meeting Minutes
7 PM Monday, April 9, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Marilyn Pillifant, President.

The agenda was adopted with the caveat that we would allow Andy Josephson to call in when he was available to do his report from the legislative session in Juneau.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved without objection.

Bob Churchill provided the FCC report from the March FCC meeting.

Andy Josephson called in with the following points:

- He is moving forward on a significant amount of legislation.
- He is sponsoring a workers compensation bill with focus on workers benefits and death benefits
- The senate seems close to completing an operating budget
- He feels the amount of the PFD has been tentatively settled.

He was asked if he felt that the legislature would meet the 90 day deadline established by vote of Alaskans. He responded that it was unlikely.

He was asked about revisions to SB 91/SB 54. He said this was attempted to be addressed in the committee but the chair of the committee “gaveled” the committee out before a vote could be taken.

Dick Traini did the Assembly Report.

He expressed his appreciation for those participating in the recent election! The initial total vote count was about 80,000 votes. The Assembly is hoping to be able to provide “postage free” voting at the next municipal election. He felt the election ran very smoothly from an administrative perspective. There were very few votes that were not counted due to flaws (less than 700). He reminded us that the Alaska State elections coming this fall would be under the old system. He informed us that the Taxi system would be discussed at the Assembly meeting tomorrow night and invited us to come testify. Jim Richardson asked about the ADU legislation. Dick responded that he had asked for an update on this but hadn’t received it. He also informed us that two assembly members were considering sponsoring an action that would provide baby sitting service

reimbursement for assembly support people. He doubted it would be successful as this would probably result in the Muni having to provide that same benefit to all employees. The resulting cost would be prohibitive.

Dave Donley reported for the Anchorage School Board.

He handed out flyers with current information regarding the achievements of the Anchorage School District. He stated that safety in schools was a primary concern of his and he was part of an Ad Hoc committee on the subject. ASB was also working with the Council of Great City Schools. This is composed of 70 of the largest school districts in the nation. This group had submitted a resolution on school safety that included gun free zones and banning high capacity firearms. Betty Davis and Star Marsett are also on this Ad Hoc committee. He announced there should be a report out next month about the options for changing start times for ASD students.

Steve Noble from DOWL Engineering gave us an update on the Mid Town Congestion Project. They have had a property owners meeting and a business owner's meeting (about 20 or so attended the business owner's meeting). They are entering a new phase of outreach in this process. This project is his highest priority at this time. He stated that they are planning to have 3 or 4 meetings with the citizen's advisory group on this project. Each meeting should last about an hour and a half. Normally each community council should have one representative on this committee, however he hoped that Rogers Park would be able to have two. Marilyn brought up that an email had been sent out about a public meeting on this on the 12th. Steve directed people to the website for submitting their thoughts and comments (midtowncongestionrelief.com).

Steve Cleary talked about Anchorage Trails Committee. He is the executive director of Anchorage Trails. The Muni is the project manager on this effort to do bike trails. Steve opened it up for questions and answers on a proposed resolution he provided. He reminded us that the attached maps were proposals and not final. Also that the proposed trails were laid out by Mark Grunwall who is a professional trail designer. He wasn't sure what the formal public process for this would be. He also informed us that the recreational trail grants are administered by state parks. Currently funding for the grants is being held up due to the concerns of the Northeast Community Council.

He was asked if he felt that an increase in trails has contributed to an increase in crime? He responded that in fact he felt that it helped decrease crime due to an increase in use of areas.

He was asked about the maintenance costs of the trails. He responded that local

volunteers (included local bike clubs) had committed to doing the maintenance work on the trails.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution provided by Steve. The vote was 25 in favor, 1 against and two abstentions.

Neighborhood Crime and Safety Committee Report:

A request was made for donations for individuals who had lost property due to the recent Steven's Village Apartment fire. We were made aware there was a project currently scheduled for June 16 for a walk on local trails with the theme of "use it or lose it." Linda Chase talked about trimming brush and trees for greater visibility. She also stated she had participated in the Anchorage Police Department Citizen's Academy and recommended it to everyone. She said there were a lot of volunteer possibilities for participating in it. The committee is planning to attend the Federation of Community Councils meeting this Wednesday and do a presentation on taking back our community with respect to a major crime/trail safety problem. They are working with John Rhoda from the Muni and hope to start helping with cleaning up the areas where there are illegal campers in May. They are also planning on removing the European Cherry trees which have become a problem. Linda advocated for an increase in John Rhoda's staff.

The meeting was adjourned.