

**Rogers Park Community Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**7 PM Monday, November 12, 2018**  
**\*\*BP Energy Center\*\***

Officers present:

Jim Wright, President

Linda Chase, Vice-President

Marilyn Pillifant, Immediate Past President

Bob Churchill, FCC Representative

**Welcome & Introduction.** The meeting was called to order by Jim Wright, President, at 7:03 p.m.

A quorum (at least 15 community council members) was established by a show of hands.

Marilyn Pillifant announced she would be performing the duties of the secretary as our elected secretary/treasurer, Clare Boersma, had a planned absence.

Bob Churchill was asked by the President to address the language in the by-laws regarding the establishment of the agenda. After a general introduction of how our current by-laws were written, Bob Churchill explained the language in our By-laws regarding the setting of the Agenda. The language is contained in Article VII, Section E. which states, "After consulting with the officers and the Executive Board, the President shall establish the meeting agenda." It was explained that the intent was for the President to receive suggestions from the Executive Board and officers for the agenda and then set the agenda consistent with such factors as time values of the items, time constraints of the meeting, etc. It was also clarified that there was no intent that the agenda be an item which required approval of the Executive Board, officers or membership in general.

**Approval of Minutes for October 2018:** There was a motion to approve the minutes from our October general membership meeting by Bob Churchill and seconded by Marilyn Pillifant. There was a correction to the spelling of a name. The minutes were approved by a vote of 12 yeas, 0 nays and 4 abstentions. The comment was made on the abstentions that some were not at the meeting so they didn't feel they should vote.

**Assembly Report(s):** Felix Rivera gave the report for the Anchorage Municipal Assembly. He began by informing us that Dick Traini was not able to join us tonight because of a health related issue. He shared that the Assembly had its last

public meeting on the budget on November 7, 2018. He said that if we had further comments on the budget we could either send an email to all Assembly members (www.mas@muni.org) or to individual Assembly members. He encouraged us to send any emails on this to all Assembly members. He shared a concern that there had been an indication from the Municipality that they were going to cut funding for the Anchorage Fire Department (AFD) for two vehicles (a tanker truck and a hook & ladder unit). He expressed a concern that this would have a high potential safety impact and that a number of Assembly members were looking at restoring the funding (both he and Dick Traini were among that group). He also indicated that there was a group of Assembly members (Felix Rivera, Dick Traini and Eric Croft) that were looking at proposing an increased tax on alcohol sales. Currently they are considering a 5% increase, which would potentially raise between 11 and 15 million dollars. With the decreased funding from the State of Alaska and increased issues related to alcohol use it was felt we should generate the funding locally. If that is done, the Municipality can dedicate the funding to a specific area. The areas that the funds would be used to address include:

- Storage of personal property seized from illegal camps
- Support of the Municipality's Mobile Intervention Team
- Cold weather housing and shelter
- Construction of a treatment center

He handed out a paper copy of a presentation the Assembly's Homelessness Committee did regarding issues related to homelessness and what actions the Muni had taken and planned to take. He added that currently the Muni is primarily financially responsible for the public safety portion of these plans but hopes to include other areas if the funding can be acquired. In response to questions, he indicated that the bulk of their current efforts regarding homelessness are focused on cleaning up the camps, and that funding referenced in the handout was Muni wide funding numbers.

**Solarization Project Update.** (This topic was taken out of order due to other time commitments of the speakers.) The solarization effort we have been working on was addressed by Marilyn Pillifant. She stated that approximately 70 individuals from Rogers Park Community Council area had expressed an interest in being involved with this project. This is well above the minimum requested by those administering the program. She said they were looking for a coordinator from our community council. They are hoping to have someone volunteer who is familiar with this type of process. Jody Olson also spoke, providing a brief history of the program. She was optimistic that our community council would be considered for participation in the near future. They are hoping to have the list of those participating by the end of December 2018. In response to questions, it was

clarified that this is limited to panels installed on roofs and for individual homes; further that storage units for the power were not part of it.

**Legislative Reports:** Senator Berta Gardner's representative, Jacob Tatum, passed on Senator Gardner's best wishes. She was traveling and unable to attend. She wanted to express her appreciation for the past support of our community council in civic matters.

Representative Josephson wished all a Happy Thanksgiving. He stated that he sits on the state house Worker's Compensation group. They had a meeting recently. They created language in the law that better defines an employee versus an independent contractor. Apparently there have been problems in the past with people being mis-classified as contractors that should have been classified as employees, which changes their eligibility for worker's compensation benefits. They are also talking about medical rate reviews, employment reviews, and death benefits. He commented that in the short time he has been in the legislature he has become the fourth most senior representative in the House.

**School Board:** Alicia Hilde from the Anchorage School Board spoke and apologized for not attending our meetings as she was our representative. She explained that the reason for this is that the ASB meetings and our meetings are usually on the same evening. She shared that at their next meeting they will discuss school bonds. The current thinking is to see if they could do bonding on a multi-year basis (3 or 4 years) rather than a single year basis. A comment was made by a member, Dr. Peter Mjos, that it was his understanding that the Anchorage School District was currently having to pay approximately \$1,600 per month for health benefits per teacher and he felt that was an outrageous amount.

Marilyn Pillifant, a teacher, added that there were other approaches to health care that could be both effective and significantly less costly.

**Federation of Community Councils Report (Bob Churchill) re: October 17 meeting.** The FCC report will be distributed electronically to the membership in order to better use the time available. Bob Churchill, FCC representative shared that the Anchorage Park Foundation had announced, at the last FCC meeting, that the Rasmusson Foundation was considering doing challenge grants again this year for improving parks and trails. The amount they are discussing is approximately \$300,000 total. The vote on doing this is scheduled for after Thanksgiving. If approved, the application process will probably begin with an announcement after the first of 2019. In the past, the grants have been due in March of the year they are announced, and the maximum of individual grants has been \$40,000. The Park Foundation has committed to keeping us informed. This may be a funding source that could help with safety issues related to parks and trails.

**Midtown Traffic Revision Concepts.** Jim Wright introduced Steve Noble from DOWL Engineering. He is the project manager for the Midtown Congestion Relief Project. He reminded us there would be an open house regarding this project on November 27<sup>th</sup> at their offices (4041 B Street) with two sessions (10 am till noon and 4 pm till 6 pm). He also referred people to the project website. He stated they try to keep the website current with as much information as possible. Although the method of running this project is not new, it is relatively new in Alaska. He has personally never seen so much outreach in a project. They are trying to insure that all the concerns of those either participating or affected are taken into consideration prior to the project beginning. He stressed that they are addressing both motorized and non motorized issues.

He showed a listing of primary project focus areas:

- Improved multi-modal transportation within the area
- Safety and mobility of all users related to the New Seward Highway
- Concerns about access across the New Seward Highway (both East & West)

He added that a large majority of comments expressed concerns regarding access east and west across the Seward Highway and that much of the traffic is flowing into midtown rather than through it.

He shared that they have a heightened concern about any impacts on private property. He discussed the concept of a “Michigan U Turn”. This involved using a U-turn path to improve traffic flow. He said it was in limited use now in Alaska but they were looking at its possible use in this project. He then listed some of the most frequent concerns expressed so far;

- Pedestrian and bike travel
- Access to midtown versus through traffic
- Elevating traffic versus depressing traffic surface
- Noise
- Right of way impacts
- Impacts during constructions (particularly to businesses)

He then shared some key issues:

- Alignment of this project with other projects
- Specific property impacts
- Seward Highway flow north and south

- Preferred Project Concept (WE DON'T HAVE ONE YET).

Goals and objectives:

- Consistency with community plans
- Meets project goals and vision
- Neighbourhood and business impacts
- Environmental impacts
- Costs

He reminded people of the November 27 open house and added that there is planned a meeting of the citizen group and business advisory groups in January. Also they are planning to have an open house in February, and another during the summer.

**Crime and Safety Committee Report:** Gretchen Cuddy began by updating us on the activities they had been involved with and discussed a number of the speakers they had. She stated they are hoping to have another coffee and coco event in January on the trail system. They estimated that last year between 75 and 100 people attended the event.

Gretchen then stated that they wanted to start a fund to support classroom and field trip activities for teachers at Rogers Park Elementary School. Gretchen was asked by member Susan Dore-Levi if she was aware that the teachers at Rogers Park currently receive \$300 each for those types of expense. She responded she wasn't. Jim Wright then shared that the board had all agreed to table this issue until a later meeting; that there are related issues related to potential tax impacts if the community council controls such funds; and that there should be a written draft resolution in advance of a vote.

Linda Chase then took the floor and formally introduced both Gretchen Cuddy and Julie Bleier as the other members of the committee. She discussed the committee activities, objectives, and other individuals involved in the same or similar issues as the committee. She introduced a resolution in support of increased abatement actions and increasing it to a year around activity. She moved for adoption and it was seconded by Jim Richardson. During discussion, it was agreed that the second paragraph would be deleted. Item #9 was clarified, that the contractor performing the work would be responsible for providing the information referenced in this item. The vote was 17 yeas, 4 nays and 2 abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.