

Rogers Park Community Council
Meeting Minutes
7 PM Monday, January 14, 2019
****BP Energy Center****

Board members present: Jim Wright (President), Clare Boersma (Secretary/Treasurer), Bob Churchill (FCC Representative), Marilyn Pillifant (Immediate Past President). Excused absence: Linda Chase, Vice-President, was out of state.

I. Welcome

(Called to order at 7:04pm – quorum attained. Over 21 members present.)

II. Approval of Minutes for December 2018

(Marilyn Pillifant moves to adopt, and Bob Churchill seconds. Minutes approved.)

III. Assembly Report(s)

Felix Rivera:

- Alcohol sales tax (5%) on the April ballot
- Reorganized the assembly in December – new chair is Eric Croft, and Felix is Vice Chair.
- Assembly filled vacant seat in Eagle River/Chugiak with Gretchen Wehmhoff.
- 907-538-9805 is the number to volunteer for the homelessness Point in Time count coming up next week. This is a “census” of homeless in the area. They have 75 presently signed up and are looking for 25 more volunteers.
- Voting on animal noise ordinance at the next assembly meeting.
- Re: Sitka Park: This is an area across 15th Avenue from Merrill Field. There is a hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission on Feb 4 at 6:30 pm Library assembly chambers: Case # 2019-0009. Re: compatible scale infill housing in that area. The project would designate 68 lots to be developed in the NW corner of the greenbelt south of Merrill Field.

Dick Traini: Unable to attend today’s meeting due to medical reasons - expected to return in February.

IV. Legislative Reports

Legislators are preparing for the session in Juneau.

Harriet Drummond (HD 18): Not in attendance.

Andy Josephson (HD 17): Phoned in. Not a lot to report. Control of the House is up in the air, so he doesn’t yet know his committees or staff assignments. The level of disorganization is high.

Berta Gardner Senate: (SD I) not in attendance.

V. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Clare Boersma: \$188.11 on hand. No funds spent or received. An inquiry was made about asking the FCC to give us money. Bob Churchill suggested waiting until February (as available funds may increase from \$75 per year), and laid out the process to make a request (in writing and designating the purpose of the request).

VI. Crime & Safety Committee report (given by Gretchen Cuddy)

Meets Thursdays before regular RPCC meeting at 7pm at the home of Linda Chase (1415 Bannister): Feb 7, March 8, April 4, May 9.

Youth Taskforce will be the guest speaker at the next meeting. Working on trying to engage the health community in the conversation. Will also have Covenant House Alaska make a presentation about what they do.

Event in March: Coffee Corner at the park with cookies – across Chester Creek from Woodside Park. Will do brush clearing near Chester Creek in June/July. Would like to do weeding and landscaping in the neighborhood again, as they did last year.

VII. Presentations and Discussion, as follows:

A. Merrill Field Manager Ralph Gibbs

Presenting on Merrill Field and what he is focused on. He is working on trying to change the culture of “cowboy” flying at the field, as well as improving the infrastructure there to support flight. Questions were asked about the minimum altitude when flying over residential neighborhoods: 500 feet, except for takeoffs and landings. Discussed appropriate heights for takeoff and landing over the neighborhood, methods to decrease noise from aircraft, and about the previously discussed potential annexation of Sitka Street Park. Ralph says he has no plans to annex the park, and is not involved in that. He also does not anticipate the relocation of F22s from Florida to JBER to impact private aircraft flight plans.

Contact information: D. Ralph Gibbs, Airport Manager,
Donald.gibbs@anchorageak.gov, 907-744-7499 mobile, 907-343-6301 office

B. Midtown Congestion Relief Update

Steve Noble of DOWL provided an update. They have scheduled public meetings over the next six weeks:

- Agency Advisory Group: Wednesday, Jan 23 at 9am
- Business Advisory Group: Monday, Feb 4 at 10am
- Citizens Advisory Group: Monday, Feb 4 at 5pm
- Transportation Fair: Wednesday, Feb 6, 3-6pm (ish)
- Public open house: Thursday, Feb 28 at 3pm

Between March and April concepts to move forward to the final planning document will be selected. Information about meetings and project concepts available at *midtowncongestionrelief.com*

C. Anchored Homes Presentation

Presenters: Dr. Richard Mandsager, and Jasmine Khan.

In October 2018, the City launched a new plan to end homelessness in Anchorage – to keep it rare, brief and a one-time event.

Important dates:

Project Homeless Connect: Jan 23 at Egan Center, 10am-3pm

Point in Time Count: Tuesday Jan 22, 2019 (results generally available in May)

Presentation and more information available at:

<https://anchoragehomeless.org/anchored-home/>

D. Proposed Resolution regarding Lake Otis and recreational ice skating

The resolution has been temporarily withdrawn to allow more discussion from residents who live near the lake and to see if there is a way to pursue the idea without causing distress among neighbors. Concerns were expressed over access with a heavy truck and ice stability; parking in the neighborhood; the environment (dog excrement in particular); and allowing the municipality to get involved. Concerns over land ownership and water rights and the difficulty in defining them as well as protecting the viability of the lake itself. The lake is stocked and is fished year round. A final concern is that any degradation of the lake will be detrimental to property values.

Adjourned at 8:40pm.

The Rogers Park Community Council complies with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and is an equal opportunity organization. Reasonable accommodations will be made available to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Please contact the Community Councils Center, 907-277-1977, no later than 10 days prior to the meeting date to make any necessary arrangements.