

Rogers Park Community Council
Meeting Minutes
7 PM Monday, February 11, 2019
****BP Energy Center****

Board members present: Jim Wright (President), Clare Boersma (Secretary/Treasurer), Bob Churchill (FCC Representative). **Board members excused:** Linda Chase (Vice President).

I. Welcome

(Called to order at 7:13pm – quorum attained. Over 30 members present.)

II. Approval of Minutes for January 2019

(Bob Churchill moved to adopt, and Pete Mjos seconds. Minutes approved by “at least 36” members.)

III. Assembly Report(s)

Felix Rivera: Unable to attend.

Dick Traini:

Central Business District tax break for housing developments he thought a poor fit is on the agenda for tomorrow’s assembly meeting (Feb 12).

Also on the agenda is an ordinance banning fire retardant chemicals in furniture, clothes and electronics.

Assembly has had a request from Carrs/Safeway for a liquor store in the Midtown Mall – April 23 scheduled for hearing at assembly. Our input would be appropriate.

Alcohol tax ordinance on the ballot? Dick’s ordinance is the one on the ballot for April – 5%. He stressed that taxation of alcohol is appropriate given the societal costs related to it.

Sitka Street development will be going to planning and zoning in March, not before the Assembly.

Dick will take a look at the request from AK Slow Burn Cannabis for a Memorandum of Understanding.

IV. Legislative Reports

Harriet Drummond (HD 18): Not in attendance.

Rep. Andy Josephson (HD 17): Andy Josephson phoned in. Anticipates the House organizing soon, finally, with a Republican majority. He is concerned about coming budget cuts. Reach him any time at 907-465-4939 office number.

Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson (SD I) Submitted comments in writing, shared as a handout at front table. Her written comments are attached at the end of these minutes.

V. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Clare Boersma: \$188.14 on hand. No funds spent or received. Donation from Assembly member Dick Traini – 50 cents on Monday, February 11. Thanks, Dick!

VI. FCC Report

Bob Churchill provided a handout, which was available in the back of the room. His information is attached at the end of these minutes.

VII. Nancy Burke from the Mayor's office: re Alcohol tax. \$11-15 million to come in. It is a retail tax, not a wholesale tax. Where will the money go? Meeting the demand for treatment beds in Anchorage; keeping public safety and substance misuse treatment programs going; legal and humane process for keeping people from living on trails and in parks. The Assembly will direct the use of the money every year.

In other topics: Next public forum on the Anchored Home plan is April 9 at 5:30 pm at Wilda Marston.

VIII. Presentations and Discussion, as follows:

A. Midtown Congestion Relief

Steve Noble presents again regarding the many meetings that have taken place regarding plans and alternatives, some of which included the three representatives from RPCC to the Citizens Advisory Group.

Upcoming Public Open House: Thursday, Feb 28 from 3 pm- 7 pm at the Loussac Library. Presentations at 3:30 pm and 5:30 pm from Steve.

There will be a third open house at the end of summer/fall in which reviewed and prioritized final concepts will be presented. Date TBA.

Public comments are accepted on a continuing basis and will likely be accepted until 30 days following the final open house. Opportunity for comments and to provide input via survey are available online at midtowncongestionrelief.com.

- B. Proposed Resolution regarding Lake Otis and recreational ice skating**
Casey Brogan asked to bring the resolution for a vote. After extended comments pro and con, Casey Brogan moved for a vote. Tim Benintendi seconds it.
Approve: 31; Oppose: 12; Abstain: 3.
The resolution passes.
- C. Proposed Resolution re: Invasive Bird Cherry Tree Control Project.**
Hans Thompson (not representing any entity but himself) presented, in support of the use of herbicide to eradicate the European Bird Cherry in the Chester Creek trail. There were many comments from members opposed to the proposed resolution. Discussion will be continued in March.
- D. Marijuana retailer (AK Slow Burn Cannabis Outlet, LLC, 2KT, Inc.) seeks our assent to a Tudor Road location.** The proponent did not appear, but the board has noted that some terms may not comply with the bylaws, so that revision may be appropriate. The council may discuss this next month after further review and dialogue regarding the bylaws of the Community Council, as well as input from Mr. Traini about whether our assent is needed for licensure.
- E. Announcements.**
1. Solar project update. – Ric Wilson announces that a vendor has been selected to provide free, no-commitment consultations. There will be community presentations in March and April. Ric needs help doing outreach to the community to let them know.
 2. Introduction of candidates for Assembly, in anticipation of April 2nd vote. Meg Zaletel and Christine Hill, both candidates for Midtown Assembly Seat both introduced themselves. A third candidate, Ron Aleva, was not present.

Adjourned at 8:44pm.

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.

**Roger's Park Community Council – Senator Gray-Jackson's Report
February 11, 2019**

- The House is still organizing, but I am hopeful that it will be settled soon. The Senate is still moving along with committee hearings and the Budget Subcommittee process is beginning with department overviews last week.
- We are currently waiting for the Governor to release his operating budget on February 13th
 - Based on the supplemental budget that was released last week in which the governor cut \$20 million from education and \$3 million from the Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO) program, I am expecting significant cuts in the Governor's operating budget.
- I have serious concerns regarding the privatization of Alaska Psychiatric Institute. As we currently know, the Institute has struggled recently both with government appropriated financial resources and successful treatment of patients.
 - The GEO Group, an affiliated organization taking part in the privatizing transaction, has a negative history of lawsuits, unnecessary patient assistance and, in some cases, preventable death of patients.
 - First, we must provide the best health services our State can offer to all Alaskans.
 - Secondly, we know the financial resources of the State are tight, and API has struggled to be adequately funded in the past and recently.
 - Third, privatization requires greater State spending. The Governor has designated that the Institute will be allocated roughly \$42 million more than the previous year to make it a profit motivated corporation instead of a government funded mental health assistance institution.
 - This company has a track record of not providing the best services to every patient within their care. (see attached press release)
- My priorities are and have always been:
 - To pass a comprehensive and sustainable fiscal plan.
 - Keep our communities safe by supporting our public safety sector, which is why I was disappointed by the governor's decision to cut from the VPSO program.
 - Public safety also includes ensuring the public has access to healthcare by maintaining Medicaid funding.
 - Maintaining and improving our infrastructure which contributes to economic growth for our state and provides good paying jobs for our hardworking men and women.
 - Adequately fund education, including inflation proofing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) and forward funding the appropriation to avoid unnecessary teacher layoffs

Bob Churchill's report from the January meeting of Federation of Community Councils:
FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING NOTES
01/16/2019

The meeting was called to order by Matt Burkholder chair at approximately 6:00 pm.

The minutes were approved by consensus.

The treasurer verbally reported that we were on track to end the year at or slightly under plan.

For outreach a request was made for volunteers for Fur Rondy activities this year. Contact the FCC office if you are interested. Also the FCC will have a table at the UAA arena for their February 6th event.

Carla McConnell discussed her concerns about the timeliness of communications between the municipality and the community councils. There was a range of experiences by councils regarding this. She clarified that many of the problems her community council was having in this was with the Parks and Recreation group. We agreed to continue to work on this on a case by case basis.

Katherine Kemp, representing the Mayor's office, distributed a one page handout of the proposed 5% tax on retail sales of Alcohol. The primary benefits for this would be that the revenue from the tax could be used for specific purposes related to alcohol usage (homelessness, treatment, public safety, cleanup). As an example she stated that some of the cost impacts would be: \$.40 for an \$8.00 six pack of beer; \$.50 for a \$10.00 mixed drink; \$1.75 for a \$35.00 bottle of wine and \$2.50 for a \$50.00 bottle of hard liquor. The proposed ordinance (AO No. 2018-104 and AM 721-2018) can be downloaded from the Muni website. Other communities in Alaska have approved local sales taxes that range from 3% to 12%. There will also be some proposed changes to the Municipal charter this year as well as bond proposals for public safety, fire department, transit and road improvements.

Eric Croft, representing the Anchorage Assembly, introduced himself as the new Chair. He informed us that the Assembly was moving towards allowing non-uniformed officers to cite vehicles which can be towed under current regulations. He stated abandoned or infrequently used vehicles are creating both an accessibility problem as well as eye sores throughout the city. As the regulations are now only uniformed officers can cite these and the assembly does not feel that is the most effective use of their time. He also shared that the assembly is considering changing the district structure within the Municipality. Currently we have one single member district and the remainder are two member districts. There are two proposals being discussed: one would be to go to all single member districts and the other would be to rotate the single member district around the municipality. Dick

Traini shared that there will be two sets of bonds offered at the next election, one of which is for earthquake damage (particularly for schools). If federal funding comes through, it could be used to pay off that bond.

The school district submitted a written report. They will be submitting a budget to the assembly which projects a budget gap of approximately 10 million dollars if the funding approved by the legislature stays as is. They have submitted their legislative priorities to the State of Alaska. February is visit your school month and ASD is encourage the public to do so. For details visit asdk.12.org/visit.

Albert Whitehead updated us on "Next Door". It has been proposed that the FCC be able to use this for announcements. He stated that currently Next Door has approximately 45,000 users within the Municipality. The Muni has agreed that the FCC can access this through them. It is felt that this will increase exposure for announcements, including individual community council announcements. Participation by individual community councils will be voluntary and controlled by the community council. Anything coming through the FCC will have a small FCC header on it. A number of individual community councils who have used it for meeting notices stated it had been effective for them in increasing participation. Any final action on our involvement with this was tabled to the next FCC meeting.

Tom Davis, Municipal Planning gave us a brief update on compatible-Scale Infill Housing (R-2 Zones). Comments can be made per the muni website (www.muni.org/Planning/2040action.aspx). Either Tom Davis (343-7916) or Francis McLaughlin (343-8003) can be contacted about this. There will be an open house on February 11th. The goal on the housing changes to help facilitate an additional 20,000 housing units by 2040.

Rick Fern, Code Enforcement, discussed the Municipality's efforts to deal with abandoned or run down housing. They are concerned with the impacts of these facilities in areas such as public safety, property values, public health, drug usage. He reported that the new marijuana industry has been very good about code compliance and he is pleased to see the additional revenue from the taxes. He is also supportive of the proposed regulations on towing abandoned cars. They are working on making the process for removing these cars more efficient. The Mayor has also authorized more funds for cleanup of sites.

There was a proposal by the FCC board to increase the salary of the FCC manager and the per hour rate of the office staff. After a discussion regarding the wages and salary history they were approved.

Al Tamagi, President Midtown CC, proposed a review of the individual membership lists maintained by the FCC with the objective of creating a list for use by the individual community councils of members only as well as a general list of all those who had requested to be notified of individual council activities. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 pm.