

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

Board members present: Jim Wright (President), Clare Boersma (Secretary/Treasurer), Bob Churchill (FCC Representative), Linda Chase (Vice President); Marilyn Pillifant (Immediate Past President).

I. Welcome

Called to order at 7:05pm – quorum attained.

Announcement from Pete Mjos regarding executive committee elections upcoming in May. Request for participation and nominations for committee.

II. Approval of Minutes for January 2019

Pete Mjos move to adopt, and Marilyn Pillifant seconds. Minutes approved by members.

III. Assembly and School Board Report(s)

Felix Rivera: Unable to attend.

Dick Traini:

Budget before them on the 19th. There will be additional revisions.

Last assembly meeting they considered property tax break for downtown development and it passed.

Fire retardant chemicals also coming up again in front of assembly.

Liquor store proposal at Sears Mall requested and up for consideration.

Ballot coming to your house in the next few days for municipal election. Return by mail or a drop off location, one will be close by at Loussac Library.

An ordinance raising age limit to buy tobacco to 21 will also be introduced in the Assembly.

Dave Donley (school board)

School bonds will be on the ballot. \$59 million on ballot. \$12 million of which is for security upgrades which are long overdue. Digital camera systems and control of access points. \$4 million for Chugiak Eagle River earthquake repairs. Also language is included here to make the funds flexible to be spent on earthquake repairs which is very unusual but was important to accommodate those damages and the unknowns at the time of ballot language finalization.

\$53 million of debt will be retired this year so it doesn't quite break even and reminder that State is no longer reimbursing a portion of the debt.

IV. Legislative Reports

Harriet Drummond (HD 18): Not in attendance.

Andy Josephson (HD 17): Andy Josephson – Phoned in. Sits on house finance committee. Looking at departmental budgets under the Governor's recommended budget. Also sitting on the subcommittee handling the University budget as well as Department of Law and the Alaska Court System. Reach him any time at 907-465-4939 office number.

Elvi Gray-Jackson Senate (SD 1) Submitted comments in writing, shared by email with members and included at the end of these minutes.

V. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Clare Boersma: \$188.64 on hand. Received 50 cents in February from Dick Traini.

VI. FCC Report

Handout available in the back of the room and meeting notes from February attached at the end of these minutes.

VIII. Presentations and Discussion, as follows:

A. Christi Meyn from Anchorage Tomorrow

Regarding bond propositions, don't forget to vote:

Prop 2 - \$5.9 million for Public Safety and Transit projects

Prop 4 - \$33.7 million for Road and Drainage projects

Prop 5 - \$4 million for Parks and Rec projects

There are other propositions.

B. John Johansen from Alaska Department of Transportation

Here to talk about the Anchorage Airport North-South Runway Renewal Project. They will be doing construction again this summer for another seven months but after this project is done those runways should be good for many years.

C. Proposed Resolution re: Invasive Bird Cherry Tree Control Project. (continued from February) presenters for and against

Tim Stallard (Alien Species Control LLC)

Discussed the harm European Bird Cherry is doing to the environment.

Presented sources of information about invasive species.

Requests support of a resolution encouraging the use of herbicide to kill

European Bird Cherry in our portion of the Chester Creek Trail.
He can be reached at: 907-347-2214.
weeds.free.ak@gmail.com

Pamela Miller (Alaska Community Action on Toxics)

Agrees that European Bird Cherry is a problem but disagrees that herbicides are the solution.
Shared concerns about the chemicals proposed and the methods proposed for their use.
Suggested scientific evidence to review regarding the health effects of herbicides.

Linda Chase moves to bring the resolution to the floor, Gretchen Cuddy seconds.
The resolution did not pass.

For: 7
Against: 8
Abstentions : 2

- D. **Marijuana retailer (AK Slow Burn Cannabis Outlet, LLC, 2KT, Inc.) seeks our assent to a Tudor Road location (continued from February)**
No discussion on this topic. Representative of retailer did not respond.

E. **Announcements.**

1. Solar project update. – Kristen Collins from Alaska Center. ABS Alaskan is the contractor selected to bid and install solar panels. AKCenter.org/solarize is where you can find more information. Sign up soon to take advantage.

Informational workshops are scheduled for:

March 12 @ Rogers Park Elementary School at 6pm in Multi Purpose Room
March 29@ BP Energy Center at 6pm
April 24 @ BP Energy Center at 6pm

2. Midtown Congestion Relief project update – Going forward with deeper analysis on some of the concepts and will be back around May for additional conversation.

3. Midtown Farmer Market - they will come talk to us in April.

Adjourned at 8:42pm.

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.

Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson notes:

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

- The House elected Representative Bryce Edgmon (I-Dillingham), as the new House Majority Leader. The Senate is pleased that the House is finally getting organized because there's much work to be done.
- The Senate is still moving along with committee hearings and the Budget Subcommittee process with department overviews, which began in mid-February, are in full swing. I serve on the following Committees:
 - Labor and Commerce
 - Community and Regional Affairs
 - Finance Subcommittees:
 - Health and Social Services
 - Commerce, Community and Economic Development
 - Labor and Workforce Development
- On February 13th, 2019 the Governor released his operating budget and, apparently, he has no interest in governing. I am appalled by his assault on the State of Alaska, cutting \$ 1.6 billion from vital services that Alaskans need and deserve. (see the attached outline of cuts)
- On February 23, 2019 we had our first mid-session constituent meeting in Anchorage. The turnout was one of the largest. Alaskans gave heartfelt testimony as to how the Governor's budget cuts will affect our community.
- On March 2, 2019 we had our second mid-session meeting and, once again, the public spoke on the Governor's budget cuts and how they would negatively impact our communities and Alaska as a whole.

February 20, 2019 Federation of Community Councils Meeting notes

FCC Chair Matt Burkholder called the meeting to order at approximately 6:07 pm. Based on sign in we did not have a quorum at that time, however within a few minutes we had enough representatives present for a quorum.

Matt went over the ground rules for participating in the meeting as well as other administrative information.

The minutes from the last FCC meeting were approved without objection.

Matt did not have a separate Chair's report.

Treasurer's Report: Don Craft, treasurer, was absent so Kevin Fimon (previous treasurer) provided both a verbal and written report. We are on track to either meet or run slightly under our annual budget.

Outreach Report: Al Milspaugh informed us he had a list of volunteers and was hoping to be able to provide a presence at the Fur Rondy the last week in February and the Iditarod the first week in March.

FCC Training Report: Daniel George had no new information on the committee's attempts to organize and offer training to individual community councils. He hoped to have more information at the March FCC meeting.

FCC Manager's Report: Mark Butler is looking for a vehicle to use to participate in the Iditarod parade. Mike Cary volunteered a vehicle. Mark handed out a flyer regarding an initiative for downtown in regarding statues/iron work regarding the Iditarod. He restated the policy on individual community councils requesting information to be sent out: it must be received in the FCC office one business week prior to the date requested to be sent out (dated and approved 4/19/2017). He also reminded us that there are icons to access the FCC and Community Councils on the Muni Assembly page (right hand side).

Communications Committee: The committee is focusing on improving the communications process between the Muni and the individual community councils on issues related to Title 21 (land use, building, etc.). They provided a hand out on what the Muni requirements were for that process (21.03.020 common procedures). They are working on a process to insure these types of notifications are not acted on when community councils are not meeting often during the summer. The committee will do a draft letter for the delegates review at the March FCC meeting.

Mayor's Office: Rose Salazar was not able to attend, but provided a written document stating that the 30 day public comment period for the Anchorage Climate Action Plan would be released in the next couple of weeks. Information is posted on line at www.muni.org/ClimateActionPlan. Catherine Kemp (343-9127) is the contact for this. Ona Brause, Chief of Staff, for Mayor Berkowitz updated us on a number of initiatives and encouraged continued contact between the Mayors Office and the FCC/community councils.

Anchorage Assembly Report: Dick Traini informed us the assembly was planning on introducing a new ordinance requiring individuals to be at least 21 years of age to buy tobacco products. There may also be an ordinance to reduce the taxes on some marijuana products. Chris Constant is discussing an initiative to make removing identifying marks/labels from products a misdemeanor. This premise is this would allow charging individuals who are in possession of such items and make issuing a citation easier. The current plan is to locate the new bus barn next to the Anchorage Police Department Headquarter. He concluded by encouraging us to review the information regarding the proposed retail sales tax on alcohol.

School Board: Dave Donley was not present and no written report was provided.

Vote by Mail: Barbara Jones, Municipal Clerk encouraged each individual community council to encourage their members to vote and to learn about this process. The Muni does not have the resources they had in the past to do outreach. They are adding a new Accessible Vote Center in east Anchorage this year (located in the Muldoon Mall, 1251 Muldoon Road). She reminded us that having a current address on file was important as voter packages can not be forwarded.

CIP Ranking Process for Community Councils: Charles Boyle informed us that information regarding this process can be located at Muni.org and minibudget.org. There will be a list of priority projects. The projects are prioritized by a preselected criterion. It was requested be either post this criterion on the website and/or send it to the FCC for distribution to individual community councils. CAP packages will also be evaluated. All CAP packages are required to be reviewed by the maintenance group. If something does not look right to a community council, they should contact the Muni through their president (or the president's representative). If we want to learn more about this process there are video's on the Muni website in the Community Council Survey section. For this process each community council should designate one representative for dealing officially with the Muni. This process is scheduled to open March 1st and Close May 31st. Mark Butler offered assistance/training for community councils on this process. Mark Burkholder requested that the Muni notify each community council president when this process was completed.

Anchorage Parks Foundation: Beth Nordlund reminded us that the challenge grants for improving trails and parks were available for application. The applications must be submitted on line no later than April 14th and awards will be announced in May. If you want to learn more information on this you can visit the website at: <http://anchorageparkfoundation.org/programs/challenge-grants/>. There will be a workshop on the grants at the Spenard Recreational Center on March 6 from 5:30 to 8 pm. She also informed us that Anchorage Park and Recreation is hiring summer help. This is a program for teenager. She concluded that the ballots regarding park bonds are schedule to be mailed out March 12th.

Proposed Retail Alcohol Tax: Representatives who both supported and opposed the tax were represented. Nancy Burke and Nora Morris spoke in favor of the tax. They outlined the costs currently being incurred by the Muni related to alcohol use and the revenue currently received. These numbers are not broken down by individual communities, but the statewide cost is estimated at 183 billion dollars. As of now there is no revenue received directly from alcohol sales by the Muni as the State is prohibited from designating revenue directed to an specific use. The Muni can do this and if this tax is approved the plan is to use those funds to address issues related to the use (or misuse) of Alcohol. These include:

- Funding for a subsistence abuse program within the Muni
- Funding public safety programs dealing with subsistence abse

- Funding of homelessness services, such as camp abatement, cleanup, etc.
- Funding for co-responder program (medical, law enforcement, social services).

The ordinance is AO No. 2018-104 and the accompanying Assembly Memorandum is AM 721-2018. They can be downloaded off the Muni website.

Anchorage Tomorrow: Jacques Boulet spoke in favor of the bonds which will be voted on in the April Muni election.

Muni Planning: Tom Davis informed us that there are issues regarding proposed changes to the R-2. He feels the proposed changes will improve this process and there will be some additional related proposed changes to Title 21 in the next few months. Changes will be posed on the Muni Planning website as they occur. He will personally make an extra effort to insure the community councils are informed of these proposed changes as they are proposed.

NextDoor Anchorage: Albert Whitehead & Mark Butler announced that the Muni has approved the FCC/Community Councils to participate in this as a subset of the Muni. Participation is optional and what goes into the system will be controlled by the individual community Council.

FY20 Budget

(document provided by Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson)

OVERALL Budget

Total funds decreased by \$1.7 Billion

Undesignated General Fund reduced by \$1.1 B (-25%)

Federal match reduced by \$480 million (-18%)

All agencies travel budgets decreased by 50%.

EDUCATION

- The total budget for education funding is \$1,343,725,400, a reduction of \$332,421,200, for a total reduction to education funding of 19.8 percent
- 282 positions, a cut of 16 positions from the Dept. of Education & Early Development

BSA:

- Cut of \$280 million from statute, a 22.9% decrease and reduction in the BSA from \$5,930 to \$4,883. The last time it was that low was 14 years ago.
- Cut the \$30 million in one-time funding outside the BSA, bringing the total cut to school districts to 23.3%
- This would mean over \$110 million in cuts to ASD, 20% of its overall budget including loss from OTIs.

Pupil transport: \$77,214,600, the fully-funded statutory amount

DEED Education Support and Administrative Services:

- Cut of \$12,848,900, a reduction of 5 percent (this component includes Executive Administration, Administrative Services, Information Services, School Finance & Facilities, Child Nutrition, Student & School Achievement, State System of Support, Teacher Certification, Early Learning Coordination, and Pre-K Grants)

Other:

- Defund **Alaska Council of the Arts**, resulting in a savings of \$2.7 million and a loss of \$600k in Fed match.
- \$252,700 for the **Professional Teaching Practices Commission**, a reduction of \$6,800, reducing the PTPC's budget by 2.6 percent
- Cut \$609k from **Mt. Edgecumbe Boarding school** (\$11,366,300) and \$548,200 cut for MEHS Facilities Maintenance (\$12,559,000) for a total reduction of \$1,157,800, an 8.4 percent total reduction for MEHS
- \$2 million cut (15.3%) from **Libraries, Archives, & Museums**, \$11,392,100 for, or 15.3 percent of their budget; reductions are from zeroing out funding for Online with Libraries and Live Homework Help
- \$17,873,900 for the **Alaska Postsecondary Education Commission**, with a reduction of \$751,700 from Program Administration & Operations, and a zeroing out of the \$3,173,700 for the **WWAMI Medical program**, for a total reduction to ACPE's budget of 18 percent. Plan is to introduce legislation to sell APEC's assets and privatize.
- 11,750,000 for the Alaska Performance Scholarship program, with no decrease in funding for that program
- Removed \$30 million from **Regional Education Attendance Area Fund**
- \$11,742,800 for the **Alaska Student Loan Corporation** (loan servicing), and increase of \$583,800, or 5.2 percent

Mental Health Budget:

- \$427,800 for Student & School Achievement

Muni Interest

- Zeroed out school construction aid, \$99 million

UNIVERSITY

- \$155 million cut (44%), but total funds cut only by \$7 million, so the offset is made up by receipt authority (45.2%).

PCE (legislation forthcoming)

Fully funded but swept into the entire \$1.02 billion fund into GF

Earnings down by \$63,097,500 if swept into GF

\$30 million in community assistance from PCE (from Hoffman's 2016 bill) is eliminated.

Revenue Sharing Fund swept into GF (\$60 million)

SBR, with \$172 million remaining, is swept into Medicaid services as GF offset Alaska Marine Highway system is cut by \$96 million, 68%, this includes a 66% cut to personnel services.

Corrections

- Not in budget, but there is about \$40 million in Dunleavy Crime Bills
- DOC intends to send 500 inmates from Wildwood Corrections out of state, saving \$17.7 million (although they say they don't know where yet).
- Wildwood would close one unit and reduce their budget by \$6 million, with the loss of 46 jobs
- Rolled back \$7.5 million to reopen Palmer Correction Facility
- \$30.0 UGF unallocated cut created by contractual savings for sending prisoners out of state.
 - What are impacts to re-entry, crime, and gangs of that policy?

Public Safety

Budget is up by about \$6 million.

- Cuts \$3 million in funding for the Village Public Safety Officer's program,
- eliminates funding for the Civil Air Patrol,
- flat funds the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- Fails to fund the proposed \$21 million increase to the Alaska State Troopers

Courts

The Court system budget increases by \$3.5 million. The increase mostly covers the cost of reopening the court system on Friday afternoons.

Law

The Department of Law budget is reduced by about \$2 million from the current fiscal year. Reductions are mostly being taken in the civil division with the criminal

division remaining flat funded. The Child Protection Unit will not receive the proposed \$1 million increase proposed by Governor Walker.

Health and Social Services:

The Department of Health and Social Services received the largest cuts with funding dropping from \$3.25 billion to \$2.47 billion.

- The **Senior** Benefits program funding of \$24.4 million is eliminated. A separate piece of legislation, SB 58 seeks to repeal the Senior Benefits program but must pass the legislature. Funding for the Pioneer Homes is reduced by 50% with rates for resident to be increased to cover costs.
- Cuts \$1 million from **substance abuse and treatment grants**
- Cuts \$1 million from **social workers**
- Cuts \$3.4 million from **Juvenile Justice**
- Cuts \$35.4 million from **public assistance**: \$14.7 million from adult public assistance, \$16.9 million from tribal assistance programs and \$3 million from public assistance → Cuts \$271 million from Medicaid through proposed efficiencies
- They requested \$172 million from the SBR to back fill for Medicaid Services, FY19-21 if whatever scheme they are working on with the Federal Gov't doesn't happen fast enough.

DOT

The Alaska Marine Highway takes a huge hit in the proposed budget with funding dropping from \$140 million to \$44 million. A consultant will be hired to examine the marine highway system and provide recommendations, including privatization. Some state-owned rural airports are being considered for closure as well. Most of the funding for road system projects remains intact, although much of this funding is federal.

ADMIN

- Eliminated Public Broadcasting including PB commission, radio, TV, and satellite infrastructure (\$3,596,100)
- Decrease **OPA** by 37% (what does this mean in rural AK)
 - Reversed Walker investment in OPA and PDA which had not yet been appropriated, would have added 14 new guardians ad litem (\$2.2 million)
- Decreased **PDA** travel budget by 53%, limit ability to serve rural Alaska.
 - Reverse Walker investment which would have meant we could hire 22 new public defenders (\$6.3 million)

DNR

Cut by \$4 million to \$157 million.

- Cut 60% to agricultural programs program
 - Veterinary inspections, agriculture marketing and the farmer's loan program will end.
- The firefighting budget increased from \$5.2 million to \$13.6 million
- Parks management and access increased by \$2.4 million increase.

DEC

Budget cut from \$81.3 million to \$76.6 million, eliminating the Ocean Ranger program and inspections of the state's only dairy farm.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS (ALL BY JUNE 2019)

- Find a marine consultant to come up with a plan to privatize AMHS
- Consolidate and privatize the state's labs
- Inventory and prepare to sell the state's property assets
- Plan to sell or divest from public airports
- Get rid of Census Working Group
- Transferring the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission from the Department of Administration to the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development.
- To establish the Statewide Investigator Unit within the Department of Law, establish a task force to implement a plan to consolidate investigators from other designated departments within the Statewide Investigator Unit, and reassign investigators subject to this order and the implementation plan to the Statewide Investigator Unit.
- To establish Statewide Human Resources Consolidation
- To establish Statewide Procurement Consolidation.