

Rogers Park Community Council
Meeting Minutes
7 PM Monday, April 8, 2019
****BP Energy Center****

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

I. Welcome

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

Announcement from Jim Wright regarding executive committee elections upcoming in May. Request for participation and nominations for committee, appointment of: Peter Mjos, chair; Linda Chase, member; Casey Brogan, member; and Gretchen Cuddy, member.

II. Approval of Minutes for March 2019

Clare Boersma moved to adopt, and Linda Chase seconded. Minutes approved by members - one abstention, none opposed.

III. Crime & Safety Report

Presented by Gretchen Cuddy. Thursday before the Rogers Park CC regular meeting they meet at Linda's house. They heard this month from a couple who are recovering from addiction and used to be homeless. Gretchen also has available a report on the fecal count in Chester Creek.

May 5 midday will be the group's "coffee corner" event on the Chester Creek trail.
June 1 the group will host a brush clearing party on the Chester Creek trail.
Date TBA the group will walk around the trail.

IV. Assembly and School Board Report(s)

Felix Rivera:

Disappointed to see the alcohol tax fail on the April election.

Tomorrow's (4/9) regular assembly meeting items of interest:

Taxi deregulation ordinance presented by Eric Croft up for passage.

Plans for reapportionment of assembly districts has been postponed until June.

Dick Traini:

Dick is again termed out. His last full assembly meeting is tomorrow (4/9).

This Friday work session 1-2pm – first quarter budget revisions, city hall room 155.

Would like to see the tobacco purchase age raised to 21 – introducing ordinance.

Also he would like to change the smoking distance in parks to 20 feet – introducing ordinance.

V. Legislative Reports:

Harriet Drummond (HD 18): Not in attendance.

Andy Josephson (HD 17): Andy Josephson – Phoned in.

House Finance Committee has been having long meetings. Have been reducing government spending, including eliminating the State’s contribution for school bond debt (Josephson opposed this elimination).

Reach him any time at 907-465-4939 office number.

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

VI. Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Clare Boersma: No funds were received or expended since last meeting.

VII. FCC Report

Meeting notes from March 20 attached at the end of these minutes.

VIII. Presentations and Discussion, as follows:

A. Midtown Congestion Relief Project

Dave Evans moves to proceed with the resolution presented, seconded by Bob Churchill.

Discussion about the various alternatives proposed for the Midtown Congestion Relief project, the number of lanes in various alternatives, and the reason for these lanes. Steve Noble attended again and answered questions, shared that the project managers appreciate that the Council is weighing in.

Bob Churchill called the question.

The motion is passed: 34 yeas, 0 nays, 2 abstain.

B. Chester Creek Bridge

Pete Mjos presents a resolution in favor of a bridge over the Chester Creek Trail near the Maplewood Street access point, to access the north side of the creek. An Anchorage Park Foundation matching grant may potentially be obtained with the support of the resolution.

Bob Churchill moved to adopt, John Christopherson seconded.

Jim Richardson asked for a delay on the vote in favor of hearing more from East Ridge neighborhood residents about what they think of it.

Jim Richardson moved to table the resolution. After debate, Pete agreed to a one month delay until the May regular council meeting.

C. Liquor License Pending Before Assembly

There is a liquor license pending for an Oaken Keg at the Midtown Mall. Midtown CC considered the license application and asked the business owner to come to their April council meeting. There will be a May 21 public hearing at the Assembly. Tim Potter of Midtown CC (and also a member of Rogers Park Community Council) recommends a coalition of area councils to consider the high density of package liquor stores in the midtown area.

D. Announcements.

There was a request from Dave Evans to revisit the resolution passed in March, 2019 regarding the use of herbicides in the Chester Creek trail area against invasive European Bird Cherry trees. We will revisit that next month.

Citywide Clean up is April 27-May 4.

Midtown Farmers Market – Arthur Keyes presented about the Midtown Farmer Market opening in the BP building parking lot June 22.

The Rogers Park CIP survey should come out this month – many thanks to Heather Ireland for again assisting with this.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

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.

**SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON'S REPORT
April 8, 2019**

- Last month, I proudly introduced a bill co-sponsored by Senator Donny Olson that would declare November as Alaska Native Heritage Month.
- On Friday, April 5, 2019, I was honored to have my bill, recognizing February as Black History Month, unanimously approved, and without debate. I cannot express my gratitude for the support from my colleagues and Senate President Giessel for moving the Bill forward.

- Also, On Friday, April 5, 2019, I was honored and pleased that the Senate unanimously passed a resolution recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Alaska, unfortunately, leads the nation in domestic violence and sexual assault with nearly 60% of Alaskan women experiencing partner violence, sexual assault, or both. Designating April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month will bring greater attention and education to all Alaskans and public support for victims of sexual assault.
- We are receiving many emails, phone calls, and letters from constituents disappointed with the Governor's proposed budget. Below is a breakdown of Governor Dunleavy's budget elimination proposals:
- Education and Early Development Cuts
 - Cuts over \$300 million from k-12 education formula.
 - Eliminates all early childhood education grant programs including pre-K, Best Beginnings, Head Start and more.
- University
 - Cuts %155 million (nearly half) of University of Alaska funding.
- Health and Social Services
 - Eliminates Senior Benefits program.
 - Cuts Pioneer Home funding in half and raises fees.
 - Cuts \$ 271 million from Medicaid services.
 - Cuts dental care for low income Alaskans.
 - Alaska Psychiatric Institute-3.2 million reduction.
- Public Safety
 - Cuts Public Safety budget 11.5%.
 - Cuts State Trooper \$21 million.
 - Cuts 56 full-time Public Safety employees.
 - Cuts \$3 million from Village Public Safety Officer program.
- Oil Tax Credits
 - Increases the budget by \$227 million to pay for MORE oil tax credits, on top of the already existing \$1.9 billion.
- Governor's Office
 - Increases the Governor's budget by 7.6%
- Other proposed cuts
 - Refuses \$ 480 million in federal funds.
 - Cuts 75% of Marine Highway Funding.
 - Eliminates Power Cost Equalization fund.
 - Eliminates public broadcasting funds.

FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS MEETING
MARCH 20, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Matt Burkholder, Chair at 6:05 pm.

A quorum was established and the minutes were approved without objection.

The agenda was modified to allow Anchorage Police Department Chief Doll to address the delegates. Chief Doll first invited questions from the delegates about any concerns they had that APD might be able to address. He stated that they were making progress on reducing the number of auto thefts in Anchorage. He then announced that APD was in the process of aligning the police officers patrol areas to correspond with the community council areas. This will need to be a work in progress due to the different sizes of community council areas but the objective is to have officers get to know individuals within their patrol areas and for the people to get to know they officers. They hope to have the names and contact information for the officers available to the public. One issue that may impact this is that every four months officers are able to bid for open routes. They are also finishing up an academy of new officers with about 20 participants. They are also planning to have another academy starting in June. They current number of street officers is between 425 and 430. They are hoping to have at least 3 officers in a patrol area 24 hours per day.

Matt offered the chairs report which was that things were status quo. The FCC is working towards getting a list of candidates for officers for next year.

Treasurer's Report: Don Craft reports we are operating within our budget and should finish the fiscal year at or just under plan.

There was no FCC outreach report.

The FCC Manager's report included the activities by FCC/Community Council members as volunteers for the Fur Rondy. There were also 22 new people who signed up for information about the FCC.

Darrell Hess, City Ombudsman, spoke about the need for officer's and director's insurance. Apparently the FCC had been under the impression this was in place, however it is not. He is working with the Muni risk management office and the municipal attorney's office to determine what action can and should be taken. When a final decision is made he will get back to Mark Butler, FCC Manager as to what action should be taken.

Bob French talked about the AMATS issues as they have impacted the Government Hill Community Council. He encouraged people to participate on the citizen's advisory committee. He stated right now there are three sources of Federal Funding: community transportation plan, non motorized plan and the congestion mitigation plan. He felt these efforts would be more effective with additional input from as many community councils as possible. He shared that the citizen's advisory committee meetings are on an irregular basis. He will send any future meeting notifications to the FCC for distribution.

Matt Cruchshank handed out a resolution regarding communications between the FCC and the Muni for consideration at the next FCC Meeting.

Ona Brause, Mayor Berkowitz Chief of Staff, spoke encouraging people to use the vote by mail system. She stated that due to budget constraints they do not have the funds to do the outreach they did the last time we had an election.

Assembly Report was given by Dick Traini and Chris Constant. They informed us that the Forth Avenue Theater was being considered for becoming a national historic site. Further they are continuing to work on the budget. They are particularly concerned about the budget for education and school construction. If the muni has to pay 100 percent of all the past construction costs it could result in an increase in property taxes of about \$432 per \$100,000 value of a house. Chris said that the total cost increase per house would average about \$1400.00. The assembly is still working on balancing all the districts and representatives. It appears that we will go to a system that has two representatives for each assembly district.

Anchorage School District Report: Deena Mitchell reported on the need for people to consider the proposed state budget impacts. She expressed her appreciation for the past support but was very concerned about being able to meet the basic education requirements if the funding from the State is reduced as has been proposed.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 pm.