

Rogers Park Community Council
Meeting Minutes
7 PM Monday, January 13, 2020
****BP Energy Center****

Board members present: Linda Chase, (Vice President), Steve Lindbeck (Secretary), Ric Wilson (Treasurer) and Jim Wright (Past President).

I. Welcome

Meeting called to order at 7:06 pm – quorum attained.

II. Approval of Minutes for December 9, 2019

Jim Richardson moved to adopt; Jamie Shearer seconded. No objection.

III. Treasurer's Report

Ric Wilson reported there were no expenditures during the month and 1 cent received in interest. The council account now contains \$248.69. Sixty dollars were received in contributions for the mid-winter event in February.

IV. Elected Representative Report(s)

Assembly Member Felix Rivera:

Assembly Member Rivera spoke about several revenue proposals under consideration by the Anchorage Assembly, including differing versions of sales or alcohol taxes and various specified uses of the revenues. He also spoke of deliberations on bond proposals. Measures for the April ballot must be approved by the January 28 Assembly meeting. Asked about the controversy in Eagle River on whether to consolidate two high schools; he indicated there is no clear consensus in the Eagle River community and the decision will be made by voters on the school bond, which is written to keep the two schools separate and make needed repairs.

Assembly Member Meg Zaletel:

Assembly Member Zaletel also discussed several features of the revenue proposals, indicating a personal preference for extending deliberations now and waiting for state decisions in Juneau. Concerning school bonds, she noted repairs being proposed can be divided into three tiers of relative need. Asked about the disposition of nearly \$1 billion in proceeds from the sale of Municipal Light and Power, she indicated about \$230 million could go into a trust account providing proceeds to the municipality and the bulk of the remainder would pay off ML&P's accumulated debt.

Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson (SD-I):

Sen. Gray-Jackson's report is attached at the end of these minutes. She also noted that municipal "green cards" giving property assessments were released today.

Representative Andy Josephson (HD-17):

Rep. Josephson reported on his activities during December and the first part of January. He mentioned meetings of: Legislative Budget & Audit Committee considering release of audits and hiring a new Legislative Finance Director; Resources Committee considering the Hilcorp purchase of BP Alaska; the House Majority Caucus; the Alaska Oil and Gas Association; Anchorage Mayor Berkowitz and assembly members discussing capital projects, mental health treatment, homelessness, and the concept of a community dividend to municipal governments. He toured UAA last week, in particular the schools of engineering, health, and their business development agency. Preparing for the legislative session he has prefiled bills on hate crime and creation of a professor-regent for the university system.

V. Committee Reports**A. Crime and Safety Committee**

Committee Chair Linda Chase reported on plans for the Feb. 10 Membership Drive and Winter Party, to precede the regular meeting of the council. The event seeks to embrace younger people and families and encourage their participation in council activities. She appealed for totally voluntary contributions to help pay for refreshments and any other expenses. By the end of the evening, the amount collected was \$80.80.

She was asked whether the Crime and Safety Committee would support any of the revenue proposals before the Assembly to help pay for public safety expenses. She indicated the committee and Council already had expressed themselves through a resolution approved in November focusing on abatement of homeless camps.

B. Midtown Congestion Relief Committee

The Council was asked to consider a detailed resolution laying out elements of both concern and support regarding the Midtown Congestion Relief study by DOWL Engineering. Bob Butera of the committee and Steve Noble of DOWL appeared to discuss the resolution and its implications. Taylor Keegan presented a package of three amendments intended to address non-vehicular/multimodal infrastructure and wording about median areas. These were regarded as friendly amendments by the Committee. Discussion addressed pedestrian and bike transportation, as well as lighting standards and light pollution.

Robert Harris moved to adopt the package of amendments. Meg Zaletel seconded the motion. The package of amendments was approved with 24 votes in favor and 1 opposed.

Bob Butera introduced the main resolution and spoke of the committee's year-long process to study the project and gain detailed responses from DOWL about engineering, design, and property issues. Some requested information from DOWL had arrived only days earlier and a new resolution was distributed that included this information. There was concern and discussion about whether the

Council had had sufficient opportunity to review the resolution under consideration. Some of the property owners most affected by the project responded by indicating the document accurately reflected the concerns brought forward in the process.

_____ moved to table the resolution and address it again in February in order to give more time for consideration. _____ seconded the motion. The motion was rejected with 4 votes in favor and 15 opposed.

Robert Harris moved to approve the resolution as amended. Meg Zaletel seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 23 votes in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention.

Steve Noble of DOWL expressed appreciation for the level of effort and quality of consideration by the Committee and the Council during this planning process. He also noted the inclusion of a “community place-making” project and encouraged attendance at a national conference on the subject occurring May 13-14 at the Anchorage Museum.

VI. Announcements and Member Comments:

- A. Ron Alleva proposed undertaking a fund-raising effort to support improved landscaping at the Fireweed Lane entrance to Rogers Park.
- B. Dan Rosenberg asked about a presentation on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) that had been promised for the January Council meeting. Meg Zaletel indicated that Planning Department Manager David Whitfield would appear in February.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Further Information:

Rogers Park Community Council: <http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/28.html>

Federation of Community Councils: <http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/home.html>

Municipality of Anchorage: <http://www.muni.org/pages/default.aspx>

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**Rogers Park Community Council – Senator Gray-Jackson’s Report
January 13th, 2020**

- **This next session, some of the legislation that I am bringing forward follows:**
 - **A Senate companion bill to complement a bill offered by Rep. Tarr that establishes a timeline in which sexual assault examination kits must be tested.**
 - **This is just one piece to the work that has been done over the last five years or so by Rep. Tarr to address the high rates of sexual assault in Alaska.**
 - **A companion bill to essentially outlaw private prisons.**
 - **Private prisons have been shown to be more dangerous for both inmates and guards.**
 - **Recidivism rates in private prisons tend to be higher.**
 - **And there is a lot of evidence that private prisons produce worse outcomes at a higher cost to the State and taxpayers. Rep. Field has a bill and Sen. Gray-Jackson has a companion bill.**
 - **A bill that would expand the types of health professionals that would be able to prescribe disability parking placards.**
 - **This would make healthcare more accessible by giving folks more options for health professionals that can meet their needs.**
 - **Lastly, I will continue to serve on the Senate Health and Social Services finance subcommittee.**
 - **I will be working to make sure that the State’s largest department is able to meet the needs of the most vulnerable Alaskans at a responsible cost.**
- **Later this session, working with Sen. Wielechowski, I intend to introduce a bill or perhaps a package of bills that will attempt to address climate change.**
 - **Including, but not limited to creating better infrastructure for electric vehicles.**
 - **The forest fires we experienced this past summer and what is currently going on in Australia just goes to show how pressing the problem is, and I intend to do all that I can to advance the efforts to address this big and growing issue.**
- **I am hoping that everyone has had a wonderful holiday and Happy New year to you and your family.**
- **I am looking forward to returning to Juneau for the next session and to work on the behalf my constituents and every Alaskan. Please keep in touch.**

I hope you are enjoying my monthly E-newsletter. If you're not receiving them, please send your email address to my staff at Keith.Bauguess@akleg.gov.

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