MINUTES:
ABBOTT LOOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

October 30, 2019

Meeting called to order by President Bruce Roberts at 6:35 pm at Abbott Loop Elementary. 26 people present.

Officers and Board members present: Bruce Roberts, Patti Higgins, Heather Schrage, Susan Soule, Kari Nore, Pat O'Hara, Vicki Gerken, Melanie Baker.

Minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Balance of $232.14. No new expenditures. Report approved as submitted.

Senate Seat: Tim Gould said on Saturday Senators will vote to or not to confirm Josh Revak to State Senate.

Assembly Member Felix Rivera: Ballot issues: 1) On site consumption of marijuana; 2) Restructure of Assembly to make the Downtown district two seats resulting in a 12-member Assembly and redraw the lines after the 2020 census. ML&P sale to Chugach Electric passed unanimously after 9 or 10 stipulations were added. Port of Anchorage: budget has changed from $2B to $1.4B. Q: Where does the money go when we sell to ML & P? Part in the MOA trust and to payoff debt. $15 million to AK Center for Treatment.

Assembly Member Meg Zaletel: Budget and Finance Committee today – cost of Homelessness; the Fire Department is thin on staffing, if someone is ill they are very thin. Academy and Vanguard is proposed to only have funds for acquisition while the Muni asks the State to take financial responsibility for the huge cost of the Federal Highway underpass at Scooter.

Assembly Member John Weddleton: Scooter Ave, we can use Federal Funds if we use a match. Looking at Fire Evacuation routes, Hillside and Eagle River have projects that are too small to qualify for federal funds but areas are in danger if there is only one way out. If we can do a match with all these small roads together we might qualify.

School Board: Starr Marsett: Strategic Planning for ASD for Fall 2020 and the next five years. there will be four sessions – check the website. They need community participation. ASD will come to any group including ALCC. Bond planning is up and Abbott Loop Elementary is up for discussion.

Arthur Sosa, Abbott Loop Principal: Arthur has been the principal for the last six years. Channel 2 aired a program about the Food Pantry started at the school, which is a Title 1 school meaning there are a high number of students that qualify for free or reduced lunch. There is a FFFC staff person who helps reach out to the community to get help. Maria Clyde set up a food pantry in her office when she noticed children were saving food. Melinda Jarvis, a former AL Elementary student also helped set up the food pantry. Regarding the flashing school zone lights – AL Elementary is now houses developmentally needs pre-schoolers that come at staggered times even as late as 4:15 pm. Q: Can Fred Meyer free turkeys be donated to AL Elementary. A: yes. Hats, coats, and gloves are also needed. **MOTION: That the ASD move Abbott Loop Elementary to the top of the Bond list. Motion passed unanimously.**

Candidate Speeches: Calvin Schrage, Carolyn Clift Senate District N

FCC update Bruce Roberts: Public Safety update: Property crime is decreasing. DOJ is partnering to improve the way we collect and report data. They urge people, if you see something, say something. Watch out for kids. Parks – looking at neighborhood connectivity and "The Moose Trail" called that because when you look at maps the outline of the trails look like a moose.

Roads & Projects, Calvin Schrage: Vanguard – it will be expensive to connect Scooter to Abbott Rd. Construction on the underpass begins 2021 and the Assembly needs our comments. Felix says there are three choices: 1) use $4M to acquire Right of Way; the entire project is $25M; 2) remove from the bond all together and do nothing; 3) punt it back to DOT.

Parks and Rec Committee, Susan Soule: Motion by Vicki Gerken, seconded by Calvin Schrage to spend $39 to register the Snoopy Doghouse Little Free Library at Whisper Faith Kovach Dog Park with the Little Free Library. Motion passed unanimously. The Big Dog side of the Park is very muddy. Susan will talk to Parks and Rec.

P & Z, Vicki Gerken: Nothing to report

Cannabis & Alcohol Committee: Heather Schrage: Danish Gardens is up for renewal. New application for a Brewery License. Renewals for the Euchraristic Heart of Jesus Ministries, Fu Do Restaurant.

Membership and Events: We need a new chair.

Abbott Loop Community Patrol, Patti Higgins: We are the eyes and ears of the neighborhood. Call if you need an additional reporter to ongoing problems.

Dowl and Tetra Tech: The Central Transfer Center is moving across 56th; they need a variance because there is residential on the other side of the Seward Hwy.

Pebble Mine, Mark Hamilton: Speaking for Pebble Mine. He believes the process will keep this project safe. They promise responsible development and we are a resource extraction state. NEPA has rules to be followed. There were 210 days for public comment. This spring there will be a public impact statement. EPA could shut it down if they can prove imminent and irreversible damage. Q) The Feds have made the EPA a toothless tiger. A) Process will work.

Next Meeting is our Holiday Potluck on Thursday, November 21, 2019, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm at Abbott Loop Elementary.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.