



MINUTES: ABBOTT LOOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

August 29, 2019

Meeting called to order by President Bruce Roberts at 6:33 pm at Abbott Loop Elementary. 19 people present.

Officers and Board members present: Bruce Roberts, Patti Higgins, Calvin Schrage, Shiela Cernich, Susan Soule.

Minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Balance of \$232.14. Report approved as submitted.

Representative Josh Revak: Senator Chris Birch passed away. Republican Party can submit three names to Governor for consideration for appointment: former candidate Albert Fogle, Representative Laddie Shaw, School Board member Dave Donley. FY 20 Budget: He listed a lot of changes from the proposed budget to the final budget. Rep Revak believes the special sessions were all about the PFD. In his opinion there is a law defining a formula for the PFD and we should either follow the law or change it. The final PFD was just a negotiated number. He listed major points from the capital budget.

Assembly Member Felix Rivera: Written report from Felix Rivera, Anchorage Assembly Member:

Apologies for not being able to attend the Abbott Loop Community Council meeting in person. Both Meg Zaletel and I are hosting a town hall on the UA consolidation plan.

Here are some items I'd like the Council to be aware of:

On Site Consumption of Inhalation Ballot Proposition: Two of my colleagues, Forrest Dunbar and Chris Constant, have put together an ordinance sending the question of on-site consumption of marijuana via inhalation to the people in April. The Assembly is reviewing the proposal and the law changes that would be passed if the voters approved the proposition. The first public hearing on this item is on September 10, with a second public hearing and vote of the Assembly likely on September 24 or October 8 (TBD on 9/10)

Six, Two Member Districts Ballot Proposition: Three of my colleagues, Forrest Dunbar, Chris Constant, and John Weddleton, have put together a ballot proposition to put on the April ballot asking the people to approve a Charter amendment restructuring the Assembly so each of the six districts have two members. Currently, the Charter provides for 11 members, with 1 single member district that is meant to rotate around the city. Of note – although the people may vote on this in April, the changes would not take place until after the 2020 Census is completed and the data made available.

Civil Emergency Update: In late July, the Assembly approved an extension of the civil emergency declared by the Mayor to deal with the immediate crisis of the closure of the Brother Francis Shelter and the potential impact of 200 individuals cast onto our streets with no plan. The Assembly took action to back fill the funding to allow BFS to stay open. We approved a second extension to the civil emergency earlier this month to tackle the next crisis – the potential closure of supportive housing at two RuralCAP locations, which would have led to over 80 families with children losing their housing. With the budget largely dealt with, the Assembly and administration are getting a final lay of the land before we decide to end the civil emergency.

Marijuana License Renewals: We are in the middle of renewal season. If there are any concerns by the Council on the licenses in your boundary, please let Meg and I know so we can take appropriate action.

Port of Alaska: The Assembly approved a \$42M contract to move forward with the Petroleum Cement Terminal. Although we heard reasoned opposition from Port Users, with no alternative delineated, we felt it was important to keep moving forward.

Stormwater Utility: The Assembly approved the creation of a stormwater utility, providing for an empty “husk” in our code that we can fill out as we decide what the utility will look like in terms of rates, boundaries, management, etc. Meg and I will continue to provide updates on this process and how you can be involved.

ML&P Sale: September begins the RCA hearings on the ML&P sale. More to come.

2020 Census: Currently, Census workers are going door to door to complete the address verification step for the Census. For more information on the Census in Alaska, go to www.alaskacounts.org

Assembly Member John Weddleton: Comments on the Port. The current thoughts are to pursue a long-range plan to fix the port, but it really needs some immediate attention. There is enough money now to rebuild 800 of the 1200 pilings. John prefers that approach. Trash bears: Changes were made regarding garbage early this year and to date there have been no bears killed. Planning: When a developer starts on a large lot the taxes are small. As soon as there are improvements to the property the taxes go way up even though there isn't any income yet. Taxes should be adjusted to account for this. There has been flooding in town and the storm drains, which were made of steel, are at the end of their life span and are failing. Drains are now done with plastic which is more durable. Assembly is considering a storm water utility, and everyone would pay, including non-profits. On September 15 the ban on plastic bags will go into effect. It is illegal to use cell phones in a school zone.

School Board: Our new Board member is Starr Marsett and she will come next month.

FCC update Bruce Roberts: No meeting this summer.

Roads & Projects, Calvin Schrage: Not much done on Abbott Rd lately. Academy/Vanguard project is looking possible changes from the community input including blacktop walking safety. Nov update from DOT and from SOA. Dowling Rd and Seward Hwy – DOT is looking for input. Cedrus has cracked sidewalks and the ALCC is asking MOA to add that to our priority list.

Parks and Rec Committee, Susan Soule: There are huge holes at the dog park. Owners are supposed to fill in the holes. Calvin Schrage volunteered to bring some dirt over.

P & Z Vicki Gerken: Title 21 updates are ongoing. Right now, they are clarifying I-2 Zoning. There is a site plan review for the former Sam's Club property. They are dividing into three retail lots plus one storage facility. There is a request to subdivide two lots into two lots with a different configuration off 72nd west of Lake Otis. 4115 E 88th requesting variance for fence height.

Cannabis & Alcohol Committee: We still need a chair for this Committee. Alcohol renewals and Marijuana renewals are up for comment. After Aug 31st Hillside Wellness can't sell until their application is approved on September 10th. Assembly may act sooner.

Membership and Events, Shiela Cernich – outgoing chair: The June picnic went well. The group then applauded the hard work put in by Shiela to make this a stellar event.

Abbott Loop Community Patrol, Patti Higgins: We have five active members and a recruit. The patrol is always looking for new members. Neighbors are encouraged to report any suspicious events to 311.

New Business:

- **Alaska Aerial Survey, Gary Brekke:** Vertical Bridge making changes to the existing tower off Dowling and Elmore. The height will not increase. They are adding a triangular structure to increase bandwidth. They must ask for a variance because the existing laws are different from when the tower was built. Construction will begin in 2020 after break up.
- **ACPRTF, Pastor Marbury:** He would like us to know about the Anchorage Community Police Relations Task Force. They formed to ensure people understand their civil rights. Police 101 and Stand your Ground. They meet on the 2nd Friday at noon at the Fairview Rec Center.

Next Meeting is Thursday, September 26, 2019, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm at Abbott Loop Elementary.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.