

Rogers Park Community Council
Meeting Minutes
7 PM Monday, February 10, 2020
****BP Energy Center****

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

I. Welcome

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm following a very successful “Mid-Winter Meet & Greet.” A quorum was attained.

II. Approval of Minutes for January 13, 2019

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

III. Treasurer’s Report

Ric Wilson reported the council account contained \$329.50.

IV. Federation of Community Councils Report

Julie Bleier reported on subjects addressed at the January Federation of Community Councils meeting, among them: the Metropolitan Transportation Planning (MTP) document under development; Elizabeth Place, a downtown building with 50 homeless beds and a mix of market-priced and low-income housing; land use issues concerning the Rabbit Creek Community Council; and the remodel of the 6th Avenue transit center into a hotel and commercial development.

V. Discussion: Accessory Dwelling Units

Dave Whitfield, Planning Division Manager for the Municipality, appeared to answer questions regarding Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) under changes to municipal codes adopted in 2018. He and Assembly Member Felix Rivera were barraged with questions about the problems associated with ADUs, the possibilities for vacating or placing a moratorium on the new ADU rules, whether Rogers Park can be exempted from them, the role of neighborhood plans vis-à-vis ADUs, regulations that might tighten regulation of ADUs, and the Assembly’s support for the new rules in light of strong opposition expressed at the time by Rogers Park Community Council.

Council members spoke at length about objections to ADUs in their proximity and the emotional impact of what they see as violations of their privacy. Dan Rosenberg contrasted the Anchorage rules with limits in other cities on height, footprints, shadowing, sunlight angles, setbacks, and attachments such as satellite dishes or elevator shafts. Planning Manager Whitfield suggested working with Assembly representatives to devise regulations to implement the new rules in a workable manner. Assembly Member Rivera expressed the Assembly’s and his own rationale for supporting ADUs, and also indicated a willingness to work with Assembly Member Meg Zalatel and the council to address the concerns being expressed.

Board President Janet Bidwell proposed a committee to be chaired by Dan Rosenberg to work with Assembly Members Rivera and Zalatel, and to present both Rogers Park and College Village neighborhood concerns. The proposal was approved by a show of hands with 27 votes in favor and none opposed.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Crime and Safety Committee

Chair Linda Chase reported the committee had spent its energies on organizing the Mid-Winter Meet & Greet. Council members nodded in appreciation!

B. Midtown Congestion Relief Committee

Steve Noble, project manager for DOWL Engineering, updated the council on the Midtown Congestion Relief (MCR) Study. DOWL is still seeking feedback; it has received from the Tudor Community Council a resolution similar to the one approved by Rogers Park Community Council. The report will be wrapped up near the end of February. Mr. Noble encouraged members to pay attention to and comment on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan because it will help guide transportation decisions long into the future and will have great bearing on the Midtown Congestion Relief project. Asked whether comments on the MCR study could be given through the project website, he encouraged members to use the website, to call, or to speak face-to-face with him about any comments. He also indicated there will be a cultural/historical analysis in the report, as many homes in the neighborhood are approaching the 50-year-old standard for having historic status.

C. Nominating Committee, RPCC: Election of Officers 2020-2021

Board President Janet Bidwell indicated the council will need someone else to serve in that capacity next year, since she will be away from town much of the time. She called for members to volunteer to serve as officers. Pete Mjos will continue to serve as Nominating Committee chair. He stressed that each year it's a struggle to find candidates, and encouraged everybody who believes in participatory democracy to consider volunteering to serve as an officer. Past President Jim Wright noted the bylaws define the roles of executive officers. The bylaws can be found at: <http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/28.html>

VII. Elected Representative Report(s)

Assembly Member Meg Zalatel:

Assembly Member Zalatel discussed the proposed school bond package, which primarily deals with earthquake damage. The only projects not related to earthquake damage are a roof at Aquarian Charter School roof and a design study for Inlet View School. She said the School Board says it does not intend to propose a bond package next year. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) money is uncertain now because the cost of required earthquake insurance is "astronomical;" efforts are under way to gain relief from the requirement or lower the cost.

Assembly Member Zalatel offered a series of written questions about camping in Anchorage as it considers responses to homelessness. She hopes to gain public input about sanctioned camping and other ideas regarding homelessness; she also has sought input from Planning & Zoning and other municipal commissions. The goal is to get input by early March in order to explore policy dimensions by early summer.

Assembly Member Felix Rivera:

Assembly Member Rivera reminded members that the Assembly voted to put an alcohol tax proposal on the ballot in April. Ballots for voting by mail will be sent out March 17. He is working with Downtown Assembly Member Chris Constant to develop an Assembly resolution regarding the Midtown Congestion Relief study.

Assembly Member Rivera brought to the council's attention "Assembly Priorities," a document on the muni website presenting the Anchorage Assembly's Vision and Goals for 2019-2021. It can be viewed at:

<http://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/SiteAssets/Pages/default/2019-1221%20Assembly%20Priorities%20and%20Vision%20Working%20Document.pdf>

Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson (SD-I):

Sen. Gray-Jackson's written report is attached at the end of these minutes.

VII. Announcements and Member Comments:

- A. Rick Phillips made a pitch for the Fair Share Act initiative concerning state tax structure for oil and gas. He said the initiative now has nearly enough signatures to reach the ballot and the campaign will move to information and fund-raising.
- B. Raul Ortega urged the new committee formed to address ADUs to work with other community councils on the issue.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 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>

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.

**Roger's Park Community Council – Senator Gray-Jackson's Report
February 10, 2019**

- The 2020 Legislative session is off to a great start.
- I want to share with you the following Bills that I am bringing forward this session:
 - Testing procedures for sexual assault test kits.
 - Banning Private Prisons.
 - Amending State Statutes on health professionals that can prescribe disability parking placards to include physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech pathologists.

And a package of bills that would recognize cultural months in State Statutes (permanently).

- Recognizing September as Hispanic Heritage Month.
 - Recognizing October as Filipino American History Month.
 - Recognizing March as Women's History Month.
 - Recognizing May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.
 - Recognizing June as LGBTQ Pride Month.
 - Recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
- I am proud to announce that on February 3, 2020, the House passed a resolution to name the House Health and Social Services and Education Committee room after the late Bettye Davis. This is so appropriate to honor such an amazing Woman. The Bill will be before the Senate for a vote shortly, and I'm looking forward to celebrating this great event; first, at the Bettye Davis African American Summit on February 29th and then, officially, in Juneau sometime March.
 - An Anchorage Caucus meeting will be held on Saturday, February 22nd, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Anchorage Assembly Chambers in the Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St. Come share your feedback with your legislators.
 - 2020 Census – It is imperative that we all participate in this 10-year survey. It has consequences that all Alaskans will live with for the next 10 years. It affects the amount of Federal funding we receive for our infrastructure (capital projects), Medicaid funding and more. So, please, please be sure to participate in this effort!
 - I want to invite everyone to join me and my staff for "Coffee with Elvi" so we can hear your priorities during this legislative session. We will be meeting at the Black Cup, 341 Benson Blvd. on March 7th, from 11-12:30pm. Come share your thoughts, opinions and enjoy a cup of coffee with us.

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.