

Rogers Park Community Council
Minutes
October 9, 2006

I. Welcome

Heather Ireland, President, called the meeting to order.

II. Approval of September minutes

Bob Williams moved to approve. Carl Ward seconded.

III. Announcements

A. Traffic Calming in College Village

1. Connect the sidewalk from Annapolis/La Touche east on Annapolis to Redwood and North on Redwood to Zarvis Pl. - in progress.
2. Install a raised crosswalk at Zarvis Pl. and Cottonwood St. – in progress

B. Noise Control Discussion: October 18, 2006 1:30-2:30, L St. – 4th floor.

C. Jacobson Park Update

IV. Assembly Report: Mr. Coffey and Mr. Traini

Mr. Coffey

- Capital budget, proposed capital improvements documents available from PM&E
- Lake Otis between NL and DeBarr approved ballfields; pedestrian relief N and S of the ballfields
- 2 major issues: Title 21 committee, Assembly Chair, zone property along new C street extension, delaying factor, summary of economic effects of design standards some will have an economic impact, no substantial change on others
- Public Meetings October 25 and December 12
- Economic effects of condemnation timeline published

Mr. Traini

- 2006-64S transmission towers issue coming up tomorrow night how high should they be
- Towers will be painted rust; they tell us you won't see them
- Reduce parking tickets from \$20 to \$10
- WalMart requested rezoning; they have the authority to build even if it is not rezoned; Allen Tesche will not vote as he is an attorney for WalMart

- Transmission lines cannot go underground. Will talk to Chugach and ML&P re: where they are going to put them

Questions:

Jim Wright: Are they going to go through this neighborhood?

Mr. Traini: We will find out tomorrow night.

Jim Wright: They can go underground, but it is very expensive.

Mr. Traini: Transmission line cannot go underground. Come down and testify tomorrow night.

Bob Williams: What are the subdivision standards for sewer, water and sidewalks?

Mr. Coffey: Different subdivisions have different standards.

Mr. Traini: We can't go back in time, many subdivisions don't have sidewalks.

Bob Williams: Will sidewalks be required for new subdivisions?

Mr. Coffey: Will have to read the code. Janice Shamberg worked on the standards for parks and public works.

Mr. Coffey: Transmission towers are 115-130 megavolts. Air provides insulation. Safety code requires them to be 90 feet high on Northern Lights, 70 feet on Seward Hwy. The Regulatory Commission of Alaska controls the utilities and easements.

Heather Rice: She called Chugach electric. They said they could bury them but it takes a lot of space.

Mr. Traini: There is a huge maintenance cost if they are underground.

Heather Rice: Did they solicit responses from the public?

Mr. Coffey: There is a public notice process; they decided to keep them in the utility corridors, major thoroughfares.

Pete Mjos: Eminent domain is addressed in Title 21. How will it be addressed in the final document?

Mr. Coffey: C Street is an industrial corridor from 40th south to O'Malley, not retail. Businesses are being built on land, which is zoned for industrial use. The plan is to retain existing zoning districts rather than creating whole new zoning districts.

Jim Wright asked for a copy of the legal opinion. Mr. Coffey suggested that he call the City Clerk.

Pete Mjos has copies of the Title 21 proposed changes.

Heather Ireland has a letter from PM&E in response to the RPCC Capital Improvement Project list. Parks and Rec did not send a similar letter. Reviewing the budget summary from the city's website showed that pending bond approval, there will be projects at Goose Lake, Russian Jack, and University Lake.

Mr. Coffey proposed a Parks bond.

Pete Mjos stated that the last Parks bond was defeated by Eagle River.

V. Legislative Updates

Berta Gardner made comments supporting the sound barrier and bike paths.

Les Gara indicated that there was nothing major to report since last month and that he would take questions.

Bob Williams thanked the legislators for working on the sound barrier and the fence project and expressed disappointment that the money did not go very far. He asked when the whole project will be completed.

Les Gara stated that the cost for the entire project had increased from \$600,000 to 1.8 million and that a substantial portion was being used for design.

Senator Ellis' representative stated that Senator Ellis is working on legislation for the next session and is proposing a review of the substance abuse treatment system in Alaska.

Berta Gardner introduced Darwin Peterson, Republican candidate for House District 24.

V. APD Report: Sgt. Stanton

No report

VI. Federation of Community Councils report: Heather Ireland

A. October is Community Council Awareness Month. There will be an open house at the Community Council Center on October 25.

B. Town Hall meetings in November will feature the new technology to solicit group feedback. It will enable residents to vote and receive instant (non-binding) results.

C. Certificates of Appreciation from the Federation of Community Councils and the Municipality of Anchorage were given to the RPCC Board.

Heather also discussed the FCC meeting in September and the concerns of other councils: Government Hill – Knik Arm Bridge; University Area -- Bryn Mawr Apartment construction and the Rescue Mission; Goldenview – subdivision and construction of high density housing; Turnagain – Heritage Land Bank plan, specifically Clitheroe center property.

Mr. Coffey mentioned the midtown district plan for traffic in and out of the commercial areas and residential areas to the S of Tudor.

VIII. Old Business

A. Northern Lights Sound Barrier

Heather Ireland stated that RPCC identified this as a need and began to work on it; Berta Gardner stated she has been working on it since 1992.

Status: Currently only one section as been built.

Rebecca Campbell and Steve Gillette: Discussion re: costs.

They met with RPCC in January and April; estimated cost \$500 per foot, 7,200 feet, available budget \$680,000. Divided into 7 segments –7 segments; analysis included noise ranking in decibels, # of homes benefited. It was put out to bid in August. The bid were \$478/foot or \$382,483 for Segment 2 and \$620/foot or \$755,552 for Segment 6. The bid was cancelled; will rebid in the spring.

Dan Graham stated that the fence should cost no more than \$200 per lineal foot; discussion re: administrative fees.

Tom Obermeyer suggested use of shrubbery in median to cut sound.
Rebecca indicated that this would only take away half the noise.

Steve stated that the same design will be used for all segments.

Mr. Coffey asked how much would you save if you do it all at once?
Steve it would be cheaper if you did it all at once.

Jim Wright recommended that Urban Design Commission standardize designs in the future.

Rebecca said that this is a stand alone project; the city hasn't done many similar projects. The city is holding \$57,000 for administrative costs.

Les Gara asked how much fence can be built for \$400,000.

Steve responded that 800 feet of fence was included in the first bid.

Les Gara asked how to proceed. At the last meeting we thought we would go ahead this year, but bid will most likely be lower in the spring. It is a neighborhood decision, different priorities for people on different sides of Northern Lights. Maplewood sidewalk completed.

Jim Wright raised the issue of a sunset provision on the money.

Dan stated that the priority list is based on the acoustic report, need and also from the interest from residents of Woodside East, Rogers Park school and LaTouche.

Steve said the original ranking was in 2002 and again in 2005, ranking based on several factors.

Dan asked to have sections built based on resident participation.

Pete stated that the priority was decided last spring on two sections.

Heather said that both sections will be built if there is enough money.

Jim Wright suggested breaking the second segment up into sections and asked if there would be problems hanging the lights in sections.

Steve said that lights should be put up when it is built. PM&E tried to do the engineering for the lowest cost, \$105,000 so far. It would be less if we could have bid the whole project.

Carl Ward asked if the base bid could be extended. He is in the first 300 feet in the next section.

Steve said that the base cannot be changed; it would have to go out to bid again.

Dan expressed support for the city's bid process; \$420,000 for Section 2 and a good start on Section 6.

Jim Wright asked if it could be broken down into smaller sections.

Steve said that it reaches a point of diminishing returns if it gets too small.

Dan suggested we keep the document as it is. Would like wooden fence as far as East as possible. Direct PG&E to get the most lighting possible.

Pete proposed that people who are interested get together with Steve.

Steve stated that the goal is to build the most fence that we can.

Pete stated that he doesn't think that we need additional lighting.

Dan stated that he will continue to work on obtaining funding for this project; he will e-mail the gubernatorial candidates.

Jill encouraged keeping the lighting for safety.

B. Title 21

Hearings on October 18 and November 13.

Pete has the drafts of changes. He disagreed with Mr. Coffey that there aren't significant changes awaiting us and said that the comprehensive plan 20/20 a vision for the city, is the point from which all of the discussion should be originating.

Heather asked if we want to hear this at the next meeting? Pete suggested we invite John Weddelton.

VIII. New Business

IX. Treasurer's report

The treasurer reported that the council has \$192.96.

X. Announcements

The Fireweed and LaTouche project is progressing. ML&P will underground the utilities on this project starting in the summer.

Pete announced that there will be a debate on Health Care Issues from 7-8 tomorrow at the Wendy Williamson Auditorium on the UAA Campus.

Pete also suggested that the Coalition of Community Councils be put before the group.

Pete moved to adjourn.

Minutes submitted by Joyce Hughes, November 2, 2006.