

**Rogers Park Community Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**7 PM Monday, March 9, 2020**  
**\*\*BP Energy Center\*\***

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

**I. Welcome**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm. A quorum was attained.

**II. Approval of Minutes for February 10, 2019**

Linda Chase moved to adopt; Ric Wilson seconded. No objection.

**III. Treasurer's Report**

Ric Wilson reported on results of the February 10 Mid-Winter Meet and Greet Event. The council received \$406 in donations and paid out \$166.80, plus a check fee of \$5.00, in expenses. Interest for the month was 1 cent. The account is left with a balance of \$563.71.

**IV. Federation of Community Councils Report**

Julie Bleier reported on the February Federation of Community Councils meeting, including discussion of all propositions on the April municipal ballot and AMATS 2040. Property tax exemption appeals are due March 15.

**V. Discussion: Proposition 12, Assembly Districts**

Rob Cupples, chair of 12 For All Campaign, spoke for the proposal to add a 12<sup>th</sup> member to the Assembly and establish six two-member districts. The current 11-member Assembly includes five two-member districts and one, downtown and surrounding neighborhoods, with a single representative. Mr. Cupples said the proposition would ensure "fair and equitable" representation to all districts. Responding to questions from the group, he noted the new councils would be proportional based on residency; census data would provide population counts; district boundaries would be redrawn to transition to the new system; other existing districts would shrink in population by approximately 9 percent, theoretically increasing access; and there is no provision for breaking a tie vote, so seven of the 12 votes on the Assembly would be required to approve any measure.

## VI. Committee Reports

### A. Crime and Safety Committee

Chair Linda Chase reported committee activity on several subjects:

- a. Mid-Winter Meet and Greet: The committee spearheaded this effort, which included food, games, and a silent auction with many donated items. The event achieved its goals of good turnout, involving younger people and children, community engagement, and fund-raising. Special thanks to Fred Meyer and Marco T's for donations, and Jan DeYoung for desserts. Ms. Chase suggested making this an annual event.
- b. Committee Leadership: Ms. Chase asked for volunteers to populate and lead the committee, and indicated a desire to step down as chair.
- c. Beautification Project: There is interest in projects to beautify and improve the neighborhood, particularly landscaping/flowers at entrances.

### B. Midtown Congestion Relief Committee

Assembly Member Felix Rivera noted an Assembly Resolution up for approval the following day regarding the Midtown Congestion Relief project. That resolution incorporates all the provisions from a January 13 resolution of the Rogers Park Community Council. He said adjoining community councils also had approved similar resolutions that worked well together, but with varying priorities and concerns. He highlighted the issue of appropriate compensation for homes and private property that may be taken for the project. The resolution calls for a 12-foot sound barrier between the highway and the neighborhood and other amenities sought by the councils. The existing 2040 AMATS traffic model and the most recent traffic and population projections would be incorporated in the project, as well as non-vehicular travel options.

### C. Nominating Committee: Election of Officers 2020-2021

Chair Pete Mjos sought interest in nominations for positions on the executive board; he also welcomed participation in the committee's work. A slate of officers will be proposed later in the spring for the 2020-2021 council year.

### D. Accessory Dwelling Unit Committee

Chair Dan Rosenberg reported the committee held an organizational meeting February 24 and had gathered background information from members in Rogers Park and College Village. The committee seeks involvement from Anchor Park as well. The committee considered two options: to oppose ADUs entirely, or to develop new siting and design standards to meet community objections. Focusing on the latter, they discussed setbacks, height restrictions, sunlight and shadows, viewshed protection, roof design, permitting procedures, design

standards from jurisdictions around the country, working with the planning department, and possible neighborhood protection standards. No consensus had emerged yet in this swirl of issues and potential remedies. The committee hopes to inventory existing ADUs and will continue to meet to examine the issues.

## **VII. Elected Representative Report(s)**

### Assembly Member Meg Zaletel:

Assembly Member Zaletel reported on ballot propositions, housing initiatives, a waste-to-energy plan for solid waste services, large infrastructure projects, and fiscal pressures on schools.

### Assembly Member Felix Rivera:

Assembly Member Rivera updated the council on the MLP-Chugach Electric merger review by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. He showed a new Assembly priorities document that he described as a collaborative framework illustrating areas of agreement: homelessness, economic development, and public safety.

Council Member David Evans asked about feedback on recent council resolutions regarding homelessness. Assembly Member Zaletel said comments were coming in and information being collated. She expressed hope that sufficient shelter beds, camp cleanup, mobile intervention, and day shelter will shift the paradigm in Anchorage's treatment of homelessness. She said the Assembly will consider a policy concerning sanctioned camping, funding of overnight shelter beds year-round, extensive abatement of camps, and a Midtown day shelter. She said the issue is a serious topic in midtown because there are so many people on the streets and they need a place to go. She referred to work by the municipality, private developers, Providence Foundation, and the Rasmuson Foundation. Policy-makers are looking for a location to possibly buy a building. Council Member Linda Chase questioned the notion of sanctioned camps and said they have been unsuccessful elsewhere in the country, only enabling bad behavior. She implored the Assembly to consider the role of and need for personal responsibility by people who are not mentally ill but are living outdoors. There was further discussion on legal constraints in dealing with the homeless, lack of facilities, funding sources, directing the new sales tax on alcohol toward treatment, risks to neighborhoods, and political conflicts.

### Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson (Senate District 1):

Sen. Gray-Jackson spoke about a supplemental state budget likely to be the biggest in state history. She reported passage of her bill to rename a committee room in the state Capitol for former State Senator and Anchorage Assembly Member Bettye Davis.

### Representative Andy Josephson (House District 17)

Rep. Josephson reported on legislative activities, including his service on subcommittees focused on the University of Alaska, Department of Law, and Court System. Among the subjects he's been working on: budget cuts and private

contracting at the Department of Law; financial pressures at the university (including no pay increases in three years for faculty and staff); adjusting worker's comp rates; hate crimes legislation; permanent fund dividend amounts; state revenues, and long-run state budget dynamics.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:45 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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