

Rogers Park Community Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Monday, 11 January 2020, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Zoom meeting was called to order by Steve Lindbeck, President at 7:03pm.

President Lindbeck, independently confirmed by Mark Foster, Secretary, noted that by zoom attendance count, 27 RPCC members were in attendance. (Quorum requirement = 15 members).

President Steve Lindbeck announced that the detailed minutes from last meeting were complete but were not completed in time for timely distribution so would be brought forward to the next meeting.

Ric Wilson, Treasurer, reported a balance of \$763.76 at year end, which included 7¢ of interest over the course of the year. He was continuing to explore whether any local banks might have an interest bearing account without annual fees so we could continue to sustain the community council's modest balances.

President Lindbeck reported that he had heard concerns about gunshots in the greenbelt over the past month and would ask police department for an update at a future meeting.

President Lindbeck introduced Assembly Member Meg Zaletel to update the Community Council on the status of the development of the Golden Lion Hotel into an inpatient treatment center and on issues related to the homeless population.

Assembly Member Zaletel proceeded to introduce Ms. Robin Ward from the Municipality of Anchorage Real Estate Development team who managed the due diligence and negotiations for the acquisition of the Golden Lion Hotel for the purpose of developing an inpatient treatment center at that location.

Ms. Ward reported that the Municipal team went through its due diligence process and concluded that the net cost to acquire the property, after taking into consideration the estimated cost to repair and upgrade identified deficiencies, was within the identified budget and the Municipality proceeded to negotiate a purchase price and took title to the building and grounds in December 2020. Ms. Ward described the transfer as orderly and the site as secure and stable, with 2 security guards on duty, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The next steps in the process involved finalizing the scope of work, in consultation with the Anchorage Health Department, for an RFP from a Treatment Center Operator for a contract to provide services at the Alaska Center for Treatment. They expected the RFP to be ready to be issued by February 1. They hoped to get responses back within six weeks and then evaluate and award a contract.

Assembly Member Zaletel indicated that the Municipality (Administration and Assembly) had been monitoring, coordinating and collaborating with the State of Alaska in its deliberations around the development of a treatment facility in Anchorage.

It was noted that the Municipal due diligence process on another property, the former Alaska Club, found the cost to correct the facility's basic deficiency list was beyond the budget and that property acquisition did not proceed.

The Municipality is continuing to search for a new facility to provide services to the homeless in Midtown, looking for 25,000 to 40,000 square feet in a B-3 or above zone.

Pete Mjos asked:

- Would the new Alaska Treatment Center be open for everyone?
- Would it accept health insurance payments for its services?
- Would it be in competition with other service providers?

Assembly Member Zaletel responded:

- The Alaska Treatment Center was slated to be a level 3.3 treatment center, specifically designed to serve the needs of individuals with co-challenges. It would be open to everyone who had a need of those services.
- The State of Alaska, the Alaska Mental Health Trust, representatives from the Alaska Medical community and the Municipality of Anchorage Health Department had previously identified a major gap in the continuum of health care in the development of the State's section 1115 Medicaid Waiver application. The Municipality stepped up and has moved forward with seeking a site and service provider to fill this need. The Municipality continues to coordinate and consult with the State and expects that the State will provide financial support through Medicaid.

Dave Morgan stated that reimbursement may be a challenge as other service providers might pick off lower acuity & higher margin (CPT procedural or DRG diagnostic group) patients, leaving the high acuity & lower margin patients for this new treatment center, creating a revenue shortfall.

- [MAF Secretary Note: While the cream skimming has been in evidence in Anchorage previous efforts to exploit arbitrage opportunities in the procedural and DRG rate setting environments (Medicare, Medicaid, Private Pay for Procedure Systems) as described by Mr. Morgan, the Dunleavy administration, in consultation with the Legislature, has been reducing and adjusting Medicaid reimbursement which should help mitigate against cream skimming practices and other forms of waste, fraud and abuse. So while it is theoretically possible for the Alaska Treatment Center to fall short of its revenue requirements because of cream skimming of more lucrative patients, it seems likely that future cream skimming dynamics will be greatly mitigated by the continued diligence of the Governor and Legislature in their annual review of the Medicaid program. Private insurance carriers are also becoming more sensitized to ensuring that their beneficiaries are receiving good value for their medical services and can be expected to mitigate cream skimming considerations if/when they might arise.]

Dave Morgan suggested that other locations may be better suited for a treatment center, citing the Anchorage Community Mental Health Offices bordering the UAA-Medical Complex as well as other locations within the extensive UAA-Providence-ANMC Medical Complex.

- [MAF Secretary Note: Mr. Foster observes that the Municipal Public Health Department representatives have been in consultation and coordination with a broad range of the health care community in the development of treatment center options, including the proposed level 3.3 treatment center at the former Golden Lion site, and that if representatives of the health care community had a higher value location, they were in an excellent position to advocate and negotiate for it. For example:

- Providence was not only aware of the presence of the ML&P sales proceeds as a potential funding source to help begin to fill in identified gaps in the continuum of care around drug and alcohol treatment, Providence was at the front of the line, as a party to the ML&P sale proceeding before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, negotiating for a portion of the proceeds of the ML&P sale to go toward health care services in the Anchorage Community. They were in an excellent position to negotiate for a higher value location in/around Anchorage.
- Further, Preston M. Simmons, Chief Executive of Alaska Providence St. Joseph Health, has offered his public support of the Municipality's purchase of Golden Lion for the purpose of providing a level 3.3 in-patient treatment center, *"As co-chair of the Anchorage Homelessness Leadership Council, I want to extend our thanks and much gratitude to the Municipality for your leadership in the purchase of the [Best Western Golden Lion Hotel] property," says Preston M. Simmons, Chief Executive of Alaska Providence St. Joseph Health [Alaska Business Magazine, "MOA Acquires Best Western Golden Lion Hotel to Address Gaps in Substance Misuse Treatment", December 16, 2020]*
- The Alaska Native Medical Center – a joint venture of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and the Southcentral Foundation – has very capable principals who are well positioned to be able to negotiate for a higher value location in their ongoing dialogue with the Municipality of Anchorage.
- Alaska Regional Hospital has a capable CEO who has supported the Mayor and Acting Mayor in their promotion of public health initiatives during the pandemic and is well positioned to be able to negotiate with the Municipality for a higher value location.
- The Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, and its alumni, are well aware of the myriad challenges that the gaps in the continuum of care have created for the Medicaid and under and un-insured population in Anchorage. Dr. Bruce Chandler in his work with the Municipality of Anchorage Health Department is well aware of the challenges around locating health facilities in locations that are well suited to serve a broad array of in-patient treatment services.]
- [Mr. Foster further observes that, if the Municipality provides an opportunity for public review of the proposals received in response to the RFP for treatment center services, the public will have an opportunity to evaluate the extent to which the operating plan mitigates the health and safety concerns of neighbors while providing an efficient and effective robust suite of safe, secure in-patient treatment services.]

Ms. Ward and Assembly Member Zaletel reiterated that they expected the Request for Proposals from A Treatment Center Operator to cast a wide net. Assembly Member Zaletel observed that the Anchorage Health Department has continued to consult and coordinate with the Alaska Mental Health Trust.

Linda Chase asked about where the State of Alaska might put their treatment center.

Assembly Member Zaletel offered that the Municipality was working closely with the state, coordinating and collaborating on plans and that the State had not yet indicated whether or where they might locate a treatment center.

Linda Chase asked what was the plan for homeless overnight sleeping facilities? What was the cost of the Sullivan – she had heard it was around \$900,000 per month?

Assembly Member Zaletel offered that the cost to provide homeless services at the Sullivan were covered by FEMA reimbursement.

Steve Lindbeck asked “What the outlook for the homeless around Anchorage?”

Assembly Member Zaletel offered that she understood the question to be about the Municipality’s plan to address homeless camps in and around neighborhoods. Her response:

- The Municipality’s Heathy Spaces Division were continuing their homeless camp abatement program, bringing in police and fire to support the camp abatement teams. These activities were funded in the Alcohol Tax
- The number of homeless have gone up across Anchorage due to COVID-19. It appears that the usual internal support systems, e.g., informal “couch surfing” has been curtailed due to COVID19 concerns and more folks who previously were able to find temporary accommodations with family, friends and acquaintances are now outside
- The Fairview Recreation Center has a senior focus and is providing support as part of a non-congregate shelter program. The Turnagain Social Club is also providing support.
- The Municipality is working on an amended safety net plan with the aspirational goal of moving people out of shelters into housing.
- The Homeless Committee is looking at changing their name to “Housing and Homeless”.
- The Committee is continuing to work with a wide range of stakeholders to better understand the key drivers of homelessness and to identify how to best address those and alleviate homelessness

Subsequent questions were raised about how the Municipal Administration will address safety around the Golden Lion.

Assembly Member Zaletel: The RFP will address Safety & Security, including a Neighborhood Protection Plan, and consistent with the requirements introduced by RPCC Assembly Members, the facility operations plan is required to have secure ingress and egress.

Additional Question – will this facility provide out-patient services?

Assembly Member Zaletel: The facility will provide in-patient services.

Michael Savitt raised additional comments and concerns:

- Why wasn’t an impact statement done prior to the purchase of the property?
- An impact statement should have been done by the Municipality, not developed by an operator in a proposal after the purchase of the property.
- The presence of the treatment facility will attract homeless people to the neighborhood, reducing real estate values.
 - [MAF Secretary Note:
 - The economic literature in combination with the facts and circumstances under consideration at the former Golden Lion Hotel site suggest the concern with

degradation of real estate values may be significantly overblown, especially in light of:

- Small patient population on site for in-patient treatment services
- Local neighborhood safety mitigation measures on top of existing physician separation barriers
- See for example:
 - **Substance Use Disorder Treatment Centers and Property Values**
 - Brady P. Horn, Aakrit Joshi & Johanna Catherine Maclean
 - January 2019
 - <https://www.nber.org/papers/w25427>
 - widely reported in the financial press, e.g., Market Watch, e.g.,
 - <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/do-drug-treatment-facilities-really-lower-property-values-finally-an-answer-2019-01-11#>

Ms. Ward: The Request for Proposals asks prospective treatment facility operators to develop a list of potential impacts and solutions.

Assembly Member Zaletel:

- The mitigation plans within the treatment facility operating plans developed in response to the RFP will provide us with an opportunity to address *specific* concerns.
- The Municipal Public Health department is well aware of the concerns of the neighbors and is mindful of them in their work on the development of the RFP
 - [MAF Notes: The RPCC may wish to consider requesting an opportunity to review and comment on:
 - The Proposed Treatment Services RFP, including requirements and evaluation criteria
 - The Proposed Treatment Service Contract Award, including neighborhood impact statement and mitigation plan]

Ron Alleva:

- [Uncivil comments not included in minutes]
- I had to do an impact statement on my property
- Due diligence on this site for a treatment center was not complete nor transparent nor timely.
- A treatment center that is designed to meet the needs of the homeless and others with co-challenges will “kill neighborhoods” and “kill business”.

Assembly Member Zaletel:

- I disagree with your assessment. I believe we are developing a different facility with different services than the facilities you reference, we have mitigated risk with Assembly policy, and we have additional opportunities to mitigate specific neighborhood concerns in the RFP and Contract Award process.

Micheal Savitt (logged in as Mike & Laurie):

- Raised a question about whether the Assembly had granted the Administration legal authority to authorize the purchase of all four properties to proceed rather than individual purchases. If one of the properties did not pass due diligence, did the Municipality still have a “right to purchase” the Golden Lion under the prior Assembly Authorization?

Ms. Ward and Assembly Member Zaletel indicated the Administration and the Assembly were proceeding in consultation with legal counsel.

Mr. Savitt asked “which legal opinion will be followed”, the Administration or the Assembly?

Linda Chase:

- We need a treatment facility in our community.
- Not sure that the local neighborhood was the number one consideration about where to locate the facility when the local neighborhood should be the number one consideration
- Feel offended that the process did not give more weight to the local community’s concerns
- Why not locate a treatment facility away from people and neighborhoods?
- The Northstar Behavioral Health Hospital on Debarr seems like a good compromise near Alaska Regional’s Medical Campus, separated from local neighborhoods, next to a Church and Apartments.
- We should be looking for a compromise that puts the community and neighborhood first.
- **Supportive Notes in Zoom Chat Box** were noted (7:34pm)
 - **MAF Secretary Note:** I concur with Ms. Chase that the Northstar Behavioral Health Hospital on Debarr may offer in interesting comparison case.
 - When I walk my dog to Fire Island Bakery and around Airport Heights Elementary School I’m cognizant of the safety concerns of local neighbors who reside adjacent to a Behavioral Health Hospital In-Patient Facility. As CFO I worked on the implementation of the school bond issue that included a \$23 million remodel of the Airport Heights Elementary School and grounds. The Chief Operating Officer and Capital Improvement Planning Committee were diligent in solicited feedback from the principal, teachers, staff, parents and neighborhood residents in the planning process and heard concerns about elementary school childrens’ safety adjacent to NorthStar and endeavored to ensure that substantial and safe separation between the Behavioral Health Hospital and the Elementary School and Grounds was maintained during the planning, construction and final commissioning of the remodel project completed in 2016.
 - I understand and appreciate that the new Alaska Treatment Center may be focused on providing service to a potentially more diverse set of patients who exhibit co-challenges [Level 3.3 cite] than the *level of service* offered at North Star. It may be useful to keep in mind that the patients served at North Star in many cases have co-challenges as well. So it would seem that we have local examples of behavioral treatment centers that can begin to inform a discussion about the local neighborhood health and safety risks that might arise and how we might effectively mitigate those risks rather than assume the magnitude of those local safety risks are beyond what can be reasonably mitigated.

7:36pm, 44 participants in zoom, 3 couples had reported in, total of 47 members in attendance.

Mr. Savitt asked the question of why didn't Assembly Members Rivera and Zaletel reject the Golden Lion Hotel location after the outdoor meeting of concerned citizens of Geneva Woods and Rogers Park earlier in the year.

Assembly Member Rivera offered "we can listen, but we don't have to do what you want."

Mr. Savitt interjected that he placed the blame for "ramming this through" squarely on the Assembly. He reiterated concerns around:

- Established [health care] providers will cream skim high margin patients and the facility won't pay for itself.
- Established [health care] providers will avoid the complicated high needs population and those high needs patients will come to this treatment center and the local neighborhood will suffer.
- The actions of the Assembly were "irresponsible".
 - MAF Secretary Note: A review of the contemporary record, in consultation with Susan Levy and others who followed up with comments posted in the chat box, suggests that a number of treatment centers around town, including those serving the population with co-complications in neighborhoods, have not generated vagrancy or travel corridors complaints. Examples include Grandview Gardens, Thunderbird Terrace, and Airport Heights

Steve Lindbeck asked Assembly Members for their sense of the local community support.

Assembly Member Zaletel responded that it was her assessment that Rogers Park was divided.

Assembly Member Rivera responded that he thought Rogers Park was "evenly split".

Michael Savitt responded that the in-person and telephonic testimony before the Assembly ran 80/20 in opposition to the ordinance authorizing the due diligence and acquisition of the four properties to address homeless and treatment services. He understood that e-mail testimony was also heavily against the ordinance.

Dave Morgan added that the opposition to the ordinance had gathered 5000 signatures.

Sara Dykstra offered that she was more concerned about abandoned vehicles and the need for the police to respond to potential bomb threats like the one that arose in the Midtown Mall parking lot and the suspicious abandoned vehicle than the proposed treatment center. She supported medical treatment centers and observed that medical treatment centers need to be in a place where people are for them to be accessible.

Marilyn Pillifant asked / commented:

- What is your alternative site that provides a cost effective alternative?
- This will be a guarded facility with separation and support which should mitigate real safety concerns.
- "These are people".
- They need drug rehabilitation services and they face many challenging health issues.

Barbara Bach offered the Northway Mall as an alternative site.

David Morgan reiterated the notion that other good locations on the Providence Medical Campus were “totally ignored”.

- MAF Notes: While it might be possible to imagine that locations on the Providence Medical Campus were “totally ignored”, *the* evidence on the public record indicates that Providence was consulted and is supportive of the Municipality’s effort to advance a level 3.3 treatment facility at the Golden Lion Hotel location.
- “As co-chair of the Anchorage Homelessness Leadership Council, I want to extend our thanks and much gratitude to the Municipality for your leadership in the purchase of the [Best Western Golden Lion Hotel] property,” says Preston M. Simmons, Chief Executive of Alaska Providence St. Joseph Health [Alaska Business Magazine, “MOA Acquires Best Western Golden Lion Hotel to Address Gaps in Substance Misuse Treatment”, December 16, 2020]
- Anchorage Homelessness Leadership Council members include: Mike Abbott, CEO for the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority; Sophie Minich, President/CEO for Cook Inlet Region, Inc.; Carol Gore, President/CEO for Cook Inlet Housing Authority; Gretchen Cuddy, community member-at-large; Rev. Matthew Schultz, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church; Paul Landes for General Communication, Inc.; Diane Kaplan, President/CEO for the Rasmuson Foundation; Dr. Richard Mandsager, Sr. Fellow for the Rasmuson Foundation; Greg Cerbana, Vice President for Weidner Properties; and Joe Marushack, President of Conoco Phillips Alaska.

Marilyn Pillifant responded to Mr. Morgan that the hospitals have been overwhelmed by COVID-19.

Representative Harriet Drummond observed:

- The State has recently “made a mess of it” in their attempt to privatize API and improve treatment services, it seems harder to get into than it was before
- She is impressed that the Municipality has stepped up to address a long-standing challenge in our local medical services.
- The House HESS committee heard testimony last spring that highlighted that a substantial majority of 5000 people who are in a State Correctional facility have mental health issues often interrelated with alcohol and drug issues. State Correctional Facilities are an expensive place to try and treat people. We need to catch people and treat their health issues before they fall into unhealthy patterns and get them back on track for productive lives.
- We need to support our parents and children who are facing treatment challenges.
- Anchorage is a small place with not many “not in my backyard” places left.
- The Salvation Army Clitheroe Center was recently offered up as an alternative site for a treatment center. It has a number of fatal flaws from the point of view of providing cost effective service to the target population, including limited effective capacity because of water supply issues and poor access and no bus route

Michael Savitt responded:

- I understand that the State and the Municipality have conflicts
- The Mental Health Trust has lots of money

- This is happening here because Assembly Member Chris Constance got it moved out of downtown
- There is “no real planning”
- The Municipality has it “backwards” because they were in a hurry to spend the CARES Act funds in the allotted time
- There has been no impact statement, they have the cart before the horse

Assembly Member Zaletel responded:

- The funds used to support the purchase of the treatment center site came from the ML&P Sale proceeds
- The treatment center meets a long identified need in our community for a robust set of in-patient services for patients with co-challenges
- I live here too [near a corner where transients frequently hang out]. I have children.
- We can continue to address the concerns of the neighbors in the RFP and in the facility operator contract.

Russel Biggs offered

- I’m a supporter of providing services to the homeless and for treatment centers.
- My wife works at the Hope Center
- This is not a NIMBY issue. I walk the streets.
- The 5000 people signing the recall petition demonstrate that the Assembly Members are not listening.
- Location is important. The Sullivan area is a good site for centralizing homeless services.

Elected Representative Reports

Representative Andy Josephson (House District 17) highlighted:

- The House and Senate remained “topsy turvy” with rumors emerging of a bipartisan Senate organization having an influence on the House organization discussions.
- The Legislature was scheduled to resume on Tuesday, January 19 and he had prefiled bills on:
 - Oil Spill Penalties & Fees which had not been updated in the 40 years
 - End of Fiscal Year Fiscal Administrative and Appropriations Procedures, e.g., “reverse sweep” and end of year management of budget reserve procedures
 - Defined Benefits Pension Plans for Police, Fire and State Troopers; picking up a bill that Chuck Kopp had been sponsoring.
 - Workers Compensation issues related to Permanent Partial Impairments, e.g., loss of a finger at work, which had not been updated since 2000
 - Disallowing discrimination in employment, housing or credit based on gender issues
 - Hate Crimes, responding to a knife attack in Stirling that may well have merited consideration as a hate crime
 - Workers Compensation issues related to what constitutes a presumptive illness
- Linda Chase asked “Did we have an Alaskan Representative at the Rally in Washington D.C. this past week?”
- Rep. Josephson responded that we did have an Alaskan Representative at the Rally in Washington, D.C. this past week. But at this point Representative Josephson was not aware of evidence that he went inside the Capitol Building.

Representative Harriet Drummond (House District 18) highlighted:

- She was flying to Juneau tomorrow (Tuesday, January 12)
- She expected that the House HESS Committee would be meeting to review the Governor’s proposed reorganization of the Health & Social Services Department into “Day Services” and “Round the Clock, 24 X 7” services. The reorganization might make sense, but that she expected to review it to make sure that reorganization didn’t just add another group of Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners to the payroll. While the Legislature doesn’t have a direct role in administrative organization, it does have a responsibility to oversee the appropriations and may influence how the administration may reorganize the department.
- At this point in the House organization process, there were still two groups of 20 each looking for opportunities to organize along majority/minority lines in order to conduct business. She hoped that the House would be organized by next Tuesday, January 19th when they were scheduled to gavel into session in Juneau.
- Capitol security has been beefed up in light of concerns over armed protests.
- While House and Senate Floor sessions will start out in-person, she expects committee hearings may be conducted remotely.

Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson (Senate District I) highlighted:

- Thank you Steve for keeping the Community Council informed about the status of the Golden Lion [Alaska Treatment Center] project.
- She thanked Meg and Felix for their service and hoped that we could all be a little more empathetic for each other's view points and community members who were in need of treatment services and support.
- The Governor's Budget released on December 11 cuts nearly \$300 million and funds a total of nearly \$5000 per person in proposed PFD's to be issues in March and October from the Alaska Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve. We'll be taking a close look at the Governor's Proposed Proposal in the Senate.
- The Federal COVID Relief passed in December provides for \$900 million in relief, including extending enhanced unemployment benefits, supplemental assistance to households, extension of the payroll protection plan.
- The State of Alaska adjusted the [CDC and Alaska Vaccine Advisory Committee's] recommended vaccine prioritization so phase 1b1 includes 65 and older and phase 1b2 includes education and other front line essential workers.
- After a bit of a rocky start, the vaccine appointment scheduling should improve this week.
- She indicated she was headed down to Juneau on January 15th.
- Her office number is 465.4930
- Additional information is available via Elvi's Updates, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/SenatorElviGrayJackson/>
- Ron Alleva asked observed that we would benefit from the extra \$600 that could be spent locally. He asked whether we might also make sure that the State of Alaska consider the benefits of having the State's Surplus Equipment sales be contracted to a local Alaska vendor instead of being outsourced outside.
- Senator Gray-Jackson indicated she would look into the issue raised by Mr. Alleva when she was in Juneau.

School Board Member Margo Bellamy highlighted:

- The next school board meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 19th
- In-person schooling would be phased in starting January 19th with preK – 2, and special education and small high needs pods of middle and high school students.
- The school district was offering free COVID popup testing sites
- The school district was offering a vaccination clinic for people 65 and over and was accepting walk-ins in addition to appointments at the Education Center (E. Northern Lights & Boniface)
- The school district was using the experience they gained at their vaccination clinic to get get ready to vaccinate its own employees
- The School Board had identified its Legislative Priorities as: fair funding, renewed commitment to wellness, and a strong foundation (reading, writing and math) and rigorous standards
- Jim Wright asked whether there was any concerns about reopening school buildings without widespread vaccination

- Board Member Bellamy responded that the Superintendent had testified to put teachers at the top of the list, but the State had chosen to demote teachers and advance Seniors to the top of the list.
- The School District hoped to start vaccinations of teachers and staff on January 20th
 - [MF Secretary Note: Earlier on the same day, Dr. Zink had provided video testimony to the local TV news stations that the State did not expect to have enough vaccine to cover all of the 65 and over population that they expected might want to get vaccinated and that the State did not know when the next supply of vaccine would be forthcoming.]
- Pete Mjos asked “what about teachers who refuse to work without being vaccinated?”
- Board Member Bellamy indicated teachers were expected to follow their contract and either show up for in-person work or use their leave accounts.
- Pete Mjos asked whether students and teachers would be expected to get tested prior to reentry into school buildings.
- Board Member Bellamy indicated that the district highly encouraged access to testing by deploying test sites at 11 schools [out of 100] and a mobile unit with the goal of a 24 hour turnaround.
- Pete Mjos asked how many students and how many teachers had the district lost so far this year.
- Board Member Bellamy indicated the district has lost about 5000 students (-11%) but had not reduced teaching positions thus far.
- Sara Dykstra encouraged the School District to continue to communicate and support the availability of COVID-19 testing.

Assembly Member Meg Zaletel highlighted:

- Tuesday would be a Martin Luther King (MLK) day of service; the Alaska Black Caucus (ABC) was hosting a day of service, the Alaska Bar Association was hosting a legal clinic; Jack & Jill America was hosting a canned food drive
- Tomorrow night the Assembly would vote on the extension of the Emergency Declaration to April 16th and begin planning for an exit from the pandemic emergency taking into account the supplemental federal and state funding support slated for the new year
- Assembly Member Zaletel indicated she expected to continue to closely monitor COVID under the modified hunker down order as we head into the year after the holidays and move forward with plans to reopen school buildings
- Peter Mjos expressed his gratitude to the acting Mayor and Assembly for following the data and science on public health
- Michael Savitt asked “what does the Emergency Order Accomplish?” He indicated it was “a little too convenient” and it enabled the Municipality to take “a knife through the heart of business.”
 - MAF Secretary Note: The State of Alaska Department of Health commissioned a study from UAA which found *local Emergency Orders, a mask mandate, and targeted restrictions on gathering locations in Anchorage appear to have contributed to decreasing SARS-CoV-2 transmission rates*
 - epibulletins.dhss.alaska.gov/Document/Display?DocumentId=2059
- Assembly Member Zaletel indicated that the Mayor and Assembly had been in consultation with economics and public health experts and the Municipality had narrowly tailored the modified

hunker down order to those areas where higher incidence of spreading had been found in order to reduce community spread and conserve our limited supply of ICU beds in order to avoid excess mortality associated with not having local staffed ICU beds during a surge.

Assembly Chair Felix Rivera highlighted:

- The Assembly was scheduled to meet on Tuesday the 12th and again on Tuesday the 26th this month.
- One of the items under consideration for January 26th was whether police body cameras and the supporting data subscription service would be funded from a special tax to be placed before voters on the ballot in April or from reappropriation from within the existing budget including grants and a portion of the alcohol tax
- Assembly Chair Rivera encouraged people to review the newly released Assembly Quarterly Newsletter for additional information. In addition the Assembly had developed videos to help constituents better understand the Assembly process and the Assembly was working on how to more effectively communicate with its constituents and to solicit feedback.
- Ron Alleva expressed concern with recent actions of the Assembly to remove Assembly Member Allard from the chair of the Assembly Audit Committee.
- Assembly Chair Rivera responded that Ms. Allard remains a member of the committee and that BDO would conduct the audit.
- Michael Savitt offered that “you would not have been short funds to support the APD body cameras if you had saved money by not buying the [Golden Lion Hotel] building” and that you were “disrespectful” of local opinion by supporting the purchase of the building over the objections of local neighbors.
- Pete Mjos encouraged the previous speakers to be mindful of the tone and tenor of their comments.
- Linda Chase agreed that “the previous speakers weren’t respectful” and that “we need to get back to civility and be respectful.”
 - I don’t feel that you [Assembly Member Rivera] have done anything to merit a recall. Felix and Meg has been very responsive. I’m sad, we should think about being ladies and gentlemen when we engage with our people in public service who don’t get paid enough.
 - Linda wanted to thank Meg, Felix, Margo, Harriet, Elvi and Andy for their public service and for taking the time to respectfully listen to our concerns.

RPCC Member Announcements and Comments:

- Ron Alleva shared that he appreciated that had gotten COVID-19 masks from the Federation of Community Councils (FCC) and wondered if we had any restrictions on going back to get more. Jim Wright indicated he was not aware of any restrictions and encouraged those who might need masks to get more from the FCC.

- Meg Zaletel encouraged council members to contact Zach (zzaletel@gmail.com) for information on the next Rogers Park Garden and Beautification Committee Meeting. There next two meetings are scheduled for
 - 7pm, January 20th
 - For a list of projection from the January 20th meeting, please see:
 - <https://mapfling.com/qumwj3t>
 - 7pm, February 17th
 - <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79178051894?pwd=a25FVXZwdGFMSXBnd3dMOFYyTFFLUT09>
- Ric Wilson announced that he had invited John Fournelle, Emeritus Professor of Geology, Univ. of Wisconsin to present a history of the Rogers Park neighborhood on March 8th.

Without objection Steve Lindbeck adjourned the meeting at 9:00pm.