

RABBIT CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting of 13 December 2001

Present were Sell, Miller, Weinig, Mendenhall, Fries, Van Flien, Ross, Gruenblatt, Pease, and Kutzer.

Treasurer's report: There are 176 members; the quorum for a general meeting is 35. We have \$631.61 in the bank. Ross wrote 2 checks for materials relating to the grant application for the Rabbit Creek Greenbelt, to Dianne Holmes for \$76.90 and to Nancy Pease for \$43.31.

Anchorage Police Officer Sims attended the meeting to answer questions.

- Officer's area: Most of RCCC is in Anchorage Police Department (APD) Area 46. Its north boundary is DeArmoun, west is New Seward Highway, south is McHugh Creek.
- Snowmachine nuisances: APD will always respond to complaints "at some point," especially if the perpetrator's residence is known (APD can visit there). APD will not chase snowmachines. Other calls may take priority, but the more calls they receive about a specific problem, the higher its priority gets. Snowmachines causing a nuisance can be impounded.
- Whom to call?—The APD business office number, not 911 (for incidents at which the officer could not arrive while the problem is in progress. like snowmachine nuisances)
- An auto repair shop on 72nd near the Old Seward Highway parks its cars on the street indefinitely. APD says it's a code enforcement problem, but they say the police deal with vehicles on the road right-of-way. Sims said the cars could be towed, but they are 6 months behind on that (except junk cars should be tagged for towing within 24 hours).
- People are speeding on Buffalo. Sims suggested re-engineering the road, or speed bumps could be ordered (they can now be put on unpaved roads). If a license plate is recorded, APD could visit the driver's house.
- Why are so many emergency vehicles called to one health emergency? Paramedics in our area are at fire stations (Bear Valley or O'Malley) that have no ambulance, so a fire truck responds. Police also respond, since they may be closer than the paramedic. An ambulance is sent for if it's needed to transport the patient.

Announcements

- Open house meeting for the Anchorage International Airport on 11 December; the notice was received too late to be useful.
- Joint meeting tonight of the Anchorage School District and Planning and Zoning (P&Z) regarding site selection for a Muldoon Middle School and Community Center.
- P&Z hearing on 7 January on Case 2002-002, amendment to Title 21 to let a developer exclude parking structures from calculations of maximum lot coverage on PLI lands. (See below.)
- P&Z will hear Amendment no. 4 to AMATS on 14 January. (Weinig offered to find out what this is about.)
- P&Z will hear Case 2002-016 on 4 February, regarding an amendment to Title 21 to exempt child care centers from yard area requirements in cases of special events or centers for sick children.
- A request was received for an RCCC representative on the Public Advocacy Group for the Seward Highway upgrade from Rabbit Creek Road to 36th St. (Weinig offered to fill this role.)
- A petition to close high school campuses is available for signature; proponents hope to put the measure on the ballot in the April 2002 election.
- The AWWU master planning process seems to be proceeding without opportunities for public input (Dianne Holmes).

Parking structures: It was moved (Weinig), seconded (Mendenhall) and **passed** (10-0) to send a letter to P&Z, urging that a variance would be a better solution than a code change, if a developer wishes to exclude parking structures from calculations of maximum lot coverage.

Southern Electric Intertie: If comments on the EIS were sent by mail, they may be delayed for decontamination.

You can send a copy electronically to lwolfe@rus.usda.gov or fax to 202-720-0820.

Assembly report (Shamberg):

- The Assembly approved keeping bus routes as they are.
- Far North Bicentennial Park: 85% of Shamberg's messages on the subject say not to clear park land. (Should RCCC pass a resolution? It would be consistent with RCCC's general opposition to piecemeal planning. However, board member Geuss, who is absent tonight, strongly supports putting the ball fields there.)
- Town Centers in Muldoon and on Abbott Road will be planned in 2002 by Community Planning and Development.
- The Muni has ordered 19 speed bumps, for \$83,000. To get one, a community must circulate a petition.
- An ordinance to approve encroachments on "set-backs" by houses built before 1986 will probably pass the Assembly next week. As-builts were first required in 1986. A fee would have to be paid.
- An ordinance has been proposed (by Taylor) to limit the rate in increase in fines and fees.
- Anchorage 2020 was released on 11 December. It is available for \$39, plus at libraries and on the Web.

RCCC Boundary: postponed. Tesche is working on an Assembly resolution; Weinig is working with FCC to redefine our boundary to include the ridge north of Clark's Road. Shamberg said the Assembly doesn't need to see our resolution until it's finalized.

Coastal Trail extension: Josephine Utic presented plats of her subdivision on the Old Seward Highway, "The Landings." The right-of-way is only 50 feet from the centerline in that subdivision, although it is 100 feet wide on the rest of that road. Some residents on the west side of the road feel that if a trail easement were wider than 10 feet, it would conflict with their garages. There is a high-pressure sewer line on the east side of the right-of-way, so a trail couldn't be put there.

A discussion followed. Among the points made were the following:

- Couldn't the trail be put on top of the sewer line? There is plenty of room in a 100-foot-wide easement. But the Coastal Trail (now) is 25-30 feet wide overall, with 14-foot-wide pavement plus 2-foot-wide shoulders.
- A trail along the Old Seward Highway is mandated by the Anchorage Trails Plan, and RCCC surveys gave support to the Old Seward Highway route. Others disagreed.
- The Old Seward Highway will eventually be upgraded, and a trail is part of that issue. Residents of the area replied that a trail is a separate issue from the road upgrade.
- DOTPF is considering an alternative trail route along the New Seward Highway, according to its maps at a public meeting in November. But not according to the DOT web site.
- The residents are most concerned to avoid condemnation of their property, and to get alternative trail routes into the plan. (However, the residents oppose the Old Seward Highway route even without condemnation, because it would cross their driveways and conflict with local traffic.)
- Should RCCC pass a resolution now, or wait until the draft EIS is issued? Residents were upset at the suggestion of waiting; they are requesting support from RCCC now.

A resolution was moved (Mendenhall), seconded (Kutzer), and **passed** 9-0-0 that supports alternative routes along the New Seward Highway and Old Seward Highway (*within* the highway right of way and easements), without condemnation of private property along the Old Seward Highway. (The full resolution is attached.)

Annual survey: This needs to be revised and finalized as soon as possible. Pease and Weinig will help Fries revise it.