

## **Rogers Park Community Council Meeting Minutes**

Meeting: Monday, 8 February 2021, 7:00pm – 9:30pm

Zoom meeting membership was confirmed by Al Milspaugh, FCC Outreach, from 6:55pm-7:13pm.

Mark Foster, Secretary, noted that there were 60 zoom meeting participants of which at least 30 RPCC members were in attendance. (Quorum requirement = 15 members).

President Steve Lindbeck called the meeting to order at 7:13pm.

President Lindbeck presented the minutes of January 11<sup>th</sup> for consideration. They were moved by Linda Chase, Seconded by Pete Mjos. President Lindbeck asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes of January 11. Hearing no objections, they were approved by unanimous consent.

President Lindbeck presented the minutes of December 14<sup>th</sup> for consideration. They were moved by Linda Chase, Seconded by Susan Levy. President Lindbeck asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes of December 14<sup>th</sup>. Hearing no objections, they were approved by unanimous consent.

Ric Wilson, Treasurer, reported a balance of \$763.77 at January 31, 2021, which included 1¢ of interest in January.

Jim Wright had submitted a Federation of Community Council Report that will be posted to the website.

### Elected Representative Reports

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

- February was Black History Month.
- She had introduced SB40 in support of celebrating the achievements and inventions of members of the Black Community in U.S. History.
- She had given a floor speech the previous Wednesday and expected to do so again on the achievements of prominent members of the Black Community in U.S. History.
- She had, in collaboration with Senator Tom Begich, had introduced several bills related to public safety, including SB 1,2,3,4,7 and 46. In addition she had introduced SB5 which established Juneteenth as a state holiday.
- She was busy on several committees and actively working with her colleagues from both sides of the aisle.
- Linda Chase asked if the police had been consulted on the proposed public safety legislation that had been introduced.
- Senator Gray-Jackson thanked Ms. Chase for the question. Senator Gray-Jackson, consistent with her practice while on the Assembly, had worked hard to bring stakeholders to the table. She had been working the bills all summer, including multiple meetings with public safety officials to review draft bills and redrafted bills to meet the concerns expressed by public safety. Her staff had put together a power point presentation that described the process and the bills. Senator Shower from the majority had asked Senator Gray-Jackson to send him the bill files on SB1 and SB4 for the purpose of review and scheduling in his committee. Senator Gray-Jackson was looking forward to the bills receiving a hearing in his committee.

- She encouraged people to tune into Gavel to Gavel and read her monthly Newsletter.
- Her office number is 465.4930
- Additional information is available via Elvi's Updates, available at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/SenatorElviGrayJackson/>

### Committee Reports

Zach Zaletel reported that the Garden/Beautification Committee met and was looking for projects to recommend to the Municipality for inclusion on their capital projects list. Zach had developed and submitted a map of potential projects. The next meeting of the Garden/Beautification Committee was scheduled for 7pm on February 17. Zach also reported that Ron Alleva had donated 60 planters to the Committee. Ron showed a stack of large planters on his zoom screen.

Steve Noble, DOWL Engineering and Sean Baski, DOT Project Manager for the 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue Interexchange talked about the status and next steps for the project.

The project was in the early conceptual design phase. An open house to describe the project, project plan and current conceptual designs was slated for Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7pm. It would consist of a 15-minute pre-recorded presentation followed by a 45-minute question and answer period which would be repeated again at the top of the hour.

Buck Walsky asked about the plan to raise the highway and its potential impact on noise. Mr. Baski indicated that they were considering which of the two roads to raise and that one of the considerations was noise and noise abatement and were planning on conducting a formal noise contour study consistent with federal planning requirements.

Mike Savitt asked whether the Municipal investment in the Golden Lion Inn for a treatment center was a mistake in light of the project to redo and expand the intersection.

Mr. Baski reiterated that the Municipality had consulted with DOT prior to their selection of the site for potential acquisition to assess whether and how much of an impact the intersection redesign might have on the property. DOT had shared with the Municipality that they expected that they would take about three parking spaces that were previously available by a permit within the right of way and that the safety of the intersection would be greatly improved – safety was the cornerstone of the project.

Buck Walsky asked whether the project advocates had any examples of safe intersection designs that they could site. Mr. Baski offered examples of traffic separation and pathways at Lore and Huffman.

Kurt Currey asked whether the right of way had been secured. Mr. Baski indicated they were just finalizing project definition and expected to refine the design option prior to finalizing right of way procurement plan. The project still needed to get in the Statewide Plan after which it would begin to become eligible for federal funds. He did not expect any acquisitions of right of way until after federal funds were available. Kurt Currey said “he didn’t see how you could make it work.” Mr. Baski offered that his team saw “a lot of room” in which to make a number of traffic and safety improvements while only taking “slivers” and narrow “strips” which they had shared with the Municipality prior to the Municipalities consideration of the Golden Lion Hotel property for a treatment center.

Beth of “Beth/Barry Q” asked have you looked at the roundabouts that were removed in New Jersey?

Sean replied that modern roundabouts were one of the options to consider especially since the data indicated that modern roundabouts were “far safer” than signals. And they would endeavor to take into account community input.

Mike Savitt reiterated his concerns that the project would severely affect the viability of the Golden Lion Hotel site as a treatment center and be a “disaster to the community” and that the Municipality should hold off on the Golden Lion site until after the DOT design was completed.

The DOT team reiterated that they saw numerous concepts in the preliminary design that would preserve the viability of the Golden Lion site and had reported those findings to the Municipality prior to their identification of the Golden Lion as a viable site.

Susan Levi asked about the “old Dairy Queen” site on the West Side of the Highway. Mr. Baski indicated that DOT had acquired those properties some time ago and they afforded the project more room.

Representative Andy Josephson (House District 17) highlighted:

- The House remained locked in a stalemate at 20:20.
- 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
- In light of the failure of the House to organize, he was attending Senate Committee hearings to monitor legislative developments.

Representative Harriet Drummond (House District 18) highlighted:

- She was frustrated by the 20/20 stalemate in the House.
- She shared that Alaska was the number one state in the country at number of vaccines that had been administered per capita.
- She was looking forward to the House organizing so they could start on their budget committee work. In the meantime, she encouraged people to go to the Commonwealth North website [AKBudget.com](http://AKBudget.com) for a review of the budget and to use that as a guide to recommend any changes in the budget.
- Dave Morgan expressed concern that the House had not yet organized and offered what he knew to be a spurious comparison, given his long history of involvement in Kentucky politics and knowledge of Senator McConnell’s practice as a legislative leader, to the U.S. Senate where the Vice President had authority to act as a tie-breaker which clearly helped focus both sides of the power sharing agreement in the U.S. Senate.

- Sara Dykstra was pleased that kids were getting back to school but remained concerned that teachers were being further subdivided as a group and put further back in the vaccine queue. Why were teachers being sent into the classrooms without a vaccine?
- Representative Drummond shared her concerns. She highlighted that ANTHC was doing a great job of vaccinating their population, all the way down to 18 year olds and covering households with vulnerable members. They were doing it right.
- Dave Evans offered that he had contacted the State for information on the size of the tiers and when the next tiers might be expected to become eligible.
- Representative Drummond indicated she would send a request for information to the state.

School Board Member Margo Bellamy highlighted:

- The next school board meeting was scheduled for next Tuesday and they were in the middle of budget deliberations.
- In-person schooling now included K-6.
- “Beth & Barry” asked about COVID illness rates in the schools.
- Board Member Bellamy indicated that the district was posting daily updates of which classrooms were closed due to positive tests by 5pm on weekdays.

Assembly Chair Felix Rivera highlighted:

- The Assembly was scheduled to meet on Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of February and was slated to hear the introduction of measures to move the Emergency Orders to Assembly Ordinances – effectively moving the process from the Executive Branch to the Legislative Branch with a more open deliberative process.
- The Municipality was extending/expanding the federally supported rental relief program and anticipated a total of \$75-76 million would be available.
- In addition, VISIT ANCHORAGE was expected to distribute additional relief to the tourist industry.
- The Assembly met in January and moved a capital project bond and ballot proposition on the IT needs of the Police forward to the April ballot. They had allocated funds from the operating budget to dig into body worn camera issues, including privacy questions.
- Dustin Darden asked whether the video footage would be held by private corporations or available to foreign countries.
- Assembly Chair Rivera responded that the Assembly would consider where the vendor would house the servers and the privacy issues raised.

New Business – Resolution in Support of A Treatment Center in Anchorage + Timely and Meaningful Opportunities for the Community Council to Engage in the Treatment Center Development Process:

The resolution was introduced by Steve Lindbeck and Mark Foster.

Linda Chase spoke in favor of it as a reasonable compromise – supporting the development of a treatment center in Anchorage while emphasizing the need for timely public input from the local community at each stage in the development process.

Mike Savitt, Jami George, Dave Morgan, Beth & Barry, Carrie Currey, Ron Alleva, Chip/Geogianna spoke against the resolution. In summary Mike Savitt offered that it was not “strong enough” at condemning the Assembly’s actions to explore the development of a treatment center at the Golden Lion Hotel Site.

Pete Mjos spoke in favor of the resolution. Ric Wilson spoke in favor of the resolution.

Dave Evans raised a point of order – don’t we need a motion before we can begin the discussion.

The Chair concurred.

The resolution was moved by Ric Wilson and seconded by Michael Savitt.

A motion to table was made by Kirk Currey; seconded by Jami George.

The motion to table passed 16-15.

Candidates for local office made a brief pitch for their candidacies:

- Alisha Hilde school board
- Carl Jacobs school board
- Kelly Lessons school board
- Patrick Higgins school board
- Dustin Darden Assembly

Without objection Steve Lindbeck adjourned the meeting at 9:30pm.