



**Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes
Russian Jack Community Council
October 13, 2021**

Happy October everyone!

Autumn is finally upon us, and the leaves are quickly turning into beautiful colors and for some, the snow has arrived.

Fourth Special Session

With three special sessions behind us, we gaveled in for the 4th special session on October 4th. During the special session, I'll join other legislators to address:

- An act making appropriations for a supplemental 2021 PFD for eligible Alaskans.
- An Act related to the Permanent Fund Dividend program.
- SJR 6, HJR 7 or similar resolutions proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to the Alaska Permanent Fund.
- SJR 5, HJR 6 or similar resolutions or acts proposing amendments to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to an appropriation limit.
- An Act relating to measures to increase state revenues.

After gaveling in and much deliberation, the House passed a resolution (HCR 40) that allows the House and the Senate to recess for a period of more than three days, requiring the House and the Senate to convene on at least one additional calendar on or before October 21st and authorizing the presiding officers to convene their respective bodies as needed during the 4th special session.

The Senate gaveled in but did not consider the resolution. The Senate adjourned until Friday, October 8th at 11:00 a.m. and House adjourned until October 8th at 2:00 p.m.

Legislative Council met on Oct 5th to implement guidelines for all legislative facilities which are to remain open under the following protocols:

- Face coverings/Mask are required in all legislative facilities regardless of vaccinations.
- Social Distancing is still strongly encouraged.



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- Cycle testing/Screening will continue to happen.
- In the event of a positive test, the Legislature will follow CDC guidance for those individuals.
- Mandatory legislative COVID-19 protocol signage will be properly displayed for the public and can be found on the legislature internet page at www.akleg.gov.

The Growing Crisis

As we continue to see the number of COVID-cases increase, we must be mindful to do our part in stopping the spread. I encourage you to stay current on CDC guidelines, practice social distancing and wear your mask. Remember, free testing and vaccines are still being offered at various sites across Anchorage.



**Need assistance making your
COVID-19 vaccine appointment?**

Call the COVID Vaccine Helpline:
907-646-3322

Hours: 9am - 6:30pm (Mon-Fri),
9am - 4:30 pm (Sat-Sun)

Always representing your interests!

Interim: 907 269-0174 Session: 907-465-4930

Email: Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov, Keith.Bauguess@akleg.gov or Besse.Odom@akleg.gov

RUSSIAN JACK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 2021-## DRAFT

**A RESOLUTION OF THE RUSSIAN JACK COMMUNITY COUNCIL REQUESTING FUNDS FOR
RUSSIAN JACK SPRINGS PARK SAFETY AND ADA IMPROVEMENTS IN THE 2022 CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PARKS AND RECREATION BOND**

WHEREAS, the Russian Jack Community Council (“RJCC”) is an organization representing the interests of the residents of the Russian Jack neighborhood of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, a function of all community councils in municipal code is to “Advise the assembly of the community council’s annual priority list of capital improvement projects by filing with the municipal clerk within the timeframe established by the administration, a copy of the list as submitted to the administration” (2.40.050 Functions); and

WHEREAS, the RJCC adopted its Capital Improvement Project (CIP) priority list for 2022 including the “Russian Jack Springs Park” project; and

WHEREAS, Russian Jack Springs Park is on RJCC’s CIP priority list, and costs of implementing the Russian Jack Springs Park Master Plan are estimated at \$2,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage’s 2021 Capital Improvement Budget for Parks & Recreation for 2021-2026 includes funding for Russian Jack Springs Park Safety and ADA Improvements for \$500,000 in the 2022 Bond package with additional funding in 2023 and 2024; and

WHEREAS, the “Russian Jack Springs Park Safety and ADA Improvements” is detailed to fund “implementation of master plan priorities including safety improvements, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access improvements, facility upgrades, trail rehabilitation, and new wayfinding and signage including indigenous place names for the park’s trail system;” and

WHEREAS, the Russian Jack Community Council has worked closely with the Russian Jack Springs Park Master Plan Committee and fully support and approve their plan; and

WHEREAS, the Russian Jack Community Council has heard from many neighbors and community members across the city that Russian Jack Springs Park is a destination to walk, bike, roll, ski, run, sled, and many other activities with families; and

WHEREAS, the Russian Jack Community Council has talked at length about the need to update our trails and existing infrastructure to ensure the community can be safe while enjoying our beloved park; and

WHEREAS, the Russian Jack Springs Park is a destination that serves all Anchorage residents and is a highly used and loved park; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage removed this funding in the 2022 Capital Improvement Budget for Parks & Recreation for 2022-2027, and removed bond funding for this project in 2022, instead shifting funding into 2023, 2024, and 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the RJCC, urges the Municipality of Anchorage administration and Anchorage Assembly to include at least \$500,000 in the 2022 Bond package for the Russian Jack Springs Park Safety and ADA Improvements project.

THIS RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED by the Russian Jack Community Council Executive Board on _____ day of _____ 2021. To be ratified by RJCC at their November meeting.

FOR _____, AGAINST _____, ABSTAIN _____.

Russian Jack Community Council President

Date