

Rogers Park Community Council
Minutes
7 PM Monday, January 8, 2007
Rogers Park Elementary School Library

I. Welcome

II. Approval of Minutes – Postponed to January

III. Announcements

A. AWWU Sewer upgrades along Chester Creek: Apologies were made that the project was not discussed sooner. They are finished collecting field data and will complete the project design in the next few months. When their plan to replace old pipes is ready, they will present to the council.

B. Title 21 amendments for Healthcare facilities and Motorized Sports facilities Planning and Zoning Hearing February 5, 2007 6:30 Loussac Library

C. Helen Nienhauser made a brief presentation and introduced the motion. Elaine Hammas made the motion, Pete Mjos seconded it that "The Rogers Park Community Council requests that Town Square Park be named the Ruth Moulton Town Square in recognition of Ruth's leadership and years of hard work that secured this oasis for all of us and in recognition of the difference that one citizen can make. Naming the park will ensure that the Town Square story will be preserved as part of Anchorage's history and as inspiration for future generations." Motion passed unanimously (26 votes).

IV. Assembly Report: Mr. Coffey and Mr. Traini – both Assembly members were present and spoke briefly.

V. Legislative Report: Legislators are preparing for the session to begin in mid-January.

VI. APD Report: Sgt. Stanton (see below)

VII. Federation of Community Councils: Bob Williams has resigned. No one volunteered for the position at this time.

VIII. Treasurer's report: \$193.15 No Income, No expenses.

IX. Old Business

A Fireweed and LaTouche - Dowl Engineering and Landscape Architect presentation - discussed gateways with signage to signify entrance into Rogers Park; trees as backdrop, separation for pedestrians; landscaping in middle of street; narrow road from 27 to 22 to give pedestrian more space; some work on Juneau St. pathway to Chester Creek Trail; February 14 – Urban Design Commission meeting. ML&P undergrounding. Question:

Is LaTouche a priority street? It is currently 25 feet; if you narrow it, how will it be with snow; it will be a least room for one car; slower speed. Questions re: school children crossing; lights – getting rid of right turn on LaTouche. Northern Lights and LaTouche pole/button inaccessible. Drainage from Juneau; question re: trail. The trail is a Parks and Recreation job.

B. Northern Lights Sound Barrier: Section 2 discussion -- UDC met over the summer; Dave Evans and Bob Butera led discussion. Bob questioned 12 foot clearing and cutting of trees. Recommended change in width of clearing from 12 ft to 3 ft and size of trees from 4 to 2 inches; recommended reducing the limit between Glenwood and Maplewood and suggested that someone from Rogers Park review the clearings. Question from Pete re: cost of lights. CRW is meeting with the municipality tomorrow; the plan is to bid the project in April. The changes that Bob and Dave are proposing will not add to the cost.

The RPCC unanimously approved the following resolution regarding the Northern Lights Sound Fence Project:

- * The maximum width of the clearing limits for the segment of sound fence that abuts the existing trail (station 55+00 to 61+52) along Northern Lights between Glenwood and Maplewood shall be reduced to a maximum of 6 feet from the edge of the pathway.
- * Consideration shall be given to reducing the maximum clearing limits for the segment of sound fence that does not abut the existing trail (station 51+32 to 55+00) along Northern Lights between Glenwood and Maplewood (the portion closest to Glenwood)
- * Bid Specifications (page 28, Article 22.3 paragraph A) shall be changed to require trees two inches and larger to be flagged in order to match Urban Design Commission testimony.
- * Add a provision to the Specifications to add a requirement for RPCC volunteer review prior to clearing (Section 20.02 Article 2.2 page 18).
- * Consider use of the existing utility poles for the proposed lighting.

It is hoped that this resolution will not increase project costs, but will enhance the value to the community.

Bob Butera made the motion, Dave Evans seconded. Passed unanimously 27 votes.

C. Lubavitch Center of Alaska: Update on design of Jewish Historical Museum and Synagogue on the north side of 36th Ave at MacInnes Street, including Jacobson Park (30 Minutes) – Peter Briggs, landscape architect discussed proposal to build Jewish Historical Museum and Community Center. Proposed swap for land along 36th - 37,000 sq ft for whole parcel; proposed park improvements will be discussed after the land swap; Heather read e-mail response to question re: drainage of lake; project has the potential to

impact lake drainage and wetlands; no adverse impact from storm water runoff from the site. Peter: Class A wetlands shown. Concern from resident that drainage will be affected; resident indicated that there is an underground stream. Heather will ask someone from the Municipality to come to the next meeting to discuss this issue. Peter: we are here tonight to discuss the land swap. Brad Dunker: this will be heard at the Parks and Recreation Commission Thursday, January 11. Question: what is the Corps of Engineers position? An official proposal has not been submitted yet so there is not an official position. Light at MacInnis, there are 8 federal criteria/standards that deal with volume, number of accidents, number of pedestrians; does not currently meet warrants; left turn lane resolved accidents. Accidents at 36th and Cottonwood are now being studied. Traffic from the university between 4-6pm; it is almost impossible to get through there. A light would lead to more accidents. Skybridge is one proposal – very expensive – in overall park plan. Interpretive trail/natural use park; could have playground equipment. How does the museum fit in with the 20/20 plan? Now zoned residential requesting change to PLI, public use. Question re: grade separated crossing. Tunnel suggested, huge expense, more than above ground. How many parking spaces are there? There are 69 now, just below Title 21 standards. Question: Will there be a pre-school playground? Answer: yes, there will be a playground. Rabbi Greenberg response to question from Bill Rice about another place to build. Rabbi indicated that the project is intended to bring improvements to the neighborhood on a 9 acre parcel which is now empty space and could reduce vandalism in neighborhood.

Pete Mjos expressed concerns re: traffic potential for catastrophe and impact on facility to neighborhoods, trail and Eagle Scout project. Jacobson Park is Class A wetland natural open space; 20/20 plan identifies natural open space important as buffer, filter storm water, viability of local fish and wildlife populations. It is public land, home to creatures seen and unseen. This project proposes altering and paving parkland.

David Grashan moved and Yael Kauffman seconded the motion that "The Rogers Park Community Council supports the concept of swapping a residential lot on Otis Lake for a Municipality of Anchorage owned property on 36th Avenue in the southwest corner of Jacobson Park." The motion failed by a vote of 16 to 27.

X. New Business

A. Traffic calming on Cottonwood from Zarvis to 36th – Sidewalk and road narrowing (15 Minutes) Discussion of traffic calming; proposal to narrow the street; request for comments/suggestions. Concern raised re: emergency vehicles from 36th to Cottonwood. Jim Wright on said that residents on Madison are clearing sidewalks. Maplewood sidewalks look nice. There are two lanes on Cottonwood at 36th. Suggestion from resident that left turn not be allowed where there is no turn lane.

Sgt Stanton gave report. The Police Academy will start in January. There will be more parking enforcement before the academy starts.

Move to adjourn – Jim Wright. Rabbi Greenberg seconded.

Minutes Submitted by Joyce Hughes, Secretary. January 26, 2007