

**Rogers Park Community Council
Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2020**

Call to Order: Pete Mjos called the meeting to order at 6:46pm

Establish Quorum: Cassandra Raun confirmed quorum

Welcome Message: Scott McMurren gave a welcome message including a metaphor from Jeff Lowenfels about planting a garden that will provide the stepping stones to help build an active, involved and positive community.

Review and Approve February Minutes: Scott McMurren moved to approve, Marilyn Pillifant second, minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Ric Wilson - Balance is \$604.49, no expenses and no income in the last month.

FCC Report: Linda Chase - FCC Meetings are open to the public, meets on the 3rd Wednesdays at 6pm, online. The FCC increased the salary for the FCC manager and his assistant. Felix may be able to discuss the muni's contribution to the FCC. FCC is working on getting more organized with a physical report to help inform the community of what they do. The school district does have insurance if RPCC wants to meet at a school. Linda will try to get a copy of the insurance at the next meeting. Ballot tracking system is now available for mail-in ballots.

President Pete Mjos noted three newsletter alerts:

1. The AHFC has just issued an alert about homeowner financial assistance for anyone who may be in need of or seeking homeowner assistance.
2. The United Way has established a Ukraine relief fund so if folks are looking for ways to help the people in Ukraine, please consider that. The Greek Orthodox Church has also established a relief fund, please consider that.
3. Tomorrow night March 15th at the assembly they will be discussing possible code change to allow taller buildings in R-2.

Legislative Reports:

Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson - Happy Women's History Month, celebrating the many successes and achievements on women around the world. Please see the attached written report. A Sense of the Senate was passed on Friday that supports a one year suspension of the motor fuel tax. There is ongoing discussion from the Alaska House Coalition regarding paying Alaskans a one time energy relief check in addition to the PFD. The proposed amount is \$1300.

Representative Andy Josephson - Staffer Elise Sorum-Birk spoke for Rep. Josephson who was on the floor working. Where we stand now is very, very different from where we were a year ago as far as gas prices and oil prices for the state. Rep. Josephson had been supporting HB104 which originally included a motor fuel tax increase, but at this point that bill has passed out of finance with all of the motor fuel tax increase parts removed. Now the bill only increases the refined fuel surcharge which goes to fund spill prevention and response. They expect an amendment to the bill which would suspend the motor fuel tax for one year. Finished up sub-committees on the budget in the House.

- Member questions and discussion included motor fuel tax, campaign contributions and the one time energy relief check.

Representative Harriet Drummond - Not Present

Assembly Reports:

Meg Zaletel - Peter keyed up some questions for her to address. Regarding the Bragaw extension, it is back in the news and back in conversation, this would be extending Bragaw to connect with Elmore. The project had been trying to go through AM-ATS a couple of years ago but due to community push back it was abandoned. The Bragaw Extension is now more of a state issue than a municipal issue as the project wasn't nominated for TIP.

Regarding explanations about the rash of municipal firings, Meg refers the questions to the administration.

Regarding the ordinance increases to building height, Meg shared several explanatory documents for review (see link below). The R2 changes would be to height and bulk (the amount of building that is up on the property line). There has been a lot of concern about sun shading. They are trying to increase housing in Anchorage. That's the reason for the push. Tomorrow night the ordinance is a public hearing item.

https://meetings.muni.org/AgendaOnline/Documents/ViewDocument/AO%202022-36_2_27123%20R-2_ZONES_HEIGHT_PZC_2021-0111_AM.-DOCX.pdf?meetingId=4426&documentType=Agenda&itemId=37823&publishId=28432&isSection=false

https://meetings.muni.org/AgendaOnline/Documents/ViewDocument/AO%202022-36_7_R-2%20ZONES%20HEIGHT%20PZC%202021-0111%20EXHIBIT%20D%2C%20ISSUE-RESPONSE.PDF.pdf?meetingId=4426&documentType=Agenda&itemId=37823&publishId=28437&isSection=false

If you'd like to give public testimony on R2 zoning height increases or any other item via email, go to this link and click the BIG GREEN button. <https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/participate.aspx>

Felix Rivera - Felix started with an update on homelessness. The city is on track to close on the Sockeye Inn (complex care facility) by the end of the month. Catholic

Social Services has agreed to be the administrator of the facility. A contract has been negotiated for the Tudor/Elmore navigation center and single adult shelter.

There is a new redistricting timeline: <https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/PressReleases/Assembly%20Press%20Releases/2022-0228%20Updated%20Reapportionment%20Timeline.pdf>

Felix discussed and explained the amendments offered by Assembly Members Constant and Kennedy, including splitting U-Med and RPCC area across multiple districts. Regarding Body Worn Camera policy, the police chief has given a deadline of this week for when he will finalize the policy and send it on to the department of law for review.

There are deep concerns about the body worn camera policy: accountability and transparency. Felix is concerned that the policy is lacking in these areas. Once the policy is approved, the chief has said that he will do a phased roll out of the program.

Regarding Motor Fuel Tax, it's complicated for the municipality to take action, but they are exploring it.

Bond Propositions: Meg Zaletel - Bond package isn't too extraordinary this year, it's pretty standard with parks, roads. Schools will be separate.

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/budget/Documents/Bond%20Facts/2022/Prop%204%20-%20ARDSA.pdf>

Guest Speaker: Kikkan Randall - She grew up in the Anchorage Nordic Ski community, skiing Junior Nordic, Middle School racing, High School racing, Tour of Anchorage, Ski for Women and ultimately skiing in the Olympics and winning gold! She has recently taken over as the executive director of the Nordic Ski Club. She loves the trails, the races, the organization and she sees huge potential to continue to build the Nordic Ski Club. She wants the community to know that, while the trail system is municipal park, the majority of the trail maintenance is done year round by the Nordic Ski Association. She would love to see more community members join the club!

Committee Reports:

Transportation: Steve Noble - Planning and Zoning Commission meeting tonight, the commission voted to postpone a decision on the 36th Avenue Interchange until after the open house and a chance for public hearing. Postponing the Planning and Zoning decision does not affect the project timeline.

ADU: Dan Rosenberg gave a summation of his forthcoming six part series - The ordinance that was passed in June 2018 to allow ADU in R-1 had a sunset clause and that sunset clause takes place in 2023. The assumption is that the ordinance will be renewed with changes. So the planning department created an ADU working group whose goal is to develop recommendations. Working group is comprised of housing advocacy groups and city planners. There is no reason to expect anything other than loosening the restrictions. Parking requirements and owner occupancy are usually the restrictions to loosen first. Nationwide ADUs are promoted to increase affordable housing. Opponents of ADUs fear that the living conditions that they sought when they purchased into R1 neighborhoods will be altered and diminished. Moving forward, Dan

sees no way in which to rescind the ordinance, so he has changed his focus to focus on what can be changed. Issues include: solar access and shadow effects. He will be presenting several parts. He believes we need to get several community councils to work together in order to be effective.

Beautification: Beautification Update from Zach - If you are planting seedlings and can plant more for the community planters that would be greatly appreciated! Also reach out if you'd like to volunteer with getting the planters out or assisting in maintaining them this year. zzaletel@gmail.com

ASD: Carl Jacob - The Board has ratified the tentative new contracts. Teacher contracts expired the last day of June so current contract will be retroactive from July 1. Board has narrowed the superintendent search. Please sign up for the ASD newsletter. The lottery closes later this week on March 17. Summer internship applications close on April 1. Prop 1: 2-year Bond (2022-2023), just over \$102.2 million, the Board prioritized items that represented long term tax savings to tax payers including roof repairs over full roof replacements, being proactive instead of reactive in terms of maintaining property. See Attached Written Report.

Assembly Candidates, 3 minutes each with Q and A

Kathy Henslee - Life long Alaska with 5 children, 5 grandchildren, she is a business owner and a Realtor, she is running for Assembly for midtown because she is dissatisfied with how the direction of the city. Crime rate is up, the budget for the city is higher than it's ever been and what we are getting for that money is not a good value, the homeless situation has exploded. She is interested in making the quality of life here in Anchorage better and she looks forward to tackling that work. When asked about her experience in public service she said she has done a lot of community service in Anchorage including writing and implementing the Charter for the Family Partnership which has been a very successful program. She has also spent a lot of time volunteering for a lot of non-profit and faith based programs, including work to end sex-trafficking in Alaska. She started and ran a government contract on Fort Rich. Being a business owner in Anchorage and dealing with the municipality in that regard has given her experience from that direction. She wants to tackle the crime rate and get tougher on criminals. The economy in Anchorage can be good again. She wants Anchorage to be more inviting to businesses. When asked about the Mayor, she said she really likes our Mayor, she is glad he got elected. She says that coming from the private sector helps him with his new direction plan for Anchorage and she is grateful he is there. She really likes that he does not look at government as a solution, he looks to the private sector to bring some new ideas and solutions. She believes in supporting businesses and supporting development. She favors school vouchers for children, including tax payer vouchers for religious-based schools.

Meg Zaletel - She has been serving for the last 3 years. Only one of those years would be considered normal, the last two have been a struggle. She kept showing up and doing the work, dialoguing with everyone even when they didn't agree. That's how representation works. You show up, you do the work and you keep doing that again and again. She thinks she's met that expectation and she asks for your vote. When asked

about her vision for how to address our homelessness issue, Meg explained that when she was first elected in 2019 there was a little over \$300,000 in the budget primarily around winter shelter, over flow at the Bean's Cafe, and camp abatement. She brought an amendment to put \$730,000 into the budget for year round support. That amendment passed unanimously. Then Covid hit. More space improved outcomes, giving sheltered both day and night improved outcomes. Specialized care is needed. More housing is needed. The solution to homelessness is housing. If you have to stand up a shelter, make sure that shelter is well thought out, well done.

Sitka Park Trail Update - Years ago there was a planned proposition by Anchorage Parks and Rec to establish a trail system in Sitka Park. The proposal was a trail that would begin at the Senior Center, would be ADA and would circle that area. In 2018, Parks and Rec turned Sitka Park issue over to AMATS, which has never been involved in parks and green spaces, they have been involved with roads and cars and paving. They currently have 142 proposals on the table and last checked Sitka Park wasn't part of it. For those of us who believe that an all-season trail would be an asset to the community, we could create a letter to AMATS indicating our feelings. David Evans noted that our bylaws prevent the Board or any RPCC member from putting forth an opinion or statement from the Council that hasn't been voted on by the membership.

Future Topics: Allen Kemplen will join us, Bird Cherry eradication, CIP introduction, Third Avenue Radicals, Neighborhood Watch

Next Meeting: April 11, 2022 via Zoom

Move to Adjourn: Scott McMurren motioned to adjourn, Linda Chase second, Meeting Adjourned at 9:55pm.

ASD School Board Update From Carl Jacobs

Signup for ASD Connect Newsletter: <https://conta.cc/3INR62A>

Superintendent Search Timeline: <https://bit.ly/3KGjViV>

Spring Lottery for 2022-2023 School Year: <https://bit.ly/3nULM5i>

ASD Hot Topics Page: <https://www.asdk12.org/hottopics>

CTE Summer Internships: <https://www.asdk12.org/CTE/Internships>

ASD Careers: <https://www.asdk12.org/workforasd?fbclid=IwAR1yQpfL6ahFOn-M9IL-YclzU2EGqv42IKIVPKTI-1W7ggt-LAtaaKEDMaGQ>

2022 School Bond Info: <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/18705>

Upcoming ASD Board Meeting - 3/15 @ 6:00pm

Link to agenda (when available) and to register for testimony:

<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/4329>

Carl Jacobs, Anchorage School Board - Seat G

jacobs_carl@asdk12.org

(907)632-7285

JBER Update from Joy Boston

- Effective March 1, JBER policy removes the mask wear requirement for fully immunized personnel in an indoor setting when the community level in the Anchorage Municipality is low or medium (as determined by applicable CDC guidance and definitions). Personnel who are not fully immunized must continue to wear a mask in an indoor setting on the installation. Please note that there are facilities on the installation that still require mask wear indoors for fully immunized personnel. For example, DoD military medical, dental, and veterinary treatment facilities.
- Exercise ARCTIC EDGE runs Feb 28 – Mar 17, it is a multi-service, multi-nation exercise that demonstrates the ability to operate in Arctic conditions; you can read more at <https://www.northcom.mil/Newsroom/News/Article/Article/2930454/alaskan-command-prepares-for-exercise-arctic-edge-2022/> - Exercise POLAR FORCE runs Mar 28 – Apr 8 and demonstrates JBER's mission readiness. Expect increased flight operations and noise from the base during these exercises.
- We will be at the Great Alaska Sportsman Show, April 1-3 at the Denaina Center talking about iSportsman <https://jber.isportsman.net/> and JBER history <https://www.jber.jb.mil/Info/History/> - Arctic Thunder Open House, July 30-31! Find updates at <https://www.arcticthunderopenhouse.com/2021/12/30/2022-is-coming/> or on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/events/s/arctic-thunder-open-house-2022/868294350700826/>
- Wednesday, March 30 at 1430 Unaccompanied veteran committal service for: US Marine Corps, Vietnam veteran, LCpl Craig Sherman RITCHEY died on March 7, 2021. LCpl RITCHEY's home of record was Coos Bay, OR and he was born on September 17, 1956. He served in the U.S. Marines from March 1975 to March 1979 as a Heavy Vehicle Operator. No known next-of-kin could be located so we would appreciate his Military Family coming to honor him. Contact the cemetery office to either get an annual gate pass or get on the list each month. – Contact Virginia to find out how to make it out each month, virginia.Walker1@va.gov.
- email joy.boston.2@us.af.mil with questions about JBER

Mayor's Report from Terrence Shanigan

1. In honor of Women's Month, the Mayor's office has organized events for the community.

- Roundtable: Women in Business Tuesday, March 15, 12pm, Mayor's Conference Room 632 W. 6th Avenue.

- Roundtable: Women in Government Thursday, March 17, 12pm, Mayor's Conference Room 632 W. 6th Avenue.

- Fireside chat: Celebration of Women's History Month: Wednesday, March 23, 12pm, CoWork by RSD, 911 West 8th Avenue

2. Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption/Disabled Veteran exemption. The deadline to apply for the exemption is TOMORROW Tuesday, March 15th.

Application:

https://www.muni.org/Departments/finance/property_appraisal/Forms_Applic/Documents/2022%20Senior-Veteran%20Exemption%20Form.pdf

3. Tuesday, April 5th Election

Tuesday, March 15th: ballots will be mailed to qualified Voters. Secure drop boxes will also open on March 15.

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Clerk/Elections/Pages/VoterInfo.aspx>

March 28th: Vote centers will open

For more election information, please visit:

<https://www.muni.org/departments/assembly/clerk/elections/Pages/default.aspx>

4. Tax Help

AARP Foundation Tax Aid will be available to assist community members with taxes. This is a free service. Tuesdays & Thursdays 12-6pm Loussac Library. Appointments required: (800) 478-2211

5. Pothole Hotline: (907)343-6363

6. Snow Plowing Maintenance Updates

<https://anchorage-street-maintenance-muniorg.hub.arcgis.com/pages/snow-plowing>

7. Ballot Trax (Track your municipal ballot)

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Clerk/Elections/Pages/default.aspx>

Terrence Shanigan

Director of Legislative Affairs

Office of Mayor Dave Bronson

Municipality of Anchorage