

RUSSIAN JACK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

6:30 PM, Wednesday, April 13, 2022

At Zion Lutheran Church – 2100 Boniface Parkway

Present: Ed Leach, Kathleen Plunkett, Lori Pickett, Kyle Mietzner, Dan & Sherry Wright

Present via ZOOM: Kendra Kloster, Michelle Schmidt, UAA Land, Ted Eischeid, Karrsen Brannon-Young, D-audio, Naki, Keelin Baughman, Lisa McGuire, Fred McLeary

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by President Kendra Kloster.

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

2. Anchorage Police and/or Fire Station Report – no report

3. Legislative report (3 minutes each)

Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson (Keith Bauguess) – submitted her report electronically (attached).

Sen. Bill Wielechowski (Nate Graham) – budget w/87-89 amendments passed house, on the senate side hearings occurring, then will craft a capitol budget and work on differences in conference committee. Operating budget will have a 2-3 billion dollar surplus because of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Governor projection of \$100/barrel, senate \$80/barrel oil revenues. Education is a huge priority and any monies coming in would be spent in larger levels than current. Big debate on PFD - 50/50 – about \$2500, payable in October with approximately \$1,200 for PFD and \$1,300 as one time energy relief payment. Federal infrastructure dollars are also available for roads, airports, bridges. There are other monies available for marine highway. Military moves benefit from our marine highways. Funding for education/university system is included. Redistricting proposal includes joining Eagle River and South Anchorage/Girdwood. Litigation is expected to be filed on this proposal. Russian Jack area is split. East Anchorage Neighborhood Town Hall meeting Saturday, April 16th 1-3 at Bettye Davis East High.

Lori asked about the broadband, getting service up to a certain level, and if that includes making it affordable as well. Rural Alaska costs should become comparable to Anchorage.

Sen. Tom Begich (LG Tobin) – Passage of SB 111 – funds voluntary pre-K and K-3 reading skills funding. April 24 has been named Vic Fischer and Jack Coghill State Constitution Day. Finally, asking for grace on response to emails as end of session budget issues take priority and staff are inundated.

Rep. Geran Tarr (Magdalena Oliveros, Simeon Bearden) – no report

Rep. Ivy Spohnholz (Genevieve Mina) – First budget that house didn't have to cut because of increased revenues. Telehealth bill ensures benefits of telehealth continue beyond COVID.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/700339214654555> - Facebook link for Town Hall event. HB 265 has a hearing tomorrow in House Finance at 1:30PM. Anyone interested in providing public testimony can email House.Finance@akleg.gov or call 907-563-9085. Please feel free to contact myself at Genevieve.mina@akleg.gov for any further questions on this bill.

Rep. Andy Josephson (Tristan Walsh) – no report

4. Assembly report (3 minutes each)

Pete Petersen – Loussac Library listening session on proposed homeless shelter is going on now. APD released their body camera policy information and is still being negotiated with APD Union. Expect there will be some changes made to this before it is finalized. MOA election results are mostly in, a few ballots still trickling in (must have been postmarked by election day,

but can still be counted). New North District election will be held June 21st (strictly to those residing in the North District. AFD has ended their blackouts, a way to reduce OT. There was a mayoral veto regarding some of the redistricting.

Ted thanked Pete for his vote on redistricting. Redistricting board still has a public comment page. Map is on the muni.org page.

https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/ReapportionmentCommittee/Documents/FINAL%202022_ANC_Reapportionment_AO2022_37_S1_As_Amended.pdf

Forrest Dunbar – no report

5. School board report (3 minutes each) – Dora Wilson countdown to kindergarten program is going on. ASD Spring Lottery for parents still looking at school options available. Superintendent search will be making an announcement tomorrow. Graduation begins soon at UAA AK Airline Center. Tickets limited to 6 per graduate, distributed to students at their graduation practice. List of Awards Received by ASD Educators: Kristi Senden, Chugiak High School World Languages Dept. Chair named PNCFL Teacher of the Year; Finalist for National Recognition Temperance Tinker-Kays, West Anchorage High School English teacher has been recognized for her work with a Milken Educator Award; Sven Gustafson, West Anchorage High School Principal, Recognized as the 2022 Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP) – Region 4 Principal of the Year.

Kathleen asked if Sonic Boom is happening this year. Dora doesn't know but will find out.

6. FCC report – Kathleen Plunkett – Redistricting was discussed, but has changed since then. MOA Economic & Development Plan gave a great presentation (would be interesting for a RJCC meeting. Citywide cleanup – Anchorage Chamber still involved. Will not be at the May meeting (will be at April), would like a volunteer to attend May FCC meeting.

7. Report from JBER Public Affairs – Lt Lexi Smith – Public Affairs Officer. Just arrived this winter, making rounds to community councils. The next unaccompanied veteran committal service will be Wednesday, April 27 at 2:30 PM at the National Cemetery - contact Virginia for help getting on base, Virginia.Walker1@va.gov; Last Frontier Honor Flight returns to Ted Stevens International Airport on Saturday, April 30 at 3 PM, more info at <https://www.lastfrontierhonorflight.com/>; Municipality's Memorial Day event "Anchorage Remembers" will be on Monday, May 30 at 9:30 AM at the Veteran's Memorial on I St between 9th and 10th Ave, downtown Anchorage; ANG Band of the South will perform at the Veterans Wall of Honor in Wasilla on Memorial Day; more info about the Band of the South at <https://www.music.af.mil/Bands/ANG-Band-of-the-South/About-Us>; 48th annual Arctic Valley Run (5 miles or 12.6 miles) will be Saturday, June 4 at 10 AM, more info and sign-up at <https://runsignup.com/Race/AK/Anchorage/ArcticValleyRun>; Arctic Thunder Open House is returning to AK in person this summer! Come out and see us on July 30-31.

<https://facebook.com/events/s/arctic-thunder-open-house-2022/868294350700826/>

Please contact my office with any JBER queries or concerns at 907-551-8996 or

JBER.pa@us.af.mil

8. Neighborhood/Community Announcements – Lisa announced the Spring Cleanup scheduled for Saturday April 30th from 10 am to 12 noon. Snacks, vests, bags, trash grabbers have all been secured. Anchorage Parks & Rec will be presenting the RJSP Master Plan for final approval April 18th at 6:30 pm at Loussac Library Assembly Chambers (3600 Denali St) – livestream link available at <http://www.muni.org/watchnow>. You can also view the case and submit comments on the Cityview Portal.

Meeting w/Neighbor Works Paint the Town event – talked about putting together T-shirts.
Program created to help low income elderly, disabled vets

Anchorage Equal Rights Commission – Marie Husa – came to meeting to raise awareness of their presence in the MOA. They are looking for an Executive Director.

Keelin Baughman – Mountain View Library – Teen Talk with AWAIC on Tuesday, April 19th and May 3rd @ 3pm. Family Movie on Friday the 22nd @ 3pm, watching "Soul" from Disney Animation. Day of the Children Health Fair on Saturday the 30th from 11-3pm. School vaccines including COVID, rabies, TB, etc. Bouncy house, food trucks, more. Spanish translators available. Any questions, feel free to call or email me at 343-2904 or keelin.baughman@anchorageak.gov

Next RJCC meeting is scheduled for May 11th at 6:30 pm. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Sherry Wright, Secretary

Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes
Russian Jack Community Council
April 13th , 2022

My Senate Bills on the Move

SB 7 State Trooper Policies: Public Access. Was heard in H-STA and moved out on 3/31/22; next committee hearing in H-JUD.

SB 80 Public Schools: Mental health Education. Senate passed bill on Monday, April 4th by a vote of 13-1 with five senators absent. Will be going to House Finance next.

SB 157 Health and Personal Safety Education. Was heard and will be held at the Senate Education committee on April 8th.

SB 222 Extend Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Board. Senate passed the bill on Friday April 8th by a vote of 16-0 with 4 senators absent. Bill will now go to H-L&C and H-Fin prior to the floor for a vote.

Department of Health and Social Services Split

Executive Order 121 to split the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services into two Departments has taken effect.

- The split will occur on July 1.
- The cost to implement the split is estimated at around \$2 million.

The proposed Department of Family and Community Services would contain:

- Division of Juvenile Justice
- Office of Children's Services
- Alaska Pioneer Homes
- Alaska Psychiatric Institute

The proposed Department of Health would contain:

- Division of Public Health
- Division of Behavioral Health
- Division of Healthcare Services
- Division of Senior and Disabilities Services

Special Election to Replace Rep. Don Young

- The special primary election will be held on June 11th.
- The special primary election will be conducted with vote-by-mail ballots.

- Alaskans must be registered to vote by May 13th.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and I would like to take a moment to ask all Alaskans to come together and stand against sexual assault in our homes and communities, commit to keeping our citizens safe, and to increase support to victims and survivors of sexual assault. Sexual assault awareness month was officially recognized for the first time in 2001.

Governor Dunleavy submitted legislation ([SB 241](#) [HB 414](#)) to the Alaska Legislature on April 4th which appropriates the initial funding anticipated to be received by the State of Alaska from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Some of the highlights follow:

- \$560.2 million in additional federal funds for surface transportation, rural water and wastewater programs, veterans services and cybersecurity grants.
- \$37.4 million for federal weatherization programs and the Alaska Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- \$28 million for investments in modernizing the electric grid, developing clean hydrogen and a research demonstration facility for Alaska's substantial reserves of critical and rare earth minerals
- \$5 million to stand up the State of Alaska Infrastructure Office to coordinate and consolidate efforts with all recipients of IIJA funds
- \$4 million to construct housing for teachers and public safety personnel in rural communities not connected to the road system
- \$2.5 million to the Alaska Federation of Natives to continue the navigator program, a joint effort with the state on securing all funding available in the IIJA legislation

Always representing your interests!



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

Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes
Russian Jack Community Council
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Email: Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov, Ludmila.Diaz@akleg.gov or Besse.Odom@akleg.gov