

Rogers Park Community Council
Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2023
BP Energy Building, 6-8 pm

Officers:

President, Peter Mjos; Vice President, Scott McMurren; Secretary, Cassandra Raun; Treasurer, Sara Dykstra; Immediate past President, Steve Lindbeck; FCC representative, Linda Chase

Pete Mjos called the meeting to order at 6:05pm, welcomed all participants and noted the rules for the meeting

Sara Dykstra established quorum

Scott McMurren gave a welcome message channeling Mr. Rogers - Won't you be our neighbor!

Review and approval of the February 13, 2023 meeting minutes. Marilyn Pillifant noted Linda Chase's name misspelled and asked for correction. Noted for correction. Motion to approve, Linda Chase. Scott McMurren, second. Minutes were approved with correction.

FCC report: Linda Chase - she was traveling for the last meeting but will provide a more comprehensive update next month.

Alaska state legislative reports:

Rep. Alyse Galvin - Shared some updates of what is happening in Juneau from day 50 of the session. They have passed a bill regarding refrigerants, related to some of the regulations for those who are changing out HVACs. RPCC is concerned with fiscal certainty, retirement and education. Unfortunately there has not been a lot of movement on the House side, there have been some recent distractions. Rep. Galvin met with some RPCC members in Anchorage when she was in town. She really appreciates those who came and discussed their thoughts and concerns. Thank you also to those who have written letters. She reads them and is using them. She gave an update regarding the concerns about SNAP and food insecurity in Alaska, as well as updates regarding the budget, the PFD, HB22 and HB65 (public education and retirement bills). She also answered several questions regarding defined benefits for teachers and efforts toward securing retirement for all Alaskans.

Assembly reports:

Felix Rivera - Meg sends her apologies for not being here tonight. At the next meeting on March 21 the assembly will introduce a new ordinance (lead by Joey Sweet, the member chosen to fill Forest Dunbar's seat until April election). The ordinance seeks to ban the use of facial recognition software in the municipality. APD does not want to use it because it is bad technology, the research shows that the algorithms used are inaccurate and sometimes lead to bad arrests. Public hearing will be held on April 11th. The assembly recently passed a 4 week parental leave for municipal employees, the hope is that this ordinance will help the municipality hire and keep employees by making the municipality a more competitive employer. Mr. Rivera

also gave an update on homelessness, demobilization of some locations, planning for new locations, safe sleeping locations and beds. Moving forward he wants to focus on permanent, long-term solutions, instead of temporary, bandaid fixes. Mr. Rivera answered questions regarding Larry Baker, homelessness, mitigation plans and the Golden Lion.

Alaska state legislative reports:

Senator Gray-Jackson - Bill hearings are continuing, she has submitted 5 bills. The halls are full in Juneau, people are back in person and participating in government. Regarding the Maplewood project, if it doesn't happen this session, it will definitely be submitted for next legislative session when infrastructure money is spent. Please see Senator Gray-Jackson's written update below.

Special guest, Mr. Patrick Simpson - shared a power point regarding his Mobile Plastic Waste Recycler with abilities to recycle #s 1, 2, 4 and 5 plastic waste and create new product on site. Alaska has some unique challenges to traditional recycling solutions due to our rural communities and high freight costs. Rather than shipping the waste to a centralized facility that is fixed, they are taking a recycling machine to the waste. They are creating lumber (Grizzly Wood) out of the plastic waste. The Grizzly Wood can be used for decks, fences, retaining boards and picnic tables.

Election Notice: Felix Rivera stated that he will be on the April Ballot for re-election and he gave a brief overview of the propositions that will also be on the Ballot. Dave Donley spoke, he is also up for re-election for his third term and he gave a brief overview of the school bonds that will be on the Ballot.

Committee reports:

Transportation: Please note the RPCC resolution in your packet regarding protected bike lanes. We will revisit the resolution next month.

Treasurer's Report: We have paid up for our time at the BP Energy Center, we have a total of \$929.82 in our combined accounts, that includes our \$0.05 year to date dividends received. We have received a debit card for the account since we will need to pay a monthly bill from here on out for the newsletter service.

Future agenda items:

- We will meet upstairs next month. April speaker will be Mr. Mark Corsentino, head of AWWU, to discuss wastewater.
- May speaker, Mr. Richard Sewell, Merrill Field superintendent
- Review April election results
- Nominations for RPCC officers. May election

Closing comments for the Good of the Order

Scott McMurren motioned to adjourn, seconded by Marilyn Pillifant, Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm

Next meeting: April 10, both in-person (upstairs BP Energy Center) and via Zoom.

Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes
Rogers Park Community Council
March 13, 2023

- Bill Hearings have started, and I have presented five bills to the first committees as follows:
 - **Senate Bill 22-** Making Juneteenth a state holiday was heard in front of the Senate State Affairs Committee, and had a second hearing February 28th at 3:30. It was moved out of State Affairs Committee and will be heard in Finance Committee. No scheduled date yet.
 - **Senate Bill 24-** Mental Health in Schools was heard in front of the Senate Education Committee. A Second hearing was held on March 6th. The bill has been referred to the Health and Social Services Committee. No scheduled date yet.
 - **Senate Bill 23-** Use of Force Registry had its first hearing in front of Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee on March 9th at 1:30. There is a second hearing scheduled for March 21st at 1:30.
 - **Senate Bill 30-** Filipino Heritage Month had its first hearing in front of State Affairs Committee on February 28th. No scheduled second meeting yet.
 - **Senate Bill 32-** Chokehold Ban was heard in front of Senate State Affairs Committee. The public hearing remains open and will have a second hearing soon.
 - **Senate Bill 43-** Health and Personal Safety (Sex Education in Schools) was heard in front of Senate Education Committee on March 1st at 3:30 pm. The public hearing remains open.

- On February 21st, I was formally nominated and elected by my peers on Legislative Council to serve as chair of the Committee. During the organizational meeting, the Committee approved measures that help the Legislature perform efficiently, so we can better serve the public. We approved the 2023 Manual of Legislative Drafting, and reviewed the Council's budget and forwarded it to the budget subcommittee. We also received a presentation on the annual audit of the Legislature, which was a

clean report. I am looking forward to working with Vice Chair Kevin McCabe and other members of the Legislative Council, including Senate President Gary Stevens and Speaker of the House Cathy Tilton.

- I continue to meet with constituents and other folks representing different organizations regarding their priorities. I continue to work with other legislators regarding our priorities and ways to support our priorities during this session.
 - **Healthcare field** - I have met with All Alaska Pediatric Partnership, Naturopathic Doctors, Jen Opsut the CEO of Alaska Regional Hospital, and various ER Doctors from Anchorage. They all have similar priorities, whether it be funding, compact bills, and licensing.
 - I also met with several School districts personnel and superintendents throughout the state and heard testimony from more than 50 different school district with all supporting SB52 which increases the BSA by \$1,000.
- Sunday March 5th, I was in joined other Anchorage Legislators at a Town Hall meeting and listened to concerns from the community. The attendance was standing room only with testimony focused on increasing the BSA and returning to a Defined Benefit Retirement System.
- **March is National Disability Awareness month, and Women's History Month.**

Women's History Month started off as just a weeklong celebration in 1982 but continued to pass joint resolutions in Congress. In 1987 it was designated as a month-long celebration in March. This designation states that each president should proclaim March as Women's History Month, and each president has done so. These proclamations give notice to the contributions women have made to the United States and many of the

achievements they have made. I am proud to be a woman in legislation and set the path for girls who want to be in politics.

National Disability Awareness Month was first declared in 1987 by former President Ronald Reagan. It brings to the front the understanding, and encouragement to help persons with disabilities to have fulfilling lives. Everyone wants and deserves a great quality of life. As you might not know one of my bills passed in the 32nd Legislature. Senate Bill 47 is an act relating to special registration plates for vehicles owned by persons with disabilities.

Always representing your interests!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elvi Gray-Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and a flourish at the end.

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

**Email: Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov, Besse.Odom@akleg.gov,
Harlyn.Andrew@akleg.gov, Jeff.Stepp@akleg.gov**