

**Rogers Park Community Council
Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2023**

Officers:

President, Peter Mjos

Vice President, Scott McMurren

Secretary, Cassandra Raun

Treasurer, Sara Dykstra

Immediate Past President, Steve Lindbeck

FCC representative, Linda Chase

Call to Order - Pete Mjos called the meeting to order at 6:07pm and read the meeting rules for Zoom and the BP Energy Center

Senator Gray-Jackson - gave her report, please see her attached written report

Establish quorum - Established by Cassandra

Review and approve the April 10 minutes - Linda Chase motioned to approve the minutes, Sara Dykstra second, minutes approved

Treasurer's report - Sara Dykstra, no update this month

FCC report, Linda Chase - Mark Butler has resigned after making political comments at a meeting regarding Holtan Hills. The Mayor subsequently threatened to take away funding for FCC. There are 37 community councils in Anchorage. Wednesday is the next meeting, here at the BP Energy Center at 6pm. They are going to look at the bylaws and the conditions of the municipal grant for FCC. The meeting is open to the public.

Announcements from Pete:

1. The Anchorage Audubon Society, in an effort to replace the loss of habitat due to beetle killed spruce trees, will be distributing 10,000 white spruce seedlings, two per family, to be planted, and well maintained, in devastated areas. The seedlings will be available late May or early June. The Beautification Committee will have some available, or you can contact Anchorage Audubon to obtain yours. Information is in the packet.
2. AFD Open House May 20 at Airport Heights FD station. Information in your packet.
3. The last UMED public hearing summary is in your Packet.
4. Chugach Electric Association voting is now open.
5. If you have new neighbors, the Irene Bortnick "Welcome to the Rogers Park Community Council" letter is on the RPCC website. Please download it and pass it on to our new neighbors.

Election of officers for the 2023-2024 Community Council year, September-May.

Slate of Candidates:

President, Scott McMurren; Vice-President, Jill Klein; Secretary, Cassandra Raun; Treasurer, Sara Dykstra

Pete requested nominations from the floor: no nominations offered from the floor

Pete called for a vote

16 yays

0 nays

2 abstentions (Meg Zaletel and David Morgan)

Slate passed

Assembly reports: Meg Zaletel - Golden Lion is moving forward to become housing. The hope is to have that stood up within weeks to a month and that can offer housing for units in the mid 80s range. Everything should be pointing toward housing. Several community members asked questions regarding ADUs and short-term rentals.

Felix Rivera - The health policy committee briefly discussed the RPCC resolution to confirm the CMO. There may be future discussion about that. Regarding the port of Alaska, there are two items before them. One, approval of the basis of design concepts and how we want those to move forward with finalizing the design. Two, port tariff surcharge to pay for the work. Likely the Assembly will be voting on both of them at the same time. Regarding homelessness, the Sullivan Arena closed except for 90 highly vulnerable individuals. This will be a rocky time for our community. One of the things they funded is outreach. New units will be coming available over the course of the summer.

Guest speaker: Mr. Richard Sewell, Superintendent, Merrill Field - He is the airport manager. He has been in the role for 6 months. He feels blessed and lucky to have the role. Merrill Field is the oldest airport in Alaska and is considered by many aviators to be the crown jewel of airports. He wants to talk about 3 things. 1. a project to redesign to the East- West runway. This project will be a very significant, once in a generation rehab project. There is a lot of electrical and pavement work. the project is scheduled for 2025. When the construction is done the FAA will require the use of the North - South runway, this is a challenging wind pattern for aviators and as well Rogers Park is on the south side of the airport so during the summer of 2025, planes will be primarily taking off in that direction. 2. Another issue is that Elmendorf Air Force has extended their North-South runway, as well. They are also putting in an instrument landing system. There are 5 different air traffic control towers in Anchorage, it is very complicated air space. There will be some redesigning of the air space in coming years and it will affect the community. So Mr. Sewell urges the community to participate as they can. 3. One of the things that he wants to get back to at Merrill Field is the sense of community, center for jobs, center for connection to the bush and rural communities. So, in that regard he is trying to bring back things like BBQs and airfield activities. There will be a BBQ on July 29th. More to come soon. Also, there is a fly friendly policy after 10pm to not do any touch and go fly pattern practice. For airplane traffic: get on liveatc.net

Resolution before the body: Dave Evans presented the resolution.

Bike Anchorage is a local non profit. Emily Weiser, president of Bike Anchorage, shared a slide about what they are envision for this project. She presented on what protected bike lanes are and what the benefits of them are. The goal is to make Anchorage more bike friendly and increase safety for bikers and drivers. This pilot project would be a temporary project, 2-3 months during summer and fall (without snow) to show how the bike lanes would work.

Pete called for a vote on the resolution:

15 yay votes

0 nays

0 absentions

Resolution passes unanimously.

Committee reports:

CIP: Bob Butera - voting is still open until the 10th, they have about 50 responses thus far.

Transportation: Regarding the Northern Lights Sound Barrier, Rebecca Campbell spoke, filling in for Brooke Blessing. They are looking at bringing back the Northern Lights Sound Barrier project. The first two phases were built, the third project got approval for the design but no funding back in 2010. Fast forward to now, they have funding again. They are looking to build the sound barrier from Rogers Park Elementary to Drake Drive on the south side of the street. They are looking at construction for summer 2024. There will probably be some new surveying since it has been so long, but the project is already designed.

Beautification: Zach Zaletel in chat: Gardening & Beautification Update - mark your calendar for Saturday, June 3 for planting planters, garden beds and general cleanup - meet at 9am at corner of Latouche/Fireweed/Bannister - sign up here to help us plan the work - <https://bit.ly/RPCCGardening>

ASD - Carl Jacobs - Graduations are happening. School start times will be voted on tomorrow, if you have feedback or comments about school start times please email the school board.

Next meeting: September 11, 2023

Bob Butera motioned to adjourn, Karen Ruud second, meeting adjourned at 7:49pm

Have a safe and productive summer everyone.