

Rogers Park Community Council  
February 12, 2007  
Lake Otis Elementary  
7:00pm

Minutes

Bob Williams moved to approve December minutes. Harvey Dougherty seconded. Ted Ryberg moved to approve January minutes. Jack Simmers seconded.

Announcements

Town Hall meetings – February 28 5:30 to 7:30 Boniface Mall  
Title 21 amendment hearing March 5  
Park Lecture Series  
Don Jose Liquor License up for renewal  
Weatherization  
Fireweed and La Touche  
Chester Creek Trail Project  
Bean's Café Empty Bowl March 10  
College Bowl March 3  
Knik Arm Bridge

Assembly Report

Dick Traini: Agenda tomorrow night – park bonds, road bonds, school bonds, Clark Middle School, school bonds 70% state funding

Dan Coffey: absent

Senator Ellis Representative: Labor and Commerce committee considering a reduction in the cost of business license fees

APD report: Sgt. Dennis Allen will replace Sgt. Stanton. He will be available to answer questions regarding crimes in the neighborhood.

FCC report: Community residents should put names on the e-mail list; it is important to stay informed.

Treasurer's report: \$195.35

HDL Engineering: Cottonwood sidewalks, traffic calming discussion. Concern that sidewalks, chokers taking too much space away from traffic lanes.

**Motion: Rich Gingras moved not to support the traffic calming project. Chris Haas seconded. Motion failed. 24 for, 57 against**

After additional discussion it was recommended that a committee consider the issue and report back to the council at the March 12 meeting. Interest persons can contact Heather Ireland to sign up.

#### Discussion of Jewish Synagogue and Museum Project

John Nabors: Request that the community council support a proposed land swap. They are requesting that the municipality approve the land swap as the one acre parcel that they own is not large enough is not large enough to accommodate their building and sufficient parking.

The Assembly will take final action tomorrow.

Rabbi Greenberg: “We are neighbors: we want to have a conversation, respect from both sides.” The museum will document the Jewish contribution to the Anchorage community.

John Nabors: exchange of property wetlands approvals to assembly change to PLI, application to Planning and Zoning for a conditional use permit, to Parks Commission and then to Planning Commission

Application to the Municipality asking for the right to enter into the process to exchange for land of like value.

Drainage survey to be mailed out to all of the residents in this basin. Scientists on consulting contract to preserve lake level and keep ground water low. Asking for permission to put a vote.

I am in support of the project. Hope that a compromise can be reached so that the group can have their building.

Rich Gingras: I am at the low point of the drainage pipe. The pipe was put in in 1972, it is collapsing two feet in diameter runs under my house. My house built in 1976, another lady the pipe collapsed and flooded her house. Want to walk out of here with a drainage study. Lowered lake level two feet that stopped the flooding of basements.

Larry Fay: I did not see a public notice. I will donate \$1,000 to purchase land. Do not take away the wetland. Parks and wetlands should be closely guarded. Building on 36<sup>th</sup> fill was put in, a local banker put a ditch in so that it would drain faster.

Gordon Schadt, attorney: I read through the issues and wrote a letter to the municipal attorney regarding the land in College Village #9 subdivision. There are restrictions and covenants are enforceable. I did not see a reference to this. I have addressed the small building on the property which may not be residential in nature. I request in the letter that this be looked at before the vote.

Mr. Hobart – group requested to put in a small building and a small driveway to drive in – 8 1/2 years ago. Drainage – when you walk into the park on the N. side canopy a very nice walk 200 ft. building will destroy the area. I do not believe that this is a good thing for our neighborhood.

Heather reviewed the community council minutes from 1999. John Kumin presented plans for a synagogue.

Rabbi Greenberg: We have one acre on which we can build a building; we wanted additional land in order to build a larger building. The official title search indicated that there are no restrictions on Lot 14. Our lawyer made the search. We have a permit to build a church.

Mr. Peter Mjos: Request that Mr. Traini address questions before the assembly considers the issue tomorrow. What is the precedent? Lot 14 contains valuable wetlands.

Mr. Traini: The issue will be discussed tomorrow. I will respond tomorrow night.

Mr. Jim Richardson: proposal on drainage sent an e-mail to the representatives on the assembly Lake Otis fills up with water floods basements up to two blocks away city dug a ditch and build a weir, where the water goes no one knows, big hole in resident's yard because a pipe collapsed.

**Motion: Mr. Richardson moved that the Rogers Park Community Council recommends that the Anchorage Ordinances No. AO 2007-32 and AO 2007-34 regarding Jacobson Park land exchange be amended to include a stipulation that all drainage systems be protected and restored so that the entire Otis Lake water level control system functions properly. Mr. Gringas seconded.**

Comment on the weir system it will be moved, water levels will be maintained. City said that they would move the weir to accommodate the lake levels.

Comment on parking for the David Green Park. The park is used all of the time. We propose to allow the public to use that lot. It is a public park and will close at a certain time.

Comment regarding drainage. Lake Otis drains Fish Creek. My house is to the southwest, no one knows where the pipe is going. Water will run off the parking lot faster because it is paved.

Comment that we are discussing an amendment to an ordinance that the community council has not supported yet.

Peter Briggs: We will keep the hydrology the way it is or better. We plan to inventory the area. We are required by the municipality to address this issue.

Heather Ireland: Are people ready to vote on the motion?

Harvey Dougherty: Every one I talked to is against this project.

Gary Zipkin: I have lived in College Village at Cottonwood and 36<sup>th</sup> for 31 years. I would like to compliment both sides.

John Nabors: I recognize the problem with drainage. We will gather information on drainage. The municipality does not know about the drainage problems. We will do a drainage survey. We will have our scientists study what is happening to the water and how to fix it.

Frank Von Hippel: When houses are build on wetland, the wetland dry up under the houses causing a lot of degradatation of the wetlands.

Resident at 3434 Wentworth: There are two sink holes in my yard. We do not need anymore buildings in midtown.

### **Motion on drainage passed 58 to 42.**

Motion in January failed to support the land swap. 16 for, 27 against

Motion: Dick Bethka moved and John Hobart seconded a motion to oppose the land swap and the entire project.

The Tudor Area Community Council voted 11 to 4 to recommend that the Anchorage Assembly postpone action on the ordinance that would put the Jacobson Park Land Swap on the April 2007 election. Further, we recommend the city administration continue to provide assistance and information to the Alaska Jewish Historical Museum and Synagogue to better answer the community concerns:

- Hydrology
- Wetland value
- Traffic
- Parking for public museum events
- Pedestrian Traffic flow
- Jacobson and David Green Park
- Facility size

David Grashan: The water problems and the parking will be addressed. I started the synagogue. I am an orthodox Jew. I have nowhere else to pray. I ask that the motion be denied.

Resident on Cottonwood: The appraised value of the park lot is lower than the 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue lot.

**Helen Nienhauser moved that the motion be amended and the Tudor Council language be substituted. Frederick Wilson seconded. (Subsidiary Motion)**

**The Rogers Park Community Council recommends that the Anchorage Assembly postpone action on the ordinance that would put the Jacobson Park Land Swap on the April 2007 election. Further, we recommend the city administration continue to provide assistance and information to the Alaska Jewish Historical Museum and Synagogue to better answer the community concerns:**

- Hydrology**
- Wetland value**
- Traffic**
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- Facility size**

**The vote to amend the motion passed 51-44.**

**The vote on the motion passed 61-40.**

Gary Zipkin moved to adjourn.

Minutes submitted by Joyce Hughes, March 27, 2007