

**Rogers Park Community Council
Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2023, 7:00-9:00pm
Rogers Park Elementary School Library**

Scott McMurren called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Jill Klein read the Land Acknowledgement: The Rogers Park Community Council recognizes and values the diversity of our location in Anchorage, Alaska, and acknowledges the ancestral lands of the Dena'ina people where we live and work.

Scott McMurren went over rules of the meeting. And introduced the leadership team.

Officers:

President, Scott McMurren

Vice President, Jill Klein

Secretary, Cassandra Raun

Treasurer, Sara Dykstra

Immediate Past President, Pete Mjos

FCC Representative, Linda Chase

Cassandra Raun established quorum

Review and approve the October 9, 2023 meeting minutes: Mike Bowman moved to approve, Karen Levine second, motion passed

Scott read Announcements:

All meetings are at Rogers Park Elementary School Library, second Monday of every month, September through May, 7:00-9:00pm. in person and also on Zoom.

Please sign up for our newsletter. Please encourage your neighbors to do so as well:
<https://rogersparkcommunitycouncil.eo.page/vp1z2>

School Board Report:

Carl Jacobs - Remote learning again tomorrow. The streets have not yet been cleared of snow. The Board continues to be focused on their primary goals and guardrails. This month they are focusing on career life readiness. They are doing a deep dive on graduation rate data for ASD, the current 4 year graduation rate is 81%. The goal by 2026 is to raise that rate to 90%.

Alaska Legislative reports:

-Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson - Besse Odom, the Senator's Chief of Staff presented for her. Last month the Senator attended the Alaska Federation of Natives conference. They are continuing to celebrate the contributions and advancements made by our Native community! The Senator attended a commemorative event to honor the African American soldiers who helped build the Alcan Highway. There is further assistance for folks having issues around Snap benefits and public assistance. The Food Bank of Alaska has an individual named Megan James 907-222-3103 who is helping people navigate that system. There is a fabulous employment opportunity at the Legislature. They are looking for pages who help make sure that things are

running smoothly and that the legislators and staff are taken care of. They are vital. If you are interested in applying, please reach out to the Senator's office. Besse Odom (besse.odom@akleg.gov)

There was open discussion about the sound barrier project along Northern Lights. There is not enough funding to complete the project in 2024 but there is funding to complete another portion of it. Senator Gray-Jackson is working to finish what they can as soon as possible and also to secure the funding to complete the rest of the project in the future.

Assembly reports:

-Meg Zaletel - Snow and Budget are the two acute community issues at the moment. Snow: what a mess. Meg sees the current snow response as completely unacceptable. The inadequate response due to one key reason, the Muni does not have all the operator positions filled for all the equipment that the Muni has. The Muni does not pay enough to hire enough operators. Meg was shocked that the Muni switched to helping the State before completing the Muni roads. She is hoping to see a detailed briefing from the Muni as to what actions were taken and why. We are an arctic city and we need to be able to handle snow. Budget: They are set to have their final hearing and vote on the budget on November 21st. Number one priority for the assembly was employee recruitment and retention. Snow was another big priority. Last week, the assembly held a budget work session around their amendments and Meg feels that their amendments really reflected their priorities. The number one concern right now is the impact that municipal vacancies have on the community. The Assembly passed the Chief Medical Officer ordinance, which now codifies that that position has requirements put into code.

-Felix Rivera - A few updates. Today, he hasn't gotten confirmation yet, but today was the day that APD was supposed to start body-worn cameras. Hopefully he'll be able to share that good news in short order. The assembly did pass a resolution asking for a concrete timeline on when the deployment will end. They want to know when the deployment will end, they don't want it to drag on. They also asked in the resolution for education to the public on how these cameras will be used. They also asked for automatic release details from APD. Felix encourages the community to engage in the budget discussion on the 21st. Homelessness: the implementation of the cold weather shelter is on-going. There are still some beds available but they are few and far between. The administration is looking at warming facility in Fairview and Felix has suggested a warming facility in Midtown. The administration is looking at an additional non-congregate shelter. The administration is tasked with coming up with the plans and then looking to the assembly to fine tune the plans and then working together to approve the plans. We really need those warming shelters to be on line this week because it is going to be cold this weekend. On the housing action strategic plan, the Assembly had a great week of collaboration regarding housing. You can go to anchoragehousingaction.org for more information and videos. They are going to be voting on the strategic action plan on December 5 so they are looking for comments from the community by December 4.

Special Guest: Anchorage Fire Department Chief, Doug Schrage. Current snow conditions is on the AFD mind, they have been experiencing some delays in their response time due to fire trucks getting stuck and a couple of trucks going into a ditch. There have been no patients that they haven't been able to reach but they have been delayed. He requests that homeowners go

and locate the nearest fire hydrant and shovel three feet around the hydrant. That's the best thing that you can do for the fire department to prevent delays. Make sure your house numbers are clear. Have your heating system serviced at least every other year. Sign up for alerts for office of emergency management through Muni.org. Pulse Point is a crowd sourcing connection for those trained in CPR with those who need CPR muni.org/fire and download Pulse Point to your phone you can receive alerts.

Doug Schrage, Fire Chief, douglas.schrage@anchorageak.gov, 907.267.4945

Committee reports:

Beautification - Zack Zaletel - no report. The snow is here, we'll be planning ahead to next year. Planning for another Mayday abatement. Thanks to Ron Alleva for the additional planters that they will be using next year!

Updates: Anchorage Fire Department, Anchorage Police Department, Mayor's Office, Joint Base Elemendorf-Richardson (JBER)

Closing Comments for the Good of the Order

Marshall Severson gave an update on upcoming Merrill Field events.

RPCC does not have committee chairs for our Crime and Safety or Homelessness committees. If you are interested in chairing either of these committees, please contact Scott McMurren.

Dave Evans - Eastchester Park Master Plan Winter Workshop will be on December 6, Wednesday, 6 pm to 8 pm, at the Fairview Recreation Center, 1121 E 10th Ave, and it is open to the public.

Next meeting: December 11, 2023, 7:00-9:00pm

Pete Mjos motion to adjourn, Cassandra Raun second, meeting adjourned at 8:11pm