

Rabbit Creek Community Council, General Membership Meeting, November 11, 2004  
Rabbit Cr. Community Church

The meeting was opened at 7:06PM by president, Ky Holland. Other board members present were Charlie Barnwell, Dianne Holmes, Jess Grunblatt, Wayne Skidmore, Mike Flister, Dan Case, Carol Fries, Thom Janidlo, and Donna Van Flein. Excused was Susanne Comellas.

**Treasurer's Report:** Donna reported there are 170 paid members, and \$623 in the bank. Motion by Dianne and Dan: give the Council's annual contribution to the church for use of their facilities with a thank you letter, \$250. Passed unanimously.

**Legislative/ASD Reports:** Jeff Friedman spoke about the proposed change to the school calendar and the idea of starting two weeks earlier (about 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August) to allow more time before the standardized tests in the fall. The school year would end before Memorial Day. Send comments to the ASD's website. Discussion continued regarding how to present school bonds in a more favorable light—light saying x% of the current bonds will be retiring, do there may not be an increase in school bond taxes overall, etc. The ASD pays off about \$30 million in bonds each year.

**Hillside District Plan:** two new planners will be hired with one slated to deal with the HDP. The upcoming draft budget has \$150K in it for the HDP. A Sub-area Circulation Study is to be done very soon in response to the recent fall out from the Shangri La short plat and road network issue.

**Trail and Access:** Charlie and Jess have developed a trail map of the Council area divided into sub-areas based on watersheds. This was done in response to the Parks Plan that is being revised but which doesn't adequately address the huge SE Anchorage area. The Council needs to advise the MOA on where our trails are and where connections can be made. Charlie says the MOA does not have a clear vision on specifications for the variety of trails that are needed in different areas and terrain. Carol added that DOT is building trails/pedestrian paths but they follow very narrow specs. In non-DOT project areas there should be different specs as use and terrain dictates. Jess spoke about the important connectivity effort and the need to define ROWs and then maybe define a variety of specs. Representatives are needed for the trail subareas. Peter Johnson has said he would be responsible for the Little Survival Cr area (maybe Carol can help? Dianne said there is new resident who lives on the creek who has expressed an interest in community involvement and especially the creek). Peter Crimp and Mrs. Case may take the Rabbit Creek area, Jess will take Potter Cr., Vivian Mendenhall might be convinced to take Lt. Rabbit Cr. (Charlie is to ask her), and the DeArmoun Area hasn't been unadopted yet. The Chugach Access Coalition should be asked to come to the Council and speak about their efforts. Charlie will ask Ted Moore.

The duties of the Trail Sub-area Reps are:

- 1) Validate what is there,
- 2) See what '97 Trails Plan lists for the area
- 3) Examine use of different specs for different use area and needs,
- 4) Complete tasks by March, '05.

**Neighborhood Association Reports:** John Isby of Potter Cr Homeowners Assoc. said that Potter Ridge Subdivision is now called Potter View and a new plat will be submitted by the developer, Connie Yoshimura. The PC Homeowners will view the plat at their next meeting and Jess is to attend for the Council. Jess will also introduce the Council's Trail Plan concept at the same time.

Potter Glen Subdivision still has an on-going erosion control and landscaping problem that isn't done.

Tim Bridgeman of the Oceanview Community Council (who is also running for the Assembly) was in attendance and reported that his area doesn't have the issues we have except for things like excessive street parking and kids playing in the street.

**Federation of Community Councils:** the question was asked if there is any hope the FCC website will be updated. Dianne reported, if there is money in the MOA budget to keep the FCC functioning, there may be hope for the website. There is a temporary director and he may be able to get things operating by January.

**Planning Issue—Letter to the Mayor:** Wayne is heading up the effort and working to get the best wording to reflect our Council's concern for the planning process as reflected in the recent church site plan review. He is also working to get other councils to sign on to the letter or send a similar one with their individual examples.

**Undergrounding Ordinance:** it passed P/Z and the next stop is the Assembly at an unknown date.

**Villages View Subdivision:** the hearing is not completed before the Assembly but was begun this week. Dianne testified for the Council according to the Council's last position in January, 2004, which reversed an earlier decision to support on-site septics. Jess spoke on some research nearby Villages View that concluded there might be an impact to the water supply and contamination of down-slope homes. Engineers differ on what development will do to downstream wells. Jess spoke on the use of alternative sewer systems. Carol spoke about wells going dry down-slope of Prominence Pointe Subdivision. Blasting took place for gravel removal recently in the Ashland Tract of Prominence Pointe. Mike asked if developers would pay for downhill septic and well failures.

**Davidson Park:** Joe Meehan requested that we submit a letter to the MOA that he prepared requesting signs for Davidson Park, saying "No Paint Balling." He spearheaded the clean up effort of the park last spring and requested that signs be placed on the pole that already exists at the park gate. He has not had a response from the city Parks Dept. and would like us to help him contact the mayor for action. Dianne said the same situation exists for the Rabbit Creek Greenbelt where "No Horses, No Bikes" signs have been requested from the Parks Dept. for many months. Ky said this was addressed earlier and we don't need a new motion to authorize a letter; Dianne will write up a letter asking for the signs.

Motion by Dianne and Donna to send Joe's letter. Passed unanimously.

**Parks Plan Review:** Jess and Charlie reported on the Plan and our need to review our prior comments from the spring and get them into the Parks Dept. The SE Anchorage park area is very large and may not have had clear methodology when it was addressed in the Parks Plan. This needs to be addressed because there is a great deal of development pressure here. Carol said we should look at the use patterns in what is being proposed in the plan. There are no large regional parks in our subarea. But Potter Marsh could be a focus area and should be in the plan. There are many connections that could be made such as Davidson Park, the Old Seward Highway upgrade with its proposed trail, and perhaps something connecting to the east up the hill (though the Mental Health Trust lands that have been slated for park status).

Regarding indoor recreation facilities, the plan calls for the use of schools under the administration of the Community School (CS) program. But the CS program does not exist any more since the school district cut all funding for it. It was stated the schools are very difficult to use and much paper work and security issues have to be dealt with in order to use them. The ASD is not welcoming when it comes to using their schools yet there are no indoor recreation centers in our area. It was pointed out we need to voice the high level of growth in our area and thus the need for all kinds of facilities, indoor and out.

Charlie requested we think of ideas for regional park plans for our area because the Park Plan doesn't have a vision for the SE areas.

Dianne pointed out the Parks Plan maps mention three natural conservation areas but do not show where the third area—NC Reserve areas are located. We need to know where these areas are before we can comment on the Plan.

Jess will create two kinds of comments that will accompany our Council response to the Parks Plan—a general overview letter of what our accompanying detailed comments request and the specific comments, listed page by page for easy access by the planners.

Nominating Committee: selected to find people to run for the Board in January are Carol Fries, Gary Miller, and Dan Case.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Submitted by Dianne Holmes