

Rogers Park Community Council
Minutes
September 10, 2007
Rogers Park Elementary School Library

- I. Welcome
- II. Approval of May Minutes
- III. Announcements

The APD report and discussion regarding the Seward Highway and Ingra Street was moved to the beginning of the agenda.

Sergeant Allen reported that APD receives multiple calls per week regarding automobile break-ins. Therefore, it is recommended not to leave valuables in your car including keys. Also, there are instances of purses and valuables being taken from shopping carts. Mail thefts, including credit card checks, are also becoming more common.

Since June 2007, APD received apx. 100 calls at the Northern Lights/Seward Hwy intersection. This area is plagued with panhandling, sexual assault, litter and inebriates. Based on these complaints, the brush was cleared to alleviate these problems. This is Municipal Park Land, but there is an existing state right-of-way. Neighbors along Ingra St expressed concerns that residents were not consulted about this clearing, but it significantly impacts their privacy and sound abatement. In the future, it is recommended that the neighborhood be consulted before land is cleared.

Chronic inebriates were a common theme of concern in this area and throughout Anchorage. The Fairview Community Council is holding a meeting to discuss this issue on Thursday September 13 at the FV Rec Center. RuralCAP, which runs the Homeward Bound program is releasing a report on strategies to deal with this problem.

All community concerns, including gunshots and illegal fireworks, should be reported to 911.

The possibility of an "earthen berm" barrier was discussed by the group. This would help sound and privacy issues for residents on Ingra Street. Although, it might displace illegal activity on this land, it may just push it into the alley and neighborhood. All existing vegetation would have to be removed to construct this barrier. Currently, there is no funding for this project.

People should call in reckless driving and include a license plate number, if possible. If speed humps are requested, a petition signed by 51% of residents, can be submitted to the municipality to be added to the project list.

Concerns regarding inebriates lead to clearing of the underbrush that acted as a sound and privacy barrier for Ingra Street residents.

Sergeant Allen can be reached at dallen@ci.anchorage.ak.us

A. Anchorage Fire Department

1) Fire Station 4 is scheduled to reopen December 2007.

2) Captain Davidson submitted the "AFD Report to the Community" which can be found online at: <http://www.muni.org/fire1/index1.cfm> This report includes a 'cascade of events' outlining the steps that occur when someone dials 911. Dave Evans asked why the rates of survivability of cardiac arrest noted in this report were so good. Capt. Davidson replied that ALS resources are diversely spread though out the community, ADF using cutting edge technology and standards of care.

3) AFD questions or comments can be submitted to Captain Mike Davidson: DavidsonMA@ci.anchorage.ak.us

Rich Gingras stated that he has only had positive experiences with AFD and they should be commended for their hard work.

David Levy said that until this summer AFD maps did not show that Redwood St. was no longer accessible from Northern Lights. Capt. Davidson explained how the maps are updated. [On Sept 11, he emailed that the maps are now correct.]

B. Cottonwood Sidewalk:

This project will be constructed during Spring/Summer 2008. Funding was to come from the State, however, the Governor vetoed this legislative funding. The 2007 Road bond package allowed funding for this project to continue.

C. Fireweed/LaTouche: Construction Underway, beginning with relocation of the utilities. Roadwork should take about two months. Landscaping and clean-up – Spring 08

D. Northern Lights Sound Barrier: Two sections constructed this summer. Funding is available for "Alternatives" C & D, west of Maplewood...Construction '08. Many people asked if this project made a significant difference in sound reduction. Follow-up with neighbors and with decibel monitors will be important to advocate for future projects.

E. Jacobson Park Trail Improvements: Trail work completed in June. The final report needs to be completed and some excess funds will be returned to the Park Foundation.

F. UAA

1. Sports Complex Funding: State planning money was vetoed by the Governor.

2. Wetlands permit application: The Corps of Engineers approved the permit.

Mitigation occurred through a cash payment to the Great Land Trust. Clearing may occur this fall. The fill and construction schedule is unknown.

It was noted that when representatives from UAA came to the May RPCC meeting, they were encouraged to communicate building plans to the university's neighbors.

G. Municipality Noise Ordinance – Assembly Meeting: November 2007

http://www.muni.org/iceimages/clerk1/AO2007105_DHHS_noisepermitconditions.PDF

This ordinance does not address automobile noise or noise from concerts.

H. Title 21

1. Community Correctional Residential Centers: P&Z delayed action.
An RPCC member agreed to review the proposal and report back to the council.
2. Title 21 Newly revised chapters released for public review
 - a) Public Hearing (P&Z) September 17 – Nonconformities.
 - b) Community Workshop: 6:30 PM, September 19, BP Energy Center

I. Code Enforcement Issues

1. A Variance Application in Rogers Park Neighborhood denied. Some discussion about this issue occurred in April. The request for comments came after the May RPCC meeting. Therefore, Heather consulted the board and made general comments summarizing the April discussion that properties should, for the most part, be consistent with existing codes for lot coverage and structure size.

2. Proactive Enforcement outcomes...

College Village: Noticed 24 properties total.

3 junk vehicles

7 junk

5 public nuisances

17 unsecured garbage

4 trash

Anchor Park: Noticed 20 properties total.

2 junk vehicles

5 junk

18 unsecured garbage

Rogers Park: Noticed 24 properties total. **NOTE:** Due to construction, unable to get into properties located north of Fireweed, west of Bannister area.)

1 junk vehicles

8 junk

4 public nuisances

13 unsecured garbage

7 trash

J. Emissions Program Review: <http://www.muni.org/healthesd/imtaskforce.cfm>

Thursday September 13th, 4 pm to 6 pm

K. Town Square Petition: During the Winter of 2007, RPCC passed a resolution endorsing the naming change to Ruth Multon Town Square. The Assembly did not approve this request. A petition was circulated to get the issue on the April 08 ballot.

L. AWWU – The improvement project along Chester Creek has been delayed at least two years.

M. Muni Website Survey:

<http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB226UHW93EQ5>

N. Anchorage Park Foundation Bicycle Program: Volunteers and Donations needed

O. Tariff Filings: More info at <http://www.state.ak.us/rca>

1. AWWU Service Connection Fee
2. Enstar – Late Payment Fee

P. Rogers Park Elementary School Traffic and Safety Improvements

1. Widening of the sidewalk at front of the school to include a permanent ADA accessible ramp.
2. Extension of the parking island to the North. Installation of a permanent fence in lieu of the orange safety fence.
3. Addition of a new driveway on to Zarvis and modification to existing driveway on Zarvis
4. Mechanical Control upgrade to Cabinet Unit Ventilators in classrooms to prevent intake of exhaust fumes
5. Alignment of bus entrance with cotton wood. This will be fully design and bid as an alternate and awarded if enough construction funds exist.

Q. Pacific Environmental Corporation (PENCO) has submitted a preliminary application for the location of a Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility at **920 East 1st Avenue in Anchorage**. www.dec.state.ak.us

R. Annual Survey Results - <http://www.muni.org/omb/CommCouncils2007.cfm>

Lake Otis from Northern Lights to DeBarr was scheduled to be redesigned with AMATS funding. Recently, this funding was eliminated. Historically, the Muni has said that pedestrian improvements would be linked to roadwork. Pedestrian improvements will now need to be funded by bond or State CIP requests. Future advocacy for this project may be needed.

S. Humpy's Marathon Aide Station: Thanks to Bill and Marie Hopkins; Susan Doore and David Levy and family for helping out at the end of August.

IV. Assembly Report: Mr. Coffey and Mr. Traini

Mr. Coffey explained that the proposed municipal budget includes significant increases. The public should be aware of these expenses and how the municipality and its residents will pay for them.

V. Legislative Reports

A. UMED Fest September 15, 2007 at Goose Lake Park

B. Legislative funding for the Northern Light Sound Barrier and Rogers Park Elementary School were secured this year.

IV. APD Report (see above)

VII. Federation of Community Councils – September 19 meeting.

VIII. Treasurer's report

Account Balance \$1737.75 however, \$1581.81 to be returned to APF (\$2100 granted for Jacobson Park Trail minus \$518.91 of expenses) leaves \$155.94 available.

IX. Presentations and Discussions

A. Seward Highway/Ingra Street (See Above)

B. Midtown Plan

Historically, there has been no adopted plan for the Midtown Area bordered by Tudor Road, Spenard Road, Chester Creek and the Seward Highway (apx. 2 square miles). The primary focus of this plan is the major employment core and its surrounding roadways. Without the proposed Highway to Highway connection, this area would experience significant traffic delays. Sidewalk coverage and "walkability" is also important in the Midtown. Spenard Road is not considered in the Midtown plan because it is part of the Town Center concept that focuses more on retail and pedestrian amenities.

The next steps for the draft of the midtown plan are public agency review, then the public hearing draft will be released before going to Planning and Zoning and, eventually, the Assembly.

March Meeting date conflicts with Spring Break for ASD and the school library is not available. We could cancel the meeting, reschedule the meeting, or find a new location – such as the BP Energy Center. What is the preference? Further discussion will occur in October.

These minutes were submitted by Heather Ireland on September 17, 2007.