

Rogers Park Community Council Meeting Minutes for January 14, 2008

Heather Ireland, RPCC president, called the meeting to order at 7:04.

- I. Sign in sheet going around. Be sure to sign in. You can be added to the email distribution list by sending an email to rogersparkcc@gmail.com
- II. November and December minutes will be distributed for approval at the February meeting.
- III. No APD report.
- IV. AFD Senior Captain Mike Davidson announced that his staff moved into the new Fire Station 4 on December 7. He offered tours of the facility. Safety tip is to be careful thawing frozen pipes. If you have a burst pipe and need assistance turning the water off, AFD will help.
- V. Assemblyman Traini reported January 22 Assembly meeting
 - He will introduce a swimming pools initiative for inclusion on the April ballot. It involves a \$2 million bond, to be matched by \$2 million from the state if it passes. Only 3 municipal pools are “fully operational.”
 - Dan Sullivan will be proposing to convert dual-represented Assembly districts to single member districts Anchorage-wide.

The Assembly has a work session on Friday to discuss continued funding of the Federation of Community Councils (FCC). Although the municipal charter mandates community councils, the FCC is a contractor funded by the assembly to assist community councils. The Assembly would like to hear how if the FCC is meeting community council needs. Members in attendance noted the following benefits:

- Use of copy machine
- Distribution of emails and maintenance of email lists
- Get announcements from various municipal departments
- Provides opportunities to network with other community councils
- Can become even more effective with technology that distributes information which, if managed by the FCC would free up even more FCC staff time

RPCC President Heather Ireland stated that she represented the community council at a couple of public events and in the media concerning the plans for Russian Jack Springs park.

- VI. No Legislative report.
- VII. FCC Report – there has not been a meeting in the last two months; the next meeting is this Wednesday. The FCC will be hiring a new manager.
- VIII. Treasurer’s report: \$157.99 balance
- IX. Transportation Planning Presentations and Discussion
 - A. Anne Brooks distributed information on the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). The ADOT&PF has a new website that allows you to view project status on-line by neighborhood and also accepts suggestions. Will Webb, USKH, presented plans for changes at 36th and New Seward Highway. This is an ADOT&PF HSIP project managed by Kevin Jackson. The intersection has averaged (or totaled) 544 vehicle crashes annually (if ‘averaged’ that would mean 1.5 per day!) over the last 10 years; the average for intersections with similar traffic volume is 400. In addition, there have been 8 pedestrian accidents over the last 10 years. The changes include 2 new advance warning lights for northbound traffic, a countdown signal for east-west pedestrian traffic on the north side of the intersection, and a ‘Freeway End’ sign for northbound traffic. The project is in design now with plans to award the contract this summer.
 - B. Lance Wilbur, MOA Traffic Engineer, 343-8406, presented information on the following:
 - LaTouche and 36th – signal improvements are being evaluated

- Cottonwood and Locarno – DOWL is consultant; plans to present to RPCC in the Spring.
 - 36th and Cottonwood – discussion of problems there, including:
 - westbound traffic has an increase in the speed limit just before the intersection
 - southbound traffic turning left cannot see to the east when snow is piled high at the northeast corner of the intersection
 - shallow buried utilities just east of the intersection have prevented flattening the hill
- C. Pedestrian Improvements – ADOT&PF is considering a \$2 million, ADA-compliant, east-west overpass across Seward Highway between 36th and Northern Lights (linking Fred Meyers and Sears Mall parking lots) with a barrier for at-grade pedestrian crossing. Kevin Jackson is the ADOT&PF project manager. If ADOT decides to build it, it would be constructed in 2010.
- D. Seward Highway to Glenn Highway connection, aka Highway-to-Highway or H2H. ADOT&PF and the Municipality have signed an agreement to work together to design a limited-access link between Tudor Road and Bragaw Street. Portions of it would be depressed and at-grade neighborhood connections re-established. For \$600 million, it would take 100,000 trips daily off of local streets, require 16 to 20 grade-separated crossings, and involve 7 community councils. Challenges are determining an alignment, minimizing ROW acquisition, developing strategies for drainage and snow removal, providing access to Midtown, downtown and Knik Arm crossing traffic, and maintaining traffic flow during several years of phased construction. ADOT&PF and MOA are committed to the Context Sensitive Solution approach for taking community input and concerns into consideration in the design. HDR has been selected to do the NEPA process for the project. A “store front” project office would be operated on 15h between Ingra and Gambell during the design stage. Schedule:
- 1/2008 Notice to Proceed on environmental work
 - 4/2008 Begin scoping for Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - 8/2010 Publish draft EIS
 - 2/2011 Begin design
 - 5/2013 Begin construction

Questions were raised about impacts on residences (some would have to be removed), wildlife, and accommodations for mass transit. The Long Range Transportation Plan was discussed as the guiding document that reflected community opinions about preferred transportation alternatives, but it was noted that the Assembly had changed some of the LRTP’s recommendations after the public process was completed. Opportunity for community input was reiterated and that these concerns should continue to be raised through the planning process.

Anne Brooks announced that the Knik Arm Crossing EIS and record of decision, with a preferred alternative for the bridge alignment had just been published this week for a 30-day comment period and could be viewed on-line.

Anne is also helping AMATS develop their public process procedures for plan updates and the Transportation Improvement Plan program.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

Minutes submitted by Mel Langdon, January 14, 2008.