

Rogers Park Community Council Minutes

7 PM Monday, March 10, 2008

Rogers Park Elementary School Library

I. Heather Ireland called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Officers present were: Heather Ireland, President; Jim Wright, Vice President, and Mel Langdon, Treasurer. Joyce Hughes, Secretary, was absent from most of the meeting due to the emergency hospitalization of a friend. Peter Mjos, Immediate Past-President, was absent. A quorum of members was present.

II. **Approval of Minutes** – February

Dave Evans moved to approve. Ted Ryberg seconded the motion. With no objection, the minutes were approved.

III. **AFD Report:** Capt. Mike Davidson at Station 4 on MacInnes St. presented.

Safety tips:

1. Make sure the batteries in smoke detectors are working, change them when you change you clocks.
2. Don't let kids, even teenagers, play with matches.

Propositions 6 and 7:

Two propositions, Six and Seven, are on the ballot related to AFD services and equipment. Proposition 6 relates to the approval of public safety bonds (\$6.18 million) primarily for ambulances and associated costs. Proposition 7 seeks approval of bonds (\$3.62 million) for, among other things, air packs and a fire training center.

IV. **Assembly Report:**

Mr. Coffey was not present.

Mr. Traini reminded people about the pools bond (Prop. 4) on the April 1 ballot. A "Clean Elections" resolution will come before the Assembly March 18. On March 25, Mr. Traini will introduce an ordinance regulating tow trucks, to put limits on a number of perceived abuses.

V. **Legislative Reports**

Heather Ireland explained that the legislators are reviewing projects prioritized by the council, including things like the Northern Lights Sound Barrier. If funding is approved through both legislative bodies, the Governor may veto some projects, as occurred last session.

VI. **Federation of Community Councils Report:** Mark Butler is working as the new Manager of the Community Councils Center. One focus is the Neighborhoods USA conference, bidding for 2011.

VII. Treasurer's Report

Presented by Mel Langdon. She reports no expenses. The only income was interest earned on the account, for a total of \$163.12.

VIII. Presentations and Discussion

A. Nominating Committee for April 2008 RPCC Officer Elections.

Heather Ireland stated that she has served two terms as President and is going to step down. She will still be involved as Past President. The members present unanimously approved Bob Williams, Pete Mjos, and Joyce Hughes to be the nominating committee for our April 2008 officer elections. Jim Wright, current VP, is interested in being President. Mel Langdon and Bob Churchill are willing to continue their positions as treasurer and FCC representatives, respectively.

B. Anchorage Parks Foundation Grants: No projects were identified, nor grants requested, in the RPCC area.

C. Russian Jack Springs Park planning update.

Marilyn Houser explained that according to its website, the Municipality appears to be moving forward with the plan to clear 25 acres at Russian Jack Spring Park. First Tee will be presenting to the Parks and Recreation Commission on March 13. Parks and Recreation staff will be presenting information at the May 2008 RPCC meeting.

Diana Evans made a motion to encourage the creation of a diverse advisory committee to discuss changes to RJSP, see attached. Marilyn Houser seconded the motion. There was extensive opportunity for discussion, including comments by Ron Myers, Marilyn Houser, Heather Ireland, Dave Evans, Bob Williams, Sandy Traini, who is on the Parks Commission, and Brad Harris. After some discussion, the motion passed by a vote of 15 for, 0 opposed, and two abstentions.

D. Municipal Election April 1, 2008.

1. Anchorage School District Bonds (Props. 2 and 3).

Mike Price, ASD Facilities staff, and Jeff Friedman, ASD School Board member, presented information on the two school bonds on the ballot (Props. 2 and 3), and asked for member support. If the bonds pass they would fund improvements at 27 school facilities, including remodeling of Chester Valley Elementary and Sand Lake Elementary, planning for the Girdwood K-8 School, and major maintenance and repairs throughout the Municipality.

These bonds are approved for State debt reimbursement of 60% (Prop. 2) and 70% (Prop. 3). Also, ASD is retiring bonds almost equal to those on this ballot. Combined cost to property tax payers: Per \$100,000 assessed value a property owner would pay \$4.27 per year.

Proposition 2: School Addition and Renewal Bond, focusing on Chester Valley, Sand Lake, and Girdwood K-8. \$34.3 million.

Proposition 3: Education Capital Improvements District wide Major Building

Systems Renewal Bonds. \$9.4 million.

There was significant opportunity for discussion, and the RPCC heard from Mike Price, Jeff Friedman, Ron Myers, Dick Traini, Bob Williams, and others. Members are encouraged to check out the ASD website, which has detailed information about the bond propositions as well as past bond issues.

2. Anchorage Tomorrow (Prop. 5).

A representative from Anchorage Tomorrow, Erica Jensen, spoke about Proposition 5: Anchorage Roads and Drainage Service Area Bond projects, in the amount of \$44.8 million. This would fund projects throughout Anchorage, including traffic calming projects in or near the Rogers Park CC area. These projects were identified in part by individuals participating with their community councils. Per \$100,000 assessed value a property owner would pay \$14.70. “Also, an annual increase necessary to fund the proposed increase in the municipal tax cap (Charter 14.03(b)(2)) of approximately \$7.77 to pay for annual operations and maintenance costs related to the proposed capital improvements”

There was extensive discussion, with comments by Ron Myers, Erica Jensen and others, including another representative of Anchorage Tomorrow.

3. People For Pools (Prop. 4).

Bradley Harris represented People for Pools. He explained that Proposition 4: Anchorage Parks and Recreation Service Area Pool Improvements Bond, would improve, renovate and repair facilities throughout Anchorage. Per \$100,000 of assessed taxable property, Prop 4 would cost \$.60 to retire the proposed bonds, and (ii) an annual increase in the municipal tax cap of approximately \$.83 to pay for annual operation and maintenance costs related to the proposed capital improvements, for a total of \$1.43 per year.

4. Public Facility Improvements (Prop. 1).

Proposition 1: David Levy of the Municipality Library Board presented information about the Public Facility Major Roof Repair and Capital Improvement Bond. It will fund improvements to libraries, the Sullivan Arena, and the existing museum. Per \$100,000 assessed value a property owner would pay \$1.78.

More ballot information is online at muni.org or through the League of Women Voters.

5. Assembly Candidates

Dick Traini and Elvi Gray-Jackson introduced themselves and answered questions from council members. Both candidates provided handouts, personal background information including past experience with the Assembly, and answered questions of members and constituents. These included questions posed by Larry Fay, Marilyn Houser, Bob Williams, David Levy, Ron Myers, and others. Questions covered the controversy involving Elvi Gray-Jackson’s termination at the Municipality and subsequent employment, Dick Traini’s stance at the time, the option of a sales tax as a measure of property tax relief, revenue sharing from the state, the tobacco tax, the pending project at Russian Jack Springs Park involving First Tee, the need to monitor

capital projects, the possible merger of MLP and Chugach Electric, the Clean Elections initiative, the desired fit between Title 21 and Anchorage's 2020 Plan, and whether each candidate would consider running for mayor in the future. (Both said yes.)

E. People and Pets in Public Spaces (PPIPS).

Patty Ginsberg of Rogers Park made a motion to support efforts of the Animal Control Advisory Board, of which she is chair (Sandy Traini being a former chair), to increase public education and pet owner responsibility for dog waste. Their working group is People & Pets in Public Spaces, or PPIPS. Their approach, expressed in a proposed resolution, varies from the solution recently posed by Assemblyman Dan Coffey. Marilyn Houser seconded the motion. Discussion included comments from Larry Fay, Patty Ginsberg, Sandy Traini, Bob Williams, David Levy, Dick Traini, and others. The attached resolution passed by a vote of 12 in favor, 1 opposed, and 6 abstentions.

Teri Albrecht, representing the Mayor's office, recruited volunteers for a lighting study being conducted by the Municipality.

President Heather Ireland reminded all attending members to consider available positions as officers of the Rogers Park Community Council and to express their interest to the Nominating Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

April Meeting:

RPCC Officer Elections
36th Avenue planning
Code Enforcement

May:

Russian Jack Spring Park presentation by the Parks Department

The Rogers Park Community Council complies with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and is an equal opportunity organization. Reasonable accommodations will be made available to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Please contact the Community Councils Center, 907-277-1977, no later than 10 days prior to the meeting date to make any necessary arrangements.

Minutes submitted by Heather Ireland and Jim Wright March 27, 2008.