

Rogers Park Community Council Minutes
7PM Monday, September 8, 2008
Rogers Park Elementary School Library
Board Members Attending
 Heather Ireland, Past President
 Ted Ryberg, Treasurer
 Heather Rice, Secretary
 Bob Churchill, FCC Representative

Minutes

I. Welcome

Heather Ireland called the meeting to order just after 7 PM. She served in place of the current RPCC President, Jim Wright, who was unable to attend due to illness.

II. Approval of Minutes

Corrections to the May 12, 2008, meeting minutes were as follows:

- * Page 2, Bullet 1 – Replace "Assemblyman Harry Drummond" with "Assemblywoman Harriet Drummond."
- * Page 2, Bullet 2 – Delete extra "numbers."
- * Page 2, 1st Full Paragraph – Delete "as for costs of the entire recycling program she referred Mr. Gingras to the Muni website for that information." This is an incorrect statement.

Ted Ryberg made the first motion to accept the May 12, 2008, minutes subject-to-changes; Bob Churchill seconded the motion. There was no opposition and the minutes were approved.

III. Anchorage Fire Department

No AFD representative attended the meeting; therefore, no report was provided.

APD will no longer attend community council meetings unless there are specific issues. If a community council member has an issue they want APD to address, please relay this request to Jim Wright.

IV. Assembly Report

Dan Coffey was not present.

Elvi Gray-Jackson was present and provided the following information:

- * She is the chair of the Assembly Budget Finance Committee.
- * She has attended several budget meetings with the Muni's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and is working with Wanda Phillips to find efficiencies; she will outline these in a memorandum to the Assembly.
- * The Assembly passed the Curbside Recycling Ordinance. Those receiving curbside recycling should have received a notification card in the mail.
- * The Assembly reinstated the I&M Program with two amendments: (1) asked Health and Human Services to work with the EPA so that if, in the future, the Assembly decides to end the program, it will end immediately; (2) by July 2010, Health and Human Services will report to the Assembly about how the program is working and provide possible alternatives.
- * Fireweed and La Touche Traffic Calming Upgrades – A constituent expressed a concern to Ms. Gray-Jackson about the new speed bump on La Touche and potential damage to vehicles going over it. She is following up with the Muni Traffic Department about this issue.

* The Assembly approved a new Muni requirement to change all city lights to LED lights (phased in over time).

* The Assembly's Title 21 Committee has worked through Chapter 5 (User Regulations) and made amendments at the previous meeting to allow chickens (hens, not roosters; and there will be limits on numbers of hens).

* Assembly agenda for September 9: (1) Discussions about making ML&P a utility like AWWU; (2) the new Park Report Card soliciting information on the condition of local parks (report card forms are on the Muni website: www.muni.org). (3) Title 21 – Chapter 5 and Chapter 6.

* September is Diversity Month (see www.muni.org for events).

* Groundbreaking for the new 48th Avenue extension from Elmore Road to Boniface will occur September 11. The new road will be named after Dr. Martin Luther King.

* Ms. Gray-Jackson and RPCC Community Council President, Jim Wright, will meet every other month to talk about issues.

* Questions and comments from RPCC members present:

o The new Cottonwood sidewalk has been designated a school route as Dan Coffey said it would be; this means, in part, that it will be plowed in the winter.

Mark Madden, Director, Muni Solid Waste Services Department (introduced by Ms. Gray Jackson)

* The new Solid Waste Services Automated Collection Program begins in October and is being phased in over time. First phase will include College Village and Woodside East (Roger's Park and Anchor Park will be brought in at a later stage).

* The rates are based on a "pay-as-you-throw" structure to encourage recycling.

* See: www.muni.org/sws or contact SWS Customer Service at 343-6250. (Also see two handouts provided.)

* Questions and comments from RPCC members present:

o Helen Sedlacek -- (1) A rate increase from \$16.35 to \$43.15 per month is outrageous. (2) Why not recycle grass clippings? (3) Why isn't the whole City getting a price increase? (4) Can we opt-out? (5) Is it true that if a garbage can is defaced, even if in the street ROW, it's the homeowner's responsibility to replace for minimum of \$75? Mr. Madden gave the following responses:

+ (1) If you sign up for 4 (32-gallon) garbage cans and if you elect not to use the recycling services, it is true your rates will increase. However, if you use only 1 (48-gallon) garbage can and also elect to recycle, your rates could increase only \$1. The intent is to decrease the waste going into the limited-life landfill.

+ (2) SWS is trying to figure out how to include a green waste collection route in the summer or other option for dealing with green waste.

+ (3) Alaska Waste customers are being offered recycling services already.

+ (4) Mandatory garbage pick-up is a Muni ordinance. If you want to opt-out, you have to change the Muni ordinance.

+ (5) ?

o Susan Doore-Levy -- Does sorting matter? Mr. Madden responded that you don't have to sort recyclables.

o Rich Gingras – With all the revenue SWS will receive from recycling (\$800K in workers comp savings over time due to automated garbage pick-up; revenue from selling recyclables over time; etc.), SWS is making money, or will, yet they have programmed a rate increase. Why? Mr. Madden answered that rate increases are to recover costs of the higher disposal fees at the landfill.

Barbara Jones, Executive Director for the Anchorage Equal Rights Commission (introduced by Ms. Gray-Jackson)

* The Anchorage Equal Rights Commission enforces the Muni's anti-discrimination law. For more information, go to www.muni.org, click on the Mayor's homepage, then go to "boards and commissions."

V. Legislative Report

Senator Johnny Ellis

* The 90-day session was amazingly productive. There were 2 special sessions for an extra total of 60 days.

Representative Berta Gardner

* Community council support is very important when asking for items to be placed on the Capital Budget. (Heather Ireland noted that RPCC has a process for identifying projects to submit to the Legislature. Ms. Gray-Jackson added that the Assembly plays a role here, too, in approving lists of projects from community councils.)

* The Alaska Jewish Historic Museum has a new home at the site of the old Denali Alaska Credit Union building.

Representative Les Gara

* \$1.5 million dollars were allocated last year to the Northern Lights Sound Barrier. Additional money to complete the project is being pieced together. RPCC set up a working group with the Muni to determine priorities for which segments will be completed next.

VI. Announcements

* Heather Ireland noted that Representative Cessna organized a U-Med Festival this coming Saturday at Goose Lake.

* Trevor Strait, HDL, announced community meetings for two new chokers at Northwestern & Princeton and at Stanford & Yale. The meetings will be September 15 at 7pm at Rogers Park Elementary School. For more information, contact Dennis Linnell at 564-2120 or dlinnell@hdlalaska.com; also see handout. There were several questions and comments from RPCC members present:

o Rich Gingras – Who is driving these? (Response: A RPCC traffic calming plan was completed in the 1990s.)

o Rich Gingras – There will be an increase in O&M costs for street maintenance. They put kids in the way of vehicles and are a safety problem. The Cottonwood Street project took driveway space from some people, causing their cars to block the sidewalk. A representative from ____ came to a meeting last year and said these chokers don't slow traffic.

o Helen Sedlacek -- At the intersection of Cottonwood and Vasser, the new sidewalks already have cracks. There's poor drainage. People are still speeding.

o Bob Churchill – I think the chokers slow traffic and people enjoy the new 4-way stop at Cottonwood.

* Fireweed and La Touche Upgrade/Traffic Calming Project – Questions and comments from RPCC members present:

o Jody Madigan -- Object to the raised crosswalk/speed bump because vehicles hit their bumpers going over it.

o ____ -- The colored crosswalk at Fireweed and Juneau and the 25mph speed limit sign haven't slowed speeds.

o Heather Rice – The chokers on Fireweed are in-name-only (too small) and the white striped lines make the road actually look straighter and faster than it originally was.

o ____ -- [Why] is a traffic calming choker put on dead-end streets like Juneau?

o ____ -- Fireweed is still a speedway on Friday and Saturday nights and the alley is now all muddy.

o Marilyn Houser -- Would like to see a raised walkway on Fireweed. Need a barrier at end of Juneau to keep vehicles off the bike trail.

o Heather Ireland – Should we invite DOWL back to hear these issues? (Yes from audience.)

o Rich Gingras – These traffic calming measures don't work. Re: Cottonwood.

o ____ -- See a problem with snow blocking newly narrowed La Touche.

o Les Gara – Not sure chokers work either. Fireweed and La Touche had cut-through issues; was that affected by road work? (No from audience.) In my opinion, speed bumps work best – if the community council wants one. City will put in speed bumps when councils ask.

- o ____ -- Put a camera at raised crosswalk to see how much snow plows are affected.

- * Heather Ireland announced that homeowners at 2631 Glenwood want a variance to encroach into the 20-foot setback to build a front entryway. Individuals may submit comments to the Muni Planning Department (www.muni.org).

VII. Federation of Community Councils Report

- * Bob Churchill provided the FCC report: nothing new.

VIII. Treasurer's Report

- * Ted Ryberg, RPCC Treasurer, announced that RPCC has \$145.36 in the account (including 4 cents interest from last month!).

IX. Presentations and Discussion

Vice President Nominations

- * Bill Falsey, current RPCC V-P, is moving. If you would like to make new nominations please contact Jim Wright or other RPCC officers.

MOA Rain Gardens (Dawn Lobaugh, HDR)

- * There's a new Muni Rain Garden program to help improve water quality.
- * Through a \$25K National Fish & Wildlife Service grant (matched by the Muni), the City will reimburse half the cost of installing a rain garden (up to \$750 for design, organic materials, labor, etc.).
- * For more information call 343-8084 or see www.anchorageraingardens.com; also see handouts.

36th Avenue Corridor Project Presentation (Allison Larkey, DOWL)

- * Public meetings on the Cottonwood Street and Locarno Drive project will be held September 18 at 7pm at Roger's Park Elementary School.
- * Flyers were sent by mail describing the project (note error in option views: Option 1 actually is Option 2 and visa-versa).
- * For more information, contact Kristy Stuller at 562-2000 or kstuller@dowl.com.

H2H (Highway to Highway) Report (John McPerson, HDR)

- * For information, go to www.highway2highway.com or contact Julianne Hanson, HDR, at 865-2202. (Also see fact sheet handout.)
- * A Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the project was posted in the Federal Register in July.
- * We're in the scoping phase. Comments on the project Purpose and Need (see handout) and potential issues/impacts should be sent to HDR by October 8.
- * Held 1st round of public meetings in July; next round will be the end of October to report out comments and present the first set ("long list") of alternatives.
- * Questions and comments from RPCC members present:
 - o Is the East City Bypass going to be one of the alternatives? (Mr. McPhearson's response: Likely, though I don't make those decisions.)
 - o Jody Madigan -- This project looks unnecessary. Where are the earthquake faults? Fairview is a low-income neighborhood. (Mr. McPhearson's response: There will be a paper on geo-technical issues; designing for earthquakes and groundwater issues will be addressed. If traffic gets too bad, we can plan for mass transit.)
 - o Nancy Schaafer -- When these discussions began there was a need, but with global warming and energy issues some kind of public transportation makes sense now. Does it have to be a highway? (Mr. McPhearson's response: We're getting suggestions to better integrate transportation into the facility.)

o Helen Sedlacek -- This is almost like a bypass, with 4 lanes, frontage roads, on-ramps. So will there be no stop and go traffic? (Mr. McPhearson's response: That is the intent of the Long Range Transportation Plan and we'll end up partially studying this and will bring in the Federal Transit Administration to look at the alternatives.)

o Margaret Wolfe -- The highway bridge is \$8 million underfunded. Will there be additional meetings? (Mr. McPhearson's response: The last week of October there will be 3 meetings; dates and times not set, but will be at Begich Middle School, Fairview Elementary, and Mountain View Elementary.)

o Heather Ireland – I am on the Citizens Advisory Committee for H2H.

o Rich Gingras – Who's calling the shots? (Mr. McPhearson's response: The Muni and ADOT set the priorities on this through AMATS. NEPA began in July with the Notice of Intent. The Federal Highway Administration is the lead agency; ADOT is the co-lead. Approval must be by both. The Muni is a cooperating agency and may be a signer on the EIS. AMATS will have to eventually allocate funds.)

o Margaret Wolfe -- Do careful water planning. Groundwater is an issue. Question how this will go underground.

o Les Gara – ADOT is leaning towards going through Fairview, not an East City Bypass and not a rail-only alternative. A community voice – not just one or two people – is needed to shift this direction.

Candidates' Forum

* Do RPCC members want a Candidates' Forum? No from audience.

* (Someone mentioned the need to watch out for election signs being stolen from yards.)

Brown Jug (O.C. Madden III CFE, Vice President Human Resources & Loss Prevention, Brown Jug, Inc.)

* Brown Jug has been sold to Canada Liquor Stores USA North (this is their 1st store on US soil). Community interactions will remain the same, as will the existing management team.

* Within the next 30 days, the license transfer is coming up and Brown Jug/Canada Liquor Stores USA North would like community support.

* O.C. Madden made a motion for the following RPCC resolution:

o "RPCC supports the liquor license transfer from Brown Jug to Liquor Stores USA North."

o Bob Churchill seconded the motion.

o Question and comments from RPCC members present:

+ Heather Ireland – Will the same inebriate policy be in place, including employees picking up trash? (Mr. Madden's response: Yes. Ed O'Neill stays on-board to facilitate this.)

+ Bob Churchill – For the record, I'm impressed that Bob Klein will stay with the organization.

+ Elvi Gray-Jackson – I've spent time with Ed O'Neill and am sold on the fact that things will stay the same.

+ Heather Ireland – There will be no visual signs facing the school, correct? (Mr. Madden's response: Yes.)

+ Rich Gingras – Mr. Coffey pointed out last year that there have been no issues/violations with Brown Jug. (Mr. Madden's response: Brown Jug has passed 38 consecutive ABC Compliance tests.)

+ Heather Ireland – When will the new license be renewed for the Canadian company? (Mr.

Madden's response: For Brown Jug it was every other year; expect this to remain the same, so November 2010.)

o A vote was called of all RPCC members present (only those signing in can vote).

+ 17 in favor

+ 1 opposed

+ 10 abstained

o Motion passed. Heather Rice will put into Resolution Template and send to Mr. Madden (copy to Jim Wright).

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes submitted by Heather Rice, RPCC Secretary

Notes of the Sept. 15 Public Meeting re: Traffic Calming in College Village. The Municipality wants our feedback on this one, so please give this some thought. We'll address it at our October 13 meeting:

PROJECTED TRAFFIC CALMING AT:
PRINCETON & NORTHWESTERN
YALE & STANFORD

(Meeting of September 15, 2008, 7 p.m.)
Rogers Park Elementary School

MOA Traffic Engineer Bob Kniefel and personnel from engineering firm HDL met with interested residents to discuss traffic calming at: 1) the 4-way intersection of Princeton and Northwestern; and 2) the "T" intersection at Yale and Stanford. Based on traffic calming requests of a number of years ago, MOA Traffic Engineering contemplated choking down these two intersections. The purpose of the meeting was to both educate the public and to get public input pro and con, including suggestions about options.

Princeton & Northwestern: Generally speaking it appeared that most participants were against choking down this 4-way intersection. The reasons stated were various, but included concerns about congestion, snow berms in winter forcing pedestrians out into the street to compete with traffic, and that other options seemed more attractive.

Among the options discussed were the following:

- A right turn lane on Northern Lights Boulevard leading to Princeton;
- A gateway at Princeton something like the new gateway on Latouche upon entering Rogers Park;
- Beautification at the gateway entrance, perhaps with an adopt-a-planter approach;
- A 4-way stop at Princeton & Northwestern (which now has stop signs only on Northwestern and not on Princeton); or
- Vacating access at Princeton altogether, proposed by Helen Sedlacek.

Yale & Stanford: It appeared that most participants were also against choking down this T intersection. The concerns expressed related to loss of streetside parking, snow berming and the resulting pedestrian use of the roadway.

Among the options discussed were the following:

- Posting stop signs at Yale & Stanford (although this was deemed problematic in that it is on a curve with less than ideal line of sight conditions);
- In the alternative, making it a 3-way stop at Cornell & Stanford and/or Columbia & Stanford;
- Employing a colored cross-walk for better visual cues in summer;
- Employing a raised cross-walk for cuing in the summer and winter;
- Employing a dip such as exists now at Princeton & Stanford (although this method is deemed problematic by MOA street maintenance personnel);
- Employing one or more speed humps along Stanford.

The Municipality and HDL Engineering Consultants anticipate construction next summer. For questions and comments, please contact MOA Traffic Engineer Bob Kneifel at 343-8410 (e-mail: kniefelre@muni.org) or HDL Staff Engineer Trevor Strait at 564-2130 (e-mail: tstrait@hdlalaska.com).