

# Rogers Park Community Council Minutes 7 PM Monday, October 8, 2007 Rogers Park Elementary School Library

- I. Welcome – President Heather Ireland
  - A. Sign-In
  - B. Rules
- II. Approval of Minutes – Rich Gingras moved to approve; Ted Ryberg seconded.
- III. Treasurer’s report – Treasurer Mel Langdon reported a balance of \$151.83.
- IV. Announcements\* (ZERO minutes...email and paper distribution)
- V. APD Report\*\* (10 Minutes) – no report
- VI. AFD Report \*\* (10 Minutes) – the new Station #4 will be a first class facility and will hire and begin training 40 fireman next month. Appreciation for community support for equipment and staffing was expressed. An AED (defibrillator) and TIC (thermal imaging camera) will be installed on all trucks now.  
\*\* These reports will be prioritized when AFD and APD staff are available.
- VII. Citizens Against Noxious Weeds Invading the North (10 Minutes) – a non-profit organization started to address the problem of invasive weeds, such as yellow star thistle which has invaded 12 million acres in CA and is difficult and expensive to control. Noxious weeds are prohibited in 45 states. Requested support for legislation to be introduced in January. See [www.canwin.com](http://www.canwin.com).

Berta Gardner suggested that the state may prefer to control noxious weeds by regulation.

- VIII. Clean Elections proposition (5 Minutes) – Steve Cleary discussed a citizen initiative to remove special interest money and promote public financing of political campaigns; bi-partisan legislation to be introduced. The cost of campaigns will go down as more candidates participate in clean elections.

Steve Cleary introduced a resolution of support for Clean Elections; Pete Mjos seconded.

Discussion:

Berta Gardner expressed support for voter owned elections; elected officials beholden only to people in their district or their state.

Pete Mjos stated that there is wide support from former governors Hickel, Knowles and Green Party candidate, Jim Sikes.

Les Gara indicated that he has been slow to come along on clean elections, but indicated that a lot of people don’t run for office because fund raising is so difficult.

Dan Coffey asked about drawbacks.

Steve responded that cost, estimated to be approximately 6 million per year for state elections, may be a concern. **The motion passed with 10 votes.**

IX. Municipal Pools (5 Minutes) – Pete Mjos expressed public health concerns about possible pool closings; this is a state in which we have many, many drownings. Any savings will be negated by health concerns. Bartlett is the only Olympic pool in the state.

Dan Coffey indicated that fees for maintenance were requested. The Governor vetoed some of the money. We are meeting to discuss fees and maintenance. Hockey, little league and soccer program are charging fees. There are also private pools that didn't used to be here. As usage goes down the cost per user goes up.

Dick Traini has asked mayor to draft a \$2 million bond package. The Service pool needs a new roof.

X. Title 21 rewrite (10 Minutes) – Suzanne DePetro, Anchorage Citizens Coalition, discussed the 20/20 plan and process; this is a comprehensive plan that contains a lot of values, dreams and hopes. She is here today to encourage residents to get involved in the rewrite of Title 21 to insure that the development statues match the 20/20 plan.

Dan Coffey stated that the 20/20 plan does not get to the specifics. Title 21 will contain the details. Planning and Zoning hearings will be an opportunity for public involvement.

Heather stated that the Planning and Zoning public hearing is scheduled in November.

Pete Mjos expressed concern that the Title 21 process disenfranchises public and that the language is indecipherable to a lay person. He introduced a resolution "to ensure public understanding and knowledgeable participation." Jim Wright seconded.

Discussion about residential centers, such as half-way houses, treatment facilities. Cook Inlet Tribal Council has asked for a review. The proposed center is in Mountain View, next to Noble's Diner. Dan Coffey stated that Planning and Zoning is hearing it tonight.

Resident requested that issue be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Berta Gardner suggested that Cook Inlet Tribal Council be invited to talk about it.

#### XI. Assembly Report:

A. Mr. Coffey (5 Minutes) – The assembly has asked mayor to hold the line on the budget. The budget committee is meeting next week; they will be starting inquiries with the departments. He met with the mayor this morning; he has proposed work sessions to allow the discussions with the departments to be much more focused.

B. Mr. Traini (5 Minutes) – he expects that the IM program will be voted down.

Pete Mjos stated that the incidence of asthma and lung disease goes up in the winter. The area around the Rogers Park Elementary School violates the Clean Air Standard more than any other area in the district.

#### XII. Legislative Reports (5 Minutes) – Berta Gardner stated that she will go to the Special Session with an open mind.

Les Gara stated that he voted against the law that passed. Choices include a law based on corporate profits or law based on gross sales. Arguments lower taxes support smaller companies developing fields or for new challenged fields. Alaska has higher profit margins than anywhere in the world. He will push for higher taxes for larger companies and lower taxes for smaller companies.

Rep from Senator Ellis' office did not comment.

XIII. Federation of Community Councils: See Announcements

XIV. Proposed Cell Phone Tower at 1930 E Northern Lights (30 Minutes) – mailing sent to people within 500 feet.

Heather introduced Gary Brecky, Cellular One Project Manager. The proposed tower, to be installed adjacent to the Shriner's Club, will be 40-45 feet high, approximately 15 feet higher than the building. The site was chosen due to need for coverage in the area.

Discussion:

Resident concerns about appearance and safety, including wind.

Gary responded that they will remove the first 15 feet of steps and could install a fence. The tower will have concrete poured around the base. They considered several different mountings. The least obtrusive structure was chosen.

Heather stated that individual comments can be submitted to the planning department.

Motion: Mike Bowman moved that the RPCC opposes the proposed cell phone tower at 1930 E. Northern Lights for aesthetics purposes, property devaluation and because no other sites were considered by Cellular One. Steve Cleary seconded. Motion passed 8 in favor. 2 opposed.

Jim Wright moved to adjourn.

Announcements:

1. Upcoming meeting topics: November - Budget and Title 21. December - Highway to Highway planning.

2. School District Update

### **Two school pools may close**

Six ASD schools house swimming pools. However, the district does not own those pools. Five are operated by the Municipality of Anchorage and one by the Eagle River Parks and Recreation department. ASD pays fees to the city and Eagle River Parks and Rec to use pool facilities for all classes and extracurricular activities.

Recently, the municipality's Park and Recreation manager proposed closing two pools, at Service and Bartlett, citing operating and maintenance expenses. The recommendation was referred to an aquatics committee of the Parks and Recreation Commission for further study. An ASD representative will be on the committee and actively participate in all discussions.

Pool closure will impact district activities, but ASD officials understand the need to address revenue issues and develop a solid business plan. Questions regarding the district's use of pools can be directed to Todd Arndt, high school supervisor, at 742-4250 or the Superintendent's office at 742-4312.

**Get involved**

If your job doesn't allow you to volunteer at your child's school, don't worry, there are many other ways to be an involved parent or guardian. A child's success in school depends on a family's involvement at home.

Research shows that when families are involved in a child's education, test scores are higher, attendance is better and students have a more positive attitude.

A few of the easiest ways to get involved are to ask children questions about their day, share their interests, advocate for them and, most importantly, spend quality time with them each day. For more suggestions on how to get involved, log on to [www.asdk12.org/parents/involvement](http://www.asdk12.org/parents/involvement) <<http://www.asdk12.org/parents/involvement>>

Schools welcome the involvement of grandparents, other relatives and community members. Volunteers can arrange to visit classes to talk about careers and hobbies, read to students or share a craft or skill. Please contact your neighborhood school for more information.

### **Walk to school safely**

As we lose more and more daylight each day, children will soon begin walking to school in the dark. After the snow flies, walk your student's path to school to make sure there are no snow berms that make the trail treacherous. Encourage your child to take extra precautions looking both ways before crossing the street as some vehicles may have a difficult time stopping on ice. Have your child wear reflective tape on his or her coat and backpack. To receive a walking map for your child's school, you can contact the city's Traffic Department at 343-8406 or through a safety tips link on our Web site at <http://www.asdk12.org/parents/safety/index.asp>