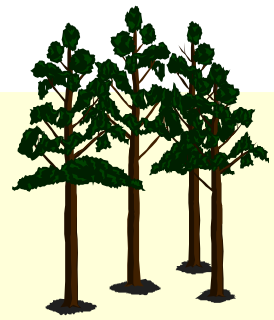


Rabbit Creek Community Council

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2008

<http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/27.html>

Rabbit Creek Community Council * P.O. Box 112354 * Anchorage, AK 99511-2354



Letter from the Chair

Why do bureaucracies continue to second guess plans and decisions reached after prolonged public discussion and debate? Are development policies and plans driven by the people that live in a community or the people that want to make money developing it?

Put another way, how many times do neighbors have to say they do not want shopping centers on the Hillside nor dense development from Elmore to the Seward Highway?

Six years ago we finished the Anchorage 2020 Comprehensive Development Plan. I know because I represented this area on the Assembly and voted the plan in. There were thousands of public comments on the plan. The only one I remember in favor of retail stores uphill from the Seward Highway was from a municipal planner. I don't remember anyone saying that all land to the west of Elmore Road should have four houses per acre allowed on it.

Yet here we are with such recommendations coming forward in the Hillside District Plan. Why? One reason is that our elected municipal officials do not seem to have the memory of what we have been saying for several decades. Another reason is the desire of developers to continually try to change existing neighborhoods so they can make a buck. And rarely do they live in those neighborhoods.

The Rabbit Creek Community Council represents the views and desires of the people who live in our area. We represent those views by discussing relevant issues each month, listening to each other's thoughts and coming to agreement on positions. Since we do not have direct lines into each and every house in the area, we are only able to listen to those who come to the meetings and who write to us or call.

Care enough about where you live to become involved. If you want shopping malls on the Hillside, please come and tell us where they should go. If you don't, we'd also like to hear why.

For information on these and other municipal planning issues, go to munimaps.muni.org/planning/home3.htm and use drop-down menus for RCCC items, or call 343-7943 (Zoning), or 343-7942 (Platting).

Draft Agenda for Thursday, Feb. 14, 2008

Community Council Meeting Goldenview Middle School Library

7:00 pm Call to order, Introductions ~ sign up to receive e-mails from the Fed. of Comm. Councils

Approval of minutes from January meeting

Treasurer's Report

Announcements and comments from floor

Legislative Reports

State Legislators - expectations of upcoming session Assembly

Guest Speakers

None scheduled at this time

Ongoing Business (there may be no new information)

Legacy Pointe update - Status of P&Z decision to allow development

Hillside District Plan meeting updates

AWWU water tower(s) - update as available

Potter Highlands Sub - 160 acres above Potter Valley

Viewpoint - 96 acres off Goldenview next to Legacy Pte.

Title 21 - status of zoning code changes

Views at Prominence - 100 acres east of Prominence Pt.

New Business

Re-appeal of Rabbit Creek Community Church doubling in size (second round of appeals)

Goldenview Drive right of way annexation to Anchorage road and drainage area

Rabbit Creek Greenbelt

Committee Reports

Neighborhood Association reports

Federation of Community Council (FCC) report

Limited Road Service Area (LRSA) reports

9:00 pm Adjourn

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. If enough registered members attend to make the required quorum, the meeting will be a General Meeting. Otherwise, a Board Meeting is called. A quorum is 20% of membership.

2008 Membership Form

Return to: Rabbit Creek Community Council, PO Box 112354, Anchorage, AK 99511

Dues (circle one): \$3 /person or \$5 /couple

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____

Location of property or rental within RC area _____

E-mail _____

To receive the newsletter, circle the preferred format: **e-mail, U.S. Postage, none**

Note: E-mail reduces paper use and saves your community council money

E-Mail Only: Check if you wish to receive other notices from Municipality of Anchorage

Rabbit Creek Community Council

2007 BOARD

Chair: Richard Tremaine
Vice Chair: Joan Diamond 345-6192
Secretary: Mark Slaughter
Treasurer: Donna Van Flein
Other Board Members
Charlie Barnwell
Gretchen Specht
Jon Bauer
Peter Johnson
Dianne Holmes 345-1514
John Isby
Patty Rothwell

**Please visit our website for maps and hot topics information
at <http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/27.html>**

**For comments and suggestions contact
Charlie Barnwell, webmaster**

Rabbit Creek Church Appeals for Expansion

The Rabbit Creek Church is filing an appeal to the Board of Adjustment for a second time in an attempt to reverse their ruling against a 27,000 square foot addition on their property. The proposal has been denied by the Planning Department and twice by the Planning and Zoning Commission. In all hearings the decisions were based policies from the Anchorage 20/20 Comprehensive plan.

This continuing appeal process is costly to the Church, the Municipality and local residents who have prevailed in every hearing.

Upcoming Multi-Community Council and HALO Meeting

I'm a 95%er! That's the percent of Hillsideers who say they like things just fine up here. And that's why Hillside District Planners have studied for over a year now trying to figure out how to keep the things we like while more people move into the area.

Issues have been poked at and analyzed from various angles. There are the usual prerequisites: wells, septics, roads, road maintenance, trails and water flowing here and there. Some issues show surprising recidivism: commercial and higher density and public water and connecting Huffman. For people watching closely, particularly members of the Citizens Advisory Committee, it has been a college seminar.

Join the Huffman-O'Malley, Mid-Hillside and Hillside East Community Councils and the Home and Landowners Association (HALO) at a joint meeting in the basement of the Christian Church of Anchorage on the SW corner of Lake Otis and O'Malley at 7pm Thursday February 21. Chris Beck will present recommendations from the Hillside District Plan

The final exam is coming up. A review of key land use suggestions that will be put forward at public meetings in March is the hot topic for this month's Community Council meeting. It wouldn't be right to give away the answers, but if you were to dig through the professor's wastebasket you might find notes like this: four homes per acre at ..., a major line at Elmore ..., a country store at ..., get rid of R1a zoning at ..., add a tax here and another there.

This will be a tough test and awfully hard to score better than 95%! So think of this meeting as study hall for the big exam in March.

Protect Our Waterways by Building a Doggy Poop Septic System

Last year Rabbit Creek Community donated \$2200 to sample Little Rabbit and Little Survival Creeks for clean waterways.

Dog poop is harming the environment. 65,000 dogs in Anchorage have created a very serious health concern for all of us. Along with scooping the poop, the Waterways Council has introduced the Doggy Dooly. This system is like a septic system which provides a place to dump dog poop which slowly filters through the soil. Go to the Internet for a cost about \$50. For a more affordable solution here is a simple building plan for constructing your own environmentally healthy Doggy Dooly:

Materials:

Trash Can
Septic Starter Powder

Instructions:

1. Drill holes in the sides of garbage can
2. Cut out the bottom of the garbage can
3. Dig a hole. Put rocks in the bottom for filtering
5. Place a garbage can in the hole.
6. Add the package of septic starter.
7. Put lid on garbage can
8. Paint a cute little dog doo label on top.

Links and Contacts

Contact Rabbit Creek Community Council

e-mail: RabbitCreekCC@gmail.com
mail: P.O. Box 112354, Anchorage, 99511-2354

Assembly members for Rabbit Creek

Jennifer Johnston, 346-1087, jjohnston@gci.net
Chris Birch, 346-3265, chrisbirch@gci.net

State Legislature

Con Bunde, 800-892-4843;
Senator.Con.Bunde@legis.state.ak.us
Rep. Michael C. Hawker, 800-478-4950,
Rep.Mike.Hawker@legis.state.ak.us

**For information on
municipal planning issues, go to
munimaps.muni.org/planning/home3.htm,
or call 343-7943 (Zoning), or
343-7942 (Platting).**

The Future of Town Square

The plans for Town Square need public input. Currently, the plans are to remove the grassy berm and trees next to E Street in order to open a "Festival Street" that would be able to hold a large crowd. This would expose Town Square to unrelenting traffic noise.

There is also a suggestion to erect a permanent awning in the open space across from Humpy's to accommodate pedestrians from the Convention Center. The awnings are to extend from the Egan Center to the new Convention Center. The awning is not in current design plans, but could be added back if the funds are added.

The lighting in the park is to be increased to satisfy the requirement for safety. In addition, the plans include a stage behind the waterfall which would fill in a sunken area. Finally, the plans would build the reflecting pond and ice rink that were part of the original site plan in the '80s.

Go to <http://www.muni.org/parks/TownSquare.cfm> to submit your comments on the Town Square Plans. Be involved!

Neighborhood Crime Watch Makes a Difference

(from Neighborhood Crime Watch website, <http://www.muni.org/apd2/ncw.cfm>)

From January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2006 there were approximately 8000 city-wide burglaries. The number of burglaries in Crime Watch Neighborhoods during same time period: 3.

Quality of life in our community is everybody's business. We are individually and collectively responsible for the safety and security of ourselves, families, neighbors and our homes.

Yes, we pay tax dollars for our police department, but the police are primarily a reactive agency. They do an excellent job after the fact, but if we are going to prevent crime before it occurs, that burden falls upon us, the citizens.

The Neighborhood Crime Watch Program is a Crime Prevention Program which enhances neighborhoods in many respects. Concerned neighbors, safe neighborhoods, communication among neighbors, awareness, and attention to home security are just some enhancements the program can make. Not only is the program effective, it is free. The time spent attending our presentation and the effort spent doing [Operation ID](#) are well worthwhile.

We hope to see you soon. Please call us for information on scheduling a presentation at 786-8585 or e-mail at apdncw@ci.anchorage.ak.us.

APD Announces City Beat Web Page

The Anchorage Police Department has created a web page containing weekly data on the number of adult arrests made by APD Officers. The web page will be titled 'City Beat' and will have links to a list of adults arrested during the listed week. An additional link will allow the viewer to find more information on the arrests by accessing the Alaska State Court Public Access website. The site was developed after close coordination with the APD Crime Analysis Unit, the Records Section and Municipal Information Systems to develop and present the data.

This web page also highlights information regarding any special operations being conducted by the department's Operations Division Units. There will also be highlights about recent major events, arrests or public safety tips.

You can access this web page at the APD web site www.muni.org/apd. For further information, contact Lt. Paul Honeman, APD Public Information Officer at 786-2403 (Office) or 762-0738 (Pager).

Candidates' Forum, March 6 at O'Malleys on the Green

It's time to gear up for the Candidates' Forum. Mark your calendar for March 6 at 7 p.m. to hear the candidates speak about their positions and make a bid for your vote.

Municipal Election, Tuesday, April 1

Candidates for Assembly Section 6 :

Chris Birch (incumbant)

Jesse Busick

Mike Kenny