

Rogers Park Community Council Minutes

7PM Monday, December 08, 2008

Rogers Park Elementary School Library

Board Members Attending

Jim Wright, President
Bob Churchill, Vice President and FCC Representative
Ted Ryberg, Treasurer
Heather Rice, Secretary
Heather Ireland, Immediate Past President

Minutes

I. Welcome

Jim Wright called the meeting to order just after 7 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes

Rich Gingras moved to accept the November 10, 2008, meeting minutes. Bob Williams seconded the motion. A vote was called of all RPCC members present (only those signing in can vote).

- 14 in favor
- 0 opposed
- 3 abstained

III. Assembly Report

Dan Coffey was not present. Heather Ireland noted that Mr. Coffey has told her he no longer attends any community council meetings.

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

- She attends all 9 community council meetings in her district.
- On November 25, the Assembly approved the 2009 budget of \$432.8 million (6 to 5 vote in favor); this is \$7.1 million less than the previous year's budget. The Assembly also approved the Capital Budget; however, neither the \$150,000 request for the Maplewood Trail nor the \$50,000 request to study accessible bike ramps for the Lake Otis Elementary School overpass were amended onto the budget. Ms. Gray-Jackson will bring these forward in the revised document which will be brought to the State Legislature.
- The Assembly voted in favor of the Anchorage Municipal Employees and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers union contracts; there are wage re-openers for both contracts if necessary.

- On December 16, 2008, the Assembly will address the Police and Fire Union contracts.
- Questions and comments from RPCC members present:
 - Bob Williams observed that Police Department policy seems to be to give overtime to its most senior staff. (Ms. Gray-Jackson responded that, though a concern, this issue is not as cut and dry as it looks. Number of years in service does not equate directly to increased pay because there's a ceiling on the amount of money a police officer can make. Also there are non-senior people who do get overtime. At big events, overtime is paid for by the event sponsors and some federal grants cover overtime.)
 - Jim Wright asked whether these were 5 year contracts. (Ms. Gray-Jackson answered yes, but with a wage re-opener in 2010.)

IV. Legislative Report

Max Hensley, staff for Senator Johnny Ellis, spoke:

- Senator Ellis is working on energy plans using alternative/renewable energy money; public safety laws; and more.

Dave Thariault, staff for Representative Gara, spoke:

- Representative Gara is starting to think about new legislation and building coalitions.
- He's working on a "price gouging bill" to create/allow a utility commission to investigate this issue if there are concerns.
- He's working on an early education bill that appears to have support from the Governor.

Richard Beneditas, staff for Senator Bettye Davis, spoke:

- Senator Davis is the Chair of the Health and Social Services Committee.
- (Mr. Beneditas deferred to Representative Gardner who just arrived at the meeting at this point.)

Representative Berta Gardner:

- The big issues are budget and energy.
- The Energy Czar's report is complete and will be out soon.
- There is a Standing Committee on Education, chaired by Representative Paul Seaton.

Questions and comments from RPCC members present:

- Numerous questions and comments revolved around the gasoline price-gouging issue, ethics legislation, and the State's ability (or inability) to hire given its retirement system and pay scale.

V. Federation of Community Councils Report

- Bob Churchill provided the FCC report.
- Fairview Community Council held a workshop on public inebriates.

- Fairview Community Council passed a resolution that the Highway to Highway (H2H) project seriously consider land use in its purpose and need statement.
- Eagle River Valley Community Council hosted training from the Muni's Emergency Preparedness Group.
- Spenard Community Council is moving to have the Fly By Night Club's liquor license removed.
- ADF&G and the Muni are working on the bear issue.
- Pat Higgins provided a list of our School Board contacts.
- There is a \$7.9 million budget shortfall for the School District, so the Superintendent is asking for a 2% decrease in each department.
- Anchorage has been selected to host the national Community Council's Conference in 2011.
- Jim Lamson, Muni PM&E, will try to distribute the annual CIP request by March, 2009, with a May due date.

VI. Treasurer's Report

- Ted Ryberg, RPCC Treasurer, announced that RPCC has \$145.45 in the account.

VII. Presentations and Discussion

Off-the-Chain Bicycle Cooperative (OTC) follow-up:

- Heather Ireland moved to take the motion off the table and allow discussion. Bob Churchill seconded the motion. A vote was called of all RPCC members present (only those signing in can vote).
 - 17 in favor
 - 0 opposed
 - 1 abstained
- Oscar Avellaneda, the OTC community outreach coordinator, provided the following information about OTC:
 - OTC focuses on fixing and lending bikes and education people about bikes
 - It's located at Goose Lake in a building owned by the Muni but which the Goose Lake Foundation uses to provide after school activities, including the Paddleboat Café and OTC. Space is heated.
 - OTC receives funding through donations.
 - OTC is negotiating with the Muni to continue using its current space and possibly enlarge that space (a large number of bikes are currently stored off-site in people's yards and elsewhere). This expansion is not expected to affect any other entity.
 - Currently OTC is trying to get incorporated and hoping to have an OTC member on the Goose Lake Foundation Board.
- Bob Williams and Rich Gingras called the question.
- Heather Ireland moved that
 - "RPCC support the OTC Bicycle Cooperative at Goose Lake."
- Bob Churchill seconded the motion. A vote was called of all RPCC members present (only those signing in can vote).

- 18 in favor
- 0 opposed
- 1 abstained

Russian Jack Springs Park Improvements Update

- Heather Ireland reported that:
 - There are 4 alternatives for park improvements including a no action (further information may be found at www.muni.org under Parks and Recreation Department projects).
 - The alternatives will go before the Muni Parks and Recreation Commission on December 11, January 8, and February 12 – with a Parks and Recreation Commission decision expected at the February meeting.
 - In December 2007, RPCC passed a resolution opposing additions to the interior parking lot and to the 25 acres of tree clearing.
- Questions and comments from RPCC members present revolved around whether and which alternatives reflect the current park master plan; the amount of acres cleared under each alternative; and the appeal of golf to kids these days (i.e., the need for the improvements).
- Rich Gingras moved that RPCC resolve to support Alternative 3 with an emphasis on the sledding hill. Helen Neinhauser seconded this motion. The resolution was written as follows:
 - “RPCC supports Alternative 3 of the Russian Jack Springs Park Summer and Winter Improvement Project with an emphasis on the safety aspects of the sledding and snowboarding hills.”
- After some discussion asking for clarification, Heather Ireland proposed the following friendly amendment, which Rich Gingras accepted and Helen Neinhauser also accepted:
 - “Whereas, (1) the sledding/snowboarding hills are a priority and (2) Alternative 3 is the only option that addresses safety with minimal tree clearing; therefore, be it resolved that RPCC supports Alternative 3 of the Russian Jack Springs Park Summer and Winter Improvement Project with an emphasis on the safety aspects of the sledding and snowboarding hills.”
- Further discussion of this resolution revolved around amount of tree clearing under each alternative, including Alternative 3; lack of trust in the information coming from the Parks and Recreation Department; whether there’s a need for the golf improvements to benefit kids; the number of golfers at the park; how well the alternatives reflect the current park master plan.
- Heather Ireland moved to table the motion until the next RPCC meeting. Marilyn Houser seconded the motion. A vote was called of all RPCC members present (only those signing in can vote).
 - 17 in favor
 - 0 opposed
 - 1 abstained

Other Notes

- Rich Gingras noted that an RPCC resident, Roger Gollub, recently was killed in Kotzebue. Jim Wright, with a vote of 16 in favor and 0 opposed, said that RPCC will send a letter of condolence to Mr. Gollub's family.

###

Meeting Adjourned at 9pm.

Minutes submitted by Heather Rice, RPCC Secretary