

Rogers Park Community Council Minutes  
7PM Monday, November 10, 2008  
Rogers Park Elementary School Library

Board Members Attending

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

Minutes

I. Welcome

Jim Wright called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes

Corrections to the October 13, 2008, meeting minutes were as follows:

- Page 5, Bullet 2 – Clarify statement from Bob Churchill, noting that the person from HDL seemed ambivalent and willing to go with whatever the community wanted.
- Page 5, Bullet 2 – Change "Liddell" to "Linnell."
- Page 6 (36th Avenue Corridor Overview) – Brad's last name is Melocik.

Carl Ward moved to accept the October 13, 2008, minutes with amendments; Bob Churchill seconded the motion. A vote was called of all RPCC members present (only those signing in can vote).

- 16 in favor
- 0 opposed
- 5 abstained

III. Assembly Report

Dan Coffey was not present.

Elvi Gray-Jackson was not present, but sent Jim Wright an email update which he reviewed at the meeting.

Updates were:

- The Assembly approved the Brown Jug Liquor Store transfer to new owners.
- Two public hearings on the Municipal operating and capital budgets have been held (October 14 and 28); the third meeting is scheduled for November 18. Assembly amendments to the budget must be submitted by November 14, with the budget meeting scheduled for the afternoon. November 18th, the Assembly meeting will move Assembly amendments. All budgets will be adopted on November 25.
- Ms. Gray-Jackson's amendments to the Capital Improvement Budget for Rogers Park Community Council were as follows:
- Lake Otis Parkway at Lake Otis Elementary – Pedestrian Overpass Bike Ramp (#5 on RPCC's priority list): Add funding for a study to provide Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades; State request for \$50,000.
- Northern Lights Bike Path Resurfacing – Maplewood to Lake Otis (#10 on RPCC priority list): State request for \$150,000.
- Re Pete Mjos' question at October 13th meeting about new park rangers carrying guns: they will not carry guns.

V. Legislative Report

Representative Berta Gardner spoke:

- The Senate has another bipartisan coalition (10 Democrats; 3 Republicans). Currently, House Republicans have organized pending final voting outcome, but Democrats have not. A House bipartisan coalition hasn't been ruled out.
- The Legislative Summit on Education will be November 13 and 14.
- The Legislative Summit on Foster Care will be November 14.
- The Energy Czar will present his report on State Renewable Energy on December 1.

- The Governor's finance plan (budget) will be available December 15.
- The Legislative Session begins January 20, 2009.

Representative Les Gara spoke:

- No reports.
- Representative Gara asked for questions and discussion revolved around this year's election results. Among the questions asked were the following:
  - Pete Mjos noted that our electorate in Alaska is influenced by national results and asked whether anything can be done legislatively to rectify this. (Representative Gardner noted that maybe something could be done at the national level, but not by the State.)
  - Representative Gara asked who at the meeting (show of hands) favored/opposed allowing people to register to vote at polling stations on election day. (Currently, people in Alaska must be registered to vote 30 days in advance of an election.)
  - Bob Williams asked whether legislation could be introduced to have the Attorney General and Division of Elections head not be political appointees. (Representative Gara didn't think there'd be support for it. He noted that Alaska has strong election rules. Both Representatives expressed faith in AG and DOE staff's professionalism. Bob Williams responded that he was not just concerned about voter fraud but that there was evidence of other abuse in terms of stopping initiatives.)
  - Anne Brooks asked about the status of Anchorage's caucus. (Representative Gardner said it was not healthy or effective.)

Dave Thariault introduced himself as a new aid to Representative Gara.

Jessie Cross-Call, staff for Senator Ellis, introduced himself as present.

#### VI. Federation of Community Councils Report

- Bob Churchill provided the FCC report.
- There was no quorum at the last FCC meeting so no decisions were made.
- Items discussed at the FCC meeting included the new Community Council website (now up-to-date) and the agreement to send some FCC representatives to the Neighborhood USA Conference in the hopes of convincing the Conference to come to Alaska next year.

#### VII. Treasurer's Report

- Ted Ryberg, RPCC Treasurer, announced that RPCC has \$145.42 in the account.

#### VIII. Presentations and Discussion

##### Community Council Vice President Election

- Bob Churchill has offered to fill the VP position. Jim Wright asked for other names from the floor and, hearing none, called for a vote. A vote was called of all RPCC members present (only those signing in can vote) in favor of Bob Churchill as the new Rogers Park Community Council Vice President.
  - 27 in favor
  - 0 opposed
  - 1 abstained

##### Proposed Chokers at Princeton/Northwestern and at Yale/Stanford

- Jim Wright reviewed the October 13 pending motion for a resolution against any chokers within the RPCC district:
  - "RPCC does not support use of chokers for traffic calming within the Rogers Park Community Council District."
- Jim Wright also referenced the hardcopy November 7, 2008, email message from Dennis Linnell, PE, HDL (handout) and introduced Lee Coop, Municipal Traffic Department, who was present to provide information and answer questions.

- Mr. Coop provided an overview of chokers and neckdowns that reflected the information in Mr. Linnell's email.
- Jim Wright stated that, as a point of order, RPCC members present needed to vote on whether to take the motion off the table to discuss it again.
- Bob Churchill moved to take the motion off the table. Rich Gingras seconded the motion. Discussion then ensued:
  - \_\_\_\_ - Asked whether if we don't take the motion off the table the substantive result would be that chokers remain. (Jim Wright responded that all we'd be doing is not voting on this particular motion.)
- Heather Ireland called the question. A vote was called of all RPCC members present (only those signing in can vote) who were in favor of taking the motion off the table and allowing discussion:
  - 12 in favor
  - 15 opposed
  - 2 abstained
- Jim Wright noted that the motion was, therefore, tabled; however, he pointed out that chokers at Princeton/Northwestern and at Yale/Stanford could still be discussed.
  - Rich Gingras – Noted that he's still seeing varying types of chokers, some with long lead-ins and some just bumps on corners. What is proposed for Vassar will put kids on an island in the middle of traffic. He asked what the standard was. (Lee Coop stated that there are older designs around town, but there is a new design in the Municipality's Traffic Calming Policy Manual on the web.)
  - Rich Gingras – Stated that he never said Dennis Linnell said chokers were unsafe, but rather they did nothing to physically stop traffic from speeding.

#### Stop Sign Removal and Speed Hump Installation on 27th Avenue

- Jim Wright reviewed the issue description in the agenda and the resolution Carl Ward seeks from the RPCC:
  - "I move that the community council support the removal of the stop signs on East 27th Ave. at Sprucewood."
- Carl Ward stated he was told by traffic engineers that, because stop signs were put in as part of the Rogers Park Traffic Calming Study, a council resolution was needed to remove them. Speed humps only require a petition in favor. He stated that currently most people either California-stop or drive right through the stop signs. He would like to keep the stop sign on Sprucewood, but remove the two on 27th and Sprucewood.
- Discussion was as follows:
  - Dave Evans – Asked if Mr. Ward was advocating for a speed hump like the new raised walkway on La Touche or like the ones on Bannister. (Mr. Ward answered Bannister.)
  - Karen Ruud – Stated that the Bannister speed humps are ineffective in slowing people down since they are spaced too far apart and not raised high enough. She asked about the spacing of new speed humps on 27th. (Mr. Ward responded that the Municipality chooses the location for the new speed humps.)
  - [At this point, Jim Wright noted that Carl Ward's resolution needed to be put forward as a motion prior to continuing discussion. Carl Ward, therefore, moved that "the community council support the removal of the stop signs on East 27th Ave. at Sprucewood." Bob Williams seconded the motion. Discussion continued.]
  - Pete Mjos – Stated that removing the stop signs alone would be inadequate; he, therefore, suggested offering a friendly amendment to say that, in addition to removing the stop signs, effective speed bumps be put in every two blocks (he defined "effective" as being like the new raised walkway on La Touche). (Mr. Ward opposed this friendly amendment.)
  - Bill Rice – Stated that stop signs are more effective than speed humps. The police could stop kids from going through them. That intersection needs traffic calming as it's a main thoroughfare.
  - Dave Evans – Seconded Mr. Rice. He added that he wouldn't have supported Mr. Mjos' friendly amendment as he believes the Rogers Park intersections should have a similar look and feel.

- Heather Ireland – Also does not support the friendly amendment at the present time because the timeframe for installing speed humps is extensive. She suggested perhaps the stop signs could not be removed until speed bumps installed.
- Bob Williams – Recollected the Municipality stating that speed bumps add to the cost of snow removal. (Lee Coop stated that there is no such concern. He said speed bumps do control speed, as before and after surveys have shown. He also stated that stop signs don't control speeds, but do help divert cut-through traffic. [Mr. Coop also mentioned as an aside that the new raised walkway on La Touche was incorrectly constructed with only 6-foot ramps but should have had 9-foot ramps.] )
- Anne Brooks – Participated in the Rogers Park Traffic Calming Study and said that the group looked at the neighborhood streets as a system, so she's concerned with changing only a few of the intersections.
- Heather Rice – Asked Mr. Coop for copies of before and after studies of Bannister speed bumps showing reduced speeds. (Mr. Coop will look in files for studies.)
- Rich Gingras – Pointed out that there's a speed dip on Princeton and Stanford and dips seem more effective than speed bumps, but he gets different answers from the Municipality.
- Ted Ryberg – Stated that some speed control is necessary, as 27th has no sidewalks.
- Stan Hafferman – Stated the Annapolis speed bump doesn't seem to slow speeds, but has increased noise in the area. He's in favor of stop signs, but they should be enforced.
- Dave Evans – Called the Question. A vote was called of all RPCC members present (only those signing in can vote) who were in favor of the resolution that "the community council support the removal of the stop signs on East 27th Ave. at Sprucewood."
  - 2 in favor
  - 18 opposed
  - 8 abstained

#### IX. Announcements

Dave Evans announced that the Review Draft of the Hillside District Plan is available for review at [www.hillsidedistrictplan.com](http://www.hillsidedistrictplan.com). Review comments are due November 24. People interested in access to the Chugach State Park via Hillside should review the plan.

Heather Ireland moved for support from the RPCC members for the Off the Chain Bicycle Cooperative at Goose Lake." Cheryl Forest seconded the motion. Discussion followed:

- Representative Gardner – Asked how the building is currently used and whether there are any other groups besides OTCBC who want to use the space. (Heather said that OTCBC is using the space in conjunction with the Paddle Boat Café and didn't believe other groups use the building.)
- Tom Obermeyer – Noted that the OTCBC space is very small.
- Greg Madden – Is a member of OTCBC and noted that their mission is a little bit about helping the disadvantaged and lower income residents. They work on people's bikes.
- Heather Ireland – Noted that having OTCBC there would improve parking lot security.
- Rich Gingras – Noted that for this motion to be considered it should have been voted into the agenda first. (Anne Brooks stated that Roberts Rules don't require a 30-day review period before voting on a motion.)
- Ann Wilkas – In favor of the motion, as the area sees a lot of youth traffic.
- Pete Mjos – Stated he sees no reason not to table the motion and have a formal presentation. Mr. Mjos moved to table the motion until the next meeting. Rich Gingras seconded the motion.
- Bob Williams and Anne Brooks called the question. A vote was called of all RPCC members present (only those signing in can vote) who were in favor of tabling the motion:
  - 15 in favor
  - 9 opposed
  - 4 abstained

Jim Wright asked the members whether they wanted him to ask the APD to join the next meeting to talk about stop sign enforcement.

- Heather Ireland suggested asking the Assembly to bring the issue forward to APD.
- Representative Gara stated that the police don't have the resources to patrol stop signs.

Karen Ruud announced an effort to have the Municipality install a raised crosswalk like at La Touche on Annapolis and La Touche. Those involved in this effort so far include Ms. Ruud, Judy Besch (Rogers Park Elementary nurse), Brandon Locke (Rogers Park Elementary principal), and Lee Coop. Jim Wright noted that these people will have more dialogue about the issue and decide whether to put it on a future RPCC meeting agenda.

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Meeting Adjourned at 8:40pm.

Minutes submitted by Heather Rice, RPCC Secretary