

Minutes of the Tudor Area Community Council
April 5, 2007
Rogers Park Elementary School

Council president Sheli Dodson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. There were eleven members and nine guests attending. The council approved the minutes for the Mar. 1, 2007, meeting without objection.

Scheduled speakers:

ASSEMBLY: Mr. Traini said the Assembly is trying to digest the results of Tuesday's election. There is a meeting on April 13 on Lake Otis & Tudor. Mr. Traini wants to add the project back into the Muni's transportation plan. In other business, the Assembly is working on first quarter budget revisions.

LAKE OTIS & TUDOR: No report. No representative from DOWL Engineers at the meeting.

SANCTUARY TRAIL: Mr. Dave Mitchell of the Great Land Trust (GLT) and Mr. Jack Moseby of Alaska Trails asked the council for a resolution in support of the trail they proposed in the Helen Louise McDowell Sanctuary (land at the corner of the New Seward Hwy. and Tudor Road, behind Geneva Woods subdivision) where the Trust has a conservation easement. They handed out maps showing option C, their preferred choice. Option C is a loop around the sanctuary, with a four-foot wide gravel trail and a boardwalk where the ground is too soft for a trail.

There was a general discussion of access points to the trail and the type of construction for the trail. Council members were concerned that the trail might block access for wildlife that now uses the area. Mr. Mitchell said that the Trust has met with the State wildlife biologist, and that the Trust's highest priority is to protect the sanctuary. The Corps of Engineers will issue permits only if the Trust and Alaska Trails meet the Corps' requirements. Council members also had concerns about the availability of trashcans and maintenance of the trail. Ms. Holly Sparks, of the Muni's Parks and Recreation Dept., said there would be no vehicular access and so no trashcans, though the Muni might consider trash receptacles at the entrances to the Sanctuary. She hoped that trash pickup would be by volunteers, saying that the Muni has agreements with community groups to pick up trash in other park areas.

Ms. Sparks also noted that there should be no parking problems as the Muni considers the Sanctuary to be a neighborhood park and expects that park users will walk to it. Council members gave the example of David Green Park, which is supposed to be a neighborhood park and still has quite a lot of vehicle traffic. Ms. Sparks said the Muni would keep an eye on it. Mrs. Green noted that the Sanctuary access points have little parking available. Mr. Mitchell said that Great Land Trust had no current plans to include parking, but they will include a review of the need for parking in their planning process. The council members discussed the proposal.

Mr. Patrick Walkinshaw moved that the council approve the Great land Trust's proposed resolution with the addition of "with trail Option "C" ". (The text of the resolution is attached below.) Mr. Kevin Frank seconded the motion. There was further discussion by the council, including concerns about access and what agency council members should contact if use of the area becomes a problem. The upshot of the discussion was that the Municipality owns the property and is responsible for ensuring its safe use, either through the Parks and Recreation Dept. or through the Police Dept. There was further discussion about traffic and publicity for the trail opening.

Mr. David Matthews, who lives in Geneva Woods immediately adjacent to the Sanctuary, strongly supported the project. He described some of the activities of the Geneva Woods

Homeowners Association in support of the Sanctuary. At the request of the president, the secretary read the motion. Council members supported the resolution unanimously, eleven ayes and no nays.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: There was no legislative report.

APD REPORT: Sgt. Dennis Allen said there had been 46 “events” in the council’s area in March. He had a chart showing roughly where the events had occurred. Sgt. Allen asked that people contact him directly about problems. If you call the mayor, assembly, or chief of police directly, those folks simply forward any communications they receive to him for action, so it works better if you contact Sgt. Allen first. He described the “Hanson complaint system” now being implemented on the Muni’s web site.

There was some discussion about door-to-door vendors. Sgt. Allen said that if you want to get rid of a persistent individual, it is very important to give the person notice of trespass. That gives the police a lever to use in arresting the person if they continue to stay on your property. There was discussion of methods of illegal entry. Sgt. Allen’s informed opinion is that if thieves want to get into your house, they will simply kick the door in. Call or email Sgt. Allen if you have problems!

FCC REPORT: Sheli Dodson gave the Federation of Community Councils (FCC) report, saying that most of the FCC meeting dealt with election issues.

Old Business:

PROBLEMS WITH ON-STREET PARKING ON SALEM LOOP: Ms. Sheli Dodson said that she had gotten good response to her letter to the residents on Salem Court and North and South Salem Drive about people blocking the street with illegally parked vehicles. Mrs. Green says E. 40th Court is often blocked on Sundays with cars and trucks parked illegally.

TRAFFIC LIGHT AT MACINNES ST. & E. 36TH AVE.: Mrs. Green asked about the long-sought traffic light at E. 36th and MacInnes. Dick Traini explained that the project funding that then-Rep. Cheryl Heinze had gotten from the state legislature had been eaten up by other Muni traffic projects. The Muni traffic engineers continue to insist that no traffic light is warranted at that location.

PRESENTATION BY THE MARY MAGDALENE CENTER:

Ms. Kacy Telfer of Mary Magdalene Home Alaska (MMHA), an organization that provides counseling and support for sexually exploited women, provided an update on the housing program that the Center plans to begin shortly. MMHA has not been able to complete the purchase of a house on MacInnes St. because of minor disputes with the current owner about the specific inspections required before closing the sale. MMHA got funding from the State of Alaska to purchase the home. They expect to take ownership by this summer.

After the repairs to the house now underway are completed, MMHA plans to have a limited number of women live in the home for six to eighteen months as they establish themselves in the community. The program case manager, Ms. Michelle Williams, said their clients, typically aged in their late 30s to early 40s, start out in a support group that MMHA runs at Highland Mountain Correctional Facility. The women need housing when they are released, which is the reason MMHA is purchasing the house.

Ms. Williams works with clients for a year or more before they would be candidates for MMHA-sponsored housing. There was some discussion about legal occupancy levels and about the remodeling of the house. Council members asked about the challenges similar groups have faced. MMHA clients living in the house will be working. They generally will use public transportation. They will be expected to conform to the house rules or they will have to leave. MMHA has included yard maintenance in their budget. The MMHA website is www.mmhalaska.org.

JACOBSON PARK LAND SWAP: Proposition 9 for the land swap between the Muni and the Lubavitch Jewish Center (LJC) failed at the last election. There was some discussion about the possible alternatives available for the LJC land. Several council members felt that the Jacobson Park incident demonstrates the need for the public to be more proactive in park planning. University Park could be an “area of interest”. The park is south of South Salem Drive, north of Tudor Rd., and west of the Lake Otis and Tudor strip mall, and it is said to contain the headwaters of Fish Creek. It is presently undeveloped, but immediately adjacent land is for sale. More information later after research. There was some discussion on the level of activity appropriate for the community council. Mr. Traini advised that council members find out exactly how the land is held. He said that parkland is the most protected.

Mr. Traini noted that an analysis of the viability of separating Eagle River/Chugiak from Anchorage to form a new city would cost Eagle River/Chugiak residents considerably more than the taxes they pay now to the Muni. (It would save money for Anchorage residents.)

New Business: None.

There being no further new business, the chair adjourned the meeting.