

**Minutes of the Tudor Area Community Council**  
**April 2, 2009**  
**Rogers Park Elementary School**

President Sheli Dodson called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. There were nine members and two guests present. The council approved the minutes for the March 5, 2009, meeting without objection.

**Speakers:**

**Assembly:** Assemblywoman Elvi Gray-Jackson said the Assembly is still working on cutting the budget to meet projected revenues. The Fire Dept. has given up this year's 3% pay raise, which will save about \$1 million over the life of their contract. Other unions are considering their options.

Assemblymen Coffey, Johnston, and Starr have their own proposals to reduce the budget, starting by reducing the ombudsman's office by two-thirds, from three people to one person. The Assembly also considered rescinding ratification of several union contracts, a legally questionable action if taken unilaterally.

The mayor vetoed the Assembly's attempt to reduce the School District's budget by 3.8%. H. Drummond, R. Gutierrez, and E. Gray-Jackson supported the mayor in this. School district funds cannot be used to support the general government budget. Information on the Muni's proposals for using Federal stimulus money is on the Muni's website, [www.muni.org](http://www.muni.org).

Elvi went to the National Municipal League meeting in Washington, D.C., and met with our congressional delegation on that trip. She also met with the Anchorage State Legislative Caucus to promote projects for our district. She says that the Muni administration's analysis of Proposition 9 is on the Muni website, and that the Budget Advisory Commission does not support it.

**Anchorage School District Facilities:** Mr. Ray Amsden, Director of the school district's Facilities Department, gave an interesting presentation on Propositions 1 and 2. Prop. 1 is a consolidated project for one-half of Service High School. The other half has already been done. The funding needed for the school has been cut from the \$93 million proposed in the 1998 master plan down to \$66 million to by compromising functions. The Eagle River High School water and sewer extension in Prop. 1 is required to provide service to an adjoining property owned by the Alaska Mental Health Trust. Under AWWU's tariff, the school district is being treated as a developer.

Prop. 2 for \$27.5 million would provide funding for multiple high-value maintenance or upgrade projects. Mr. Amsden took care to point out that the school district budgeted each year for routine maintenance, and that the projects included in Prop. 2 are high value, far exceeding the scope of what is considered normal or routine maintenance. Bonding for high-value projects has the advantage of having the State of Alaska reimburse for 60% to 70% of the project cost. Also included in Prop. 2 is \$6.5 million for site selection and purchase of land for an elementary school in Chugiak.

There was a question about bonding for the project for the Aquarian Charter School. Normally, charter schools are responsible for paying for their facilities improvement or maintenance. However, the school district owns the building that the Aquarian School is housed in, and the State of Alaska requires sprinkler systems in school buildings, so this one project is included in the Prop. 2 bond issue. In the past, bond counsel has said that the district could not bond for charter school projects; that has now changed. The school board plans to start charging rent to

the Aquarian School next school year. There were several other questions about funding for charter schools and the bleachers replacements.

**Legislative Report:** None. The legislature is close to ending for this year.

**FCC Report:** Sheli Dodson said that the Assembly cut the FCC's funding by 5%. The Muni has provided a \$108,000 annual grant in the past. The FCC hasn't had an increase in funding in 20 years according to Assemblywoman Gray-Jackson. The FCC has not yet received its first quarter funding of \$27,000. "Snail mail" is the council's biggest cost, so the FCC is trying a commercial program called "Constant Contact" on a free one-month trial basis to see if it can help reduce costs. There is one full-time manager, and one part-time staff person. The FCC is a 501c(3) non-profit organization and gets other grants to disburse.

FCC members are involved in the Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) conference as hosts for the 2011 meeting. The estimated commercial benefit to Anchorage is about \$1.2 million. Supporting the NUSA conference takes a significant effort from the host city and sponsoring organization, according to Sheli. She has volunteered her support for the effort, and asked for community organizations interested in making a presentation to the conference to step up to the challenge.

**Old Business:**

The mayor candidate forum at Wendler Middle School went fairly well. Almost all of the 16 candidates were there, so the event ran longer than anticipated.

**New Business:**

Sheli said that the council's input for the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is due in May 2009.

Sheli announced several meetings to be held, including the all-day Highway-to-Highway information meeting on April 16. The MOA draft bicycle plan meeting will be Monday, April 6. Creek cleanup day is May 9.

The council looked at the drawing for Planning and Zoning Case 2007-181, for Lake Otis and Tudor improvements. It seemed to be fairly innocuous.

There being no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 8:33 PM.

<p>Tudor Area Community Council <b>We want to hear from you!</b> Contact me at: Tudor Area Community Council Sheli Dodson, Chair PO Box 230808 Anchorage, AK 99523 (907) 522-6436 or sheli@gci.net Put Tudor Community Council in the subject line</p>	<p>Contact Info Anchorage Police Dept. Comm. Center (Dispatcher): 786-8900  Emergency: 911  Code Violation Hotline 343-4141</p>
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