

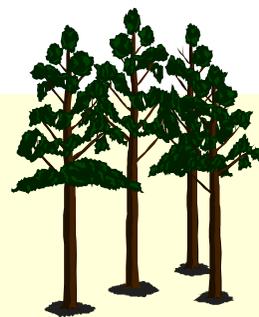
# Rabbit Creek Community Council

NEWSLETTER MAY 2009

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

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

CONTACT Mike Kenney, Chair 345-8046, [mkenney@attalascouncil.net](mailto:mkenney@attalascouncil.net)



## Comments from the Chair:

We were able to compile and summarize your many comments, observations and visions in response to AMATS \$18 million Bike Plan draft. Thanks for the depth of participation.

And it does not stop there. As you can see on our RCCC meeting agenda for May, we have a full plate of issues to weigh in on.

- Title 21 ordinance dealing with on-site wind energy conversion systems; comments due May 16th
- Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan Update; comments due by the end of May
- Capital Improvement Projects, naming and prioritizing; due by June 30th.
- Section 36 advisory committee has started meeting and the RCCC input is needed by our representative.
- Co Sponsoring with the Bear Valley Community Council the adoption of Storck Park; comments and volunteers needed; implementation is asap.

We also expect the presentation of the Hillside District Plan to begin once the new mayor is seated. This is going to affect each of us right where we live—at home. The more eyes we have poring over this document, the better the end product.

There is also a RCCC study group looking at trail and greenbelt connectivity issues; this will lead to a larger group mapping out methods and results to accomplish our goals in this area.

The days are lengthening & the sun is adding the brightness and warmth that we so welcome. It's time to get out and enjoy the bounty of summertime activities.

Be Well,  
Mike Kenny  
Chair, Rabbit Creek Community Council

## Adopting Storck Park

We will be jointly adopting Storck Park with the Bear Valley Community Council. Shawna Popovici of Parks and Rec and Cheri Lipps Chair of BVCC, will be at our May meeting to help get this effort rolling.

There has been an upswing of vandalism and having the Community involved with volunteers keeping a watch will help keep the park secure and undamaged.

## Draft Agenda for Thursday, May 14, 2009 Community Council Meeting Goldenview Middle School

- ❖ Call to order, introduction – Please sign in and indicate if you would like to receive e-mails from the Federation of Community Councils
- ❖ Approval of previous minutes
- ❖ Treasurer's Report
- ❖ Announcements & Comments from the floor
  - ❖ Potter Marsh celebration
  - ❖ Anchorage 'Bike to Work Day' Friday, May 15
  - ❖ RCCC needs HALO representative
  - ❖ Volunteers for Cross Family Park on Birch Rd, week of August 17

### Legislative Reports

- ❖ State Legislators
- ❖ Assembly members

### Guest Speakers

- ❖ Sue Rodman, AFD – Firewise season reminders
- ❖ Tentative – Speaker on the wind energy ordinance

### Ongoing Business

- ❖ Adopt-a-Park – discussion with Shawna Popovici, Parks&Rec and Cheri Lipps, Bear Valley CC Chair
- ❖ Legacy Pointe—brief update
- ❖ Title 21 – RCCC comments on proposed ordinance regulating wind energy conversion systems
- ❖ Section 36—Susan Comellas to measure RCC interest in park development

### New Business

- ❖ Develop comments for Anchorage Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan Update
- ❖ Capital Improvement Projects discussion
- ❖ Any RCCC comments for new Walgreens across from Carrs on Huffman

### 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.

## 2009 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

## Wind Energy Conversion Systems

### Rabbit Creek Community Council

#### 2009 BOARD

**Chair:** Mike Kenny 345-8046

**Vice Chair:** Joan Diamond 345-6192

**Secretary:** Dick Tremaine

**Treasurer:** Patty Rothwell

#### Other Board Members

Mike Edelmann

Keith Guyer

John Isby

Mark Schimscheiner

Ramona Schimscheiner

Mark Slaughter

David Sterling

The hearing for ordinance 2008-127 will be held on May 26, 2009; an ordinance amending Title 21 for wind energy conversion systems.

This ordinance, introduced by the Planning Department, regulates and provides standards for wind energy conversion systems (WECS), and facilitates the development of small WECS intended for on-site consumption as well as utility WECS to provide distributed electric power as a utility.

Wind power is emerging as the worldwide leader in renewal energy production; the Global Wind Energy Council reported a 31 percent increase in production last year as compared to 2006 (Urban Land, June 2008). In addition to being a readily available and renewable source of energy in the U.S., wind energy has one of the "highest energy payback ratios of any power technology" (AWEA Fact Sheet). Furthermore, the industry shows significant promise in terms of job growth and new technology development.

If the RCCC desires to make comments on this to be included in the Board or Commission packet, those comments must be submitted by May 16th.

Link to: <http://munimaps.muni.org/website/htmlviewer/generic/casebody.asp?case=2008-127> and open the staff reports for further details.

### Draft Strategic Action Plan for MOA Parks & Rec

Comments are due by the end of May. Shawna Popovici of Parks and Recreation will be at our May 14th meeting to assist us. The link to the 2005-2008 Plan:

[http://www.muni.org/planning/pub\\_ParkPlan2006.cfm](http://www.muni.org/planning/pub_ParkPlan2006.cfm)

Additional information available on the Update Draft at: [www.agnewbeck.com](http://www.agnewbeck.com), click on current projects, and then click on Anchorage Parks and Recreation 2009 -2014 Strategic Plan Update.

The following website may be functioning: <http://www.agnewbeck.com/pages-portfolio/anch/moa-parks.html>.

Accomplishments listed by Parks & Rec for our area include:

- **Bear Tracks Park** created with partnership
- Redeveloping **Ruth Arcand Park** with Horse Council
- **Section 36** replatted to PLI (*Park Land*) and Master Plan underway
- **Firewise Agreement** with Fire Department to decrease fire danger in the forest / urban interface
- Acquired **Independence Park**
- **Hillside District Plan** out for review

### Contact Rabbit Creek Community Council

e-mail: [RabbitCreekCC@gmail.com](mailto:RabbitCreekCC@gmail.com)

mail: P.O. Box 112354, Anchorage, 99511-2354

### Assembly members for Rabbit Creek

Jennifer Johnston, 346-1087, [jjohnston@gci.net](mailto:jjohnston@gci.net)

Chris Birch, 346-3265, [chrisbirch@gci.net](mailto: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

### Road Service Area Maintenance

#### South Goldenview RRSA

Marcia Hansen, 677-6947

#### Birchtree/Elmore LRSA

Ed Bosco, 345-4530

### Invest in the Future of Our Anchorage Public Library!

TUESDAY, May 19, 2009

Anchorage 21st Century Libraries Summit  
5:30-9:00 pm, Reception and food will be served.

Wilda Marston Theatre, ZJ Loussac Library  
RSVP: Michael at 222-5424

Join local experts, nationally recognized speakers and your friends and neighbors for this dynamic and participatory kick-off event. Learn about the innovative tools and inspired roles of 21st Century Public Libraries. Be part of developing "the people's plan" for Anchorage.

The evening is the first in a series of public sessions to ensure that our libraries are practical, effective and function long into the future.

### International Migratory Bird Day 2009

#### Potter Marsh Board Walk Saturday, May 16, 12-4 p.m.

Come celebrate spring and International Migratory Bird Day at Anchorage's most popular wildlife viewing area. This family-friendly event brings you nature-related games and prizes, invertebrate sampling, birding stations along the boardwalk, captive birds from Bird TLC, educational animals from the Alaska Zoo, kid-friendly archery range, wildlife viewing displays, viewing of a bald eagle nest, and more.

All events are FREE and open to the public

Birding Stations

Educational Birds from Bird TLC

Educational Animals from Alaska Zoo

Sampling for Invertebrates

Wildlife Signs & Animal Tracking

Kid's Scavenger Hunts

Falconry Display

Chugach National Forest Wildlife Van

Archery Station

Early Morning Bird Walk at 7:00 am.

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

## Public Hearing Draft, Hillside District Plan Released

The Public Hearing Draft of the Hillside District Plan has been released.

The draft is available at: [www.hillsidedistrictplan.com](http://www.hillsidedistrictplan.com) as are the compiled and summarized comments received on the Public Review Draft Hillside District Plan.

The Public Hearing Draft, will go before the Planning and Zoning Commission for review. It includes an appendix describing changes made to the previous draft, including a general response to public comments received by category.

### Comment before the Public Hearing

The Anchorage Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) will hold a Public Hearing on the draft plan on **Monday, June 15, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the Assembly Chambers of the Z.J. Loussac Library, 3600 Denali Street.**

The Municipality and the Planning Team want to hear your views on the Public Hearing Draft. **Comments are due by June 15, 2009.** Comments may be submitted in any of the following ways:

1. Mail to the Planning Department, Municipality of Anchorage, P.O. Box 196650, Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650;
  2. Fax to 907.343.7927;
  3. Hand-deliver to the Planning Department in the Planning and Development Center at 4700 Elmore Road, Anchorage;
  4. Submit through the [Planning Department's Cases Online website](#) at ; or
  5. Provide testimony in person at the meeting..
- To be included in the staff packet delivered to the Commission before the meeting, comments need to be submitted to the Planning Department by noon, Thursday, June 4, 2009.** Please contact the Planning Department at 907.343.7921 if you have questions regarding the Planning and Zoning Commission public hearing.

It is expected that the Commission review and approval process will require more than one meeting, so please visit [www.hillsidedistrictplan.com](http://www.hillsidedistrictplan.com) or contact the [Planning Department](#) at 907.343.7921 for more information.

## Prolonging the Life of Your Septic System from Dan Roth, On-Site Supervisor, Municipality of Anchorage

So, unofficial off the record things that you may do to prolong the life of your septic system... Well,

1. Pump the tank at least once every two years. Maybe yearly if it gets a lot of use.
2. While the tank is being pumped, stand nearby the pumper & ask him questions like, "how can you tell if you got most of the solids out of the tank?" or, "do you find back flushing the tank helps to be able to more effectively pump out the solids in the tank?"  
  
The point is, you are paying the pumper to clean the solids out of the tank & not pump only the water. Even when you may ask him the above questions you may not have knowledge of what you are talking about, the pumper won't know that and it might force him to do a better job then he might not have otherwise?
3. Limit the use of your garbage disposal. Doesn't mean you can't use it at all, just be sparing.
4. Keep all your plumbing fixtures in good working order. E.g. The toilet flapper in your toilet gets old and wrinkled like people, it will have a tendency to allow water to leak into the bowl 24 hours a day. Definite premature failure of your septic drain field. It was never designed to handle that additional volume of water.
5. Be careful what you allow to go down the floor drain in your garage. Most likely this drain is connected to your septic system & the potential things that would normally go down that drain (oil, antifreeze, silt or mud from the fenders of your car as the snow melts) are more difficult for the septic tank to settle out before leaving the tank & going to the drain field.
6. Use liquid laundry detergent. Powder laundry detergent only turns liquid while in the washer and then when it gets to the septic tank it turns back to a solid and sets up in the layer floating on top of the tank and makes it become hard and crusty like a floating layer of concrete on top of the liquid in your septic tank. Makes it more difficult or impossible for the pumper to pump out these solids.
7. If it is within your financial means, consider purchasing a new modern front loading washing machine. These use one seventh the volume of water as a conventional washer.

8. If you have a water softener in your home, consider an alternative method for the back flush water brine to discharge. A dry well or something of that sort that will not impact your neighbor's property. That back flush brine water is not considered a hazardous waste and does not have to go into your septic tank. That water brine adds additional water volume to your septic system, and salt in the water mixes with the solids in your septic tank and causes them to turn solid (crusty) and not pump out easily by the septic tank pumper.
9. Do not ever ever put the so called flushable kitty litters down your toilet when you service the cats litter box. These products will suspend in middle of your septic tank and pass out to your drain field and clog the pores in the soil of you drain field. Does not matter what the kitty litter container says. Besides, I've been doing this for 28 years now and I know more then those manufactures do about what you should and should not put into your septic system.
10. Do not ever ever ever use a store bought septic tank additive or allow a telemarketer to talk you into using an additive. To date, there is no additive sold that will enhance or help your septic system to work better or add life to it. The bacteria that breaks down sewage is already in the sewage when you put it into the septic tank. Some additives will get into your septic tank and cause the light & heavy solids in your septic tank to 'bulk' in the center of the tank and pass out of the tank to your drain field which in turn clogs your drain field. Despite the claim of some products to "Eliminate the need for pumping", you do not want to eliminate the need for pumping or you might have necessitated the need for an excavator. Besides, I've been doing this for 28 years now and I know more than those manufactures do about what you should and should not put into your septic system."
11. Now, this one you may hate me for, but are you familiar with those nice sweet smelling bath oils that make your skin so soft when you add them to your bath water? Well, those bath oils are soluble in water and they get into your septic tank and then suspend in the middle of the tank which results in passing through the tank and clogging the pores in the soil of your drain field. Sorry...



## NeighborWorks® Anchorage presents Paint The Town 2009!

**Do you know someone in your neighborhood that needs their home painted, but simply can't afford it?**

NeighborWorks® Anchorage is gearing up for our *Paint The Town* project. As part of a nationwide initiative we will participate with over 200 agencies across America in NeighborWorks® Week from June 5<sup>th</sup> – June 13<sup>th</sup> to help people in Anchorage by painting their homes free of charge. This week is set aside for community housing organizations like NeighborWorks® Anchorage to partner with community groups, sponsors, and volunteers to perform neighborhood enhancement projects.

NeighborWorks Anchorage will be painting homes across the city for people who are disabled, elderly or of modest income. If you know someone who needs their home painted, please call Diana Kaplanis at [677-8790](tel:677-8790) to get more information about nominations, volunteers or adopting a home. Homeowners should be asked if they want to participate before they are nominated.

### What you can do:

- 1. Nominate** someone in your neighborhood who needs their home painted. We are looking for people who are elderly, disabled, ill or low to moderate income; however there are no income guidelines. Homes should only be one story. Contact us at [677-8490](tel:677-8490) for more information about nominating a home today.
- 2.** We will be painting houses during the week of June 5<sup>th</sup> – June 13<sup>th</sup>. Come and join us! **Get a team of 8-10 people and paint a house.** We supply all the materials and you supply the fun. This year there will be a contest for the best team name.
- 3. Adopt-a-house!** Each house can be adopted for \$800.00 so gather your family, friends and co-workers and adopt a house today. Give us a call and we will provide you the information and house.
- 4. Become a sponsor** for Paint The Town. **Sponsors are always welcome! You can adopt a home for \$800.00 or become a corporate sponsor. We will be happy to send you more detailed information via e-mail or can mail you a packet.** It's easy, just call us and we can give you the information.
- 5. The deadline for sponsorship, nominations and volunteer teams is May 15th.**

**Call today and help paint a brighter future**

**for people in your community!**

# Draft Minutes of Rabbit Creek Community Council Meeting

## April 9, 2009 Goldenview Middle School

Present: Mark Schimsheiner, Dick Tremaine, John Isby, Mike Edelman, David Sterling, Mark Slaughter, Ramona Schimsheiner, Mike Kenny, and 13 additional members present.

Begun 7:05 pm, quorum present.

No Assembly members present.

Senator Con Bundy called in. Operating budget passed both houses and on to conference committee. If spending continues at this rate all Constitutional Budget Reserve funds will be gone and Permanent Fund earnings reserve is in deficit. TERS/PERS deficit has grown to about \$13 billion. Capital budget was cut \$1 billion from Governor's request but stimulus money may backfill some. No money in capital budget for RCCC area. Everything controversial and significant seems is holding for next year. He feels that using federal stimulus funds for education would lead to increased operating budgets that the public would force the state to continue to fund when stimulus money runs out. Governor has proposed condensing several departments into a Department of Energy. He does not feel it will save money and therefore would not be a net gain. After a discussion of natural gas lines and availability he stated he has some hope for supplies for southcentral.

Fire Department Station 10 crew visited but had to leave before making a presentation.

Finances are \$839.51 in checking and \$290.28 in savings.

### Old Business

HLB 5 year work plan – Differences exist between what is proposed and existing Potter Valley Land Use Plan. A parcel is now proposed for sale that the plan has as mostly reserved and likewise another smaller parcel wholly moved to the sale category. RCCC commented on these changes and HLB is considering not making the changes. An outstanding issue is that a parcel of land still in HLB hands is noted as not owned in the new plan. HLB has yet to acknowledge that this is the case and that it belongs in parcel 2-136. Dianne Holmes recommends that parcels reserved for open space become dedicated parks.

- Mark Slaughter moved, Dick Tremaine seconded that HLB identify parcels to be transferred to park status. Also, those parcels for sale have easements for trails including continuation of trails to Chugach State Park. Passed unanimously.

Section 36 – There is a website for Section 36 park plans including areas for comments. The web site is [www.mumi.org/parks/Section36MPCComments.cfm](http://www.mumi.org/parks/Section36MPCComments.cfm).

### New Business

Storck Park – Evidence that it is becoming a nuisance area for illegal activities and destructive activities. A gate to the park is being proposed which will be open until late but not all night. There is a proposal for citizen volunteers to coordinate the opening and closing of the park. Nineteen volunteers would suffice to cover operations for a full year. It was suggested that a municipal key box be put there for key access to the gate.

- Dave Sterling moves and Keith Guyer seconds that we support Bear Valley CC in seeking these changes and volunteers. Passed unanimously.

Old fire station/Lions Club corner of Rabbit Creek Road and Old Seward Highway – This was a tax exempt piece of property that no longer serves that purpose. Paperwork shows that the property is suppose to revert to BLM is no longer used for a non-profit purpose.

In the same general area there is a large arena that is used for commercial purposes (horse riding academy) in a residentially zoned area. The municipality is not responding to citizen complaints including legal notices to the municipality.

Strategies to fill in green belts – Nancy Pease stated that developer of Canyon View offered an easement tract to municipality but staff rejected the offer even though it was in line with at least five adopted plans. She proposes consideration of a citizen initiative to identify parcels for possible trades with HLB lands. She presented a proposal to form a “trails and greenbelts action committee” to move this process forward. Several community members volunteered to form an ad hoc committee and to come back to the next meeting with a statement of purpose and need, a plan of action and a timeline. It is proposed that this ad hoc committee be described in further detail in the newsletter so all council members can be made aware of it and have the opportunity to participate.

Parks District Planning issues are still unresolved from 2005. There are prejudicial statements in existing Parks documents that demean area resident's needs for park facilities.

- Dick Tremaine moves and Ramona Schimsheiner seconds to extend meeting for 15 minutes to consider remainder of agenda. There was no objection.

Comments on the Parks plan are required by the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. Sending the document out for members to consider and placing on the RCCC web site was agreed upon with full action at the May meeting.

Bicycle Plan – The currently proposed plan seems to be inadequate in several matters according to local bikers. There is no summarized issues paper available for discussion at this time. The chair proposed flash emailing a compilation of comments and asking for Board approval of comments by April 29<sup>th</sup>. The proposed plan and map is available on the municipal web site. There are no bike facilities along Rabbit Creek Road. These routes are focused on commuters, not recreational family outings. One suggestion is that expansion of the bike route along Goldenview Drive is important for street bikes and for safety.

It was pointed out that there are several meaty issues that need to be commented upon within the next month and it is likely there will be a special Board meeting called by the Chair to address them.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.