

Rogers Park Community Council Minutes
7 PM Monday, April 13, 2009
Rogers Park Elementary School Library

I. Welcome – President Jim Wright called the meeting to order at 7:05. No quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes for the February and March 2009 meetings – delayed due to lack of quorum

III. Assembly Report:

Dan Coffey was not present.

Elvi Gray-Jackson provided a thorough report:

- Budget Committee and the Administration committed to meeting once a week to work with the Committee on budget revisions and tie in the necessary budget cuts to meet the shortfall.
- Coffey, Starr, and Johnston’s budget resolution introduced last month now has identified cuts –one plan is to reduce Ombudsman’s Office down to one position among many other cuts - document is on-line – AR 2009-67 – Public Hearing scheduled for tomorrow
- Administration is still working with the unions for concessions due to the budget shortfall. Notice to rescind contracts was off the table now back on – Police is 1st -
- March 24th - approved a resolution to hire an attorney to review already ratified labor contracts – no votes (Gutierrez, Drummond, and Gray-Jackson)
- 2009-2010 ASD Budget was approved with a \$3.8M cut.
- Mayor vetoed the cut with Drummond, Gutierrez, and Gray-Jackson, and Selkregg supporting.
- Muni.org – details on the American Recovery Investment Act
- Washington, D.C. on March 14th and met with Young, Murkowski staff, and Begich
- Attended the Anchorage Caucus Meeting on March 21st – spoke to caucus asking for their support for our legislative package

- Bears – Continued public hearing is on Tuesday’s agenda but will be postponed until a later meeting – Administration has a revised version that is in-line with plans the Alaska Department of Fish and Wildlife
- April 23rd – 6:00 – 8:00 at the Assembly Chambers – Public meeting on Bears
- April 24th – Work session on Six Month status report on the recycling program
- Tomorrow- April 14th – 1st quarter budget revisions/reductions and mill levy resolution/ordinance will be introduced – PH 4/28
- Resolution asking to support legislation brought forward during this session to address the shortage of physicians willing to treat seniors covered by Medicare

ANNOUNCEMENT: Highway to Highway (H2H) Open House at the Loussac Library
April 16, 2009 10AM – 8PM

IV. Legislative Reports – None Available

V. Federation of Community Councils Report (Bob Churchill) Not available

VI. Treasurer's report (Ted Ryberg) Not Available (~\$145)

7:20 PM Quorum PRESENT

Rich Gingras moved and Dave Evans seconded motion to accept February 2009 minutes. No opposition.

Minor corrections made. Heather Ireland moved and Dave Evans seconded motion to accept March 2009 minutes. 13 in favor. Two abstentions.

VII. Presentations and Discussion/Announcements:

A. Election of Board/Officers. April is our “Annual Membership Meeting” at which we hold elections of Rogers Park Community Council officers/board members: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Secretary position will be vacant, and Marilyn Houser has been good enough to offer her name. All other incumbents are willing to continue serving if that is the will of the majority voting. These positions carry one year terms, so that candidates may stand for election to any position, with the exception of Immediate Past President.

Heather Ireland nominated the slate of officers. Cheryl Forrest seconded. There were no nominations from the floor. 13 members voted in favor. Zero opposed.

Two members abstained. The new officers will begin their terms at the May 2009 meeting.

B. Russian Jack Springs Park Update. Dwayne Adams of Land Design North reviewed the recommendations approved by the Parks and Rec Commission. The project (sledding, and snow board hills, parking lot modification, and tentatively a picnic shelter and playground) will be before UDC on Wednesday May 13, 2009 (6:30 PM at Loussac). Tentative construction this year. Additional construction (Holes 5 – 9 and Pitch/Putt) may be delayed. Artificial turf will be used on all but one hole to minimize fertilizer run off.

QUESTIONS

What will Effects on Ski Trails? Only the grade on the open hill trail and other minor impacts.

Acreage cut? About .5 acre. Specifically, concerns about birch trees north of the parking lot. Only Alder will be cut. Compacting the soil is detrimental to trees. Controlling the design will help protect the trees.

First Tee involvement? They are reorganizing but they are somewhat involved. They will use golf holes in some capacity.

Can the Urban Design Commission (UDC) make changes or just approve? They can make changes because it is a site plan review, not just a landscape review. The UDC does both conceptual and final review after 85% designs.

Dwayne Adams explained that the Parks and Rec Commission approved re-grading the hill rather than cutting additional trees.

Heather Ireland moved that the **Rogers Park Community Council support the construction of the sledding and snowboarding hills concurrent with the improvements to the golf holes 1, 2, and 3 at Russian Jack Springs Park as reflected by the Municipality Parks and Recreation Commission March 12, 2009 Resolution item 1 A, “Recommended Alternative”**. Cheryl Forrest seconded. Resolution **unanimously approved by the 15 members present**.

C. Far North Bicentennial Park (FNBP) Trails Plan. No one from Municipal Parks and Recreation Department present to discuss the plan. Marilyn Houser attended a recent public meeting. Planning process is underway. Some changes include bridge improvements and parking areas. Some user groups propose additional trails, including those in boggy areas. Single-track mountain bikers want trails in areas identified as problematic by ADF&G. There may be additional parking added at Klutina St. although the neighborhood has expressed reservations.

April 14 – Parks and Rec Commission meeting, including public testimony.

April 29 – Written comment period ends.

FNBP will be impacted by 48th Avenue extension.

D. Heather Ireland noted that the APU is pursuing the possibility to extend University Lake Dr. to create a loop road into their main campus. Also, DOWL/HKM is coordinating the North UMED access study of feasibility. Jim Wright will invite them to the May 2009 meeting. North UMED access is not in the UMED Master Plan but it is in the Long Range Transportation.

E. Master Gardner Noelle Nelson presented some information on neighborhood gardens and resources are available in the community to support this.

F. Marilyn Houser announced the Arbor Day tree seedling sale. Society of American foresters is having their spring sale. Pre-order forms available. \$20 for 20 seedlings. May 9 pick-up.

G. Karen Ruud will check with the Rogers Park School Principal regarding LaTouche and Annapolis. Rich Gingras expressed concern about kids crossing there. Elvi Gray-Jackson will also follow-up.

H. Chris Whitmer attended the meeting regarding the Northern Lights Sound Barrier. He lives in "Section 1", North of Fred Meyer. This section gets more noise than other areas. Jim Wright gave some brief history. This section is going to bid this spring to spend the \$1.5 Million allocated for this project. Additional sections to be included on this bid include east of Maplewood and west of Glenwood Drive. Mr. Whitmer is in support of the construction of this sound barrier as a priority. Many of his neighbors have communicated support as well.

Heather Ireland encouraged Mr. Whitmer (and his absent neighbors) to get on the email distribution list to become more informed and active.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.