

# Rabbit Creek Community Council

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2009

<http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/27.html>  
Rabbit Creek Community Council \* P.O. Box 112354 \* Anchorage, AK 99511-2354  
CONTACT Mike Kenny, Chair 345-8046, [mkenny@attalasc.com](mailto:mkenny@attalasc.com)



## Comments from the Chair:

“We have enjoyed a wonderful summer and now enter that transition season into the wonders of winter, or so we fervently wish for our winter of 2009-2010.

Right now, the hills are alive with the sound of rumors. A new mayor, worldwide recession and deepening layoffs locally are perhaps the tip of the iceberg.

As the budget season is upon us and all indications are that tough times are here, it is important that lines of communication exist so all of us have an opportunity to face these challenges based upon interaction and information from our local decision makers. And that is certainly a two way street.”

These were the opening sentences in an e-mail sent to our Assembly members over the weekend. Since the beginning of the year, the RCCC has had plenty of strategic plans, commissions and committees requiring comments, responses and strategic planning. There really has been very little that has come before our Assembly requiring clear communications and coordination with Assembly members Jennifer Johnston and Chris Birch. The few times we have had a question or needed information, we have gotten a timely response.

The times, they seem to be a changing and renewed vigilance is necessary to assure we are prepared to deal with whatever may be coming our way.

### UPDATES:

Legacy Pointe—auction scheduled for October 15 on the courthouse steps. Developers John Berggren and Paul Palmer are the owners if you are interested in buying the parcel.

Hillside District Plan—the deliberations by the Planning & Zoning Commission continue on October 12.

Chugach State Park Trails Plan—comments due on October 16. We will prepare the RCCC comments at our monthly meeting. The Public Review Draft of the Chugach State Park Trail Management Plan has been released. Comments must be received no later than 5:00pm AST, Friday, October 16 <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/chugach/planning.htm>

Title 21—the citizens group, Anchorage Citizens Coalition, has been monitoring the Assembly T21 committee deliberations and reports that there has been a general loosening of development restrictions such as the percentage of a house front that a garage can occupy. The committee upped that percentage for town houses from a staff recommended 50% to 66%; for homes the raise was from 55% to 60%.

*(Comments from Chair continued on p. 2)*

## Draft Agenda for Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009 Community Council Meeting Goldenview Middle School 15800 Goldenview Drive

- ❖ 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
  - Legislative Reports
    - ❖ State Legislators
    - ❖ Assembly member Jennifer Johnston
  - Guest Speakers
    - ❖ Kim Leming – US Census Information
    - ❖ Phil Shephard, Exec. Dir. & Dave Mitchell, Conservation Dir. – Great Land Trust
    - ❖ DOWL HKM – Presentation on Section 36
  - Ongoing Business – There may be no new information
    - ❖ Legacy Pointe – Updates; auction 10/15
    - ❖ Hillside District Plan – Updates; PZ deliberations 10/12
    - ❖ Title 21 – Status of zoning code changes; weekly Assembly Committee meetings
    - ❖ Parks and Recreation – Changes to date
  - New Business
    - ❖ Comments for Chugach State Park Trail Plan – Presentation & development of comments
    - ❖ Library support
  - 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

## **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

## **Comments from the Chair:** *(Continued from p.1)*

Anchorage Library—is conducting a short survey to assist in strategic planning. The link: <http://www.anchorage21stcenturylibraries.org/> Our Library needs your assistance.

Section 36—we may have another presentation in our meeting October 8 on development plans.

Hope to see many of you at our meeting. We will be preparing for the annual meeting and officer elections at our November meeting.

**Be Well,  
Mike Kenny, Chair, RCCC**

## **Flue Season is Upon Us**

### **What you can do to prevent the spread of H1N1 flu**

Take these three simple measures:

- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand cleaner
- Stay home if you are sick - it can greatly help prevent the spread of influenza (and many other germs)

Anyone showing the following symptom should stay home:

Fever above 100° F

heavy nasal congestion

Frequent cough

Vomiting

Diarrhea

Blistery rash

If your child is diagnosed with a contagious illness

## **Long Range Transportation Plan Draft Released to Public**

The AMATS Policy Committee released the Draft 2009 Amendment to the 2025 Anchorage Bowl Long Range Transportation Plan and the Draft Air Quality Conformity Redetermination for the 2025 Long-Range Transportation Plan. This proposed amendment will remove the Knik Arm Crossing project from the LRTP and determine what impact actions will have on the ability of the Municipality of Anchorage to achieve compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency carbon monoxide standards.

Please email comments to [amatsinfo@muni.org](mailto:amatsinfo@muni.org) or by fax at 343-7998.

The public comment period closes on October 23, 2009 at 5 pm. For additional information, call 343-7991.

## **Highway to Highway Seward to Glenn Highway Connection**

The comment deadline for the H2H Freeway Project has been extended until Oct 30.

According to the website <http://www.acalaska.org/H2H.htm>, Anchorage Citizens Coalition, “The Seward Highway to Glenn Highway Connection project (H2H) will explore connecting the Seward and Glenn Highways into Anchorage’s first freeway through the city. The actual route has not been chosen yet. A consistent part of the plan is that a length of the highway will run under surface level with broad walkways and road crossings above.”

Previous transportation studies and adopted plans have recommended connecting these highways. The environmental review process began in July 2008. The purpose of the project, alternatives to meet the needs, and the project’s effects on the natural and human environment will be determined through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

The project team is currently in the Alternatives Development and Screening Phase of the project (for more information please visit [www.highway2highway.com](http://www.highway2highway.com)), or call RaeShaun Schmidt, HDR Consultants at 644-2032.

### **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](mailto:Senator.Con.Bunde@legis.state.ak.us)

Rep. Michael C. Hawker, 800-478-4950, [Rep.Mike.Hawker@legis.state.ak.us](mailto: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**

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

## **Draft Minutes of Rabbit Creek Community Council Meeting September 10, 2009 Goldenview Middle School**

Present: Mike Kenny, Patty Rothwell, Keith Guyer, Mark Slaughter, David Sterling, John Isby, Dick Tremaine, and 14 additional members present.

Meeting begun 7:05 pm, without quorum but quorum present shortly after.

New Fire Department budget cuts will be in addition to 2 in 2 out (4 persons needed on site before anyone goes into a burning building). Today Tender 10 (Bear Valley) was closed since paramedic was needed elsewhere. Next closure at Station 10 is September 28. Normally engine is closed and tender is manned with one person. Typically another tender is moved up so that 2 tenders are on site but they are not able to initiate fire attack. Everything is on the table for budget cuts now including, perhaps, removing the engine. If the engine is not there then no back country response is possible.

No Assembly or Legislative members present.

Jeannie Mackie (school board member). As of September 1, enrollment is above projection. Most of gains seen in the high school level. Capital projects budget beginning development. There are 18 police officers dedicated to in-school service. The city has asked the school district for assistance in funding these positions. Looking at activity bus for Girdwood students attending South. About \$60 million in stimulus month to ASD. About 130 new jobs, staff development, college and career readiness, technology capacity, and several building renewal projects. Graduation rate increased 5% last year but test scores were down somewhat.

Phil Steyer – Chugach Electric. ENSTAR buys and moves natural gas. Chugach makes electricity including using natural gas for 90% of its power. As Cook Inlet fields age it is more expensive to extract gas in part due to less natural pressure in fields. ENSTAR and Chugach both contractually have all the natural gas they need for the winter. That means there is sufficient volume in the ground. Moving gas to where and when it is needed is real issue but should be OK this year. The utilities have many options to reduce demand in time of need. Should these not be sufficient, there would have to be voluntary reductions by users as well. Only if all these fail to sufficiently reduce demand will mandatory reductions such as rolling brownouts be implemented. If this were to happen, it would be of short duration and shared in a rolling manner. They would also be sensitive to critical usage (hospitals, schools, etc.). Generally most usage is December or January, often in evening or weekend. Chugach has a set of energy savings recommendations that would be broadcast if needed. This service would probably be conducted by a government entity such as the municipality. It should be noted that ENSTAR has much less flexibility as to shutting down lines.

It was noted that the email newsletter did not go out this month due to a computer glitch

Treasurer report: \$291.11 savings, \$852.51 checking, 110 dues paying members.

Motion to approve August minutes, moved Slaughter, second Sterling, passed unanimously.

Legacy Pointe syndicate is in bankruptcy and in tax arrears by two years. The bankruptcy sale has been postponed until September 15th.

The Hillside District Plan hearing is closed at Planning and Zoning. Commission pulled several points to discuss, the first of which was how to implement the plan within the zoning code. Special subcommittee meetings are being held. Deliberation of the Commission will continue on September 16th. Probably will not be in front of the Assembly until next year.

Title 21 (zoning code update, in its sixth year) – The RCCC is submitting comments on buffering and vegetation.

Section 36 comments were sent based on August discussion.

Chugach State Park Trail Management Plan comments must be completed at next RCCC meeting. It does not deal with access. The plan and maps are available online at [dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/chugach/planning.htm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/chugach/planning.htm). Comments made by members during the meeting were: (1) Trail 444 at Grandview is too short and does not continue to McHugh Peak. (2) Trail 445 McHugh Peak trail does not show trails but there should be three new ones. (3) Trail 441 from Upper Canyon road is causing heavy erosion and should include a loop trail.

Variance in Villages Scenic Parkway. Three responses to date are opposed.

Motion to oppose the variance made by Tremaine second by Rothwell, passed unanimously. Rationale is based on previous RCCC comments in this area and the fact that house could be built without need for variance.

Mayor is proposing to put onsite services (septic oversight) into Developmental Services. It had been in Health and Human Services. Previous staff member has already left.

RCCC November meeting is annual meeting and elections will take place. People are urged to consider participation in the RCCC and service as Board members. There will be four open seats on the RCCC Board. Members are encouraged to notify the Chair of their interest.

Federation of Community Councils has elected Dick Tremaine as Chair for this year. The FCC will be hosting Neighborhoods USA in May 2011 and will be looking for volunteers. More information will follow.

The RCCC will be going through its mailing list to remove from snail mail those who no longer want notices or who receive email.

Moved to adjourn by Rothwell, second by Sterling.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.