

Rogers Park Community Council Meeting Minutes
Meeting Held November 8, 2010 in the Rogers Park Elementary School Library
Minutes Prepared by Beate Zinck, Secretary

Community Council Officers in Attendance:

Bob Churchill, Board Vice President, Presiding
Cheryl Forrest, Treasurer
Beate Zinck, Secretary

Handouts available included: Meeting Agenda; May 2010 and September 2010 Minutes submitted for member approval; Emergency Watch Neighborhood Leader Orientation information; ASD Budget Dialogue Workshop Information and Schedule; a 'How-To Guide to Trash and Recycling' guide and a Solid Waste Services Automated Collection Program sheet; an H2H-related Resolution draft handed out by Dr. von Hippel.

I. Welcome

It was noted that with Jim Wright absent, Bob Churchill would preside over the meeting; 17 Community Council members in attendance; a quorum was present.

II. Approval of May 2010 and September 2010 meeting minutes

Motions were made to approve meeting minutes for both May and September; motions were seconded, and the motions passed without objection.

III. Assembly Reports

Elvi Gray-Jackson provided the first update of the meeting beginning with a reference to information she provided at September's meeting; an ordinance that she brought forward if passed, would prevent the Mayor/Assembly members/School Board members from holding municipal employment positions for one year following the end of their respective terms and which also sought to require any contracts for the same to be allowed only if they went through the competitive bid process – the ordinance passed, however, the Mayor vetoed it. His concerns were addressed, a revised ordinance was brought forward and passed but, the mayor vetoed it again. Ms. Gray-Jackson stated that the ordinance was simply about public trust, integrity, and ethics.

Comments about the proposed increase in cigarette taxes were made by both Mr. Traini and Ms. Gray-Jackson; Mr. Traini is credited with bringing the proposed increase forward and stated that a \$0.75 per pack increase, if approved, would bring an estimated 5-6 million dollars of revenue into the community. Fifty percent of the increase would be used to reinstate fire and police cuts and 50% would be allocated to a dollar for dollar reduction in property taxes. Action on the proposed ordinance has been postponed until the November 9th meeting.

Both Ms. Gray-Jackson and Mr. Traini shared highlights of the Mayor's proposed budget which includes but is not limited to an increase in fees and fines (Mr. Traini indicated that there are 10 pages of fees listed that will be increased next year); deleting Park Ranger positions; closing Service High Pool during the summer months and limiting Bartlett Pool hours, canceling morning lap swims at both Diamond and West pools, deleting two pool Facility Manager positions and deleting vacant and non-vacant lifeguard positions; reducing Boys and Girls Club and Northeast Community center funding; reducing community and arts grants; deleting a Food Safety Inspector (Health Department); library cuts; eliminating MOA funding for AnchorRides; eliminating funded but vacant positions for both police and fire academies and deleting other positions.

The Municipal Charter requires that two public hearings be held on the budget however, the Assembly is holding three meetings --the first was held October 26th and most of the concerns articulated were regarding public transit and library concerns; the second meeting will be held November 9th and the third meeting is scheduled for November 23rd. Mr. Traini encouraged everyone to come to hearings and testify and to just say what you think.

IV. Legislative Reports

Noah Hanson represented Representative Berta Gardner's office, Rose Foley represented Les Gara's office, and Tom Obermeyer represented Senator Davis's office; neither Representative Sharon Cissna's nor Senator Johnny Ellis's offices were represented.

From Representative Gardner's aide, Noah Hanson, we learned that Representative Gardner earned a 'promotion' to Minority Whip and it was explained that the role of Minority Whip is to carry the message of the Minority Leader; she will sit on the Resource Committee and does not rule out the possibility of revisiting ACES; her team continues work on developing legislation but details are not yet worked out, and she continues her work on the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council although that may change after the next session begins. Rose Foley, Representative Gara's aide, indicated that Rep. Gara will continue with his position as Finance Committee Chair. From Senator Davis's office, Tom Obermeyer advised community council members to make our fence issues and other concerns known to the Senator's office despite her limited coverage in the RPCC area; she has been very busy working on legislation regarding health and education issues; she has been working on a report through the Health Care Commission that is scheduled to go to the public on December 10th and to the Governor on January 15th.

V. Federation of Community Councils Report

A quick comment made by Bob Churchill pointed out that there are currently 48,000 students enrolled in the Anchorage School District; an information update regarding the school district was in Sunday's (11/7) paper. Bob asked if all the parents at the meeting were familiar with ZANGLE, a computer-based program the district is using to help parents be informed about student performance.

Bob also reminded council members that the National Federation of Community Councils annual meeting was being held in Anchorage on May 11, 2011. The local FCC is still seeking help with this event from interested community members – let Bob know if you are willing to volunteer.

VI. Committee Reports

1. Elvi Gray-Jackson read an email dated September 28 from Bob Palmer, Northern Lights Sound Barrier Project Manager that stated:

“The maintenance of the fence is the Municipality’s responsibility. I have recommended including the re-oiling of the sound fence constructed in Phase I and Phase II as additive alternates to the bid proposal for the construction of the third phase, which is contingent on receiving State funding (hopefully in 2011). If we do not include the maintenance in the construction project it will have to be performed by the Street Maintenance Dept. or the Parks and Rec Dept.

We would not re-oil the fence at the temperatures we have now. Maintenance would be performed in the spring. We should know at that time if State funding was available or not and make the appropriate arrangements.”

2. Brian Vanderwood, representing Solid Waste Services (SWS)/Curbside Recycling, was on hand to address questions and concerns regarding the curbside automated services for trash and recycling. He had several handouts that outlined the particulars of the Automated Collection Program and tips for recycling. He mentioned that the final phase of the program will be underway in 2011; 3,500 total new customers will be added, including approximately 180 homes in the Rogers Park neighborhood. The final phase was not implemented this year due in part to the concerns that alley pick-ups raise; there are no complete solutions to the problem yet.

Many meeting participants shared favorable comments about recycling; others were not as impressed. When asked, what is the best way for private citizens to interact with the city to share their concerns, Brian suggested talking with Community Council leaders, Assembly members, as well as the Mayor’s office and the Solid Waste Services department head, Mark Madden. Also, with respect to enforcement concerns – collection containers left in the street for example – Brian said that there is enforcement for violations however no one is actively looking for violations. He suggested concerned residents file a complaint with Code Enforcement and said he would email our council appropriate contact information. Paul Honneman offered that residents could also contact the Muni Ombudsman at -4461.

One last question for Mr. Vanderwood asked for plans and/or alternatives for grass clippings and leaves; call in advance to establish a date for pick up –there is a \$10 charge per service plus \$2 per bag at this time. For more information review the website www.muni.org/sws.

3. No H2H representative was available; a point-of-order was called and a request to let Paul Honneman speak before discussion on H2H – unanimous agreement by the group to allow Mr. Honneman to speak next.

Mr. Honneman began with a comment that he feels our community is well-served by a dedicated, professional, and hardworking police force.

With respect to the perception of city crimes being underreported, he suggested that concerned citizens access www.muni.org, click *Public Safety* and then *Crime Maps* – the site is updated daily at 4 a.m. each day – hover over the balloons to get specific information. If a resident files a report prior to midnight, the crime should be reflected on the map. If your report isn't showing, contact John Rockwell at 786-8900, press zero for a 'live body' at Dispatch. Domestic violations, sexual assaults, and crimes against children will not reflect the address where the reported crime occurred – the Elmore Street Police Station address will be noted instead.

One more option for concerned citizens is the *City Beat* which is updated daily and provides a list of everyone arrested for the week. If more specific details are desired, a citizen may call Marlene Lammers at 786-8699 for additional information. To access *City Beat*, under *Public Safety* click *Police*, then *City Beat*.

Another source of information is www.courtrecords.alaska.gov – you can use names gathered from *City Beat* to get additional information.

Mr. Honneman went on to share his viewpoints on the proposed budget and the budget planning process. He stated that the cuts to Public Safety are not acceptable to him. When asked, he stated that on any given day the number of officers on shift varies but generally is somewhere between 22 and 24 officers on shift currently. If all the budget cuts are made, the number of officers on shift at any one time will be reduced to 16-18. When asked about the patrol range of officers, he replied that city officers patrol from Eagle River to McHugh Creek. He stated that if you are involved in an incident and call for help you may be told to file your report on-line; for example he said that a parking lot collision with no injuries will not be responded to by an officer.

4. ASD budget concerns were brought up; meeting attendees were encouraged to participate in the three upcoming public workshops that are being held to gather input that will help the ASD Administration and the School Board make budget decisions. The dates of the workshops are: Wednesday, December 1st from 6-9 p.m. at Clark Middle School; Thursday, December 2nd from 6-9p.m. at Hanshaw Middle School; and Saturday, December 4th from 1-4p.m. at Gruening Middle School in Eagle River.

5. With respect to Dr. Arndt Von Hippel's proposed resolutions on the H2H, KABATA, and Dock Project it was determined that a quorum was no longer present. Dr. Von Hippel passed out another revision to his resolution regarding fiscal accountability and priorities for municipal projects. Bob Churchill informed Dr. Von Hippel that this proposal in various forms had been considered discussed and voted on by the members of RPCC as well as several special meetings conducted to explore and resolve different aspects of the proposal. However Bob Churchill stated that at this time it was not productive to continue to bring it forward. Ms. Gray-Jackson suggested an appropriate forum for this proposal would be to bring it before the Anchorage Assembly.

Immediately prior to the end of the meeting, Bob Churchill asked the members if they would like to see a letter drafted for their approval to be sent to the administration regarding our concerns with staffing of the Anchorage Police Department. It was the general consensus that a letter should be drafted for the review and possible approval of the general membership at the next RPCC meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30p.m.