

# **Rogers Park Community Council Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Held February 14, 2011 in the Rogers Park Elementary School Library**

Minutes Prepared by Beate Zinck, Secretary

## **Community Council Officers in Attendance:**

Jim Wright, Past President, Presiding

Bob Churchill, Vice President

Cheryl Forrest, Treasurer

Beate Zinck, Secretary

Handouts available included: February Meeting Agenda; draft of the January 10, 2011 Meeting Minutes; business cards of Susan Harnasch, Cyber Crimes Prevention Specialist.

## **I. Welcome**

At 7:05pm the meeting commenced when Jim Wright introduced special guest and featured presenter, Susan Harnasch, a Cyber Crimes Prevention Specialist and member of the Alaska I.C.A.C. (Internet Crimes Against Children) Task Force.

Highlights from Ms. Harnasch's excellent presentation:

Various local, state and federal groups have allocated resources to Alaska to battle cyber crime. She stated that 43% of kids reported that they had been the victim of cyber bullying; she indicated that cyber bullying is rampant in schools and defined it as telling lies, scaring or embarrassing or picking on someone, altering photos, tormenting or spreading rumors – any and all of the above via the internet, cell phone, email, texting, or via chat rooms is considered cyber bullying.

How do you know if your child is being bullied? Ms. Harnasch suggested the number one clue is that a child will not want to use their cell phone or computer! What should a son or daughter do? Don't ignore it, but don't respond either; don't pass it along – if you wouldn't say it in front of a person then don't say it on-line; save the evidence; stand together to prevent it; Report it – to a parent, school official, or other trusted adult.

Things to think about:

Consider the other person's feelings;

Once you hit send, it never goes away;

Don't give in to peer pressure to do something that feels uncomfortable

Kids should **never** share passwords with anyone other than select family members – a friend today may not be a friend tomorrow and may do something hurtful with a password.

People you don't know face to face may want to steal:

- Your identity;
- Your parent's identity;
- Hurt you.

It is very important to protect your name, your address, your phone number, your age.

You should not 'friend' anyone you do not know face-to-face.

You should not 'chat' on-line with anyone you do not know face-to-face.

Two helpful websites identified:

familywatchdog.us: check an address to learn if a registered sex offender lives on your street or in the area

Netling.com: a site for you to learn the 'lingo' that kids use texting or emailing, i.e., POS – **P**arent **O**ver the **S**houlder

For additional information, contact: APD Cyber Crime Specialist, Susan Harnasch, at 786-2632. Ms. Harnasch presents to schools, PTAs and church groups.

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

At 7:40 pm it was noted that a quorum was not present.

## **III. Assembly Reports**

Assembly Member Elvi Gray-Jackson spoke first and began the conversation by stating that Assembly Member Birch introduced an ordinance to include language in the Charter that states, "The base amount for calculating next year's tax increase limit is the amount of taxes collected in the current year." She stated that this is and has been the intent and practice since 1982 when the tax cap was established. A Public Hearing was held on Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> and action was postponed until February 1<sup>st</sup>. At the February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting the proposal failed six to five.

She also indicated that she, along with support from Member Drummond and Member Gutierrez, introduced an ordinance to make the change proposed by Member Birch within the Code. The Charter provides guidelines to define the roles and responsibilities of government but allows the legislative branch to expand on its intent through ordinance amendments. A Public Hearing will be held on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Regarding Municipal Code Enforcement, Ms. Gray-Jackson noted that there is a Charter Amendment on the April 5<sup>th</sup> election ballot authorizing parking enforcement by a designated municipal agency in the *downtown area only* and only parking issues will be ticketed (no expired plates, missing lights, etc.) – the Ordinance was approved 10-1.

Articulated was a list of General Government bonds and School District bonds that have been approved and will be presented to voters on the April 5<sup>th</sup> ballot:

- \$37.1M for additions to and renewals for Service High School;
- \$16.8M for educational improvements and extending the life of buildings;
- \$17M for Career, Technical and Vocational Facility upgrades;
- \$30.8M for Anchorage Roads and Drainage;
- \$3M for Parks and Recreation;
- \$941K for Public Safety and Public Transit Improvements;
- \$1.1M for Fire Service;
- \$250K for Public Safety Facility Upgrades;

Other Ordinances approved for the April Ballot were noted and include:

- Mandatory photo ID for the sale of alcohol by package liquor stores;
- An amendment to change the age threshold for a disabled veteran's widow so that the \$150,000 property tax exemption can be used before reaching 60 years of age.

The next Assembly meeting is tomorrow, February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Assembly Member Dick Traini spoke next, reiterating the details of HB10 which if approved by the voters, will take out the age requirement for veterans' widows and widowers for a property tax exemption. He continued by mentioning a new ordinance that he is bringing forward that will require Assembly Members to attend meetings. He also discussed his efforts to appropriate \$4M from the Legislature to aid the City in acquiring Waldron Lake so that it may remain the long-standing recreation area it has been rather than become a location for site condos. There is a March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting set to which Anchorage Representatives have been invited for a question/answer session about the matter.

#### **IV. Legislative Reports**

Senator Bettye Davis was represented by Mr. Richard Benivides who assists with constituent concerns and Capital Project issues. He stated that February 11<sup>th</sup> was the last day for Capital Project requests to be turned in however, February 28<sup>th</sup> is the absolute final day for last minute requests. Mr. Benivides addressed some questions from meeting participants and for the sake of time, offered his direct line, 269-0247 for additional concerns or questions. Senator Davis held a constituent meeting Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

There were no other reports.

#### **Federation of Community Council Reports**

FCC Representative Bob Churchill provided a draft of the January 19<sup>th</sup> FCC meeting minutes and gave a brief verbal update on the same meeting:

Assemblyman Dick Traini was in attendance and brought attendees up to speed on municipal happenings; Kathleen Plunkett, representing the School District, discussed the needs at Service High School and mentioned that Community Councils will not be charged for meetings held in schools; Jon Spring,

Project Manager for Anchorage 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) offered a lot of information, provided a fact sheet for AMATS (Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions), and discussed a robust plan for public involvement – for further information he indicated that the public may contact Ann Brooks who is the Public Involvement Coordinator; Marty McGee, City Assessor, talked about home values and the complaint/appeal process. It was noted that the Assessor will come to any Community Council that wants a presentation on the assessment process and the administration of appeals.

Mr. Churchill gave a reminder about the upcoming National Federation of Community Councils Annual Meeting to be held in Anchorage in May and talked briefly about the local FCC's fundraising obligations and activities.

## **VI. Presentations and Discussion**

Carlson Park and Russian Jack Springs Park Update:

Jim Wright has information to update community members but inadvertently left it behind – he will email information to members.

Community members Pete and Karen Mjos stated that on their walk over to the meeting they noticed that lights are still out – it appears that 8 lights were shot out along the N. Lights sound barrier between Glenwood and the Baptist Church. Assembly Member Gray-Jackson responded, mentioned that community member Ted Ryberg had brought this and other lighting concerns up at last month's meeting and noted that the city contact in charge of this type of issue is overwhelmed at present; Ms. Gray-Jackson assured members present that she would re-address the concerns with the appropriate individual.

In consideration of St. Valentine's Day, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05pm.