

Rogers Park Community Council Minutes, December 10, 2012

Board Members present: Janet Bidwell, Dave Metheny, Cheryl Forrest, Iris Matthews, Bob Churchill, Jim Wright

Absent: none

- I. Call to Order 7:03 by Janet Bidwell
- II. Review & Approval of November Minutes as corrected (only \$170.90 yet, spelling correction on Marilyn's name)
- III. Assembly Reports
 - a. Elvi Gray-Jackson: On Tuesday, November 13th, the Assembly approved the 2013 General Government Operating Budget. Departments with budgets that will remain the same as 2012 follow:
 1. Public Transit
 2. Library
 3. Police (although vacant positions and some non labor positions will not be funded)Approved amendments follow:
 - a. Youth Court funding (\$205,000)
 - b. Library (Additional \$200,000)
 - c. Full-Year funding for Fire Truck 11 and Tender 9
 - d. Reinstate all Firefighter Positions
 - e. Police Academy
 - f. Fire Academy
 - g. Associate Planner Position
 - h. Tasers for Police Force

- ASD Bond proposal in the amount of \$54,825,000 was approved to go before the voters at the April 2013 election.
- Mayor Omnibus ordinance modifying existing and including additional fees, fines, and penalties to include bus fares and more was passed but will be repealed due to introduction of a resolution to balance the budget with from the MOA Trust Fund in lieu of increase fees, etc.
- Assembly approved the reapportionment map at the November 13th meeting. The map that was approved is AO 2012-108 submitted by Mr. Traini and Mr. Hall. Prior to approval, an amendment was offered by Ms. Gray-Jackson (and approved) to reinstate all of Airport Heights into the District. The amendment was approved but the Municipal Attorney found issues with the map that he believed would present problems with the Justice Department. A new map was presented and the public hearing will be held at the December 18th meeting.
- Assemblymember Birch introduced two ordinances at the December 4th meeting – one that would ask the voters at the April 2, 2013 election to amend the Anchorage Home Rule Charter to require eleven single member Assembly Districts and provide for 3 year terms – the other would ask the voters to amend the Charter to require an eleven member school board elected by district with seats and election districts corresponding to the Assembly seats and election districts. A Ballot Proposition asking the voters to

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amend the Charter requires eight votes of the Assembly which they do not appear to have right now.

- Assemblymember Gray-Jackson and Traini will bring forward an amendment to the Legislative Program at the December 18th meeting to include funding for Resurfacing Alleys. It is expected to pass.
 - Assemblymember Gray-Jackson was elected to the National League of Cities Board of Directors – the oldest and largest national organization representing governments throughout the U.S. 40 member board consisting of Mayors, council/assembly members, and State League Presidents. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns, and villages serving 218 million Americans. A board member plays a lead role in shaping priorities and directing activities of the organization representing municipal governments.
 - Next and last Assembly meeting of 2012 will be December 18th
- b. Dick Traini: Wednesday has the public safety commission – dealing with fluoride in the water supply. Doesn't think it will go anywhere, but a few people want to address it. Dealing with Birch Ordinances on the 18th. Likes the five dual member areas, one single member area. Very concerned about school district apportionment, b/c they all fight for all schools, don't want to see them pitted against each other. Only has 7 of 8 votes needed so far. Port of Anchorage study is finally coming out

Bob Churchill: Equal Rights Commission excited to meet with Elvi. Bob expressed concern about growing the number of school board members. Elvi- could put forward an unfair advantage for some school districts, make it more partisan.

Dave Evans: Thanks for the support of the Alley's. Always thought it went around with undergrounding of the utilities.

Another RPCC member: Thank you for support for the libraries to Dick & Elvi.

Elvi: AWWU will have a representative at the meeting with alley task force, along with ML&P – because they all are tied in.

Dick – Debbie Ossiander also cares about alleys, they're important, getting them paved. Get the ball rolling. Residents do pay a fee for undergrounding utilities in the bill.

IV. Legislative Reports

- a. Rep. Berta Gardner. First hot issue will be oil taxes. Wants to fight to make sure tax breaks tied to development. Encouraged folks to sign up for e-newsletters. Gave thanks to Dick & Elvi for stand on the school board apportionment
- b. Sen. Johnny Ellis – staff Zack Mannix reported that this is the last community council meeting for Sen. Ellis because he will no longer represent this area. He has written a letter to cc president. Gearing up for session, wants to work on prison reform and has some allies across the aisle. Budget comes out on Dec. 15th, and will be something to pay attention to.

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Question about public opinion on oil taxes. Berta answered that ACES was designed to work to stimulate investment, take risk, get more when prices high. She was in Ecuador last month, we seem in line with what they're doing and same companies invest there, that are here.

- c. Rep. Gara's staff Toby – left a few newsletters on table, Les is on vacation this week. Gearing up for session, getting bills ready. Les is working a lot on oil & gas issues, will continue to be champion for foster care and education, increase base student allocation.
 - d. Andy Josephson, Rep. Elect – honored to have been elected, looking to Sen. Gardner for mentorship, introduces Megan Cavanaugh who will be his staff, she is a graduate of Northwestern, lives in district. On Labor & Commerce, Special Committee on Energy, and Ethics committee. Been very busy with meetings, constituent work. Thinking about legislation to deal with A.S. 11.41 – the probation officer that coerced his probationers to provide sexual favors, state could only charge him with misdemeanors. Also interested in Gov. health care issue – b/c governor does not want to form our own health care insurance, forcing feds to do it for us, will also not take extra Medicaid money, and will remove the privilege of having health care retirees able to add dependants. Wants to work with the legislature to return kids to health care rolls. Promised to be in good communication with district.
- V. Alley Task Force- Iris gave a report of the activities to date. A letter is being sent by four community councils – RPCC, Airport Heights, Fairview and South Addition, thanking Paul for support and asking SWS to treat alley service as the default. Iris mentioned that a meeting has been scheduled with assembly representatives as well. First priority is to get SWS to agree that alley service is the priority, and default collection area. Residents all very willing to work with SWS and to clean up alleys, however do not want to be chasing a moving target and under threat of losing alley service each year. Records show SWS promised to maintain alley service during the initial change to PAYT and roll carts, and it is unclear when that changed.
- VI. Cell tower update by Jeanne Ostnes

Atlas is trying for a 66 foot tower now. There are some concerns from Muni, a few things that have to be done – some parking spaces that Don Jose's needed on medical side for restaurant. Now that tower will take back 6 and block the alley. The camouflage idea from muni is to paint it brown and put six 8' trees in front of. Have successfully petitioned to go in front of planning & zoning in February. Will put it forward as a dilemma for the neighborhood, and really city wide – since these poles are popping up everywhere. Sent in a petition with 40% of the neighborhood signing (only 30% needed) Winchester mall is unhappy, Don Jose's doesn't like it. Muni requires co-location but to co-locate tower has to go higher. We already have a tower at Shriners. University said they would take it, but must be better deal for the doctors' office – he is retiring and closing office. They could make the tower look like a tree. There is a company that makes camouflage for these towers.

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Asking for a new resolution because there is a new case number for the tower before planning and zoning. 2013-004 is the new case number.

Wendy – also has a few words. Atlas towers rendering is off base – shows the tower in line with the phone poles which are only 30-35'. Atlas has very little information. Atlas said tower can't be at Charter b/c of roof – but Charter said no not b/c of snow load but denied them b/c the city should change what is going on, building already ugly – doesn't want it to be uglier. Atlas now threatening to sue city if it doesn't get what they want, Verizon offering 25% discounts to realtors now. This isn't co-location, co-location is to help community around you. There are already lots of towers around the neighborhood. They should go to UAA, pay a little extra.

A resolution was proposed. Janet clarified that four separate resolutions have already been passed on this issue. Two opposing the tower, asking for extension of planning and zoning commission comment deadline, another asking for if a tower is approved if it should be camouflaged.

Marilyn Pillifant asked - should we just re-affirm the existing resolution?

There was discussion about whether a new resolution was needed or the old ones were sufficient. Jeanne and Wendy felt that because there is a new case number, a new resolution was in order. However, they did not have any language to propose.

Dave Evans asked about an appeal – Wendy responded that the petition was approved, first Monday in February is the most likely date the case would be heard.

Resolution proposed: The RPCC opposes a cell phone tower of any height, at the East Northern Lights location, and specifically opposing the proposed tower before planning and zoning in case number 2013-004

Dave Evans commented that perhaps the resolution needs a little more work, some whereas, and more of the why – rather than just a simple statement. He proposed tabling this resolution until the next meeting. Made a motion to table – Dave, Bob – second.

Motion to Table resolution made by Dave Evans, Bob Churchill, second.

Vote In favor of tabling – 7, opposed to tabling – 11, abstains – 2. Motion Failed

Jeanne – suggested including the ten reasons to oppose as the “whereas” verbiage for the resolution. She read them outloud and there was agreement within the council to amend the motion to reflect the ten reasons listed.

Dave Evans moved to include the ten items, preface each with “Whereas”. This was accepted as a friendly amendment by the original maker.

Elvi noted that given the mill rates and the figures mentioned earlier of \$22 million in property value, approximately \$330K in lost property taxes. This was added to the resolution language.

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Question: **17 yay, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions**

- VII. Treasurers Report. \$170.91 in the bank.
- VIII. FCC report by Bob Churchill- started tradition of the State of our City forum – second year, was very fun and interesting. Everyone did 7 minute presentations – kept on time. Ernie Hall reiterated that he really placed a high value on community council action, very close to getting a process together for resolutions so that they come in, and are seen and recognized.
- IX. Other Business

Rep. Elect Harriet Drummond – will be asking for money for alleys on the 18th added to capital budget. RP streets in good shape, but the alleys need work. Recycled asphalt paving might work in alley's which is cheaper.

Jeanne – noted that if the amendment to the platting request by Atlas Towers doesn't go through, the tower issue will be dead. Comments due by January 6th – Janet Bidwell will sent out an email.

Adjourned at 8:31 p.m.