

## **Russian Jack Park Community Council March 9, 2005, Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes for February were approved.

**Treasurer's Report** - Not given..

**Legislative Report** - Not given because we were at East Anchorage High School.

**School District** - John Steiner gave an introduction (he is running for re-election on April 5<sup>th</sup>) .

**APD Report** - Sgt. Cindy Stanton - Followups:

- One residence in RJCC will be eligible for police response assessments (fines) if it has the same number of police calls as last year.
- Be alert for vehicle break-ins at parks and trail heads after the winter breakup. Most break-ins appear to result from observations of the people in the vehicles storing items in the trunk or in the car. The safest action is to leave valuables at home or store them in the trunk before going to the park.

**East Anchorage High School** - Michael Graham (Principal) led us on a tour.

- The renovation is 50% complete.
- The auditorium now seats 700 people. It has exceptionally good acoustics, the seating was computer planned to minimize sight blockages, and the decor is visually stunning while complementing its effects on the acoustics. The adjacent facilities for props and casts will provide the support for quality presentations.
- Large music rooms are dedicated for band/orchestra, choir and dance practices, along with small rooms for individual person practices.
- New classrooms are being built to support the five in-house schools - Northwest, Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, and School-within-a- School.
- An indoor track circles for 110 yards on the second floor around the two-story commons area (which is also the cafeteria). This allows running in the winter without using the hallways.
- The Thunderbird Window is beautiful. The rainbow of colors is from metal flakes embedded in 20 thousand glass chips. The window protected by armored glass on the outside (which will stop any rocks thrown) and tempered glass, a four foot gap, and another glass window on the inside.

**Anchorage Tomorrow** - Todd Jackson

- Proposition 4 - The Anchorage Roads & Transportation System (ARTS) bonds are \$44.5 million for the planning and construction of 45 projects, including traffic calming.
- Proposition 5 - Public Transportation (People Mover) bond is for \$1.9 million to match \$7.7 million in federal grants. This will buy new buses, upgrade older buses and improve facilities. The subsidy per rider is less than the subsidy per driver if the riders chose to drive on the roads instead.

**Weed & Seed Initiative** - Tim Sullivan

- The money will be received in four weeks (and this includes HUD money for housing security).
- Home Buyers' Fair on April 2 at Muldoon Mall. Also available will be tax counseling and assistance.

**GreatLand Auto** (4950 Taku Drive) -

- Owner is appealing the MOA decision to deny a permit to allow the property to continue being used as an automobile repair facility.
- Motion passed 6-0 : The Russian Jack Community Council unanimously supported a motion in favor of any possible improvements at the Greatland Auto property with 2 years (and that leaving this property in its current condition is unacceptable).

**Assembly Report - Brian Whittle**

- From the meeting at St. Anthony's on Community Policing: The mayor and police chief agreed to the need to institute community policing. This is when selected officers patrol only in limited neighborhoods so they can establish a rapport with the neighbors and be informed of neighborhood problems on a daily basis. But this is very manpower consuming, and Anchorage does not have the number of officers now to implement this.
- (Tim Sullivan) Anchorage has only 1.2 officers per thousand people. Other cities that do community policing have about 3.6 officers per thousand people. It will be longer than several years before APD can support community policing.
- For this reason, the Weed and Seed money would provide the most security by contracting with private firms for patrols during known trouble periods.

**FCC Report - Ed Leach**

- The Community Council website is back up and functioning, though it continues to be a work in progress. The URL is [www.communitycouncils.org](http://www.communitycouncils.org), and the RJCC page can be accessed from there. Our page includes links to newsletters, minutes, and the bylaws.

**Next Meeting** - April 13, 2005 at Wonder Park Elementary School.

**Adjournment** - 9:00 pm.