

Rogers Park Community Council
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 8, 2013 7:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order: Janet Bidwell, 7:02
- II. Review and approval of meeting minutes: February 11, 2013 and March 4, 2103.
 - a. Moved Bob Churchill, Second Cheryl Forrest
Approved: 19 yay
- III. Assembly Reports: Dick Traini

Re-elected for another three years. It's Elvi's birthday. Votes will be hand-counted on Saturday in the West Anchorage Assembly Race. Debbie Ossiander's taxi cab ordinance is up on Tuesday and will go to committee, still needs some work. Two new members will be coming in at a minimum: Tim Steele and Amy Demboski.

The initiative to Repeal 37 is being signed off on by Dept. of Law. They will need 7,200 signatures to get law suspended while it goes to the voters on the ballot.

Dick is retired now and does the Assembly full time. He encourages folks to call him if they need him at 250-6832.

IV. Legislative Reports

No legislative reports

- V. Annual Meeting: Election of Officers
 - a. Janet Bidwell, President
 - b. Iris Matthews, Vice President
 - c. Jim Wright, Secretary
 - d. Cheryl Forrest, Treasurer

Vote to approve the slate: 20 yay, no nay.

- VI. Presentation, Discussion and Updates; as follows:
 - A. Curling Club, Ty Schoomer and Marty Schultz

Passed out booklets on the Anchorage curling Club with renderings for new building. Membership is nearly at capacity. Can't serve school groups adequately with existing facilities. The building is in need of extensive repairs, the ice is also not good. Would like to have ice that is good for competitive curling. Marty's daughter is an Olympian-level curler and she had to leave the state for training.

State Legislature gave them a couple hundred thousand last year for design & feasibility study. The study showed there is increased interest in wheelchair curling, collegiate level curling and Special Olympics curling, in addition to regular competitive curling. Went to Parks & Rec to see if they would

be involved, gave them five locations to consider. Parks & Rec favored Goose Lake facility, they would like to remove current facility and move it and rebuild with upgrades. Govt. Hill CC is sad to see them go, Black Sheep Archers Club is interested in the old space in Govt. Hill.

Approximately 1500 people come through the Curling Club each year. Working hard to form new partnerships, Parks & Rec, Disabled athletes. Fairbanks has been a great example – brings in Winter tourism for a few events every year with \$600K-\$1 Million into the economy per event. Have been self-sufficient for 50 years. Down in the Lower 48, clubs of this size are used for civic purposes in the off season May-September.

Question: How will it interface with current summer activities in Goose Lake? Ans: In the design, restrooms, kitchen, etc.

Question: Who will own the building? Answer: it is not clear if it will be city owned or privately owned.

Question: What will be the cost? Where will funding come from? Answer: The feasibility study shows \$12 million needed, very high end estimate. But, doesn't account for in kind donations, other fundraising, Muni part should be about \$2.5 million.

Question: What is estimated usage? Answer: Constantly people going in and out of club for maintenance. 20-30 cars at peak use when there is a tournament. Goose Lake has 120+ spaces now.

Question: Will there be a spectator area? Answer: yes, bleachers along the side, as well as viewing from the ends.

Question: The schematic shows an upper floor? Is it not a full floor? Answer: Second floor is just a viewing area.

Question: This is a nice building in the picture but the cost estimate is based on pre-engineered building which doesn't look like this. Answer: Cost estimate is pretty close to this. Comment: Point is hope you get enough money to make a nice-looking building, would be a shame to have an industrial building in the park area.

Question: Will they try to get wine & beer license? Answer: We have a club license, will hope to maintain it. We cannot serve the public, only club members.

B. SBA Test Scores for Non-Gifted Students at Rogers Park Elementary School.

Roger Elconin, on the SBA test scores for non-gifted students. He has had kids at RP Elementary for the last ten years. Was recruited for traffic/cross-walk duty, recess supervision as a stay at home dad. It's no one's fault that the scores are falling, but this is a difficult conversation. Any time he has talked to folks, they don't want to talk about it. Has ruffled a lot of feathers trying to talk about it. Was very hard to get the data.

Rogers Park Elementary School is two separate, highly segregated schools under one roof. The Highly Gifted program has more than doubled in size; these are the kids who are in the 99%. These are very different groups. It creates a lot of challenges in the school, socially and academically.

However, when they report the data for student achievement, they report the two schools combined and that is all the public has access to. That makes it very misleading to the public to base schools performance, goals, etc. on the aggregated proficiency.

Question: What would you like us to do as a community council? Answer: We know from this data the neighborhood school is doing poorly. He was directed to Family Engagement Action Plan, most schools in Lower 48 do it. Essentially a community site council and he would like us to consider supporting one for RP. Blueprint for community involvement, they usually result in raising scores, performance, etc. in the schools that have them.

Janet Bidwell Comment: Sen. Gardner did email Janet, and voiced her concerns and support for doing something to have a conversation, move forward. The 2011-12 data is unavailable and the school district will not provide it. Glen Nielson, Director of Elementary Ed, refused to give her the data. Probably because they are embarrassed by it. She would like to form a standing committee to look at the issue, try to get the data.

Tam Agosti-Gisler, ASD School Board - She lives in the neighborhood. Not prepared to give a report because not the administrator. This is not acceptable. In our district we have 2600 kids not meeting standards in literacy. New program piloted a few years ago. Starting to do more formative assessments, instead of waiting to see if the kids test well in April. Adopted new math program in ASD. Destination 2020- one grade level per child per year is goal. Border for Rogers Park goes all the way over to Lowes area/A Street Border.

With the common core standards adopted, the standards are higher. She expects that test scores will continue to drop as they test for the new higher standards. There is a huge shift going on.

Bob Churchill volunteered to head up the committee to address this issue.

Marilyn Pilifant: Teaches at Chinook, Title 21 school. Looking at this data, there are many issues to discuss. She wants to know what happened to the drop in student rates. 115 students have left between Jim Wright – volunteered to work with Bob on the committee. Marilyn also volunteered for the committee

Comment: Appreciated the point about the divide between the two schools. When she attended, 23 years ago, it was an issue – probably much worse now.

Question: Is there data about how many families are not using the neighborhood school? How many strong families are taking their students out?

Comment, Marilyn Pilifant: We don't have anyone at our Title 1 school to encourage parents to participate. PTA should be that role. That would be a place to begin. The transient rate isn't all that much. Also, Rogers Park is in its 7th year of not meeting AYP – very surprising

Chinook also has a school within a school; do not get disaggregated information either.

Demographics are now changing. 52% of ASD population is now minority.

Comment: Thanks to Roger for his persistence. Will the administration in the form of the Principal, sit on this committee? Thinks that would be very helpful.

Comment: Concerned about the PTA, thinks the PTA should be involved in the committee now.

General comments about engagement and involvement of the PTA.

Bob Churchill: Would recommend we keep this committee small until we know what information we have.

C. Leslye Layne: Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline Project Project Update, Alaska's In State Gas Pipeline

Gave a history of the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation and the proposed ASAP project. Formed by HB 369 in April 2010 for gas for in-state use. This is a 36" pipe project, a utility project for in state use. The Governor's project is for a 42" pipeline for commercial export and state revenue. Oil and gas economics are very different.

Interior is paying too much for their gas, more than for mortgage. Declining population in Fairbanks. Lots of Tier 1 people leaving, because they can't afford fuel bills. In Anchorage, the Mayor's energy task force commissioned a report that says by 2015 we won't have enough gas coming out of Inlet for our local use.

Goal: To deliver affordable, long-term energy for Alaskans.

Cost: \$400 Million is what we need to in upfront costs. \$72 Million has been received. Up in Senate Finance right now. All of the documents, prior reports, permits, etc. are all public documents and available for review. Most are on website, some are available in the office. There is lots of public support. They also have a Citizens Advisory Committee – only one person on the committee from Anchorage is former Governor Bill Sheffield. Need more people on the committee, so give her a call if interested.

Comment: Most reliable estimates recently say there is over 100 years of gas in Cook Inlet. Was that the case, it would preempt the need for the pipeline. Ans: We commissioned a study as well, the gas is there, but it is much harder to get to. According to report, would need to drill about 20 wells a year to keep up.

Question: Mentioned boreholes – thought taking gas without drilling? Answer: Need to do boreholes along alignment, to bury the pipe.

Question: Was original pipe 24"? Ans: Yes – this is more common pipe, shelf-ready. Won't be custom built.

Question: When if final delivery date? Ans. 2019

Question: Mentioned if build a larger line, could also build a bullet line? Answer: Well, they could buy the data. Or legislature, could direct AGDA to work with the other project more closely. Building a small line doesn't prevent a larger export project from being built – if they find the economics, they will build it.

Question: Is there enough gas for two pipelines? Answer: 35 trillion c/f, and more being discovered. Yes, we think so, as long as they're producing oil. Right now, they are flaring it.

Question: In vicinity of Denali, will you go along Denali highway? Answer: No. Sen. Murkowski has introduced legislation that did not pass, to go through park, but we don't need it. Can go around, have done visual impact statement. Park route would be so controversial, not worth it.

Question: This project answers same needs as Susitna/Watana? Why this/why not that? Answer: Watana only really answers electrical feed. Sounds like a big challenge too, environmentally. We can be complementary.

Question: Plans for access for pigging? Valves for access? Answer: Yes, plans for pigging. Valves every 20 miles. Info is all in Environmental Impact Statement.

Question: Where will gas be stored? Answer: Plan, is guided by AGIA, and whoever shows up at open season.

D. Alley Pickup Committee, Iris Matthews

No news. Everything is on Paul's desk, been waiting on him. However, feeling antsy, no real answers. Time to keep things moving as we move into the summer and get some commitments. More to report in May.

E. Tony Knowles Coastal Trail, Maeve Nevins, ASLA Park Planner with MOA

Gave a presentation of the funding history for the project, community involvement. Most of funding from park bond and legislative grant. Great example of how community/state is working together well. We will be doing Chester Creek trail next year, thanks to prop 4 bond passing.

Parts of the trail will be closed in phases during the construction. The equipment is big and dangerous, need to keep people away. Will work with event organizers, etc for marathons, runs, etc. Have just selected a contractor, waiting for assembly approval.

Sections of the trail will be closed in phases. Alternative routes will be provided. There will be Google maps and a virtual fly through. There will be signage, door hangers, etc. this should be pretty public as it

is happening. As routes are defined, links will be made public. She will be project manager, can call her with any questions.

Some technical questions were received in advance: Short answers: In 2011, did one mile pilot project. Has led to a lot of technical knowledge that will be used in this project. Design standards were part of RFP, and can be seen in bid documents. Some tree removal will occur where roots are an issue. The project is rehabilitation project. The trail has held up remarkably well, hopefully this will be good for another 25 years. Full answers will be provided for Janet to put on website.

Dave: Thanks for answers. Asking because Chester Creek Trail was resurfaced 10 years ago, and major cracks had appeared within a year.

Question: Construction in the Fall has some issues – Answer: Phasing done for a reason and in a specific order.

Bridges will be getting new surfacing that rollerblades and skiers should like.

F. Other Business

Janet appointed Bob Churchill to continue as FCC Representative

It is time to coordinate Annual CIP priorities. The RPCC will ask Heather Ireland to coordinate the survey again.

Comments: Dave Evans wife, Diana, would like to start a Rogers Park Weed Warriors group to take care of the community areas – at the entrances to the neighborhood. Muni not doing it.

G. Treasurer's Report.

\$190.20 – received a \$20/donation.

H. FCC Report by Bob Churchill

Maeve presented at FCC. Mark with Scenic Foothills Patrol did a presentation. Also got a presentation on the library renovation, a lot more will be on the first floor in the redesign.

Adjourned at 9:26 p.m.