

ABBOTT LOOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

September 24, 2015 Minutes

Meeting called to order by President Ray Metcalfe at 6:45pm

Board members present: Ray Metcalfe, Lynda Zaugg, Patti Higgins, Dan Borland, Pixie Siebe, Faith Alexander, Bruce Roberts, Gordon Wetzel, John Weddleton.

Minutes from August were approved as amended.

Assemblymembers Elvi Gray-Jackson & Dick Traini: *Abbott Loop Community Council Meeting – Assembly Report from Ms Gray-Jackson*

Berkowitz administration has put a “pause” on the MOA’s Enterprise Resource Plan aka SAP while a review occurs lead by the new Deputy CFO – Alden Thern – and several industry knowledgeable members of the public. A recommendation is scheduled to be submitted to the Mayor on September 30th and to the Assembly shortly thereafter.

- The Public Hearing on the Equal Rights Ordinance was held on September 15th and 16th. The Public Hearing was closed and the Assembly will debate, propose amendments and vote on the ordinance at the September 29th meeting. A Work Session to discuss the proposed amendments will be held September 25th from 12:00 – 2:00 at City Hall in the Assembly Conference Room #155.
- The Administration has provided the Assembly with the 120 Day Preliminary 2016 Budget information. Some highlights are:
 - An overall decrease of \$12.4M in revenues - \$8.6 in changes in Program Fees, Interest and other revenues which includes a \$7M reduction of ML&P’s Utility Revenue Distribution due to the RCA’s decision and a decrease of \$4.8M in State Revenue Distribution.
 - Tax Cap Calculation – Limit on all property taxes that can be collected is up by \$8.6M.
 - The Administration’s priorities are public safety, facilitating new community development, and promoting more accessible and affordable housing.
- In terms of reorganizations for the 2016 budget, the proposed changes follows:
 - Office of Economic and Community Development – Development Services, Planning, Real Estate, Parks and Recreation, and the Library,
 - Public Works will be absorbed through the elevation to Department level – Traffic, Maintenance and Operations, and Project Management and Engineering.
- Proposed Capital Improvement Budget Bonds:
 - Fire - \$2M
 - Parks and Recreation - \$4M
 - Police - \$3.1
 - Public Transportation - \$600K
 - Public Works – \$49M
- TOTAL BONDS PROPOSAL FOR 2016 - \$58.7M
- The Mayor’s proposed 2016 Operating and Capital Budgets will be submitted to the Assembly by the required deadline – October 2nd. The budget ordinances will be introduced at the October 13th meeting.
 - The Public Hearing will be held at the October 20th meeting.
 - Action on the budget will take place at the November 17th meeting.

Work Sessions:

- The first Work Session will be held on October 2nd 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.
- The second Work Session will be held on October 9th from 11:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- The third Work Session will be held on October 23rd from 11:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- Tentative Work Session on Assembly proposed amendments on November 13th from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- Tentative Work Session on Assembly proposed amendments on November 20th from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Next Assembly Meeting: September 29, 2015

School Board member Pat Higgins: Enrollment is up 200 students. Heating systems are so old parts aren't manufactured any more. It takes months to get a new part made. They are trying to get students to show higher growth in the top and lowest two tiers. Abbott Loop Elementary has a walk-a-thon from 12-4 on Saturday. Status of the bond money from the State: there was a legal opinion the State had to honor the bond. The legislature is ignoring that opinion. The FICA study will have a definition of "adequate" funding.

John Weddleton: Planning and Zoning report. Mr. Harold Green regarding Ridgeport Subdivision, the old Tom Thumb Montessori site at O'Malley and Abbott Rd, has asked for another extension. Motion passed without objection.

Senator Meyer: They have been called to a special session to consider a buy-out of Trans-Canada. It would give the State ownership of 25% of the proposed pipeline. Also deciding if we need to pull tax credits for small producers in Cook Inlet – Repsol has new discoveries on the Slope.

Kim Amar: 60% of neighbors signed a petition for a traffic study at Oakwood and Burlwood Dr. by the State. Dave Donley moved and John Weddleton seconded a motion for ALCC to support request for a traffic study. Motion passed without objection.

Dave Donley moved and John Weddleton seconded a motion to name the pedestrian bridge crossing Campbell Creek east of Lake Otis in honor of Red Boucher. Motion passed without objection.

Tim Stallard: Spoke again about the problem of invasive plants in our area. The Anchorage Park Foundation recommend the addition of Atkins Park to the list of Parks being treated for May Day Trees. They are spreading rapidly throughout the Anchorage Bowl and it's hard to kill them. One person suggested hypo-axing would be a better method of treatment. Motion made by Pat O'Hara, seconded by Faith Alexander to approve addition of Atkins Park to list of Parks to be treated for invasive May Day trees and to add May Day trees to the list of trees forbidden to sell in Alaska passed without objection.

Todd Davis from Planning Dept: Anchorage 2020 and our future growth. The Abbott Loop area is 30 years out of date. Town centers could use planning. We could have a representative attend meetings and have motions passed at ALCC to carry to the group. John Weddleton will attend but would like someone else to be our official representative.

Pat O'Hara: Standing in for Susan Soule. At this time Whisper Faith Kovech Park is the current recommendation of Parks and Rec for a southside dog park. Spruce Park the original consideration was deemed unsuitable because of soil contamination. Winchester Park and Meadow Street Park were second and third recommendation. The dog park suitability study is available online or available at Parks and Rec. A standing committee was appointed to investigate the next steps and canvass the neighborhood for concept approval. Members are: Susan Soule (chair), Pat O'Hara, Karen Dechman, Amanda Hesser, Pixie Siebe, and Patti Higgins. Fundraising will be needed as well as municipal support.

Dog Park Committee: The committee will talk to the neighbors in the vicinity of Whisper Faith Kovich Park and make a recommendation at the next ALCC meeting.

Parks and Rec Committee: The \$1500 in our account from the Soil and Water Conservation District must be used for Abbott Loop Community Park. Ideas are being discussed for the highest and best use of the funds.

Treasurer's report: No report

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.