

RABBIT CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of 10 January 2002

Present: Sell, Weinig, Van Flein, Mendenhall, Fries, Geuss, Gruenblatt, Miller, Ross, Pease. This was a general meeting.

The Minutes for December were **approved** by the Board, as corrected (moved Weinig, second Mendenhall).

Announcements

- The South Goldenview LRSA has put out a newsletter. It is available from coprimo@gci.net; put LRSA in the subject line.
- Comments have been requested on the Moen Park Phase I design. This information will be in the Request for Bids in the spring, in which Moen will be combined with 5-6 other parks.
- Weinig looked into Amendment 3 to AMATS; it revises the criteria for prioritizing proposed projects. It is case 2002-010 and is scheduled by P&Z for January 14.
- One of the original three cases concerning Prominence Point, 2000-209, has not yet been scheduled by the Assembly. This was a request to rezone about 7 acres near Ashland from R6 to R7-SL
- Vehicle storage yards, Case 2001-062, is scheduled by P&Z for February 4.
- An ordinance to amend Title 21 with new definitions and procedures for land clearing, Case 2002-025, is scheduled by P&Z for March 4.

Elections for the RCCC Board were held. There were four two-year places; 9 people ran. Elected were Nancy Pease, Greg Ross, Donna Van Flein, and Dianne Holmes. There were three one-year places; elected were Josh Pierce, Josephine Utic, and Ky Holland. Alternates (tied) are Barbara Weinig and Brad Kutzer.

Hillside District Plan: Ky Holland reported on his experience with regional planning as resident of Portland. Neighborhood plans there are adopted by the city government as ordinances, but there was little support for writing one. The neighborhood raised their own funds and hired a coordinator to organize meetings and other business. It took about 2 years to organize and write the plan, and different people contributed to various stages: developing a general overview and main elements of the plan, researching connections to other plans (city and neighborhood), and writing the actual document. Neighborhood plans could be aggregated into regional ones. The whole process is a huge amount of work, but it was worthwhile.

Discussion—the following points were made: The Hillside, and even the Rabbit Creek Community (the council area), are bigger than the neighborhood whose plan Ky worked on. Anchorage 2020 is a progressive plan, but it doesn't provide any framework for writing neighborhood or regional plans.

Legislative report (Bunde): During the upcoming legislative session, his priority as chair of the Education Committee will be the shortage of teachers. Also the fiscal crisis; the state is \$1 billion in debt.

A board member suggested that teleconferences during the session start with a rundown on the legislative agenda, so we can comment on it.

Assembly report:

- The Assembly overrode the mayor's veto of their transportation measure, and the Muni will continue to fund all Hillside bus service.
- The Muni has bought 19 more speed bumps. We can petition for some (they can be used outside the Anchorage Road and Service Area, and on gravel roads).
- Weinig and Holmes asked when Section 36 will be transferred to Parks and Rec. It is stuck in the Legal Department; the mayor wants a master plan first.
- An "amnesty" for encroachment of buildings on required setbacks is near enactment. For a fee of \$500, a landowner could buy forgiveness for an existing encroachment. Until now this has required approval by P&Z.
- A limit has been approved on increases in fees and fines (except fines for criminal violations)
- Anchorage is in violation of Federal air quality standards. There were 2 "non-attainment events" in December. If we don't have at least 2 consecutive years with no more than one "event" each year, we could lose Federal funding.
- Bonds to be on the April municipal ballot were discussed. It was pointed out that parks bonds should include funds for operations as well as acquisitions.

AWARE (Heather Handyside, MOA): The Muni is offering 4-hour courses for citizens to learn how to respond to civil emergencies and disasters.

New Seward Highway realignment: A resolution was debated and revised. It has been proposed that the highway be relocated west of the current railroad alignment; the railroad would also be moved and would still be west of the road. The present highway would become a bike trail and scenic drive. The road near the rifle range would remain the same except for being elevated above its present grade. DOTPF has not begun planning any changes in that section yet, but they are already planning to move the section of highway south of the Potter Section House so it would be west of the railroad tracks.

Points made during discussion: The intersection at the rifle range is dangerous now. Our resolution would be well timed, if DOTPF is starting a scoping process for the highway. Possible impacts on Potter Marsh and on the marsh/mudflat community west of the tracks should be evaluated.

It was moved (Jim Ferguson), seconded (Caren Mathis), and **passed** 31-0 to approve the resolution as amended.

Ball fields in Far North Bicentennial Park: Carol Fries has drafted a letter from RCCC opposing ball fields in the southwest corner of the park. However, Art Geuss strongly supports this location, based on his past experience in contribution to planning of the park; the Updated Master Plan says ball fields should be added to the park.

Points made during discussion: A community park is needed in that location (Geuss). Everyone agrees on that, but it need not include ball fields (Shamberg). Clearing of that area for ball fields opens the way for losing more of the park to development (Weinig). Several other sites are being considered, which could be acquired by land trades or other means. Little League fields are needed in that area, but clearing natural land should be a last resort (Pease). The park's Updated Master Plan did not say that ball fields should be put in that area (Mendenhall). There are sites in the area that already have ball fields which could be modified to suit the Little League (Shamberg).

It was moved (Al Carter), seconded (Mendenhall), and **passed** (11-9-1) to approve Fries' letter as written.

Coastal Trail/Old Seward Highway Resolution: This was passed at an earlier meeting; Al Carter asked that Fries sign it, and they arranged to get this done.

Sand Lake development: Sell said that he will keep an eye on this for us—the developer proposes no greenbelts, few exits from the tract, and other poor planning. A similar proposal is planned inn a gravel pit in the Huffman-O'Malley area. These aren't in RCCC, but we have resisted such developments in the past, and maybe we can help.

Commending the president: Carol Fries' two terms as Board President are ending. Holmes commended her for keeping up with issues and for issuing a good newsletter. Weinig asked for applause for Fries.