

ROGERS PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
DECEMBER 14, 2015  
ROGERS PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY

**Board Members Attending:**

Clare Boersma, Vice-President  
Bob Churchill, FCC Representative

**I. Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 pm by Clare Boersma as acting President. A quorum was established by a show of hands and the sign up list.

**II. Community Council Business**

**A. Minutes:** The minutes from the November meeting were made available to the membership. A motion was made by Bob Churchill and seconded by Carl Ward to approve the minutes. There were some minor changes and they were approved by a vote of 15 yes, 0 no's, and one abstention.

**B. FCC Report:** There was no FCC report as the representative was not able to attend the meeting.

**C. Treasurer's Report:** There was no treasurer's report as the treasurer was not able to attend.

**III. Assembly Reports:**

Assembly Member Elvi Gray-Jackson reported as follows:

Assembly Member Evans introduced an ordinance to change the tax cap to be based on the actual taxes from the previous year. The Assembly has recently changed the cap to be based on the allowable tax level from the previous year. The method currently in place would allow for more flexibility. At the 11/23 assembly meeting the Municipal budget for the next fiscal year was approved. Included in that was funding of \$5700.00 to support the Senior Center. Also added was some additional staffing and resources for animal control. This budget includes funding for 2 or 3 police academies and one fire fighters academy. In addition there has been discussion about the assembly moving on establishing a sales tax. Ms. Gray-Jackson also told us that a restaurant was applying for a liquor license located in the strip mal at the southwest corner of Lake Otis Blvd and Northern Lights.

Assembly Member Dick Traini

Assembly Member Traini informed us that the permitting process for business's under the new marijuana statutes is scheduled to begin in February of 2016. As part of that process the individuals applying will be asked to inform and involve the local community councils. However given the timing it may be this will be initially be happening in the summer when many community councils are not meeting. He encouraged us to have a committee in place to work with the individuals making these applications.

#### **IV. Legislative Reports**

Representative Andy Josephson

John Church attended on behalf of Representative Josephson. He stated there will be a constituent meeting at the West Romig Library on January 9, 2016. He discussed a bill that will be introduced to deal with microbeads in the upcoming session which has important health implications for both individual's health and environmental issues.

Senator Berta Gardner

Samantha Straus attended on behalf of Senator Gardner. She told us that Senator Gardner was preparing for the upcoming session in January. She was reviewing and preparing for the budget discussions. This will involve a complex effort to balance revenue and expenses with particular attention to the generation of new revenue.

#### **V. Presentations**

Laura Butcher/Rasmussen Foundation: Ms. Butcher described a presentation that the Foundation had put together to summarize the current fiscal position of the State of Alaska. The reason for this was that the Rasmussen Foundation has demonstrated their commitment to the quality of life issues throughout the State for many years and is concerned that if we don't effectively deal with the budget issues it may have a dramatic and devastating effect on the quality of life of many, if not all, Alaskans. Rasmussen has completed a telephone survey that involved approximately 1200 Alaskans to determine to what issues were most critical to them and who influences the most. Their plan is to have a session with a long presentation for community involvement in January or February. They currently have a 30 minute presentation and would be happy to give the full presentation to any community council or other group. President Boersma asked for a show of

hands if Rogers Park Community Council wanted the longer presentation and a majority in attendance indicated they did.

Kristine Bunnell from the Municipality of Anchorage gave a presentation on the long range plan for the UMED District. They have been working on this part of the plan for a number of years. She had a full copy of the plan and the backup material for it. She stated that the part of the plan that called for Cogeneration was no longer feasible primarily due to economic factors. The funding for this had been about 300 million dollars which the State of Alaska had turned down and there are more reasonably priced alternatives to the original plan. The plan is on the website which is open and comments can still be made for approximately the next 30 days. The address is: <http://Muni.opencomments.us>. She stated she will make an effort to insure comments made through their web site will be shared with the planning and zoning commission.

## **VI. Other business (new & old) and announcements**

Annette Cartier gave us an update on the Cell Phone Tower issues she had reported on in previous meetings. She stated they had prepared an amended resolution to the resolution passed at the community council meeting in November. Howard Levine of the Turnigan Community Council also provided some clarifications from their perspective. Acting President Boersma asked when the timeline was to be part of the process and we were told February 1, 2016. Bob Churchill made a motion to approve, seconded by Carl Ward. The vote was 24 yes 0 opposed and two abstentions.

Acting President Boersma updated us on the Merritt Field Master Plan. We have been asked as a community council to support other community councils to protect the land currently being used for Sitka Park. A meeting was requested by one member to provide Rogers Park Community Council with more thorough information on the significant issues related to this.