

# **Rogers Park Community Council Minutes**

## **7 PM Monday, February 8, 2016**

### **Rogers Park Elementary School Library**

#### **Board Members Attending:**

Iris Matthews, President  
Clare Boersma, Vice-President  
Marilyn Pillifant, Treasurer  
Bob Churchill, FCC Representative

#### **I. Welcome.**

The meeting was called to order by Iris Matthews. A quorum was apparent.

#### **II. Community Council Business.**

**A. Minutes:** Minutes from the January 2016 meeting were reviewed. Bob Churchill moved to approve them. Carl Ward seconded. Approved with a friendly amendment to accept changes to Annette Cartier's comments on GCI discussion.

**B. FCC Report.** FCC representative Bob Churchill summarized the last FCC meeting. Thanks to Dick Trainin and Elvi Gray-Jackson, the budget for FCC was funded again at the same level as before. There are some improvements to the FCC budget, reduced accounting costs and increased services. The Muni is focusing its lobbying efforts in Juneau on the Port of Anchorage. Estimate they need about \$290 million to get the port up and running at the required level. There was a presentation from Great Alaska Schools, noting there is little hope for the State taking on a share of education bonds funding for Anchorage and the city will pay for the full share if bonds pass. Government Hill garden project is going well. Marijuana advocates presented again to the FCC.

**C. Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Marilyn Pillifant has not received a recent balance from the bank. Prior reports indicate that RPCC funds total ~\$202.

#### **III. Assembly Reports.**

**A. Elvi Gray-Jackson.** The Assembly held a special meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup> to hold a public hearing on ordinances relating to the sale of marijuana. The ordinances cover Land Use and Licensing and Regulations. 27 persons testified.

At the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Assembly Members will move 20 proposed amendments for a vote. Once amendments are considered, the body will vote on AO 2016-3(S), Land Use Ordinance and AO 2016-16(S), Licensing and Regulations Ordinance.

The Assembly is moving forward with the Vote-by-Mail project and has hired a Project Manager. The April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 election will be a vote-by-mail election.

The Public Hearing on the U-Med District Plan will be continued at the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting after 6:00 p.m.

The next assembly meeting will be: February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**B. Dick Traini.** At tomorrow's meeting, two issues: 11a and 11b one land use, one licensing. All night will be about marijuana.

Evans and Johnston want to drop the required distance from schools etc to 500 feet. State requires 1000 feet for alcohol. Chugiak ER residents want 1000 feet. They will amend to also include homeless shelters putting shelters back in.

Georgianna Derrick asked: What is Dick's personal take on 500 feet vs 1000 feet?

Dick responded that he would rather have 1000.

Marilyn Pillifant asked: Has the Assembly looked at an Anchorage map and plotted 500 feet vs 1000 feet?

Dick responded that the map is available at the planning department and the exercise has also been done for Girdwood.

Annette Cartier asked: Re: cell tower ordinance, public comments before P and Z on Feb 1 and Assembly comments on 2/23, will there be other public comments on the Planning and Zoning recommendations after 2/23?

Dick responded that he thinks so. If we have to, we have to.

Dave Evans asked: The UMED district plan, won't it come up tomorrow?

Dick responded that he doesn't believe it will.

David followed up to ask if Dick or Elvi plan to introduce amendments.

Dick answered that neither assemblyperson is planning anything. They have talked about property near Piper on Tudor that lends itself to a medical office building.

Dave asked Dick and Elvi to keep in mind how Rogers Park CC residents feel.

Marilyn Pillifant brought up Planning and Zoning commenting period and recommendations.

Dick indicated the assembly won't make any decisions until they get report from P and Z, and yes there should be public comment.

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

**A: Rep. Andy Josephon.** Andy presented by phone from Juneau.

He will be back in Anchorage on the weekend of February 19<sup>th</sup>. And again around 27<sup>th</sup> of February (Sat) for Anchorage caucus meeting at Loussac Library. On 5<sup>th</sup> of March, Harriett, Berta and Andy will host a town hall at Steller Secondary.

Juneau legislative session going well. Today is day 21. Real consideration is being given to the governor's fiscal plan. It is a very complicated abstract puzzle.

There was a resolution today in the House to suspend the rules so that not every standing committee will hear bills other than budget and new revenue related bills. Downside: Going into immediately into 24 hour notice mode. Bill tracking notice is reduced. Potentially down to 8 hours. (just have to notice before 11:59pm the day before hearing).

Subcommittees are meeting. Andy is concerned about University of Alaska, it is being scrutinized deeply. He is defending the university where it needs defending.

Marilyn Pillifant inquired whether SB23 will be taken up under new rules in house? (the Narcon bill).

Andy indicated that some exceptions may be made if an argument can be made that there is cost savings.

Call (907)465-4939 if folks want to meet when he's in town.

**B: Mayor Ethan Berkowitz office.** Aide Nora Morse presented on behalf of Mayor Berkowitz. She visits RPCC meetings quarterly.

Sher reported on the recent point in time homeless count: Preliminary numbers are that at 4:30am, volunteers contacted 70 people in camps, cars or on the street. 20 youth on the street. Project Homeless Connect event that day also served 797 people. Not all of those served were homeless, but some seeking other services. The next thing the City will work on is determining who of those 797 are actually homeless and who just needs to avoid becoming homeless. They are developing a "by name" list and having weekly meetings with mayor and homeless team to connect people with services every week.

Other big news; MLP and Chugach signed an agreement to jointly purchase part of Beluga gas field. Rates will go down for ratepayers, Chugach ratepayers immediately. Then MLP ratepayers soon after. This purchase should help gas supply last through 2033.

Regarding the Legislature: the City is only asking for more money for Port of Anchorage.

Regarding public safety: City is working hard to fill police academies. Current academy has 19 recruits graduating in May. Then they will hold another short academy in 10-12 week period of time.

Other news: City will announce community and art grants later this week.

Ann Lorber asked about a list of land that could be available to homeless housing development. She was concerned that it included some natural wildlife areas.

Nora responded that the only land she knows of targeted to development as high priorities are existing buildings. Mentioned DeLong Lake park to dedicate as parkland. No plans for development on that land. Nora will double check and get back to us.

Noah Sunflower followed up on the police academy, mentioning that 19 recruits sounds short for academy recruitment goal. What is administration doing to get the numbers up?

Nora responded that they are offering pay incentives, shortening the academy duration for pre-qualified candidates from other police forces looking to join APD, doing outreach, sending officers to events to recruit in the community. They receive 600-700 applications for each academy and are working on not only getting more applicants but qualified ones.

Marilyn Pillifant asked for clarification on where qualified recruits would come from. Nora indicated they may be former Alaska State Troopers or anyone who is also from other police forces. Craig, Fairbanks, Bethel for example.

Iris inquired about the point in time homeless count, mentioning the number of contacts sounded low. Do they typically also count folks sleeping in shelters? And how do the numbers compare to previous counts, are they up or down?

Nora responded that yes, she can send the other number. It seemed like a similar number to previous counts. City homeless coordinator Nancy Burke hopes to do another count, potentially in late fall.

Marilyn Pillifant asked if the homeless had perhaps heard about the count happening and vacated.

Nora responded that people usually receive it very well. Volunteers bring free items and people are generally welcoming and receptive.

## **VI. Presentations and Discussions.**

**A. Assistant District Attorney Jack McKenna.** Mr. McKenna explained was there to give residents an idea what his office does in community and see if we had concerns. He is assistant AG under the Alaska Department of Law. There are two sections: civil and criminal. He works in the criminal section prosecuting felonies. His office handles about 3,000 felonies, 3,000 misdemeanor, and over 3,000 probation violations and appeals each year.

His office also covers Unalaska, Sand Point, Dillingham, Saint Paul and Naknek. The Anchorage Muni prosecutor's office is a strong partner, they prosecute majority of the local misdemeanors now.

Bob Churchill asked if they are looking at helping with revisions on bail structure. Jack answered yes. Bob emphasized what an important effort this is. Nora from the mayor's office brought up a bill Sen. Coghill has released on this topic. Jack was unable to speak on behalf of his department re: the department's opinion on the bill.

Dave Evans brought up Nextdoor and mentioned recent discussions about neighborhood about crime rates. Has it been increasing or are we just hearing more about it? Nora Morse mentioned Mayor is hoping to get a neighborhood breakdown to us soon.

Ann Lorber asked if there is a filtering in terms of the statistical reports of crimes when they are reported online and brought up some recent crimes hear her home and her concern that some crimes might not be reported online. Jack suggested that in online reporting, sometimes if there are multiple crimes in one place at one time only the more serious offenses are listed, and not an exhaustive list of all offenses.

Iris Matthews asked how budget cuts are affecting Jack's office. He reported that they have had significant staff cuts over the last couple years and anticipate more. Iris followed up, asking if this has an impact on how long it takes to process cases. Jack confirmed that it does, yes.

Marilyn Pillifant asked about ankle monitoring for non violent offenders and how it effects the budget and workload. Jack responded that it doesn't change his workload much but it does decrease the budgetary needs significantly for the AK Department of Corrections.

Ann Lorber read in the paper that there is a new fire investigator in Anchorage and wanted to know more about suspicious fires in apartment buildings. Jack deferred the question to the mayor's office. Nora confirmed that there are now two fire investigators and the City will soon host another fire academy.

**B. GCI Availability for questions re: follow up.**

Travis Drake and Sherrie Greenfields from GCI returned to answer additional RPCC questions about GCI plans.

Dave Evans asked about new pole calculations showing that guy wires will be needed and where new anchors would be placed.

Travis responded that yes there is one currently and there will be an additional wire. It's in the plans. He doesn't think it goes over the bike path and offered to send more information later, as they usually work that out a little later in the process.

Carl Ward mentioned that the wires and anchors are probably irrelevant since they won't go over the bike path. Then he asked about alternate sites for a cell tower or extension,

and why the alternate sites at Baptist or LDS churches in the neighborhood are considered too low to be useful.

Travis indicated it is not just a matter of height but also clutter and things that can impede the RF signal.

Annette Cartier stated that pictures of the proposed project don't appear to be true to scale and asked for better pictures. She asked if GCI can PhotoShop a pole into a photo of the area. Travis said this would be possible.

Annette asked about the dimensions of the cleared area required for the project and asked for current drawings as she is concerned that the new drawings don't match information she previously received. Travis: agreed to send new drawings to Iris.

Dave Evans asked what would happen if GCI installed a pole like what they're proposing but installed it somewhere else. He suggested the right of way along Benson Boulevard. Travis was concerned that because it's farther away from the target coverage area Dave's suggested site might not work well but agreed to look into it.

Dave asked why it is proprietary and confidential information which other locations GCI uses for cell locations. Travis responded that usually this is considered part of a company's recipe for doing business but pointed out that GCI has given RPCC most of the information at this point despite its proprietary nature.

Iris Matthews asked if there is anything additional that can be done to adjust existing sites to solve the problem. Travis responded that there is not.

Sandra Singer asked whether any other towers are considered dominant sites and whether other dominant sites would make more sense. Travis explained that the sites as they are have already been optimized to do their best.

Annette Cartier asked if GCI would own the site of the proposed cell tower extension in Rogers Park. Travis confirmed as before that ML&P would own the pole and GCI would lease the space.

Annette stated that nobody has bad service from GCI currently. A number of people voiced contrary opinions and said their cell service from GCI in the neighborhood is bad. Annette admitted she doesn't have GCI service so doesn't have first hand experience with the service.

Marilyn Pillifant asked what GCI's plan to expand dominant sites in the Anchorage bowl is. Travis indicated that including this one, there are approximately ten upgrades or new site locations in plans. Examples would be in Kincaid Park or on JBER as well as several UMTS upgrades (3g and e911 services).

Marilyn asked additional questions about the poles and timeframes for other projects. Travis agreed to send more information by email to Iris.

Sandra Singer indicated she had to pay to put something underground during a construction project and asked how GCI can co-locate on something that is going to eventually be underground. Travis said that they will deal with that issue as it arises.

Dave Evans asked why Chugiak is getting a stealth tower that looks like a pine tree. Travis indicated they were instructed by the Muni to do that.

Annette Cartier asked if this instruction derived from local community council wishes. Travis said yes.

Daniel Yancey asked if GCI gets state or federal tax credits for constructing a new site. Travis was unsure but didn't think so.

David Evans asked about sites where GCI could install a new pole that is taller or a stealth tower. Travis indicated that with the exception of Rogers Park Elementary most of GCI's height calculations are run for what zoning allows.

Sandra Singer asked if GCI needs to get a waiver for the proposed tower. Travis indicated yes, a conditional use waiver and variance. Sandra asked if GCI has a plan for if it doesn't get approved. Travis responded, no.

Iris Matthews asked when GCI will file for the waiver. Travis suggested within a couple of weeks.

Carl Ward said he still wants to know why are GCI's feet counters are shorter at the churches than behind his house. The ground is higher at the churches but it's a shorter tower. Travis explained that this has to do with the model they use to calculate.

David Evans asked Travis to explain why GCI chose 65 feet for the LDS church site and 55 feet for the Baptist Church site. Travis explained what they take into account for the calculations.

Dave asked if GCI would have to go before P and Z for a conditional use permit for the church sites as they were modeled. Travis responded that they would.

Georgianna Derrick asked what GCI's signal boosting equipment on top of the CH2M HILL building looks like. Travis explained.

Dave Evans mentioned that GCI offered to redo its analysis for a new site, south of Benson between the bike path and Rogers Park Elementary School fence. Would GCI also re-analyze the LDS and Baptists churches for higher antennas above ground? Travis said yes.

Carl Ward suggested that GCI would get less push back on the south side of Benson because there are fewer homeowners there.

Annette Cartier asked if GCI could put a different style of antenna on the CH2MHILL building and get what they're after. The answer was no.

Sandra Singer asked if GCI could build in the transportation corridor west of the Village Inn. Travis agreed to look into it but indicated that AK DOT&PF often won't let utilities use those parts in the middle of the roadway because they are hard to access.

Susan Levy asked if the pad to build the pole on will be 11ft x 9 ft Travis said yes.

Annette said this wasn't on GCI's original design.

Sandra Singer asked if GCI can delay its submission to P and Z based on RPCC's questions.

**VII: Final announcements and adjournment:** March meeting will be one week earlier than usual, on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully someone from APD can come. Nora helping facilitate that presentation.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 9pm.