

Rogers Park Community Council Minutes
7 PM Monday, March 7, 2016
Rogers Park Elementary School Library

Board Members:

Iris Matthews, President (absent)
Clare Boersma, Vice-President (presiding)
Jim Wright, Secretary
Marilyn Pillifant, Treasurer
Bob Churchill, FCC Representative (absent)

I. Welcome.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Clare Boersma. Iris Matthews was absent due to a sick child. A quorum was apparent, with more than 30 members attending from the outset.

II. Community Council Business.

A. Minutes: Minutes from the February 2016 meeting were reviewed. Marilyn Pillifant moved to approve them. Joel Kadarauch seconded. Approved with 23 yeas, no nays and at least 1 abstention.

B. FCC Report. FCC representative Bob Churchill was absent, so Jim Wright summarized the last FCC meeting from Bob's notes. APD will be circulating a survey about unreported crimes in each community council area. The Assembly is working on regulations governing recreational use of marijuana, with Assembly Chair Traini noting that community councils will be consulted before permitting retail businesses in our area. The Municipality performed a recent survey of the homeless population, and will soon circulate its survey of capital projects to the community councils. The Municipality is attempting to hire and train more police and firefighters, as well as to break ground on a new public transit center. The Mid-Hillside and Hillside East are exploring a merger of their community councils, an effort supported by the FCC. There was a presentation in favor of the ASD bonds on the upcoming ballot in April. The Municipality will circulate a survey of how the public transportation system is working, seeking community council input. Gunnar Knapp's Institute of Social & Economic Research (ISER) presentation will be distributed electronically to the community council presidents, so that members can inform themselves of the state's financial crisis and options. He opines that the worst thing we can do is nothing to raise revenues. We cannot cut our way to a balanced budget and significant oil price increases are not expected before Alaska's reserves are exhausted. The Rasmussen Foundation survey found general support for Governor Walker's proposal to balance the budget, a sales tax, and a reduced PFD. People want more information about proposed cuts before making a decision as to them.

C. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Marilyn Pillifant reports that RPCC funds total ~\$202.

III. Assembly Reports.

Assembly chair Dick Traini presented, noting that Elvi Gray-Jackson is in D.C. for a National League of Cities event. Pending cell towers issue is stuck in Planning & Zoning, so will not likely be taken up at the Assembly meeting tomorrow. The hottest issue will likely be Title 23 (21?) building codes. Two members want to revisit or reconsider whether water heater replacement requires a building permit, a \$75 item. Another hot issue is the U-Med Plan at the intersection of Piper Street and Tudor. Providence Hospital wants to put up an office building there. On April 5 Mr. Traini is running for re-election.

A member inquired whether Assembly member Ernie Hall wants to bar parking an RV on one's own property? Dick said that proposal would likely die a quiet death before Planning & Zoning. Ann Lorber asked if it is legal to live in an RV on private property for an extended stay? Dick said "no," a few days is fine but for the long term, no. Marilyn Pillifant expressed her thanks to Dick Traini for his regular attendance and involvement with the Rogers Park Community Council.

IV. Legislative Report.

All of our representatives are in Juneau, but Andy Josephson will be calling in. We have only an I-phone speaker, but will do our best. Andy noted that he has been in Anchorage for three weekends for caucus and constituent meetings. Gov. Walker appointed the late Representative Max Gruenberg's replacement, which will be announced tomorrow. Current focus is on HB 247 regarding oil and gas tax credits. The credits are too generous and too expensive. However, industry pushback is heavy. Meanwhile, the vote was 36-0 to allow use of Narcon for heroin abuse. There is a pending bill to increase the alcohol tax, and to increase the cigarette tax. Andy can be reached at (907) 465-4939 in Juneau. His e-mail is Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov.

VI. Presentations and Discussions.

A. Crime Trends in Rogers Park. Rene Oistad, of APD public affairs, first noted that it is illegal to reside in an RV on a public street at all – for any period of time – correcting Mr. Traini. She spoke of crime trends in the Rogers Park community council area, illustrating with a map of reported crime. She urged members to not leave unsecured bikes, cars, boats, trailers or homes. Lock them. Write down serial numbers of all valuables, so that stolen goods can be identified. Pawn shops have to report to APD, and serial numbers are APD's basis for returning items. Photos are a good idea, and etch your driver's license number into tools. Do not etch social security numbers because this encourages identity theft.

In our neighborhoods, thefts are the biggest items, so don't leave stuff in your cars. They'll break the window. In recent times two cars had license plates stolen. If that happens to you, report it to APD. There were 0 assaults reported, but 2 burglaries.

Jim Richardson said he and a friend walked the woods to find homeless camps. There was a big one below Juneau Street, with many bikes and parts lying around. Rene said this should be reported to APD. It will "evict" the "tenants" and community work service will clean up the mess. Reports can be made to the main number: 786-8500.

A member asked what happens to the confiscated items? Rene said it mostly goes to the landfill, but bikes go to the YMCA to be auctioned off.

Rene said that APD staff dropped dramatically during the Sullivan administration, but they are rebuilding now.

Jim Richardson said there was a huge amount of stuff at these camps, with lots of garbage. He said there were 13 camps along Chester Creek between Maplewood and Gambell. Only two appeared to be occupied. Members are encouraged to report camp locations. Rene said we can call Code Enforcement if it's on private property, but be understanding as it has a staff of only two persons. Helen Selodchik complained that if she calls APD then no one comes. Rene again said APD is currently short-staffed, so they have to prioritize, which may mean coming 2-3 hours later. Julie Bleier said she's seen APD respond, only to defer to the suspect rather than the complainant. She gave the example of a person breaking into a home near Elvi's residence. APD caught and handcuffed the suspect, but then let him go because he didn't get in. That's wrong. Rene said she'd have to know more details to address the instance. She agreed that there are too few police officers to do the job thoroughly.

David Walker, a long time resident, said the nature of the homeless camps has changed. People there now seem to be making a career of theft, stockpiling propane tanks, studded tires, and other stolen goods. Can APD deal with this? Rene said yes, but they must catch the wrongdoers and prove the case, which is often difficult. If caught with the goods, rather than in the act, it is easy to disavow wrongdoing. Mr. Walker asked if there was a curfew that could be enforced?

One member asked about Neighborhood Watch, and whether we can get signs. Rene responded that to do a Neighborhood Watch you must set up a watch program. One member suggested using surveillance cameras, noting that on Yale Street, Catholic Social Services has a group home from which tenants were dealing drugs. We need watchfulness and diligence to correct such behaviors.

Clare Boersma asked what we can do to increase the APD presence. Rene suggested we tell our Assembly. Dick Traini noted that 455 officers are needed for a city of our size, but we only have 360. Rene noted that the retirement system was emasculated and made transferable, with a 401K instead of a defined contribution plan. Because it is

transferable, staff looks for better opportunities once they're trained and credentialed. Marilyn Pillifant noted that the same concern applies to teachers and other public employees, resulting in an exodus of talent from Anchorage. Clare said we must tell our legislators. Marilyn agreed, but said it is futile in the prevailing circumstances.

Clare asked Rene to provide comparative statistics between RPCC and other community council areas. Rene said Raids.com provides comparisons using maps. It gets behind, but can be viewed over time.

Rene noted that most crime is addiction-driven. Deterrents have limited effect. One member noted that we can clear brush for greater visibility, and do lighting for the same purpose. Another member noted that Next Door social media seems very effective. Rene said that APD doesn't monitor Next Door, so please call APD to report incidents. Julie Bleier asked how effective is Community Patrol? Rene's time was up, and she asked that people contact her at roistad@muni.org with any further questions.

B. Municipal Bonds. Matt Johnson of Anchorage Tomorrow presented regarding the municipal bonds to be voted on in April. Matt is a member of North Star Community Council and was President of that council a few years ago. The election is on April 5. He provided a handout enumerating bond items, but which did not include Anchorage School District bonds.

There are five bond packages, involving redevelopment of Spenard Road, of creekside and coastal trails, to replace ambulances, and to upgrade roads and trails, for safety, erosion control, and to replace bridges, among other things.

In this time of economic uncertainty this presents an investment in our community. These bond proposals tend to increase the quality of life, during a time of decreased construction costs regarding projects that are "shovel-ready."

Dave Evans noted that a bond item targets just one alley, between 27th and Northern Lights, in Rogers Park. Transportation didn't ask us, so why didn't it do so and how do they decide that priority?

Helen Selodchik said we need to know how many years it will take to retire these bonds, and why aren't the streets in College Village included? She says there are huge potholes, bad drains, and rolling pavement in her neighborhood.

Clare and Matt responded that \$36 million is being retired this year, and that the Mayor's office can provide all of this information. One member asked the sum of all bonds up for consideration. Dick Traini responded that figure is about \$680 million, inclusive of school bonds, noting that the school district will now have no state money coming in, as was the case in past years.

C. GCI Follow-up Regarding Its Proposal For New Cell Antenna Placement. Travis Drake of GCI Wireless noted that this is his third time presenting to us. He was

accompanied by Sherrie Greenfields and Waj [REDACTED]. Travis presented a slideshow to illustrate facility placement options. The slides covered: 1) the focus area of concern, as to which E911, calls and data will be improved. Marilyn Pillifant asked for clarification, observing only six complaints on the slide. Travis said there were eight. Continuing: 2) was a map of receiving signal strength before the CH2M Hill antenna was installed; 3) was a map of receiving signal strength after the CH2M Hill antenna was installed; 4) illustrated signal energy/[REDACTED]; 5) was a map of competing sites strength; and 6) addressed small cell alternatives.

Waj explained that the cell phone company must certify to the FCC that it can provide the actual location of a 911 caller. A good signal means better locating. Small cell antennas are simply a mini-version of the macro-version that GCI prefers. It is the same technology. It provides a smaller footprint and lower power to support, but GCI needs more of them to do the job. One macro-version covers ~3 miles. Increased height usually means broader coverage. It takes five micro-versions to cover the same area. He said 5-10 micros would be needed in Rogers Park. Micro-versions are better used to supplement the macro-version, rather than to displace it as proposed by some. The micro-versions require much more effort to install and maintain. Micros are mounted lower, so more of them are needed and are therefore more visible. One macro is less visible than multiple micros.

Multiple slides were presented comparing strength using various alternatives and heights. Photo simulations showed projected visual impacts. The GCI team summarized, saying that four alternatives are workable: 1) a 55' mount at the Baptist Church; 2) the original proposal on the north side of Northern Lights; 3) a 79' mount on the south side of Northern Lights Blvd., where a resident agrees that the power box can be in his yard, so it would not be visible from the right of way; and 4) [REDACTED]. GCI wants a resolution from RPCC choosing one of these four.

Dave Evans asked about the technical requirements. Jim Richardson opined that GCI is cramming this through regardless of public input indicating it is unwanted. Jim said he doesn't care if GCI goes out of business. Annette Cartier noted a perceived confusion of data delivery vs. 911 and voice services in their presentation. Travis responded that wireless service is only 911 and voice, but said it was the same footprint as data delivery.

Annette presented a motion opposing GCI's position, presenting a draft resolution for that purpose. Karen Levine seconded Annette's motion. Annette initially had one draft version, but it was superseded by a longer version, which Jean Ward asked her to read to the group. Thereafter, Jean seconded the motion as revised.

Clare proposed to put it to a vote, but Dave Evans asked for prior discussion. Hal Gage suggested less emotion go into the issue. He said one more pole is not as problematic in a place with lots of poles. He doubts it will ruin anyone's quality of life. One member noted the risk of maintenance activities at midnight and drops in property values. Jean Ward said she appreciated GCI giving information, but was not happy with GCI's

attitude about the public's view. Dave Evans favors Annette's proposed resolution, but of GCI's choices he favors the 55' mount at the Baptist Church.

Clare moved to put the issue of Annette's proposed resolution to a vote. Marilyn Pillifant seconded. There were 17 yeas, 4 nays, and 8 abstentions. The resolution passed.

RPCC having expressed its preference of no new macro-version, Clare asked whether the attending members wished to vote on a preference among the four alternatives posed by GCI, should RPCC's primary view not be honored. Jean Ward opposed. Dave Evans reiterated that he does not favor the GCI choices, but moved for a resolution expressing RPCC's preference among the four choices posed by GCI, should GCI be permitted to proceed over RPCC's objection, and that the preference be for the 55' mount at the Baptist Church. Marilyn Pillifant seconded. After brief discussion Clare moved to put Dave's proposed alternative resolution to a vote. Hal Gage seconded. The vote was 10 yeas, 8 nays, and 13 abstentions. The resolution passed.

The meeting was then adjourned.