

## RUSSIAN JACK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

6:30 PM, Wednesday, April 13, 2016

at Wonder Park Elementary School

1. Legislative report: Geran Tarr – working with Rep Spohnholz on budget. Oil tax reform is key and the overly generous credits amounts to \$1000 per every Alaskan. Given the current fiscal climate, we can no longer afford these oil tax credits. Hoping when that piece comes together we can figure out the other portions of the budget issues. Lots of other types of taxes moving forward. Broad base tax is the Governor's plan. Medicaid reform is incredibly important for our area – restructuring some of the plan and features that will result in healthier Alaskans. Criminal justice reform is another important package we'd like to see, recognizing people deserve a second chance – removing barriers of employment opportunities. Food stamp bill for people moving through the criminal justice system presented by Ed and working forward. The goal is to keep violent offenders behind bars. On revenue side want to look at the PFD last. Child abuse prevention /sexual assault awareness are issues Geran continues to work on. Public involvement helps in doing the right thing and encouraging.

Ivy Spohnholz – Looks forward to meeting us in person next month. She grew up in the Russian Jack area. Knew Max since a teenager and understanding of our loss. 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Alaskan, committed to community service, primarily through non – profits. New to legislative process, but not new to community service. Areas of concern to her are child abuse prevention. Sent out a survey and would love to hear from people. Initial responses appear to oppose oil tax credits, particularly when budget times are tight. The survey is also available online.

Bill Wielchowski – Couple bills – Medicaid reform changes the way Medicaid is administered (rural Alaska accessibility to doctors via Skype or phone). Provisions on opioide abuse. Estimates up to \$100 million in savings over a few years. Criminal justice reform bill – 65% are non-violent offenders with a large expense to keep them in jail. Projections show that we would need to keep building prisons. The estimates are that not only does it improve public safety, but also provides savings. \$\$ saved could go toward rehabilitation and provide actual help for those that have substance abuse systems and mental health issues. Other states have had success in this type of methods. Capital budget vote in Senate will be very small (1.1 billion) vast majority of that is matching federal funds. Uniform code of military justice – hearings underway.

2. Assembly report: Pete Peterson - tomorrow night election commission will review absentee ballots. Only one in question seems to be Girdwood police out of Whittier. Neighborhood responsibility plan regarding Marijuana passed last night. MOU will create a template on this issue for the community councils. MOA contact Erica McConnell – 343-6182. Combined worksession tomorrow with planning and zoning and assembly re: new cell tower ordinance. There will be revisions into the foreseeable future with technological changes. Saw his first camaflouge cell tower (looks like a tree). 9 pm this Friday – Muldoon overpass closed (bridge will be open).

Forrest Dunbar – Will be sworn in April 19. Lives in Sand Foothills. Officer in Army National Guard and available for questions. He will provide contact information at our next meeting. Enjoys our council meetings respectful tone and good turnout.

3. Principal report: Shawn Murphy – school is really filling up. Reached 460 students, seeing interesting trends. Student / teacher ratio has gone up. Allocations came our Friday and everyone pretty much lost at least one teacher.

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4. School Board report: Kathleen Plunkett – Still doing superintendant search (getting closer). Still waiting on legislators budget. \$15 million add to TERS will impact school district. As a result of bonds failing – West Romig had earthquake damage this includes unusable space. There are some roofs that the administration is still assessing. Percentage of what is paid in has increased. Base Student Allocation (BSA) is supposed to offset it.

5. Picnic committee - Kendra Kloster & Fred McLeary: We have a free picnic in the summer. Fred is looking for fundraising ideas. Dan & Sherry Wright volunteered to help. Kendra has an idea for fundraising – trying to set up a fundraiser/community outreach effort. Kendra has a one page information handout. Casey Andrescu is willing to bring animals for the picnic. August 27<sup>th</sup> is the date set.

6. Anchorage Talks Transit - People Mover - Collin Hodges: Provided a presentation on the vision People mover has for the next few years, examining their route structure and comparing to the needs of residents. Overview of the system – 14 total bus routes. Goal is to make choices that improve and grow the bus system. May 5<sup>th</sup> public event at Anchorage Museum at 6:30 pm. They will kick off an interactive web survey and then he will recap what they find.

[transitplanning@muni.org](mailto:transitplanning@muni.org) – Collin's email and the web site [www.peoplemover.org/transittalks](http://www.peoplemover.org/transittalks)

Funding breakdown for People Mover - 20% from fare box returns; 40% from Federal Transportation Administration; and 40% from MOA. Amenity guidelines are being developed (like where they put covered benches). Ridership is a big one and cost.

7. Merrill Field Airport Master Plan - Paul Bowers, Airport Mgr been there since 1930. He spoke about the history of the landfill there and measures to alleviate methane gases, which are minimal. Merrill Field Airport (MRI) Funding on the master plan primarily comes from user fees. Guideline of next 20 years development. Must be in the plan in order for action to occur. Done in five year increments. [www.merrillfieldmasterplan.com](http://www.merrillfieldmasterplan.com) He also spoke about the area on 15<sup>th</sup> that is park and potential development. Park would have to be substituted with another park prior to any development and would most likely move the park further from 15<sup>th</sup>, making it safer for the people utilizing that space. The threshold is pretty high and unlikely to happen anytime soon, but it allows the airport to show revenue sharing. The frozen runway allows for larger aircraft to land, as it creates a surface comparable to thicker concrete. He also spoke about the jet they landed and have for UAA training exercises. They take noise complaints seriously, but you need to provide as much detail as possible (color of plane, time of day, any other details you can provide). He requested feedback from the council if there are any problems or suggestions with the master plan.

Carl Siepe - capital improvements at the airport. Shared the economic benefits of MRI. Any comments that are received by Tuesday, May 31, 2016 will be considered in the final Airport Master Plan (AMP).

8. Crime at RJ Park southern access - 20th & Glacier: Joe Meehan came to speak about issues. There are a couple entrances to the park with constant trash, construction waste, liquor bottles, cars parked there late at night with suspected drug activity. Joe is concerned about his son's safety as they ride bikes through there. There are not a lot of houses right there, so it is rather isolated. Person that lives on the end of Glacier does have a surveillance camera. Lighting may

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help – would need neighborhood support, police patrol occasionally. We discussed community patrol, surveillance and the issues that it presents. MLP may be a better resource for obtaining lighting. We also encouraged Joe to fill out one of the police survey's that were provided at the meeting.

Ed asked about a code enforcement issue next door to Kathleen's (along the same lines we had been discussing).

6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Museum road closures were pointed out.

Anchorage Imagine having a series of meetings over the next 2 weeks – MOA Planning on 4700 Elmore Road – Elmore extension may be discussed Anchorage Bowl Land Use Plan for 25 years. April 27 Begich Middle School discussion of entire plan.

Casey Jones – person bought duplex next door. He brought in 12 truck loads of dirt that elevated the back yard of the property next door. Need to write up specifics of what is happening and speak to code enforcement. While you can do what you want with your property, that can't encroach on the neighbor.

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Assemblymen Pete Petersen 240-1049

Paul Honeman 947-0500

State Senators: Berta Gardner 269-0174 / 465-4930

Bill Wielechowski 269-0120 / 465-2435

Johnny Ellis 269-0169 / 465-3704

Representatives: Geran Tarr 269-0144 / 465-3424 269-0123 / 465-4940

Andy Josephson 269-0265 / 465-4939

Municipal Complaint Hotline 343-4141

City Ombudsman 343-4461

Code Enforcement 343-8343

Proj Management & Eng 343-8135

Graffiti Busters 343-4663

Park Operations 343-4473

Junk Car Hotline 729-7878 Scott O'Brien -

RJ Spr Park 343-6992

Street Light Repair 343-4557

Ed Graff (ASD Supt) 742-4312

Street Maintenance 343-8277

People Mover Ride line 343-6543

Animal Control 343-8122

Anchorage Literacy Project 337-1981

AFD Fire Station #3 267-5003

Camper Trash Hotline 563-3815 x225

AFD Fire Station #6 267-5006

Neighborhood Crime Watch 786-8585

APD non-emergency dispatch 786-8900

Crime Stoppers 561-786

Please call Ed Leach if you have any questions - 644-8465 (home) 269-6599 (work switchboard)