

# RUSSIAN JACK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

6:30 PM at Wonder Park Elementary School

Present: Mark Wolbers, David Banks, Alice Banks, James Smallwood, Ed Leach, Fred McLeary, Tammy Hanson, Sean Murphy, Pete Peterson, Bernice Nesbitt, Renea Miller, Lisa McGuire, Dan Wright, Sherry Wright

Meeting began with a presentation by a Wonder Park School Polynesian group, who shared a few of their cultural dances. It was fun and great to see them learning and sharing with others these traditional dances.

The meeting then was called to order at 6:50 pm by Chair Ed Leach.

## 1. Legislative report

Sen. Berta Gardner – no report

Sen. Bill Wielechowski – no report

Sen. Tom Begich – no report

Rep. Geran Tarr – no report

Rep. Ivy Spohnholz– Bernice Nesbitt provided the report as follows: House floor working on operating budget and going on to the floor at 7 pm tonight until 10 pm or later and working on budget again tomorrow. House has decided to work on FY 2019, reducing budget. Gavel to Gavel will have this live at [www.360north.org](http://www.360north.org) April 7 Rep Spohnholz is having her final constituent gathering.

Rep. Andy Josephson – no report

## 2. Assembly report

Pete Petersen - Vote by mail election is happening now. Over 10,000 ballots already received. Election center tours are available March 29 noon – 1 pm at 619 E Ship Creek Avenue. Rewrite of the taxi laws has been postponed to keep taxis competitive in light of Uber unregulated industry. The Brown Jug liquor license was not renewed in Mountain View with a constant problem of people crossing the street from one liquor store to the other and the school nearby. They will shut down December 2018. The other store is opening at noon and will not sell the small size bottles or cheap wine. Passed operating budget for school district around 750 million dollars. Amazingly no one was there to testify on that issue. The Assembly cannot amend the School Board budget, they can only vote it up or down. That budget amount was the maximum amount they were allowed. School budget comes under the spending charter. Ordinance allowing rooftop gardens and greenhouses, as long as they don't create shading issues for their neighbors, passed. We are the most food dependent state in the Union, so this will allow more independence. Patrol traffic controlling for Seward Highway was funded. A question about traffic fines to generate income. Those funds go into general funds. Question about mail in ballots – there was already an issue with stolen mail in Eagle River. Some people have been receiving 2 ballots. Only one will be accepted and there are instructions in the second ballot issued. Final day to change registration was March 3. There were a few people that changed in between those times. Ed said one of his roommates did not receive her ballot. Her mailing address was incorrect. This may help clean up some of the correction's needed within the current system. There is some identification on the ballot itself to ensure no one can vote more than one ballot.

Forrest Dunbar – no report

## 3. School board report

Tam Agosti-Gisler - Data dashboard will allow people to track things like attendance information.

Chronic attendance with kindergarten is one of the biggest issues. The School District does budget for building maintenance, but the operating budget doesn't have enough funding to handle the capital. They are bound by the system. These are MOA buildings that the school has an obligation to maintain.

## 4. Principal report

Sean Murphy, Wonder Park – We are getting ready for annual testing (PEAKS). It's all computerized and will give the schools more specific feedback. There are more text data analysis included in the tests themselves. There are only 40 days of school left. New allocations for teachers, but three teachers will not be returning. Most class size runs around 20 – 25. New language arts curriculum has been adopted. Absenteeism is the one chronic problem at Wonder Park. Perfect Attendance awards / incentives are some of the things considered to help that. There are a few number of students that attend Wonder Park from other school districts. Family or day care / transportation are the main reason that happens.

5. Election Bonds – no report

6. Chugach Electric – ML&P merger – no report

7. FCC report – James Smallwood – 2040 Land Use booklets are out – you can go to the MOA website. James requested we change our council meeting date to get FCC information to the council in a more timely fashion. One of the reasons we have our meeting is to accommodate Assembly member's attendance. A suggestion of posting newsy items from the FCC meetings on our FaceBook page was made. A discussion of attendance and methods we use to help people become aware of our meetings. Word of mouth is the primary method, and higher attendance at meetings are generally issue driven. We can get funding from FCC to do mailers – it would be good to send out a mailer about the Council meetings (and our picnic). Ed gave a historic perspective of FCC – communitycouncils.org is the Anchorage FCC. Some of the perks of attending the local council meetings is getting to know the legislators on a face to face basis.

Lisa McGuire spoke about the 4 way stop sign on 4<sup>th</sup> – and she witnessed someone actually get pulled over for running the sign.

Mark Wolbers (Northern Lights / Wesleyan Drive). There is a long gravel lot nine years after the condo development went in. With high density housing there is an interest in park space. He spoke with Beth Nordlund about options on that property and was directed to the Community Council. Greatland Trust or Heritage Land Bank would be some entities that could be approached to create a park space. It is about 30,000 square feet and has sat empty all this time. It would be a pocket park, small play area, community garden or orchard. Current owners are listed as Owasko Properties, LLC – current value \$335,000. Ed recommended Mark speak with Kathleen Plunkett, who has led the way to get some other parks going. Government Hill has created a community orchard with an old quonset hut that is there. It helps make the neighborhood.

Next meeting will be held April 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. Curfew enforcement plans would be a good topic, more information on the picnic (Anchorage Parks Foundation is sponsoring this year). Let Ed know any other topics of interest.

May 9 we will have our meeting at the Anchorage Emergency Operations Center, located at 1305 E Street at 7:15 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Sherry Wright