

RUSSIAN JACK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

6:30 PM, Wednesday, April 11, 2018

At Wonder Park Elementary School

Present: Fred McLeary, Ed Leach, Tammy Hanson, Sean Murphy, Rosa Smallwood, Kathleen Plunkett, Terry Cummings, Marc Grober, Mark Wolbers, Pete Peterson, Forest Dunbar, Lisa & Frank McGuire, James Smallwood, Jr, Renea Miller, Rex Plunkett, Anne Ooms, Irene Weisman, Dan Wright, Sherry Wright

Meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by Chair Ed Leach.

1. Legislative report

Sen. Berta Gardner - no report

Sen. Bill Wielechowski – Operating budget is on the floor of the senate tomorrow, which has generated some concerns. 90% of crimes drug/alcohol related and budget doesn't adequately fund agencies that can address those problems. Would like to break that cycle. When you are talking about Public Safety, you have to provide funding. JBER funding cuts could have a ripple effect. Community Patrol money, Permanent Fund declines. There are some things that need to be cut – Worker's Compensation Appeals Commission; Oil tax credits were a couple listed.

Sen. Tom Begich – Education flat funding – forward funding, increased cuts. Erosion from health care costs impact education funding. Lowest performing schools in the state would be the target for receiving funds. Tom has a bill to expunge marijuana convictions from people's record.

Rep. Geran Tarr – A student came to Geran about the liquor store across from Clark Middle School so a zoning buffer was one way to address the problem. Downtown Community Council was able to create provisions for their area regarding liquor sales that provides an outline that others may want to use. House put in funding for additional safety. About 7000 cases went unprocessed, due to higher priority of specific types of crimes, many of those unprocessed cases included stolen cars. Prosecutors and investigators are needed if we want to get ahead of these crime issues. PFD fairness for those who are low-income is a big concern, with one of our district #3 on the list. Rural communities also get hit hard with lower PFDs. For those that may have \$21,000 annual income, that extra \$ means a lot. There are some legislators that want to use the PFD until it is gone. Over 3000 untested rape kits is another problem. When they are getting processed in other places, they are finding serial rapists. Gun control bill will not get through. Will need to have more conversations on mental health care in Alaska.

Rep. Ivy Spohnholz – Ted Madsen called in for Ivy. She is working on a bill for greater medical transparency. GCI is offering 70 scholarships of \$2000 to be used for tuition and books. April is child abuse prevention month. This year's theme is Strengthening Families.

Rep. Andy Josephson – no report

2. Assembly report

Pete Petersen – Legislative actions last year took control out of Assembly on taxi issue.

Education budget for ASD passed. There were many liquor licenses approved at the Assembly.

License are renewed either every 2 or 3 years. Money for dust control was also allocated. They will be working on 1st Quarter budget adjustments in order to set the mill rate for property taxes.

The bears are waking up, so take care of your garbage, bird feeders, other attractants. First vote by mail seems to have increased voter turnout. There was a question if turnout could be analyzed by neighborhood and Forest responded that it could.

Forrest Dunbar – Election results overview. Assembly will spend a lot of time discussing details of MLP sale. Taxi ordinance passed last night. Didn't give the industry all they wanted, but it was industry oriented. State has the rule of law when it comes to liquor license specifics (question came up about not allowing the smaller liquor bottles). Some of the results of Mountain View store were that the owner was willing to work with the community. Land use is one method that has been used when there were really bad issues stemming from liquor operators.

3. School board report Kathleen Plunkett – School start times is under consideration, as well as school consolidations. Thanks for the bond approval. Question of sleep disorders studies and other issues was raised.

4. Principal report - Sean Murphy, Wonder Park - FaceBook page is now up. Clean up date April 28 from 12 – 2 pm. Sad to say there are syringes being found in the playground, so the younger children are being instructed to leave those alone in the cleanup.

5. APD Officer Gordon Korell, 14 years with APD, working with Community Action Patrol. They deal with illegal camps, problem houses, some long-term investigations. The other part of the team is more street level drug enforcement issues. High risk warrants are another part of the job. Changes at Brother Francis and Beans Café are things happening. He brought a handout that provides information on how to file a police report, which helps officers track historical and problem area issues, so people are encouraged to report. Nixle, crime mapping and other important numbers are also on the handout. Citizen's Academy is an opportunity for people to get some training and information on what the police in Anchorage do and why. Community policing is a trend people are hearing about – adding more officers has helped. We had some discussion on issues going on in our neighborhoods and what we have been doing about it. School Resource Officers are another potential source that can help where there are children involved. There is a new number 311 that takes you to a phone tree #1 is APD.

6. FCC report – no report

7. NECC latest resolution on new trails in Russian Jack Springs Park –(we passed a resolution in support of putting in a single track bike trail). Some of the NECC is opposed to that as it doesn't comply with the 20 year old plan. There was a reply from Parks & Rec. We may have a difference in philosophy. NECC has a lot of long term residents that want to keep Anchorage the way it was. With parks do we want to encourage more people to use them or keep them as places of solitude. The more people use the park, the safer it is, typically. A member of the NECC responded that they had concerns of critical habitat (only public springs in the MOA) we should comply with municipal ordinances and potential impact to that spring. Crossing existing trails with single track trails also may pose a safety hazard. When you think about increasing the usage when you create dangers to the people already there. Sight lines are one of the factors. NECC's concerns were disappointed that despite a year of planning, no one brought it to NECC, published the plan, reviewed watershed issues, existing trail. The original resolution was supported by NECC and RJCC which is how we obtained a grant. There is a group working on a master plan for the parks that includes NECC and RJCC members. Kendra has the documents on what has been done and will send those out, which includes information about this trail and what it will be.

8. Summer picnic June 9 discussion – Partnering with Anchorage Park Foundation to do a Park cleanup with the community picnic afterward. Forest reported that the Assembly took care of the community council issues health code violation we got a warning about last year. Potential park locations were Lydia Selkregg Chalet, Dave Rose park, San Antonio (but there is some water works going on). Kamshee is a smaller park on 4th and Hoyt or Klevin. Kathleen Plunkett made a motion for a council members to drive by those parks listed and email Kendra the one with the most need. Fred second. Motion carried. Send park suggestions to Kendra by Sunday.

Our next meeting is at the Emergency Operation Center on 14th & E. Meeting will begin at 6:30 pm with the tour to begin at 7:15.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Sherry Wright