

## RUSSIAN JACK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

6:30 PM, Wednesday, September 12, 2018

at Wonder Park Elementary School

Present: Ed Leach, Fred McLeary, Tammy Hanson, Renea Miller, Stanley Wright, Kathi-Jo and Bob Skaats, John Rescober, George Martinez, Pete Peterson, Geran Tarr, Nate Graham, Daniel George, Kendra & Kaia Kloster, Kathleen Plunkett, Magdelana Oliveros, Forrest Dunbar, Katherine & Vassalisa Hope, Alice Banks, Ted Madsen, Dan & Sherry Wright

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by Chair Ed Leach.

Stanley Wright was given an opportunity to talk about his run for State House.

### 1. Legislative report

Sen. Berta Gardner – no report

Sen. Bill Wielechowski – Nate Graham provided report. Pleased with funding for community patrols. The per barrel profits of oil companies is greatest in Alaska. This flies in the face of budget cuts and PFD restrictions. PFD losses calculator is on their web site. Getting the PFD in the constitution would fix the raids on the permanent fund.

Sen. Tom Begich - no report

Rep. Geran Tarr – Constituent meeting Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> 12 – 2:15 pm at Mt View Library, 120 Bragaw St. She summarized the last constituent meeting. 5 more prosecutors have been put in place to help raise the capacity to process cases. Working on providing long term solutions for those with mental or addiction issues. Rather than continually talking about the problem, they have started focusing on what is needed to actually do something. Figuring out where resources will come from for community patrol, police efforts, etc. Topics for Constituent meeting include: What are the next steps?; youth programming – discussion of what we can do, old Discovery Zone space at Northway Mall may be a location as sending kids to summer camps isn't always an option for many families in our area. Public safety and helping steer people into better choices early on in life are goals for those discussions. Geran was super excited about a pro-Alaska grown gift with a John Deer tractor plaque – working on getting more local agriculture into corrections, schools, etc. Gang issues – eliminated the gang unit and task force, but it's going to take the state working on it as well. Some of the folks that have helped in the past have left. We have a problem. There will be some extra federal funding coming. Ed has argued for years to decriminalize drugs – the war on drugs will never succeed because it's trying to work with people who don't want help. By lowering the costs, the problem will resolve itself. The community suffers in terms of crimes perpetrated against them, and trying to help has not worked. The idea of the third strike you are out – re: reviving was discussed, or send people to Adak and use the navy base housing as that would be cheaper. More Americans will die from the opioid epidemic than from WWII. The drug manufacturer's lied about how addictive the substances would be. Childhood trauma is another outcome of people overdosing. Evidence based programs have changed. Children are being exposed to shootings and all kinds of things. Small crimes in neighborhood lends criminals to thinking you have a safe neighborhood for them to commit crimes in and those crimes tend to escalate. We need to be pro-active in our neighborhoods. Crime in Russian Jack is on the rise. October 2017 SB 91 sentencing changed back to stronger consequences. Question of the Palmer facility that has been closed and could be used. The online reporting is what Anchorage Police use. One neighbor on Pine Street had left their door open and someone under the influence of something walked into their home – no one

responded to the police call. Public safety announcement that had been given out provided a list of what police come for. Don't use 9-1-1 unless it's life or death. Online reporting allows a record to be built on that person, location or event. Couple month's ago an injured man was on the street, 2 police, a fire truck, a paramedic, 2 more police arrived and another paramedic. That seems pretty excessive.

Rep. Ivy Spohnholz – Ted Madsen provided a report - health care cost transparency will be put in place. Revamping health care in Alaska – stakeholders that are trying to holistically reform are meeting this fall. Education – visits at schools this fall. Crime - SBs are in place to deal with these issues. Fellowship with State Legislatures given. Capt Shawn Case APD captain – pointed out the need to focus on drug treatment system in Alaska and properly funded public safety.

Rep. Andy Josephson – no report

## 2. Assembly report

Pete Petersen - The question was raised why there are 6-8 police responding to a shooting. There are up to 430 officers in Anchorage – some are still in training. December academy will be coming. Eklutna Native Corp will be opening a 14-bed treatment center. Phase II will be building another center. Part of the problem is not enough treatment locations when people do realize they need help and are ready to seek treatment. The Assembly passed the plastic bag ban in Anchorage – will go into effect March 1<sup>st</sup>. Bus barn moving meeting will be at 4700 Elmore Rd on October 2 at 6 pm. 2 areas that may work are close to the current location. Special election to fill Tim Steele's South Anchorage vacated seat. 20% voter turnout - Austin Quinn Davidson was elected. Working on the homeless issue – new ordinances requires campers if their tent has been tagged must move out of the zone they are in. Removed almost 200 tons of waste out of these camps. Many Anchorage people are moving to the Valley because of a lack of housing. Growing populations of aging parents, so eased zoning on additions. Three years ago, the police were saying Anchorage didn't have gangs.

Forrest Dunbar – vote by mail was used for Austin's election. Resolution for Tim Steele in the works. Campfires can impose fines on homeless camps. 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit ruled that you can't evict people from sleeping on the street – but littering is a violation of other codes. You build the record of a criminal history by ticketing for other crimes. One fallout of the reduction of PFDs was that it also reduced payments to the city from some of the garnished PFDs of homeless. Tagging the camps, they have 10 days to move (was 15). Bins to store items will allow quicker abatement activity. It's a long-term challenge that we need to provide case workers, rental vouchers. APD efforts #1 priority last 2 years. Increasing the size of unsworn staff – support staff. Purchased a new police HQ downtown. Item coming up is using the existing police space for evidence storage. Cut ribbon on Ted R Smith police range today. Forrest did a ride along – large man on meth took several officers to take him down. It's interesting. They are going from one domestic violence calls to another non-stop. Crime seems to be going up, but in part because more criminals are being prosecuted. Citizen's academy is another opportunity to help.

Housing First is a program in Salt Lake City – that has had great success in reducing homelessness. In the long run, it reduces costs. Anchorage Assembly is looking at that example and Houston.

How soon and how many dispatchers are you bringing in? A friend was shot and put on hold. 120-day letter from Mayor lays out broad budget – Assembly will be getting more specifics.

Gang Unit – can we partner with the Feds? South Anchorage guy with 15 pounds of meth was recently arrested. It takes time for an investigation like that to produce fruit.

Homeless – 3<sup>rd</sup> & Commercial camping on the sidewalk made it unsafe to drive. There is now one on DeBarr, near Costco (sleeping on the median). How we interact with social services providers – dry vs. damp facilities was discussed. Salvation Army provides a back pack and tent for people and they can get a new one every 30 days. There may be some conversations on ways we help people that doesn't enable. Allowing vouchers may allow a person to utilize a faith-based center, which statistically have better results, rather than multiple secular services and no results.

Multiple calls and reporting on one property did work for one neighbor who incurred a \$500 fine, but the slate is wiped clean on nuisance calls at the beginning of the calendar year, so the trouble starts again.

George Martinez provided Mayor report – Cooperative Extension folks provided grant funding for opioid crisis. State DA and feds are beginning to foster relationships to help on the issue of gangs. “Anchored Home” is the next 3-year initiative – highlights combining federal and state strategies were given (information is on the MOA web site). “Welcoming Anchorage” week starts this Friday – Peratrovich Park – children with diverse backgrounds – whole week of activities. Youth commissioner getting a rep on the Assembly (Olivia Tafts and Lily Spurofski) – seated in August. Cities that don't show positive interest in youth, end up with youth that are not interested in their city. The girls have a public health focus on violence. “Anchorage After 3” – Initiative Trust focused on marijuana tax dollars funding after school programs that can provide positive pathways with purpose.

3. School board - no report

4. Principal report – Tammy Hanson provided the report. Alana Haider is the new principal at Wonder Park. They are having an Open house tomorrow. Partnering with Williwaw on Sept 18<sup>th</sup> with focus on attendance. Crime is on an increase. Cameras are picking up the activity which has been reported to the police with the photos provided. Question if the photos can be posted on Facebook or Nixle – to raise the neighborhood awareness of people committing those crimes (and perhaps identify them).

5. Community Councils report – no report

6. San Antonio Water Main Repairs – John Rescober, Project Management Supervisor – AWWU [john.rescober@awwu.biz](mailto:john.rescober@awwu.biz) is his email. Direct phone 564-2709. There were a couple of water main breaks on the same day. Design will be up for public review and construction when school ends. Another project is 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Lane Street which will take care of areas that will most likely fail soon. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue will most likely be the next priority. Some trees will have to go and they will offer a tree back to replace any removed. Fences, driveways that are impacted will be replaced to the same or better condition. PVC pipe will be what is used to replace the pipe being removed. There will be some traffic control for those trying to use the

ball fields on Pine Street. Integrating other needs while this project is in design phase would be good. There was some concern about the bike boulevard construction on Pine Street also taking place this summer. They will coordinate if that occurs.

#### 7. General comments:

Ed provided a Roger's Park proposed resolution asking our membership to endorse a 12-step action plan by the MOA to address the problems of illegal camps and associated crime. The plan was prepared by Judge Stephanie Rhoades (retired) and her husband Russ Webb, which have previously been presented to the Assembly for consideration, although these steps have not yet been implemented. Jim Wright, President of Roger's Park CC, asked that we review the proposed resolution.

First two round-about's on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue seem to have been effective to slow down traffic – and also to allow a better flow of traffic.

Ed is retiring from the state in December. He will be filling in more at his church, more efforts with Gideon's and will become more politically active. Food stamp cases are getting more current. There are other cases back logged. 8 people are trying to get those caught up. Service to the client used to be the #1 goal. Meeting deadlines has become the #1 goal. There's a lot of red tape.

Topics for upcoming meetings – Kathleen plans to rejoin the NeighborWorks Alaska board and asked for Russian Jack CC support; Traffic calming on Davis Street (Taku to back of the school – Tim Myland is the person to contact); APD Cap Team; Partners for Progress; New Life Development; Mountain Bike trail in Russian Jack Springs Park – committee to do the master plan with names on the list will begin next month.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Sherry Wright