

Rabbit Creek Community Council Meeting Minutes for Thursday, February 14, 2019

Rev 1-Final

Location: Golden View Middle School Library

Board Roll Call - Present: Co-Chair – Ky Holland (Chair), Ann Rappoport (Co-Chair), David Sterling (Secretary), Bert Lewis, Peter Crimp, Judy Michael, Jess Grunblatt, Keith Guyer, Matt Cavanaugh

Absent: Paul Gionet, Frank Pugh

Board Member Co-Chair – Ky Holland - Opened the meeting at 7:06 pm. Declared a General Membership Meeting. Introductions by most everyone in the room and some advised where they live.

- **Agenda** - Agenda provided will be followed to the best extent. Approved as written.
 - Agenda approved as written.
- **Minutes** – January Minutes – Ky relayed these edits:
 - Changes asked by folks: Dianne Holmes had emailed edits.
 - **Motion Peter Crimp & 2nd Jess Grunblatt** – To adopt the minutes with these changes. No objection, so approved.
- Attendance - Total ±27 people in attendance. General Membership Meeting.

Announcements & Legislative Reports:

- **Assembly Members** -
 - Suzanne LaFrance – our assembly member for RCCC area - Contact info: Cell Phone: (907) 351-7199, Voicemail: (907) 343-4122, E-mail: LaFranceS@muni.org – Not present tonight
 - John Weddleton – e-mail: weddletonj@muni.org – 12 year Property Tax Moratorium statement in very core of downtown to encourage re-invigorating the area. In a recent poll, 58% of Anchorage folks want to live downtown. Moved out a month for decision. Nuisance property brought up fee to encourage clean up by owner. MOA wants to clean up nuisance properties. Did recently clean up some properties in RCCC and Bear Valley area. Raised the fine for bad behavior. Fee at \$100 to \$300 to \$1,000 to \$5,000, or \$0.10/sf, depending on time frames.
 - **State Representatives** - Cathy Giessel not present tonight. Jenifer Johnston not present tonight.

Updates, Announcements, & Presentations

- Mayor's Office lady – Alcohol tax presentation at next Assembly meeting. Bonds coming up on April election. Provide handout. Discussed earthquake destruction methods to get financial help from State and FEMA. FEMA has extended the cutoff date slightly.
- HALO – Pat Abney – Hearing for family development. Candidate Forum meeting 1st Thursday in March. Suggesting a contribution for that meeting.
- **Motion Peter Crimp & 2nd Bert Lewis** To donate \$50 to HALO for meeting. No objection. Motion passed.
 - Question about drainage survey.
 - Dianne Holmes about LRSA - 5 seats on board. Only members are Mark Schimshimer, Marty Lemon, Tim Culhane. Two open seats. Application period has closed. Mayor is slow to appoint people.

Meeting Focus –

- **Firewise 2019 Resiliency Prep** - Ky Holland discussed, How do we evacuate in case of wildfire? We have an opportunity to become a Firewise Community. Want to create some capacity with available funds and not just spend the money. Forest Stewardship program is available for those who have large tracts or those who link together separate parcels. Possible Community Fire Drill this summer. Ways to get out via various trails or added sections of roads. Need some defined ways to provide secondary access out of areas. Reviewed report that included a 2016 map about secondary ways to exit areas in RCCC and Bear Valley. In April, AFD will install some monitoring cameras at Centennial Park that will monitor adjacent areas of the hillside for hot spots.
 - John See - AFD Forester, Arborist, Part of Disaster Teams around USA - Firewise Process - By doing this now, our area won't end up like what happened in Paradise, CA last summer with a devastating fire. Participated in teams at large fires. Mitigation program to help homeowner prepare home for fires. Some problem items include: wood chip mulch placed next to home, wood fences. Showed a video of Horseshoe Lake, the first Firewise Community in Alaska. Defensible space at 30' to 40' of clearance around a home. Roof is the most vulnerable thing on your house. Metal roof is best. Think like an ember. 100' clearance along major roadways. Communications and evacuation plan. People need to know how to get ahold of each other. Received \$300,000 for this year. Will fund 200 home assessments + other issues. Will have AFD engine companies participate. Working with road service areas for ingress/egress. Shaded fuel breaks offer first line of defense. Wildfire detection system testing being installed this spring. First one in Alaska. At 6 kilometers, able to see 1-meter ignition point and provide exact coordinates. False alarms below 5%. Monitor to alert dispatch. Partners include UAA and APU, to make campuses safer. Writing grants to get more funding to keep the effort going. Hoping to see RCCC as first Anchorage Firewise area. Firewise needs a Board, then discuss with Community Councils. Educational outreach is important. Wildfire Risk assessment mitigation. Team Rubicon in Alaska assist with wildfire assessments. Did work at Powder Ridge in Eagle River Valley. Senator Murkowski working to get earmark funding. Work on Funny River plan prior to recent large wild fire, which resulted in no damage to private lands and homes. Shaded fuel break definition – Leave hardwoods trees during cutting so that sun does not heat up ground and dry out smaller plants. Spacing out spruce trees 10' to 15' spacing and cut off lower limbs. Vivian Mendenhall asked good question- We are all on well waters and wonder if fire fighters use any products that are dangerous to ground water. Nexel Emergency Notification – Put it on your cell phone by dialing 888-777 then put your zip code in there. This is how emergency evacuation notice will be notified.
 - Dianne Holmes – Concern about along 164th cut back foliage excessively and then built fences.
 - Jess Grunblatt – comment

- Ky Holland – RCCC will start a committee for Firewise group. April meeting will get people involved. Invited people to join committee.
- There is a tree cutting moratorium period from May 15th to July 15th for bird nesting.
- Jen Smith – UAA – Has project to study how wild fires have changed over time and how climate change has made thing different. Multi-year project that has just started.

Committees

• **Land Use Transportation Committee (LUT) –**

- Rumble Strip Update – Jess Grunblatt – Had first LUT meeting at Bird TLC. Open meeting 1st Thursday of month. Balancing for particular issues. Concern about Arctic Valley. Rumble strips – proposal to re-install along New Seward Highway. Concern at Potter Valley road and turning lane areas. Requesting DOT&PF to not construct rumble strips from Turnagain trail head turnoff to Potter Valley Road. Numerous houses in that area affected by objectionable noise caused by rumble strips.
 - **Motion Jess Grunblatt & 2nd Dianne Holmes –**
 - The Rabbit Creek Community Council (RCCC) requests that rumble strips NOT be installed on the New Seward Highway for a 0.5 mile stretch between Turnagain Trailhead (MP115.0) and Potter Valley Road (MP115.5) for the following reasons:
 - 1) Prior installation of rumble strips along this section resulted in considerable noise and disturbance to a large number of homes. Disturbance extended from the New Seward Highway to Villages Scenic Parkway and impacted a large number of residents.
 - 2) DOT has not done an analysis of sound impacts. Sound travels considerably further uphill from the source, and this has not been studied.
 - 3) DOT Turning Study is inadequate. A three hour sampling period for one day does not adequately predict turn volumes especially give the variability in traffic. In addition turning traffic was reduced due to the closure of the Old Seward Highway at its intersection with Potter Valley Road.
 - 4) Exclusion of the 0.5 mile section will not adversely impact traffic safety.
 - Amendment to include in language for alternatives. Audience discussion included:
 - Vivian Mendenhall – Suggests including length along Potter Marsh. Next to bird sanctuary.
 - Recommendation by audience member that when working with DOT, one needs to provide an alternate to rumble strips, not just delete them. Otherwise, they won't listen to you.
 - Mindy Willis says rumble strips increase safety and reduces accidents.
 - Vote results: 12 in favor & 4 opposed. Motion carries.
- Legacy Point/GCI Lands Development Update – Ann Rappoport – Developer considering developing. Two versions being considered. Nothing happening very soon.

New Business

- **Airport Runway Project -** Terry Lindseth – Manager at Anchorage International Airport – Phone: 830-8095 or email: teri.lindseth@alaska.gov. Discussed construction at airport last summer. 2019 construction to occur from April 1st start thru October. N-S runway completely closed this summer. E-W runway use by all aircraft during that entire period. Taking off towards east over town. Expect more noise this summer. Audience comments included:
 - Early morning aircraft takeoff restrictions. Airport cannot restrict aircraft.
 - Can they takeoff to the west? – That would mean arrival from east. Descent angle not possible because of mountains.

Announcements

- Golden View Drive Repaving – Expect a presentation at next meeting. Trail maps available.

Next Meeting – Will be at 12100 Café on Old Seward.

Meeting adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.