

Rabbit Creek Community Council Meeting Minutes for Thursday, March 14, 2019 as approved with minor corrections at April 11, 2019 RCCC Meeting

Location: 12100 Café on Old Seward Hwy

Board Roll Call - Present: Ann Rappoport (Co-Chair), Paul Gionet (Treasurer), David Sterling (Secretary), Judy Michael, Jess Grunblatt, Keith Guyer, Frank Pugh, Matt Cavanaugh

Absent: Peter Crimp, Ky Holland, Bert Lewis

Board Member Chair – Ann Rapoport - Opened the meeting at 7:10 pm. Declared a General Membership Meeting. Introductions by most everyone in the room and some advised where they live.

- **Agenda** – Motion Judy 2nd Pat approved Agenda provided will be followed to the best extent. Approved as written.
 - Agenda approved as written.
- **Minutes** – February Minutes – Ky relayed some minor edits:
 - Jess Grunblatt offered some edits regarding a rumble strips motion at the last meeting.
 - **Motion Jess Grunblatt & 2nd Pat Abney** – To adopt the minutes with these changes. No objection, so approved.
- Attendance - Total ±38 people in attendance. General Membership Meeting.

Announcements & Legislative Reports:

- **Assembly Members -**
 - Suzanne LaFrance – Assembly member for RCCC area - Contact info: Cell Phone: (907) 351-7199, Voicemail: (907) 343-4122, E-mail: LaFranceS@muni.org – Adam Lees here on behalf of Suzanne. Ballots should be arriving today thru Monday. No ballot received, call 243 VOTE. Drop off or mail in. 3/19 next MOA Meeting. 1. Tobacco products legal age to purchase to be moved up to age 21. Indicated OK by the group. 2. Prohibit smoking in playgrounds. Basically, OK by the group. 3. Full scale deregulations of State rules for taxi, limos, and vehicles for hire. Basically, repeal of title 11 of MOA code. Some concern regarding background checks. Pat Abney wrote MOA Title 11, related to background checks, because of large quantity of murders related to taxis.
 - John Weddleton – e-mail: weddletonj@muni.org – Proposed State Anchorage School District appropriation budget will not be enough to run the schools. Deena Bishop ASD offered these facts – Current Base Student Allocation (BSA) is maintained at \$5,930 per student, with various adjustments depending on school location. Ann Rapoport - What is safest way to allow full funding? State Legislators hope to forward fund schools again this year, prior to end of legislation session. If State funding level is provided at the proposed lower rate, MOA Property Tax would need to increase at rate of \$407 per \$100k property valuation, about \$148 million, to make up the difference to meet current amounts. Surprised that no one is running against him for April election. It is a better race and more appropriate when lots of folks to run for Assembly seats.
 - **State Representatives** - Cathy Giessel not present tonight. Jenifer Johnston not present tonight.

Updates, Announcements, Presentations, & Community Discussions

- Deena Bishop - ASD – ASD School Bond Proposal – Handed out a flier with details about ASD Bond on April ballot. Major repairs and maintenance costs are set up by the State to be paid for by bonds. \$55 mil of prior bonds being retired this year. Nationwide teacher shortage. Alaska has a teacher shortage. 88% of budget goes to people's salary. ASD is behind on maintenance at schools. Elementary School that don't have line of site to front doors needs to be corrected. Eagle River Elementary and Gruening not open next year due to earthquake damage. Might be at a 50% earthquake damage versus replacement costs of school buildings threshold level of damage to warrant FEMA money participation. Don't know for sure yet whether those schools will meet that threshold. ASD is self-insured but do have some amount of earthquake insurance. Deductible is pretty high.
- Alcohol Tax on April election, pamphlets available.
- HALO – Frank Pugh - Candidate forum last Thursday. Almost full house. Went thru bonds pros and cons, Candidates introductions and questions.
- FCC – Frank Pugh - Discussion on: Vote by mail info. Parks grant. Alcohol Tax. Bond issue. Zoning and Title 21.
- March 23rd 1-3 pm Cathy Giessel Forum on State budget at Muldoon Community Center.
- Kai Binkley Simms - Candidate for ASD School Board – Introduced herself and briefly described her life, family, schooling, and business. Small class sizes are important to her. Efficiencies on boundaries. Trusts our State legislators to make correct funding decisions. Supports health curriculum sex educations in schools. Supports Vo-Tech training, because only ¼ of high school graduate kids go to college. Lots of opportunity for Vo-Tech to provide Alaska industries.
- Nancy Burke – Anchorage Mayor's Office – Alcohol Tax & Homelessness – Provided 2 handouts. Discussed Mental Health Services and API. 5% Retail regional tax. Intends to annually raise \$11 to \$15 million. Not allowed to be used in General Fund. Funds special things like substance abuse rehabilitation services, housing and support of housing, public safety activities, neighborhood watch. Frank Pugh – Slippery slope to allow a new tax at the vote result of 50%+1 vote. Adam Lees describe answer that a new tax can constitutionally be approved at 50% of vote. Dianne Holmes asked if these funds would allow Parks&Rec funding to be spent on Parks&Rec instead of cleaning out homeless camps, with the answer that it potentially can. Joan Diamond – Spent 3 decades working on this topic and approves and urges all to vote for this new tax. When asked, the audience mostly nodded in favor of the tax.

Meeting Focus –

- **Golden View Drive Project** – Erica Jenson & Todd Jacobson – Described the years of work by their crew on study and design of Golden View Drive for new conditions. That full blown project would have been a \$30 mil project and those type of funds are not available now. The project is now toned down for performing necessary work with the available

funding, basically now a pavement preservation project to extend road life. Replace culverts + heat trace in many. Will bid in March, summer 2019 install. No real pedestrian improvements, that meet standards, are included. Wider west side walkway is technically considered a wide paved shoulder, which does not meet safe walk standards for a walk-to school but is considered a walkway. Design narrows lanes by 1', all new signage and striping. Need to spend these funds now, or State will take it back. These funds are a re-appropriation from when Cathy Giessel deleted funding from the Mountain Aire Road Extension Project, for this project. Comment that very few kids walk to Goldenview Middle School from the Bridgeview Subdivision. Cross Country training for kids looking for a wider pathway. To make the west side pathway wider and meet road standards would mean installation of curb and gutter, which means extensive gravel improvements to prevent settling/jacking of concrete, also purchase portions of lots along the route. All expensive. Golden View Drive is a technically difficult & expensive road to upgrade due to wetlands, water, bedrock, other issues. Large funds are not available. Prior funding for the project was only enough to perform the design. There will be closures/detours on Golden View during the project. No Bluebell Street upgrades. Right now, about \$4 mil available for project construction. Intersection of Rabbit Creek Road and Golden View Drive is not moving forward. Flashing light at intersection is interim fix. Information on the website listed on the flier www.goldenviewdrive.com.

- **172nd GV Road Service District Gate** – Ann Rapoport - Homeowner that was not getting winter road maintenance service. Homeowner spoke to road service board who spoke with the contractors. Contractor came up with a fix but did not get back with the homeowner. The fix involved opening up a utility access right of way area, not a road, and the fix is way too steep and does not meet any MOA standards for being a road. Now that area of 172nd has been opened up with clearing and gravel placement, and the contractor has not consistently reached the homeowner at the bottom of the ROW. West end of 172nd Ave now looks like a road but it does not meet MOA Road Standards (too steep). Homeowner at top of the hill wants appropriate signage to indicate it is not a road and is concerned that the MOA could instead install a gate which would create a bigger safety hazard. The three Road Service Members are in audience tonight. The problem expressed by the homeowner is that they were not informed or allowed any input on the fix before the work was completed. Homeowners were not given appropriate notice before the road work was done. Suggestion to write a letter in support of homeowner. LRSA members advised they will work with MOA to figure out what the best solution going forward will be. Suggestion to write a letter in support of the homeowners. Some gravel placed along a utility access and sort of made a road that does not meet any standards. Work done without notifying neighbors. RCCC letter to road board and MOA needed requesting notification of neighbors when decision is to be made about needed signs. Confirm homeowners response that a gate would create a safety issue, and large neighborhood issue is to ensure that in the future, homeowners are advised of major action beyond maintenance before it occurs so they can provide input on best alternative.
 - **Motion Pat Abney & 2nd Frank Pugh** – In regards to the 172nd Ave Road issue, for RCCC to write a letter to Road Service Board and MOA expressing that neighbors be contacted before road work is done in their areas, and it appears that signage is a better solution and that gates are not desired and would be a safety hazard in that area and be an impediment to the home owner. Audience discussion:
 - Judy Michaels - Road Service Board needs to actively consult with homeowner on any road issues in the immediate area. Also, homeowners do not talk to each other. Communication is essential.
 - Vote by hand results: 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 5 abstain. Motion passes.
- **BLM Tract at Rabbit Creek & Old Seward** – The suggestion to turn that lot into overflow parking for the Bird TLC structure. Made phone calls and no one got back to Ann on subject. Will move the issue forward to a future meeting.
- **Parks & Rec** – Grace Johnston – Works on Parks & Rec Board and lives in our community - Moen Park Grant Application to promote these issues: 1) Installation of a Free Library Structure at the Park. 2) Wants a sign placed at the Park with phone numbers for reporting park problems and illicit activities. Has witnessed numerous pot smokers that like to park there to look at view. Rasmuson Foundation will match the funds 50/50. Additional exercise equipment for adults that costs ±\$11,000 for materials + pad & install total value of \$20,000. New equipment is for older folks. Existing equipment is for children. Challenge grant to raise \$10,000. Volunteer labor services have a financial value of ±\$17 per manhour. Frank Pugh reminded folks that a group of RCCC folks trimmed alders last summer to open up the area for viewing from the road. Discussion about how and cost of building the library structure.
 - **Motion Pat Abney & 2nd Paul Gionet** - RCCC to write a letter in support of this proposal.
 - Vote results by show of hand - 18 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstain. Motion passes.
- **Jerry George – Alaska Railroad Horn Blowing Along Seward Hwy** – Provided brief historical description of the situation, trying to delete the requirement of trains to blow their horn when crossing the intersections at Rabbit Creek Rifle Range and the Enstar Crossings, which is often done in the early night hours when gates are closed. Rep Kott agreed to work on this issue with ARR Board and other agencies. ARR stated it costs \$375,000 to hang a horn on the cross arm. Questions that amount. He has \$200,00 available from someone. City needs to write to railroad to request review of the situation. John Weddleton is supportive of the idea. Waiting on the City to step up to the plate. Today's description is just an update, no action required at this time by RCCC. Jerry will write the letter when required.

Committees

- **Community Resilience** – Committee for Community Resilience will be on next month's meeting. Keith Guyer and group has met twice on this issue, once at Fire Station 9. Trying to ensure we are prepared as a community to prevent and deal with a fire on the Hillside. Bark beetles are back. Looking for more help to obtain a state grant for clearing. Another fund called Ready, Set, Go. Looking for more volunteers. Before next month's RCCC meeting, from 6 to 7:00 pm, there will be Firewise demonstrations in parking lot of GV Middle School.

Announcements

- Treasurers Report – Savings – \$315.91 & Check \$852.39. Membership at 181. OK to send \$75 to HALO Forum.

Next Meeting – Will be at Golden View Middle School on April 11th.

Meeting adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.