

RUSSIAN JACK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

6:30 PM, Wednesday, June 10, 2020

At Lidia Selkregg Chalet, 1600 Lidia Selkregg Lane

Present: Ed Leach, Fred McLeary, Lisa & Frank McGuire, Kathleen Plunkett, Dan & Sherry Wright, Simeon Bearden (with Geran Tarr's office)

Meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm by Chair Ed Leach.

1. Legislative report

Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson – Keith Bauguess submitted her report electronically (attached).

Sen. Bill Wielechowski - biked the Moose trail. Legislators may be going back for a special session. CARES Act must be appropriated via the legislators, not a committee of legislators. \$10 million for homeless will be put into a lottery to administer those funds. The vast majority of small businesses are not eligible, because of funds already received. Appropriation bills generally create static. There is a legal requirement that the legislators meet in person. A resolution could fix that. Also, there are no proxies for the legislators.

Sen. Tom Begich – no report

Rep. Geran Tarr - Geran spoke about a redo needed for the CARE's Act. Child Care is another major issue that needs to be fixed. Housing with concern of a tsunami of evictions coming are reasons the legislator may hold another special session. In person voting will be done in November. Concern of polling employees/volunteers are mainly older. Administrative leave will be given to help polling. Really pushing vote by mail to save concern of highly paid state workers filling in the gap for polling employees.

Rep. Ivy Spohnholz (Meagan Holland provided a report) – got a weekly update and Ivy is hosting a Facebook Live meeting at 10 am, Saturday, June 10th on her official legislative page. If you are uncomfortable voting in person, you can also ask for an absentee ballot and vote by mail in the upcoming elections. Legislators are adjourned for now, with a special session likely. Grant language for small businesses needs some work to help non-profits and small businesses.

A suggestion was to subtract any monetary provisions they had formerly received to supplement with new fundings as they are available, as funds were not distributed evenly.

Polling places use an electronic method for the initial count and one district is hand counted to ensure accuracy.

Rep. Andy Josephson - no report

2. Assembly report

Pete Petersen – no report

Forrest Dunbar – no report

3. School board report – Margo Bellamy – no report

4. Wonder Park school report – Tammy Hanson – no report

5. FCC report - James Smallwood – no report

6. Reka Drive improvements - postponed to September.

7. Russian Jack Park/Nunaka Boniface tunnel - A private individual wanted to talk to the council about this but was unable to attend.

6. Open Topics – Since we can't have our annual picnic, a fall clean up was discussed. Lisa will touch base with Ed on a date, preferably sometime in August for an end of summer cleanup.

Ed provided COVID-19 statistics from Real Clear Politics.com (which gets the numbers from John Hopkins). Only one out of 1000 people in Alaska have gotten infected, which leaves us vulnerable. Flu vaccinations are only 40 – 70% effective. There is a challenge for the legislators to loosen things up – with concern of the spread. Different states have applied different restrictions and gotten different results. All the data around the world needs to be considered. Things cannot continue as they have with all the closures. Hindsight shows that mass testing would have been beneficial. A request was made for the legislators to use the best available science and information from all the data to make future decisions. This should not be a partisan issue. We are all affected by both the virus and the closures.

Bill let everyone know that the Muldoon Farmer's Market is starting June 27th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Next meeting will be September 9th with location to be announced.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Sherry Wright, Secretary