

Rabbit Creek Community Council Meeting Minutes for Thursday, February 11, 2021
DS DRAFT

Location: Internet Zoom Meeting

Board Roll Call - Present: Ann Rappoport (Co-Chair), Carl Johnson (Co-Chair), David Sterling (Secretary), Keith Guyer (Co-Treasurer), Judy Michael, Mike Kenny, Michelle Turner, Nowlin Withers, Jess Grunblatt (Co-Treasurer), Nic Kinsman, Dianne Holmes.

Absent: None

Board Member Co-Chair Carl Johnson - Opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. 11 board members and a total of over 55 attendees, Declared a General Meeting. Carl had the new board introduce themselves. Ann and Carl asked each person to sign-in on the Zoom Chat for attendance and introduce themselves and say where you live verbally. The attendance list is attached. Advised of recording the meeting. Described methods to vote on issues for this meeting. People calling in on telephone will need to text to Nic Kinsman's cell phone for voting and sign-in. Described voting eligibility.

- **February Meeting Agenda- Motion to Approve Ky Holland & 2nd Ann Rappoport** – To approve as presented. None opposed, Motion passed. Available on screen or via website, on Google enter Rabbit Creek Community Council, link on right hand side gets to the agenda.
- **January Meeting Minutes - Motion to Approve Judy Michael & 2nd Nancy Pease** – To approve as written. Asked for any objections. Minutes approved as amended. One clarification for HLB Bear Valley Parcel, change last sentence to read, "There is a need for natural resource protection on the HLB parcel, because of the steep slopes on the proposed purchase and the HLB parcel, and Rabbit Creek (which crosses the HLB parcel)."

Announcements & Legislative Reports:

- **Assembly Members for RCCC Area -**
- **Suzanne LaFrance** – Contact info: Cell Phone: (907) 351-7199, Voicemail: (907) 343-4122, E-mail: LaFranceS@muni.org – Link for signing up to comment at Assembly meeting. Presentation on bonds going before voters at April election. \$60 million. Special tax levy to lease various police equipment. Title 17 Leash Law coming to Assembly.
- **John Weddleton** – e-mail: WeddletonJ@muni.org – (907)-770-6875 – Comments on B3 Zoning change are good and helpful. They also want to create a license for homeless shelters. They will put restrictions on homeless shelters, so they do not damage the neighborhood. Working on changing marijuana rules, ongoing thing. Working on process for trails on Hillside. Independent commission that sets pay for elected officials. Assembly members receive \$20,000. Committee wants to bump Assembly Members it up to \$60,000. Also, to provide an office. Building out some existing space in City Hall and Eagle River. Last Assembly meeting discussions on, do masks work? Had discussion taking away Emergency Order and putting these issues into Assembly Ordinance: Masks, ability for marijuana available at curbside, Restaurants to operate outdoors. Reason being the whole assembly can comment instead of one person, the mayor.
- **State Representatives** –
- **Representative James Kaufman** – rep.elect.james.kaufman@akleg.gov – 907-538-5262 - Representative present tonight. In Juneau.
- **Senator Roger Holland** – sen.elect.roger.holland@akleg.gov – 907-351-8277 – Not present.
- **Candidates for Offices -** Providing introductions:
 - **Alisha Hilde** - Candidate for School Board on April 6th Ballot - Introduced herself and provided some information. Website listed on chat.
 - **Carl Jacobs** - Candidate for School Board on April 6th Ballot - Introduced himself and provided some information. Website listed on chat.
 - **Judy Eledge** - Candidate for School Board on April 6th Ballot - Introduced herself and provided some information. Website listed on chat.
 - **Elisha Vakalis** - Candidate for School Board on April 6th Ballot - Introduced herself and provided some information. Website listed on chat.
 - **Kim Paulson** - Candidate for School Board on April 6th Ballot - Introduced herself and provided some information. Website listed on chat.

- **Bill Falsey** - Candidate for Mayor on April 6th Ballot - Introduced himself and provided some information. Website listed on chat.

New Business

- **Mountain Air Drive Extension** – Rori Van Nortwick and Sean Baski DOT&PF Project Managers – Slide show online for this discussion. Showed and described the project area being to extend Mountain Air Drive from the Bear Valley School south to Sandpiper Drive connecting to existing roads. Major components and reasons for the project include: 1) Safety providing for a second egress for residents. 2) Connectivity to the school. Active transportation via walking. Project history includes MOA working on design of the same project, which got all the way through to 95% Design Stage but was then unable to get funding. In 2020 MOA working with DOT and AMATS, allocated federal funding for this project. Because it will be Federally Funded, DOT&PF will manage construction, but MOA will own the road upon completion of construction. Ky Holland asked these questions with response: 1) How is this project tied into the bond measure passed a few years ago? This project is that bond measure. When one applies for federal funding there is a local match, which is that bond money. 2) Is this road going to provide connectivity to Bear Valley? This Federally Funded project will not tie into Bear Valley. AMATS would be the entity to request changes to the intent of the project. The comment period has already passed. DOT&PF has a specific scope of work that they are to follow. Carl Johnson asked about the intersection of Rabbit Creek Road and Mountain Air Drive? The previous MOA project had a roundabout designed at that intersection. The Federal/State design process will analyze conditions to see if modifications are required. This Federally Funded project will basically start over completely at the beginning with design. DOT does not plan to use any of the MOA design because the MOA does not follow the Federal design process. The information gathered by MOA has been forwarded and will be reviewed. A completely new Environmental Document will be processed. We are in for a long journey and we are just at the beginning. Tentative Schedule is:
 - Environmental Document 2020 thru 2024 to 2026
 - Design & Right of Way 2026 thru 2028
 - Construction After 2028

There will be new road classification established. Heard concerns about access, either more or less. Route selection, there is not an intended route. All routes must be analyzed in the process. Impacts to Property Owners and developments in the area need to be reviewed. Active transportation and connectivity to Middle School and Elementary School will be analyzed. Access to Bear Valley side will be reviewed. Working on getting a Consultant to help with design. Plan for future Open House meetings and Transportation Fairs to communicate. Dianne Holmes clarified about the MOA design that included roundabouts at two intersections. DOT wants to hear about these issues so they can make the best decisions. Study was done on '10 Worst Intersections' on the Hillside. Worst intersection is Golden View Drive and Rabbit Creek Road. However, across the Alaska region, that intersection does not even rank in the top 100 worst intersections. DOT personnel look holistically across the region to appropriate intersection money where it will do the most good. Yet to be analyzed for a decision. Currently the scope does not include any other issues outside of Mountain Air Drive, like trails between the schools. Earlier that comments are received, the better chance that those comments can be considered. Currently the best way to submit comments is by email to Sean Baski or Rori Van Nortwick, email address was placed into the chat. AMATS allocated funding via link in the chat. Nancy Pease advised that speed limits will be of concern. Advised that Bear Valley Elementary School is currently one of only two schools in the whole of MOA ASD that is not considered a walk to school for any students. Sean advised they are available anytime to be at a meeting. Ky Holland and Nancy Pease requested that March Land Use & Transportation Committee meeting take up this project to develop comments for consideration at the March meeting.

- **Land Use & Transportation Committee** – Meets first Thursday of each month.
- **Non-Motorized Transportation Plan** – Nancy Pease – Document provided online to review during this discussion. Comments are due March 5th. MOA prepares this plan to look at bicycles, shared use pedestrian pathways in Anchorage, Eagle River, Chugiak. In the past separate plans were developed that date back to 1990's. Hillside District Plan shows many trails designated for our area. There is now a draft Non-Motorized Transportation Plan that initially

intended to combine biking, pedestrian connections. Because of the complexity, this version discusses bikes and some shared pathways. Calls for a follow-up trail plan in 1 to 2 years. LUT has looked and prepared a draft of recommendations. This written plan says it supersedes all other trails plans. However, MOA Planner personnel have emailed saying all other plans will remain in effect. This should be considered an all-encompassing bike plan, but not a trails plan. The next Trails Plan should not be called a Recreational Trail Plan, since people think that only Department of Parks money should be issued, and we want Transportation money to be allocated and maintenance. Specific policies that focus on Hillside District Area. Some subdivisions have put in access right of ways that do not follow roads, and various situations. They are dedicated to the public but have not been built yet. 156th Section Line Trail between schools is an example. Another policy is for subdivisions to develop these right of way trails at the same time as the subdivision. Training for MOA Staff is necessary. Trails are shown as fairly wide and paved, but we suggest narrower and only graveled trails. Propose that trails in RCCC area are identified. Nancy identified several trails that we would want to get onto the plans or modify.

- **Motion Ann Rappoport & 2nd Jess Grunblatt** – RCCC to adopt and submit the written comments as prepared by Land Use & Transportation Committee.
 - Vote by Zoom: Yes=22; No=2; Abstain=5. Motion passes
- **Title 21 Proposed Amendments Regarding Zoning Districts Separations Distances, and Services for Homeless Shelters** – Judy Michael – RCCC Resident sent proposed Resolution for RCCC to submit to Planning and Zoning. Land Use Transportation Committee thoroughly discussed the resolution in depth and have a written document online for review. Came up with another way to address the issue. Ann Rappoport provided detailed information on this issue, while reading thru the written document. The resident apparently did not attend this meeting to discuss.
 - **Motion Judy Michael & 2nd Riki Lebman** – While the RCCC acknowledges the concern brought forward by local residents in the proposed Resolution, about amendments to the B3 zoning ANC21.05.010E, that the RCCC will submit comments to the Planning and Zoning Committee outlining the concerns and observations by the Council as a whole, by the letter of the Land Use Transportation Committee.
 - Discussion: Dianne Holmes complimented the LUTC folks for pulling this together in a short period of time. Motion goes to Planning and Zoning Committee. Carl Johnson defined the motion as: 1) We are not adopting the resident's resolution. 2) We are going to submit our own letter. 3) We are submitting the LUTC written letter.
 - Vote by Zoom: Yes=23; No=2; Abstain=4. Motion passes.
- **Spruce Terrace Subdivision (S12420)** – Ann Rappoport – The Andre Spinelli presentation last month. They are proposing to provide a community water system. RCCC had commented on trails in this subdivision. Spinelli was in favor of a narrow soft trail. Want to make sure the trails are cleared, marked, and constructed before lots are sold. Also want to make sure trails are detailed on the plat.
 - **Motion Ann Rappoport & 2nd Dianne Holmes** – Motion is for the LUTC to take the previous comments, with added items above at their next meeting, March 4th.
 - Discussion: Comments need to be presented to the Planning and Zoning at a future meeting, date To Be Determined.
 - Vote by Zoom: Yes=16; No=2; Abstain=5. Motion passes.
- Social Media Presence – Nic Kinsman -
 - **Motion Nic Kinsman & 2nd Keith Guyer** – Motion to Table this issue until the next meeting. No objection, motion passes.
- **Motion Keith Guyer & 2nd Ann Rappoport** – Extend the meeting by 10 minutes. Motion passes.

Old Business & Committee Reports

- Ann Rappoport advises that on the RCCC website there are numerous issues of things we want to setup a virtual meeting with our Juneau legislators. You are invited to add additional issues and participate in the virtual meeting.
- **Motion Keith Guyer & 2nd Ann Rappoport & 2nd At** – To Table all other Old Business and Committee Report due to lack of time.
- **Land Use & Transportation Committee** – Meets first Thursday of each month.
 - **Old Seward Hwy – Reduced speed and wildlife signage** – Tabled.
 - **Resilience Committee** – Tabled.
 - **FCC** – Tabled.
 - **HALO** – Candidate Forum Meeting March 4th.
 - **Treasurers Report** – From January = Savings = \$316.41. Checking=\$1,288.32 Total = \$1,604.73. \$400 encumbered to digitize.

Dianne Holmes - Suggestions that those signing in use their first and last names.

Motion Dianne Holmes & 2nd Nancy Pease – Motion to adjourn. No objection. Motion passes.

Action Items: Letters as mentioned above.

Next Meeting – March 11th. Zoom Meeting.

Meeting adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.