

## RUSSIAN JACK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

6:30 PM, Wednesday, April 14, 2021

At Zion Lutheran Church – 2100 Boniface Parkway

Present: Ed Leach, Emily Sobek, Kathleen Plunkett, Dan & Sherry Wright

Present via ZOOM: Kari McKittrick, Keelin Baughman, Steve Rafuse (Parks & Rec), Kendra Kloster, Sonia Lipker, Renea Miller, Fred McLeary, Bob Skaats, Lindsey Hajdak, Joy Boston (JBER), Ted Eischeid

Meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by Chair Kendra Kloster.

### 1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

2. Approve minutes Ed Leach said minutes do not need to be voted on. They are reviewed and either accepted or corrected.

3. Anchorage Police Report - no report

4. Legislative report (3 minutes each)

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

Sen. Bill Wielechowski (Nate Graham) – no report

Sen. Tom Begich - Disaster Declaration moving through legislators today. Will likely come before the Senate next week, then come to Conference Committee. Primary motivation is to keep SNAP monies. SB 10 - essential workers bill to be heard and on the floor Friday or Monday. Has to pass this year to have an impact and covers a wide range of essential workers. SB 111 education bill deals with virtual education, strong reading program, universal pre-K, hoping to amend a policy within that bill. Ability to hold kids back was eliminated at Begich request. Opportunity to succeed at reading. Pandemic Relief monies guidelines – Governor proposing on Friday where he believes these funds should be used with Legislators to use a template to provide input on spending. CAPSIS was discussed. RJSP Master Plan is on that list and Northern Lights/Bragaw street crossing are a few he spoke about. \$110 + million available for capital projects from Pandemic Relief. General obligation bond proposed by Governor and looking to include CAPSIS in that.

Rep. Geran Tarr - Helps to hear from the public. Neighborhood Survey was sent out and got hundreds of responses. Geran was interested in knowing pandemic impact – work, housing, etc. A little more than 1/3 of responders did face impacts and trying to recover. Legislators are discussing income or sales tax, but will be two years before we see that. Counting on federal funding to fill the gap. Removing sexual predators so they can't harm others is the goal, but more people in prison isn't her goal. She prefers to change the culture and prevent this from happening in the first place.

? Ted Eischeid – BOF confirmation hearings – when are those happening? April 28 is a possible date – last week of April.

Rep. Ivy Spohnholz - Ways to be more efficient with government. Ivy went over history of PFD. If we limit ourselves to the 5% this revenue should remain. Overspending will result in larger taxation of Alaskans. Income tax will also be bringing funds from non-residents. Not passing a fiscal plan affects Alaska with a loss of residents and jobs. Alaska Budget Tool is a way Alaskan's can provide input on spending. Tax Foundation will provide legislators information on how Alaskan's compare to other states regarding taxation. She is excited about the federal funding and how we can use that for infrastructure.

? Kathleen wondered when we have to have studded tires removed? Generally May 1st. Might be May 15<sup>th</sup>. Ivy will find out and send Kathleen an email.

Rep. Andy Josephson (Tristan Walsh) – no report

5. Assembly report (3 minutes each) no report from Pete Petersen or Forrest Dunbar as the Assembly is meeting tonight.

6. School board report (3 minutes each) – Andy Holleman reported that the budget is in but flat due to being down about 4000 students. Not sure when things are going to normalize. Summer schools are happening. Any student in need can communicate with principals. Property tax 1.9 mill rate assessment (about \$19 per \$100,000) to cover what school anticipated state would cover. Most controversial – Tuesday night anti-racism policy vote is to occur which is creating standards for students and staff. Short term this will not impact curriculum, but long term (for example) history may have some corrections as there are historical facts that have not been taught. Pre-K is believed that will make a benefit for future students. Holding students back that are doing well has been done in some states so that students who are not doing as well will score better (4<sup>th</sup> grade testing). That has not been done here yet.

7. FCC report – Kathleen Plunkett reported that the RJCC officer list has been updated. No news on next week's meeting as the agenda was not yet available.

8. RJSP Annual clean up – to be held May 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 – 12 pm. More information will be out in our next meeting.

9. Emergency Order Resolution from Louis Imbriani – Didn't get any response from MOA to discuss this. Any other comments on that resolution? We had a consensus that this was too broad for us to take up. The person that introduced this resolution was not present.

10. Resolution for Dave Rose Park presentation Steve Rafuse (Parks & Rec) - Located at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Park Street. Doubling parking lot size should eliminate issues with neighbors around the park area. Cricket league tried to find a location and Begich is pleased to see the progress on this. Ed Leach spoke about additional parallel parking along 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue or Lane Street. This is a heavily used park (especially the South end), but cost is a consideration for added parking.

? Emily asked about funding. In 2019 funding passed on the bond, so it is available. Sonja had a question regarding unsavory activities that occur in the evening. It will be gated winter and summer. Vote took place on the resolution.

Motion to support the resolution was made by Kathleen Plunkett. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sherry Wright. 13 in favor. No oppose, no abstain. Motion carried.

Steve is moving forward on the RJSP Master Plan. Advisory Group will get a chance to make revisions, then an updated report will be provided in June.

11. Liquor License renewal - No information was provided, so no vote occurred.

## 12. Neighborhood/Community Announcements

Joy Boston - For any beneficiaries that use JBER medical facilities, you can order/re-new prescriptions by texting "Get in line" to 1-855-856-5501; also there is a new JBER Pharmacy Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/JBERPharmacy/> with a QR code for prescription service and other information.

-Exercise Northern Edge, April 29 - May 14, large exercise with air, land and sea operations from north of Fairbanks to Gulf of Alaska to Cold Bay, expect increased aircraft traffic/noise, approximately 2,500 additional people on-base/in town for this event.

-Post Rd gate will be closed May 1 to June 30; -Boniface gate will be closed July 1 to mid-August

-Check out the JBER Facebook page at <https://m.facebook.com/JBERAK/>

Any questions or concerns, contact me at [joy.boston.2@us.af.mil](mailto:joy.boston.2@us.af.mil), Joy Boston, Community Partnerships at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

Keelin Baughman – Mt View Public Library is open. Mountain View Library is located at 120 Bragaw St. Hours are: Tuesday and Wednesday: 11am – 7pm; Thursday: 11am – 6pm; Friday and Saturday: 10am – 6pm; Sunday and Monday: Closed

Muldoon Library is located at 1251 Muldoon Rd. Hours are: Tuesday - Friday: 10am – 6pm; Saturday: 11am – 6pm; Sunday and Monday: Closed

Lindsay Hajdak - Garden season is beginning. AnchorGardens is a network of local gardeners that connects folks on Facebook to encourage local food security. Fred McLeary is representing Russian Jack.

ReStore in the old REI store is sponsoring a Recycling Day event on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 3 pm. AnchorGardens will have a table there.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 12th at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:  
Sherry Wright, Secretary