

## RUSSIAN JACK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

6:30 PM, Wednesday, June 9, 2021

At Zion Lutheran Church – 2100 Boniface Parkway

Present: Ed Leach, Kathleen Plunkett, Lori Pickett, Naki Nakamura, Chris Worther, Charlene Saclaman, Jim Nordlund, Dan & Sherry Wright

Present via ZOOM: Kendra Kloster, Fred McLeary, Sonia Lipker, Doug Johnson, Lindsey Hajdak (NeighborWorks)

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

### 1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

2. Approved Minutes - No corrections were needed.

3. Anchorage Police Report – no report

4. Legislative report (3 minutes each)

Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson (Keith Bauguess) – no report

Sen. Bill Wielechowski - Basically in a holding pattern. House passes a version of the budget, Senate passes a version, then they have conference committee that passes an overall budget. Big sticking point once again is the PFD. May give the people a chance to vote on what they think should be done with it. Fairly flat budget from last year. Budget spending compares to the 1970s when you include inflation. Secured \$37,000 to help RJSP work.

Sen. Tom Begich - Budget to be discussed soon. Dave Rose Park improvements, Mountain View painting work. No news on what the dividend will be yet. There is a growing desire to make a more substantive PFD. A lot of wasted time the last 2 weeks. CAPSIS list clearing.

Rep. Geran Tarr – Tomorrow hosting a Q&A on PFD proposals from 6 – 7 pm. Link is <https://fb.me/e/1qHTjVAh1> There's been plenty of stress in people's lives – she is looking for compromise, keeping an open mind to hear ideas and get some resolution on this issue. There is fuel tax, income tax – lot's of ideas being floated and discussed. Link will be in the chat room. Redistricting based on the census report will be coming up in August. May be some lost seats in rural, SE Alaska and Mat Valley is growing, so may have more seats. Bill to name a bridge in Cordova came up – bridge into Mountain View may be named Elsa Sargento bridge. This has turned into a more detailed list of potential places to rename that can recognize people that have contributed to Alaska.

Kendra said there is an effort to recognize the Indigenous tribes with place names and sending information out in the native languages.

Rep. Ivy Spohnholz - Headed back to Juneau on Monday to work on budget. There is an outmigration of around 15,000 people because of lack of jobs in Alaska. Woman found in Nunaka ball fields – APD is looking for information. Constituent Facebook meeting tomorrow at <https://www.facebook.com/events/833162070906657>

Rep. Andy Josephson (Tristan Walsh) – no report.

5. Assembly report (3 minutes each)

Pete Petersen – no report

Forrest Dunbar – Certified results of School Board and Mayoral elections. Pass through grant for COVID vaccines approved. \$52 million in American Rescue funds – small business, food cart, major necessities were over-subscribed. Waiting list from those was cleared out from this new funding. Homelessness committee plans – targeting East Anchorage. Assembly is looking at smaller facilities throughout Anchorage. Boniface/Tudor area is being considered for a location for a temporary homeless shelter structure that would hold 1000 people. Assembly will most likely resist this effort. The land is owned by MOA. There will be more discussions this summer. Agenda for the Housing and Homelessness Committee meeting:  
<https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Documents/Webpage%20-%20Committee%20on%20Housing%20and%20Homelessness/2021-0615%28S%29.pdf>  
The Sullivan facility needs to close. APD has a draft policy regarding body cams use and will have a public meeting June 16th, 6-8pm, in person at Bettye Davis East High School. New assembly chair is Susanne LaFrance, vice chair Christopher Constance.

Lori Pickett – asked about any information Forrest could send to prepare for that meeting – to be held Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. There is no formal information that can be distributed.

Kendra Kloster – working with APD about cultural training – needs to talk to Forrest about budget item for that. They have indicated they want to do that, but don't have budget for it. Resolution from the Public Safety Advisory Commission may be another good idea.

Lindsay Hajduk – questions about shelters and question of next steps for Assembly – public weigh in. June 22 will most likely be amendments and vote. Written testimony will be the best way to provide input as public testimony is now closed. Proposals under consideration may not pass. Licensing scheme has barrier language that would bar criminals from volunteering at shelters (one amendment). Lots of indecision on either ordinance. There are very few places you could put a homeless shelter. Gospel Rescue Mission started as B3 zoning that changed to PLI.

6. School board report (3 minutes each) – Dora Wilson – Summer food service for students will be available again. Survey for community input listed on ASD website to help understand SR3 funding priorities people have. Anchorage School District / Equity Data Analysis <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/16808> and ASD Help line 742-HELP provides information from tech questions to mental wellness. Lottery key date July 22<sup>nd</sup> for programs. July 23<sup>rd</sup> lottery will be run and July 24<sup>th</sup> parent notification with 24-hour acceptance/decline. School board retreat. Next meeting August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Lori Pickett – wondered what language for ASD lottery selection will be used when sent out to parents.

7. FCC report – Kathleen Plunkett – no FCC meeting in June. Next meeting July 21<sup>st</sup> which will be a picnic at Valley of the Moon Park.

8. JBER Public Affairs Report – Denny Hostetter looking for an honorary commander that can provide information to the community about JBER activities. To submit a candidate for the JBER Honorary Commander's Program, please send an email to [jber.pa@us.af.mil](mailto:jber.pa@us.af.mil). Veteran event on Friday – Veteran Appreciation curbside BBQ – bring your vet card to the Vet clinic on Muldoon. Red Flag operation will begin tomorrow and go about 2 weeks.

9. Decision on Community Project – Lindsey Hajduk (Got funding \$17,000 and the ideas discussed included: Community Garden; Beautification projects within Russian Jack Springs Park; Tunnel Mural under DeBarr; and Thin dense wooded area at south end of Polar Bear Playground parking lot as Phase I of a larger project (art garden with benches)

Fred has been looking at a big empty lot behind the Catholic church that has begun to be more of a dumping ground. This may be a possibility, but needs the RJCC support and then Fred can bring it to the church. There are long waiting lists for people looking to get in on a Community Garden with Parks & Rec. Fred wants to keep it limited to people who live in Russian Jack Community Council area, which means we would need a vetting process. There also may be a portion of RJSP that could be used. There will be a process needed, so most likely we would have a garden for next summer. Another idea was partnering with a school. Fencing is one of the large costs. Fred McLeary made a motion to support a community garden project. Sherry Wright 2<sup>nd</sup>. 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained

NeighborWorks – Jim Nordlund – may be interested in helping with painting the DeBarr tunnel mural next year as they have a Mountain View project this year. One thing they are contemplating is reintroducing a program that began in the 1980s. Housing beautification program starting up again and they want to begin in Russian Jack. \$75,000 loan for improvements – options for homeowner to help. ReNEWvation Program has a list of approved contractors, loan program. Flyer and letter will be going out to 350 homeowner's in RJCC area. (Handouts provided)

10. MOA Planning Department Municipal Code Title 21 – Elizabeth Appleby, MOA Senior Planner provided a PowerPoint discussing parking requirements and site access. Parking code does not align with city plans. Streamlining some of the process in developing. Public review will take place in September. Link to project page:

<http://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Projects/AnchLandUse/Pages/Actions4-3%264-6.aspx>                      elizabeth.appleby@anchorageak.gov

11. Traffic calming update and discussion – Charlene Saclamana lives on Pine Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. She came to speak about her concerns that it is not pedestrian friendly – with RJSP right across the street. Since last year there have been many problems with speeders racing through the neighborhood. It's primarily single-family homes and a dead end street, near the park. Parks & Rec are in the area almost on a daily basis. There is no walking path on the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue end. One speed limit sign of 20 mph is in the area. Even the SLOW, Children Playing signs don't seem to work. She was encouraged to come to RJCC to bring this issue. A speed bump in that area might provide help.

Fred McLeary said this is an issue throughout the area. The CIP list was finalized a couple months ago, and will be reviewed in November/December. Resolutions need to be passed by RJCC for the CIP list to move forward (we can look at traffic calming as a whole in the area). A sidewalk on the RJSP side of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue may be an easier route (Forrest will talk to someone about this). There is also a path from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue that goes to Wonder Park school that may be able to be tied into. Crosswalk signage might also help. We may get someone for our September meeting and solicit information on traffic calming areas. Kendra can work on a resolution.

12. Neighborhood/Community Announcements –Muldoon farmers market starts on June 26th, runs 9:30 - 2:30pm every Saturday. If you want to volunteer let Kendra or Forrest know and we can get you connected. Ivy has a constituent meeting. AK Literacy Project is having a Civics Fair July 26<sup>th</sup> and would like a volunteer from RJCC to provide information. They also have a 6 part series on understanding Municipal Government Community will begin Thursday, June 17 and continue to July 22<sup>nd</sup>. (Handouts provided).

Next meeting is scheduled for September 8th at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by:  
Sherry Wright, Secretary