

## RUSSIAN JACK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

6:30 PM, Wednesday, October 13, 2021

At Zion Lutheran Church – 2100 Boniface Parkway

Present: Ed Leach, Kyle Mietzner, James Smallwood, Kathleen Plunkett, Daniel George, Dan & Sherry Wright

Present via ZOOM: Keelin Baughman, Lori Pickett, Kendra Kloster, Lisa McGuire, Fred McLeary, Lindsey Hajduk, Leighan Gonzales, Huhnke Lee, Dora Wilson

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Chair Kendra Kloster. Roll call was taken to ensure all participants were included in our list of attendees.

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement of Dena'ina lands.

### 1. Approve Minutes

2. Anchorage Police Report – no report

3. Legislative report (3 minutes each)

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

Sen. Bill Wielechowski - Struggling with 2 members with COVID. Not optimistic much will happen this special session. Expect progress in January. PFD's are supposed to be out this week. Clem Tillion passed away today – he was 96. Support decreasing the spending cap – began at an unreasonable amount, and supports a resolution regarding PFD.

Ed – asked why committees can't do ZOOM meetings? There is no reason so they could hold hearings. Several members didn't support that resolution. At this point, that is how we should be conducting hearings.

Sen. Tom Begich (Brix Hahn) – Doesn't have anything to add other than there is hope, need for compromise and be kind. Disheartened by things happening in our community lately.

Rep. Geran Tarr – Poverty task force opportunity coming at an important time with all the ongoing statewide planning. Editorial in today's paper re: fiscal plan ideas. Trying to keep pushing through work now, recognizing the need to compromise, rather than waiting for another election. Halloween carnivals going on in Mountain View.

Rep. Ivy Spohnholz - Only committee meeting is house & means. Dividend formula update bills 75/25 split would create around a \$1200 dividend next year and ability to grow. Tarr sales tax and Spohnholz spending cap for budget are some bills being discussed. Difference between revenue and budget are smaller than many think. Reminder of vaccinations incentives.

Question in chat for IVY from Lisa regarding the incentives. Each week one adult and one child are selected as winners of the Give AK a Shot drawings. Sign up and get more information here: <https://www.giveakashot.com/> It's paid for from federal CARES Act funds.

Rep. Andy Josephson (Tristan Walsh) - no report

4. Assembly report (3 minutes each)

Pete Petersen – present but no report

Forrest Dunbar – Emergency Mask ordinance was passed last night by the Assembly and vetoed by the Mayor this afternoon. 5 pm meeting to consider override by the assembly tomorrow. There are some exemptions (religious assembly, athletic events). Would require masks for public indoor and large outdoor gatherings. If 2 of the 3 hospitals are no longer in emergency care status or 14 day continuous not high transmission levels of COVID cases, the mandate would expire. Approved funding for further testing as soon as they learned they were not doing as much testing (reimbursable by FEMA). MOA Budget – enterprise utility, capital and \_\_\_\_? Public hearings will be taking place. 5 year capital plan expected to be done (\$500,000 was allotted for RJSP, and sewer and drainages). Encouraged to testify at Assembly in first meeting in November. Assembly has two opportunities to address this via bond. Plan to include RJCC support of a resolution to be approved by the RJCC officers and will post to our Facebook page. 2022 capital bond amount for RJSP to be included in our discussion. Lindsey said she will help. We also need to make sure the Master Plan items that was counting on the bond funding included and the domino effect of reduced funding. Capital projects lists will be on next month's agenda.

Homelessness issues still uncompleted plans. Narrowed sites to 5 smaller locations, 3 of the 5 are in East Anchorage. One is East of the old police department, one is west of motorcycle training. They would choose one or the other. Another location is the old Alaska Club on Tudor that could be a medical convalescence site. Men, medical convalescence, special groups (women, LGBT). 7 acre site on Bragaw is one possibility.

Question from Kendra regarding commissions meeting via ZOOM – and including that opportunity as a permanent opportunity rather than whether or not it is allowed. Boards and Commissions are lacking candidates across the spectrum. 30-40 names were submitted for confirmation – lots of new people. There was an audit on the members and possible changes will be forthcoming.

Daniel George asked about the homelessness resolution expected to be passed by November 22<sup>nd</sup>. FCC has concerns about quickness of this and requesting help getting the word out. The Tudor location was already vetoed by the Mayor. Johnson Tire location is on a land lease and most likely will be blocked by owner. The Bragaw site is the most likely to move forward and as a 200 bed facility there are concerns that local homeowners have not gotten more notice. Native Charter land is currently listed for \$5 million on MLS. Each property will have to be considered. The resolution doesn't indicate a done deal. It's part of the process to move forward.

5. School board report (3 minutes each) – Dora Wilson next meeting October 19<sup>th</sup>. You can testify in person, in writing or telephonically. Committee meetings coming up. Youth Leadership October 22<sup>nd</sup> with 150 students participating 9 – 12 grades. October is Principal appreciation month.

Ed asked what the process is for student assault in ASD. Process depends on the scenario and done on a case by case basis. School Resource Officers would be involved.

6. FCC report – Kathleen Plunkett – Timing of homelessness shelters issue was brought up by Daniel George. Had information on the Transportation Improvement plan.

7. Report from JBER Public Affairs – no report

8. Alaska Child & Family – Alexandra Peter – report delayed to next month

9. Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness – Jasmine Boyle organization will be meeting Friday and hearing the plan and deciding whether or not they support the plan. She provided lots of information. Jasmine can be reached at: [director@aceh.org](mailto:director@aceh.org)

Sherry Wright – question on homeless in Russian Jack Springs Park. Coalition has gone to camp sites of individuals that were identified from APD. Police notify individuals and the coalition seeks to reach those people. Currently, they are specifically focused on COVID piece of homelessness.

Ed Leach – several years ago a Midtown CC identified some from villages that came for medical reasons and then became homeless. That is an ongoing issue. As the largest city in the state, we have more resources, and many come to seek those resources. Some of those folks from the village are looking for the American dream but lack opportunity. There are some coming from Juneau and the Mat Valley to Anchorage – both communities that could take care of their own. Anchorage has a statewide problem and live with the front line of the solution. The most comprehensive solution is housing. This gets people off the streets and getting help they need. Sullivan Arena residents have jobs, but not enough money to afford housing. If we don't have housing, we can't stop homelessness. Anchored Home is about a safety net to help people get out of that cycle of homelessness. Workforce housing means they pay a per day fee to rent (maybe a shared kitchen or bathroom, but still pays some rent). Supportive housing is for those that need some help getting stabilized. Takes about 3 years for people for graduate. Important for us to participate in the next couple weeks.

Lori Pickett – issues with rental assistance in mobile home parks. Another situation is where there is a man in the family and therefore don't qualify. Lot's of complications in the situations. Population of immigrants when they are doubling and tripling in one home. Plan focuses on people that do not have children. There are other opportunities for assistance for people that have children. Some of these come to the attention via ASD and the September surge. The Faith community was filling in the gap during the winter seasons, but that also had a glitch with COVID. The need for families in real time in Anchorage, but we are the only recipient of a fund for families (grant). Catholic Family Services provides much of this.

10. Neighborhood/Community Announcements - Keelin Braughman Mountain View Library – gave information on upcoming events. Contact information for Keelin Baughman, 343-2904, [keelin.baughman@anchorageak.gov](mailto:keelin.baughman@anchorageak.gov) Storytime, Tuesday at 6pm and Friday at 10:30 at Dave Rose Park and Thursday at Chanshtnu-Muldoon Park. Subject to change in November. LEGO Club is held every Saturday in October from 2-4pm at Mt. View Library. Live Painting Demonstration with Will Kozloff, November 6th at Noon at Mt. View Library.

Kendra spoke about the MOA Public Safety Advisory Commission discussing the bodycam policy. They are taking comments online and will be rolling out an update. Meetings are 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday from 6 – 7 pm. They have a FaceBook page.

Huhnke Lee spoke about the RJSP homeless issues. Would appreciate park cleanup of the camps, trash and fecal matter. He is running for Senate next year. Came to Alaska 6 years ago to get away from it all. He's thankful to be here. He was attracted to Alaska from our ads. Interested in responsible development and plans to run for US Senate seat.

AK Literacy Project just had a graduating class.

Fred McLeary – He is resigning as Vice President next meeting. He encourages people to consider running. Lisa McGuire also indicated she is resigning as Treasurer.

Kendra – normal elections are in December with nominations done in November at our next meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 10th at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by:  
Sherry Wright, Secretary