

RUSSIAN JACK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

6:30 PM, Wednesday, November 10, 2021

At Zion Lutheran Church – 2100 Boniface Parkway

Present: Ed Leach, Fred McLeary, Kathleen Plunkett, Dan & Sherry Wright

Present via ZOOM: Lori Pickett, Sonia Lipker.

Meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by Vice-Chair Fred McLeary.

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

2. Approve Minutes

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 (Leighan Gonzalez) – Main information was about redistricting. Looking forward to seeing what happens with the results of re-districting.

Sen. Tom Begich (LG Tobin provided report) – took her awhile to get on as web zoom meeting was different than agenda zoom link and she had trouble getting on. Senator Begich is dealing with some family issues and out of state. Ensuring every Alaskan has equitable access to education.

Rep. Geran Tarr - Glad to see everyone – stay safe! Getting cold out. Fiscal plan ideas – had some additional hearings and not there yet. Upcoming legislative session has tremendous outside influences. Redistricting – Airport Heights / Russian Jack / Mountain View wasn't changed much at all. There are possibilities for change. Uptick in oil prices (around \$80/barrel) which will temper some of the revenue shortfall. Constitutional Convention will also be on the ballot. Restored practices for education is very exciting. Consent legislation presentation have been done. Trying to have a balance of issues. Geran won an award from AK Invasive Species Partnership – Advocate of the Year.

Rep. Ivy Spohnholz - Special session fizzled out – House Ways & Means heard bills and was one of the most active committees trying to make progress. One of the bills they were working on was to update the dividend formula and stabilize K-12 funding. Congress passed infrastructure bill which will give us monies for highways, ferries and ports. Will watch how those are spent. One change is creation of a new seat 20J (includes Russian Jack from Pine Street into East Anchorage – Wonder Park Elementary). Expecting litigation due to the Eagle River / Muldoon seat controversy. Redistricting map can be found here: <https://www.akredistrict.org/map-gallery/web/final-redistricting-map.html>

Rep. Andy Josephson (Tristan Walsh) – no report

5. Assembly report (3 minutes each) – no report

Pete Petersen & Forrest Dunbar

6. School board report (3 minutes each) – Andy Holleman or Margo Bellamy - no report

7. FCC report – Kathleen Plunkett - Several presentations on planning – bandwidth and space issues means FCC aren't keeping the recorded meeting information very long, which means

secretaries need to download info rather quickly. RJCC Secretary reported having no issues getting the link information, as that is generally done the evening of meeting or next day.

8. Report from JBER Public Affairs – no report

9. Community Garden Project - Lindsey Hajduk Before summer break, we decided to work on a Community Garden and are now trying to regroup to find a path forward. \$10,000 grant funding is available, but must be used by the end of the year. Lindsey is somewhat hesitant to spend the grant without an actual plot and is looking for more enthusiasm from the group. Fred added to the report that they looked at several locations and most of them didn't work out. Requirements vary, depending on location. Beautification projects within Russian Jack Springs Park is another idea (plants could be purchased with those funds and planted later). Geran said there is a challenge grant that might be able to be used to help alleviate some of the additional costs for fencing if we went with Williwaw Park location. Sonia Lipker volunteered to speak with Lindsey about a Community Garden. Suggestion of a property off Bragaw & San Clemenson (may be owned by Southcentral Foundation). Kendra and Anchor Garden volunteers can join the meeting to discuss this further. Geran asked if we could do edible space as a beautification project – will have to find out.

10. Resolution for Russian Jack Springs Park to be included on MOA Bond – This was on the planning process for five years – but was delayed with the new administration. Our Council wants to see this move forward in the 2022 budget and not be delayed. Sherry Wright moved to approve. Kathleen Plunkett 2nd. Motion carried unanimous (9-0-0)

11. Capital Improvement List Review for 2022 – the council reviewed the list and will update any status changes at our December meeting.

12. Nominations for RJCC Board – Kendra Kloster – President; Lori Pickett – Vice President; Ed Leach – Treasurer; Sherry Wright – Secretary; Kathleen Plunkett – FCC & Trustee. These nominees will be considered for election at our December meeting.

13. Neighborhood/Community Announcements- Wellness Day volunteers are being sought at Williwaw Elementary. Afghan refugees are taking part in AK Literacy Project. Welcome packages were suggested by Lindsey. Another idea was some kind of cultural exchange, similar to what we've had with Hmong people and Samoan community. Lori provided a link for refugee assistance information for anyone interested as follows:

<https://www.cssalaska.org/our-programs/refugee-assistance-immigration-services/afghan-relief/>

Next meeting is scheduled for December 8th at 6:30 pm and will be a potluck for those interested.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Sherry Wright, Secretary