

RUSSIAN JACK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

6:30 PM, Wednesday, January 12, 2022

At Zion Lutheran Church – 2100 Boniface Parkway

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

Present via ZOOM: Lori Pickett, Keelin Baughman, Lisa McGuire, Trevor Bailey (Sen Tom Begich office staff), Ted Eischeid

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Vice President Lori Pickett.

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

2. Anchorage Police or Fire Department - Sherry Wright reported on a fire department issue. While walking her dog in RJSP, thought there was a “body” in the snow. Called police, transferred to Fire Department, gave them description of where this was. An hour later, skiing same trail and “body” was still there. Provided GPS and was told the Fire Department is not able to use GPS. The Fire Department should have GPS equipment and training as there are many homeless camps in wooded areas of Anchorage (not just RJSP) and lots of trail users that may report using GPS on their phones to aid in both response and prevention times. Police do use GPS, but Fire Department said they don’t or aren’t able to utilize it.

3. Legislative report (3 minutes each)

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

Sen. Bill Wielechowski - Session begins January 18. With rising oil prices and federal funding, we will have a balanced budget. Bragaw extension bond package through UAA lands (one of Dunleavy’s budget items). Campaign finance contribution limits of \$500 set many years ago. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals shut that down, but not sure what the new limit is maybe \$1000 - 1500. He has submitted a bill to make campaign financing limit \$1000. Online checkbook will require all state expenditures over \$50 be posted. There is a loophole in corporate income taxes for Alaska oil producers (Hillcorp, a Texas company) so trying to fix that loophole to recover lost revenues.

Sen. Tom Begich - Reapportionment lawsuits and provided some information about the maps. Friday is deadline for dismissal of the lawsuits. Looking at how the infrastructure monies are being distributed and watching closely all spending. CAPSIS requests need to be in by the end of the month. Expanding nursing school is a goal (2 year waiting list currently). PreK/early education bill, increase base student allocation. Putting money in the principal of PFD. The maps that Sen. Begich talking about are available here: <https://www.akredistrict.org/map-gallery/web/final-redistricting-map.html>

Keelin Baughman also said the maps are available for viewing at Mt View Library as well if you would like to see a bigger size version.

Ed had a question about retired military housing on base and zoning / reapportionment issue. The problem is many of the areas are not contiguous, in the way they are drawn out.

Rep. Geran Tarr - Restorative Justice summit was a successful event. 100 educators registered, youth corp, re-entry folks. Rape kit reform initiative hit milestone of all untested kits have now been processed. 2 criminal cases filed and decades ago justice being done. Victim notification, consent definition being updated – it's been 40 years. January 22 Constituent meeting. Update on bridge naming includes several names. She will send those out by email and hopefully will be able to come to a community consensus.

Rep. Ivy Spohnholz - Budget balancing because of federal funding. Fiscal situation is not "fixed". Updated dividend formula to create stable funding stream with split between public education and infrastructure. Advanced practice permit for dental hygienist and putting teledoc into permanent practice. Labor/Commerce hearing on infrastructure bill impact to State of Alaska. You can track bills via text by texting the bill number (ex: HB1) to 559-245-2529 to enroll in text alerts.

Rep. Andy Josephson (Tristan Walsh) – no report

4. Assembly report (3 minutes each)

Pete Petersen – Reapportionment maps are available at the assembly page for review. Election codes are being updated with around 19 amendments. Also updated election observers handbook, since voting by mail responsibilities are different.

Forrest Dunbar – MOA has its own reapportionment process that adds a 12th member to the Assembly. The Downtown district must double in size and its likely as Downtown expands they will take all of the base, part of East Anchorage (Turpin may go with it). There were likely 2 options on how the assembly seats could be expanded. Regarding the restoration of RJSP funding - has been working on substitute version of bond package to put RJSP monies back into it. Assembly decides in January what goes on the April ballot. Eagle exit is an Assembly advisory vote coming up (municipal lands/parks, Eklutna Lake and Anchorage water source are some of the considerations). Idea of Municipal clerk being an elected position. List of things that Assembly speaks to House/Senate about – 3 items: 600 million for Port of Anchorage, extra money for roads/bridges outside bond area, 15 million for homeless shelter.

Bragaw Extension was put onto the Governors GO bond because he was asked to do so by Mayor Bronson. Bronson wants to build a new treatment facility near APU, instead of using the Golden Lion that we already own, and to do so will require the Bragaw extension.

Concern continues to be raised about pedestrian/vehicle fatalities on Bragaw, especially if it becomes an even busier thoroughfare. Bragaw Street is already over-extended for traffic.

Ted Eischeid made a motion that Russian Jack Community Council opposes extension of Bragaw. 2nd by Ed Leach. We have already discussed this issue thoroughly. However, since it's been several years since we went on record and this issue is being addressed again, we can reaffirm our earlier resolution. This allows our current representatives to point out our concerns on this issue. There was no objection to the motion, which passed unanimously.

Northway Mall has to be removed because of roof issues, but was discussed as another possible location for homeless services, close to hospital and other social services.

Ted thanks Forrest and Pete on job they are doing. Will be watching RJSP funding issue closely.

5. School board report (3 minutes each) – ASD changed COVID quarantine to 5 days from the former 10 days, per new CDC guidelines. N95 masks provision are being is considered. COVID 19 testing sites for students, family, staff of ASD. Links to various items are below:

Superintendent January 4th Update: <https://www.asdk12.org/superintendent>

Superintendent Search Timeline/Survey: <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/5905>

ASD Hot Topics Page: <https://www.asdk12.org/hottopics>

ASD Covid-19 Testing Sites: <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/18301>

Updated Home Screening Guidelines: <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/18672>

School Board Leadership 1/13 Webinar:

https://asdk12.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TAhsne3Rruf4pIhR8sbRg?fbclid=IwAR2X7rx-ERheYnjO1MnSfaATYC1VY5LnX2RhkW2xpHVD2E2sO4CmHL3CKD0

Upcoming ASD Board Meeting - 1/18 @ 6:00pm Link to agenda (when available) and to register for testimony: <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/4329>

CONTACT INFO: Carl Jacobs, Anchorage School Board - Seat G, jacobs_carl@asdk12.org (907)632-7285

6. FCC report – Kathleen Plunkett had no report.

7. Report from JBER Public Affairs – no report

8. Neighborhood/Community Announcements – Keelin Baughman Mountain View Public Library provided a January update - Storytime is every Tuesday at 6pm. LEGO Club is Jan 22 and 29 from 2-4pm. Special Storytime on Jan 19 at 2pm. Narcan Training by AHD on Jan 27 at 1pm. All library locations will be closed on Jan 15th. Loussac will be closed on the 17th. keelin.baughman@anchorageak.gov or (907) 343-2904.

AK Literacy Program – classes have started and are both in person and online. Working to support the community during COVID and with Anchorage Health Department to make testing, vaccines and access to new treatments for COVID-19 available to the English Language Learner and low literacy communities.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 9th at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Sherry Wright, Secretary