

Rabbit Creek Community Council Meeting Minutes for Thursday, September 9, 2021
JM DRAFT

Location: Internet Zoom Meeting

Board Roll Call – Present: Ann Rappoport (Co-Chair), Carl Johnson (Chair), Michelle Turner, Mike Kenny, Keith Guyer, Jess Grunblatt, Judy Michael, Nic Kinsman, Dianne Holmes, Nowlin Withers

Absent: David Sterling (excused)

Members: DF MacDowell, Brenda Vincent, Frank Pugh, James Michael, David Michael, Nancy Pease, Lyndyn Grothe, Patricia Goentzel, Trevor Strait, Paul Berger, Matt and Rachel Blakeslee, Roxanne Boylan, Kim Paulson

Others attending: Representative James Kaufman, Nancy Kaufman, Joy Boston, Randy Sulte, Rachel Ries (Assembly Candidate Dist 6, Julie Coulombe (Huffman/O'Malley CC), Kelly Lessens, ASD School Board, Randy Sulte (Assembly Candidate), Joy Boston (JBER)

Meeting was called to order by co-chair Ann Rappoport at 7:05 pm.

Ten board members were present and more than 13 members were present, therefore a quorum was present.

September Meeting Agenda – Approved, with the addition of discussion about 2021 Nominations

July minutes – (No RCCC Meeting was held in August). Approval postponed until Sept. meeting, since David Sterling is not able to get them submitted due to technical difficulties in a remote location.

New Business and Old Business requiring action – Time Critical

Land Use and Transportation Committee:

- Old Rabbit Ck Rd 'earthquake' repair work (Matt B)

Supposedly these repairs and sites were to be repaired due to earthquake damage. However, residents saw little or no need for these repairs, and questioned why 4 patches were opened and why the site(s) was chosen. Work was started, and then not finished, for no apparent reason. However, just prior to this meeting, the road repairs appeared to finally be finished. (Judy M said the ADOT website said that earthquake damage to Old Rabbit Creek Road was one of the current road projects.)

- Comments on Transportation Improvement Program (Nancy Pease)

Nancy reviewed the main points of the proposed program. She proposed some changes to several areas of the plan, and suggested some additional comments. Jess suggested prioritizing our comments. However, Nancy pointed out that the best chance of our comments being read, we should stick to the TIP five categories. Mike Kenny noted concerns among the community about roads that aren't safe for school buses. Nancy's comments will be written and submitted by September 20th and posted on the RCCC website. She will add and incorporate the ideas and concerns discussed at this meeting.

- Rugby Field disturbances to neighbors – No action yet.
- Draft 2022 Work Program/2023-27 Mgmt Plan (Dianne). Kaufman

The HLB meeting was cancelled; plan is not out yet.

- Nominating Committee needed to talk to people willing to fill any vacancies that may be occurring for 2022. Ann can provide a list of those whose terms are expiring. Lynden Grothe volunteered. Ann and Dianne will also support where needed. Dianne will chair.

Updates from Elected Officials

---Senator Roger Holland: Encouraged people to call him. Working with SB53 (POMV); and SJR companion bill to Rep Kaufman's bill in the House. Then things got bottled up in the Senate Finance Cte. Urges all to keep an eye on the redistricting maps being worked on by the Alaska Redistricting Board. District 28 is +.8% pop; District 27 is -2.7; but District N looks totally different.

---Rep. Kaufman said that SJR 301 adopted by Sen. Meyers was the same as what Rep. Kaufman introduced, but has had good amendment: to create a private sector element that could have a positive effect on appropriations. Discussion followed with Kaufman, Holland, and RCCC.

---Kelly Lessens, ASD School Board School is back in session. Kids very happy to be back to in-person instruction. Projected enrollment is 44,000—down from a couple of years ago. 9,000 students were in summer school. New goals and strategies: focus on K-2 reading; in 3rd grade, pivot from learning to read, to reading to learn. ASD wants to move from 45% to 80%. Math proficiency in grades 7-9—want to move to 55%. Third major goal is “Adulting”—getting kids ready to launch—career, college, adult. First monitoring of reading goals was last week; they know community wants results.

They expect 2 rounds of federal money; \$112M in the first. ASD is struggling with staffing shortfalls; short about 60 bus drivers, though some are in training. ASD wants to up the capacity for testing.

There's a fiscal cliff expected in 2025. Current 21-22 budget involves re-investing in pre-K; those programs have expanded and have become more inclusive in the last 5 years. Curriculum alone doesn't do it. Staffing is needed.

Comments were made from RCCC audience about concerns regarding teaching of critical race theory; too much \$\$ spent on Administration; contact links were posted by the School Board and Representatives.

---Candidate Rachel Ries (Huffman/O'Malley CC): Running for Assembly seat (Weddleton's). Concerned about school funding; home schools her child because she felt changes needed. She feels strongly about personal property rights, wants to reduce extremism and foster productive and reasonable dialogue especially involving sensitive and controversial issues. She is a fiscal conservative.

---Randy Sulte (pronounced Sult): Running for Assembly seat (Weddleton's). From Bayshore Klatt; on the board of Rilke Schule charter school; COO of Kakivik (a Bristol Bay Native Corp. subsidiary). He feels that Anchorage deserves better than a divisive Assembly that Anchorage has now. Wants to attract businesses that add revenue; work with the mayor on homelessness issues. Feels he is a good facilitator

--Dianne asked if either candidate has read the Hillside District Plan. Randy is about half finished; Rachel is part way through.

•Resilience Committee: Ky Holland reported that they met in August, and will meet during the Fall. There will be a focus on hazard awareness---including wind and power outages, as well as fire dangers even in winter, and home winterization and protection. All comers welcome at meetings: Fourth Monday of each month, 7 pm.

- Volunteers still needed for help with trail maintenance. Neighborhood Gateway still needs engineering design specs in order to get final approvals.

- FCC and HALO—Heard update on special session from Senator Revak.

Skyridge Estates did not go their way; directly contradicted the HDP. They may have been granted secondary access to Lake Otis. Next month, there will be a meeting about property tax appraisal methodology.

---Nic Kinsman---about 50 new followers on social media; 150 new on Next Door. She's committed to developing policy and guidelines to circulate.

---John Weddleton, Assembly Rep: It's budget time; also working on homelessness solutions; 8 possible sites; Boutet Company getting estimates; proposal expected mid October. Working on Title 21 and Title 23 updates. Issues about valuing large lots—not many comps available. Frank Pugh commented that there needs to be more consistency in Muni appraisals, and transparency in working with the owners.

Treasurer's Report: .05 interest gained; \$1595 in the bank.

Motion to adjourn by Mike Kenney, seconded by Keith Guyer.

Adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Michael