

Rogers Park Community Council
Meeting Minutes
Meeting Via Zoom
April 11, 2022

Call to order: Pete Mjos called the meeting to order at 6:49pm and reviewed meeting rules

Establish Quorum: Established by Cassandra Raun

Welcome message: Dr. Morris Horning - Came to Alaska with the intention to stay one year, and that was in 1980. They have had a terrific life here in this diverse community. He enjoys seeing that many of the kids who grew up with his children are now raising their own children in the neighborhood. Also, Spring is here!!

Review and approve March minutes: Linda Chase motion to approve, Jim Wright second, minutes are approved.

Treasurer's report: Pete Mjos gave report for Ric Wilson. We have transferred our account from Wells Fargo to Credit Union 1. Our balance remains unchanged at \$640.49, split approximately 50/50 between checking and savings in our new Credit Union 1 account.

FCC report: Linda Chase - Homelessness: the municipality is going to hold listening sessions regarding the proposed navigation center. The listening sessions will be on Wednesday, April 13 from 5:30-7:30 at Wilda Marston Theater at Loussac Library and on Thursday, April 28th from 5:30-7:30 at the Assembly Chambers at Loussac Library. Municipal officials will be available for presentation and questions. There will be an open house for the 36th and Seward Interchange on Tuesday, April 19th 4:30 to 6:30 at Loussac.

Comments: Pete Mjos gave highlighted newsletter information and alerts and reminded membership to read the newsletter prior to the meeting.

Alaska legislative reports:

Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson - Please see attached written report.

Rep. Harriet Drummond - Happy to report that the House finished the operating budget on Saturday. They are about 2-3 weeks late in the process due to high numbers of active COVID cases in the Capital. Budget highlights: in education, they set aside \$57 million in new funding. They are trying to increase the Base Student Allocation this year. They refilled the higher education investment fund. They added \$2.5 million to the preschool grants. They provided \$42 million in new funding to the University of Alaska. There is going to be an energy relief check in the amount of \$1300, should the Budget pass the Senate. With the PFD, the total payment to each Alaskan will be approximately \$2600. In public safety, they funded 14 additional State troopers and 10 village public safety officers, \$1 million to missing and murdered Indigenous women, \$5 million to combat domestic violence and sexual assault.

There was a series of council questions, comments and discussion about teachers and the lack of a defined benefit retirement plan. Rep. Drummond discussed the concern about teacher shortage and lack of teacher retention. Both Rep. Drummond and Senator Gray-Jackson support defined benefit retirement plans for teachers.

<https://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/32?Root=sjr12>

Rep. Andy Josephson - Report given by Staffer Elise Sorum-Birk. The budget was passed on Saturday. Rep. Josephson has HB229 which is a bill that aims to make sure that the higher education investment fund is structured in a way that it is no longer subject to the sweep, that it won't be determined to be a sweepable fund. Hopefully that bill will reach the house floor in the next couple of weeks and pass by the end of session. Rep. Josephson also has HB55 which is fairly stalled out. It is the retirement bill that only deals with public safety officers, roughly 3000 State employees. There has been a lot of opposition to that Bill and they aren't sure if it will make it through the process.

Assembly reports:

Meg Zaletel - They recently had an AMATS policy committee on the TIP. They are working on the projects for the 2023-2026 TIP which starts in October for the Federal fiscal year. In reviewing those projects, they've heard feedback from multiple community councils that there isn't good timing for when to get the public's feedback. Therefore, they have released a draft TIP of the plan for a 30 day comment period, open through the beginning of May. Meg encourages RPCC to provide feedback. There are quite a few plans and corridor studies. One is a Tudor Road corridor plan, another is the Seward to Glenn PEL, there is an AMATS Minnesota Drive corridor plan. Anytime they are looking at a major corridor plan, the question is "how will that push traffic?" The reason that they are moving so quickly is that there is a quick-spend for the funding. The studies involve and consider the shifting of midtown traffic. There are also plans/money for trails, including repaving and regrading trails. Information about the draft TIP and information about the comment period can be found here:

<https://www.muni.org/departments/ocpd/planning/amats/pages/default.aspx>

Current TIP draft - https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/AMATS/AMATS%20TIP%20Docs/2023_2026/20220406_Public_Review/2023_2026_TIP_Draft.pdf

Draft TIP Narrative - https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/AMATS/AMATS%20TIP%20Docs/2023_2026/20220406_Public_Review/2023_2026_TIP_Narrative_-_Draft.pdf

Corridors are State roads throughout the municipality. They are high volume roads, built to withstand a lot of traffic.

Felix Rivera - Meg and Felix have made a formal request via letter to the Municipality to reopen the door for community participation in the ADU working group. By next month at the latest they will be able to report back on the response to that letter. Felix highly encourages participation in the listening groups for the navigation center that Linda already mentioned. Felix attended today's infrastructure grant symposium session put on by Senator Lisa Murkowski's office. It was a listening session about the large amounts of money that will be coming to Alaska in the coming years. Felix wants Alaska and the Municipality to be ready and prepared to use those funds. Felix gave an update on reapportionment. Rogers Park Community Council is kept intact and in the midtown district. There will be a special election in June for District 1/North Anchorage District to elect their 2nd member and the new 12th assembly member. April 2023 will be the first opportunity to use the new map citywide. Felix also gave an update on Mass Care and Long-Term Navigation Decisions. The updates are posted on the Muni website. 3 of the 4 non-congregate mass care centers have closed as of March 31. The Anchorage Coalition has

been working very hard to make sure that no one is left with no where to go. The Sockeye Inn purchase for Complex Care has been completed as of the end of March. It is currently undergoing renovations.

Committee reports:

Capital Improvements Project committee: Bob Butera - Explained that capital improvement projects are what we vote on for the bond measures and where the money goes is the result of a process. They are looking at reformatting the process and they have a proposal for consideration.

-Bob Butera made motion to accept the proposal, Dave Evans seconded the motion. Bob presented the proposal. Please see the attached CIP summary. They are asking council members to nominate projects that they would like to see completed. Each Spring the council will vote on the projects and, from the ranking of the vote, the council will submit the projects for consideration. This year, the Committee will gather nominated projects between now and the May meeting. Around the time of the May meeting, a survey will be sent out for members to vote on the projects, in enough time for the projects to be submitted to the city by the deadline of May 31st.

Pete asked for any objections to the proposal. No opposition to the proposal was offered. The council accepted the proposal.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf5ONxeB2JhgntsFBL_xm5MGhkb0I4yudLphV3jM-fAwUFq_LQ/viewform

RPCC nominating committee: Jim Wright - there is a slate of candidates for next year's officers. Pete Mjos for President, Scott McMurren for Vice President, Cassandra Raun for Secretary, Sara Dykstra for Treasurer. The nominations are not closed. Please contact Jim if you are interested in serving 907-952-2663.

Transportation: Steve Nobel - The public hearing for the Planning and Zoning Commission is on May 2nd at 6:30pm. Planning and Zoning wanted to give the public an opportunity to testify prior to voting.

April 19th is the public open house at Loussac Library concerning the Midtown Congestion Relief Project, 4:30 to 6:30pm. Open house format, come any time. There will be boards and drawings and representatives available to answer questions.

Beautification: Zack Zaletel - There are a bunch of sunflowers started. Mark your calendars for the First weekend in June, June 4-5 for neighborhood clean-up, deploying planters, cleaning up flowerbeds, etc.

Other reports:

ASD: Carl Jacobs - Superintendent search: 3 finalists have been identified. The Board aimed to have a decision already. They are working through some final steps and hope to have something announced this week. Both school board incumbents retained their seats in the recent election. The school bond appears to have failed by a small margin. Board will be discussing reorganization later this month. Next month will be Carl's last month as the School Board Representative for Rogers Park Community Council. Carl is working to make community council participation mandatory for Board Members. Right now participation is encouraged but not required. Please see attached written report.

JBER: Joy Boston - Please see attached written report.

Mayor's Office: Please see attached written report.

Comments from Pete Mjos:

Please review last month's Newsletter for information on AHFC housing assistance, and United Way Ukraine Assistance (and there are many more, including through the Anchorage Greek Orthodox diocese)

Future topics: Bird cherry eradication, Neighborhood Watch, Ranked Choice Voting tutorial, visit from the 3rd Avenue Radicals, results of April elections and significance for RPCC

Final comments:

- Scott McMurren, if you are not receiving the newsletter, please let him know and he will sign you up.
- Pete Mjos, if you have information that you wish to send to the membership, please send it at least 10 days prior to the meeting so that we have time to publish it.
- The Zaletels will be absent next meeting. They are still interested in helping to plan a summer picnic, if the council is still interested in that idea.

Final meeting of the session will be May 9th via Zoom. We look forward to seeing everyone!

Scott McMurren motion to adjourn, Linda Chase second. Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Good evening to all.

Information from the chat:

Via Anne Brooks:

A map of road ownership for the municipality can be found at this link: https://www.muni.org/Departments/traffic/Documents/Road_Ownership_Map_2011.pdf

ASD School Board Update from Carl Jacobs

Signup for ASD Connect Newsletter: <https://conta.cc/3INR62A>

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

Most Recent Superintendent Report: <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/16184?fbclid=IwAR1-3YTv-HS7GICdibvOWgor1hHJhILBWspyPSSHDITmUfLHM4sHQvG6ZrRA>

FY2022-2023 Budget: <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/18726>

ASD CTE Pathways:

[https://www.asdk12.org/domain/](https://www.asdk12.org/domain/1196#:~:text=CTE%20pathways%20provide%20students%20with,and%20development%20for%20all%20studentsnts)

[1196#:~:text=CTE%20pathways%20provide%20students%20with,and%20development%20for%20all%20studentsnts](https://www.asdk12.org/domain/1196#:~:text=CTE%20pathways%20provide%20students%20with,and%20development%20for%20all%20studentsnts)

Upcoming ASD Board Meeting - 4/18 @ 6:00pm

Link to agenda (when available) and to register for testimony:

<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/4329>

Carl Jacobs, Anchorage School Board - Seat G

jacobs_carl@asdk12.org

(907)632-7285

Mayor's Office Report From Brice Wilbanks

1. Hiland Road Avalanche

The Hiland Road Avalanche has been fully cleared. Thank you to all MOA employees and volunteers who assisted with the emergency

2. Port of Alaska Update

As you are aware, the Administration continues to look for funding sources for the Port of Alaska Modernization Program. We have applied for all grants the PoA is eligible for, and we will continue to look for applicable grants for the future. We will continue to work with our state and federal leaders on securing funding and expedited permitting for this critical project. At the State of Alaska, the capital budget is still being debated. We are hopeful to receive funding for the project from the State.

Mayor Bronson proposed that the Port of Alaska be renamed to the Don Young Port of Alaska in honor of the late Congressman. We are proposing the naming panel to the assembly at the regular assembly meeting tomorrow.

3. Navigation Shelter

The public engagement period for the Homelessness Navigation Center is beginning this week. We have two listening sessions upcoming this month:

1. Wednesday April 13 from 5:30-7:30
2. Thursday April 28 from 5:30-7:30

The MoA and DOWL will be hosting joint listening sessions at the at the Loussac Library. At this session, a presentation regarding the project will be given and then the public will have the opportunity to speak. Each speaker will have three minutes.

4. Seward Highway & 36th Ave Interchange Open House

The Alaska Department of Transportation will be hosting a Seward Highway & 36th Ave Open House on Tuesday April 19 from 4:30-6:30 at the Loussac Library. This is a great event to learn about the proposed Seward Hwy & 36th Ave interchange and its key features.

As always, please reach out to the Mayor's Office or myself with any questions:

Mayor@muni.org

brice.Wilbanks@anchorageak.gov

JBER REPORT

From Joy Boston

- The next unaccompanied veteran committal service will be Wednesday, April 27 at 2:30 PM at the National Cemetery; contact Virginia for help getting on base if needed, Virginia.Walker1@va.gov - Last Frontier Honor Flight returns to Ted Stevens International Airport on Saturday, April 30 at 3 PM, more info at <https://www.lastfrontierhonorflight.com/>
- Municipality's Memorial Day event "Anchorage Remembers" will be on Monday, May 30 at 9:30 AM at the Veteran's Memorial on I St between 9th and 10th Ave, downtown Anchorage - ANG Band of the South will perform at the Veterans Wall of Honor in Wasilla on Memorial Day; more info about the Band of the South at <https://www.music.af.mil/Bands/ANG-Band-of-the-South/About-Us/>
- 48th annual Arctic Valley Run (5 miles or 12.6 miles) will be Saturday, June 4 at 10 AM, more info and sign-up at <https://runsignup.com/Race/AK/Anchorage/ArcticValleyRun> - Arctic Thunder Open House, July 30-31! Find updates at <https://www.arcticthunderopenhouse.com/> or on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/events/s/arctic-thunder-open-house-2022/868294350700826/> - Please remember to use iSportsman if recreating on JBER; register for an account, see if training areas are open and safe for recreation, and sign in and out of recreation areas at <https://jber.isportsman.net> - JBER's economic impact on Alaska in 2021 is available Questions about JBER, e-mail joy.boston.2@us.af.mil

Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes
Rogers Park Community Council
April 11th , 2022

My Senate Bills on the Move

SB 7 State Trooper Policies: Public Access. Was heard in H-STA and moved out on 3/31/22; next committee hearing in H-JUD.

SB 80 Public Schools: Mental health Education. Senate passed bill on Monday, April 4th by a vote of 13-1 with five senators absent. Will be going to House Finance next.

SB 157 Health and Personal Safety Education. Was heard and will be held at the Senate Education committee on April 8th.

SB 222 Extend Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Board. Senate passed the bill on Friday April 8th by a vote of 16-0 with 4 senators absent. Bill will now go to H-L&C and H-Fin prior to the floor for a vote.

Department of Health and Social Services Split

[Executive Order 121](#) to split the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services into two Departments has taken effect.

- The split will occur on July 1.
- The cost to implement the split is estimated at around \$2 million.

The proposed Department of Family and Community Services would contain:

- Division of Juvenile Justice
- Office of Children's Services
- Alaska Pioneer Homes
- Alaska Psychiatric Institute

The proposed Department of Health would contain:

- Division of Public Health
- Division of Behavioral Health
- Division of Healthcare Services
- Division of Senior and Disabilities Services

Special Election to Replace Rep. Don Young

- The special primary election will be held on June 11th.
- The special primary election will be conducted with vote-by-mail ballots.
- Alaskans must be registered to vote by May 13th.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and I would like to take a moment to ask all Alaskans to come together and stand against sexual assault in our homes and communities, commit to keeping our citizens safe, and to increase support to victims and survivors of sexual assault. Sexual assault awareness month was officially recognized for the first time in 2001.

Governor Dunleavy submitted legislation ([SB 241](#) [HB 414](#)) to the Alaska Legislature on April 4th which appropriates the initial funding anticipated to be received by the State of Alaska from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Some of the highlights follow:

- \$560.2 million in additional federal funds for surface transportation, rural water and wastewater programs, veterans services and cybersecurity grants.
- \$37.4 million for federal weatherization programs and the Alaska Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- \$28 million for investments in modernizing the electric grid, developing clean hydrogen and a research demonstration facility for Alaska's substantial reserves of critical and rare earth minerals
- \$5 million to stand up the State of Alaska Infrastructure Office to coordinate and consolidate efforts with all recipients of IIJA funds
- \$4 million to construct housing for teachers and public safety personnel in rural communities not connected to the road system
- \$2.5 million to the Alaska Federation of Natives to continue the navigator program, a joint effort with the state on securing all funding available in the IIJA legislation

Always representing your interests!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elvi Gray-Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

Interim: 907 269-0174 Session: 907-465-4930

Email: Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov, Ludmila.Diaz@akleg.gov or besse.Odom@akleg.gov

RPCC CIP Change Summary

Proposal

The Rogers Park Community Council Capital Improvements Projects (CIP) committee (Dave Evans, Heather Ireland and Bob Butera) is proposing a revamp of the process our council uses to nominate and rank our wish list of projects for submittal to the Municipality.

CIP History

First a bit of history. Each year the Municipality of Anchorage develops a citywide list of Capital Improvement projects. This list of projects includes roads, drainage and parks. The list and their ranking is prepared by Project Management and Engineering (PM&E) and the Parks department. Input to this list comes from PM&E and Parks staff, community councils, the assembly, mayor and individual residents.

The budget for these needs is almost totally dependent on road and drainage and parks bonds. There has been essentially zero State capital funding since 2014. Needs vastly exceed available money (\$2B need, typical road and drainage bond of \$25M to \$30M and parks bond of \$3M to \$4M). So the bottom line is that the MOA is falling behind every year. Maintenance (broken stuff) often squeezes out niceties.

There is some Federal money but usually in State Right of Way. Federal and state dollars are managed through AMATS, a separate process from the MOA CIP. Any infrastructure money will likely go through DOT.

RPCC CIP History

Our council has submitted a long wish list every year. This list is a ranking of projects, some of which some have been on the list for decades. The annual ranking of this list is done through an online (survey monkey) survey of council members. This results of this survey are tabulated and the ranked projects are submitted to the Municipality.

The Problem

A long list of projects, many of which are of forgotten or vague purpose, does not serve us well. With very little funding, it is best to focus on a few projects that have strong support. We would be fortunate to have even a single project advanced, and that project stands a much better chance of competing with other projects if it is well documented and strongly supported.

The Solution

We propose to start with a clean slate of projects. Each project on this new list would be nominated by a sponsoring council member or members. This nomination would be on a standard form and would include sufficient information for other council members to understand and evaluate. The form will be created by the CIP committee, available on council website and projects could be submitted throughout the year. Projects would be shown on council website, and voted on during a voting window in April. The CIP committee can assist in project writeup, but sponsor will do the work of information gathering and initial drafts of the form.

The annual ranking of this list will be done through an online (survey monkey) survey of council members, just as it has been in the past. This results of this survey will be tabulated and the ranked projects submitted to the Municipality.

Having a updated set of projects with clear descriptions will enable residents to easier understand each project that they will be voting on resulting in a better survey.

Submitting a smaller ranked set of projects will allow evaluators to focus on the priorities of our council

2022 schedule

Time is of the essence. Ideally, we need to submit our priorities by the end of May. If this proposal is approved at the April 11 meeting. Nominations would be open from April 15 - mid May with the online vote to rank occurring in late May.