

# RUSSIAN JACK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

6:30 PM, Wednesday, June 8, 2022

At Zion Lutheran Church – 2100 Boniface Parkway

Present: Ed Leach, Kathleen Plunkett, Dan & Sherry Wright, Mike & Liz Tate

Present via ZOOM: Kendra Kloster, Lori Pickett, Keelin Baughman

Meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm by Treasurer Ed Leach.

## 1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

## 2. Anchorage Police/Fire Station Report – no report

## 3. Legislative report (3 minutes each)

Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson (Keith Bauguess) – no report

Sen. Bill Wielechowski – Bill put the link for the redistricting maps in the chat room, however the recording of the meeting had an error message, so the information provided in the chat room for this meeting was not available. Budget update: adopted the Senate budget with a few changes – PFD to \$3250 (includes 2600 dividend and 650 energy relief). Some of the projects funded for Russian Jack include community gardens, pedestrian and school safety, and traffic safety. Other projects funded include Tudor curb repair, Muldoon Library, Port of Anchorage (will allow us to get a good start with federal funding adding to what the state budgeted), road maintenance, school debt bond reimbursement which should provide some property tax relief. Federal funding for statewide infrastructure, statewide broadband. Ed said that the Nome port expansion which is being funded will include some of the Coast Guard expanding operations there. NECC will be having their picnic later this month.

Sen. Tom Begich (Trevor Bailey provided the report) – All his points were covered by Senator Wielechowski. Hopeful budget passes Governor's pen. Staff are back in Anchorage and available for assistance.

Rep. Geran Tarr – Finished legislative session. Personal legislation that passed included: the definition of consent in state law has been updated with bi-partisan support. Exciting that may change our culture where yes means yes and no means no. Anyone engaged in any kind of sexual activity can change their mind. Modernized terminology and policy statement which sends a message regarding the priority this issue takes in Alaska. Criminalizes impersonating someone to gain consent. Rape kit reform initiative now allows 6 months only to get the kit tested. Identity is known, but not whether there was consent. Making a survivor wait months and months to find out who the perpetrator was adds trauma to the victim. This legislation took time to achieve due to piece by piece actions taken in order to gain bi-partisan support. Bridge initiative passed and will hope to have a celebration. Farm development initiative that includes a forgivable loan for start-up costs.

Rep. Ivy Spohnholz (Chelsey Ward-Waller provided the report) – Excited to see the telehealth bill pass making permanent expansions provided during COVID. June 11 is special election deadline.

Rep. Andy Josephson (Tristan Walsh) – no report

4. Assembly report (3 minutes each)

Pete Petersen – no report

Forrest Dunbar – no report

5. School board report (3 minutes each) – no report

6. FCC report – Kathleen Plunkett – no report as Kathleen was not able to attend last month.

7. Report from JBER Public Affairs – no report

8. Update on East High pool - Sherry Wright contacted Parks & Rec employee Scott O'Brien, who provided information that they have contractors in there to do some work while the pool is drained, which should be completed in the next few weeks. They will then fill up the pool and start up the system, hopefully having the pool open to the public by late June – but no specific date was provided.

9. UMED Advisory Committee Meeting report - Sherry Wright attended the May 24<sup>th</sup> meetings. The first was a group of stakeholders that were provided time to hear the project overview and then discuss transportation issues and opportunities as a group activity, identifying areas of concern – which mostly had to do with the bike commuter travel issues.

10. NeighborWorks – Paint the Town & Tree planting update – Kathleen Plunkett reported that the date for planting would be June 16<sup>th</sup> from 3 pm to 6 pm. Three homes in Russian Jack were painted.

11. RJCC Picnic Suggested date was September 10<sup>th</sup> since our first council meeting in the Fall will be September 14<sup>th</sup>. This would allow us to highlight getting involved with RJCC. Also would look into having it at the Russian Jack Chalet since weather might be a factor and could still cook hamburgers/hot dogs outside, but people could eat inside. The council felt that was too late and that school would have started. Ed Leach moved to have RJCC picnic August 6<sup>th</sup> at Polar Bear park. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Wright. We have tents and tables that can be used. Ed will check with Lisa on RJCC funds. Sherry will check with Lindsey on funding for hot dogs and hamburgers. Motion carried with no objection.

12. Neighborhood/Community Announcements: Keelin Braughman – Mountain View Library – info was also in the chat room. Tuesday at 6 pm Dave Rose Park Storytime.

Liz Tate came to speak about Reka Drive replacing curbs, drainage and put in new bike paths. In the past Lore Circle snow removal went where the bike path is now. This winter, the bike path was only plowed three times and snow was left on Reka Drive, leaving one lane traffic and snow piled on the other lane. Car parking on Reka Drive adds to that congestion and impact to mail delivery was also a problem. Question was who do we talk to? Suggestion to contact MOA road maintenance, fire department marshall, and MOA Ombudsman. Reka Drive is a city road. DOT has been cut back and have a priority on state roads, with Seward and Glenn Highway coming in 1<sup>st</sup>. Geran suggested that we prepare resolutions regarding road maintenance prioritizing and

funding, including both snow removal and sweeping efforts. We can draft a resolution and will take it up at our September meeting.

Lori let us know that the AK Literacy Project classes are full, but will try to squeeze in folks that are interested.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for September 14th at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:  
Sherry Wright, Secretary