

RUSSIAN JACK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

6:30 PM, Wednesday, March 8, 2023

At Zion Lutheran Church – 2100 Boniface Parkway

Present: Ed Leach, Kathleen Plunkett, Lori Pickett, Nicolette Dent, Fred Kilheffer, Jake Tweil Cooper Hansen

Present via ZOOM: Sen Forrest Dunbar, Sen Bill Wielechowski and staff Mercedes Colbert, Rep Genevieve Mina and staff Katy Giorgio, Rep Stanley Wright, Rep Andrew Gray and staff Maya, Joe Sweet, Christopher Constant, Kelly Lessons, Keelin Baughman, Lindsey Hajduk, Kari McKitrick

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

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement We are meeting on Dena'ina Land – grateful for their care and sharing the land with us.

2. Legislative report

Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson -no report

Sen. Forrest Dunbar –

- All working on BSA increase – Senate is \$1000 and House is \$1200,
- working SB33 on extending renewable energy fund,
- working on defined benefit bill and a Medicaid bill,
- question on allowing a high GED score to qualify for the performance scholarship (he will research)

Sen. Bill Wielechowski – Forrest hit on all of Bill's priorities

Rep. Genevieve Mina - constituent meeting on March 25th at 1pm – location to be determined

- working on a survey (good all year)
- working on a food bank bill but call if need help

Rep. Stanley Wright - constituent coffee on March 25th – time and location to be determined

- working on a marijuana bill to remove minor infractions from court view system

Rep. Andrew Gray – had a constituent meeting on March 4 and has a podcast

- working BSA and defined benefits
- working a bill for incarcerated individuals to receive a valid State ID before released
- working to rename the legislative office after Sen Johnny Ellis

3. Assembly report

Pete Petersen – traveling

Joey Sweet – mention womens history

- working on family leave for municipal employees
- change emergency contract authority

Christopher Constant –

- family leave approved but needs to be worked with all bargaining units
- Added new Holidays but they need to be worked with all bargaining units
- changed emergency contract authority down to \$10,000 (Assembly approves all above)
- Will be working on Ombudsman full authority
- Working on Alcohol tax for homelessness services
- Working on allowing restaurants to provide services outside in their parking lots.
- Working on an online check book

4. School board report – Kelly Lessens

- Working with Legislators for a BSA Increase
- Using COVID \$ for new language arts material for K-3rd grade
- The Finance meeting had a presentation from ISER on Teacher Retention/Recruitment
- Also mentioned Charter School equity and transportation issues and budget with Assembly
- PTR is going up by one student with the new budget-that is 21 Kindergarten students)
- Working this next year to move all 6 graders to Middle School (meetings on March 21,22,24 at 6pm)
- Kindergarten roundup is in April and Lottery is open
- Question on the Imagination Library that Best Beginnings runs – there are potential dollars in the State Budget to expand

5. FCC report – Kathleen Plunkett –

- No dollars from the Municipality yet – they are still working the contract
- Working website upgrades/changes with keeping the dollars reasonable
- Any change to council bylaws needs to be approved by the Assembly and Ombudsman

6. Presentation on Park Projects – Nicolette Dent, Park Planner

- Workin Russang Jack Springs Park Trail and bridge improvements from June to August 2023 – there will be trail detours during this time to fix and improve them
- Wayfinding and Single Tract is scheduled for Summer 2023
- RJ Chalet will have an exterior fix and sledding hill set for safety improvements
- Russian Jack Community Gardens – needs parking, water and close to transportation – they are looking at Dave Rose (has water) or Williwaw Park (would drill a well) with Site Planning in Spring 2023, Russian Jack Council and Parks and Rec Commission Approval Fall 2023 and Construction summer 2024

7. Neighborhood/Community Announcements -

Keelin Baughman – still has story time at 6pm and the jobs events are on hold due to staffing issues with the Department of Labor

Next meeting is scheduled for April 12th at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Kathleen Plunkett