

**Rogers Park Community Council
Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2023
Zoom and BP Energy Center**

Officers: President, Pete Mjos; Vice President, Scott McMurren; Secretary, Cassandra Raun; Treasurer, Sara Dykstra; Immediate past President, Steve Lindbeck; FCC Representative, Linda Chase

Pete Mjos called the meeting to order at 6:03pm

Pete Mjos Established quorum

Pete Mjos made the following announcements:

1. Please review preliminary April 4 election results.
2. Please note in your newsletter that our Chugach Electric Association is electing new board members. Please vote.
3. At the May RPCC meeting we will be electing new officers for the 2023-2024 year. Nominations for all offices are open. Current nominees are: president - Scott McMurren, vice-president - open, secretary - Cassandra Raun, treasurer - Sara Dykstra, FCC representative - Linda Chase.
4. Community council boundary changes have been suggested by the Muni planning department. The RPCC board has determined that College Village will remain in the RPCC, that the Tudor Area CC will not merge with RPCC.

Review and approve the March 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes: no amendments or corrections were given, the meeting minutes are approved

Treasurer's Report: Sara Dykstra - No new expenses, we have earned .02 in interest, our accounts total \$929.22. The concern right now is that we have been sending out a newsletter via Mailchimp. We now have 502 members and Mailchimp has started charging \$37/month for the newsletter. Scott is looking into a new program called Octopus which has a free option. There are some benefits to pay \$10/month but Scott is going to try the free option first. He is working on getting the account approved.

Pete Mjos gave a welcome message. Our community council exemplifies the ideal of participatory democracy. Pete shared a quote from Abraham Lincoln and expressed how fortunate we are to have our community councils in place and that we have our elected officials with us every month.

FCC Report - Linda Chase: There was a little dust up about Mark Butler, executive director of the Federation of the Community Councils. There was an article in the paper and the Mayor has mentioned that he could take funding away from the FCC. The FCC meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month.

Alaska State Legislative Reports:

Representative Alyse Galvin - It's all about budget right now. The House has reviewed over 100 amendments to the budget, the current make up of the budget in the house is disappointing with some significant funding missing from critical programs including education and as it stands with no new revenue pulls there is a significant hole, a deficit. The PFD is still set for around \$2700. There will still be a lot more discussion around the budget. Rep. Galvin will do whatever it takes to do what they can for education funding. They are working on long term fiscal planning. She has proposed on income tax bill, an income tax for those who are

earning more than \$200,000. The taxable amount is only for the amount earned over \$200,000 and the rate will be 2%.

Assembly Reports:

Meg Zaletel - We are coming up on first quarter budget revisions and they expect to see about \$11M surplus in alcohol tax revenue that did not go out the door last year, which means that some programs did not get funded. They are looking to see what programs didn't get funded so they can make up lost time. About \$4M was already appropriated to keep open emergency cold weather shelters. The Administration has put forward a proposal to spend the remaining \$6M, there will be some back and forth with an Assembly proposal and they will talk about both proposals on the 25th. They are due to set the property tax rate soon, driven in large part by ASD budget. They are looking to limit what can go in your tax bill envelope, no more letters from the Mayor. The municipality continues to have a number of acting positions.

Felix Rivera - Regarding the municipal election, all of the bonds were approved by the voters and most of the ballot propositions were approved by the voters, but not all results are final yet. There are roughly 10,000 or so ballots left to count. The Assembly will certify the results on April 25th. There will be 5 new Assembly members. Regarding body worn cameras. Arbitration was supposed to happen this month but that has been delayed until late fall. There is one additional policy issue that has been added to the table. There is no public disclosure yet as to what that second issue is. The Assembly has been pretty hands off thus far, but Felix says that this has gone on way too long. The Voters approved this issue in April 2021 and it is now April 2023 so you will likely see the Assembly being a little more hands on in the coming months. Regarding homelessness. Demobilization will be happening on April 30. Roughly 500-700 individuals will need a location.

Alaska State Legislative Report:

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

Special Guest Speak, Mr. Mark Corsentino, AWWU General Manager. Mr. Corsentino gave a powerpoint presentation, available for review in the meeting recording. AWWU is municipal run, they collect rates to provide services, they have an obligation to protect the health of the environment and of the people. Mr. Corsentino's presentation included who AWWU is, what they do, how they treat the wastewater and the efforts they go through to keep the public and environment safe. He provided an explanation for why they have and use the permit/waiver. Please see the video for visual aids.

Committee Reports:

ADUs - Pending Assembly action on long term rentals (LTR) and short term rentals (STR). Per Felix Rivera, the Assembly had a work session on this topic on Friday. The recording for the session is available for review online on the Assembly's website. There is going to be an ordinance coming forward but it's hard to tell the scope of that ordinance at this time.

CIP committee: Heather Ireland - they have requested that members nominate projects and now we will be voting on those projects. Heather shared the nominated projects and will share the link for distribution. They took the projects and put them into a survey. Members will need to identify themselves and then rank their top three priorities. Here is the survey link:

<https://forms.gle/CxSAEpy4bc6vqyj76>

After the May Meeting the survey will close, the rankings will be tallied and then sent to the municipality.

Transportation Committee: Bob Butera and Dave Evans - UMED public hearing will be April 26, 5:30-7pm via Zoom.

Beautification: Zach Zaletel - May is citywide cleanup month. You can sign up online for a free dump pass. The first Saturday in June, June 3rd at 9am we will gather at the corner of Fireweed and Latouche for neighborhood clean-up. Look for flyers going up in May. There is some interest in May Day tree clean up along the creek with a possible neighborhood get together in the works.

Muni Reports:

ASD - Carl Jacobs - The recent elections are working toward finalization, the two leaders are the incumbents, Donley and Holleman. Along with the board results, there was a proposition. Bond Prop 1 stands to pass, in recent months the board has been focused on budgetary matters. The district did submit a balanced budget as required by statute and they continue to advocate for funding across the state. There is significant movement on that. There is an opportunity to give testimony this Thursday at 1pm, if anyone is available. Please do give testimony or reach out to your legislatures with support. Agenda item: on April 18th there will be a proposal to allow the Alaska Native Cultural School to use the now closed Abbott Loop Elementary for a period of 5 years. We will see if the board supports that measure. Mr. Jacobs supports it. There will also be an item before the board to modify school start times, moving to a school bell schedule that aligns with data for best practices for allowing middle and high students more sleep.

Future Agenda Items: May speaker will be Mr. Richard Sewell, Merrill Field Superintendent. RPCC Election of officers.

Final meeting for this session will be May 8th at the BP Energy Center, 6-8pm and on Zoom. RPCC does not meet in June, July or August.

Closing Comments for the good of the order:

Suzanne Fleek-Green - she is running for a seat on the Board of Directors on the Chugach Electric Association. Many Anchorage residents are member owners and able to vote. You should receive a ballot via email April 19 and you have until May 17 to vote. There are great incentives to vote early, including one year free electric. The board has some critical decisions to make about where they will get their energy from in the future. There is a forum this Thurs 4-6pm at Loussac Library.

Motion to adjourn: Ben motioned to adjourn, Sara Dykstra second. Meeting adjourned at 7:54pm.

Thanks to all and good evening.

Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes
Roger's Park Community Council
April 10, 2023

- The Council of State Governments (CSG) and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Labor's State Exchange on Employment & Disability (SEED), convened the *Mental Health Matters: National Task Force on Workforce Mental Health Policy*. I was invited to be a member of the Task Force and joined a committee that addresses behavioral health workforce shortages.

During the pandemic, our community encountered increased demand for counselling and therapy. As mentioned in earlier notes, I introduced SB24, which amends State Statutes to include Mental Health with other educational programs for students from K-12. The Bill was first heard in the Education Committee and was also heard and held in Health Committee. I anticipate the bill making it to the finish line prior to the end of the session. I will always make addressing mental health issues a priority within our community.

- I was also appointed to the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council which advises the Governor and Legislature on issues relating to suicide. In collaboration with communities, faith-based organizations, and public-private entities, the Council works to improve the health and wellness of Alaskans by reducing suicide and its effect on individuals and communities.
- SB22 making Juneteenth a paid state holiday was heard on Tuesday, April 4th in the Finance Committee and we are now waiting on the next hearing. In 2021, President Biden signed a bill making Juneteenth a Federal Holiday and, most recently, the Anchorage Assembly unanimously approved an ordinance making Juneteenth a Municipal holiday. I anticipate this Bill making it to the finish line during this session.
- HB23, a companion bill to SB30, recognizing Filipino Heritage Month in State Statutes was unanimously approved by the House on March 31st. HB23 will be the moving bill and was introduced on the Senate floor with a vote anticipated soon.

- **Budget-** The House is currently addressing HB39, the Operating Budget with many amendments being offered on the floor. Once the House votes on the budget, it will be sent to the Senate for consideration.
- **SNAP-** The Governor signed fast-track legislation on March 31st that would speed up recertifications for SNAP. This should address the thousands of Alaskans and ensure there is food on their tables. This fast-track funding source will include hiring additional eligibility technicians and contractors to address the Medicaid redetermination, public assistance backlog, and SNAP Benefits.
- April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Alaska is first in the nation for rapes per 100,000 people. We lead 148 to 100,000 people. That is nearly double for the second highest state at 77 per 100,000 people in Arkansas. In the United States about 43.6% of women, and 24.8% of men have experienced some form of sexual assault in their lifetime. In Alaska alone 59% of Alaskan women have experienced intimate partner violence or sexual violence.
- April is also Celebrate Diversity month which addresses the growing multiculturalism within the community and nation. There is an urgency to understand cultures, traditions, and create a better world. Alaska has the highest census count of American Indians in the nation at 15% of the population; it is also ranked in top 10 of Asian residents. We are number seven with 54.2% of Asian populations and a majority of that is of Filipino heritage.

Always representing your interests!



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