

Rogers Park Community Council
Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2024, 7:00-9:00pm
Rogers Park Elementary School Library

Officers:

President, Scott McMurren - absent
Vice President, Jill Klein - taking minutes
Secretary, Cassandra Raun - absent
Treasurer, Sara Dykstra - present
Immediate Past President, Pete Mjos - chairing the meeting
FCC Representative, Linda Chase

Establish quorum - about 23 people in attendance and one on zoom

Review and approve the March 4, 2024 meeting minutes - Robert motioned to approve the minutes, Gil second, minutes accepted

Treasurer's report, Sara Dykstra - Sara mentioned that we got the refund from the BP Energy Center and the ASD rental is free - we have \$1111.17 cents

Announcements:

All meetings are at Rogers Park Elementary School Library, second Monday of every month, September through May, 7:00-9:00pm. in person and also on Zoom.

At the May meeting we will vote on officers for next year. Proposed Slate: Scott McMurren, President; Jill Klein, Vice-president; Cassandra Raun, Secretary; Beth Abisoror, Treasurer

School Board Report:

-Carl Jacobs - the Board is focused on ensuring they are advocating with elected reps in Juneau. They passed a budget based on SB140 getting signed into law, so there is now consideration of a version of SB140 with some other political priorities attached to it now. There is discussion of BSA increase of \$300 but also a mention of \$680. Neither would come close to addressing the costs and deferred maintenance.

-2022 data for reading and math scores - we think it will show measurable improvements and outcomes, it is the AKStar data.

-ASD hot topics has details on a number of different items - 6th graders to middle school, graduation season information, Prop 1 is tentatively set to pass, Member Wilson, Higgins, and Jacobs stand to hold their positions if the numbers hold.

-Chip Derek question - saw on TV starting school the Tuesday after Labor Day - would it start in 2026 and why would they do this? This would make it so that exams are not before winter break. Carl Jacobs said it is a bill from the legislature to align the school calendar year with what is preferred and recommended by rural districts to accommodate subsistence activities. The academic calendar may be locked in for the next two years. He doesn't see this bill passing but it is a good conversation starter and it does align with some families priorities.

Alaska Legislative reports:

-Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson - she talked about bills and where they are at - she mentioned an education bill making it to the finish line. She is confident we will have a \$680 BSA increase and other things for education.

-Sara asked if she really thought we would get the \$680 this session and she said she is being positive.

-Dave Evans question about the STIP - article in the newspaper said the Feds had taken projects out and a number of other ones went back....36th interchange taken out. He asked why, and she said she did not know but will find out.

-Pete - he said he thought there were no confirmations with the Gov. appointees and she said they are doing them May 3. He cannot bypass this.

Assembly reports:

-**Meg Zaletel** - short term rental - it passed on the floor 7-5 and then it was vetoed and it was going to be reconsidered. It was modeled after legislation in CO that had tourism and looked similar to Anchorage and the effects we were trying to get out. They are not giving up, they are taking a smaller approach, change the portion of code where the treasury gets money from the platforms. Registration is off the table, even though there were lots of exceptions.

-What was the problem for the people that voted against it? What was their argument? Meg said they said there are other ways to get data, we shouldn't tell anyone what they can and can't do with their property. "A solution looking for a problem" was thrown out by a few of our colleagues in opposition. Meg said there are ways to pay to get data but it may not be good enough data for us to know if these are businesses or someone to make ends meeting? She said she wants to know what the units are used for and how long are they being rented out for?

-Housing - Home Initiative - went to planning and zoning on the ordinance introduced to the assembly. During the planning and zoning hearing commission, deferred to May 20 to bring forward the amendments on April 23 - they are in the planning dept for their collaborative review. May 6 will be a work session and another hearing on the 20th. We can continue to provide feedback. It will probably be delayed until July to give accurate public notice.

-Meg also gave updates on Eklutna and Rank Choice Voting.

-**Felix Rivera** - April 23 will approve first quarter revisions and approve the mill rate.

-regarding house, Felix gave current numbers of people being housed.

-Homelessness - looking to extend to May 31 housing, expecting large number of people will be unsheltered this summer. To reduce these numbers, keep a cold weather shelter open year round at 200 beds. Pay during the winter and open in the summer would be difficult. The state is going to give 4 million and will see how the full house votes and if the Gov vetoes it or not. It would be huge for us.

-Abatement policy - there is a proposed ordinance by the administration to fine tune and add onto the abatement rules, 10 blocks away from a licensed shelter gets rid of the criminal misdemeanor and removes the exclusion of downtown. The ordinance will be before the Assembly tomorrow.

Sam with Dowl - Guest: 36th Avenue Interchange Project

We were in the STIP a year and half ago, with the new one, it was highly political and this project was removed. There are a lot of questions now about why it was taken out. Speculating that this is not a priority of the current administration. They will complete the preliminary engineering report and it will go to DOT. If it gets in as a STP amendment, then it could keep going. It will be a slow roll if it is on state funding or not. The Gov. and the Commissioners can set the priorities and anything without money cannot remain in the STIP.

-Cooper Landing is in there, it took a huge cut for other priorities, Ambler Road is in there.

- Dowl explained the renderings in the poster board they brought, it will have full access on/off of 36th, spoke about making bike lanes and connectors for the future, it is ranked one of the most dangerous intersections, by separating out highway traffic and speed is reduced, under Tudor would be 45 then be 35 mph and this is considered highway, it was modeled as part of the PEL.

-There is design level funding for Tudor Road - DOT released a RFP for this, it included that it needed to be compatible with the 36th ave.

-noise - the analysis is in progress, there were receivers in the project area, it seems the receivers were along the roadway.

-Next steps will be DOT decision - could be paused, put on hold, could use state funds slowly.

-How does the H to H relate to this? Glen to Seward, north of 20th and is compatible with midtown relief study, it is compatible.

-How can we influence the STIP? Highway safety improvement program money is separate from federal funding to address safety issues. HSIP - they are usually not to this magnitude, but you can leverage it with other funding.

-the only full acquisition will be Sushi Ya -

-they looked at a roundabout and it would have to be two lane at the Old Seward highway and then would need one at the Seward and 36th too and their modeling showed at Old Seward and 36th that the traffic would flow.

-it would probably be a two season construction - depends on a full closure or partial closure.

Resolution Discussion and Vote: 23 people in the room

1. Bob- Seward Highway Buffer Park Resolution - when DOT took land for the highway, they took half the lot and the rest sat there for years, and then it was going to be sold to a used car dealer in 201. Our rep at the time got state money to purchase those lots, they never took the final step to put the lots into park ownership so it needs to be rezoned. This came up because there was grant money to do projects on urban landscapes. It has to be PLI - public lands and institutions - parks - this is the first step and then it will go to Meg and Felix. After that it will go to Parks Advisory Commission and then back to the Assembly for final action and dedication.

Move to adopt by Dan, second by Dave Evans, - it is a challenge to activate a piece of land near the highway. There are two strips, one from N. Lights to fireweed and one from fireweed to Eastchester Park where the hill drops off.

Motion carries unanimously, Meg abstain

2. Bob - Resolution clarifying last month's motion opposing Alternative D, Seward to Glenn Connection Planning - at the February meeting we basically said we oppose option D. Comments were due yesterday but they are giving the community councils a little more time. The resolution now gives more details. The resolution was read into the record. Dave Evans motion, Jon Christoferson second - we supported the 2050 MTP plan, it would build a number of smaller projects in the Fairview area that would lessen the burden in the area and reduce the effects of traffic on the Fairview.
- What did Fairview support? they meet next week.
 - none of the options except alt. D does affect Rogers Park -
 - it is too late now....
- Meg made it seem like this was the last chance we have to comment - on the PEL, but Jill recalls there are more steps for us to comment in the future.
- All in favor - Meg abstains and the motion passes unanimously

Committee Reports:

New Committee: Traffic Committee, Mike "Zac" Zaccardi - he lives on lake Otis and there is too much speeding - Lake Otis the speed limit changes along the road from 40 to 35 and is different East to West and West to East...he described the situation of the houses, the sidewalks, the way the lanes change from two to one, people going to access the trail, and the dangers.

He has talked to the police, the police came to the meeting but they said last year they gave out tickets by Tudor, gave one ticket by his house...his idea is to change the street to one lane in each direction, they widened it 3-4 times, the people in the neighbors houses come and go, it was good with the snow this past winter when it went down to one lane. There are the speed monitors and he borrowed this for two weeks, it worked, he would like to get one of those.

He asked about a big protection wall to protect the houses, could have traffic enforcement, but it does not seem to be a priority,

Pete asked about if we could add this as a CIP and he has asked about a protected bike lane along Lake Otis as well. Traffic calming for CIP we could do as well. Meg offered to have her and Felix elevate this and she was not aware of what he raised.

-Marilyn Pilifant mentioned a house on Lake Otis closer to 20th and they might also be helpful too.

Committees

Crime and Safety Committee - setting up a speaker for next month, they had about 12 people attend. The clean up will be June 1 and there will be a flyer at the May meeting.

Closing Comments for the Good of the Order

Jill motion to adjourn - Sara seconded, all in favor, adjourned

Next meeting: May 13, 2024, 7:00-9:00pm

Adjournment and Good Evening