

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

Officers:

President, Scott McMurren
Vice President, Jill Klein
Secretary, Cassandra Raun
Treasurer, Beth Abisoror
Immediate Past President, Pete Mjos
FCC Representative, Marilyn Pillifant

Scott McMurren called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

Jill read our Land Acknowledgement

Scott welcomed the group, read our meeting rules, and introduced the officers.

Establish quorum - established by Cassandra

Review and approval of the May 13, 2024 meeting minutes - Marilyn moved to approve the minutes, Jill seconded, no objections, minutes approved.

Treasurer's report, Beth Abisoror - we have \$1111.35 in our accounts

FCC report, Marilyn Pillifant - FCC is busy, lots of reorganization, Adrianna is the new director and is working hard to make changes. Marilyn gets to hear at the meetings what other CC are doing. There are lots of grants approved, Adrianna is very welcoming and receptive. There are FCC trainings, town halls series coming up. The next one is Sept 23, demystifying community councils. If you are interested in learning about FCC, please consider attending. There is a 10 year community council boundary review coming up. If the RPCC boundary is affected, we will need someone to track the process and the potential changes. Also, the 2nd Midtown District Plan Public Meeting will be held on September 17, 2024, 5:30-7:30pm at the BP Energy Center.

Announcements:

All meetings are held at the Rogers Park Elementary School Library, September through May, 7:00-9:00pm. in person and also on Zoom. Meeting dates are as follows:

September 9, 2024	February 10, 2025
October 7, 2024	March 3, 2025
November 4, 2024	April 14, 2025
December 9, 2024	May 12, 2025
January 13, 2025	

Be sure and sign up for our newsletter. Please encourage your neighbors to do so as well:
<https://rogersparkcommunitycouncil.eo.page/vp1z2>

Alaska Legislative reports:

-Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson - she gave her updates, including several community visits that she has made over the summer. Please see her attached written updates.

Assembly reports:

-Meg Zaletel - Gave some updates, she is going to introduce the new park project for that area of New Seward and Fireweed, it will go from the Assembly to the Parks Department and will then come back to the Assembly. There are new Port contracts coming up, Meg gave an update on that process. Ideally, by 2027 there will be a new cargo terminal. Meg also gave an update on STR policy changes in Anchorage. They are looking for transparency for STR operators in our community. Golden Lion has to become a treatment center by Oct 2025. They have about 5M left to use on it for renovation. They put out a request to operators for what they would need addressed in order to use the space as a treatment center. They are working through those answers now. And then eventually they will ask for proposals from operators.

-Felix Rivera - Project Anchorage, the business coalition lead by AEDC, has put forth the idea of a 3% sales tax, please go to the website projectanchorage.com and take the survey that they have posted there. Regarding the CC boundary areas, the committee looking at the proposed boundary study areas has ruled out all but one that affects RPCC and that is an option that has RPCC absorbing Tudor Area community council into RPCC, the recommendation will go to Planning and Zoning and then back to the Assembly for a vote. Regarding housing and homeless, the Next Step program is underway. They have been successful during the winter in shelter to housing, and during the summer abatement to housing. So far very successful. There will need to be some follow up to confirm that people are staying in housing long-term. And then decide on a 2nd round of the program.

Guest: Matt Widmer, with Alaska Judicial Council - We don't elect our judges in this state, there is a tier process by which our judges get selected. We don't directly elect our judges but every election cycle we get to vote whether or not we retain judges. If a judge gets more than 50% vote, he/she retains the job. The vote to retain district judges is every 4 years, superior court judges, every 6 years. The numbers for retention are going down, mainly because people aren't voting for that. On our ballots we will see judges from multiple areas. On the upcoming ballot there will be 15 judges. It is important that you vote because not voting is basically a no vote. If you don't know these judges, the Alaska Judicial Council (6 people, 3 attorney's and 3 non-attorney members) can help with that. They gather information from a variety of sources and then they make a recommendation. You can go to the Alaska Judicial Council and see what they say. Please visit knowyouralaskajudges.org

School Board Report:

-Dave Donley - we do not have enough SROs in our school districts right now. Traditionally we had 14 officers. Even then, we had days where schools do not have an SROs. Right now, we only have 10 SROs. APD is down 50 officers and they have other priorities. SROs are funded by the city, they are specially trained police officers. In elementary schools, the threats come from outside and the schools have been locked down, but in middle and high school, the threats come from inside the building. We need at least the traditional numbers of SROs. The superintendent is taking this seriously. They have beefed up security district wide. We are down

the number of students this year, down from 50,000 a few years ago to 43,000 this year, projected down to 37,000 students in 2027. Proficiency goals: 80% proficiency has been the goal for many years, we are below 40% in reading and math. The board now has reduced the target to the mid 40s. School closings: the Board is looking at closing 10 schools, with the focus on "right sizing."

Committee Reports:

Crime and Safety, Dave Morgan - they assisted with the abatement of Jacobsen Park, the people went to the Lutheran Church, cleaned up and then went directly into housing. The clean up has taken a little longer. The police citizens academy has started up again. The first session filled up in 12 hours off the waiting list and now they are in the process of opening the next academy in late November.

Traffic - Zac - Looking at ways to slow traffic on Lake Otis!

Closing Comments for the Good of the Order

Next meeting: October 7, 2024, 7:00-9:00pm

Marilyn Pillifant motion to adjourn, Beth second, meeting adjourned at 8:59pm.

Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes Roger's Park Community Council September, 3 2024

Interim Visits: The legislative interim is a valuable time to connect with our constituents and better understand the issues impacting our community.

- **ACAT-** I particularly enjoyed touring Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) facilities. My visit to ACAT's facility was truly inspiring. I had the opportunity to learn firsthand about the challenges faced by our communities due to PFAS contamination. The dedication of the ACAT team is a testament to their commitment to making a positive difference in Alaska. Senate Bill 67, which I co-sponsored, became law this month - thanks in large part to the dedicated people from ACAT. SB 67 bans the use of dangerous PFAS "forever chemicals" in Alaska.
- **Covenant House-** My work supporting the Covenant House of Alaska goes back long before my time as a Senator. It was such a joy to see how they have grown and expanded. Covenant House is doing the work and leading the charge to reduce homelessness in Alaska.

Their state-of-the-art facility offers everything from an art room to a lending closet to get youth interview ready, to a training center with state-of-the-art simulators! Not to mention the coffee shop that is run by the youth. All that is in addition to stable housing for ages 13-24.

Covenant House wants to see a long-lasting solution for those experiencing homelessness. They are leading national pilot programs demonstrating how relationship-building and trauma-informed care can turn Alaskans' lives around.

Senate Bill 152 – Community Energy:

Governor Dunleavy signed SB 152 into law this past month. This “community Energy” law will allow Alaskans who could not access solar panels to subscribe to a collective community solar project. By pooling resources in this way, clean energy options with high upfront costs can be shared allowing many Alaskan communities to take advantage of the cost-saving benefits of solar. This plan isn't limited to solar. As new advancements unfold in renewable energy, communities will have more say in how they power their lives.

Honored to Represent Alaska in Taiwan

During the week of August 25th, Senator Wielechowski and I had the privilege of visiting Taipei, Taiwan, at the invitation of the Taipei Economic & Cultural Office (TECO) in Seattle. We joined 8 Representatives and Senators from Wyoming and Idaho along with Idaho's Lt. Governor and his wife. This trip was a valuable opportunity to strengthen our relationship with a key economic partner.

Alaska has a long history of trade with Taiwan, and we're excited to work towards re-establishing a dedicated trade office there. Our Asian neighbors, especially Taiwan, are significant markets for Alaskan exports, accounting for approximately one-third of our total exports.

During our visit, we learned firsthand about the many ways Alaska and Taiwan can collaborate on trade and education. Of particular interest is exploring opportunities to strengthen our educational systems together.

We are both confident that our partnership with Taiwan will continue to grow and benefit both Alaska and Taiwan.

Stay tuned for updates about the bills I plan to introduce during the 34th Legislative Session.

Please feel free to reach out to me during the Session and the Interim. I'm here for you. Enjoy the rest of our short Summer!!

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 tail.

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

**Email: Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov,
Deirdre.Goins@akleg.gov, Jeff.Stepp@akleg.gov**