

# Rogers Park Community Council News

Newsletter for Rogers Park, College Village and Anchor Park Neighborhoods  
<http://www.communitycouncils.org/rogers.html>

November 2004 Newsletter

**NEXT MEETING** – December 13, 2004, 7 PM,  
Rogers Park Elementary School.

## WHAT'S INSIDE –

- ✓ **President's Message**
- ✓ **Meeting Minutes (October 2004)**
- ✓ **Important Web Addresses**
- ✓ **Useful Telephone Numbers**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The October meeting of the RPCC featured several highlights. Assemblymen Dick Traini and Dan Coffey both presented impassioned statements in favor of the pending school bond vote, once again reiterating emphatically the very pressing need for a new middle school in already very underserved Muldoon, and the outstanding opportunity to obtain essentially 60-70 percent funding on the projects from the state, a proposition which may well disappear as of January. We cannot fail to capture this opportunity.

Mr. Bruce Bustamante, CEO of the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau presented the architectural rendering of the proposed new convention center and an analysis of its cost-benefit for the city. By current estimates it will be cost-neutral, both for construction and maintenance, given the proposed increase in hotel bed tax from eight to twelve percent. Plans and details are available from the ACVB.

The majority of the evening was devoted to the final election forum. Andree MacCleod, who did not appear for the first forum, requested a special appearance but did not appear. Her opponent, Berta Gardner, however, did appear once again, but given her opponent's absence graciously elected to forego another statement. Senator

Bettye Davis and her challenger, Ken Flynn, engaged in a spirited discussion. It seems the RPCC membership's primary concern remains the current climate of closed door secrecy and exclusion of the public in Juneau, as well as the impotence of the legislative ethics committee, and the dismal failure to deal with the fiscal crisis.

Finally, in a rare occurrence, no RPCC officers or past presidents will be in town for the otherwise scheduled November 8 meeting. The board has therefore elected to cancel the November 8 meeting. We will reconvene on December 13, 2004.

Sincerely, Peter O. Mjos, president

## UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

To be announced -- LONG RANGE  
TRANSPORTATION PLAN PUBLIC MEETING

## MEETING MINUTES

October 11, 2004

In attendance were Assemblymen Traini and Coffey, Representative Gara, and a representative from Johnny Ellis' staff.

President Peter Mjos opened the meeting with announcements. The Municipality is reactivating its program to remove abandoned and junked vehicles. Contact them for details at 786-8864. The Alaska Transportation Alliance warns of possible changes to Alaska DOT procedures that would allocate more dollars to state controlled projects and less to locally controlled projects. A town meeting is scheduled next week to discuss downtown development issues such as the proposed convention center and other improvements.

Consultant selection for the Fireweed Lane/Latouche project is underway. We expect the consultant will work with the council on this project.

Assembly Report by Traini and Coffey. The budget hearings are coming up and will dominate the agenda for the next 5 weeks. Mayor Begich has proposed substantial increases in police and fire personnel. However the Medic 4 station at McGinnis may go to part time staffing. Several tax changes are proposed. The tax on business inventories less than \$20,000 would disappear. The first \$20,000 of assessed value of a personal residence would be tax-free. The new tobacco tax would cover the cost of these tax reductions. The relative tax burden on commercial and high value residential real estate would rise. The rewrite of Title 21, the planning and zoning ordinance, to comply with the comprehensive plan is moving ahead. Our assemblymen request that we send our capital project priority list to them as well as the Municipality. The mayor will not propose any park bonds for the spring due to recent rejections by voters. The school bonds on this November ballot are all eligible for 60-70% reimbursement by the state. This means we only pay 30% of the cost. State reimbursement will no longer be available after 12-31-04. Traini and Coffey both strongly support the passage of the school bonds.

Proposed Convention Center. Bruce Bustamante of the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau presented the proposal for a convention center. Anchorage will vote next April on a hotel bed tax that would fund the construction, operation, and maintenance of the center and a new parking lot. No real estate tax money would go to support the project. The center would

be built on a parking lot within walking distance of the Egan Center, which would continue to be used. Rep. Gara suggested that space for year round use (such as residential, office, or retail) be planned into the center so that it supports balanced development of downtown. Mr. Coffey commented that lack of convention and meeting space in anchorage leads to use of the Sullivan Sports Arena for trade shows and makes it difficult to schedule sports events such as Aces hockey games.

Candidate Forum. Andree McCleod who had asked specifically that she be allowed to speak to us did not show up. Berta Gardner, her opponent, relinquished her time since she had addressed us at the September forum. State Senate candidates incumbent Bettye Davis and challenger Ken Flynn made statements to the council and answered questions from the group.

---

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

##### **Municipal Budget Hearings**

Please be informed that the next AND MOST IMPORTANT round of budget talks with the Assembly will be at its November 9th meeting. Please plan on being there. The Council Center will have a fact sheet to help you give testimony. If you have any questions, call Steve in the Council Center office.

Federation of Community Councils  
Community Councils Center  
401 E. Northern Lights Blvd # 204  
Anchorage AK 99503  
phone 907-277-1977, fax 907-277-3952  
email [councils@alaska.net](mailto:councils@alaska.net),  
[www.communitycouncils.org](http://www.communitycouncils.org)  
Community Councils, At the root of better government

### Important Web Sites:

Mayor Mark Begich: [mayor@muni.org](mailto:mayor@muni.org)

Assembly:

Dan Coffey ([dcoffey@coffey-law.net](mailto:dcoffey@coffey-law.net));

Dick Traini ([dtraini@gci.net](mailto:dtraini@gci.net))

Legislature:

[Senator\\_Johnny\\_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us);

[Representative\\_Les\\_Gara@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us);

[Representative\\_Cheryll\\_Heinz@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Cheryll_Heinz@legis.state.ak.us)

[Senator\\_Bettye\\_Davis@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Bettye_Davis@legis.state.ak.us)

[Representative\\_Sharon\\_Cessna@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Sharon_Cessna@legis.state.ak.us)

Draft Anchorage Bowl Parks, Natural Resource and Recreation Facilities Plan:

<http://www.muni.org/planning/ParkPlanDraft.cfm>

Learn how to drive the new Dowling Roundabouts -- [www.alaskaroundabouts.com](http://www.alaskaroundabouts.com)

Long Range Transportation Plan Update: <http://www.muni.org/transplan/2004%20LRTP.cfm>

Municipality of Anchorage – [www.muni.org](http://www.muni.org)

Municipality of Anchorage Public Notices: <http://www.muni.org/mayor/notices.cfm>

Port Expansion: <http://www.portofanchorage.org/>

Sign up for Planning E-Alerts -- <http://webapps1.muni.org/pdpw/planning/mycommunity/>

State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities – [www.dot.state.ak.us](http://www.dot.state.ak.us)

Title 21 Diagnostic & Rewrite Project: [http://www.muni.org/planning/prj\\_Title21.cfm](http://www.muni.org/planning/prj_Title21.cfm)

University/Medical District Plan (NOW AVAILABLE) -- [http://www.muni.org/planning/prj\\_UMed\\_main.cfm#Citizen](http://www.muni.org/planning/prj_UMed_main.cfm#Citizen)

### Useful Telephone Numbers:

Air Pollution Control Agency, 343-4200

Alaska Railroad Tourist Information, 265-2494

AMATS Coordinator, 343-7991

Anchorage Parking Authority, 276-7275

Anchorage Police Department, 786-8500

Bike and Pedestrian Trails, 343-7991

Bus Schedules - Anchorage People Mover, 343-6543

Carpooling (Share a Ride), 562-7665

Highway Projects (MOA), 343-8109

Highway Projects (State), 269-0590

Highway Weather Conditions, 266-5145

Merrill Field, 343-6303

Municipal Complaint Hotline, 343-4141

Parking Enforcement, (APD), 343-8500

Right-of-Way Info - Municipal (MOA), 343-8240

Right-of-Way Info - State (ADOT&PF), 269-0700

School Buses - ASD 563-3022

Senior Citizen Transportation, 562-8444

Street Maintenance (MOA), 343-8277

Ted Stevens Anchorage Intl Airport, 266-2525

Traffic Engineering & Maintenance, 343-8479

Van Pool Coordinator, 343-8445

Rogers Park Community Council  
1725 E. 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
Anchorage, AK 99508  
[torsk@alaska.net](mailto:torsk@alaska.net)

Peter Mjos, President  
Dan Graham, Vice President  
John Christopherson, Secretary  
Diana Evans, Treasurer