

Rogers Park Community Council Meeting Minutes

Prepared by Mike Black

Monday January 9, 2012 – 7pm

Rogers Park Elementary School Library

Meeting convened at 7:04pm

Community Council Officers present:

Dave Morgan, President

David Metheny, Vice President (absent)

Jim Wright, Past President

Cheryl Forrest, Treasurer

Mike Black, Secretary

Absent: Bob Churchill, FCC Representative (excused medical issues)

Elected Officials Present:

Representative Les Gara, Representative Berta Gardner, Assembly member Elvi Gray-Jackson, Assembly member Dick Traini

Handouts available included:

Rogers Park Community Council Agenda for January 9, 2012; FCC Notes 12/13/2011; A Resolution Regarding the Knik Arm Crossing; Knik Arm Crossing Project Briefing power point hardcopy; Letter to Dave Morgan from Andrew J. Niemiec of the Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority dated November 28, 2011; Consolidated Plan 2013-2017 Priorities MOA, Community Development Division Community Needs Survey; Rogers Park Community Council Bylaws (ratified January 9, 2006); Proposed amendments to RPCC bylaws; Rogers Park Community Council Minutes dated Monday November 14 and minutes dated December 12, 2011.

Welcome:

Approximately 18 members of the RPCC present plus guests. Quorum established

Approval of Agenda:

Agenda modified to delay consideration of the RPCC bylaws amendment until February at the request of Dave Evans (author of proposed changes) because of his absence.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes for November 14 and December 12, 2011 were offered by Mike Black. Minutes were approved.

Helen Nienheuser, Peter Mjos, and Jim Wright all voiced concerns and objections that the Agenda was not being published in a timely manner in advance of meetings, and that the Bylaws were not being followed in that and in other respects.

Presentations:

These notes are only a summary of the points in the discussion and in no way capture the entirety of the discussion. Transcribing the entire discussion is beyond my capability.

Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority presentation was offered by Shannon McCarthy, Government and Public Affairs Director and Kevin Hemenway, Chief Financial Officer. Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority can be contacted through phone 269 6510; email Kevin.Hemenway@alaska.gov and Shannon.McCarthy@alaska.gov or correspondence to 820 E 15th Avenue Anchorage AK 99501. Following the power point presentation questions were offered by the membership. Representative Gara if the tolls were insufficient to meet construction debt is the State responsible for the shortfall. Answer from Mr Hemenway was "Yes, if the State chooses to." Representative Gara said that the original idea was the State would not be bound to pay expenses for this project but that it would be entirely privately financed.

Questions on the need for the Bridge and the adequacy of the tolls (initially at \$5) to meet expenses were offered by RPCC members and the potential for the State to, with projected future revenues and declining oil production to meet the possible revenue shortfall. Questions on the projections of population growth in the Point McKenzie portion of the MatSu Borough and the willingness of enough people to use the bridge on a daily basis to make the project self supporting followed. Mr Hemenway explained that their estimates were that the MatSu would reach a population of 190k by 2035 and that without the Bridge the highway needs for this region would reach \$3Billion and have less federal dollars to help pay for it and would not include any toll revenue. He explained that the majority of the Risks for this project would be transferred to the Private Sector and away from the State of Alaska to the extent possible and consistent with attracting sufficient bond market capital.

Questions were posed about the “taking” of private property under eminent domain for Government Hill ROWs were offered. Mr. Hemenway state that 3 vacant properties and 2 multi family structures were in the process of being acquired. Currently the Authority plans to establish LLPs or LLCs who will then hire design build contractors to conduct the actual construction.

Mr Hemenway and Ms McCarthy were thanked by the Council for an informative presentation.

Next order of business was consideration of a proposed resolution concerning the Knik Arm Bridge. The resolution was explained by Steve Cleary. A Resolution Regarding the Knik Arm Crossing attached. The resolution asks that the State remove the Knik Arm Crossing from the 2035 MTP, State Leg. Audit and Budget committee conduct an audit of KABATA expenses, Budget and Audit conduct independent audit of accuracy of population and toll numbers that are the basis of he KABATA’s Financial Plan and that KABATA cease and desist all ROW acquisitions until financing plan is in place. Following discussion the RPCC voted on the resolution.

A Resolution Regarding the Knik Arm Crossing passed:

Yeas 16

Neas 0

Abstained 2.

Assembly Report:

Assembly member Elvi Gray Jackson offered summary of Municipal business being discussed followed by a report by Assembly member Dick Traini. The resignation of former Governor asnd Port Director Bill Sheffield was discussed. The offer by Mayor Sullivan to have Governor Sheffield remain as a paid consultant for the Port was discussed.

Legislative Report:

Representative Berta Gardner discussed legislative priorities. One of her priorities was property tax exemptions for widows of veterans. Representative Gara stated that following this session he would no longer be representing Rogers Park neighborhood because of redistricting plans. Representative Gara also mentioned that his estimate is that KABATA represents a \$1Billion potential liability to the State and he would be bringing this up in session.

Presidents Report:

Dave Morgan reported that the proposed bylaws amendments had been reviewed by the City attorney to ensure they were not in violation of any established rules for community councils and had been cleared.

FCC Report:

The FCC report was offered by Jim Wright. Substance of report not captured but summary of report available.

Treasurers Report:

No change in financial picture with our bank balances remaining at \$170.82. No further action has been taken on requiring dues of members of the RPCC.

Next meeting on February 6 for RPCC Officers and public to set agenda for February at the First American Baptist Church, 1200 E 27th Ave. at 6pm. Next RPCC Meeting is scheduled for Monday February 13th at Rogers Park School at 7PM. Meeting Adjourned.