

RPCC Community Council Minutes

October 8th, 2012

1. Call to Order
2. Review & Approval of the September Minutes
 - a. Moved Bob Churchill, second Marilyn Pilifant
3. Presentation and Discussion
 - a. Automated Service Pickup Presentation by Solid Waste Services
 - i. Donna Mears, Solid Waste Services
 - ii. Brian VanDer Wood, Maintenance Director. 343-6258.
 - iii. Paul Alcantar, Director for SWS, 343-6289, 240-0965 cell.
 - iv. Alan Czajkowski, Maintenance & Operations , 343-8340

Alan Czajkowski: utilities, trees, all sorts of things that have been put into the alleys that cause problems for maintenance. Lots of issues, right now there is no capital program for alleys – need to work with elected folks, maintenance budgets have all dropped over the last few years, in this budget time, snow removal not a priority, lots of stuff comes before Alley's.

Donna Mears gave a presentation on Automated Refuse collections.

Why automate? Worker safety, pay as you throw rate for trash, allows for commingled curbside recycling, program was phase. Roll Cart Benefits, less space for storage, easy to maneuver, attached lids, various sizes,

Current alley challenges: overhead wire/cable below code, personal property encroachment, trees and other vegetation, resident vehicle storage & parking, unsafe road surface conditions, snow storage & removal, 2-way traffic. Trucks are 8'6" plus 6' on either side for grippers. Also need 13' 6" overhead

In Spring, automated collection needed. Need 3' clearance in each side from parked cars.

Concerns: Fences, stairs, landscaping, lack of paths, etc. According to MOA 10-15% of homes will have some of those challenges. Some assistance will be given – by meeting individually with homeowners.

Alley reclamation: we're not the only community that is dealing with deteriorating Alleys. Dallas, Texas and Lake Oswego, all have done alley reclamation. This was a community priority. Commitment from government body, assessed encroachments, created a long term maintenance, plan.

Pau Alcantar: new director, here to hear challenges. Please hold questions, we will answer them best we can. As Brian & Donna have stated, please listen, we can come to happy medium.

Council Member Comments:

David Evans, Galewood- showed some of the challenges in the neighborhood in a poster depicting steps, narrow gates, etc. from homes around him. Reminded everyone community council passed resolution last year opposing curbside pickup. Also concerned about the aesthetic issue of trash cans in the street

or visible around homes. He doesn't want trash cans in the front yard. Has a driveway, but no garage, very poor access around side of the house.

Thomas & Evette Wayne – questions: math doesn't look right, trucks don't need that much space. They have put in a concrete patio in the back. There is no way you will get us to put the cans in front of our house. Rogers Park is beautiful, tree lined streets, nice neighborhood. I don't see trash cans in front, looks junky, not what I want in my neighborhood. Pay attention to the neighborhood vote, pay attention to the people. Encroachments are violations of code, and there are already mechanisms in place to deal with those – some Muni worker paid to come out and cite the homeowner, or fix it. Never putting a garbage can in my front yard. Government here to serve us, the citizens.

SWS Reponse: Muni is non-responsive. OSHA isn't sure who enforcement is for wires.

Jim Wright: You need to share the info with citizens, so we can pick up the phone and be nuisances.

Ans: GCI & ACS are primary offenders. Used to remove snow from Alley

Goodman: 81 year old, you need to pay attention, convenient from what you want, not to us.

Marilyn Pilifant, Glenwood: How many jobs are lost by automation? What are the savings to the Muni by automating? What was response from airport heights when this was implemented at the beginning of the year? How do residents feel? Are canisters bear resistance? What do our assembly people think and how involved have they been in this process? Examples of accommodations that have been made for physically disabled? How do I opt out of SWS? Don't generate a lot of garbage, can go to transfer site for \$10/month, not satisfied with the ways that MOA takes care of alleys, shovels her Alley, plows Alley and makes a 3 foot berm in front of driveway/alley cans.

Jason Bennett: Automated service has been implemented in some places, like valley of the moon, 27th avenue has alley service.

SWS response: Did an assessment and a high percentage have poor access to the street, so we have been struggling and are servicing them for now, on an as needed basis – but would not want to continue to do so ideally. Trucks get stuck, strike wires.

Jane Monubie – lives on Bannister: loves her Alley. The maintenance in the Alley is superb, the alley is maintained when the street is not.

SWS response: Re: airport heights, neighborhood 400-500 people in airport heights, only 15 still on Alley service.

Helen Craig, Sprucewood St – Becomes a Lake every spring, streets are wide, snow is pushed up and hard to bring anything to the street. We are probably highest point in Rogers Park, our driveways have glaciers on them. Friends in airport heights are not happy with giving up Alleys. Not happy about giving up Alleys. Lived in RP for 35 years, used to say going to underground utilities – but that hasn't happened. If this got around assembly, need to talk to them. We've been talking about this for two years.

SWS Response: sure get a change in leadership, hard to get a solution. If alley's become serviceable, we will service the alley's.

Janet: if people know what they have to do, they will do it.

SWS Response: this is to tell you what the challenges are, we're not getting anywhere.

Janet: no attempt to say we want to work with you. Is SWS deadset on this move? Will you work with us?

SWS Response: happy to work with a committee from this group. The carts are coming. We will work with the committee to show them our frustrations. Will postpone the change, but not indefinitely.

Arlen Young, Crestwood: Went out yesterday with flyers, asked a lot of questions. One of the questions was - do we have a choice garbage or recycling? Ans: Roll cart service is a bundled package, comes with 2 carts – not required to utilize or accept recycling carts. SWS provides carts, incurs cost of carts, you choose level of service based on size of cart. It is conceivable that people could have a lower cost? Willing to pay higher cost for alley service. The aesthetic value is also an issue, and the enforcement of cans being stuck outside for days at a time. There is no enforcement for the cans stuck outside on Bannister drive for days at a time. Smaller trucks? Production delays on the postcards?

SWS Response: not a cost issue for SWS. More enforcement = more cost. Idea is not to fine, to get compliance. That takes individual effort. We don't have smaller trucks, are not industry standards. Manufacturer of carts not able to

Pat Porchina, Redwood: Been there for 35 years. Bought house because of the Alley's. Have garage access. For 40 years we've been having trucks go down there – this is a typical alley. I measured my alley, minimum distance was 21'8". Currently, truck goes down and turns around and comes back. If a truck works for 40 years, at least in RP. Buses go up hillside, muni makes accommodations. Won't you maintain anyways? We don't have garages in the front, they are in the rear. Public parking is on the street. How will you reach it anyways?

SWS Response: Alley's not maintained well enough, snow berms, etc. A lot of the questions are b/c you don't understand how the trucks work. We already have 10,000 customers on this program, look at Turnagain, most of those homes have single wide driveways.

Pauly Slisz, Maplewood - CC as a whole. We have zoning issues all over Anchorage, should be able to do what we need to do as homeowners. Want to continue alley access, why she bought in Rogers park. Mom lives in south anchorage, when she has extra garbage, . For years, been thinking the community council could get together as a whole for dumping – free dump passes.

Robert Malone, 26th – My alley doesn't look anything like this picture. Along e. 26th, there are tons of trees that overhang the road, what are you going to do about that. If you will make concessions for 1, 2, 5 or 10 people, will you still go down alley for them – and not the rest. Our street was very narrow Ans:

yes, sometimes. Still have snow removal issues in the street. These things you're talking about are all manageable.

SWS Response: Want a committee to work with us. Can we get a committee, if so we will postpone the rollout.

Misc. comments: Put off the individual concerns, we have the power to act as a group. Later, will be single people fighting the bureaucracy. This is divide and conquer. Put together a community council committee for anyone who has a problem with this –so we can act as a group. We have to all defend each of us as a group.

Other misc: talked about the people in airport heights, didn't hear exactly what problems these folks had. We have also heard discussions about not wanting cans in front yards. What accommodations will you require from us to not keep those cans in the front yard? Is it ok to cut down trees. Ans: some folks in airport heights did not have reasonable access to street for landscaping or other reasons, continued to provide service for those folks. Only requires us to go down alley once.

Drop containers in the alley: misc.

Resolution proposed opposing the move to curbside service in Rogers Park.

37 ayes, 1 in favor, 4 abstention.

Misc. person who voted no: looks forward to recycling. Would prefer alley service, but don't want to see it be an impediment. His grandfathered garage may be an obstruction, but it is not moving. It would be nice to get curbside recycling in the meantime.

b. UMED Plan

3 firms on shortlist, stakeholders, community councils, land use, cell towers, etc. all to be discussed.

c. 66 foot monopole cell tower proposed at Northern Lights by Atlas Towers

i. Mike Powers, Atlas Towers

Old 100' tower proposed by Atlas Towers, planning and zoning denied request, now they are proposing 66' at same sight. Two main points were 1. We need it. 2. No other place to put it.

Janet: Doesn't agree with you, has called around. I did talk to ASD, no one has ever called ASD about putting a cell tower at Wendler Jr. High, Mike Abbott, Asst. Super of Operations said no one has ever talked to him. University said they sent you something, never heard back. When you were denied access to new health sciences building, Atlas never called back and re-proposed.

Atlas Rep: Have called, talked to Wendler, did talk to UAA too.

Wendy Davis, Yale Drive – person behind her wants to expand her house, but b/c of tower 200' variance will hit their house, so now there is a "fall down distance" so can't get a loan to improve/buy house b/c

of the distance. Impacting their house. This is not the spot for co-location. Att at Shriners, ACS at Charter College. Co-location is a multi-cell tower, this doesn't fit co-location. Asked Charter – did you know Verizon wants to go across street? Charter said they hadn't been asked about co-locating. Atlas & Verizon can co-locate. Doesn't fit the neighborhood, will kill the property value. We don't want it. Offered Don Jose \$600, turned Atlas down. We will definitely appeal it.

Mike Powers, Atlas Tower: Independent tower company that builds structures for the carriers. Lots of reasons we have ended up in this location. Verizon is driving the bus, building throughout Anchorage, Juneau, Fairbanks and other outlying communities. Atlas builds structures, we have very carefully explored all of the options we saw as viable. Not to say we all agree. I understand you would prefer this to go somewhere else, this is your community, I respect this. This location was identified after a great deal of due diligence. We have contacted many of the folks you have indicated. Charter has a wood frame building that houses equipment for GCI, ACS, and ATT – all separate but exploring joint venture. Analysis showed was not financially feasible to install new equipment in that location for LTE, 4G, etc. would require massive rebuilding. Met at UAA, met with someone on leasing. They're not really that interested, gave one package, price was too expensive, not good locations. Intent is not to ruin your community, we're trying really hard.

Janet: didn't have the answers last time. Keep telling us there are no options. But, I'm making phone calls and there are options. Come meet with me tomorrow and I'll show you the list.

Atlas: Nathan Foster is the President of the company.

Bob Churchill: feels like we're not getting the benefit of a good faith effort from you people. Not good.

Atlas: We're not going to make everyone happy. We are a business, we have applied for a use in a business district, we went through process, met with community. Submitted, the Muni told us "No". Now we are going back with a new plan. We are going to build a tower if we can, if we're allowed to. I don't know what will happen but there is zoning here and we are going through the code, trying to comply it. Will not impact community the way some are saying. We are going to go through the process. You have your own process and we will see what happens.

Janet: some people are losing out, losing property rights.

Harriet Drummond: on assembly, don't represent this area but am running for state house. Turnagain is having a similar issue at 36th & Wisconsin. You are hearing people complain, have you considered putting up a camouflage poles to be a friend to the neighborhood?

Atlas: Our current application says that if we were required to make reasonable steps as a condition of approval we would do so. App also includes a certain number of trees.

Harriet- CC should do a resolution that asks for a camouflaged pole.

Janet: code requires neutral color, metal color is not neutral.

Atlas: when it comes to color, we have always said we will do whatever you want to do, in terms of color. Pretty consistently we have had a reaction that people want a galvanized color look.

Michelle Johanssen, Yale – works for ASD, will affect property values, not in favor of tower. You are ones who will profit, just because you don't want to pay more \$\$ for building. ASD is facing \$21 million deficit, I think they will be very happy for some more revenue. Doctor who is doing the leasing is retiring.

Atlas: Verizon not writing us blank checks either. Not a company of unlimited resources. Can't rebuild Charter College building.

Alden Young: clarification, tower is near don jose's – and allows for a tower of what height? Any tower allowed?

Atals: 130' tower but with setbacks and various provisions. We have done this to avoid subjectivity of 200% distance. Some sections allow for decision making in the office, and some don't. Our belief this height will be allowed.

Bob: point of order. Re: Motion re: Camouflaging of tower.

Resolution: opposing any tower at the proposed site of 2100 E. Northern Lights. Proposed by: Michelle Johanson, 2nd: Steve Watson.

Ayes: 22 No: 2 Abstain: 6

Discussion: Can't prohibit building the tower if the zoning allows it.

Jim Wright: Can't prohibit anything as a CC, but we can do a resolution.

No vote: Would like to talk about camouflage. IF there is going to be a tower, should be camouflaged. Go to zoning meeting. This is where we should go talk.

Janet: All comments must be in by November 9th.

Arliss: We often go through these things and there is often a lot of regret. I regret that alternatives were not fully explored by the company. Doesn't seem like all options were explored. It's unfortunate that the company that wants to do this didn't spend the time. Thoughtful people want to see their neighborhoods grow and prosper but this isn't the way to do it.

Anne Wild, Sheldon Jackson – at P&Z, said hadn't heard from CC.

Misc: Who talked to at UAA? Should have talked to someone different than leasing director.

Ans: Leasing director for UA system. Did explore it pretty thoroughly.

Janet: Any more quick comments?

Resolution: if the tower is Planning & Zoning approves the tower at 2100 E. Northern Lights, that Atlas be required to provide maximum camouflage to blend into the surrounding area.

Helen Craig – proposed, 2nd. Iris

Ayes: 19 No: 1 Abstentions: 5

Discussion: Stripe residence still an issue with that resolution.

Dave Evans, Discussion: will vote for this, b/c would be better, and has advocated to assembly that all towers should be required to camouflage:

Question re: fall distance. FHA guidelines are property, not structure.

Atlas: This proposed tower is 200% from nearest residential structure. Not in a fall zone.

4. Assembly Reports:
 - a. Elvi Gray Jackson

Lots of people here. Wish they were all still here. Will send note to SWS thanking them for coming here, they were here last year. Would like to see everyone get a notice when the meetings are being held. Will also try to attend.

Title 21 – Public hearing scheduled for November 27th.

Assembly approved 9-2 an ordinance change to allow builders to hire private Plan Reviewers on single family and two-family residential construction. Muni staff was adamantly opposed to the builder review.

Assembly received the Mayor's proposed 2013 budget. Mt. View & NE rec centers will stay open. The John Thomas building on 3rd Avenue that houses a bunch of nonprofits is proposed to be closed – work session held, lots of feedback asking Muni not to sell building and let them continue to receive services at that location. Will propose action on it

See link below for comparisons of both A and B budgets courtesy of the Anchorage Daily News.

<http://media.adn.com/smedia/2012/10/02/22/44/mFGdm.So.7.pdf>

- Work Sessions – October 12th – 10:00 – 2:00 – ACR #155 – City Hall
- Work Session – Assembly Budget Amendments – November 9th – 10:00 – 2:00 – ACR #155 – City Hall
- First Public Hearing October 23rd
- Second Public Hearing October 30th
- Approval – November 13th

b. Dick Traini

Mayor gave us his A & B budgets. What he didn't give us was the C budget, . He wants to shut down the fire services for the new fire stations that voters approved, adds 4-5 extra minutes to response time. Wants to shut down truck 11, in Eagle River. Guy saved by Truck 11 last week, would be dead now.

Got to look at John Thomas Building. Mayor wants to sell it. 3rd & Cordova. Doesn't want to see it shut down and have the people displaced being served from that building.

Janet: Any plans to help relocate these groups? No, not at all. Haven't done their homework. Someone got the idea to sell the building, but that is not the answer.

Come to the budget hearings, lots of plans to help

Jim: Seems to be a recurring theme of there is always a deficit during budget proposal time, and every year there is actually a surplus. There is at least \$8 million, plus \$14 million can't give to ASD now. Elvi - \$12 million is her premature forecast of what the surplus will be.

Comment: there is a certain familiarity to this – there is always a sky is falling, what do you want to restore and what do you want to cut. Many things people thought were important that .

Dick – people leaving this administration like flies. Larry Baker no longer chief of staff, now he is special projects. Dan Kendall from Chugiak is mayor's chief of staff.

Dick – lives in an area that got curbside recycling, don't have alleys in his neighborhood. Can't put it out before 6 a.m. per regulation.

Janet: Any other comments?

Misc: Does Mental Health Trust have land that is appropriate for this? 36th & Lake Otis...

5. Legislative Reports

Senator Ellis's Office: Zack Mannix, staff: any questions, give us a call.

Rep. Gardner, couldn't make it tonight – She is getting a lot of calls about drainage issues – so give her a call her if you have them. 36th overpass – she has had a constituent complain about the Nino property, the State did buy it. They are working on an interchange, but still early on in the process, no firm plans, no design, etc.

6. No treasurers report.

7. FCC report, Bob Churchill

AWWU gave a lengthy presentation. Doing a phenomenal job on our behalf. The robot project was extended. Emergency systems are in place for backup water service, to supply fire service. 200 feet of wooden pipe left in this city over in government hill.

