

**Russian Jack Community Council
Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2014**

27 present, including presenters

Legislative Report

Rep. Andy Josephson: Back from session, positive session was involved in the way we appoint judges, opposes corporatizing public education, minimum wage bill, defeat of house bill 77; house bill 278 was a “moral” victory.

Sen. Bill Wielechowski: Education, budget and gas line were main session issues. The House bill 278 will negatively impact schools overall yet there are some good things in there for charter schools. Gas line legislation was complex and many concerns including sole source contract to Trans Canada and other issues. Budget- ~1.7 million dollar funds leftover from Debarr road project will be allocated throughout the RJ community and will stay here. 2 billion dollar deficit and the forecast is bleak. Not the “increased revenue” that the Governor promised and predicted.

Coffee with Senator Bill Wielechowski at Denny’s on Debarr 1st Wed of each month at 7:30 am- all invited!

Rep Max Gruenberg: Most difficult session in 20 years that he has experienced. Measured success by bills that we kept from passing. Gas line, Knik crossing, budget, education, and constitution amendment were all important issues that were addressed and discussed. Did not pass bill that would have given governor the power to appoint judicial council. Did not pass a bill that would change the method that determines who the attorney general will be. Did not pass the attempt to have school vouchers for public money to be used for private education which would have upset the education system. Major crime bill, criminal justice related to misrepresenting yourself (example: attempting to kid nap a child) is now a misdemeanor. Capital budget includes sidewalk on West side of Boniface. New LIO building is a controversy. Fire station #3 is almost ready to be built.

Rep. Geran Tarr: Echoed comments of colleagues. Announced a study to determine the actual needs of schools and education system. Gas line bill – discussion that needs high level of public input. Supports gas line because of revenue shortages and the gas line would help resolve some of these issues. Public safety is a big issue of concern to RJ residents. Smart justice model – takes nonviolent offenders and puts them in treatment programs instead of jails. Goose Creek jail is already full and it cost roughly 250 million dollars. We need to find alternative solutions to nonviolent offender recidivism. Tried to get through a bill that would not prohibit drug offenders from getting food stamps, will introduce next session. Alcohol sales near schools – up against alcohol lobby who were very powerful and vocal. Clark Middle School students go involved in this effort. Didn’t get all the way through but will pick it up again next session and will build on success. Worked on child abuse bill – Erin’s law – about child sexual abuse education/curriculum. It didn’t get all the way through this session but will pick it up again. April is child abuse prevention month in Alaska.

Assembly Report: Pete Peterson

Newly elected, dealing with first quarter budget revisions, working with school board and budgeting issues to prevent teacher layoffs, average homeowner taxes will go down about \$150 next year, **work session on Friday, May 16** to discuss the old 29 acre Alaska greenhouse property transition into a park but Mayor vetoed it and it was not overridden.

Pete Peterson will be on budget committee – meeting in June and Co-chair of legislative committee and will go to AMATS meetings.

School Board Report: Kathleen Plunkett

Graduation time for students! Thanked legislators and the Assembly for the additional school board dollars. District is losing students and dollars to the Mat-Su and a more child-free community. Dealing with budget issues.

Principal Report: Sean Murphy

Site improvement at school in 2015, it was on the bond package, over 400 students now with no extra staff, all online registration process next fall, new teacher evaluation process.

Communications Tower: Atlas Towers Ken Bradtke, Colorado

Wants to build a tower in the neighborhood, part of permitting process is to present to community councils, tower at 5305 east northern lights at Boniface, near first national bank, 130 ft monopole with antennas on top, tall because it gives better reception and service. Leased land from First National Bank. Tower is being built for Verizon. Early fall construction. It will not require lighting, will be dull gray in color.

Sen. BW mentioned that the company needs to notify the residents in that vicinity because it is a very residential area.

Call Atlas Tower for more information at 303-448-8896 or go to www.atlastowers.com or if you have concerns

DOWL HKM: Rachel Steer

Discussion of “orange route” for Northern Access to U-Med District, 30 MPH road, sidewalks, bike lanes, 10 ft multi use path on one side of road, meeting coming up with stakeholders to walk the site and discuss solution for user groups,

Sen. BW asked about moose gates and crossings on the road, and asked about user groups crossing the road. Answer was bridges over the road, no stairs. There are no moose gates planned. Road will have lighting via big industrial street lamps.

DOT roadway to be maintained by the Muni.

Finishing up a traffic analysis but states that it likely won't increase traffic on Bragaw. Residents at the meeting disagree and are concerned about safety of pedestrians and school children.

Four roundabouts on the road within a mile will help calm traffic. Project only has 20 Million right now.

Concern about the UAA Arena that serves alcohol, combination of schools, new road and increased traffic in area.

UAA will get compensated for the road that UAA will benefit from. It was noted that UAA does not pay taxes.

Rep Tarr stated that Mountain View Drive and Bragaw will likely get a lot more traffic when this road is built

Road is designed to support 10,000 vehicles/day.

RJCC passed a resolution about this project and legislators are involved. Public needs to continue to give input.

AMATS has public meetings to take input on their projects and this road is one of them

Concern is that there is not sufficient funds to resolve the safety issues about this project now that the State 2 million and 20 million funds have been spent

Russian Jack Block Party: Steve Holmstock, Fred

Proposed date is July 13 but could change

Proposed locations for party is behind the community gardens, near tunnel, or Kanchee Park. Stage to present cultural performances; goal is to alleviate barriers that exist in the neighborhood.

Block party Planning Committee: Steve Holmstock, Geran Tarr, John, Kendra

Committee will meet and walk the area to find a suitable location and will present findings at June meeting

NeighborWorks Anchorage, John

Paint the Town project in RJ community, will paint 6 homes in RJ in the survey area, also beautifying Dave Rose Park at 201 Lane Stree on June 13 8:30-1:00pm. All invited to participate. Trash pick-up, landscaping, all tools and supplies provided. Lunch provided! Please RSVP for head count to 677-8438.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm