

ABBOTT LOOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

September 25, 2014

Al Tamagni, Sr. called the meeting to order at 7:07p.m. The meeting adjourned at 8:19p.m.

Connie Carlisle, secretary and board member, took & transcribed minutes.

Board members present: Al Tamagni, Connie Carlisle, Jeff Turner, Dan Boland, Rick Whitfield.

August minutes approved, and seconded by Jeff Turner.

Treasurers' Report: In the absence of a treasurer this month, Al Tamagni reported a total of \$460.00 in the community council's bank account.

Legislative Report: Senator Meyer stated they are gearing up for re-election, and are meeting with constituents to address issues, and concerns in the areas with access. They are spending a lot of time in schools, and legislative help is working at the state level with the Service High School project. There were no questions from the floor.

Assembly Report: Representatives Dick Traini and Elvi Gray-Jackson reported items the Assembly is currently working on.

Representative Dick Traini stated the Municipality's computer system is to go live next week. The Municipality has invested 31.6 Million into it, and another 6 Million is needed. In addition, the Assembly is working to request a cap on towing at \$225.00, and is trying to revamp the towing industry.

Assembly Notes for September submitted by Elvi Gray-Jackson. The Assembly is currently working on the following:

- AO 27-Ballot Proposition No. 1. The proposition will be included in the State election on November 4th. Mayor Sullivan has provided the Assembly with his preliminary budget as required by Municipal Code. Highlights of the preliminary budget includes:
 - \$4-\$6 Million budget shortfall.
 - Departments were requested to decrease budgets by 1%.
 - Although some departments have requested increases, the Mayor's budget should balance.
 - Additional \$3.1 Million that can be collected in taxes.
 - Overall, Mayor's 2015 budget "is targeted at reducing the growth in spending while minimizing service impact to the citizens."
- Mayor has to submit a General Government and Utility Operating and Capital budgets to the Assembly by October 1st.
- Work Sessions will be held during October (dates TBA).
- Public Hearings will be held in October (dates TBA).

- The Assembly has a renewed Budget/Finance Committee chaired by Assembly Member Gray-Jackson. Members include Peterson, Steele, Demboski, Evans, and Hall. The Committee has a Work Plan with 12 purposes. A copy can be found on line. The Committee meets the third Thursday of each month from 12:00-1:00 in the City Hall, Room 155.
- The Assembly launched an Ad Hoc Committee on Alcohol and Substance Abuse. The mission is to “work with Municipal agencies, nonprofits, and private sector entities to identify cause and effect of alcohol and drug abuse amongst chronically homeless citizens. Analyses will include mental health issues, overall impact on municipal resources and the private sector, educational programs and funding sources to seek solutions with the goal of making Anchorage the model city for dealing with the problems associated with the chronically homeless.” The Committee is chaired by Assembly Member Evans. Members include Assembly Members Demboski, Gray-Jackson, and Petersen. Committee meets the 1st Thursday of each month from 11:00-1:00 in City Hall, Room 155.
- Chugach Access Plan public hearing was held on September 9th and continued to the meeting of September 23rd. Forty-eight persons testified. The Assembly held one Work Session and is scheduling a Work Session to discuss and review Assembly proposed amendments. This action will enable an organized debate and amendment process (on the floor) prior to approval.

Next Assembly Meeting: October 7th

School Board Report: Anchorage School Board Member, Pat Higgins reported 76 positions were cut this year, and stated an additional 215 positions are slated for next year. Pat stated there are listening sessions scheduled at Wendler, Alpenglow, and Lake Hood. The first reading of the budget is scheduled for next week. Stated was there was a modest increase this year and is expected next year. Things are wide open currently with shift changes, and schools closing. Pat mentioned statewide results are different than Anchorage results.

Board and Community Member, Rick Whitbeck stated concerns regarding disturbing information on Channel 2 evening news broadcast that a school district teacher voiced approval of legalization of marijuana. Pat stated he would look into that.

Abbott Loop Principal Report: Mr. Sosa reported a need for noon-duty’s and volunteers at Abbott Loop Elementary School. He also thanked the community members for continuing its efforts in the community.

Update on Business and Previous Presentations

- A. No update to date. A community member stated the citizen memorial plaque for H. A. “Red” Boucher located in the Egan Convention Center is inadequate and is too small. Representative Dick Traini said he would check into it.

- B. Patti Higgins stated her candidacy for State House. Her passion is education, economics, and diversifying our State. She reported she has been touting the neighborhood, has gone on a ride along, and plan to again. She stated she is interested in building community.
- C. Oscar Felix stated his candidacy for State Senate. Oscar stated he is an organizer, encouraged everyone to vote. Oscar reported Scotland’s voting status is at 100% which is great! He stated how great that could be for Alaska.
- D. Jessica Smith, Public Involvement Coordinator from CRW Engineering updated the council regarding the Area Traffic Circulation Improvements on the road projects for 64th Avenue, and the Academy Vanguard projects. A sign-up sheet was left for persons interested in additional information.
- E. Josh Durand from the Parks and Recreation Department provided an update on various park projects in the Abbott Loop Area. (1) Abbott Loop Community Park, playground installation. (2) Doggie Park Run in the Abbott Loop Area. (3) Adding a swing set for Whisper Kovach Park on Lore Road. The Abbott Loop Playground has not been completed and the Parks and Recreation hopes to have the issues resolved soon. Copies of a booklet entitled, “Anchorage Parks and Recreation Dog Park Site Suitability Study: Abbott Loop Community,” was presented and citizens were asked to take a look at it, and were asked to make a recommendation in the next few months.

A community member responded she was impressed with the research contained in the booklet.

Josh stated the modification of the playground for Whisper Park is a 350,000+ upgrade to the playground.

A community member asked whether there a time limit, and Josh stated there isn’t, and responded this will need to be determined through the community what the best fix is.

Senator Myers stated his disappointment that the park is not up, and mentioned that he hope Josh and his department is keeping notes on the contractor/company, stating this contractor should not be hired again. Josh apologized, and responded how misfortunate it is to not have this project completed.

New Business and Presentations

- F. Election of Officers and Directors was held. Newly elected Abbott Loop Council’s Officers and Board Members are as follows:
 - Ray Metcalfe, Chair
 - Lynda Zaugg, Vice-Chair
 - Janice Park, Treasurer
 - Connie Carlisle, Secretary

BOARD

- Faith Alexander
- Dan Boland
- Michael Moeglein
- Trish O’Hara

- Bruce Roberts
- Pixie Siebe
- John Weddleton
- Gordon Wetzel
- John Williams

- G. Al Tamagni stated Abbott Loop will soon receive between \$1,500-\$2,000 from (Bicentennial) Soil Conservation District. When the check is received, the council chair deposited the funds into Abbott Loop Community Council's bank account.
- H. Anchorage police officers spoke about NO on 1, Repeal AO37, and shared concerns regarding how it will impact the community if approved. Officers also spoke about safe staffing levels, qualified professionals, and the ability of the men, and women who work on the streets to advocate for the safety equipment needed to perform their job. Another officer spoke to how AO37 will not only affect their professional voices, but affects their lives, and stated SWAT units do not train anymore due to budget cuts, and that there had been no training since April 2014.
- A community member asked for clarification in the voting process and asked, "Does NO means YES in how to vote on this? An officer replied yes.
- I. Transfer of Ownership Liquor License from Safeway to Albertson's Holdings Inc., Michele Droege of Dorsey & Whitney gave a presentation and answer questions. The majority of the Council Board voted to approve the transfer, and requested the members approve their action. The revised agenda, and timing of this required an expedited process to the legal proceeding of the sale closing.
- J. The questions of adding a swing set in Whisper Kovach Park for young children with infant/toddler seats has been presented. The Parks Department will support this request through defined community support and site assessment. This will be addressed at the September meeting with Parks and Recreation.

Announcements

- K. Patti Higgins announced she is running for State House. She stated that her platform is declining revenue, biggest passion is education, diversifying the economy, and our great schools do not have adequate funding. She is going door-to-door, and is open to questions.
- L. Felix Riviera announced he is running for State Senate, and stated councils are the heart of the community and believes politics should have no place in community councils. Felix provided his website if anyone is interested. NeighborsforFelix.com.

Next Abbott Loop Community Council Meeting Scheduled at Abbott Loop Elementary School

October 30, 2014 @ 7:00p.m.