

Russian Jack Community Council
Meeting Highlights
March 11, 2015

12 present, including presenters

Alaska Trails, Steve Cleary: Applying for Anchorage park foundation challenge grant to build Mt. bike trails in RJ park. Layout and design is this summer and construction in 2016 summer if granted funds. Using Ptarmigan trails for design and combination of volunteer work and Ptarmigan trails for construction. Needs input and suggestions from residents. Mt. bike trails on east side are lacking. Would benefit kids and adults alike. Will formalize and connect primitive/social trails that already exist. For summer and winter use. Not to include the trails that are groomed for skiing. Signage will be key to the development. Unpaved beginning level multi-purpose trails.

Resolution: Motion to approve/support the project as written and described. 9 in favor, 0 opposed

Legislative Report (By Phone in Juneau)

Rep. Gruenberg: Power of Attorney bill passed, Conservatorship expansion bill passed, Operating budget bill tomorrow, Medicaid expansion is on the table, Education funding, Hearings on Governor's nominations for various boards, Marijuana initiative, animal cruelty bill.

Sen. Bill Wielechowski: Increase of crimes in Russian Jack and Anchorage, suspects that much of it is drug related, some gang turf wars, but unsure of reasons. Marijuana bill was heard and will go to floor soon, Senate passed a bill to eliminate daylight savings time – controversial issue, goes to House now. Bill regarding how reimbursements are made for school bonds.

Southcentral Foundation, Michelle Baker: Spoke about Behavioral health programs including Pathway home and Dena A Coy, which are located in Russian Jack. Pathway home is usually about 6-12 month stays. Census fluctuates, but has a small wait list right now. Many partnerships throughout the community with various groups and institutions. Many different programs and activities.

School Board and Bonds, Kathleen Plunkett: 59 million in bonds to improve 8 schools. Internal audit being conducted. Lots of School Board initiatives and work being performed.

Neighborworks Anchorage Paint the Town event, John Guintu: Looking for nominations for owner occupied homes, income eligible – see form, must need paint, owner must be present day of painting, second week of June. Plan to paint at least 5 houses in Russian Jack.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm