

Russian Jack Community Council
Meeting Highlights
May 13, 2015

25 present, including presenters

Legislative Report (By Phone in Juneau)

Sen. Bill Wielechowski:

- Muldoon farmers market in the works, gathering support, donations, community council support so the farmers market can go under the FCC insurance
- Budget stalemate in Juneau. 2.3 billion dollar deficit, even after lots of cuts. AK has funds enough to carry into Sept but not beyond that. Dispute is about:
 - Education funding- cuts are already deep, some in leg. Want to cut more
 - Medicaid Expansion – which would bring in 150 million federal dollars each year, 4,000 more jobs, and provide benefits to approx. 40,000 people, and would save money through program reform
 - Public employee contracts- stripped pay increases from the contracts
- Oil tax credits have not been cut. We have the lowest oil tax in the world, is illogical.
- **Public testimony tomorrow 5:30pm-7:30pm at LIO downtown regarding the budget**
- **7am-8am Sen Wielechowski at Denny's for coffee on Wednesday**

Rep. Gruenberg:

- Erin's law is also one of the items that the legislature is disputing. The Education chair in the senate is an obstacle to this law passing, among others.
- There is a lot of jockeying for power in the legislature right now due to new Governor. Legislature is not working together in a collaborative manner.
- The items that the Majority wants to cut are, in Rep's opinion, not the best policy and in the best interest of the people. The Minority stands strong with the Governor
- **The People of AK need to demand that the legislature finds a solution, please give input and be heard!**

Rep. Geran Tarr:

- Medicaid expansion – fastest growing senior population in the country is in AK, it would save the state money, it would give additional people benefits, build efficiencies into the system, many groups across the state have shown support. About 30 hearings on this topic
- Erin's Law- child sexual abuse prevention. Hope the bill goes through. Support from schools, community groups, Rasmussen foundation.
- Education funding

Maeve Evans, Landscape architect with Anchorage Parks: Chester creek trail project, fixing trail sections, May 26 construction start on segment 1 (new Seward Hwy to Nichols street). Detours. Segment 2 (arctic to new Seward) in July, detour will include Fireweed. Maps provided. Volunteers from trail watch and Bike Anchorage offering tours of the detours the first week of trail construction.

Rep. Andy Josephson:

- Of all the bills submitted to the governor, the following are some of the most important:
 - the interior energy program
 - Education funding
 - Public employee contract issues
 - Medicaid expansion and reform

School Board Report, Kathleen Plunkett: It is true that the school board has some reserve funds on hand but they are already encumbered for projects and emergencies. Have to maintain 8-10% of operating funds in savings.

Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility, Wonder Park area Sewer project, Linda Wiltze-Barber : 3.6 million for the water and \$380,000 for sewer project. Final phase is 2.4 million dollars to complete the project. Construction will begin after Memorial Day, done in early August.

Paul Honeman, Anchorage Assembly: Mayoral election just completed, Mayor Berkowitz will start July 1. Assembly passed 1st quarter budget, anchorage school district funding issues, possible sale of solid waste services, 4th avenue theatre as purchased and the guts of the building with all the historical items are not being saved or renovated. Will be developed into commercial/residential space.

Sean Murphy, Principal of Wonder Park Elem: School business partnership going strong, Upcoming field day at Wonder Park elementary to recognize attendance awards, strong foster grandmother program.

Resolution of support - Muldoon Farmers Market, location TBA

Motioned by Fred

Seconded by Kendra

All in favor/0 opposed

Jon Gnitu, NeighborWorks Anchorage: Paint the Town program – chose 5 homes, painting starts Sat. June 6, planting gardens at Williwaw elem, fixing rink at the school.

Neighborhood Picnic/BBQ: Where/when/how Committee will start meeting to plan and make some decisions. Perhaps at Dave Rose park after they install a handicap accessible playground. Kendra, Fred, Jon, Sherry.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm