

Russian Jack Community Council
Meeting Highlights
September 9, 2015

19 present, including presenters

Legislative Report

Sarah Evans for Sen. Jonny Ellis, TJ for Sen. Wielechowski: Introduced themselves. Sarah has replaced Matt Moser and TJ has replaced Kaiyla

Rep. Gruenberg:

- **Getting ready for possible special session** to discuss/decide whether State of AK is going to buy out Transcanada in Natural gas pipeline. Also to discuss tax credits adjustments given the current state of the fiscal situation in AK.
- House Judiciary committee is working on national guard statutes related to crimes, laws related to pets and animals, laws related to vehicle debt transfer upon death, bills related to Licensing boards and laws related to conservatorship and guardianship

Rudy Ascott for Rep. Tarr:

- Mental health first aid for medical and law professionals. Will offer training soon for anyone interested.
- Will offer a class on the state budget and how it works.

Anchorage Assembly Report

Assemblyman Pete Peterson

- Municipal fiscal condition – revenue ahead of projections right now, may have a surplus at end of year, expenses are lower than projected too. There is an 11 million dollar deficit for next year in Muni. Mayor is strategizing with Dept. heads to cut expenses by 2%.
- Ethics in elections committee – trying to find a way to increase voter turnout. Researching other municipal strategies including voting by mail which may be available by 2017.
- Cell tower ordinance- working to improve this ordinance with committee
- **Northeast community council is having annual picnic this Saturday, Sept 12, Muldoon farmers market is going well, open for 3 more Saturdays**

Assemblyman Paul Honeman

- Building budget for new Mayor's administration and term. Municipal utilities funds are in question as well as school bonds that were passed in April that may not actual pass which may impact our taxes. There are about 93,000 municipal taxes payers which may see an increase in taxes as a result.
- Responded to a question about people driving in cars smoking marijuana. Mr. Honeman responded that it is illegal and laws are being considered. Perhaps there will be an initiative on the ballot regarding this topic.

School Board Report

Kathleen Plunkett

- Chalk the walk event and dedication for the safe route to school happened
- Over 47,000 students in ASD
- At work session looking at student performance, CIP list and bonds, continuous improvements

Principal Report

Wonder Park Elem, Sean Murphy

- **Invites the public to open house Thursday Sept 10, 5:15pm-6:30pm free food! Lots of changes in school procedures, lots of news and announcements!**
- Added two new classrooms and student numbers are above expectations

Traffic Calming in Russian Jack, Resident Denise Saigh: Complaints about noise from air force base, complaint about speeding vehicles with loud music in neighborhood on Caribou Ave. Per Paul Honeman – there is a process to get speed hump installed through Muni which includes a petition, presentation at Community Council, then presentation to Anchorage Assembly.

Road Problems in Boniface/Glacier area- Resident Brenda Johnson: potholes, speeding, etc.

Municipality Long range planning section, Kristine Bunnell: Presented U Med district plan. This plan is updating the 2003 plan that was already in existence. One of top priorities is development of a master plan for university Lake Park, Chester creek watershed plan, and 5 other top priority items within the plan. Oct 12 public hearing before planning and zoning commission, input from the public is welcome. Full plan is available at www.muni.org.

Russian Jack and Airport Heights could partner to develop a neighborhood plan as neither neighborhood has one currently.

Resolution Regarding Northern Access to the University and Medical District Draft design study report under review by the planning and zoning commission

Moved by Sherry Wright, seconded by Frank McGuire

Pro Vote: 10

Opposed: 0

Passed

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.