

ABBOTT LOOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

October 29, 2015 Minutes

Meeting called to order by President Ray Metcalfe at 6:35pm

Board members present: Ray Metcalfe, Patti Higgins, Pixie Siebe, Pat O'Hara, Faith Alexander.

Minutes from September were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report: \$1,910.66

Assemblymembers Elvi Gray-Jackson & Dick Traini: Abbott Loop Community Council Meeting – Ms. Gray-Jackson Abbott Loop Community Council Meeting – Assembly Report

October 29, 2015

- The Assembly received the Mayor's SAP Executive Review Committee's report at a work session on Friday, October 9th. The Committee reported that, under the prior Administration, the project leadership, direction, accountability, and governance by the MOA and contractors were lacking. The Committee recommended that the MOA move forward with SAP but hire SAP to implement the software. The Mayor has taken full responsibility for project completion.
- The Public Hearing on the Equal Rights Ordinance was held on September 15th and 16th. On September 29th, the Assembly approved AO 2015-96 (S-1) which added Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity to the grounds of prohibited discrimination in Title 5 of the Municipal Code. The vote was 9-2.
- The Mayor's proposed 2016 Operating and Capital Budgets were submitted to the Assembly by the required deadline – October 2nd. The budget ordinances was introduced at the October 13th meeting.
- The budget includes funding for two police academies and a fire academy.
- Property Tax increase of 4.3% which equates to \$50 on a \$300,000 home.
 - The first Public Hearing was held at the October 27th meeting.
 - The second Public Hearing will be held on November 10th.
- The budget also includes an omnibus fines and fees increase in the Police Department (Traffic fines), Health and Human Services (Child Care Licenses, Food Establishments, Animal Control Fees, and Cemetery Fees), Public Works (Building Permit Plan Review Fees,) and Parks and Recreation).
- At the October 27th meeting, the Assembly approved a change to the Tax Cap Calculation which will allow the amount of taxes "allowed" for collection as the base for the next year's calculation instead of the amount of taxes "actually" collected. This does not immediately represent a tax increase but allows both the Mayor and the Assembly to determine whether to cut services or increase taxes after input from the citizens. The vote was 7-4.
- The Assembly will have a Work Session on November 13th from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. to review proposed amendments to the 2016 Budget.
- The 2016 budget will be approved at the November 24th meeting.

Next Assembly Meeting: November 10, 2015

Mayor Berkowitz' Constituent Services Rep to ALCC: Felix Rivera. One way to deal with the Spice problem is to go after the Dealers. There's a new coordinator to deal with the Homeless problem, Nancy Burke. Right now there are 7 plans from different organizations and the idea is to combine resources and look at where the holes are. The Homeless can be divided into two groups: one has been homeless less than a year and the other longer than a year. The super majority of people begging on street corners have a place to go to at night. When people give them money they just spend it on alcohol and drugs and it also encourages them to stay in the area. On another issue the mayor has proposed a different fines and fees ordinance and the expected revenue is \$1.1 million. The APD just graduated 19 new officers meaning we now have 360 officers. Mayor Berkowitz plans to have 400 officers by the end of his term.

School Board member Tam Agosti-Gisler: District is working on Destination 2020 with a goal of having a 90% graduation rate. United Way has a team looking at data and it is clear that students who have better attendance have better scores. 3rd grade reading scores are dramatically affected by absenteeism. Graduation rates have improved 20% and are now at 80%. The District appreciates the help from the Business community in the School Business partnerships. For example Lithia, in addition to other prizes, gives a car away every year by random drawing to a High School Junior or Senior with perfect attendance. There is a new test for students, the AMP is replacing the SBA. The new standards are higher and the test more rigorous. 2015 will be a baseline year. ASD will hold budget hearings Monday Nov 23rd from 6:00pm-8:00pm at Hanshew.

Candidates for Public Office

Ross Bieling is running for the House seat held by Mike Hawker and gave a brief talk about why he's running.

John Weddleton. Pixie Siebe was asked to speak for John Weddleton, running for the Hillside Assembly seat. He is having his campaign grand opening at O'Malley's on the Green Tuesday 5-7:30pm.

Dog Park Committee: The committee talked with the neighbors in the vicinity of Whisper Faith Kovach Park and the group proposed the attached resolution. Al Tamagni made a motion seconded by Lia Slemons to suspend the by-laws and vote on the Resolution. Motion carried without objection. Lia Slemons moved and Michael Villen seconded the Resolution. Motion carried with two dissents. The committee was told it was important to fill out the Parks cards. In 2017 there will be another round of matching grants.

Recreational Trails Grant: Anna Shaw spoke about the Schools to Trails project which promotes healthy spaces for children. Rilke Schule is asking for a trail from the school to Meadow Park. There will be a 5 foot wide trail with soft gravel and three bridges leading to an open play space in Meadow Park. The neighboring church passed a unanimous resolution in support.

Fire Department: Three members of the crew were able to attend. Their call volumes this month have largely been due to an increase in Spice us and the need to transport via ambulance. At times all available ambulances are in use just for Spice users. More Spice users are begging on corners, leaving trash and worse. Don't support them it just encourages them to stay and others to move in. Spice only costs a dollar a stick and the ingredients are always different. They are living in the woods everywhere. A couple of them have been camping for over a year in the loop to go north on the Seward Hwy from Dimond. Remember Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 1. This is a good time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms and your CO detectors.

Animal Control Laura Atwood and Dept HHS DeeAnn Fetko: Came to share how the process works when there are disruptive dogs. After a complaint an informational letter is sent to the owner. If there's another call they are served a notice to comply. Animal Control will work with people to help them solve behavioral problems and officers will talk to the person served. If there's another complaint a Notice of Violation is sent: it requires two separate households to complain or one person with documentation. There is a \$50 fine. Second Notice of Violation costs \$100, and the third costs \$400. At that point they may forfeit the right to have the animal(s).

Announcements: A moment of silence was observed for Abbott Loop neighbor, former Assemblyman Jim Garrigues who passed away October 3, 2015.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.