

Rabbit Creek Community Council Meeting Minutes for Thursday, March 12, 2015

DRAFT by DS & NP

Location: Rabbit Creek Church

Board Roll Call - Present: Nancy Pease as Chair - Keith Guyer, David Sterling, Ron Devon, Paul Ard, Joan Diamond, Pat Abney, John Isby. Vivian Mendenhall excused.

Board Member Co-Chair Nancy Pease opened the meeting at 7:05 pm

- Minutes: January 8, 2015 minutes copy placed on line for review and copies passed around for all to read.
 - Motion by Nancy Pease & 2nd Joan Diamond - To approve February minutes. Motion passed.
- Treasurer's Report: Should be the same as last month. Did not pick up bank statements because they are at FCC office in midtown. Last month = Checking 177.55 + Savings 294.74 = \$470.29.
- Membership for 2015 – With new membership conditions the membership number is still being sorted out. Approximately 25 members that have filled out forms, some have donated. Several members filled out forms tonight.
- Attendance - Total 37 people in attendance tonight which included 18 members by show of hands. Tonight classified as a general membership meeting.

Announcements & Legislative Reports:

- Legislature and MOA Assembly members always invited and encourage to attend.
- AFD Station 10 - Jim Veach and two firefighters
 - Spring burn piles – members urged to get a fire permit.
 - Head-on collision on Rabbit Creek Road at S-curves a few days ago, Toyota Camry and Subaru SUV. Individuals walked away with minor injuries, even though vehicles were totaled. New cars are much safer. Firefighter suggested lack of street lights is a safety concern.
 - Drinking water situation at Station 10 still unresolved. Shallow well not safe to drink. 4 gal/day drinking water supplied by taxpayers.
- Assembly Person Jennifer Johnson
 - Parks Dedication AO2015-0025 NF8 - Ordinance introduced at March 2 assembly meeting. April 24th will be public hearing at Assembly Meeting. Look up the ordinance online under agenda for March 2 meeting.
 - Chugach State Park Access Plan - Starr's resolution was convoluted. P&Z cashed out the Johnston-Evans amendment. Johnston needs 6 votes to pass, 7 preferred. Has 5 votes now. Needs help getting councilmen to vote for their amendment: swing votes will be Pete Peterson, Tim Steele, Paul Honneman.
 - Street Lighting on Golden View Drive – Jennifer Johnston tabled an ordinance requested by PM&E that would have expressly allowed more lighting than rural standards on the section between Ransom Ridge and RC Road. Jennifer says the current rural lighting ordinance allows flexibility for adequate lighting. Our Council doesn't want "Hollywood on the hillside" with too many street lights. PM&E has explained that, owing to a dip on Golden View Drive before Ransom Ridge the site work would increase the right-of-way work by \$2 mil without street lighting. Instead of flattening out the dip, street lights would make construction less expensive. Ordinance was supposed to come up next Tuesday but will postpone indefinitely for ordinance requiring street lighting specifically around the Golden View Middle School.
- Assembly Person Bill Evans
 - Uber taxi cab issue will be discussed at next meeting in March. Will change rules to make it easier for Uber to operate. No marked cars, no video cameras, and other rules.
 - Pat Abney suggested same safety rulings be applied as taxi cabs now have to follow.
 - Joan Diamond asked what is happening with Alaska Spirits liquor store on Gambell, and the citizen protest against the liquor license? Bill assumes that it will be protested at next Assembly meeting.
- Pat Higgins Anchorage School District Council –
 - Reports 600 business partnerships with ASD. School attendance is up. Highest graduation rate went up for some, 5 year graduation rate at 81%. 4 year graduation rate down, possibly because summer school was cut in 201, but expected to go up. Some high school summer school this summer that should help to increase graduation rate. Trying to get Pre-School Program going to give kids a head start on school. Literacy programs for Pre-School age kids to increase kids at risk rates. \$59 mil bond is on the muni ballot for April 7. Gladys Woods School is not academically acceptable, some structural issues. Looked at educational value. Mountain View has safety issues and upgrades. Rabbit Creek half a roof installed years ago, now need the whole roof done again. Other re-roofs on bond, bus lane issues, water issues at some school. State legislature still pledging 60% to 70% reimbursement this year, which requires lots of rules to follow. Proposal at the State legislature for a "holiday" of State reimbursement of school construction bond amounts in the near future, due to State funding issues.* Please vote at April 7th election.
- Cathy Giessel & Mike Hawker – Difficult for them to participate in RCCC meetings while in Juneau. Sen. Giessel sent a newsletter. Curiously, it did not mention SB 54 which would do an end-run around the voting process to administratively add acreage to parks district in upper Potter Valley. NO mention at all, and Sen. Giessel did not answer an inquiry.

ONGOING Business

- **Moen Park Update** – Steve Rafuse, MOA Parks Planner reviewed proposed park upgrade project
 - Identified upgrades while studying Moen Park. Youth employment program spent 2 weeks of last summer working on trails & clearing brush at Moen Park. Working with VIP (Volunteer) Moen Park Committee.
 - Rogers family applied for and received \$40,000 grant for the park + Rasmusson Fund will donate \$40,000 more. Lots of work done by volunteers. \$260,000 Grant provided by State Legislature in 2014.
 - Provided a plan drawing with aerial photos of proposed plan for upgrades on spending the grants & donations. A spring in the area of the playground makes things wet. Will divert the spring runoff between 2 areas, separating toddler area from older kids area.. Propose up to 5 play areas. D-1 and wood chips in play areas, not paving. Discussed the proposed toys as shown in proposal drawings. Will remove alders and brush on south side to develop a turf area for playing sports, frisbee, picnics, and open up the area for scenic views. Question: what about landscaping perimeter of the field to soften the appearance and keep vehicles off. Proposed play equipment will include: Omni spinner, Net Plex, See Saw, Spinami, Swing Set. A future Play Web structure or contingency money in the budget. Project will be bid this summer.
 - There will be a volunteer event this summer.
 - Discussion & Response - No basketball court on this site because there are courts at GV Middle School. Parking not in the budget, to better use money for park development. Question whether there will be drainage holes in the spinner. Does not expect major parking issues. If parking becomes a problem, they will ask for more money and design. Concern to make sure there is visibility of areas from road of playground & turf area to deter kids partying here.

- **Rugby Field by Upper Potter Creek Area** – From February meeting information Nancy described the project. Park area to be located at NE corner of the intersection of Finland and Potter Valley Road. Trying to get the excess fill that is coming off the PV Road upgrade and Potter Highlands. HLB land, not dedicated Park lands. RCCC letter of support, with numerous conditions and concerns, was sent on Feb 22 to HLB after Council voted to support the proposal at Feb 12 meeting. One can view all correspondence at RCCC webpage: communitycouncils.org
- Ben Mohr, Alaska Rugby Foundation representative, provided update of project - 11:00 am Saturday 3/14/15, neighborhood walk around at the project site. Will try to find a warm place to meet after the walk around. Reviewed the site plan presented at last meeting. Playground is probably not part of the agenda.
 - Numerous neighbors attending the meeting tonight asking questions. Many attendees not hear about the project, except by word of mouth recently. People said that the rush to approve this is unprecedented and does not serve the neighbors: the rush benefits the ARF not the public. This area is identified as a future neighborhood park area in HLB land use studies and the Hillside District Plan: it has not been dedicated as a park. Some neighbors are okay with a neighborhood park, but a Rugby Field is not a neighborhood park: aimed at the larger community. South Park is better location. ARF responded that they are capable of building at this site, not another site. ARF is a volunteer organization but has a record of 10-15 years managing two pitches at Davis Park in Mtn View. When Justin Green has an event at his house, the volume of cars and parking is an issue. This proposed rugby field will be available for lacrosse or other sports. Neighbors have concern about funneling people to one of the most remote parts of Anchorage. Finland is not even on a ROW and the whole access from Goldenview Drive (and the creek crossing at Portugal street) is substandard and getting worse. No more traffic should be encouraged on that access route until it is upgraded. There is doubt that the promised "free fill" from Potter Highlands and the PV Road upgrade will be adequate to create a rugby field. A Geotech professional that did a Cut & Fill of the road project advised that the road was designed to equal and there is little to no excess material. There is concern about the size of the parking lot, the visibility from the road, the landscaping that appears to overlap the ROW, whether vehicles could drive onto the field and damage it, and the security of the parking area.
 - **Motion by Pat Abney & 2nd by Joan Diamond** - Offer a Friendly Amendment – RCCC to withdraw their approval letter and take it under advisement until the neighbors can review the project and advise on public input. The review and reconsideration of support will be done at the April 9 RCCC meeting. **Motion by ?? with 2nd by ??** - Table the discussion until April RCCC meeting. RCCC and the ARF representatives agree that planning, engineering, and designing would be able to continue without actual site work or permitting to be performed. RCCC says ARF should do extensive community outreach, ARF reps nodded yes. No objection, motion to table discussion carried. Will review situation at April RCCC meeting.
 - Rugby team member worried about rescinding the recent RCCC support letter to HLB, which would stop forward movement of the project thru HLB. Would prefer a hold be put on RCCC letter for further study with neighborhood folks. The project is a window of opportunity due to forthcoming road construction. Any delays would not allow forward action.
 - In recent years there was a snow machine park that attempted to get the land for their use. Attempt failed.
 - Neighbors are concerned about the project moving way too fast. Not enough public notice. Need information to understand what is proposed. Rugby team members offered to discuss the project at length.

- The group of concerned neighbors, Ben Moore, and Dr. Robbins went to a different area of the church to have a lengthy discussion about the project.
- **Motion to extend meeting by 15 minutes** – No objections.
- **U Med Elmore Road Extension** – Bruce Doroherty here to provide information.
 - Passed out a suggested resolution prepared by that local Community Council for consideration by RCCC. Numerous Anchorage Community Councils have adopted this or a similar resolution. Want to stop State spending for engineering on the Elmore Road Extension. The University Area Community Council is opposed to the extension of Elmore Road through that area.
 - **Motion by Bruce Doroherty & 2nd Joan Diamond** - RCCC to adopt the draft resolution that was passed out.
 - Points of discussion – RCCC wants land use plans to be followed for this type of development. Compliance with UMed plan needs the collateral planning for the whole area to be engineered and studied. Suggestion to take out some of the flowery language in resolution, such as general statements about safe city. No objection, motion passed.
 - Nancy Pease will draft and submit (to the Assembly and legislators?) a modified version with fewer passion statements, and emphasizing that Road extension is not compatible with U-Med District plan goals (need to verify this); emphasize the negative impacts on land uses on the adjoining road corridors, and note the unfunded costs when surrounding intersections cant handle the traffic. This is what happened at the Tudor/Bragaw intersection, and could happen in our Council area..
- **Alaska Railroad 200' Easement** – Oceanview Community Council passed resolution requesting solidarity from other Community Councils in objecting to the Railroads proposed assertion of exclusive use of the 200' Easement. 200' right of way easement by RR to charge for any use within the 200' corridor as described in detail on February RCCC meeting minutes. Nancy asked a lawyer/expert on legal access issues, who stated ARR does not have exclusive use, he offered 6 points that were shared. Oceanview Community Council Representative Mr. John Pletcher in attendance tonight and stated various things about the situation that he has been studying for 12 years.
 - **Motion Pat Abney & 2nd Joan Diamond** - To agree with Oceanview Community Council. After discussion, Pat Abney & Joan withdrew the motion until more information can be provided and reviewed by ARR.
 - Alaska Railroad Representative Mr. Tim Sullivan - Requests some time at April meeting to present the ARR side of the issue. He will provide information about the issue for placement on the RCCC website.
 - Nancy suggested ARR should provide concise written information in lay-person language in 1 week, March 19. RCCC will post the ARR position on-line. The OCC representatives (Beardsley and Pletcher) can rebut and anyone can send comments to RCCC for a week, through March 26.. Board would take action 2 weeks afterwards. Mr. Sullivan agreed to provide ARR information by March 19.
- **Congratulations extended to Nancy Pease** for being inducted to the Alaska Sports Hall of Fame for individual long standing and impressive women's running records and outstanding multiple performances at Seward's Mount Marathon Race and Bird Ridge Race from 1980's and 1990's era. Many of Nancy's records still stand unbroken. Dick Mize, another RCCC resident, was inducted for his racing and trail building and other leadership for Nordic skiing. Well done!
- **Longbow & Manytell traffic issues** – MOA response to request for speed bumps in that area. Paul Ard advised that he was told if the MOA does study of the complaint and does not witness the same problems, the residents cannot complain for another 3 years. Problem is during the dry months, not during winter when things are icy. He thinks a winter study was performed by MOA. Paul was asked to check on when study was performed with MOA along with their findings and report back to the RCCC. If the field study was at the wrong time or wrong place, maybe RCCC can appeal it.
- **Annexation of Park & Rec Service District Areas** – Annexation and extending Service Area Boundaries without a vote. Alaska Legislator Senator Cathy Giessel submitted Senate Bill SB45, trying to force annexation of Service Areas by the government, without a vote of the people. Muni charter and HDP both require a vote of the people both in and outside of the proposed annexation area. HALO recommends that RCCC oppose the Giessel process.: state overreach.
 - **Motion by Nancy Pease & 2nd Pat Abney** - Oppose SB45. Motion passed without objection. Nancy assigned to write a letter.

New Business

- **Removing P&Z from role of citizen advisory committee to AMATS** - Dianne Holmes described the conditions of this issue. Nancy Pease proposes that citizen be on the committee, not members of legislature or government agencies.
 - **Motion by Nancy Pease & 2nd Dianne Holmes** - Suggest the above. No objections. Nancy to write letter.
- **Daylight Savings Time Proposal at State Legislature** – Propose to delay discussions until next meeting.

Reports

Reports - Neighborhood Associations – None.

- New Projects – None

- FCC Report – Joan Diamond to follow-up on website.
 - 2 items on discussion list for recent meetings:
 - Repair and improve website.
 - When we send a volunteer to MOA to testify, that RCCC member can also represent themselves in addition to representing the RCCC.
- HALO – Mayoral race discussions at last meeting.
- LRSA – No updates. Prototype School Design
- Why are so many people getting shot?
- Another Park – Muldoon Town Square Park was successful for 29 acre park to be dedicated. Congratulations to that local Community Council and members for their efforts.

Wrap up assignments

- As stated above.

Motion to adjourn by Keith Guyer – 2nd Paul Ard – Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

*Postscript: as of March 18, the State Senate voted to NOT offer the 60 to 70 percent reimbursement for any school bonds passed after January 1, 2015.