

Russian Jack Community Council
Meeting Highlights
December 9, 2015

22 present, including presenters

(important news and information is highlighted in yellow for your convenience)

Legislative Report

Sen. Bill Wielechowski:

- Governor's budget plan rolled out today. Includes changing how the PFD is calculated to use some funds from it for government operations. Would cut PFD checks to about \$1000 in first year then about \$700 in next year.
- Includes proposed income tax - 6% of your federal income taxes so if you make 50,000 year/ the estimated taxes would be about 700/year.
- Doubling gas tax
- Alcohol tax at 10 cents a drink
- Tobacco tax of 1 dollar a pack more
- Increase fishing taxes
- Get rid of refundable oil tax and turn it into a loan program
- Increase base minimum oil tax that a company will pay
- Senator W's concern is that there is too much emphasis on the PFD which impacts residents too much
- **If you have input or solutions please let Senator W know.**

Rep. Gruenberg:

- At joint judiciary committee meeting yesterday to discuss what is going on in corrections with the recent numerous deaths of inmates. Corrections are severely understaffed and have incurred injuries on the job. Several hearings on the subject have been held.

Rep. Geran Tarr:

- Governor's fiscal package released today. This is just one proposal and may not include all of the ideas that the people may support such as increased oil revenue taxes for big oil companies. Also, updates on fishing & hunting licenses especially for out of state visitors. This session the bulk of time will be spent on budget. Capital budget may be presented as a bond instead of how it has traditionally been structured.
- Introduced Sang Hur who is interning in her office. Recent college graduate. He will be representing Rep Tarr during session at some community outreach projects
- Attended leadership academy last week with 43 other people for 72 hours. Was elected class president for a year which is exciting news because AK is rarely represented so well in these types of groups.
- Downtown new legislative meeting – does not support the purchase of the expensive new building. Need a lower cost solution and get out of the lease legally.

Anchorage Assembly Report

Assemblyman Pete Peterson

- Passed resolution to allow voters to vote by mail for municipal elections by 2017. Vote by mail has been astoundingly successful because it is convenient.
- Passed budget for next year and cut the budget – Mayor Berkowitz called for a 2% cut in each dept. Increased property taxes. Will have 3 law enforcement academies next year for an additional 35 or so officers on the streets by next year. Public safety will be improved as a result.
- Mayor announced homeless action plan – will locate additional “housing first” locations so that homeless people won't freeze to death and perhaps job training, coordinated services, connect them with other services.
- **Bill released recently about where marijuana businesses can be located. Going to hearing next Monday at planning and zoning commission.**
- **Sales tax for marijuana will be on the ballot in April for voters to decide.**
- Question about revenue sharing from the state- will decrease because state budget is in decreasing.

School Board Report

Kathleen Plunkett

- Working on proforma budget, would love to get input from public.

- Bond proposal for 3 million dollars – maintenance and operating cost related

Tammy Hanson, for Wonder Park Elem

- This school collects box tops, please bring them in for kids field trip funding
- Vendor fair going on at Wonder park at Lone star steak house from 11-3 and silent auction

Anna Shaw, Anchorage Park Foundation

- Neighborhood Icons- Signage and wayfinding plan to align with Anchorage's "Work. Live. Play" motto. Project between parks foundation, landscape company and wayfinding company. Pilot project will be launched in May 2016 along Ship Creek trail. Plan will include maps, signage, mobile apps, and other wayfinding components.
- Russian Jack's icon is a polar bear head for "Nola" the polar bear at the park but if you have ideas for a different icon please contact Anna Shaw at Park foundation at trails@anchorageparkfoundation.org
- Milepost system and emergency locator numbers would make it easier for first responders and law enforcement when issues arise that need to be reported for increased public safety. This may be included in the plan.
- Wayfinding plan will have a public comment period.

Maeve Evans, Parks and Rec

- Russian Jack springs skate park proposal
- Have \$225,000 in grant, may end up with more funding but that is it for now
- Will use same skate board park company as in Eagle River
- Design stage right now.
- Proposed to be located near parking lot and Nola playground with buffers between access points at 8th and Pine
- Will return to Council meeting in January with more information
- There will be a drain in the bowl of the park for drainage. Can be year round if kids shovel it out. Will be made of concrete.
- Will be built in summer 2016, will be a ribbon cutting party!
- Anyone can contact Maeve at Parks dept. with input
- Will return in a few months for resolution and more information

Federation of Community Councils, Daniel George

- Federation has 35 or so councils. FCC gets funding from Muni and was passed at 85,000.
- Mayor is interested in getting more citizens on boards and commissions
- FCC can reimburse for outreach materials
- Banners for each Community Council are available
- Rural Cap will have public meeting on Dec 16th about "housing first" initiatives
- Meets on 3rd Wed on each month

RJCC Officers

Pres- Ed Leach

VP- Fred McCleary

Sec- Lisa McGuire

Treasurer- Kenda Kloster

Trustee- Sherry Wright

FCC Rep- Daniel George, Alternate -Sherry Wright

Motion to accept the slate, Elmer, Seconded

All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.