

# ABBOTT LOOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## February 28, 2016 Minutes

Meeting called to order by President Ray Metcalfe at 6:30pm

**Board members present:** Ray Metcalfe, Patti Higgins, Bruce Roberts, Faith Alexander

**Minutes from January 2016** were approved.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

**Representative Millett's Office:** Aide Jeff Turner reported that hot line has been established for citizens to call in ideas about the budget. The House Majority's "Idea Line" is 334-5949.

**School Board** Patrick Higgins gave a report on the School Bonds. \$279.4 million was paid off in the last five years. This bond is for \$49.3 million funding 37 school improvements and one support facility; a districtwide seismic study; and replacement of 27 school busses. Schools impacted in our council are Polaris, Abbott Loop Elementary, and Service High. The State will not be paying debt reimbursement this year.

In other school news the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting will include a vote approving a location for a second Montessori program in ASD. The Superintendent search is on and the second tier of interviews will be open for public discussion. There was a question about the cost of the Boy Scouts renting Kasuun going from \$350 to \$850.

**Mayor Berkowitz:** Felix Rivera reported:

The Homeless count included 140 volunteers working over 2 days. They went to 22 camps of homeless with a total of 51 people. There was a second group that counted 797 people. The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Warmth (United Way) is a 5K walk. They raised \$47,000 to pay utility assistance which is a good prevention tactic against homelessness. There will be 3 Police Academies – November, May, and June plus a lateral academy for Troopers, etc. There will be a Fire Academy and they hope to hire 25. The Capital Improvement Plan starts Tuesday. We have 40 projects to prioritize, add or delete over the 2016-2021 muni budgets. You can have input at [www.munibudget.org](http://www.munibudget.org). The Abbott Loop Community Council has a survey we need to fill out. May is the deadline for us to submit our priorities.

**F.C.C** Ray Metcalfe reported that the Rasmussen Foundation spoke on the fiscal gap.

**DOT Controlled Access Corridors:** Carol Roadifer, P.E. and Andrea Morton reported that people have been cutting the chain link fence along the Seward Highway and kids are using those holes to dart across traffic. This summer they will fence the offramps to Academy

**Traffic Calming Grant Funds:** 343-8470. There are funds available for this summer. Suggested locations are E 84<sup>th</sup>, Henderson Lp, Cathedral Pl, Claridge. There were requests from members to add Meadow St. Faith Alexander moved and Susan Soule seconded they study traffic on Lore in front of Whisper Kovich Park. Motion passed without dissent.

**Roads and Projects Chair:** Bruce Roberts reported DOT presented more on the Abbott Road rehab Phase I from Lake Otis to Jupiter which begins summer of 2016. 3R project – Resurfacing, Restoration, and Rehabilitation. Abbott Rd will be widened so there is a continuous two-way left-turn lane; adding an additional east boundlane east of Lake Otis; flattening some crest vertical curves; rehabilitation of pathway; upgrading Little Campbell Creek culvert for fish passage; off-street transit stops; replacing traffic signals and lighting at Lake Otis and Elmore; a right turn lane for eastbound onto Birch Rd.

**92<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Design:** Construction of a third southbound lane on the Seward Hwy between Dimond Blvd and O'Malley. A new traffic signal at Old Seward Hwy and 92<sup>nd</sup> Ave. a westbound off ramp at 92<sup>nd</sup> from southbound Seward Hwy. A southbound on-ramp from 92<sup>nd</sup> Ave to the Seward Hwy.

**Sandlewood** is slated to extend all the way to Lore.

**Dog Park/Whisper Faith Kovich Park Committee:** Susan Soule. The committee had their second meeting with Stephen Rafuse, Park Planner. Stephen drafted a preliminary plan for the entire park with the understanding that the full project will probably be completed in phases with multiple funding sources. The total cost of the park is estimated at \$450,000: \$350,000 for the playground which includes a large open space, and \$100,000 for the dog park. It is up to the council to prioritize this park in the CIP process.

#### **CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE:**

**John Weddleton, Candidate for South Anchorage Assembly:** John has lived here 18 years, was Chair of Midside and HALO for many years. On March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm there will be the annual HALO Candidates Forum at O'Malley's on the Green. 7:00 ASB candidates and 7:45pm Assembly candidates. The food is always a crowd pleaser.

**Council's priorities for public safety/criminal justice:** Heather Nobrega and Jason Gist from the D.A.'s office came to listen to our concerns. They prosecute 3,000 felonies a year and about 3,000 misdemeanors. The Anchorage D.A.'s office also includes Dillingham, Kenai, Kodiak, Palmer, and down to Unalaska. Their office is down from 36 prosecutors to current number of 29.

**Marijuana Cultivation:** Ray Huor is proposing to have a warehouse cultivating marijuana on Cinnabar. The warehouse is about 5,000 sq ft. It will create 3 to 4 jobs with more when it's harvesting time.

**Land Swap approval request:** Clinton Des Jarlais is asking ALCC support for a land swap with DOT around the Chili Peppers Field and several locations. Since it does not appear Mr. DesJarlais has clear title to some of the land there was no action taken at this time.

Discussion over the CIP and the next meeting. Group consensus is to dedicate the entire March meeting to setting our priorities.

Meeting adjourned 8:35pm.