

**Rabbit Creek Community Council
Minutes, September 13, 2001**

In attendance: Nancy Pease, Donna Van Flein, Bob Miller, Barbara Weinig, Brad Kutzer, Scott Sell, Greg Ross, Carol Fries

Treasurer's Report: There has been no change since the last meeting. Our current account balance is \$707.82. We have 160 members, 32 members are needed to have a quorum.

Announcements:

The **2000 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE and EVALUATION REPORT** for the Municipality of Anchorage will be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on or about September 28, 2001.

Initial Draft 2002 - 2003 AMATS Work Program

AMATS Initial Draft 2002-2003 Work Plan has been released for a 30 day public review. Copies may be picked up free at The Office of Planning, Development & Public works, Transportation Planning Division, 4700 Bragaw Street, 2nd. Floor, or at City Hall, public counter on the 2nd floor. Comments are due October 4.

Anchorage Hockey Association is looking for kids, ages 4-17 interested in playing hockey. Scholarships are available details are on the web at the RCCC site and in the newsletter.

The Railroad Commuter Rail study will be available on Sept. 10th Public hearings will be scheduled for October 3. Contact: Wendy Lindskoog Director External Affairs at 265-2498 or via email at lindskoogw@akrr.com.

The Intertie project between Kenai and Anchorage is moving forward. This is an issue to pay attention to as lines, once they reach the muni may not be underground. Contact Barbara Weinig with questions.

Representative Bunde:

Competency testing – Rep Bunde has asked the State Board of Education to draft regs to allow for waivers for students who come late in their school careers to Alaska schools. Regulations are being considered on an appeals process for students who fail the exam and may not receive a high school diploma. Hearings are scheduled for October 4. contact: shiel_box@eed.state.ak.us
STIP (Statewide Transportation Improvement Projects) capital planning process is moving forward for the 2004-2006 time period. This is a Federal transportation planning process. Input is required by October 3. Contact: www.dot.state.ak.us/external/state/state_wide/planning/transplan.html for more information. This process applies for state-funded projects outside of AMATS. (Potter to Peters Creek is within AMATS)

Representative Green: The Western States and Canada Energy conference has been scaled back due to the recent events of September 11, 2001.

Assembly Representatives Shamberg and Tremaine

- Redistricting does not affect the areas that Tremaine and Shamberg represent.

- Port Development Study and Knik Arm Crossing hearing is coming up.
- MOA has recommended water line extension to South Anchorage to follow the proposed Bragaw extension alignment.
- MOA is changing 2 hour free parking zones in downtown to metered parking.
- New junk car towing contract is in place. For further information or to report junk cars, call APD at 786-8500.
- New Fines and Fees schedule: The Assembly will have public hearings on Oct 16. contact the MOA Clerk's office at 343-4300 for specific fee information.
- MOA provided 128,000 for worker training to the Seafood Processing Plan.
- MOA approved liquor license for Fred Meyer on Abbot and Lake Otis with limitations on external signage and advertising.
- New drunk driving limits are now in effect, consistent with national limits.
- New MOA employee contract occurred with no bad feelings and a modest increase in the pay scale.
- P&Z passed a new park plan to create ballfields within Bicentennial Park. This will now be considered by the Assembly. Comments included recommendation that the Assembly prohibit the consumption of alcohol and should consider public access/traffic and prevent exclusive use by Little League
- Klatt Road fields are going ahead and a traffic study of Klatt Road was requested.

Concern was raised about the misuse of Storck Park by permittee on August 4 – vehicle damage to grass, overnight camping, use of park beyond the 8 AM – 10 PM permitted time period, with noise at midnight. Dick Tremaine will follow up with Dept. of Parks since Barbara Weinig has had no response to her complaint.

The rewrite of Title 21 will most likely involve the use of an outside consultant (~\$100,000) and be funded for 2002. Reminder to Shamburg and Tremaine of importance of near term Hillside District Plan.

LRSA protection legislation has passed.

Rabbit Creek Greenbelt Trail Project.

Nancy Pease presented a brief summary of the proposed trail project and pointed out the lack of connectivity between the 120 acres greenbelt along Rabbit Creek to the east and the 20 acre parcel adjacent to Buffalo on the western edge of the greenbelt. The platted easements along two lots between these two greenbelts were explained. The owners of the lots were unaware that any platted easements existed on their property. The residents of Cannon Road would like verification from the municipality on the status of these easements.

Other questions and answers:

Q. Why does trail have to follow stream, concern was voiced about impact to salmon.

A. Trail doesn't currently follow the stream and would not follow the stream. The edge of the greenbelt isn't practical.

Q. Concerns were voice regarding privacy by the homeowners along Canon Road. They moved there for privacy.

Q. Canon Road residents do not want to mix foot traffic with vehicular traffic.

Q. Residents don't want vehicles parking on Canon Road because it would block access by emergency vehicles.

Q. It was stated that the 20 acre greenbelt parcel is a wetland and may not be suitable for a trail.

Q. Concerns were voiced about motorized users accessing non-motorized trails. Canon Road homeowner has hill built right on property line.

Q. Concern by Canon Road homeowner that small children would not be safe. Currently they can be outside without supervision. That would end if trail users come through.

Q. Does the community want a trail in Greenbelt? Across the 20 acre parcel? Whose property is this? Where did the idea for the trail come from?

A. The Anchorage Trails plan. Yes neighbors in the area want a trail. They feel they do not have access to public greenbelt as it is and are reluctant to use Canon Road.

Q. What is the set-back from a salmon stream? Minimum 25 feet. Some thought the COE required 65 feet.

Q. Is it necessary to do anything with the western 20 acres?

Further discussion regarding the merits and negative aspects of the proposed trail continued.

Resolution of the discussion was:

1. Residents of Canon Road are going to go back, survey the area, identify potential alternatives as well as examine realistic potential uses of the 20 acres greenbelt parcel in light of its physical and environmental characteristics.
2. The RCCC will send a letter to the municipality asking for clarification of the status of the platted easements on the lots between the 120 acre parcel and the 20 acres parcel.
3. Work will continue on the trail as planned in the eastern 120 acre parcel as it is a viable project in and of itself.

It was moved (Pease) and seconded (Weinig) that RCCC write a letter to the Municipality asking Right of Way enforcement to investigate the closing of 140th street in the area of Buffalo and DeArmoun and remove the barrier if appropriate. Motion carried 8-0.

It was moved (Pease) and seconded (Weinig) that RCCC write a letter to DOT requesting that a crossing be created at the end of the bike path on DeArmoun (as part of the DeArmoun phase 1 upgrade) to provide connectivity to residents on the south side of DeArmoun. Motion carried 8-0.

The minutes from August were approved. Motion Sell, Second Van Flein, Passed 8-0.

A resolution requesting that the campus of the South Anchorage High School be closed during the school day was introduced. Discussion focused on:

1. Providing lunch options for students.
2. 6 1/2 hours may be too long for students to be in one place.
3. Analogy was made to adult work days.
4. Safety issues were discussed.
5. Impact on neighborhoods, kids smoking, drugs, poor behavior.
6. Recent high school graduates in the group pointed out that this is in reality a small percentage of students and that if they can't go off campus to do these things they will just do them on school property.

Motion to approve the resolution with deletion of reference to distance to Huffman, made by Pease, Second by Kutzer. Motion passed 8-0.

Two additions to the Trails and Recreation Committee include:

John Dittman, 345-1238

Bob Rasmussen. 348-0438 or r.a.Rasmussen@att.net