

Rabbit Creek Community Council Board Meeting
Rabbit Creek Community Church, Snowshoe Ln & Rabbit Creek Road
April 11, 2002

Call to Order: Dianne Holmes opened the board meeting at 7 pm. Other Board members present were: Ky Holland, Josh Peirce, Greg Ross, Jo Utic, Donna Van Flein, Art Geuss, Carol Fries, Vivian Mendenhall, Nancy Pease, and Jess Grunblatt.

Dianne invited the audience to look at the correspondence, case file materials, and other reports on the table and comment if desired.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer's report--Greg Ross- 96 paid members which means 19 people are required for a general meeting. Not having 19 present, a board meeting was called.

There is \$440.19 in the bank, and this past month we paid out \$300 to the church as a contribution for allowing us to meet there, \$80 to the post office for our box and \$56.42 for miscellaneous copying and supplies.

Motion by Jo with a second by Vivian to approve the treasurer's report. Passed unanimously.

Motion - Minutes: The March '02 minutes were approved unanimously.

Legislative Reports: Aides from Rep. J. Green, Rep. C. Bunde, and Sen. J. Cowdery were present for the teleconference legislative report. Questions from those attending were taken including:

- Question from RCCC - Progress on a fiscal plan? Response from Sen. Cowdery's aid... Sen. Cowdery does not think any new taxes are necessary because of the increasing price of oil and the total reserves that state has in various accounts. He estimates 7.9 before all reserves would run out. The audience offered various ideas and reactions to this response.
- Question from RCCC - Will action be take on subsistence in light of the Anchorage vote? Response from aides... Anchorage vote will have not effect.

Janice Shamberg provided the council an update on Assembly activities and an opportunity for questions. Redistricting, and Mr. Whittle's election were current pressing issues.

Audience Concerns

Bob Miller asked if the year-end survey had been tabulated yet (not quite) and if anyone knew if the Chugach State Park access plan was completed.

Announcements on actions this past month:

- 2002-025 - Land Clearing Ordinance - P/Z paid attention to RCCC letter and testimony. The issues will continue to come up as we struggle to avoid development by creep.
- 2002-071 Abbreviated Plats Ordinance—P/Z considered RCCC's concern on this issue and extended the time between which developers can come back to plat 8 lots without a public hearing. The time was extended from two to four years.
- 2001-062 - Ministorage - Next meeting may 6. Past resolutions need to be restated since the P/Z forgets old testimony. **Motion (Carol/Greg)** RCCC will support the new Taku-

Campbell CC resolution by referencing our past letter and our focus on landscaping.
Passed unanimously.

Planning Issues for Board Action:

- **S-10912 - Potter Creek Development** - This development is in an area that had a master plan but it has been ignored and as a result the variance requests are offered without a context of area wide development. **Motion (Ky/Carol)** - The RCCC opposes the variance for cul de sac length until concerns about pedestrian access, circulation, vegetation, and related recreational/pedestrian infrastructure issues are addressed. RCCC requests that a Master Plan be developed with circulations plans, in the absence of a district plan. Jess will develop a response letter. Passed unanimously.
- **Hillside District Plan** - A joint resolution is being developed for approval by the various hillside community councils. Nancy presented the resolutions and an update on various Community council support efforts. Carol said HALO approved the resolution. **Motion (Carol/Vivian)** The RCCC endorsed the resolution on the hillside district plan with a title change to read that it will be from all the signing groups. Passed unanimously.
- **S-10903 - Vacation of 140th @ Buffalo.** The city is not supporting a vacation. Action by the board was delayed during the evening waiting for Mr. Little. **Motion (Art/Nancy)** The RCCC opposes vacation in order to protect future park access. We will support mitigation steps to reduce problems the landowner may have until a final plan is complete. Passed unanimously.

Special Presentation - James Armstrong - Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS).

Mr. Armstrong provided information on the current FFY 2001-2003 Transportation Improvement Program projects. The TIP funds about 85% of all transportation improvements in the Anchorage and Chugiak/Eagle River areas. Funding is primarily from the US DOT, with a state general fund match. Similar to the local Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the TIP prioritizes and describes the capital projects to be completed in the coming years. The TIP is developed with other capital improvement programs like the Municipality's CIP, and the statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

Amendment #5 of the TIP is being developed for the current project list and a new set of TIP projects will be developed in the summer of 2003. The council discussion focused on various aspects of how a community council can become more involved in the process of developing, submitting, and prioritizing transportation and related trail projects. Important elements of this include piggy-backing a project with others, sending resolutions by CCs to AMATS Policy Committee, and understanding that the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) drives the TIP. Currently there is significant weight put on finishing projects on the needs list vs. developing a new list and losing support for projects started, but not finished. The next TIP update will focus on finishing current projects already started, and then existing items on the existing list of needs. The TIP focuses only on projects that can be funded; it is not a wish list.

The next update to the LRTP starts at the end of 2002 and we should start by reviewing the needs already listed and use the LRTP update as an opportunity to start nominating new projects. Projects are nominated to the AMATS Policy Committee and are scored according to a criteria that Mr. Armstrong will send us (transportation and trails.) Weight is given to the breadth of

support from other groups and coalitions of supporters. AMATS may not take any new 03 nominations in favor of finishing the current items listed. Councils can participate in project planning by attending the open houses that consultants hold.

Mr. Armstrong noted that work is also progressing on emergency egress from the hillside based on special funding. This planning is including long-range assumptions about housing development, and transportation services. RCCC requested to have the opportunity to review these assumptions and perhaps participate in developing them. RCCC also requested information on whether we could use some of the funding to help start the Hillside District Planning (HDP) process. John Spring may be doing a traffic/density modeling study with these funds. Nancy and Carol believed such a study should be done as part of the HDP. These special funds would need to be spent within two years.

Additional follow up with staff on trails projects and excavation of the DeArmoun upgrades to reduced the cost of a trail crossing at 140th will be made by the council.

Land use Actions and Discussion

- RCCC request for New Seward Highway upgrade to move the highway outside of the railroad tracks along Potter Marsh was not supported.
- CIP Project List for 2002
 - Dianne distributed to board members, surveys and information on previous requests for CIP activities, asking the board members to help her develop an updated list to submit.
 - CIP request for the Old Seward highway south of Rabbit Creek will focus on rehabilitation, safety, pedestrian facilities, lower speed, with design characteristics consistent with local character and Potter Marsh.
- Requests for green belt acquisition by watershed could be offered (Potter Marsh, Little Rabbit Creek, Little Survival Creek, and Rabbit Creek).
- Dianne asked that e-mails be sent to her with ideas and recommendations. She will prepare a file report due 4/18 and provide a copy to the board.
- The DOT permit for planting flowers at the Overpass is in process.
- Expect to see an article in the Anchorage Daily News regarding the greenbelt project.

Motion to Adjourn: (Art/Ky) Passed unanimously.