

Rabbit Creek Community Council Meeting Minutes for Thursday, August 10, 2017

Location: Rabbit Creek Community Church Basement

Board Roll Call - Present: Adam Lees Chair, Keith Guyer, David Sterling, Bert Lewis, Janie Dusel, Phil Fortner

Excused: Nancy Pease, Ky Holland, Joan Diamond, Pat Abney, Alternate: Mindy Willis

Board Member Chair - Adam Lees - opened the meeting at 7:09pm, declared a General Membership meeting.

- **Motion Bert Lewis & 2nd Jane Dusel** - To approve the agenda, with modifications to add Potter Subdivision Review.
- **Motion Jerry George & 2nd Bert Lewis** - July Meeting Minutes motion to approve. Dianne Holmes asked for correction sent to secretary. Motion passed with corrections.
- Attendance - Total 25 people in attendance tonight. 14 voting members in attendance, so General Membership Meeting.

Announcements & Legislative Reports:

- **Assembly Members** -
 - Suzanne LaFrance – Joshua Spring - Representing Suzanne LaFrance our assembly member for RCCC area - Assembly Rep 907-793-0087 email address: spring.joshua.a@gmail.com here tonight to listen and to let everyone in district 6 has to know that they have a contact with the MOA Assembly. No real issues to discuss. Suzanne LaFrance contact info: Phone: (907) 351-7199, Voicemail: (907) 343-4122, E-mail: LaFranceS@muni.org
 - John Weddleton – Arrived and participated. Getting married in 2 weeks. \$20 mil shortfall at MOA, how would you do it? Most departments have made 2 cuts over past years. Being asked to cut again. Sullivan Arena has money problems. Ideas for income being investigated: Cut costs, put in AstroTurf if Dome is not resurrected, other ideas being considered. Police Chief Executives received 30% raise last Tuesday. Described the reasoning behind it. Municipal Health Clinic for MOA employees is being developed, expect to get \$10 mil savings over 3 years.
- **State Representatives**
 - Cathy Giessel & Jennifer Johnston not present tonight.
- **Anchorage School Board**
 - Andy Holloman – not present.

People not on Agenda Wishing to Be Heard

- Dimitri Shein – Running for Congress, House of Representatives, introduced himself.
- Dianne Holmes – Rabbit Creek flower spot at Seward Highway entry. Have a similar situation concerning Rabbit Creek Greenbelt for RCCC to write letter to Mayor requesting a place to store the tools. Dianne has letter written, provided copy as follows:

When volunteers tended a flower garden at the RC overpass, the water pump, hose and barrels were kept at the Huffman fire station and where water was put into the barrels to water the flowers. An Eagle Scout built a large wooden box to hold the equipment.

A similar situation will soon be needed to store tools to maintain the RC greenbelt trails because the current 'manager' will be retiring... It has been suggested that the RC fire station #10 would be a good central location for the volunteers as they work from any of the 5 trail heads.

Station 10 personnel recommend that the Council write a simple letter to the mayor and fire chief suggesting the station store the tools.

Motion: The RCCC has supported the construction and maintenance of the RC Greenbelt trails for 16 years. While long-term volunteers have cared for the tools that are necessary to maintain the trails, these volunteers are retiring and a central location is needed where a new generation of volunteers can access them easily... FS #10 is close to several of the trail heads from which volunteers will conduct their work.

The RCCC requests consideration for keeping the greenbelt trail tools at FS#10 in a covered box that can remain outdoors.

- **Motion Dianne Holmes 2nd Keith Guyer** – RCCC to send letter to Mayor's Office. Motion passed unanimously.

Presentations –

- **No Presentations tonight.**

Reports/Consent Agenda

- **Chair's Report** – Adam Lees – Reported on activities. Nice summer. There are a few letters pending. Rezone letter was sent. Repair the Old Seward Hwy along with sewer pipe repair. Donations to church for use of their basement for the summer. Collections taken by passing the hat. Collected \$125.
 - **Motion Bert Lewis & 2nd Janie Dusel** - To donate \$150 to church for the use of basement for monthly meetings. No objections. Motion passed.
- **Treasurer's Report:** - Keith Guyer - For June - \$315.45 savings + \$269.55 checking = \$585.00 total.
- **Communications** – David Sterling & Mindy Willis – No activity. Meeting back at Golden View Middle School next month.
- **Correspondence** – Vivian Mendenhall and Bert Lewis – Minor activity this month.

- **Transportation and Land Committee** – No report tonight.
- **Outreach** – Jane Dusel – Working to get social media for RCCC. Make sure your email is on the sign-in sheet and they will get a report out to all on the list.
- **FCC Report** – Mindy Willis – FCC is out for summer.
- **HALO** – Mike Kenney – HALO met. Mike did not attend, no report.

Ongoing Business

- **Alaska Railroad Crossing at Rabbit Creek Rifle Range Horn Blowing During the Night When Gate is Closed** - Jerry George: In 1914 Alaska RR said everyone is going to want to cross our tracks. Requested that Congress pass a bill that states anyone who wants a crossing needs to pay for it themselves. That became law. RC Rifle Range owned by ADF&G, who also needs to maintain it. Concern about horn blowing in early mornings. Years ago, \$1 mil made quiet zones in parts of South Anchorage, but not all crossings of South Anchorage. Many areas have quiet zone, no horn blowing, but crossings with alternative safety devices. RCCC made request many years ago for ARR to fix up the RC Rifle Range Crossing. ARR refused to help. ADF&G said same thing, since they spend money on fish & game things, not railroad crossings. Agencies keep pointing fingers at each other. RCCC tried again 2008. In 2017, different people in power now. Current various bureaucracy folks have made commitments to help. If the local community makes a formal request, then the railroad is required to do certain things. Jerry has resolution and letter that would be the trigger that needs to be pulled. The letter is what will start the process. ARR has numerous reasons why they are not responsible for crossing upgrades. Need a resolution and letter from RCCC to the Mayor, who will forward to ARR, DOT&PF, and other affected parties, requesting action. Placing a Big Fat Rock, as mentioned last month, is not a correct solution due to regulations. The request is for horn not to be used at any time. Cross arms and bells and lights that come down when train goes past. Tim Sullivan ARR Rep was in the audience. Tim advised if someone is on the tracks the engineer blows the horn, quiet zone or no quiet zone. Once the request gets to the right people, a study will be performed making recommendations for design of a quiet zone. There is a sight distance issue in the area to be considered. There is a process for ARR to study the request. Depending upon the solution, cost \$10k to \$200k. Directional horns on a pole often work well. Ocean View north crossing is a quiet zone.
- **Motion Bert Lewis 2nd Keith Guyer** - To forward the Jerry George letter to the City of Anchorage Mayor's Office and Assembly Representatives. Motion passed.
- **Potter Heights Rezone** - Dianne Holmes HLB presentation 17 acres in Potter Valley. Suggested it would have been wise to wait a month to make the request. Found out that there used to be parks suggested at either end of the area. When re-zone comes up, some feel good opportunity to rezone to PR. Huffman & Lake Otis now has housing development going in, where it could have been a park, if acted upon at the proper time. Suggest re-zone of a part of the area as open space and park. Recommended to add to what was passed last month that HLB include those portions as dedicated park land. Janie Dusel – expensive to ask for rezone for one parcel much less 3 parcels. Area is outside of Parks & Rec service area. Only re-zone, not a re-plat, so no survey would be performed. John Weddleton – dedicated park land can be used by MOA for other things. Having it zoned PR helps. But since it is outside the Park & Rec service area, he cannot support.
- **Motion Keith Guyer 2nd Janie Dusel** - Rezoning of two parcels to PR. Vote results 4 for – 4 against – 2 abstain Motion did not pass.

New Business – Items as May Arise from the Floor

- **Rabbit/Creek/Old & New Seward Intersections Adjacent to Freeway Request** - Adam Lees advised that a woman asked for this to be issue to be discussed, but was not present tonight. Wreck at the Southbound New Seward Off Ramp onto Old Seward intersection last week. DOT&PF not interested in changing because of funding issues. Roundabout or other design suggested. Hardly any pedestrians in the area. Suggestion to make the area a safety zone where headlights on at all times. Audience made several suggestions. DOT&PF did a study 2 years ago with public comment presentation at Zoo. There was a chosen design for that intersection where southbound traffic on Old Seward would move over into their own lane allowing the left turning vehicles to have their own south bound lane. Seemed like a good idea.
- **Motion Judy Michael & 2nd Keith Guyer** – Table the issue until September meeting.

Wrap up assignments

- As stated above. Board got together after the meeting to discuss letter writing responsibilities and assignments.

Motion to adjourn by Keith Guyer & 2nd Janie Dusel – Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.