

## **Rabbit Creek Community Council Meeting Minutes for Thursday, September 11, 2025**

### **FINAL**

**Location:** internet Zoom Meeting only

Board Roll Call – Present: Tim Alderson (Chairman), Mike Malvick (Vice-Chair), Matt Blakeslee (Treasurer), Amanda Doughty, Grace Johnston, Judy Michael, Ann Rappoport, John Riley, Justin Veit. Absent: Nancy Pease, David Sterling

1. **Chair Tim Alderson called the meeting to order** at 7:05 with 6 and later total of 9 Board members present and over 8 others for a Quorum and General Meeting. Tim provided a land acknowledgement – Rabbit Creek Community Council (RCCC) sits on the unceded lands of the Dena'ina Athabaskan people and we are grateful to them and to be able to have these meetings on these unceded lands. Zoom advised the meeting was being recorded.

**September agenda** was shared and there were no additions or changes.

**July 24, 2025, Minutes:** had been shared. Ann Rappoport Moved/Grace Johnston 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve after correcting spelling of Mike Malvick's name and a couple punctuation/grammar updates. Minutes were approved by voice/thumbs up vote with no substantive changes.

2. **Tim Alderson, Chair's report:** Followed Safer Seward Highway (SSH) and Transit Supportive Development Overlay (TSDO) issues over summer. Both were on Monday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> Planning & Zoning Commission meeting. Tim attended/testified with comments from RCCC's LUC mtg that were approved at RCCC's July mtg. Re SSH – Design Team presented the Context Sensitive Design report for a 4-lane divided hwy. PZC soundly rejected that proposal. It's a complicated project with lots of stakeholder input, including from RCCC. Project scope and estimated cost of about \$1.4 Billion has been overwhelming. Design Team was surprised by the outcome. Desire is for the project to go back to drawing board. Positive point – during discussion by Commissioners, one of the Commissioners specifically said, if you want to look at the problems with your project, you need to look at the letter from the RCCC as it thoroughly goes through those. Validates that our letters are read and provided valuable feedback that PZC used.

Tim also testified as Chair on TSDO re need to maintain neighborhood character and not throw out all setbacks, design, while recognizing need for more housing. Advocated doing pilot projects as rec'd in 2040 Plan, not this wholesale change to the overall Muni. PZC voted to table action until their Oct mtg when they'll take additional public input. Muni now looking at dividing this into two separate ordinances. Tim doesn't think it will be ready for another month or two beyond that given public outcry about the issue.

**Matt Blakeslee, Treasurer's Report:** \$1826 in our bank account. People can donate to RCCC via a PayPal link ([paypal.me/RCCC2024](https://paypal.me/RCCC2024)) or in person at next mtg.

3. **Persons wishing to be heard on non-agenda items:** Vivian Mendenhall: Received a fake announcement that the meeting was at noon – assessment was that she'd been hacked.

4. **New Business and Time Critical Action Items:** none this month

5. **Updates from Elected Officials:**

Luca for AK Representative Ky Holland: Legislature has convened Special Task Force on Education to make recommendations on future of education funding for AK.

[Edfundtaskforce@akleg.gov](mailto:Edfundtaskforce@akleg.gov) is accepting comments, mtgs will be 1 pm Oct 30; 1 pm Nov 17. Ky is on Seward Hwy – Dimond Project Task Force. Muni is conducting survey on Wildfire policy:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe0E3Q5YKljMwD-IX0rPtK1m6lQljFGhEOjYoFJs\\_7Hv8Syig/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe0E3Q5YKljMwD-IX0rPtK1m6lQljFGhEOjYoFJs_7Hv8Syig/viewform)

Ky's Entrepreneurship week: <https://akew.org/>

Candidates for Office:

**Rachel Blakeslee is running for School Board in April.** Has been involved in education for a long time, she taught in Title 1 schools for 3 years (Outside), has remained involved as education advocate, particularly as crises have hit Anchorage schools. Daughter started kindergarten this year and soon received news that Bear Valley was slated for closure. Challenges with funding from State, but there are still a lot of changes that can or can't be made with policies from the School Board. She's a concerned parent! Will run for either Andy Holleman or Dave Donley's seats – both are termed out this year. This Sunday is her kick-off fundraiser. <https://www.blakesleeforschoolboard.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/share/174BrWDEtk/> Email: [blakesleeforschoolboard@gmail.com](mailto:blakesleeforschoolboard@gmail.com)

6. **Old Business:** Tim already discussed SSH & TSDO

Neighborhood welcome sign – work continues.

Elected officials able to join meeting later:

Update from AK Senator Cathy Giessel: her next coffee mtg is 9-10 am, Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, Kaladi Brothers off Huffman; also, 9-10 am, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> at SteamDot off O'Malley. Newsletter reports on Legislative Finance Division reviews of our fiscal challenges. Have \$130 mill surplus but Gov vetoed some things that will have to be paid in Jan, plus fine on education disparity to pay. Decrease in funding from federal govt related to Medicaid – State doesn't have ability to cover that with current financial structure which mandates dividend. How much longer do we want to short fund services that everyone depends on to keep handing out a dividend? Both Commonwealth North and Northern Forum are considering this question in listening sessions and taking public input.

-Tim asked about Cathy's proposal to restructure Permanent Fund (PF) to get rid of Earnings Fund (EF) Account because it complicates maximizing earnings from the fund. PF Trustees have been recommending for years that EF be combined into the corpus. Commonwealth North is asking people about (1) that, and (2) what we should now be doing with the dividend. What if Dividend was about \$400 and we used the rest of the money to invest in education, infrastructure, etc. Re the Resolution needed to put this on the ballot – House is reluctant to put this forward; Senate is fully in favor of it.

-Tim asked what Cathy is hearing about SSH project: she said nothing now, ADOT is having problems getting their STIP promoted.

-Matt asked about future of King Cove Road: Cathy doesn't know other than feds have cut many projects.

-Rachel asked about Defined Benefit Bill: Cathy and Chuck Kopp are two legislators carrying that. They are pursuing public info with multiple public mtgs scheduled around State. Better chance than ever to pass this, but challenge is whether Dunleavy will sign it or let it pass without signing. There is a 1-pg 'pro' doc on this. Employer, employee, and retirees will all contribute to the fund, which cannot fall below 90% funding. State Actuary has said this is a very solid pension plan which takes away argument that this will cost too much; it will be a savings in ultimately allowing people to remain employed in AK. She will share the 1-pg list of pros to send us to post on RCCC website.

Update from Andy Holleman, Anchorage School Board: Did not know final budget until well into Aug. due to Governor's veto that was ultimately overruled, and potential that Feds were going to pull back some funding. Result is funding will be similar to last year, but a little less due to inflation. Secondary staffing is about what was budgeted, are shorter in elementary and classrooms will be larger than desired. Definite need for Defined Benefit situation – we continually lose people after they've worked for only 4-5 yrs. More difficult to fill positions later in year. Are putting cell phone policy in place at all schools. There will be Secondary classrooms with over 40 students, some elementary classes with over 30 or high 20s when really need low 20s.

-Tim asked about other quantifiable impacts of last-minute funding we've faced in recent years.

-Rachel asked whether District/School Board was going to introduce another list of schools to close this year. Andy expects that as long as numbers stay low. In elementary schools it's difficult to staff efficiently when there is only one section per grade. Goal is to continue closing neighborhood schools. There's a cost factor tho' because smaller schools receive more state funding than larger schools. As long as schools remain less than 200, there will be proposals to close schools. It's not just underutilized schools, but trying to keep communities together, not have real long bus rides, etc. Re Bear Valley, the student numbers were not that high, but the building was utilized by other groups too – e.g., after school care, the Bear Valley Community Association. Re Tim's question about whether Bear Valley would be targeted for closure again, they had mis-calculated the length of bus time for students in winter and the issue of other uses of the school.

-Matt: would School Board ask District to not propose BV this year? Andy said the School District did start to walk it back even before the School Board did. Matt asked that they do more analysis before they recommend because it's so stressful for families.

-Tim noted the many LRSAs and RRSAs that care for roads all with different plans/schedules for road closures which further complicates issues of school closures.

-Grace asked about date for next school closures list: Andy expects it before Thanksgiving.

## **7. Committee reports:**

John Riley, FCC report from Aug mtg:

\*New FCC bylaws posted – changes number of people on FCC Board for 2026.

\*Muni looking for improvement on CIP submission process – Ann will provide comments for RCCC!

\*Engineering presented on Design Criteria Manual – standards by which they design Muni ROW on city streets, logos, how things look. Moving away from bus pull-outs in new road construction, so buses will stop in traffic lanes. Problem has been city buses getting off schedule because they get stuck in pull-out and can't get back into traffic. Comments due Oct. 10.

\*Much disc on TSDO. RCCC spoke in support of earlier proposals, now controversial. One speaker gave example of tax abatement zone development with high scale homes (\$700K) which isn't affordable, unless consider that affordable owners move into these, opening up affordable homes.

\*FCC ED Arianna Bellizzi is spearheading "Engage Anchorage with the Better Public Meetings Process" to improve public meetings – make it easier for people to speak. Will help develop score card available by QR codes to make it easier for people to speak effectively at Community Council meetings. Eventually implement it at Muni Assembly mtgs, see:

<https://communitycouncils.org/download/fcc-agenda-2508-presentations/?wpdmdl=11331&refresh=68c3a2c3164061757651651>

Rachel re Education Committee: One other funding issue – State Superintendent Deena rec'd change to 'Local Contribution' rule. There's a cap on how much each District can accept from their Muni/Borough. Proposed change would now include in-kind contributions which raises problems – would likely result in significant cuts, could mean \$15 mill cut to Anchorage and \$8 mill cut to Juneau school districts and locals would be prevented from making up the cuts. E.g., money raised by a bake sale, or ADOT road plowing in front of a school could count as local contributions within that cap. State Board will vote on this, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>. Education Support group has drafted emails for people to submit.

Judy re HALO: Dealing with local problems where there's standing water on road, going into basements. Wildfire meeting had good presentations; John Glover doing good job covering many issues. Recommends we ask him to come talk to RCCC sometime.

#### Announcements:

9/20 – 5<sup>th</sup> annual RC Neighborhood Run/Walk at 4 pm, corner of Loc Loman & Twilight, potluck to follow.

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of formation of Anchorage Muni – several events, including Neighborhood Flick Fest, including one in our area Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> at Barb Farmerie's house. Register at [akflickfest.com](http://akflickfest.com) to get the address and join neighbors in viewing "Princess Bride."

Mike Malvick – re issue of kids on minibikes making too much noise and others posting falsely on social media. Need to report problems to the police, not on social media. Some of the perpetrators have been apprehended.

Judy: remember 9/11.

**Next meeting: October 9<sup>th</sup>, hybrid at Goldenview and via Zoom**

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 after Matt Moved/Mike 2<sup>nd</sup>, no objections.**