

Rabbit Creek Community Council

Meeting Minutes

February 11, 1999

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Meeting was called to order at 7.00 PM by President Scott Sell. Board Members present: Seppi, Fries, Gaines, Weinig, Grunblatt, Pease, Mendenhall, Ross. Eighteen persons signed the roster.

MOTION: Approve January 14 meeting minutes. (Pease/ 2nd Weinig) Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Approve January 20 Board Meeting minutes. (Gaines/ 2nd Weinig) Passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and CONCERNS: Town Meeting is scheduled March 11 at Chugiak High School on snowmachine issues.

Representatives Bunde, Cowdery, and Senator Parnell will host a Constituents' meeting February 13, 3-4pm at Hanshew Library.

Grasshopper Aviation reported possibility of using aircraft for Hillside fire suppression.

Vice President Weinig reported that, during the February 8 public hearing on the transmission-tower ordinance, GCI appeared to be the only company desiring commercial towers on private property. Planning and Zoning Board will issue recommendation after work session February 16.

LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE. Representative Bunde reported that economic summit participants concluded that the \$1.1B deficit was a serious challenge. Increasing oil price will simply delay State insolvency. Governor acknowledged that state spending requires reduction. Mark Hodgkins, Senator Ward's aide, reported an option of using the Permanent Fund to "endow" State government.

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LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE (cont.): Joint Resolution 3 was discussed: Any initiative would require a 2/3 vote instead of simple majority to pass. Concern was that natural-resource policy would be determined by "momentary majorities" and "ballot-box biology" if voter turnout is low.

Dianne Holmes advised that the time is right for a State-wide sales tax and no objection would be offered to an income tax. Representative Bunde replied that majority of constituents disagree.

Vivian Mendenhall reported belief that residents should be paying some taxes: how many states require neither income tax nor sales tax. Representative Bunde replied approximately 6 states require neither.

Brad Kutzer reported belief that everybody should bear the burden of a state tax. If current spending on education and social services is reduced, residents will pay later. Representative Bunde replied that no study proves direct correlation between money invested and success of social programs.

Dan Dadler, Senator Parnell's aide, reported that "overning" magazine cites Alaska's per-capita cost of government as highest in the nation. For example, 21 school districts receive no local support.

Nancy Pease objected to the concept of across-the-board percentage cuts. Food and medicine should be exempted from sales tax. Representative Bunde replied that a programmatic approach is preferred; one which evaluates merits of each program.

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LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE (cont.): Joel Gaines questioned the magnitude of the \$1.1B deficit and what appears to be an amateur-economist approach to resolving it while 1/3 of the budget is allowed to remain "off budget". Gaines suggested an audit firm such as Coopers-Lybrand or Price Waterhouse be commissioned to audit the total state budget and report with recommendations.

Vice President Weinig advised that DOT forwarded STIP ranking criteria to the Legislature. Any adjustment may adversely impact Anchorage's request coordination.

Senate Bill 49 (Mission and Measures) requires performance targets from state agencies. Objective is to achieve efficiency and effectiveness.

END TELECONFERENCE

Beverly Short reported on Citizens for Recycling, a volunteer group established in 1997 that advocates for city-wide recycling. Anchorage is estimated to recycle 13% of waste, Seattle 50%. The volunteer-staffed one-stop dropoff will end after February 13 because the volunteers are overwhelmed and the City has no incentive to assist.

Ed Conyers, Anchorage School District, reported review of the proposed Goldenview Elementary School project will be postponed until December 1999. Project implementation is not expected for 20 years. Discussion included members' concerns about ASD historical indifference to the need for traffic-impact analysis and the effect on the neighborhood of failure to perform TIA. Members' consensus was that ASD functioned as a real-estate developer and should be as responsive to community concerns as other real-estate developers.

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Other options such as collocation with Goldenview Middle School, trade with Heritage Land Bank for another site were discussed.

DISCUSSION: A letter questioning compliance of the January 14 RCCC election with the Bylaws was discussed.

MOTION: Pledge to follow procedures in future; certify January election. (Pease 2nd Ross)
Passed unanimously.

President Sell presented a letter from John Horn, DOT Director, advising that the Rabbit Creek Road-Goldenview intersection lighting scheme is governed by national standards. Compliance with operational standards is impossible if the number of light poles is reduced. Vivian Mendenhall reported on a fact-gathering meeting with 5 DOT representatives who were concerned about potential State liability if the lighting scheme failed to comply with national standards. Joel Gaines suggested that waivers may be granted from national standards if waiver criteria are met. Gaines suggested that DOT be requested to provide waiver criteria or explain what exempts similar junctions along the Parks, Glenn, and Seward Highways from similar lighting requirements. Consensus was to table discussion until the March meeting.

MOTION: Approve post-office box payment. Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Contribute \$300 to RCC Church. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Greg Ross reported \$1383.85

ADJOURNED