



## RABBIT CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 2010

NEWSLETTER

<http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/27.html>

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Recreation Observation

Conservation

### COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR:

Hi All,

It is back to school time; our September meeting will be held in the library at Goldenview Middle School. We appreciated the hospitality at the Rabbit Creek Community Church for the past three months.

We endured an August of rain and politics; both are necessary, if a little dreary at times. The rain will turn white and solid while the lucky ~~incumbents~~ candidates will be elected by the time we meet in November. This will give you time to consider joining the RCCC Board; our Board elections take place at our November 11 meeting.

### Items of Interest:

- The four Community Budget Forums took place in early August. At the meeting held at the Anchorage School District building there was overwhelming support for the current level of services even if it meant taxing to the cap.
- The Platting Board will meet October 6 to consider extending the preliminary plat for Canyon View LLC. Their proposed subdivision borders both sides of Little Rabbit Creek and is located east of Goldenview Dr. and south of Rabbit Creek road.
- HALO CANDIDATE'S FORUM at O'Malley's on the Green, October 7, 2010
- Points that Joan Diamond, Co-Chair of the Rabbit Creek Community Council brings out in her comments against the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for yet another liquor store in this area, at the former Baskins Robbins on Huffman next to McDonalds:

- Five other liquor stores within a mile, including: Oaken Keg & Tesoro at New Seward & Huffman, Value Liquor at Klatt & the Old Seward, and Holiday & Wine Styles both on the Old Seward near O'Malley.
- If approved, there will be three liquor stores within a block of each other on Huffman Rd.
- Once permitted as a liquor store, the location will never be anything else. This is why many Community Councils have put a moratorium on additional liquor stores.
- It is not in the best interests of public health & safety of

### NEXT MEETING:

Thursday September 9, 2010

Goldenview Middle School

*Rabbit Creek*

*Community Council*

*P.O. Box 112354*

*Anchorage, Alaska 99511*

### *RCCC 2010 Board Members:*

*Pat Abney*

*Joan Diamond Co Chair*

*Keith Guyer*

*John Isby*

*Mike Kenny Chair*

*Kyle Murphy*

*Patty Rothwell Treasurer*

*David Sterling*

*Dick Tremaine Secretary*

- the Hillside community to add a new package store license.
- Studies have shown that violence and crime increase with alcohol availability.
  - With a high density of liquor stores, competition tends to lower prices.
  - With a liquor store potentially open until 2am, there is added concern for increased drinking and driving.
- There are other public safety concerns with this location:
  - The strip mall does not have enough parking for the number of retail stores.
  - The owner of the small mall has a non-conforming building without enough parking for the number of retail owners.
  - The former Tap Root establishment was forced to move this last spring because of the lack of parking.

To make your opinion known on the addition of another liquor store, here is the link: <http://munimaps.muni.org/planning/pandzinput.cfm?caseNum=2010-113>

Be Well,

Mike Kenny

- ❖ There is still a standoff in the Campbell Creek Estuary. We need the Mayor to hear from the supporters of this project who want to see the property as a park. Please contact the [mayor's office](#) and let him know your thoughts on this important project. Pertinent information:
  - The property contains 1/2 mile of Campbell Creek, 25 acres of coastal wetlands and a coastal forest and provides access to the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge with its popular assortment of birds and other wildlife.
  - Great Land Trust has raised 6.8 of the 6.9 million dollars needed to purchase the park. There are no Municipal tax dollars going to this project.
  - Great Land Trust has raised the funds to pay for the cleanup of the property, develop a park plan, create a modest trailhead and small gravel trails, as well as monitor and addresses the conservation needs of the property annually.
  - The Alaska Department of Fish and Game have said they would manage the third of the property that is wetlands near Campbell Creek, further reducing costs.
  - Great Land Trust has partnered with the Municipality on numerous projects over the last 15 years including the purchase of 30 acres at the mouth of Fish Creek, on the coastal trail near Westchester Lagoon.
- [Anchorage Daily News Article](#)      [KTUU Article and Video](#)

## **RCCC---Agenda – Thursday September 9, 2010**

- ❖ Call to order and introductions
- ❖ Approval of previous minutes
- ❖ Treasurers report
- ❖ Announcements & Comments from the floor
  - 1. HALO Candidate Forum\_ October 7

### Legislative Reports

- ❖ State Legislators
- ❖ Assembly members

### Guest Speakers

### Ongoing Business

- ❖ Liquor License Assembly Comments **(ACTION ITEM)**
- ❖ Legacy Point
  - Forest Legacy
  - Great Land Trust
  - South Bank Potter Creek Trail
- ❖ Campbell Creek Estuary

### New Business

### Reports

- ❖ Neighborhood Association reports
- ❖ Federation of Community Council (FCC) report
- ❖ Limited Road Service Area (LRSA) reports

### **HALO:**

Regular HALO meetings take place the first Thursday of every month at the Holy Spirit Retreat Center, corner of Hillside & O'Malley, starting at 7:00 PM. HALO Link:

<http://www.anchoragehalo.org/index.html>

## **Minutes of Rabbit Creek Community Council Meeting August 12, 2010**

### **Rabbit Creek Community Church**

Minutes of Rabbit Creek Community Council Meeting, August 12, 2010

Rabbit Creek Community Church

Present: Mike Kenny, John Isby, Pat Abney, Patty Rothwell, Keith Guyer, Joan Diamond, David Sterling, Kyle Murphy, Dick Tremaine, and 8 additional members of the community present.

Meeting begun 7:06 pm, quorum present.

Phil Dziubinski, Independent candidate for State Senate P made a presentation of his views and experience.

Treasurer's report. Savings account at \$292.50, checking account at \$838.55 and 110 members.

- Motion to approve April minutes, moved Abney, second Rothwell, passed unanimously.

No Legislatures or Assembly members present.

Talbot Chang is seeking to open a liquor store at the former Baskin and Robbins off Huffman Road. He grew up in Anchorage. He took over Dimond Liquor eight years ago after its legal troubles and operated it successfully. He has competed against chain stores in the Sand Lake area and now operates two stores. They were able to turn it into a successful family operation which they still operate. The State of Alaska is offering another license and Talbot would like to open and operate an upscale store under the name Wine House in the Huffman area. He is seeking support from the RCCC to operate in the area. Audience members showed support for an independent operator but some concerns if sales of fortified wines, etc. were highlighted. Talbot said he was not interested in such products. He feels 100% ID checks will reduce attempts at underage purchases. He would like to keep hours similar to the Oaken Keg. He believes that a small liquor store is best able to compete against the chains on serve rather than price. He has not applied for a conditional use permit yet.

Mountain Air Drive had a public hearing at Planning & Zoning with some controversy raised about where it was on the priority list. There were a number of questions raised by the Committee that the project engineers were unable to answer. Discussion focused on the intersection with Rabbit Creek Road. There were also questions about traffic flow from the south and pedestrian use. The route included a \$2.9M bridge across a gorge and consequently not enough funds to fully build the project. One of the main reasons for the project is purported to be for fire egress but that only occurs when this road is joined to others yet to be designed. The consultants did not clearly communicate that there is a State grant for this section only and the intersection has always been scheduled as a separately funded piece. P&Z did not choose to approve the project until it was funded for its full length. There is some controversy about this

route versus others that have much support and additional benefits. The consultants have spent almost \$400,000 already on studies to this point from a grant of ~\$4.5M.

Beluga surveys of opportunity will be conducted in Cook Inlet and volunteers are being sought for training.

Bear Valley received a \$12,000 grant to upgrade Stork Park.

Work has been received that Legacy Point may be vulnerable to repossession by Berggren (prior owner). Community members are contemplating methods courses of action.

Old Lions Club building has had site repairs lately. BLM was contacted to understand what is going on with eviction of illegal occupation of property but BLM has not responded.

- Motion to reimburse \$85 to Diane Holmes for redo of RCCC banner by Abney, second Tremaine, passed unanimously. The banner was originally done for the 1992 Neighborhoods USA conference in Anchorage. NUSA is having the conference again in 2011 and RCCC will be able to proudly display its banner.

State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is seeking comments for projects and changes in priorities. Please see the DOT&PF website.

August 17 is wind energy convergence systems (Title 21) discussion at Assembly. The RCCC has no comments to date. While a 95' tower is currently allowed in residential areas this would present some guidelines to allow permitting (and tone down some of the possible noises, etc.) It also covers commercial operations.

RCCC received an inquiry as to the possibility of advertising in our newsletter. It was suggested that if we advertised we should first have a policy. It was noted that snail mail and email for community councils is mailed by the Federation of Community Councils using taxpayer dollars so some questions would have to be answered prior to a final decision by the RCCC. The FCC is being requested to investigate this concept.

- Motion to contribute \$25 to HALO to sponsor candidate forum made by Rothwell, second by Tremaine passed unanimously.

Mayor's office is holding public hearings on budget. Audience was divided randomly into groups for discussions which focused on where people wished to cut the budget or services. Last night's groups at school district overwhelmingly voted to tax to the cap and no cutting of essential services. This response seemed to be surprising to the consultants who repeatedly re-asked the same questions to be sure of the public's opinion. Sale tax did not seem to have high support while automobile and "sin" taxes had support.

- Motion to adjourn by Abney, second Diamond passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00.