

RABBIT CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

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

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COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR:

Hi All,

Our meeting this month falls on November 11, Veterans Day, an American holiday honoring military veterans. The declaration designating November 11 as the annual date, proclaimed it to be a day of celebration dedicated to the cause of world peace.

So we meet this month with honor for veterans in our hearts and the cause of world peace in our thoughts.

This meeting follows the general election; elections are the means by which each of us has a share in governance. It puts the we into "We the People". Ideally, we now come together and those elected work towards the common good of all Alaskans.

Our veterans did not sacrifice for the good of just some Americans.

This is also our RCCC election meeting and we will be grateful for your participation in our Community Council.

The RCCC Board has expressed its condemnation of the closure of Fire Station 10 to the Mayor and Assembly. This proposal by Mayor Sullivan threatens our lives and our property.

The Assembly held Public Hearings on the Budget at its regular meetings on October 26 & November 9. The Hearings will conclude at the Assembly's November 23rd meeting.

Other issues in the proposed budget: Reductions in firefighters beyond FS 10; Police reductions & less detectives; Tobacco Tax; Reduction of Dimond Mall Library; Eliminate MOA Anchor Rides funding; H&HS cuts; Service Pool summer closure;

At the hearing, everyone gets three minutes; please participate...

Be Well,

Mike Kenny

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday November 11, 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

Other Items of Interest:

- The Anchorage School District is hosting three community budget dialogue workshops. These will be similar to the Viewpoint dialogues the MOA sponsored in August:
 - 6-9pm Wednesday December 1 Clark Middle School
 - 6-9pm Thursday December 2 Hanshew Middle School
 - 1-4pm Saturday December 4, Gruening Middle School
- RSVP: www.asdk12.org/depts/budget or 742.4153
- HALO has formed a small committee to work towards understanding how the Administration plans to go about implementing aspects of the Hillside District Plan. The well water monitoring efforts and a Hillside wide Road/Drainage entity are two programs that must be clarified.
- The Official Street & Highway Program offered workshops and had an open house last week. This is the entity that classifies everything from expressways to country lanes and makes certain the proper right of way is determined and platted. There are a few planned roads in our area that are on the LongRangeTransportationPlan and thus in the purview of OS&HP.
- There is currently a wetlands delineation survey at the Legacy Point tract. The amount of wetlands may amount to 12% of the 104 acres and would be eligible for purchase by a conservation fund. A way to conserve the remaining acreage must be found if Potter Marsh is to be protected.
- The FCC is bringing a national convention of community councils to Anchorage May 25-28, 2011. Our RCCC banner of Mrs. Elmore's painting is proudly displayed at the FCC headquarters. The RCCC is interested in sponsoring a neighborhood tour for the delegates and will be looking for volunteers to help with planning.
- The Assembly denied a Conditional Use Permit to the Wine House, proposed for the old Baskin Robbins location on Huffman between the Seward Highways.
- 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>

RCCC---Agenda – Thursday November 11, 2010

- ❖ Call to order and introductions
- ❖ Approval of previous minutes
- ❖ Treasurers report
- ❖ Announcements & Comments from the floor

Legislative Reports

- ❖ State Legislators
- ❖ Assembly members

Guest Speakers

- ❖ Tim Spernak_Mental Health Trust Lands in the RCCC area

Ongoing Business

- ❖ Fire Station10 Status
- ❖ Legacy Point
- ❖ HDP_water well monitoring; roads & drainage; implementation
- ❖ Muni budget

New Business

- ❖ South Goldenview collector road; east & west options
- ❖ Host for FCC Neighborhood Tour

Reports

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

Election of the RCCC Board for 2011

Minutes of Rabbit Creek Community Council Meeting, 14 October 2010
Goldenview Middle School

Present: Joan Diamond, Patty Rothwell, David Sterling, Keith Guyer, Pat Abney, Kyle Murphy, John Isby

Joan Diamond leading the meeting in Mike Kenny's absence.

Meeting began 7:02 pm, quorum present.

Motion to approve June minutes, moved Abney second Murphy, passed unanimously.

Treasurers' report: Balance the same as last month, Savings 292.52, Checking \$755.35, 111 paid members.

Senator Con Bunde and Assembly Rep Jennifer Johnston present.

Senator Bunde expressed his appreciation for the RCCC's involvement in the legislative process over his tenure and thanked the RCCC for its feedback and direction.

Firefighters from Bear Valley Fire House present and there was discussion of the current budget proposal to close Engine #10, which would leave the Bear Valley Fire House unmanned except for one individual and a water tender truck.

Several council members expressed their dissatisfaction with the fact that Public Safety was being put at risk when the Municipality is not taxing residents up to the cap.

- It was resolved that the RCCC would draft a statement on the proposed closure of Engine #10.

Mayor's Office representative Cheryl Frasca distributed reports entitled *Citizens Guide to the Budget* and stated that even if the Municipality did tax to the cap, because of ongoing increases in salaries and benefits for Municipality employees, there would still be a \$6MM budget shortfall. She stated that the budget was still being formed and encouraged the public to attend the three assembly public hearings scheduled before the approval session. These hearings are scheduled for 26 October, 9 November and 23 November, before the approval session, scheduled for 7 December.

Announcements:

The Wine House Liquor Permit on Huffman was voted down by the Assembly. Assembly Rep Johnston reports that the assembly voted 9-2 to deny the permit. There was much feedback from the local council that the neighborhood is opposed to a liquor store on the south or residential side of Huffman Blvd. Similar requests for liquor licenses for Mapco and Walgreens have been denied in the past.

Mountain Air Drive upgrades -- updates are online at www.mountainairdrive.com and comments can be submitted for discussion in a December meeting.

Section 36 -- Comments have been submitted for the Master Plan.


Campbell Creek Estuary Park -- Greatland Trust and the Mayor's Office have reached an agreement and the project will go ahead.

New Business:

Goldenview Drive-Romania-Potter Valley Road connection -- Nancy Pease of the Planning and Zoning Commission was in attendance to discuss the project's status in the 2011 Capital Improvement Program. There was concern from the council as to the relative priority of this project versus the proposed road through Legacy Point to connect Goldenview Drive with the lower reaches of Potter Valley Road. It is felt that the Legacy Pointe road would be more likely to divert traffic from the Goldenview Drive/Rabbit Creek Road intersection and should be a higher priority.

- It was resolved that the council will look into whether doing the Goldenview-Romania-Potter Valley Road connection before the Goldenview-Potter Valley Road connection through Legacy Pointe would be out of step with the Hillside District Plan and Draft a statement on the issue.

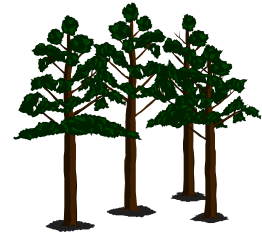
The call for adjournment was made by Abney, second Rothwell, at 8:00 PM



Rabbit Creek Community Council

P.O. Box 112354, Anchorage, AK 99511-2354

November 5, 2010



RE: Resolution of the Rabbit Creek Community Council regarding the 2011 MOA Budget to cut an Engine Company at Fire Station # 10:

- That Engine 10 remains in full service at FS 10.
 - Industry professionals recommended the relocation of FS 10 from the bottom to the top of Rabbit Creek Rd. in 1980.
 - This move led to safer, more efficient and faster response to fires and emergencies. This basic geographical fact is as true today as it was thirty years ago: fire engines cannot go uphill very fast, especially in winter.
 - Longer response times leads to greater risk of death.
 - FS 10 equipment is “chained up” all winter. It is the only FS to do so.
 - There is no direct route from either Huffman or O’Malley FS’s to the FS 10 service area
 - Given the dense developments in the FS 10 service area over the past thirty years, this closure puts safety and security at much greater risk.
 - There remains great concern over the immense amount of undeveloped, forested acreage and beetle killed spruce.
- In addition to increasing risk to life and property, eliminating Engine 10 will increase the costs to residents within the FS 10 service area and the municipality well in excess of expected savings.
 - ISO (Insurance Services Offices) is a private company that analyzes risk for insurance companies in basing their rates for cities throughout the United States.
 - Part of this rating system is based on an assessment of potential property loss due to fire and natural disasters, and therefore is heavily dependent on the ability of that area’s fire department to respond to those incidents.
 - In 2006, an ISO audit, the rating was changed from a Class 8 to a Class 2 (Class 1 has the lowest insurance rate; Class 10 the highest).
 - It took almost 10 years to achieve this insurance premium drop
 - If there is a raise to Class 3, premiums for a \$250,000 home may be increased by \$100 a year. Apply that to the number of homes and commercial structures affected by an increase in Municipality’s risk Class and the total will be over \$10 million a year, every year.

- Property values in the FS 10 service area will be lowered relative to other similar Hillside properties still served by a nearby Engine Company.
 - This will reduce property tax revenue to the Municipality, necessitating more layoffs or reduced services.
- We pay property tax for a number of services such as the APD and the AFD at the same mill rate as other properties in the municipality. Our usage rate is much lower and the overage in tax collections subsidizes other parts of the municipality. It is difficult to understand a life and death decision being made because we do not use as much as we pay for.

We ask for safety and security in equal measure to other citizens in the Municipality. Property owners in the FS 10 service area pay as much if not more than other MOA residents for fire and emergency services. Increasing response time will lead to increased property loss and more importantly, it increases our mortality rate.

This inequality will not be tolerated.

Mike Kenny
Chair, Rabbit Creek Community Council