

Rabbit Creek Community Council Meeting Minutes for Thursday, September 13, 2023

DS DRAFT

Location: Internet Zoom Meeting

Board Roll Call - Present: Ann Rappoport (Co-Chair), John Riley (Co-Chair), Keith Guyer (Treasurer), David Sterling (Secretary), Nancy Pease, Judy Michael, Matthew Blakeslee

Absent: Carl Johnson, Michelle Turner, Amanda Doughty, Mike Kenny

Board Member Co-Chair – Ann Rappoport and John Riley - Opened the meeting formally at 7:03 pm. Requested everyone to sign-in on Zoom. Determined 7 board members and a total of over 50 attendees, Declared a Quorum and General Meeting. Ann Rappoport described the Sign-In Method. RCCC follows Roberts Rules of Order. The attendance list is attached. Zoom advised of recording the meeting. Described methods to vote on issues for this meeting. People calling in on telephone will need to vote in the chat. Described voting eligibility, attendance of one prior meeting in past 12 months. Described Zoom protocol and instructions.

- **September Agenda – Motion to Approve by Keith Guyer & 2nd Judy Michael** – To approve the agenda as written. No objections. Approved.
- **July Meeting Minutes – Motion to Approve by Judy Michael & 2nd Keith Guyer**– To approve as written. No objections. Approved.
- **Treasurer Report** – Current report was Savings \$316.93 + Checking \$1,666.01 = \$1,982.94 available. \$210 received at July meeting. Outstanding debt encumbered for ongoing records scanning.

Announcements & Legislative Reports:

- **Assembly Members for RCCC Area -**
 - **Randy Sulte** – (907) 343-4121 - Randy.Sulte@anchorageak.gov – Went thru funded issues homeless and APD issues.
 - **Zac Johnson** - (907) 343-4122 - Zac.Johnson@anchorageak.gov – **Not Present.**
- **Representative Ladie Shaw** – Not present.
- **Senator Cathy Giessel** – Not present.
- **Anchorage School District** – Margo Belamy – Cell (907) 903-9820. Assigned to RCCC for this year at all meetings. ASD Board meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. Open to public comment. Quarter meetings with Assembly. Meeting recordings are online. School currently ongoing smoothly. Comments: Concern voiced about delayed start and how it affects workers who need to attend to their children and miss or are late for work. Margo advises that ASD has provided for child care services at the regular time, even though busing is not adjusted.

New Business and Old Business Requiring Action & Reports

- **Open Floor for Quick Comments** - No comments.
- **Safer Seward Highway** – Chris Hughes from HDR – Project Manager on Future Seward Highway Project: Rabbit Creek Road to Bird – Stakeholder Working Group meeting monthly. RCCC represented by Ann Rappoport and Nancy Pease. Started in 2012 as Windy Corner Project, but in 2018 thru 2022 morphed into larger area because Seward Highway is designated as Safety Corridor. Now a 20-mile segment. Main purpose is to remove the Highway Safety Corridor designation. Some tight corners and rock fall areas. Design Team looking at numerous alternatives, 3-lanes, 4-lanes, bike paths, recreational access needs, impacts to Chugach State Park, impacts to Turnagain Arm. Next steps are public meetings in December at various locations. Website: safersewardhighway.com – Questions & comments: Dianne Holmes concerned about access to rifle range, and other areas. Lots of diagrams by design team with no conclusions. Potter Marsh area being studied in great detail and no conclusions have been made yet. Lots of interest at Potter Valley Road full access. Railroad considering moving westward into Turnagain Arm at Potter Marsh. Main concern is to improve Safety. Lots of data about various types of crashes. Ideas include: Left turn lane at McHugh Creek, Beluga Point 3-lanes, etc. Cost is currently at \$500 million, but could exceed \$1 billion, with concern about how it might drain money away from

priorities on other projects in the bowl. Three major teams working on project. HDR is in charge of documents: 1) Communication Team for just that. 2) Environmental Team working on analysis and Environmental document. 3) Design Team - issues. Lead for each Team and Chris Hughes is lead of all 3-Teams. Working with many DOT Teams on all phases. Question about no final budget at this time. Reason being, this project is located next to an ocean, railroad, State Park with challenging terrain, and public comments with needs in the corridor, that all weighs into the ultimate cost. For example, Potter Valley folks spoke up about not wanting to have to drive to Rabbit Creek Road interchange to get onto the Seward Highway. Public input at Windy Corner and sheep viewing might mean valuable comments about that design. All valuable input.

- **South Potter Marsh Improvements** – Sue Rodman ADF&G – Improvements schedule slightly pushed back. Some work will happen next year. Toilets, crosswalk, boardwalk, other issues will happen later in the project. Toilet scope in question. Concern about the school bus parking and routing. ADF&G often needs to clean up trash, dead fish, rotten meat, dumped foliage, etc. around the marsh.
- **MOA Ordinance to Combine Zoning Areas** – Nancy Pease & Ann Rappoport - Several people on Assembly want to rezone all areas of MOA for increased affordable housing. Most Community Councils have expressed lots of concern, based upon numerous issues that this change would have. Overrides Title 21 and local plans and would cause for unknown densities. Would override the Hillside District Plan. MOA and citizens really do not know what all the impacts of this rezone would be. Exemption of the rezone has been granted to Eagle River and Girdwood. There is no statistical evidence in Anchorage or elsewhere that zoning has the desired effect on providing affordable housing. Many other factors apply to the cost of housing. Assembly work session beginning soon. Ordinance has been proposed by Assembly without any consultation with other Muni departments or with public participation. Proposers have had numerous iterations of the Ordinance as questioned issues develop. No one has questioned developers on constraints to provide affordable housing. Suggest that the rezone happens in small specific areas as an experiment. ADU's are now allowed and those will increase density/housing availability. Already enough land zoned for denser and affordable housing. Trying to have a dialogue on the ordinance. There are existing methods and creative ideas that seem to be working. 2020 Comp Plan is our overriding plan with implementation of 2040 Land Use Plan underway. The purpose of Title 21 is to implement those existing plans and cannot change those plans unless the plans are changed. Suggest that the public may need to file a law suit to slow down the ordinance process. RCCC comments have been forwarded to Assembly members. Randy Sulte advises he has forwarded comments to all members and MOA Legal.
 - **Motion by Ann Rappoport & 2nd Nancy Pease** – To concur with draft comments sent to MOA Assembly at forthcoming meetings.
 - Vote Results: Yes= 26; No=3; Abstain=1. Motion passes.
- **DRAFT Assembly District 6 Paper on Homelessness** – Ann Rappoport – Homelessness is an incredibly challenging issue to resolve, especially during cold seasons. RCCC has not been faced with those issues because of our location. Homelessness Comm now includes one citizen rep from each Assembly district. People are homeless due to many different reasons/issues. Navigation Center was to help figure out reasons, and how to help people, specific to their issue. Sanctioned camps have been tried and been disasters. Low Barrier Shelter supplying minimum needs. High Barrier Shelter providing better care if one meets certain requirements, like Rescue Mission on Tudor Road, which is a well-run facility. Other facilities include, homes for victims of abuse, Half-way Houses, Transitional Houses that are working well. Muni established criteria where Low Barrier shelter has to be on public land, provide 50 sf/person, meet ADA, and other requirements such as not being too close to schools, being close to public transportation, services, sewer & water. How can RCCC area help. RCCC area does have large houses that could help as potential

Group Homes. Many different Council areas could participate. Performed a survey and received 20 responses. MOA looking at other facilities for winter housing: former SWS Office/warehouse, hotels, etc.

- **Motion by Nancy Pease & 2nd John Riley** – Extend meeting by 15 minutes, approved.
- **DRAFT 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan** – Nancy Pease – Long Range Plan for AMATS from Potter Marsh to Eklutna. Policy point – Document is better than the 2040 plan. It positively talks about integrating land use and transportation investments, serving people in centralized neighborhoods with transit, ride share, bike paths, and other. Public wants to see performance measures and targets discussed. Walkable routes to schools, trails, vehicles miles traveled, greenhouse gas emissions all considered. Includes these projects: as 3rd on list Rabbit Creek Road from Seward Hwy to Golden View Dr, Mountain Air Drive, Academy Drive, Safety Improvement Data, Main Corridor Improvements at Downtown, want to get rid of Scooter Drive Overpass, Canyon Drive extension, Recreation Trails, Rabbit Creek connection to Coastal Trail, could there be a non-motorized pathway along railroad right-of-way, potential new routes, will list RCCC projects that did not make the 2050 MTP project list so that they are included in the list. Suggest Land Use Transportation Committee meet to discuss and finalize comments. RCCC is a low needs area, based on AMATS analysis, so consider ourselves privileged.
 - **Motion by Ann Rappoport & 2nd Matt Blakeslee** – To put forward the comments as discussed and drafted by Nancy Pease.
 - Vote Results: Yes= 14; No=5; Abstain=3. Motion passes.

New & Old Business & Committee Reports Not Time Critical

- **Equestrian Heights Subdivision Issue Update** – Ann Rappoport – Asked MOA for help with violation at a steep slope area. Violation confirmed. Working on the issue.
- **Mountain Air Drive Extension** – Ongoing design underway, no further decisions. Business they had some concerns for the design commission and there is not going back, no appeal. Not a lot we can do at this point.
- **Rabbit Creek Gateway Sign** – Ann Rappoport – Corner of Rabbit Creek Road and Old Seward Hwy to install a Welcome to Rabbit Creek Sign. On BLM Property who said we should resubmit application under a different law and that was done by MOA and hoping for a yes. James Michael has offered to cut trees from his homestead property as supports. Moving forward.
- **Trails** – No report.
- **Schools on Trial** – No report.
- **Resilience Committee** – No report.
- **Social Media** – No report.
- **Next Meeting** – October 12, 2023. Zoom meeting and maybe in-person at Goldenview Middle School Library.
- **Motion to Adjourn Keith Guyer & 2nd Judy Michael** - No objections. Approved.
- **Meeting adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.