



January 2004

ROGERS PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Newsletter for the Rogers Park, College Village and Anchor Park Neighborhoods

Meeting: Trail Watch, Candidates, APD

In September, the muni launched its Trail Watch program. Staffed by volunteers, Trail Watch is a way to address what has long been an issue in our council - safety on bike trails. We'll have a representative from the Mayor's office, a Trail Watch volunteer herself, provide a brief program history, describe volunteer opportunities, and discuss plans for a Trail Watch public outreach campaign that will take place in the spring.

With 2004 at hand, muni elections aren't far off. Two candidates have announced their intentions to run for the Assembly seat in our area, incumbent Doug Van Etten and businessman Dan Coffey. Doug and Dan have agreed to give us their thoughts on the race and the issues, and to take questions from the floor. This will be a good chance to sound out the candidates

on budget, services, and other things on your mind about local government.

APD recently appointed Sgt. Bill Webster as liaison to our council, and we've invited him to give us an update on what's going on with police services. We didn't have a confirmation at press time but we hope Sgt. Webster will be available to discuss public safety issues and concerns. *cont. on back page*

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday, January 12, 7-8:30 pm
Rogers Park Elementary Library

Agenda:

1. Introduction of officers and guests
2. Muni Trail Watch program
3. Assembly candidate presentations
4. APD update
5. Parks and Open Spaces Plan

*Meeting schedule: second Mondays
except in summer months.*

News Shorts

Tree Recycling

The annual Christmas tree recycling program, sponsored by ALPAR (Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling), Carrs, and muni Solid Waste Services, will take place December 28 through January 18th. Bare trees only can be dropped off at all Carrs parking lots in Anchorage and Eagle River. Trees are ground into wood chips and donated to schools, commu-

nity agencies, and non-profits to spruce up our public trails, paths, and gardens. Recyclers are asked to leave bare trees in the areas behind marked barriers. Please don't include bags, ornaments, or items other than trees. More info: Mary Fisher, 274-3266.

Parks, Open Spaces Plan

Anchorage is in the process of updating its 1985 version of what will now be called *cont. on back page*

DECEMBER MINUTES

Federation update

Our rep to the Federation of CCs, Bob Williams, reported on the previous FCC meeting, including a presentation by Traffic Dept. Director Lance Wilber, a request for ideas on how to fund postage costs since MOA won't fund FCC in the future, and a bylaws update in progress.

Transportation planning

Muni planner and Long Range Transportation Plan revision project manager Jon Spring presented background info and traffic projections. The draft plan is not yet complete. MOA will make public presentations after alternatives have been developed. In 2003, there were an estimated 1 million trips a day for the Anchorage, Eagle River, and Chugiak area population (269,000), a figure expected to increase to 1.4 million by 2025. As has been true historically, many of the worst intersection delays are in or near our area. Accident rates coincide generally with the congested intersections.

Increases in commuter traffic volume on the Glenn Highway are perhaps the biggest concern, and one without an obvious solution in sight. Community input will be important, especially on topics such as the increased costs of expanding the transit system. Transit service is not keeping pace with population growth.

The four main elements of the plan are: 1) Town Centers with mixed development to reduce the need for trips, 2) Transit corridors to major employment centers—downtown, midtown, and the University-Medical (UMED) district, *cont. on back page*

ROGERS PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Minutes (cont.)

3) Concentration of employment centers to improve bus and carpool usage, and 4) Redevelopment areas near the employment centers. When the LRTP revision is completed, it will be reviewed by the AMATS transportation planning group (our two Assembly members, Mayor Begich, and two state DOT reps), the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Assembly. RPCC members asked questions about numerous aspects of the plan, including whether it will conform to the 2020 Comp Plan and how it will affect quality of life in Anchorage. The LRTP team plans public meetings between now and April, which will be advertised in the newspaper. RPCC has two mem-

bers on the citizen "roundtable" group that advises the revision project. Please be in touch if you have questions or ideas: Anne Brooks, 272-1877; and Helen Nienhueser, 277-9330.

Assembly report

Assembly reps Van Etten and Traini reported that there is an approved budget, which will be followed by a first-quarter update for fine tuning. The Assembly added meetings on Dec 16 and 17 because of a full agenda, including teen strip clubs, LRTP, limited road service areas, Board of Equalization issues, and the bed tax proposal for B&Bs.

Seward Highway

Anne Brooks reported on a safety enhancement project between 15th and Fireweed on the New Seward. The improvements are planned because of known safety issues manifested in numerous accidents, especially at 15th and Gambell, and 20th and Ingra. A lot of the accidents are attributed to lane changes/merging (angle accidents) and making left or right turns.

Land use code

Anne also gave an update on the revision of muni Title 21, land use code. The first module has been released, and the second is due out soon after you see this. Anyone can get involved through the Anchorage Citizens Coalition or attending the public workshops. More info from Anne, 272-1877.

News Shorts (cont.)

the Parks, Natural Open Space, & Recreational Facilities Plan. The update is an important part of implementation of the Anchorage 2020 Comprehensive Plan. The parks plan guides management of the municipality's 10,000+ acres of parkland, 200 parks, 40 recreational facilities, and over 400 kilometers of trails and greenbelts. The revision team has a number of plans for public involvement. For more information, see the muni Web site: <http://www.muni.org/planning/>

prj_ParksPlan.cfm or call Jeff Dillon at Land Design North, a consultant to the project: 276-5885.

Meeting (cont.)

We've also had last-minute confirmation that a muni Planning Department rep will speak to us on the Parks and Open Spaces Plan (see News Shorts).

Please join us to kick off the new year with some good information on these topics.

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