

Meeting: Winter Cities, Brother Francis, Snow

Anchorage hosts the Winter Cities 2004 conference this year, Feb. 18-24. The event gathers mayors, scientists, business people, and citizens from northern-latitude cities in the U.S. and a number of other countries to discuss the features and challenges that we share. A representative of conference staff will give us a preview of what's going on this year.

Over a year ago, we heard from a Fairview resident and the Brother Francis Shelter director about plans to move the shelter into a new facility. The plans are moving along gradually. We'll hear an update this month from BFS director Dewayne Harris about what they're planning and how the project is coming along.

Snow removal, parking, and pedestrian issues always move up the priority list in a heavy snow year. A number of our members have noted changes in snow removal service this year. At press time we're still working on speakers for these issues. We may *cont. on back page*

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday, February 9, 7-8:30 pm
Rogers Park Elementary Library

Agenda:

1. Introduction of officers and guests
2. Winter Cities Conference
3. Brother Francis, new facility update
4. Snow removal, parking, walking issues

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

Crucial News: RPCC Election; Mail Service in Question Presidency

After two years at the helm, Loren Marshall is stepping down as council president. As you read this, your council board is conducting a search for a replacement.

Do you know someone who is interested in neighborhood and city affairs and could contribute some time and energy to moving us ahead—or are you that person? The job is rife with opportunities for

learning and constructive activism, and the president-elect has several advantages to look forward to.

Because RPCC has a good reputation citywide, many speakers look forward to appearances at our meetings and we're generally well received by government officials when we need information or help. Other existing board members will continue to serve, *cont. on back page*

JANUARY MINUTES

APD update

Sgt. William Webster, the APD liaison to our council area, reported that drunk driving enforcement and general traffic stops are both increasing. APD is launching a new traffic section that is coming up to full staffing level gradually as APD deals with its staff shortage.

Assembly report

Assembly Chair Traini reported that muni funding for council postage is dropping off rapidly. This means that RPCC must trim its U.S. mail list drastically in the near future (see Crucial News in this issue), and we may need to rely more on printed publications—as well as e-mail—to get the word out.

Trail Watch

RaeShawn Bibbs from the Mayor's office explained Trail Watch, a two-level volunteer program designed to increase safety on muni bike trails. The basic level, Trail Watcher, requires a one-hour orientation; Watchers carry a phone while they're on the trails and make reports as needed. Trail Ambassadors commit to a schedule and submit reports each time they go out. MOA supplies armbands and hopes to have 1000 volunteers by May. The muni web site has a full description of the program: <http://www.muni.org/Mayor/trailwatch.cfm> or you can get more info from RaeShawn: bibbsrt@muni.org or 343-7100.

Parks, Open Space Plan

Muni Planner Thede Tobish discussed a revision in progress of MOA's parks plan. There are 201 parks in the bowl, 11,000 acres of park land, 21 indoor *cont. on back page*

ROGERS PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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John Christopherson Treasurer
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<http://www.communitycouncils.org/rogers.html>

Minutes (cont.)

facilities, 400 kilometers of trails, and 60 playgrounds. A draft version of the report is due to be finished about the time you receive this newsletter.

The plan divides parks into four categories and tries to spread them evenly throughout the city. It benchmarks Anchorage against six other cities, and includes strategies for cooperation between the school district and the parks department. The plan will go to two commissions before final hearing at the Assembly. More info from the muni Web site: http://www.muni.org/planning/prj_ParksPlan.cfm or from TheDe: tobishtg@muni.org or 343-7918.

Assembly candidates

Four candidates running for one of the seats in our Assembly district in the April election spoke and answered questions. Dan Coffey is a businessman who has served on municipal commissions and other boards. Steve Johnston sells toys and is currently chair of another council. Troy Maulden works in real estate and has owned a small business. Incumbent Doug Van Etten is a real estate agent. Candidate speeches and questions from RPCC members and news reporters covered issues related to crime, taxes, the coastal trail extension, campaign financial disclosure, and conflicts of interest.

Meeting (cont.)

have a muni representative, and we hope to hear from some College Village members who have taken the initiative to do something about a parking problem on their street. In any case, we'll aim for a constructive discussion of what the problems are and how Anchorage's budget problems will affect us in the future.

At this meeting we'll open nominations for March council elections. Please see another article in this newsletter about the president's post coming open. And please do join us on Feb. 9.

Crucial News (cont.)

and as bylaws state, Loren will remain on the board as past president. So there will be plenty of support and advice available during transition.

We vote in March, but we'd like to be talking with interested candidates right away. Please give Loren a call.

Future of mailed newsletters

The community council system is nearing the end of the road regarding sending newsletters by U.S. Mail. Postage funding will soon be gone. If you receive this newsletter by U.S. Mail, please make every possible attempt to switch to e-mail

immediately. If you do not have computer resources or skills, you can get free Internet access at Loussac library or any library branch—along with assistance in setting up a free e-mail account. There are also beginner classes available. Ask a librarian.

If you feel you absolutely cannot make the change to e-mail, please drop the council a note at the address in this newsletter and include your name and the address at which you're receiving it. We can request exceptions for a small number of members.

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