

Birchwood Community Council

P.O. Box 670984 • Chugiak, AK 99567-0984
birchwoodcouncil@gmail.com

Minutes

Wednesday, September 14, 2016, 7-9 PM

1. Call to Order 7:05

2. Approval of June 2016 Minutes (available at the meeting): approved

3. Announcements

The draft Alaska Statewide Long Range Transportation Policy Plan is available for public comment. Comments are due by Oct 24th

The October BCC meeting will be at Beach Lake Lodge – Lexi will let Dave know what needs to be done.

4. Reports

- a) FCC Report: (Dave Wolfe) There has been no FCC meeting since the last Birchwood meeting– the next meeting is next Wednesday. FCC staff has changed. Susan (new staffer) is on the ball!
- b) CBERRRSA Road Board Report: <http://www.muni.org/Departments/works/operations/streets/Service/Pages/CBERRRSARoadBoard.aspx>
The next Road Board meeting will be Sep 26th; they were off for the summer. Jill asks why Almdale is torn up going downhill from Husky. Gretchen will look into it.
- c) Parks and Recreation Report: <http://www.muni.org/Departments/ERparks/>
Parks and Rec capital plans for 2017 were voted on while Birchwood was not meeting; the Municipality moved up their budget deadlines. Jill asks if ground truthing or other development will happen this year on the 8 acres? There is a new municipal contractor (replacing the Boutet Company), and P&R plans to have them start on determining what is there now on the 8 acres, as one of their first projects for us. Because money was already set aside for this, it is not part of the 2017 capital planning.
- d) Chugiak Eagle River Advisory Board (Debbie) Nothing much has happened; a few title 21 changes are in the works but they are straightforward and not controversial.
- e) Treasurer's report: We still have \$41.
- f) Birchwood Patrol Report Jill heard from Jeff Hartley: we have a new liaison APD officer who is working out well.
- g) Fire Department: Debbie reports. She recommends we look at the new paint job on station 31 on the Old Glenn. As she reported last time, CVFD advertised for a paid chief. They made an offer, but it was turned down. They will try to post the job again in the new year with a better pay/benefits package. Until then the volunteer chief will continue. Also, they are trying to do next year's budget, but cannot get any projected revenue from the Muni. Calls have been stable, and they have finished some maintenance projects with state money.

2014-2015 board:

Jill F. Crosby & Barbara Trost, Co-Chairs Lexi Hill, Secretary Dave Wolfe, FCC
Debbie Ossiander, CERAB Tony Vita, Road Board Kevin McNamara, at large

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5. Presentations: none

6. Old Business

a) Update on NW1/4 section 25, 8 acres: Jill describes progress to date at moving the 8 acres into the park. There has been none, as the School District continues to assert that it is a potential school site, even though they have chosen a school site nearby. Debbie recommends we send a letter to ASD requesting they un-reserve the site, and perhaps go to a school board meeting and speak to the issue.

7. New Business

a) Proposed Birchwood Airport Improvements: DOT request for BCC support
DOT is proposing a project for competitive funding for airport improvements. They would like a resolution from us in support for their proposal. The project would include: 1) Security fence relocation away from the runway – it's too close. 2) Replace THE security fence where the present fence is deteriorated. 3) Surface rehabilitation to runway and several taxiways, and extend the runway safety area. The pavement is old and deteriorated. 4) Northeast Apron pavement rehab – replace and repair deteriorated pavement. *Debbie moves to support this request, Gretchen seconds. Bill notes that there is an active Birchwood Airport Association. Friendly amendment – that our letter is subject to endorsement by BAA. Raymond Farrell, contact – thefarrells3@msn.com The motion passes unanimously.*

b) Proposed changes to Title 21 see above

c) Birchwood/Chugiak Bash Update: Jill is concerned that we can't pull off October 6th. There is a motion to Postpone to Oct 26; Dave will work on organizing the invitations and event. Lexi will send a draft e-mail to Dave; Jill will connect Chugiak CC to Dave. We should add some people who can address security and crime to our invitation list.

d) Annual Liquor License renewal (Liquor Locker, Birchwood Saloon, Three Bears) If people are interested they can comment. Dave will put the information on the Facebook page.

e) October elections; Next meeting we will elect Chair, vice/co-chair, and member at large. Kevin would like to run for chair; Debbie for Vice Chair; rep at large: Barbara will run, but encourages other to run if they wish. Debbie will be here for the October meeting; Dave will be here; Jill will be here.

f) Chugiak Dog Musers Association was notified by Eklutna that they will lose their 10- and 12-mile trail segments. Eklutna is going to develop a gravel pit on the other side of the railroad. This is a real blow to the club; also, developing a gravel pit will probably greatly increase traffic on Eklutna Park Drive, causing problems for our council members turning left out of Terrace Lane and Powder reserve residents.

8. Open Forum-floor opened to public, any issue

Dan Saddler on the Legislature: it's been 6 or 7 weeks since adjournment. The State budget is in big trouble; we drew again on the CBR for 3+ billion dollars. The Governor did veto some oil tax credits; actually, he deferred them so we will face them again; he also vetoed much of the appropriation for the PFD; there is talk of a lawsuit. There was Medicaid reform in SB74; reimbursement will shift from fee for service to capitation (which is a fixed fee to providers, to incentivize them to keep people healthy within the dollars provided. There will be several years of pilot programs. They are hoping for \$800 million savings from this, eventually. SNB91 was an 2014-2015 board:

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omnibus crime reform bill based on the idea that we are spending too much on prisons for people who could be dealt with in other ways. It will be subject to some tweaks next year. Dan got a bill passed to allow families with a disabled member to put aside pre-tax dollars for their care. We've joined a multi-state compact on sharing voter registration lists. It's been 35 years of prosperity, and we need to decide how the next 35 go.

Bill Stoltze notes that this is probably last time here as a public official. He feels the primary election went very poorly, an embarrassment for the administration. The new division director does not seem well qualified. There have been continuous hearings all summer on the natural gas pipeline. He will miss being involved with these issues; will stay involved as a citizen. He may take Debbie's position if she leaves it.

Amy: It has been a slow summer for the assembly, but busy for the community. They have licensed marijuana cultivation and testing facilities, but issued no sales licenses yet. There are no applications for our area yet. Keep watching the announcements; she anticipates there will be applications out here. The municipal budget will be released at the beginning of October. She will send a note when she sees the budget, telling how she thinks it will affect us. She has been contacted a lot about crime out here. She's walked her neighborhood reminding people of crime prevention; she wants to have another town hall meeting to help neighbors pro-actively diminish crime. She will try to have it the first Sat of Oct from 3 to 5 at the Senior Center. She wants to invite both people like Jeff Hartley, with all his experience on Birchwood Patrol, and other security experts such as those who can educate about tools like Nixle. An alert neighborhood can help thwart crime. There was a recent assembly work session on transportation – pay close attention to what the muni is doing. They are considering cutting our bus service to our area.

Jill brings up the issue of a mission house in an r-6 area (next to her). There are lots of meetings, many nights per week. That bends the r-6 zoning use. There is a lot of traffic impact on a very small road. The house is connected with the JBER chapel. She asked muni zoning but it's not clear if it's truly within zoning or not.

9. Adjournment- 8:54 PM

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