

BIRCHWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of February 27, 2013

DRAFT

Jill Flanders Crosby, Acting Chair called the regularly scheduled Birchwood Community Council Meeting to order at 7:02 pm with 18 members present.

Motion to approve minutes of October 24 2012, 1-R McCain, 2-J Stewart, passed.

Announcements

Debbie Osslander sent the council a letter in lieu of her attendance due to conflicts with a special Assembly meeting. Her letter outlined the following subjects; the progress that has been made with Chapter 10, the ongoing endeavors to secure taxi service for the Chugiak Eagle River area, and the special meeting she is attending on the collective bargaining issues with the municipality.

Guest Speaker

Nancy Clark, Manager of the Chugiak Eagle River Public Library: Nancy gave an update on the new services available at the Chugiak Eagle River Library. Video conferencing will soon be available that connects the area libraries via video where a program can be offered for viewing at multiple locations at the same time. This will become available for the whole state and outside of the state as well. The library is now making 8 laptop computers available for check out for "in" library use. There are music downloads available at three per week at no cost. Additionally, small conference rooms will be available for use. Nancy asks the council spread the word that they are looking for volunteers age 13 and older and hours worked qualify for community service.

Guest Speaker

Kirk Huff, JBER Community Planning Liaison: Kirk will be communicating with the joint base and the neighboring communities to improve relations and trouble shoot. He is looking for input on issues and concerns on both sides of the base boundaries. Council members commented on the new fences cutting off access to historic trails. Kirk asks that any concerns should be directed to his email khuff@marstelday.com

Guest Speaker

Tom Dreyer with the S4 Group, Powder View: Tom displayed maps of the proposed project. The new development is planned to be completed in three phases. Work will start up on the first section of 39 homes this spring. These one and two story homes will be 24 feet by 50 feet in size on 35-foot wide lots with a selling price of 275 to 325. The community will have sidewalks, with a grass strip lining the street. Wetland and green belts have been identified as open spaces.

Old Business

Bobbi Wells will be returning to Alaska in late March and she plans to attend the next meeting. She is not planning to continue as Birchwood Chair. Jill is not planning to run for the position. It is proposed that the council consider all options including council members to please step up to fill the vacant seats on board or reorganization into a different type of executive board structure to spread out the workload.

New Business

Jim Arnesen, Eklutna Inc: Jim spoke on the Birchwood Airport gravel pit project: The remaining firewood in the project area should be cleared April 1st. The berm will then be constructed with the over burden. Eklutna monofill proposal, Eklutna plans to fill in the gully behind Loretta French with inert building materials that have been determined not reusable. They are looking for a letter of approval from BCC in March.

REPORTS

Road Board, Tony Vita: Tony reports that the road board passed a motion to reduce the 2013 mil rate from 1.98 to 1.90.

Parks and Rec, Barb Trost: Barb reports that Parks and Rec are considering moving forward on construction of the trail around parts of Beach Lake known as the West Lake Trail even though insufficient funding exists to make it grade-separated as stated in the Beach Lake Park Master Plan.

Open Forum

Randy McCain from the Chugiak Eagle River Consortium (CCERCC) announced the passage of the New Title 21 Chapter 10 Land Use Regulations. He stated that the plans are for the consortium to be replaced by a formal Chugiak/Eagle River Advisory Board. He has asked for time at the next scheduled BCC meeting to discuss the replacing the Consortium with the Chugiak/Eagle River Advisory Board. And he would like direction to be given to the consortium from the BCC by way of resolution. **The Acting Chair stated that she will address it next meeting.**

Randy McCain stated that the road board had recently passed a resolution supporting the continuing work being done by Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation Districts management/overseeing work on being performed on Peters Creek and requesting expanding the Peters Creek Projects to include the creek from the Stoltze Bridge to Starner Bridge. Randy was looking for a similar letter of support from BCC. **The Acting Chair stated that she will address it next meeting.**

Randy McCain also spoke about Proposition 2 in the upcoming elections, which is an AREAWIDE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOND in which the municipality is proposing to bond for services that are already being paid for by our road board mil rate. Proposition 2 includes assessing and rehabilitating bridges and dams and making school zone safety improvements along with other unrelated capital improvements as provided in MOA Ordinance No. AO 2013-20. Randy said that he recently testified at an Assembly hearing that this was “double dipping.” He stated that our local Road Board is already paying for the cost of these types of projects. He mentioned the Starner Bridge replacement, the Stoltze bridge upgrade, the Fire Lake Dam project and the Eklutna Bridge cleaning, assessment and closure expenses. He stated that if Proposition 2 is passed as an area wide bond in the next general election, it will be a form of double taxation to our local residents. **The Acting Chair stated that she will address it at the next meeting.**

Randy McCain also stated that he had drafted a motion to be presented at the next P&R board meeting to resend a previously passed motion to eliminate the plans to build a skateboard park in Eagle River. He would like the P&R board to implement a better public process, and create by-laws to govern the process. **The Acting Chair stated that she will address it at the next meeting.**

Adjourn 9:07pm

Chair: Acting Chair Jill Flanders Crosby, And Secretary: Gail Davidson McCain