

Community Councils

From: Nanette Belk [NanetteBelk@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 03, 2004 11:58 AM
To: Betty Kremer
Subject: Birchwood Minutes for October

BIRCHWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES October 14, 2004

Chair Bobbi Wells called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.. 23 people were in attendance. Absent (excused) were the Secretary and Vice Chair. Minutes from September's meeting were approved with a minor correction to one item.

Fire Chief Gary Davis of CVFD gave a presentation on the status of the new fire station located south of Fire Lake. They are in the building, but still getting organized and share the main building for now with the local Parks & Rec Board, their sole tenant. Later there will be an open house and dedication where they will name the new station. Gary also gave us an update on the latest piece of equipment, a new fire truck. CVFD, working with Debbie Ossiander, is pursuing the issue of the new ambulance fee charge. Gary pointed out that if the MOA/AFD would raise the EMS areawide mil rate by a half mil, no one would have to pay for the ambulance rate citywide, however that is not being pursued at this time. Representatives from the police department and the school board, invited speakers, did not show up. The Road Board and the Parks & Rec representatives gave their reports, which are attached. Cost overruns at the new Ski Chalet were discussed as well as developments in Loretta French Park regarding Southcentral Horseman's Assn., which now has a limited use permit rather than a partnership agreement. An analysis of gravel roads was presented for the years 1991-2002 but no separate breakdown was available for the Birchwood area alone. Gail says we are saving 200k a year by paving rather than having gravel roads. She is concerned about the muni still maintaining a standard for gravel roads in Title 21 since she knows of developers that have developed gravel roads rather than paved roads and our local road board cannot afford to do that. She pointed out that the cost of a gravel road covers the material cost, storage, hauling, dust control, and grading maintenance, excluding plowing which also has to be accomplished on a paved road.

A Federation report was not given since Nanette (Secretary and FCC Rep) was absent.

Bobbi opened the Title 21 re-write with a presentation regarding the timeline for public input (final about September 2005), how it came about, and stated we would cover the parts governing accessory building limitations and the limitation on numbers of animals within all of the MOA, as well as definitions. She also gave the muni website address again so the members can read the proposed re-write. An open question is how grandfathered non-conformities will be handled? Much discussion ensued from the floor, with the general consensus being that we will be negatively impacted and that we should immediately connect with our neighboring councils in the area so that we have a greater voice. A question was asked why Girdwood has their own review module and we don't? Also, the fact that title 21 covers ALL the muni but the Bowl plan that called for this re-write only affects the Bowl, or downtown area. This led to speculation regarding our area and small lot development and ensuing increased revenue to the MOA because of smaller lots. It was also mentioned that many, many residents aren't even aware that this re-write is taking place, and why do they only get one chance to testify.

The meeting ended with announcements that an urban tree committee is being formed in Anchorage and needs participation. Numbers for reporting junk/abandoned vehicles to APD were given for vehicles that might be within the right-of-way now that plow season is coming soon.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10p.m..