

# **Birchwood Community Council**

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## **Minutes**

Wednesday, September 11, 2019, 7-9 PM

Beach Lake Chalet, 17611 S Birchwood Loop Rd

*Agenda subject to modification to allow input/action on issues that did not make this notice*

### **1. Call to Order – 7:05 PM**

### **2. Approval of Minutes (June) - approved**

### **3. Announcements**

- a) cell phone ban in school zones now in place
- b) plastic bag ban beginning September 15
- c) DoT adding lane, realigning, and constructing a new bridge on the southbound Glenn Highway between Artillery Road and Hiland Drive. Drivers should expect intermittent shoulder closures.
- d) update on MOA action on homeless camps – you can report a homeless camp online – you cannot report it over the phone, as they need location coordinates. See the muni website (muni.org) for hot lines, online reporting, and an app for uploading pictures. Once a camp is reported, a team from the muni visits it, to try to connect campers with services. The police come out and tell people they must leave. Matt notes that the CSP patrols only work in town, and not in our area. Ken McCarty notes that the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority has money available for non-profit groups who want to work on the homeless problem.

### **4. Reports**

- a) FCC Report: Matt Cruickshank (suspended for the summer)
- b) CBERRRSA Road Board Report (Meets next week – Matt’s application still in process) CBERRRSA had asked to use Fire Station 13 for storage, but was told they would have to purchase it. Plans to sell FS13 are on hold, as it’s being used to store things from FS11 while that building is being fixed. Ken McCarty notes that if the Road Board wants it, there is asphalt left over from a construction project at Birchwood Airport.
- c) Parks and Recreation Report: <http://www.muni.org/Departments/ERparks/> John Rodda is retiring Sep 30; ER Parks and Rec is looking to purchase a parcel held by HLB on the Old Glenn to consolidate storage; our budget, especially for capital projects, is very tight; Lexi’s appointment is still in process; Boo at the Beach will happen at the Beach Lake Chalet on Oct 12<sup>th</sup>.
- d) Chugiak Eagle River Advisory Board: They were audited, with several findings around no formal appointments, irregular meetings and minutes. They will need to either become more formal, or will be de-authorized. At BCC, we need to vote on a CERAB appointment – we’ll take nominations in October.
- e) Treasurer’s report 0 \$240
- f) Tim Benningfield – CVFD – The Fire Department has asked community councils to identify areas with problematic access for firefighting. We believe a list was submitted by CVFD.
- g) Birchwood Patrol Report – recent crime activity – Jeff Hartley It’s been a pretty quiet summer. Chugiak has had several burglaries that appear to be inside jobs. Peters Creek has seen several vehicle thefts. APD did a sweep this summer to suppress crime, and will do another one soon.

2018-2019 board: Debbie Ossiander, Chair & CERAB rep; Gretchen Wehmhoff, Vice Chair; Matt Cruickshank, Road Board; Lexi Hill, Secretary & Parks and Rec rep; Matt Cruickshank, Secretary for Publicity; Patty Friend, Member at large; Val Jokela, Treasurer

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## h) Legislative / Assembly reports

Buddy Whitt (staff for Sen Shelly Hughes) reported: it's unclear if there will be another special session; if there is, it will likely be in mid-October. Last year the Senator's priorities were on public safety, and replacing SB91. Next session they hope to have conversations across many agencies to improve communication around substance abuse treatment.

Kim (for Crystal Kennedy) reports on the Assembly: They are discussing putting the question of allowing on-site marijuana consumption on the ballot. Debbie notes that there would not be a big impact in our area. They are also discussing a storm water draining utility, for which properties with more pavement would have higher assessments. Debbie notes that out here, CBERRRSA deals with drainage as well as roads (unlike the Hillside). Finally, if anyone wants to contact Crystal, her number is 351-1430. Crystal arrives, and there are several questions for her. Gretchen asks about water provided to residents from one of the fire stations – Fred Dyson is working on that issue, and if that station goes away, the muni will identify another site. There is a question about driving after marijuana consumption – that is considered DUI (just as with alcohol).

## **5. Appearances:**

b)

## **6. Old Business**

a)

## **7. New Business**

a) Onsite consumption of marijuana – see assembly report

b) Proposal to move purchase age for tobacco to 21

c) Nominations for officers:

FCC rep – Matt

Secretary for Publicity – no nominations yet

Secretary: Lexi

Treasurer – no nominations yet

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

## **9. Adjournment-9pm**