

5Birchwood Community Council
P.O. Box 670984, Chugiak, AK 99567-0984
birchwoodcouncil@gmail.com

Minutes

Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 7-9 PM
Beach Lake Chalet, 17611 S. Birchwood Loop Rd

1. **Call to Order: 7:01 PM**
2. **Approval of February 2019 Minutes - postponed until April meeting as copies were not available for distribution.**
3. **Announcements**
 - a) MOA ballots should be received by March 18. Call 243-VOTE, if not received.
 - b) Issues on the ballot: Prop 1-\$59,113,000 Anchorage School District Capital Improvement Bonds which would pay for construction, upgrades, design planning, renovation and earthquake recovery of school facilities. There is a task force meeting looking at replacing vs repairing Gruening and Eagle River Elementary. It will take \$12M to repair Eagle River Elementary vs \$35M to replace it. Gruening has roof truss damage that would cost \$24.2M to repair vs \$77M to replace. It is recommended that voters vote to repair vs replace and bring both schools up to code.
 - c) Liquor Locker license is up for renewal, if you have comments please submit to Alcohol Control Office, 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1600, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.
4. **Reports**
 - a) FCC Report: Matt Cruickshank-no report
 - b) CBERRRSA Road Board Report: Mark Littlefield - Earthquake road damage repair is estimated at \$2.2 million, 58 sites need repair, 3 are on the cusp of failing and need immediate repair. Birchwood was finished last year, moving forward to Oberg Field, Chugiak and Eagle River are on hold this year.
 - c) Parks and Recreation Report: no report
 - d) Chugiak Eagle River Advisory Board: There will be a Chugiak-Eagle River Advisory Board Meeting on April 6, noon-2:00 on proposed code for determining if new developments may use private roads and driveways. There is a Hiland Road couple that wants to build a driveway vs a street. Mark Littlefield says the fire dept has to buy off on it and the MOA or Road Board will not maintain a private driveway. Tim Benningfield noted ingress or egress issues in a number of situations the CVFD encounters; there is no impact if it is a private drive and it is considered on private property. Sampson has 4-5 houses that are on a private road that is not built to MOA standards. Both driveways and streets are Muni easements, driveways are not built to Muni Street standards and are cheaper to build, a drive way access can serve several houses and is not maintained by the Road Board.
 - e) Treasurer's report: no report

- f) CVFD: Tim Benningfield – February had 5,480 volunteer hours X \$27.00 for the savings to the community. CVFD made 75 runs in February and 60-70% of those were medical. Tim introduced the 2018 Rookie of the Year Will Dusham. He volunteers 85 hours per month served in 12 hour increments. He is in the Air Force and plans to be in AK for awhile. 24/7 there are volunteer firemen in stations at no cost to the community.
- g) Birchwood Patrol Report: no report
- h) Legislative/Assembly reports: Gretchen Wehmhoff - She has 2 assembly meetings left. There was a joint meeting of the school district and MOA. Valley People Mover passes through Eagle River-Chugiak. The two people mover directors are working on a way to have riders picked up both directions mid-day. It will be introduced for single representative districts to redraw the lines so there will be 2 assembly members. Assembly voted to allow developers who build up to 4 units or more to get a 12-year tax abatement. If the public passes Proposition 9 (5% alcohol tax) the bars will open earlier. Ballots have been mailed out. There is a concern about “ballot harvesting” If your neighbor takes your ballot in to drop off, it is considered harvesting.
- i) AMATS Citizens Advisory: Debbie Ossiander & Matt Cruickshank – Passed a resolution supporting the Artillery Road Reconstruction as the top priority for the Glenn Highway ICM study. Terrace Lane is not on the list. We have 13% of population and 3% of funding for projects.

5. Appearances

- a) Starr Marsett: candidate School Board Seat B
- b) Margo Bellamy: candidate School Board Seat A
- c) David Nees: candidate School Board Seat B
- d) Oliver Schiess: candidate Assembly Seat A
- e) Crystal Kennedy: candidate Assembly Seat A

6. Old Business

- a) AWWU water line update: Mark and Shawn from AWWU provided a map handout with 2 route options for the 24” transmission line with street cross-sections on reverse. Extensive discussion followed on particulars of installation, swath of easement to be utilized in-road installation, alternate routes and time lines. Several voiced concerns about protecting the rural residential character of Birchwood as described in the Comp plan and in BCC Resolution. The vote to be taken from landowners (Muni, Eklutna, and Birchwood residents) is scheduled for April 1-7, request was made to wait until after April 10th BCC meeting. Curtis McQueen, Eklutna CEO, spoke to their history of land, change and development. Mark will email files of handouts to Council. The council is asked to vote on the route at the next meeting, and possibly pass a resolution.
- b) Kennel License Code enforcement problems: Musers who reside in Anchorage applied for a kennel license. The process is that Planning and Zoning needs to visit the lot and be sure that it is in compliance with Title 21. Planning and Zoning staff provided incorrect information outside of the provisions of the code. They told the musers that their dog lot foot print could be no larger than the foot print of their home. Additionally, that dog houses were considered accessory buildings and therefore you could only have so many.

They also kept wanting to define the applicants license as commercial which it was not. The concern for mushers as well as the horse community was that these were “made up” rules and conditions that are not in Title 21 and that the implications for future kennels or horse paddocks would be in jeopardy. Debbie will follow up with Planning and Zoning.

7. New Business-none

8. Open Forum-none

9. Adjournment: 8:58 PM