

Birchwood Community Council

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Minutes

Wednesday, April 10th, 2019, 7-9 PM
Beach Lake Chalet, 17611 S Birchwood Loop Rd

1. Call to Order: 7:01 PM

2. Approval of 2019 Minutes: March minutes approved; February minutes postponed

3. Announcements

- a) people can still comment on city's plan for housing and community development
- b) two liquor licenses up for renewal – Liquor Locker and Jalapenos
- c) ASD is taking comments on budget impacts of potential cuts: preschool, pupil transportation, class sizes, and bond reimbursement are the key issues

4. Reports

- a) FCC Report: Matt Cruickshank: If state stops paying school bond debt, the total cost (not including the bonds just passed) would be a \$1400 increase on \$300,000 house. The Public notice resolution they have been working on has been completed, and FCC will vote on it next week. We should vote on it at the May meeting. Insurance coverage of meetings: Community councils are not covered by insurance, and FCCs policy covers only board delegates. There may be changes to the FCC insurance that would cover CC meetings, but not larger community gatherings.
- b) CBERRRSA Road Board Report: Gretchen reports that they are struggling with the issue of sidewalks used as snow storage. Debbie is most concerned with the FEMA issue and post-earthquake repairs. Also she has learned that they are moving towards replacing Starner Bridge.
- c) Parks and Recreation Report: Lexi has not been to March or April meeting., Lexi and Barb are both expired, and need to reapply. Gretchen has at least clarified to the administration that there is a major problem.
- d) Chugiak Eagle River Advisory Board: There was a CERAB meeting last week, triggered by a long range planning committee recommending potential changes to driveways and private roads. The city is trying to facilitate infill development, so they have new standards that say if you have 3 or more units on one lot you're subject to new standards. CERAB did pass a resolution that infill developments should have snow management plans, since we don't haul snow. The proposed standards have not addressed our issue, which is how does a developer know the standards of when they are required to put in private roads and driveways? Also, Chapter 10 (our chapter in Title 21) has different standards for Class 3 roads, which use ditches rather than sidewalks – there may be a conflict there with the proposed changes that would apply to class 3 roads. The other issue was the need for a local cemetery. Tom Looney went to the CERAB meeting and gave a fervent plea for the cemetery. He requested a committee to move this forward. CERAB did pass a resolution that said there is a need for a cemetery out here. They requested every Community Council send a representative to Tom to serve on his committee; and they asked the staff of Parks and of HLB to help them identify suitable parcels.
- e) Treasurer's report - none
- f) Tim Benningfield – CVFD: John Delacross is filling in for Tim. There were 91 runs in March. There was 1 fire, and 90 EMS calls. CVFD logged 6,562 volunteer hours (response and standby). Earthquake damage on Mountain Road prevents the water tanker from using it – EMS runs won't be affected, but if there's a fire they'll need to bring smaller water amounts. Homeowners have been notified; and CBERRRSA will need to repair. They took a team out of state to participate in the Leukemia Lymphoma Society Firefighters Stair Climb in Seattle. They climb 69 flights of stairs in full gear, on air. The team raised \$13,664.

2018-2019 board: Debbie Ossiander, Chair & CERAB rep; Gretchen Wehmhoff, Vice Chair; Tony Vita, 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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- g) Birchwood Patrol Report – recent crime activity – Jeff Hartley: Matt Cruickshank reports on daytime break-ins. We discuss inviting the new community policing officers for our area to attend the community council. Matt will talk to Jeff and request this.
- h) Legislative / Assembly reports Gretchen – Crystal Kennedy is our new assembly person. She’s at Eagle River Valley CC this evening. The alcohol tax failed; the Assembly is still working on trying to raise the cigarette purchase age to 21. There are concerns about the effects of the change itself – what happens to suddenly underage smokers. The Assembly passed a resolution (AR 2019-106) supporting a proposed federal law: the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019. We’ve hired a consultant to help us figure out how to fix the port for a price we can afford. We are also still working on litigation and anticipate some money back from prior port contractors for poor performance. The proposed deregulation of taxi cabs has been postponed indefinitely. The Board of Equalization will be very busy because of earthquake damage – so there’s been a change to allow assembly members to be appointed to the board, but they cannot hear cases in their own areas. Currently assembly members are prohibited.

5. Appearances:

- a) JBER report: Sgt Jasper (552-8915) from JBER’s Public Affairs office. Base is about to have some gate closures over the summer. D St (the Richardson gate) will re-route traffic through the visitor lot in April and May. Boniface inbound to base will close for May; Outbound will close in June. The Muldoon gate will be closed for 3 months, July through September. People will be able to walk to the VA facility, but won’t be able to reach the main hospital – they will have to enter by a different gate. Hopefully the gate will reopen in September. Post road will close in October, for 1 month.

6. Old Business

- a) Kennel License Code enforcement problems – update
Debbie and Val report. Debbie called the Ombudsman and discovered that the story was not quite as reported. When the ombudsman stepped in, the planning department did acknowledge that they were wrong about dog houses as accessory structures and the dog lot footprint restricted to smaller than the house. The license was still denied, because the applicants were running a business, which wasn’t allowed in their zoning area. Val reports that they’ve moved to Salcha.
- b) Matt is on the Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC) for AMATS. They advise the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which in turn provides advice to policy makers. Matt got a resolution passed in support of revising the Artillery road interchange. It was approved by TAC, who initiated a Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) study, and we’ll know in about 2 years if they’re moving forward. 2) There’s now a seat on the TAC for a representative from the CAC, which Matt is likely to get. It’s not clear if that might take him off the Citizens Advisory Committee. So we’re suggesting Gretchen reapply.

7. New Business

- a) Debbie got an e-mail to a training session to learn how to submit CIP requests. There will be 2 sessions – Apr 24th noon to 1 at the muni’s permit center, and on the 17th at FCC from 5 to 6.

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

Eugene Haberman speaks on municipal election irregularities.

9. Adjournment-The meeting adjourned at 8:42