

Birchwood Community Council

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Minutes

Wednesday, January 9, 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 7.03

2. Approval of December 2018 Minutes (available at the meeting) approved

3. Announcements

- a).AMATS Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan
- b) AMATS Technical Advisory Committee meeting for Jan 10th cancelled; next meeting Feb 14th
- c) Chester Creek Singletrack trails community meeting, Jan 24th, 6-8PM, Speedway Cycles, 1231 W Northern Lights Blvd
- d) renewal of liquor licenses, 3 Bears and Birchwood Saloon; if you want to object, instructions at www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco
- e. 2019 Draft HLB Annual Work Program & 2020-2024 Five-Year Management Plan, comment period through Feb 4. Review plan at <http://www.muni.org/Departments/hlb/Pages/default.aspx>

Debbie explains that in this plan, they talk about their successes and their future plans. In Eagle River, they want to sell some of property behind McDonald Ctr, and a 36.5 acre part of a 150 acre parcel in Southfork. ***Matt moves that we request them to add a new Number 3 to Chapter 4, Potential Disposals, Region 1, to do an initial property assessment for property suitable for a cemetery. Seconded. The motion passes unanimously***

- f) there is a short plat for 2 parcels off Klondike – reducing the right of way

4. Reports

- a) FCC Report: Matt Cruickshank FCC will continue working on the proposed resolution on Muni communications
- b) CBERRRSA Road Board Report
- c) Parks and Recreation Report: <http://www.muni.org/Departments/ERparks/> Lexi explains the compatible lands foundation easement proposal; feedback generally positive, but money should go into service area.
- d) Chugiak Eagle River Advisory Board. Changes proposed to R-2, R2 A R2 D and R2M zoning. In our area, this exists around Fire Lake, Eaglewood, and in downtown Eagle River. There would be a change in the height restrictions. Debbie is concerned that it will apply to us, when it's intended for the Anchorage Bowl. The mechanics of how Chapter 10 supplants the rest of title 21 mean that if the heading or title of the section is not verbatim in chapter 10, then the rest of title 21 applies. The proposed changes affect floor area ratio language (instead of simple height restriction), and protections for solar access, both of which would apply to us. She thinks we need to make a statement about this, but it needs to come from more than one Community Council. It is scheduled before P&Z Feb 4, comments due Jan 24. Matt notes that planning staff supports excluding Chugiak-Eagle River, but it actually has to be formalized. ***Matt resolves that the language in the proposed changes to the R-2a R2 D And R2M zoning districts be clarified to fully exempt C-ER R2 zoned areas.***

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

Birchwood Community Council

Barbara seconds The motion passes unanimously.

- e) Treasurer's report – none
- f) Tim Benningfield – CVFD There were 61 responses in December, 924 for the year. This was down a bit from 2017. Volunteer numbers are up – 5757 hrs in Dec. and 65096 hrs in 2018. At the State estimate of \$27/hr, this is a \$1.9 million value.
- g) Birchwood Patrol Report – recent crime activity – Jeff Hartley introduces Lt Jack Carson, a commander in the Crime Suppression division. That includes Community Policing, Vice, and those who work with federal partners. He is a UAF graduate, and has been with APD since 2000. Most of his career has been working on gang and drug crime, and with various Traffic stops were the most common reason, along with other non-crime issues such as vehicles that went off the road and reports of suspicious people; crime is fairly low. Vehicle thefts dropped in 2018 after being at an all-time high in early 2018. They are hard to prosecute, and APD changed their procedures to build stronger cases. Car Thefts have decreased about 40-50% since those high months. Alaska was just declared a high intensity drug trafficking area (we're the last state) and we got a lot of federal money. There are a lot of rules to follow and reporting requirements, but the federal incentives make it a good deal. There is a question about staffing – staffing out here has increased, most nights there are 4 police patrolling out here; some nights just 3. They spent a lot of investigation time on drug issues out here, based on reports from us through Jeff. Also they did a retail blitz: they worked with Fred Meyer's loss prevention officers, and took people into police custody as the store apprehended them. There is a question on how much hard core gang activity we have up here. Now, not very much; in the mid 2000's, there was a lot. Their anti gang worked knocked the volume down, but it won't go away entirely. He discusses earthquake response: He was the incident commander for this area. Damage was worse in this area, especially in the Alpenglow Driftwood Bay area. They were assessing damage, closing down roads as needed. Repeaters were down, as was GCI phone, so they had only line of sight radios and texting. They are making changes to improve their capabilities: a new phone contract with AT&T, with phones that give first responders priority on the servers. They will also have department phones to give to officers; and folks like Jeff and Community Council chairs will have those phone numbers.
APD is starting a new program – register your security system. They are not asking for access, just permission to contact people who might have videos and could provide them when there's a crime nearby.

5. Appearances:

- a) APD Lieutenant; invited by Jeff Hartley (above)
- b) Postal inspector, on mail thefts (not here)

6. Old Business

- a) AWWU water line update (February)
- b) AMATS ICM project list priorities; artillery road is probably our highest priority project; Matt and Debbie will report back after AMATS Citizens advisory committee meeting in late Jan.
- c) Nominations/election for treasurer Val Jokela volunteers and is elected by acclaim.

Birchwood Community Council

7. New Business

- a) Kennel License Code enforcement problems: Val explains the kennel license process. It includes a visit from P&Z to ensure code compliance. Val's friends have 4 acres, and there are dog teams in the area. They've been trying to get their license since July. Their neighbors are opposed, and the issue is hung up in P&Z. There may be a connection between opposing neighbor and the P&Z officer. As the process had gone along, the officer has made up new rules that don't actually exist. Debbie got involved, and they gave her a runaround, and claimed the application was for a commercial license. It was not, as they demonstrated. Val, other mushers, and horse people are all concerned that P&Z will now start making up rules whenever they like. Debbie asks if they can forward some of the e-mails claiming dog houses as outbuildings.

- b) Gretchen Wehmhoff – status while she's on the Assembly (now – Apr)

Assembly report: we are getting ready for next mail-in vote. Election center should be up and running next week. Post card address verifications can be forwarded, but not ballots. Staff is also working on correcting issues in title 28 which governs elections, and the appointment process. There are openings on the Board of Equalization, which reviews cases where people think that their property assessments are in error. Green cards will go out soon – if your home took damage in the earthquake, its value may be adjusted and you should take action in the window after receiving the card. She tells us about AR2018-347. This seeks to establish housing development strategies by asking the mayor to enter into an 'infrastructure coordination agreement',. It is related to the water issue. ***Lexi moves that Birchwood Community Council requests clarification on the infrastructure coordination agreement referenced in AR2018-347 and how it affects housing development in Eagle River, before the assembly takes any action. Seconded. The motion passes unanimously.***

Gretchen will recuse herself from Vice Chair while on the assembly; Matt will run meetings in Debbie's absence.

- c) Elissa Snelling – ASD Report (not here).

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

We discuss the process for replacing Nancy Dahlstrom by appointment, which we were not happy with.

9. Adjournment-9pm