

# **Birchwood Community Council**

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## **Minutes**

Wednesday, January 8, 2020, 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**

### **2. Approval of Minutes (December)** The minutes were approved

### **3. Announcements**

- a) There is a meeting at the High School this evening about the municipal budget – revenues are down and expenses up, and finding new revenues will be necessary. The assembly is considering 3 new tax measures, available on assembly website
- b). The AMATS 2040 Metropolitan transportation plan draft has been released for public review; comment deadline Feb 14<sup>th</sup> (note: per AMATS email 27 Jan, comment period has been extended to March 9.). There will be a Transit Fair on Thursday Jan 23 at the Alaska Airlines Center.
- c) The Library is eliminating fines. If you have old fines you need to ask to get them voided.
- d) Meg Zaletel on the Assembly wants feedback on homeless issues.
- e) There was an article the paper stating that that the state is asking the DC District Court NOT to grant Eklutna's suit for determination that the allotment on which they wish to build a casino (off of North Birchwood) is Indian country
- f) MEA wants to talk to us about the MEA Justine Parks substation. We will put it on the February agenda.
- g) APD is still unable to provide full (4 officers on all shifts) staffing in the Eagle River/Chugiak area. Crystal reached out to the police chief, who was surprised to hear there was a staffing shortage.

### **4. Reports**

- a) Tim Benningfield – CVFD – The ended the year 1,078 calls – the first time they've gone over 1,000. 88-89% of calls are EMS, 11% fire. They recorded 65,500 volunteer hours. Their annual budget is just over \$1 million; the 65 thousand volunteer hours are worth about \$1.7 million. The currently have 112 volunteers and could provide advanced life support on every EMS call. Their new live fire training facility is not quite done, and it's too cold to burn in it until the manufacturer trains them on it. They will have a new rig soon– the purchase order will be cut 31 Jan, which will save money (they'll be able to prepay, and are getting the purchase done before price increases).
- b) FCC Report: Matt Cruickshank no Jan mtg
- c) CBERRRSA Road Board Report AMATS will meet Jan 28<sup>th</sup> to work on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) – but there are no large new changes. The Road Board called a special meeting, as Assembly passed an ordinance for 'life safety roads' as an areawide power, for areawide bonding, and asked CBERRRSA if they wanted a project in the bond issue being put together for the April 2020 election. If so, it had to be identified immediately. immediately. With the short notice CBERRRSA is part of the bond with a placeholder but they must pick a project at their next meeting. We discuss

2019-2020 board: Debbie Ossiander, Chair & CERAB rep; Gretchen Wehmhoff, Vice Chair and Secretary for Publicity; Lexi Hill, Secretary & Parks and Rec rep; Matt Cruickshank, FCC and Road Board rep; Patty Friend, Member at large; Val Jokela, Treasurer

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the larger issue – adding roads as an areawide power, with areawide bonding would be a major change to our road service area. We are opposed to the concept, that we and Anchorage would all be paying for roads across service areas (and some areas without a service area, which seems to have been the driving force behind this ordinance). The assembly failed through lack of notification, lack of consultation with community councils and service area boards; and a lack of analysis of the potential impacts on service areas. Patty makes a motion that we write a resolution to the assembly; it's seconded and passes unanimously. Debbie will draft a resolution to the assembly to reconsider the entire ordinance. Lexi makes a resolution asking the road board to withdraw its support for the areawide bond ordinance AO-136, and withdraw our project from the bond. The motion is seconded and passes unanimously.

- d) Parks and Recreation Report: Josh Durand is the new head of Parks and Rec for the Muni since John Rodda retired. The Chugach Mountain Bike Riders (CMBR) is hoping to add to their Mirror Lake singletrack trails, by building a small bike park with balance features in the woods near the parking area. The Mac Center was on track to finish 2019 ahead of budget; the dock at Beach Lake has been removed and will be replaced in the spring – we may or may not request FEMA funding to help, depending on the strings that come with it. We're moving forward developing plans for a dog park in a currently unused section of Peters Creek Park.
- e) Chugiak Eagle River Advisory Board
- f) Treasurer's report \$255 – no meeting
- g) Birchwood Patrol Report: there was a Chugiak burglary with very slow response time
- h) Legislative / Assembly reports: Kelly Toth with Lora Reinbold's office let us know there will be a Town Hall Jan 14<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 PM in the community room in Eagle River.

## **5. Appearances:**

- a) (none)
- b)

## **6. Old Business**

- a) AWWU update – Revisiting: should we ask assembly to repeal the ordinances directing AWWU to proceed with the (currently dead) transmission line between N Eagle River and CHS? This was tabled to next month
- b) Compatible Lands Foundation proposal for conservation easement – feedback requested by Parks and Rec (see notes on back of this agenda) We discuss the pros and cons, the cons basically being loss of control Liz Shen has looked into this and says the program seems to be a rare environmental bright spot. Mike notes that Eklutna was able to push back and not grant the easement in perpetuity. We are skeptical that it would bring much money. We are also concerned that the Municipality may try to take that money.

## **7. New Business**

- a) (none)

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

## **9. Adjournment-8:13pm**