

# **Birchwood Community Council**

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## **Minutes**

Wednesday, December 9, 2020, 7-9 PM

Via Zoom: link to be sent day of meeting

(remember, you can use your phone to call into a zoom meeting, as well as your computer to join on-line)

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

### **1. Call to Order 7:06**

### **2. Approval of Minutes (October and November) approved**

### **3. Announcements**

- a) Zoom meeting procedures.
- b). ASD report (attached)
- c). HLB Dec 10<sup>th</sup> meeting includes approval of Draft HLB 2021 Annual Work Program and 2022-2026 Five-year Management Plan.

### **4. Reports**

- a) FCC Report: Matt Cruickshank nothing pressing
- b) CBERRRSA Road Board Report (need new alternate – Gretchen has resigned) Matt seeks a new alternate –perhaps CBERRSA could maintain Birchwood Loop – this is possible – express interest
- c) Parks and Recreation Report no report – meeting scheduled for next Monday
- d) Chugiak Eagle River Advisory Board – no issues
- e) Treasurer’s report - \$277
- f) Tim Benningfield – CVFD is on track to break their record for calls -1,039 calls for service this year, About 100 calls/month. They have lots of volunteers, but like everyone else they are tired. Training has mostly moved to online. They have had to cancel much of what makes the department special. Cliff Gilmore passed away – they have rededicated the fire station on Inlet View to him. They are focused on staying safe, happy and healthy.
- g) Birchwood Patrol Report Jeff is moving but will continue to be involved with Community Patrol. He did say that the APD Officer that patrols the Birchwood area would be happy to meet with us, but would prefer in-person. A new Birchwood Patrol person will be giving reports, but Matt has not connected with her yet.
- h) Legislative / Assembly reports: Jamie Allard: At last night’s Assembly meeting they talked about the COVD mandates; suggested revisions to EO16 failed. Jamie feels one thing accomplished was to delay a proposed tax levy to purchase APD equipment. She doesn’t feel this is the time for the community to be paying for these items, and that the alcohol tax should cover those expenses anyway. Crystal moved to postpone consideration of the tax so they could find the money elsewhere, and that passed. She, Crystal, and Celeste teamed up to find other funding and not put a new tax on the ballot. They will be working on the 2021 budget again on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Gretchen asks about using alcohol tax money for APD body cams – is that accurate? Jamie clarifies that it’s to support first responders which includes APD. Matt invited Ken McCarty to report. The Legislature is in the organizing process, and there is nothing official to report. The Goernorv will come out with budget on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. Ken

2020-2021 board: Debbie Ossiander, Chair; Matt Cruickshank, Vice Chair, FCC and Road Board rep; Gretchen Wehmhoff: Secretary for Publicity; Lexi Hill, Secretary & Parks and Rec rep; Patty Friend, Member at large; Val Jokela, Treasurer

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asks for questions / concerns to take to Juneau. Matt asks if there are any constituent meetings scheduled. Virtual town halls will be scheduled by the caucus. Also his team is putting together web site and regular meeting times without waiting for town hall meetings. Deena Mitchell – Deena just sent Margo’s School Board summary; she also sent documents around goals and guardrails. They had their last strategic planning tonight. Their “goals and guardrails” that replace 90 by 2020, were informed by a Great City Schools person who said – keep it pithy. <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/5462> Based on public and administrative input, there are 3 goals – by May 2026, improve reading proficiency at 3<sup>rd</sup> grade from 40% to 80%. At Grades 3-9, move math from 40% to 55%. Also demonstrate that HS graduates are life, college and career ready. They would like each student to have an internship, and at least 1 CTE class, There are also 4 guardrails. There is a feedback form out now, she will put the link in the chat. Cares act vouchers available as well, through Dec 13<sup>th</sup>; she will put link to info in chat box. School start plan: at Dec 15<sup>th</sup> meeting they will have a more fleshed out plan. Perhaps start around MLK day, or right after Christmas break. Ken notes that he’s thinks it’s important to encourage kids to enter trades, with apprenticeship programs even at 14. However, OSHA regs state that you have to be a certain age to do certain types of work, so that’s an issue.

Crystal: The Assembly has been very busy with many ordinances and resolutions. They approved a rate increase for AWWU; it will go to RCA for approval. As Jamie reported, the two of them were successful at postponing a proposal for the ballot for additional taxes for APD body cams. They are still working on where they can find the funding, without an additional tax levy – they have about 5 weeks. Perhaps grant \$\$, or some bond money. The Assembly also moved on re-appropriation of CARES act funds to rental, mortgage, and business relief.

### 5. Appearances:

- a) MEA: Julie Estey – As we know, they have scaled back the project to a replacement of the existing substation (and not an upgrade). Because they had shrink it so much, they applied for the existing (and not a different location) to P&Z in November. Van Le goes over recent history, where the project was postponed until a redesign could be completed. The redesign is for a replacement in the same location. Jan 11 is the P&Z hearing – those interested can call in, live stream, watch on TV., and can submit comments any time. The Council will get a copy of the redesign; it’s what they showed us in October. Matt asks if there’s the opportunity to testify as well as written comment. Yes, via Teams or call. They may allow some public attendance in the chamber, so those interested could check. Julie offers to get a package together to email around. They want to continue public involvement. Also, they have created a 3-D model; they have a video on their website of a drone flyover, followed by a 3-D rendering of the current project plan. <https://www.mea.coop/about-mea/majorprojects/substation-upgrades/> Matt remembers hearing at Chugiak that additional power would likely be added at a later time. How long out would this be? John Sinclair answers – it’s replace-in-kind project, but with a transformer to accommodate load growth. So there’s a fairly long horizon – 15-20 years at the current load growth before upgrades would be necessary.
- b) Anchorage Historic Preservation Commission: They are asking us to support their draft ordinance, which goes before the Assembly 1/4/2021 Jenny Blanchard – chair of the volunteer commission – here to present. This is a proposed ordinance to establish a local landmark registry, and procedures for listing. Question for Jenny – is Jenny familiar with

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the Chugiak-Eagle River Historical Society? (she is). Terry Lane (Q'er) wonders about preservation of the CBA property. The point of Jenny being here is to get community input on what are important sites – they don't want to be choosing places – they want the community to do that. There is a process laid out in the draft ordinance. The public would nominate, the commission would review and then forward to the assembly. It is voluntary – owners have to concur with the recommendation, or it doesn't go forward. There aren't big restrictions as a result of being on the local listing – only if you applied for a tax credit. Those credits come with restrictions but local listing does not. It's just a way to recognize the great history and culture in our community. Buildings with cool architecture, landmarks, Denai'na sites, etc. The ordinance is up for public comment now, will go before the assembly for consideration soon. Teri Lane: where did this originate? With the Historic Preservation Commission.

## 6. Old Business

- a) CBERRRSA CIP project (from last month – ideas?) Matt recaps last month. Birchwood hasn't had CIP funded projects for quite a while. Mark Littlefield came up with the Terrace Lane project, but it could be replaced with a different idea. At this time, we are not supporting anything. This is a very good time to ask for funding for a project. Debbie notes that we have had concerns about Terrace Lane; Lexi notes that we've been concerned about traffic, that improvement could help; but that improvement could also encourage more/faster traffic. Terry Lane notes that it would be interesting to have input from youth coaches (ski, running). Debbie suggests getting more information and making a real effort to get the affected residents here. We all agree.
- b) Birchwood Airport Master Plan update: Val followed up with Shelly Wade, who sent her 300+ pages of information. Val is reading and taking notes of her concerns and questions. The last master plan seems to have never become final – it's a draft final. In 2016 they updated the airport layout plan (like an as-built), which is the most updated material she has seen. To understand, she needs to back and look at Title 21 (Debbie notes they are largely exempt from Title 21, as a state-owned facility); they may be including the light industrial adjacent areas in the Master Plan. Ken would like more clarity on this as well. Also he feels the history that's available is incomplete and inaccurate. Birchwood is unusual for its weather – often much better than the surrounding areas. There is a lot of interest among airport users about this process. Crystal notes that she has asked for clarity around who has jurisdiction for what. It comes down to a taxation and services provided issue. She thinks responsibility and authority have to be clarified. Debbie notes that there used to be such cooperation, and she thinks that the lines were clear a long time ago.
- c) 20830 Alluvial Street (Chugiak) Zoning Questions – Update on planning decisions: Matt reports that planning clarified that the fence can be on the inside of the buffer. Tiffani is here for this issue – she wants to express her appreciation for Crystal's work in helping the neighbors. Gay and Tiffani ask who would enforce this - code enforcement, but neighbors would be most likely to notice any problem first.

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## **7. New Business**

- a) New zoning tool under consideration: Small Area Implementation Plan; This would allow landowners with adjacent properties to combine CUPs and variances into a single action. Ken asks if it's approved all-or-nothing? We don't know. We will hear more at the next meeting.

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

Ken asks about the resolution from October. Lexi clarifies that she replied (late) and that it's in the October minutes.

## **9. Adjournment-9: 07pm**