

Minutes
BIRCHWOOD Community Council
Wednesday, September 8, 2021, 7-9 PM

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of previous Minutes: *approved*

3. Announcements

- a) We will look into meeting in person and into mixed zoom / in person meetings
- b) Sep 18th at the crossing, 1 PM Dixie Waddell's memorial service
- c) Sep 19th dedication of the timing tower at Beach Lake dog trails in honor of Dixie
- d) JBER: Friday Sep 10 9/11 remembrance event at Arctic Warrior Chapel 11-12,
- e) Change of command on JBER
- f) September 19 - 9th Army Band performing at UAA Alaska Airlines Center grand re-opening
- g) September 19-20 – Alaska Native Heritage Center Suicide Prevention Subsistence Camp

4. Reports

- a) FCC Report: Matt Cruickshank – not much to report. Some discussion of AMATS TIP (later). One CC has requested FCC establish CC emails to ensure continuity.
- b) CBERRRSA Road Board Report They are working on choosing projects to move forward. Chugiak CC is interested in bike path on the back side of Oberg. They've commissioned the traffic/safety study in front of Chugiak HS. Gretchen will try to follow up with the CHS principal, who is unaware of a traffic problem there. There's been limited communication on the Artillery Road interchange – not sure of the status.
- c) Parks and Recreation Report (need a new rep – Lexi's term up next month) Mac Center is having management issues again but working on them; we are continuing to move towards developing a dog park in Peters Creek Park – neighbors' input helped staff identify several mitigation/safety changes in design; Audit of the service area continues.
- d) Chugiak Eagle River Advisory Board – met in May on cemetery issues, also on by-laws adoption. There was an email from Craig Campbell looking for funding for EagleExit from CERAB, the Road Board, and Parks and Rec; EagleExit stated they didn't think money from those sources would be appropriate, so matter was dropped. The ByLaws issue is not resolved. The group thought they had adopted bylaws, but the ombudsman pointed out problems in two sections. They will have to meet to determine what to do, but there is not a meeting scheduled now.
- e) Treasurer's report \$277.
- f) Tim Benningfield – CVFD – they are on track to break last year's record, and may get to 1150-1200 calls in 2021– 79% are EMS calls which is a challenge. They will be participating in a fallen firefighters memorial on Saturday, and will be adding their fallen Scott McClain to the memorial downtown. The department is hiring a new training coordinator, as their long-time person is leaving.
- g) Birchwood Patrol Report none
- h) Birchwood Airport Master Plan – no report, no meetings since March

- i) Legislative / Assembly reports Pat Higgins: School has started; the District is putting out Covid case information, updated daily. The board is monitoring academic outcomes, and how to improve them. Test results in the last two years aren't reliable. He's asked for a 5-year study. The appropriate role of school board is a topic of discussion by the board. Superintendent's contract is up June 30, and she has not requested an extension. The board will need to find out if she wants to stay and determine if that's the direction the board wants; or start recruiting if she does not want to stay.
- Kelli Toth (Sen. Reinbold). The Legislature is in its 3rd Special Session. Most Legislators are in Juneau. SB3006 coming to floor tomorrow – issues dealing with corona virus – to relax telemedicine; waive background checks, and waiving utilization review requirements. There are still discussions on PFD, budget, and possibility of 4th special session. Tim B lets Kelli know that BCC supported CVFRD's Station 32 request, and he will send material to Kelli to send on to Lora. Lora was named an honorary commander at JBER; it's a good way to build closer connections

5. Appearances:

- a) none

6. Old Business

- a) none

7. New Business

a) Proposed AMATS TIP criteria (for scoring projects to decide which ones to fund); Matt summarized AMATS, and TIP, and the policy committee's criteria to rate proposed projects. The new criteria don't always take Eagle River into account – they give points for things that we cannot get. Debbie follows up with the importance, as these criteria will affect how federal money is spent. In the proposed new criteria, points are provided for plans that we are not part of, without including parallel points for the plans we are part of. (e.g., stormwater, Anchorage 2040)

Matt moves to put forth the draft motion, 2021-09-01. Gretchen seconds. Debbie walks through resolution. Gretchen asks if this would allow us money that normally we can't get? Open up new opportunities? Matt explains – operating and capital. TIP is capital – any infrastructure in the Anchorage area (which includes us) this could help us get. Ultimately, the margins between projects that move forward and those that don't are only a few points. Annually 30MM – 65% motorized and 35% non-motorized. Lexi expresses concern as well. Kelli asks for process clarification. Debbie/Matt discuss who's on the policy committee; they are considering new criteria. (Matt is on the community advisory group to the policy committee.) Our resolution is as a comment on the draft criteria. Lexi asks for comments on the 'Therefore'. Matt says they will be rewriting. Motion carries by acclamation. Debbie asks that we cc Sami Graham, Craig Campbell, Crystal and Jamie.

Matt brought another change – all project to be put on the TIP have to be nominated by a CC or an individual. Process to do so is being created. Matt will keep us informed. Lexi thinks the AMATS people should keep us informed, by coming to CCs; Matt says they are resistant.

- b) Elections – Next month is elections – Secretary, Secretary for Publicity, and Treasurer are open; in addition, Debbie needs to step down as Chair
Gretchen Wehmhoff is willing to run for Secretary for Publicity
Val Jokela willing to run for treasurer
We will also need to elect a new Parks Board Rep and Alternate; Barbara Trost is willing to run for representative, and Lexi Hill for Alternate

How to let folks know if you're interested? Email Debbie or Lexi

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

9. Adjournment- 8:25