

Birchwood Community Council
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Minutes

Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7-9 PM
Meeting held over Zoom

1. **Call to Order:** 7:02 PM
2. **Approval of December 2021 Minutes-** approved by Lexi and seconded by Patty
3. **Announcements:**
 - a) Birchwood Airport Master Plan Survey open through Wednesday Jan 19th-available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BirchwoodAMP>
 - b) CBERRRSA 2022 meeting schedule published-4th Monday of each month except 3rd Monday in March. Agenda deadline is 5 calendar days prior to meeting.
 - c) Lots of range activity on JBER in January—Arctic Valley Road may be closed from time to time and there will be noise in Birchwood and Eagle River.
 - d) AMATS: doing 2023-26- open for nominations until Feb 14:\$ 32M
 - e) Other reports- want to streamline our meetings and limit other reports to 5 minutes apiece. The February 9 meeting we will begin to enforce this. This does not apply to the regular reports such as Parks and Rec etc. Next month will be a slightly different agenda to clarify. There is no intention to stifle any matters.
4. **Reports**
 - a) FCC Report: this position representing Birchwood Community Council is vacant. Seeking an interested BCC member to fill this position.
 - b) CBERRRSA Road Board Report: Matt Cruickshank: Aurora Borealis- Chief Benningfield to get a key to the proposed gate. One of neighbors put up an ice berm on his own property. This was escalated to the Mayor's office. It was determined it is on his own private property. The owner will seek litigation, if there are attempts to remove the berm. CIP rolled over 1.2M. Looking for all funding sources for Starner Bridge. Worse case, we do have funding for the bridge. Waiting back on design choices for CHS. As soon as get list, will send to the Birchwood Community Council email. Complaints about snow removal knocking over mailboxes, reflectors, buried ½ trees on Barbara's property. Mckenna has a 7 yr contract. There is a new grater operator. The first course of action for a citizen with an issue is to call Mark Littlefield. Lots of damage in neighborhood. Forward any complaints or information to Matt. Eagle River Valley Community Council wants our council to support a 4th lane from Hiland to Muldoon on Glenn Hwy. In the past, it has been supported as a CIP project. Artillery Road also a potential project.
 - c) Chugiak Eagle River Advisory Board: Debbie Ossiander: Patty and Debbie are working together to set up a meeting with Crystal and Ron Tompson around local concerns about ADU's. Ombudsman thinks our bylaws to not meet current requirements. Requirements for public notice and attendance at meetings is not clear. Other issue: Marijuana establishment proposal located on Horseshoe Lane requested attendance at Eagle River CC. Gretchen stated a marijuana establishment does not

need to be a community council type meeting. Marijuana applicants are being told they need a community council meeting when they need only a community meeting. Applications open for the AMATs TIP proposed priorities for scoring. The recent changes to scoring gives total priority to Anchorage. We are a disenfranchised one approved-gives total priority to disenfranchised neighborhoods and scoring did not favor Chugiak-Eagle River, which was down 8 points. We've been late getting ours, so AMATS priority will go to ANC areas and not to new areas that need the infrastructure.

d) Parks and Rec: Barbara Trost: The Board is working on the budget. Mark Littlefield wrote letter saying Parks and Rec is hoarding money. Money is moved around and the Board of Supervisors is not advocating a mil rate change. 90% of the budget is used for operations to maintain what we have. If cuts are wanted, it will affect what we have. 10% goes into the capital budget for projects-Chugiak Pool improvement and park maintenance buildings that need upgrade. Lexi-Comment on large balance for P&R: Need to save and spend. A large balance on hand is needed to address needs. It should go up and down (capital balance) and as a result we should never have to ask for a bond. This saves it up and money is available to spend. It sounds big to have a 5.6 M budget which is used for pool, maintenance facilities, and 13 more projects. Equity also comes from the user groups. Next P&R meeting the budget will be finalized. Update: Mirror Lake-still waiting for Eklutna to answer questions. Update Peters Creek dog park: there is another plan as there is another meeting to work with the neighbors.

d) Treasurer's report: Val Jokela: \$277.00

e) Tim Benningfield-CVFD: absent

f) Birchwood Patrol Report: no report. Has not heard from Jeff—nothing going on. Our patrol officer prefers in person meetings.

g) Birchwood Airport Master Plan: Val Jokela: There are 4 potential plans for the airport that will be shared with stakeholders through the survey link noted above in announcements.

h) Legislative/Assembly/School Board and other reports:

Representative Merrick: is concerned as to what is important to the community.

Federal infrastructure package coming in.

Concerned about traffic impact at CHS (Debbie) In design presently on proposals for CHS. Keep Representative Merrick in the loop.

Joy -Arctic Thunder Open House-Thunderbirds will be performing-July 30-31.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for business' at the Open House. How long expect artillery noise: not deploying as much, so practicing more to stay proficient.

gets monthly report from range management. Gretchen- there is a young man writing history of base and she has a lot to add from Birchwood. Have a base historian-Chris.

Joy will get Gretchen his email address.

5. Appearances: None

6. Old Business: Huge thank you to Lexi serving as Secretary for BCC. She is one of the longest serving members and she has given so much to the community. Debbie first and

Patty second nomination for Val Jokela to take over the secretary duties. Lexi said it has been a pleasure to serve. Lexi volunteered to help with By-laws.

7. **New Business-** Gretchen: AO 2022-14 and AO 2022-18 were presented Friday, January 7. Assembly member Constant presented 2022-14 and in response to Constant's, Assembly members Allard and Kennedy proposed AO 2022-18. Constant's sponsored an advisory ballot proposal to the entire MOA, asking the question on whether the area of Eagle River, Chugiak and Eklutna should detach from the MOA and form a separate local government. AO 2022-18 in response is only for the residents of Chugiak and Eagle River, Eklutna and Peters Creek proposing a study to see if we should detach. A study or voting is premature in the process of considering the question to form a separate government. We have not requested a vote or study. The voters have no tax capacity to support a study. Funding is in question. Motion made by Debbie and seconded by Lexi: based on the 2 ordinances- Birchwood Community Council offers a resolution asking assembly to drop both ordinances and not proceed at this time. Lexi seconded. Discussion followed on issues: (no vote tonight) Call special question or next meeting take a vote. This needs a decision by next special assembly meeting January 19. This qualifies as emergency question because of its time sensitive nature and our By-Laws say we can do it as it is time sensitive. We can vote on it tonight. Can add whereas without a month's notice. Chris Constant is not our community rep. Motion is to approve the resolution. Representatives should stay in their area, but it is not illegal, if they do not. Debbie voiced frustration could not vote for or against without more information. Where would the line be drawn? These are complex questions with little to no information to assess the impact. Need to put some parameters on this. An analysis costs of for example separating out school districts, so add to "whereas" the impact on tax-based education. An advisory vote is inappropriate, as it just came up Friday. Not even admendment taxation, education and government. Northern Economics has studied it, and it is not a benefit to separate. Lexi said group of people explore it. Group should present to CC's and community. Not enough info Special question between meetings. Members list send to that group. Make a ruling going to send out a question. Appendix asterick by 14. End with Debbie or Matt signing it. Forward to assembly. Vote it is an emergency question. Send out resolution and attach ordinances to our membership and vote prior to 19th. Part of special meeting can reference it. Debbie made a motion to use the emergency question process and Gretchen seconded.

Crystal Kennedy: assembly items January 25 meeting. Special meeting Wed the 19th to deal with the Ordinances. 2 measures proposed ask if folks want to investigate the concept of Eagle River-Chugiak detaching from MOA. Constant proposed shall ER detach and be voted on by all Muni voters. Comments due next Wednesday. Public hearing will take place January 25th. Committee for reapportionment: Last year voted in 12 members on the assembly because 1 more downtown representative was added, and as a result now malapportioned. 2 town hall meetings scheduled. Website is: reapportionanchorage. 2 meetings the end of January: Zoom meeting January 26, and 27th at the Loussac library. There are large maps with 5 proposals at Chugiak-ER Library. 2022 property appraisals coming out—valuating 5.1% increase. Link in chat. Valuation cards in 2 weeks. If appeal get in quickly as it is only a 30- day window. Line down Glenn Highway for Capstone Covid testing. It is a State test site. Traffic issues will be

addressed: Amy Demboski-said they will move back to Garcia's. Last night assembly voted to put 100 and million bond on ballot. 5% increase overall. Question about apportionments to Chugiak- ER Advisory board, and the only way proceed is to apportion. Nothing is needed from Mayors office or assembly. Just name your representative to the board. It is not a mayoral appointment nor assembly confirmation needed. Terrence Shanagan or Sami Graham handling boards and commissions. Send members to Mayor's office...keep website up to date who's appointed to board. Parks and Rec is still waiting for confirmation.

Pat Higgins: bonds done every 2 years and combined with what is being paid off. Add additional groups and safety programs. Added Inlet View and Lake Otis deferred maintenance on roofs- long term bond. Added additional roof issues. Omicron is impacting-staffing: lack of substitutes, food service, busses. Head of Economics-Neal Fried-27,000 less employed than 10 years ago. Lower 48 is targeting nurses and teachers. Nurses can make up to 7K per week in the Lower 48. Effective recruitment is to keep what we have. Superintendent search started. Looking in and out of State, and plan on having something by March. Go to ASD website for time line. Challenges to new superintendent: budget issues, reduced number of students, flat funding, declining coverage from state because of student number loss: \$ 70 million less. Arbitration: room for discussion. Inflationary factors-7% increase. May have some school closures.

John Rodda: helping Parks and Rec with a few things. Rodda volunteering and asked to step in with operational and budgetary issues. Process of getting board appointment approved. Terrance Shanigan and Sami Graham are handling Boards and Commissions. It was noted the autonomous nature and standing of CERAB. Big backlog. Be patient. Submitted October minutes along with appointments. Members can continue to serve without appointment up to 90-120 days.

8. **Open Forum-TIP**-limited time frame for projects. Pushed up deadline and will bring up with CBERRRSA.
9. **Adjournment:** Gretchen moved and adjourned 8:43