

Birchwood Community Council

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MINUTES

BIRCHWOOD Community Council

Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 7-9 PM

1. Call to Order: 7:00PM

2. Approval of April Minutes: Matt C moved to approve and Ben Westveer seconded. Minutes approved and accepted

3. Announcements

a) Birchwood Community Council will not meet June-August 2022, unless there is an emergency. Next meeting will be September 14, 2022 from 7-9 PM-no objections.

b) From Joy Boston: Boniface Visitor Center is open! Richardson Visitor Center is closed until September 2022 and below:

- Red Flag Exercises – joint (Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps) and coalition (UK, Canada, etc.) field training exercise (FTX) with personnel and equipment located at Eielson AFB and JBER and operations conducted in Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC)

April 28 – May 13

9 – 24 June

Information to file a noise complaint at <https://www.jber.jb.mil/Contact-Us/>

- The next unaccompanied veteran committal service will be Wednesday, May 25 at 2:30 PM at the National Cemetery; contact Virginia for help getting on base, Virginia.Walker1@va.gov

- Municipality's Memorial Day event "Anchorage Remembers" will be on Monday, May 30 at 9:30 AM at the Veteran's Memorial on I St between 9th and 10th Ave, downtown Anchorage

- The National Cemetery on JBER will hold a Memorial Day event on Monday, May 30; music will begin at 11:30AM and the ceremony starts at 12PM at the flagpole. Everyone is asked to park on Davis Highway, outside the cemetery, and walk into the grounds. Handicap and VIP parking will be available inside the cemetery. Please call the National Cemetery at 384-7075 for additional information

- 48th annual Arctic Valley Run (5 miles or 12.6 miles) will be Saturday, June 4 at 10 AM, more info and sign-up at <https://runsignup.com/Race/AK/Anchorage/ArcticValleyRun>

- Arctic Thunder Open House, July 30-31! Find updates at <https://www.arcticthunderopenhouse.com/> or on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/events/s/arctic-thunder-open-house-2022/868294350700826/>

- Several leadership changes coming up this summer at JBER
Alaska NORAD Region/Alaska Command/11th Air Force incoming commander Lt Gen David Nahom

2021-2022 board: Debbie Ossiander, Co-Chair; Matt Cruickshank, Co- Chair, Road Board rep; Gretchen Wehmhoff: Secretary for Publicity, FCC Rep; Barbara Trost, Parks and Rec rep; Patty Friend, Member at large; Val Jokela, Secretary-Treasurer

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673d Air Base Wing incoming commander Col David Wilson
3d Wing incoming commander Col Kevin Jamieson

No additional information tonight on the soldier killed on base by a bear. Conservation officers out looking for it. Close to the landfill. Training area north and west of the landfill is where the bear attack took place

c) Fund raiser for OWL Camera/speakers- Matt Cruickshank -hybird meetings are the way to go. Larger organizations have added laptops, speakers...has to be something better...ability for audience to interface to on-line attendees. OWL is a 360- degree camera, microphones...whoever is talking, the camera and microphone turns to them. Captures everyone in room. However it comes with a hefty price tag...need support from BCC members--contributing \$10-20.00 would help. Idea might be to get one or 2 to check out from Parks and Rec, FCC, share with Community Councils? Like to see BCC get own device. Barbara said we could possibly get it through ARPA act. Pick up issue and get funding. Assembly asked about issues and what should be brought forth. Think once funding comes through...could have one next time we meet. Spend treasury \$\$\$? Motion: made to purchase an OWL and Seconded: to use specifically to conduct hybrid meetings. We have folks who want both styles. Need a monitor too. FCC wants to record meetings. Recording of meeting more specific. Better connection with OWL. Amend if funding available by September meeting for motion. Motion assembly pay for this. Motion: pursue get OWL like to pursue fund raising next 3 months and ask assembly members for help and that would trigger using our treasury. Motion passes 100%

d) Eaglexit has preliminary budget data and is preparing a draft Petition to Detach and Incorporate to the Boundary Commission on May 19. Asked us if we are interested in meeting. So many agenda items this month, so we'll push this out until fall. Look at proposed budget: petition the Boundary commission for a separate borough for ER/Chugiak. Compared what paying and what we think we should be paying. Our district 2 is spending 65.7M, but propose less on fire and police but more for roads, P&R more, schools and admin less. This will be a preliminary agenda item for September 14 meeting.

e) There is a new ordinance that sets up the process to possibly remove the Mayor from office by Assembly member Constant. A section would be added to code for Mayor and elected board removals would eff CVD. Give assembly final decision. Look at ordinance. Argument for it is there is already language to remove school board or assembly members.

f) HALO- Hillside looking into property assessments. They paid for the formula the MOA uses. Zoom meeting June 14 at 7PM and Debbie has the address and will provide on request.

4. Reports

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a) FCC Report: Gretchen Wehmhoff-no update tonight

b) CBERRRSA Road Board Report: Matt Cruickshank-good news with American rescue act \$\$-1.5M Starner bridge replacement. CBERRRSA has up to 1M in bridge funding. Construction next spring with goal by July 2023 the bridge will be open. Mark L-cross Starner...have to have place for graders and emergency vehicles. Where funding goes. Hope for funding this fall...get permits through Fish and Game and Corp of engineers. Cannot get down Aurora...neighbor...where have to encroach on property, construction easement will be needed. Approval to use and upgrade road. Has to go exactly where the bridge is right now. Aurora and Starner have no access by fire trucks...spoke to owner who put the boulders down...emergency access needed! Bunch of houses cut off now. Starner is cut off...all pay taxes and no access...risk of life. Council passed resolution last meeting asking for road to be open. Sent to all councils. Neighbor who owns Horse Drawn Carriage Company calls Debbie weekly to do something. His business has been financially hurt. Spoke with Gordy with rocks on edge...told Debbie fine with road reopening if not wider. That is not the understanding Mark has. Deb plans to get all CC's on board through their road board reps. Right of way law—once place used 10 years, it is automatic...precedent. Steve Schmidt surveying office says that is an unwritten law. Does not mean it is right of way. Need road survey public use. Mark says road board does not build roads, but, inspects and maintains roads. Talking about taking property---4 folks don't want road open. Power of eminent domain would take years...gotta go to court—lots of \$\$\$\$. Other ways to do it. Got told no by legal...pvt property. Need a bunch of folks saying it is important, go to road board meeting Proposed a little more needed to widen on both sides. Main concern emergency access---insurance-impact to mortgages...plan to supply emergency services. Get other CC's on board and attend CBERRRSA meeting and testify.

c)Parks and Recreation Report: Barbara Trost-Nordic ski club make improvements to ski trails by new parking lot available this summer. Might have to send out notice to BCC this summer. Safety projects-dog park Peters Creek, tennis court striping, single track Mirror Lake, storage completed. APRA-Parks and Rec get \$\$\$ pool and turn into salt water pool. Beach Lake Lodge upgrades..Josh Durand taken off. Beetle kill removal. Motion requests Parks and Rec add broadband to chalet to assembly and parks and rec...Barbara made motion rational needed! Approved.

d)Chugiak Eagle River Advisory Board: Debbie Ossiander-none

e) Treasurer's report: \$252.00. Mailbox fee \$100.00. FCC covers \$75.00. Val Jokela

f) CVFD-assistant chief Sullivan...phone call about rocks going in with melt down. Do have plan for fire suppression/medical event. Use light duty rigs to cross bridge. Had it happen this winter and it worked. Definitely have ability and service will be provided. Told no plan in place and it will cost. Mr. Meyers-told do have ability. Get apparatus to Starner Bridge and can reverse lay. Set up connections and run engine to the house. Engines work forward or backwards. Send BCC written summary that CFVD can respond to emergencies—Debbie's request. Chief Delecrouse acting. Will put it on web page.

g) Birchwood Patrol Report-none

h) Birchwood Airport Master Plan and survey from community (no responses) – Val Jokela Ben Westveer to assist with Survey Monkey. From the planners: 4 proposed changes for the airport and 3 would require land acquisition. The most popular change is to do nothing and leave the airport as is. This is based on 108 return responses to the planner's survey sent out Dec-January timeframe. Future stakeholder meeting dates are unknown at this time.

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i) Legislative / Assembly reports-letter from both Cross and Allard about the money, Starner Bridge, Beetle kill and OWL respond to assembly members directly- Kevin Cross and Jamie Allard-Assembly report: ARPA Funds (American Rescue Plan Act) are part of the \$1.9 Trillion dollar relief bill of which \$130B is set aside for emergency funding for eligible govts. Assembly working on their list: \$2M for beetle kill mitigation for Anchorage and Chugiak-ER, \$1M for Chugiak Pool improvements, and \$1.2M for Starner Bridge replacement. Asking CC's to email Kevin or Jamie directly with any items. May 10, \$4.9M from the Alcohol Tax Revenue was approved to build the Nav Ctr. This was a difficult decision for our reps, but MacDonald Center is on the list of emergency use facilities and potentially we could risk that center being used for a navigation center which was the main reason they supported the Nav Center for the homeless.

Pat Higgins-School board-graduation ceremonies. Grad rate over 80%. Speculation on new sup equals-vetted in advance by consultant. Expectation exceed quals. Conditional appointment predicated on new superintendent having to take AK studies. Next week he'll be here for transition. Deliberative process what helps kids be successful. Bond not passed...make series of bonds..maybe smaller ones would pass. Deferred maintenance issues need to be addressed. Fed funding to spend in the next 2 years. Save pay provision from state. September 2024 end date. Question from member: does new Superintendent have 3- year min classroom experience? Has more than that. Higher level admin expectations. Update next schoolboard meeting. Eugene Harnett-heard yesterday was \$1M designated Starner Bridge....1.5 already talking about. On floor Senate bill for PFD.

5. Appearances:

a) ADU briefing-Daniel Mckenna-Foster MOA -City thinking of changing ordinance about ADU's. Looking into existing ADU code. 2040 land use code—have 1000 units and this is not happening. What can we change to make it work? Biggest obstacle is materials and labor. List of proposed changes: Land use plan ER-Chugiak. Some of ER code refers to ANC code. Request to change-ER Chapter-mother-in-law apts. Code is specific to size and location and how many can live in one. (Sent in request for changes and resolution passed at our April BCC meeting—Debbie.) Remove- look like primary unit, single family home or duplex, no parking requirement. Set back same as rest of zone, no bedroom restrictions, same height as main structure. CERAB-all came together with suggested changes...main goal...amendment---see the incorp of changes we suggested. Need feedback on changes. Birchwood has large lots. Current code restricts to above a garage or attached to structure. More flex allowed on lots larger than 2 acres. Daniel did not receive Debbie's changes, so any comments need to go to him. Trying to address who lives in them. Debbie is on a 2.5 acre lot. Had to rip kitchen out and use as storage for her ADU to be legal. More flex would be helpful. For rent if someone is related to you. Owner occupant requirement, but could rent to someone not related. Push for apt shortage or more affordable housing. Fill in and get some units...not income related. Help community. Plan to bring before Advisory board September. Approve for next building season. Daniel said MOA has an OWL...good experience using it.

6. Old Business

a) Road Improvements for Terrace Lane, Shims, Hillcrest-Mark Littlefield-2 years ago-AWWU funds to build road---all classified as collectors. Wants to upgrade roads...targeting

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this one. Come off Hillcrest onto Sims...Almdale, Husky, James way...propose-start upgrade at Hillcrest for shoulders and drainage. No place to spend CIP as roads are done. Barbara-neighborhood not in favor of widening roads. Ditches don't have much right of way...appropriate ditches...for drainage. Concerned about trees and screening...afraid of more traffic if roads are nicer and faster. Put in raised intersections---slow them down and incorp in project. Not remove any screening, just convert road surface to better drainage. Will have final presentation from study. Sent out specific notification. Better if community come out sooner. Have to have entire road area surveyed. Survey monkey about road. Include before and after images in monkey survey.

b) AMCO re: Marijuana retail store status Eagle River- Chugiak passed resolution to support shop. Oliva Frank, AMCO Occupational Licensing Examiner has BCC on her email list and will keep us advised. It is tabled until September because of all the community input.

7. New Business: Matt Cruickshank- TIP funding mechanism in support of projects. How Fed and SOA money is spent—citizen lead. Lump sum \$\$\$ we barely get any. 3.5% over next 4 years...have 47K folks seeking like proportionate funding for our area. Any project that has both sources of funding...roads and bike paths. Priority goes to more developed areas of ANC. Considering population should get a higher % money. Matt moves to approve, Debbie seconds. Mayor, DOT and 2 assembly members on it. No rep from our community. Approved. Goes to AMATS and assembly members. (Need to select projects to go to MTP—Metro Trans Plan---2050... (go to virtual map and drop a dot on what you want) High school kids crossing road at Hillcrest-redoing study, Aurora Borealis and roads we discussed will submit for vote. AMATS 2050.com. ER not participating...and nominating. Debbie will spread the word about Aurora Borealis---when road board meeting is. Each council has a rep to CBERRRSA. Additional funding bridge...Debbie will get temperature from other CC's. Asking members to approach councils and talk with them. Resolution to be sent to assembly members and AMATS.

A resolution Requesting for Transportation Improvement Plan to have equitable funding for Municipality of Anchorage District 2

Whereas assembly district 2 has a population of 47,069.00

Whereas the municipality of anchorage has a population of 291,247.00

Whereas Assembly District 2 makes up 16% of the Municipality of Anchorage

Whereas Roadway Improvements and Non-Motorized Improvement for the 2023-2026 totals to \$61,211,000

Whereas Assembly District 2 has only 1 project: Eagle River Road Rehabilitation in Roadway Improvements and Non-Motorized Improvement for the 2023-2026 TIP.

Whereas all project funding for Assembly District 2 is equal to 4% of total Roadway Improvements and Non-Motorized Improvement for the 2023-2026 TIP

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Therefore, the Community Advisory Committee resolves to request the Policy Committee to adjust Roadway Improvements and Non-Motorized Improvement for the 2023-2026 TIP to better represent assembly district 2.

8. Open Forum-floor opened to public, any issue-none

9. Adjournment-8:53