

Birchwood Community Council

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MINUTES

BIRCHWOOD Community Council

Wednesday, January 11, 2023, 7-9 PM

Hybrid meeting: Eagle River Library Conference Room 170

And via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88131919316?pwd=RDA5ZGYrSlhORFhyOUtCM2dTRmJXdz09>

1. Call to Order: 7:05

2. Approval of December Minutes: approved

3. Announcements:

a) Proposed changes to MOA code Title 17 control of animals and types of control permitted in public places. Animal Control Advisory Board meeting January 26, 2023 @ 5:30PM and via Microsoft Teams and over the phone. Information on meeting can be found at:

http://www.muni.org/Departments/health/Admin/animal_control/Pages/ACAB.aspx

If you are unable to attend the meeting or would like to respond in writing, send any written comments to: animalcontrolcodechanges@anchorageak.gov no later than 5PM Sunday January 22, 2023. Goal is to tighten up the ordinance for loose dogs. ACAB seeking comment. Not at the assembly, yet.

b) JBER announcements: January is renewal month each year for iSport permits. Go to: iSportsmanpermit@https://jber.isportsman.net/ to renew.

We talked last month about aircraft noise and there has over Birchwood been more noise lately from helicopters. To submit a noise complaint contact Public Affairs either by phone or email: jber.pa@us.af.mil or 907-552-5387. Debbie emailed a complaint about helicopter noise and they were very responsive.

Joy-technical difficulties and she could not connect

AMATs newsletter transportation fair is Jan 12, 2023. 3-7PM

c) **Action item:** Election 2022-23 results for Birchwood Community Council-

Our council likes the co-chair model: Debbie Ossiander and Matt Cruickshank co-chairs 2022-23

FCC representative: Carol Perkins

Secretary for Publicity: Ben Westveer

CBERRRSA: Matt Cruickshank primary and Val Jokela alternate

CERAB-Debbie Ossiander primary and Patty Friend alternate representative. To clarify this position meets as needed and takes care of input to assembly. Some issues addressed have been marijuana retail store, building safety service area.

Board of supervisors for Parks and Rec: Barbara Trost primary and Lexi Hill-alternate-checking to see if we formalized Barbara

NOTE: We had a quorum and they were elected unanimously with no objections

d) January 19, 2023 there will be a vote to fill Jamie Allard's assembly seat. Matt is applying. Ken McCarty, Scott Meyers, and others are also applying. Matt has filed with State but not MOA, yet. Candidate declaration: He is applying for both the interim and 3-year seat.

2022-2023 board: Debbie Ossiander, CERAB and Co-Chair; Matt Cruickshank, Co- Chair, Road Board rep; Ben Westveer: Secretary for Publicity, Carol Perkins FCC Rep; Barbara Trost, Parks and Rec rep; Patty Friend, Member at large, and CERAB alternate; Val Jokela, Secretary-Treasurer, alternate Road Board

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e) FCC only has limited storage at this time for community council audio minutes. Can take them, but not a lot of room. Cloud virtual server. There will need to be some level of change to store minutes. There is space and we'll determine how much will be needed. Written document to send out: transcript.

4. Reports:

a) FCC Report: no meeting last month. Next meeting next Wednesday. Carol will have a problem getting to the January meeting. And unsure if there will be a meeting.

b) CBERRRSA Road Board Report: Matt Cruickshank-transition to new contract-significant rate increase 30%-terms longer. Pulling from fund balance. May have to adjust mil rate-a .03- limited to one mil on CIP, currently at .9. Small increase to mil rate for operations. Bridge is separate. CIP outside of daily operations. One more continuation funding. Resolution requesting support. State funds spent maintaining Birchwood Loop were asked for 2 years ago and were supposed to go to CBERRRSA. No changes have been made. Mark Littlefield retiring this spring. Approved \$40K overlap contracting officer. Birchwood Loop is terrible—did not have response. Can't get the main road clear. Side roads cleared. Need streets plowed better in front of high school.

c) Parks and Recreation Report: Barbara Trost-2 meetings since last one. One work session-BLMP-CMBR funding from fund rescue. Parks and Rec noted there is a master plan that needs to be followed. Trail has been in the plan and it needs to be a grade separated trail. Parks and Rec stepped in with a contractor and hired Josh Durand. Smooth waves between mushers and bikers. Supposed to get engineering estimate—not ready, yet. Cemetery-HLB will transfer to Parks and Rec—lots of unknown. Representative Cross said there is no hurry-tabled. Approved funding for Nordic ski club-assembly had on the agenda to move \$4.1M. BOS did not have budget. New person start end of January. New Manager Parks and Rec Eagle River. Trying to put more resources into our area. Jamie Allard complained-requested that they pull back request for other projects. Next meeting, the new manager will attend and the process will move forward for Beach Lk Park. Questions: Plan not multi-use trail first? Need to follow plan-and be grade separated, if not enough money summer use allowance for trail build. P and R-want grade separated. There is already use and conflict with mushers: hoping to alleviate and work to find funding for the trail. Talk about wifi chalet-nothing new—spring maybe?

d) Chugiak Eagle River Advisory Board: Debbie Ossiander-no report

e) Treasurer's report: Val Jokela \$152.00.

f) CVFD: Acting Fire Chief John Della Crose: emailed to Debbie: 108 volunteer responses, 9 advanced life support 89 responses, and ytd 1096. 66% emergency 10% fire, rest other. 577 hours volunteered 54,000 total volunteer hours pushing to get light rescue truck. Hoping to finalize fire chief interviews this month. 2 candidates from outside and none local to be interviewed.

g) Birchwood Patrol Report: quiet

h) Legislative / Assembly / School board reports:

Dan Saddler: not much to report, yet. Representing district 24, but not JBER, as they are now district 22. Political landscape foggy. Budget does not include increase for schools, proposed \$ 2500.00 PFD, supplemental budget pay back from previous budget year—8 representatives 9 democrats for senate. Not much budget cuts house 19/19- 2 outliers. Hope to have majority. 63 bills intro-spending cap, state constitution, repeal rank choice voting. Dan did not prefile bills. Capital goals-Starner Bridge, and see how to support cemetery. Dan Saddler can be reached at 907-465-3783.

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Andy Hollenan: School board will address school start times. This comes up every 5-6 years. Weigh in with school members. School closures-Abbott Loop-abandon the building, as it does not have fire suppression as the ceilings would have to be raised. State law-charter schools have the option. AK Native Charter is interested. They would pay for maintenance and repairs. Unclear how money we would save. Other schools will not be closed, as it has been shown if the other elementary schools are closed, we don't save tax payers money. Revenue per child drops, and the loss of revenue is greater than the savings. Will cost taxpayers. Could fit kids into 55 buildings now 65. If "give up" buildings, we would save money. ISER though predicts growth. We are seeing a decline—5-600 students per year decline. Expect fewer 1-2nd graders. Assembly passed \$33M for school safety upgrades, boilers, pressure to increase funding for schools...no change since 2017. We are \$50M short for next year running it the same as this year. Carol-Inlet View-couple of schools does have a couple of programs—move students to as few places as possible and move educators to keep programs intact. Principals set the tone. Special programs want to be in your own building. Might only be remodel Inlet View. Truancy is an issue and the school district is not paying attention—pass on hearing concerns from Birchwood Community Council. Ken McCarty-confirmed Birchwood ABC is not on the table. Nothing official has shown up yet for a potential increase in birthrate in Anchorage. There is a small group of citizens wanting to divert marijuana tax money for early childhood facilities and care. AO2022-17 as amended would take % marijuana tax—work on early childhood care-outside ASD, and this will work with private facilities. This will be on the ballot in April. Question-ASD assessment of the demographics and none of the kids coming into the school district but there has been an influx into the child care centers. Kevin Cross addressed there have been several closures and there are too many kids in facilities that are open. Homeless stay in system as can't afford child care. Ben noted there are less facilities to use and the base has the issue too, and can't get qualified folks to work. Ben-Curriculum-6 years implemented \$200M and was brought in by Deena Bishop. Grant spent-losing grant. SOA is not purchasing materials. Just got new curriculum, and we have a \$50M deficit, so how is it going to be implemented? Debbie: Inlet View-folks will angry if replace school after it was voted down. School start times-killed because of bus skd, Potential to reverse—no official decision—town halls trying to get a feel. 450 vacant positions. Jim Anderson—financial officer stated Abbott Loop may not close. Note: ASD in the past was desperate for schools and when Debbie served on the school board, 8 were built. Matt-round up \$2.5M per school closure-by closing in general-no savings? Smaller schools funded at higher rate. For 4-5 years save money—cost school district. Randy Phillips rewrote the foundation.

Kevin Cross-bond issues deadline 14th Feb to go on April ballot. ADU-private property development restrictions-across all aspects of construction-passed January 10 Title 21 changes. Anchorage was voted #1 least desirable city to set up business, land use codes-contradict each other-code issues. Debbie wants to see what is passed ADU—Kevin to send Debbie the whole package. Pushing for pvt proe pert rights...looking at homeless, under 2% rental vacancy---\$1500.00—no duplexes for sale in Chugiak-30% higher rents here. Build attached garage and now seen as ADU...increase housing build on existing lots. Quick way to add units. Chapter 10—ADU's—overlaps and allows for more-density requirement-1A lots? 40% of priority structure-add on to house or 1200 feet, whichever is less. Carol-codes developed for good neighbors—enforce building codes—yes. If attached to primary structure—structure has to meet code. Not in BSSA. Planning and development on top of code enforcement SOA does not require sprinklers for residential. MOA does within BSSA.

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5. Appearances:

6. Old Business

a) Update Starner Bridge/Aurora Borealis: Debbie/Matt -bridge-next meeting \$250,000 for planning sole source JFCC contract-design complete-Matt resolution pro estimate \$1.2M replacement—not voted on yet. Tom Prunty—tree knocked power lines out and no way to get to them. MEA does not have trucks under 6,000 pounds which is the weight limit to cross the bridge, so he ended up with frozen pipes. MEA would not cross bridge---finally they did take a truck across bridge, but the damage was done. His other house was ok. Aurora Borealis Road-Mark Littlefield said the right of ways are ok—got all of easements—pending as legal wanted to review? New owner of property has the records showing property easements from the previous owner. Guy blocking the road is different from the property owner who refused to sign—easements, former owner, property owner and interim—easements are there. Road moved a little bit. Did not want expansion of road and bridge—specific request for slight deviation on property but not entire road. Once signed off and recorded-public easement-maintenance can start--road will be as is, no repairs. Might add humps to slow down traffic.

b) Chugiak CC CER Cemetery Bond: Debbie Ossiander-Ben/Carol-hassle with cemetery MOA attorney thinks taking care of cemetery should be service area responsibility. Contact Tom O'Mally to see if there is a legal opinion on how the Anchorage cemetery is funded. Gave Girdwood info. Tom Loomey-driving force-talking with CC's-he suggested that every CC bring the cemetery to Parks and Rec. Why not give it to advisory board, but they are limited to advice only. Don't give up on area wide funding. The Mayor transferred the Anchorage Cemetery from the Health Department to Parks and Rec. Goes to Park board defacto-service area—Girdwood has responsibility for their cemetery. Loomey talked to folks at the south Anchorage cemetery. Try to propose public-private partnership with south Anchorage. Alleviate concern being tax burden because of being service area. BOS-following councils. Not all councils are in support, and not voted on, yet. None of other councils put anything in writing. (MOA is many months behind processing appointments.) South Fork is against having a cemetery and find it strange that this is being forced down a community that does not want it. It was on the advisory board a year ago, and at the time all were in support of site. HLB is eager to transfer property to some entity. No big rush on transferring property—if show interest in moving forward. Kevin said to table for now. Talk with HLB. Fearful Mayor or MOA attorney is making decisions: there is no language saying a service area is responsible for cemeteries. Dangerous road to take. Mayor saw cost savings taking away from Health and giving it to Parks. Area wide services pay for emergency services, schools, police. We have our own fire service area. Girdwood is different. There are many road service areas. The Health Department is areawide. There is a developer interested in HLB lot and it could sell for development. Put a rush on locking lot to transfer for cemetery. There are specific laws once a designated park to unpark it. Copy from MOA-regarding service area responsibility for cemeteries

c) Birchwood Airport Master Plan-Val Jokela-no updates-Ken McCarty says that pilots are not that much in support of alternate 2, but more into building hangars along the east road.

7. New Business: none

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8. Open Forum- nothing

9. Adjournment-9:03PM