

# Birchwood Community Council

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## MINUTES

### BIRCHWOOD Community Council

Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 7-9 PM

Hybrid meeting: Beach Lake Ski Chalet

And via Zoom

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

**1. Call to Order:** 6:57 pm

**2. Approval of March Minutes:** Carol moved to accept, Patty second-approved

### **3. Announcements:**

a) *Reminder: limit reports to 5 minutes or less per presenter*

b) In Anchorage Sat from 6-6, Sun 6-1- free medical care, and dentistry sponsored by Russell Pounds and the Mountain View Lions Club.

c) Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Loussac Library at 4:30 there will be a briefing on how access JBER military lands.

d) Environmental assessment of water on JBER—go on line and see what was done. Draft findings there are no significant impacts

e) Eagle exit- working on document to create a separate borough-waiting for a letter. Can email Sean Murphy at [sean.eaglexit@gmail.com](mailto:sean.eaglexit@gmail.com)

f) Robin Dern announced that anyone can do community ride along with the police and there is a citizen academy to learn more about what police officers do.

g) FCC is taking the lead seeking donations for honor flights to Washington DC. To donate, contact [lastfrontierhonorflight.com](http://lastfrontierhonorflight.com) The vets need to have a guardian accompany them.

h) Kenai is upset with the Supreme court's decision to access the grand jury

i) Let request NE(?) cc-like AMATS include more bike safety requirements. Bring to Matt our citizen representative.

j) Carroll Creek-plan April 20<sup>th</sup> briefing- Robin met with developers on Friday. John Rodda at BOS meeting—impact to Mac center-revenue loss for the Mac. Road is a big issue. It is really only a driveway.

### **4. Reports:**

a) FCC Report: Carol Perkins-March 15-Russell Pounds Anchorage free clinic-sponsored by Mountain View Lions Club-Looking for volunteers to help, have go-fund page, remote area medical-non-profit-cost of the event is \$4M. They be in Anchorage this week-end, and Fairbanks next week-end, Mark Butler gave an overview ballot measures, and organizations can apply for mayor's community grant for trail improvements, --Bear Paw gets \$10K. Mayor may retire more bonds, Chris Constant-wants to make a rule that the Ombudsman can see all records, there will be the open checkbook by the end of the year. Pat Higgins said the school budget is set in stone budget, looking for where to hold graduations. Damage in Sullivan is not totally known. Tom Davis-boundary survey-no one replied from Birchwood replied, but that is because our area had a representative for all of our areas. Councils wanted to return to in-person meetings—FCC will buy an OWL, Matt noted that replacing Mark Butler would be difficult-FCC is not in MOA code. No comments on defunding FCC from Mayor's office.

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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b) CBERRRSA Road Board Report: Matt Cruickshank-Carol-going ahead with bridge, funds come out of maintenance budget. They think they can work with Randy-vacate BLM easement. Ken McCarthy reported Pilot Road-potholes and they were fixed quickly—great thanks to Matt! The mil rate will be raised for our area.

c)Parks and Recreation Report: Barbara Trost – BOS-review budget again..setbacks, assembly tabled, has not moved money from the fund balance-go project by project, briefing-Dan Hagermann-more info on pool asking for \$3M for pool repair, have the \$\$ to pay for it. Asked Dan more pool projects to compare-the way we got price from Palmer pool renovation for \$9M. Hoping come in less. \$1M rough guess—starting point. The school district passed pool to MOA years ago.

d)Chugiak Eagle River Advisory Board: Debbie Ossiander-nothing to report

e) Treasurer's report: Val Jokela \$181.00.

f) CVFD: Chief Scott Fisher-increased volunteers to 103, 9 ALS responders, 82 March 274 total, 5, 438 volunteer hours for a year- to- date total of 15, 485 hrs. RE: Bond-area-wide bond- ballot did not happen-got changed to service area bond—too late to change ballots-verbal that tax money not collected or spent-it will be put it on the ballot again. Chief FIN officer-BOS sending letter requesting bond not be sold. If put on Chugiak folks-service vehicle only—bond approval is for a rescue vehicle-intent not to sell bond. Way written could not purchase service truck. Could only sell what was described in the bond. Robin-access for wildfires-Carroll Creek-evacuation-ready, set, go-road project below Bear Mt—added loop for evacuation. If build, like to have multiple egress points. Pulse point-Chief Schrage-anyone can download the app-early access CPR- sends to location after alert 911 system—if CPR is needed, alert goes out—subscriber can provide assistance.

g) Birchwood Patrol Report: nothing to report, except bear sightings and they have been seen along Jayhawk, and the Senior Center.

h) Legislative / Assembly / School board reports:

**Dan Saddler:** Main focus-ops budget, 457 deficits, 450, added 175M 1x education funding, draw from constitutional budget reserve. 2<sup>nd</sup> is capital budget-90-10 match of Fed money. \$1M Starnier bridge, \$275K senior center addition, Eklutna Lake trail \$400K. \$75M Port of ANC, Personal legis-pick, click save-easier to invest into IRA or savings acct, bill claim to sovereignty navigable waters, tech load fund-\$400K used for those with disabilities for revolving loan, CVD department, 4/5 years test medical exam for carcinogens. Land lord-tenant for mobile homes treat like any other apartment lease. Mineral bill-dept nat resources -critical minerals—for green energy from overseas-need source from AK. Chief Alex Park- \$10K bill from DOT-only need to do survey to do an improvement for 5 years. Education funding-budget constraint \$175M distribute like PSA..give in town teachers \$5K bonus, \$10K for rural with a road system, \$15K rural off the road system- for a period of 3 years. Work force, child care, business hiring-social service funding—request for Senior's—tried for \$700K and was shot down. State finances-fiscal plan 5 major components-PFD, Constitutional responsibility, 2% sales tax, reduce corporate income tax, look away from just oil. Will finish 17 May. Eklutna Lk trail—slides down along lake- AK long trail project-Eklutna Lake is trail part of it. State put money into looking at AK Minerals. Looking to what UAF/UAA discovers.

**Robin Dern:** will close the Sullivan Arena—working on contingency plans for the homeless. Forest Park mobile home park is a condemned area, from the earthquake, so the residents are considered homeless and this effects 100 folks. FEMA money not enough to make them whole. Eagle River-Kevin work on building code-other projects looked at ADU's. Eagle River project for the cemetery is moving forward. Coordinating the project with Tommy O'Malley, and moving forward with a

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heritage land bank transfer—Rob Jones, the director for the Anchorage Cemetery said it could be as soon as 2 years, that burial plots will run out in Anchorage. Tommy- like to see it on the ballot. Chugiak-Eagle River Advisory board-passed to adopt-against MOA building inspectors-watching reports of roof failures in Anchorage. Pulse points program-1000 folks signed up and they have responded to 164 cardiac issues. This program tells where AED's are, and it is a notification app. Joey Sweet in JNU and representing the MOA

**Carl Jacobs:** transfer pool maintenance from ASD to MOA-swimming is not a class you can get credit for---2 seats-2 incumbents on track to retain seats, prop 1-safety bond improvements-passed, board-meetings-family partnership correspondence program through district-amendment-operating the same. ASD operated school from charter. Board to weigh in on the use of Abbot Loop Elementary as the temporary home for the Alaska Native Charter school and will cover routine maintenance costs. School start times will change—townhalls align with scientific data and academic outcomes. ASD has a hot topics webpage.

## 5. Appearances:

## 6. Old Business

a) Update Starner Bridge/Aurora Borealis: confusion 1 resident promised vacation of easements-drafted MOU with what city will do for residents of road. Drafted and with one resident on road who is not happy. Will move forward, and the city will maintain Aurora Borealis once the letter signed. Process; sign off MOU, sign off ok-maintenance easement, survey of road, work with each land owner on their property. Vacate for 1 would have to do it for all—\$15-20K cost per lot.

b) Update Alice's application #29087-Val Jokela- Council representing Alice's requested that it be tabled until August 23-24, 2023 MCB Board meeting. It is indefinitely tabled until the request is brought to a meeting between the director and council representing Alice's. If this happens, it could be again discussed is at the August 23-24 Board meeting.

c) Birchwood Airport Master Plan-Val Jokela-Master Plan meeting Sat April 15-11-1PM. Ken McCarty added that the airport 123.0 frequency will be discussed and make sure everyone knows frequency and land features on map, so that pilots will know when to change frequencies. The Birchwood area is not recognized, and it is one of the busiest in the state.

d) Beach Lake Master Plan Resolution-Val/Barbara/Debbie-2011 Master Plan many years of community involvement-took community and mushing club collaboration to identify the grade separated trail area which was of interest by the general public. The lake is multi-use- and narrow part of land off the West side of the lake is dedicated to winter mushing. There are problems when a dog team comes by at the same time with an incompatible user on the dedicated trail for mushing. CMBR Will Taygan: the rub is how is it going to be realized- lots of negotiations-worked with dog mushers-Barbara stated PnR trying to catch up. P n R no staff recommendations on how to do this...CMBR and mushers, walked trails—ideas have been thrown out, folks think it is clear in the plan, and there is pressure to move forward. The understanding is it would be seasonal trail. The process has been convoluted, nothing official has been presented and the target has constantly been moving. There is a 2-year timeframe to spend the money. BCC would rather see something official. BCC is invested in Beach Lake plan, and preservation of the trails for mushing without incompatible user groups like at the Tozier track. Tasked last meeting to do resolutions— Presented a letter from CDMA through Will Taygan stating CDMA changed their approach.

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Debbie introduced BCC resolutions with a couple of amendments suggested by Mark Hamm. The amendments failed and the decision was made to not vote at current meeting, and gather more information as we are not sure what Parks and Rec has to say? A year-round trail is being considered instead of seasonal. BCC is very concerned that CDMA is jumping the gun. Version 2 of the proposed Resolutions is written in support of grade separated trails, while Version 1 written for seasonal multi-use trail vs year-round multi-use trail. Not sure what to do, yet. Will-part of process get expert involved –Boutet doing the analysis to put bridge in –grade separated is one option—\$1M, 770K Complication Monday-BLMP grade separated esthetic bridge-intent keep away from pinch point. The reality is folks are already using the mushing trails and it is difficult to restrict them. P&R nothing in writing to date. Gray trails on Will's map are mushing, orange trails are proposed. Bicentennial trail design recommends to build trails 100 feet away from multi-use trails. The dotted gray line represents vacated trails. Increase mushing mileage by 2.5 miles. The trails wide enough. Cost is \$1 million off road to bring materials in. Lexi stated that Will's proposal does not follow the master plan and she does not want to promote lots of folks year-round entering onto the mushing trails. Will wants to capture and normalize that process. Put bikers out there—concerned there will be more folks on the inlet trail, if biking mileage is too short. Not enough funding. There have not been mushers on the trail this season due to unusual amount of snow and trail breaker injuries. Birchwood Camp director, Relena Myers is a year-round resident of Beach Lake Camp and is in partnership with CDMA, as they use part of the camp trails in the winter. She thinks chicanes would work well. Lots of solutions to do that—groups of kids and families, as well as illegal snowmachines and 4-Wheelers are stopped and separated at grade-signage help people be respectful-have signage with snow fences—stopped folks from going onto the Birchwood Camp, and Birchwood Camp supports an at-grade crossing. Ken McCarty stated the cart is before the horse and more information is needed to make decision-Interested in at grade crossing-bigger and more prominent—have high speed crossing. Will stated mushers supported an at-grade crossing and have the money and should request from Parks and Rec to expand mushing trails. Barbara stated we need more information from the MOA, and clarification from CDMA. Mushers feel if they did not play ball, they would not get funding. Proposal—council feels comfortable in support seasonal trail. Debbie read the letter from CDMA—There was a Motion-to revise version 1 resolution to remove seasonal and grade separated by Mark Hamm and it failed. What is the liability if the Master Plan is modified to instead have same grade crossing instead of grade separated? Concern was voiced by Patty-by doing nothing by not taking a stand we may lose the window for input if we do nothing, and it is a disservice to do nothing. If do nothing, Ken McCarty stated there is lots of time, as there are still questions that need to be answered. Moved put on hold to have other players come in and present. Don't think we need to identify money at this point for grade separated. Where is community at? Planners believe more uses. Resolution version 1 calls for grade separated -no compromise. Resolution version 2 supports seasonal trail and study the future of a year-round trail. Parks and Rec plan to move forward...Postpone this time sensitivity for park board, MOA and mushers present. Extended meeting by Debbie for 10Min—Will's second request was for Lower Eagle River Trail Concept- Meadow Creek to Gruening Middle School. There is a Letter of support from the principal. Part of trail is on Eklutna land. Gruening wants access for their students to connect to Gruening instead of bridges. Go forward to plan if support? Superintendent wants to write a letter of support for

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concept-The motion was amended to concern about bear impact/mitigation. Debbie, and Lexi seconded. Ken M. asked if the trails are used by e-bikes? The Lower Eagle River Trail Concept with the bear mitigation consideration, passed.

e) Approve alternate Parks and Rec rep: Lexi is our alternate---Carol made a motion to close nominations. Lexi-write letter copy of minutes. There will be Special assembly meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April 18 and the letter is needed by then.

f) Update Federation of Community Council-re:10-year review of community council boundaries-No suggested changes for Birchwood CC boundaries—Call CCC Jake. Powder Ridge should be in Eagle River's CC.

f) Question to members: Would you like to have a presentation from APD either at the May or September meeting? Carol thinks ok and would like to think of some questions. Will look into it.

## **7. New Business**

## **8. Open Forum**

## **9. Adjournment: 9:09 PM**