

# Birchwood Community Council

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## Minutes

### BIRCHWOOD Community Council

Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 7-9:00 PM

Hybrid meeting: Beach Lake Ski Chalet

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88131919316?pwd=RDh5ZGZySlhORFhyOUtCM2dTRmJXdz09>

**1. Call to Order:** 7:02

**2. Approval of October Minutes:** Motion made by Ben Westveer, seconded by Ken McCarty to approve minutes as read.

**3. Announcements:** *(reminder please limit presentations to 5 minutes)*

**4. Reports:**

a) FCC Report: Carol Perkins- Project Hope presented information on Naloxone drug treatment at the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. It is primarily effective counteracting opioids but can be given with no ill effects to a person taking another drug. Training and kits are available from the Alaska Public Health Department. Always call 911 after the first dose is administered and monitor breathing. The manager's position has not been filled yet.

A volunteer is needed to work on the budget committee.

Councils may request \$75.00 reimbursement for council expenses.

b) CBERRRSA Road Board Report: Matt Cruickshank – Road Board is approving Capitol Improvement Project (CIP) requests at last road board meeting; Birchwood received 1.2 million for Starner Bridge. All councils fully supported this large appropriation. Two CBERRRSA Resolutions passed to support all means possible to secure a temporary road easement on Aurora Borealis. A negotiator was hired and has been working unsuccessfully with neighbor on Aurora Borealis. The Mayor signed a supporting document. The bridge cannot be built before there's a temporary road easement. Discussion followed. Carole Perkins requested a guard rail at the top of Aurora where it turns off Birchwood to keep people from sliding off icy road.

c) Parks and Recreation Report: Barbara Trost- There have been no meetings this month; work sessions are scheduled for later this month.

d) Chugiak Eagle River Advisory Board: Patty Friend - Richard Whitney has been most helpful in assisting local community councils and CERAB in straightening out appointments and their duration. The Advisory Board chart on the Municipality site for Boards and Commissions is now correct and current. R. Whitney will also be providing admin support to CERAB, we are very appreciative.

e) Treasurer's report: \$204.00.

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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f) CVFD: Chief Scott Fisher- September report: 97 volunteers, 7 ALS responders, 89 call in September, ytd 816 calls, 4099 volunteer hours.  
October report: 97 volunteers, 1 new paramedic, 8 ALS responders, 87 calls in October, ytd 903, 5155 volunteer hours, 49,203 volunteer hours year to date. Ken McCarty asked question about training opportunities for youth. Chief Fisher shared information on the Explorer program for youth under 18 years of age.

The bond that passed in April is a bit of a political mess due to an error in wording on the ballot. The bond for an emergency rescue rig for CVFD was passed, the board of supervisors feels strongly that funds should not be spent and instead pursue an area wide bond instead of local taxpayers bearing the burden for a resource that has been traditionally area wide. The correctly written bond will go before the voters again, in April or later.

g) Birchwood Patrol Report: None

h) Legislative / Assembly / School board reports: Andy Holleman- Anchorage School Board – Remote learning day today due to weather. Currently formulating budget and bond proposals to be sent to the Assembly. Inlet View Elementary will be rebuilt at a cost of \$18M. Ken McCarty asked about \$15M allotted for trades training. Next fall all 9<sup>th</sup> graders will choose a career path and follow through high school. The Next Generation Learning (NGL) is expensive and labor intensive. There is EMT training at the King Career Center, and a general Health Services Track at some high schools. Comments were made there are no shop classes in Eagle River schools. Extensive discussion followed. Chair Matt Cruickshank made a comment emphasizing that we as a community value training in the trades for our students.

## **6. Old Business**

a) Status of board member terms: See D. under Reports

b) Eaglexit: Sean Murphy – Eaglexit is the effort to detach from Anchorage. The board has worked closely with the legal team and completed a first draft of the Petition, legal brief, and charter. They are working on a petition for the collection of signatures. All support is appreciated; there will be a Beer and Wine tasting with silent and live Auction on November 25<sup>th</sup>. For more information as well as the downloadable brochure, go to [Eaglexit.com](http://Eaglexit.com).

c) Homeless Task Force: Ken McCarty – The Task Force met November 2<sup>nd</sup> and November 8<sup>th</sup>, please see Homeless Task Force Synopsis for Ken's complete summary.

## **7. New Business**

## **8. Action Items**

**9. Adjournment:** Motion and second to adjourn meeting at 8:05, meeting adjourned.