

# Birchwood Community Council

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## MINUTES

### BIRCHWOOD Community Council

Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 7-9:00 PM

Hybrid meeting: Beach Lake Ski Chalet

And via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88131919316?pwd=RDh5ZG9ySlhORFhyOUtCM2dTRmJXdz09>

#### 1. Call to Order: 7PM

#### 2. Approval of January Minutes: Motion to accept made by Matt, and seconded by Patty

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

- a) Cemetery bond on April ballot-Mayor in support of the cemetery bond-total bond \$4.5M for Chugiak, Eagle River, and Girdwood. Tommy O'Malley suggested that we need a Chugiak-ER person on the board.
- b) Arctic Thunder Open House-Thunderbirds to perform July 20-21, 2024
- c) FCC representative-needed to replace Carol Perkins. All councils send a representative to FCC monthly meetings.
- d) Eagle Exit Public meeting will be held at February 20 starting at 7PM at Century 21 which is located by AIH. The focus is to establish a new borough separate from MOA.
- e) Heritage Land Bank Advisory Board meeting is Feb 24 and will address the reserved land for the cemetery site.
- f) Peters Creek Dog Park Public Meeting March 7 from 6:30-8PM in Room 170

#### 4. Reports:

- a) **FCC Report:** Carol Perkins-question why so much more in budget-made a budget for full-time manager. Chris Constant signed. Will facilitate more training and support to councils. Green cards increased property values because of a shortage of houses. Grant apps out in January of each year. \$500.00-1K amounts. Assembly asking for increase in BSA. Anchorage started the ballot tracking and now SOA is doing the same. Board of equalization needs more folks—can apply. Representative Mears-working to form a more cohesive group. Senator Kaufman is working for better snow removal. Federation looking for a treasurer.
- b) **CBERRRSA Road Board Report:** Matt Cruickshank -snow removal-state supp snow removal contract so if heavy snow loads can pay T&M rates. Legal determined Eklutna CC- qualifies for a seat on the road board and they do. They have 46 homes and 1.25 lane miles. They have the amount for representation for 46 homes. All reps to go back to their CC's and get feed back from CC's and inform them that Eklutna needs a rep on CBERRSA-What could happen might be a resolution to re-define CBERRRSA area. All CC's need to weigh in before vote. Current resolution says if have road lane miles inside Eklutna they need representation. Down side is the loss of a tie-break. South fork is the smallest community council area, so initially it did not seem that 46 homes should have the same voting strength. Up to lake, is a state road. Original driving force was Eklutna Rd-doesn't get flat funding. All core services we pay taxes get sacrificed adding more. Expectation SOA maintains state roads. Eklutna pays road taxes therefore they are entitled to representation. Matt supports redoing the ordinance.

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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Road Board Service area MIL rate adjustment: The residential exemption-MIL rate- increased from \$50,000 to \$75,000 dollars and there has been a loss of the tax base in Chugiak-Eagle River. Smaller taxable base-higher senior discounts, no new population out here- \$400,000 in the red-pulling on fund balance-1Mil operating, 1 MIL CIP over capped at \$2.1M—board settled on highest mil rate 2.04 comes out to a \$40.00 increase per \$300,000. Negotiations with McKenna-do we want to dip into CIP to fund operating, of bring to the voters to vote on tax cap. Need new equipment. McKenna only company bid on it. Or put out a bid that other companies can bid on.

c)**Parks and Recreation Report:** Barbara Trost- working on projects coming up. Made adjustments to parking area and entrances for dog park It is on park land. Beach Lake bike trail crosses mushing trails and it has been through urban design commission to be completed summer 2024. Negotiations were made with the mushers and there is a proposal through DOT for motorized trails for \$250,000 and they'll be year-round use. Parks and Rec contributed \$80K and it was not enough. The mushers over time have lost so much trail and ability to create interesting loops. Will proposed the DOT motorized trail, as an easy way to get funding. Will asked that parks board write letter of support to AMATS \$60M redo Eagle River Road-bike path which is 5.4 miles. Now AMATS want to take it out. Will wants letter and Eagle River CC meets tonight-and Mark will bring it forward asking to keep the project in there. Some representation is needed from Chugiak-ER on AMATS. Will is active with CMBR and supports keeping the bike trail. Beach Lake Rd-to get funding has to be a motorized trail. Mushers get an exemption for 4-Wheelers and snowmachines being used to train dogs and maintain the trail.

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

e) **Treasurer's report:** \$204.00.

f) **CVFD:** Chief Scott Fisher- Debbie-last year's fire bond passed and written so only folks in Chugiak Fire service area would pay. In Anchorage the last truck was paid for by all of Anchorage. Did not put new bond in for rescue truck. Not on the ballot. Vacancy on fire board of supervisors. Ambulances are paid for areawide.

g) **Birchwood Patrol Report:** no report

h) **Homeless Task Force report:** Ken McCarty- no report

h) **Legislative / Assembly / School board reports:**

**Representative Saddler-**ambulance bond issue-Mayor take under advisement. Day 30-1/4 way through session. Biggest issue education funding. Policy reform-BSA increase-governor retention programs, BSA increase permanent increase and will not expire. Random audits, hard of hearing student program. Public employee retention-costs are unknown. Ex orders-gov reorg branch—midwives, hair dressers, massage therapists. Cook Inlet energy-Hilcorp cannot guarantee natural gas supply. Reduce royalties. Golden Valley electric will keep their plant open which will help. Import liquified natural gas. Bradley Lake hydro will help. Budget-\$1B deficit. Does not include BSA increase. Amendment deadline-Feb 14. Cut or reduce BSA or PFD. Artillary road-interchange—state wide transportation plan was kicked back by the Federal Hwy Admin-on Alaska Beacon website. Newsletter will be out next week. Seeking feedback from BCC: Proposal curb side alcohol sales: no, gambling on state ferries-no, registered voters from 10-7 years. Resident fishing licenses-same requirements as PFD-full qualifying year. Fishing license bill would make it to be 1 year-no strong opinions. Make it easier for volunteer fire fighters to get medical attn for smoke inhalation. Status rank choice voting- bill to kill **unanimous** to keep ranked choice voting.

**Senator Kelly Merrick-** Govenor just provided amended budget, on finance-dept revenue environmental conservation, veterans affairs, Angela LaFlame-legislative liaison. Senate bill 140-bag bill-internet for schools-house and senate named 3 members comprised from both the House

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and Senate. Representative Allard-is on the committee. Looking for spendy resolution Feb 22 for bag bill. Bill for a strategy plan to provide critical minerals—AK supply minerals. CAPSIS-system use to put in capital requests...mostly Fed matched. Bare bones capital budget. Needs for maintenance around the State. Make sure matching funds. Starner Bridge is on the priority list— On March 9 at Cuddy Hall there will be town hall meeting with delegates from 2-4 PM. Notes that the Fairbanks delegation sticks together on issues and as a result they accomplish a lot. She appreciates the hybrid meetings.

**Andy Holleman-** not much change-working budget—significant cuts-Ignite program is coming to an end, and art and science program specialists will return to regular class room teacher duties which will diminish quality. Health and art and science will increase pupil teacher ratio for grades 4 on up. No change k-3, as the classes are too big already. School board will vote Feb 27 then to assembly. Using \$70M fund balance too manage budget which is the same amount of money as 2017 and 7 years of inflation Working with an 8% fund balance. For cushion...won't have these resources next year. Hoping the legislature builds in inflation. Try to keep homeless in schools. Hold to flat funding and programs shut down.

## 5. Appearances

## 6. Old Business

a) **Resolution Alaska Long Trail and Routing**-Shaun Sexton-started with proposed resolution, and spoke about options on a map: dark green is proposed, then take blue line through Ram Valley, north to Eklutna Lake which would by-pass Chugiak Eagle River—better route would be the red route and go into Eagle River on the black route, continue red line to Ptarmigan Valley parking lot, go to Eagle River or Chugiak-businesses in BCC area that could benefit from \$\$\$ input. Orange line into blue line and continue North. Blue line is not favorable to Chugiak-Eagle River. Page 3-advantages of Ptarmigan Valley..feature bold benefits. Page 4 SOA trails plan 2009-trail heads-look at trail heads from a cost look. CAPSIS projects approved. If funded last year would have started. It is re-proposed and funded this year. Page 29 of resolution-work on routing to promote commerce and consider impacts to neighborhoods. Move to approve—seconded by Debbie. Collectively and assess and evaluate a decision to protect neighborhoods and improve commerce. Orange line-2009-Shane—comments to extend Ptarmigan to Eagle River trail. Comments-love to come into community and take a break from hiking. Prospect getting a snack or bed. Appealing to have section here. Debbie addition-Beth Nordland get it to her. Want to see proposal---all communities from Seward to FAI support AKLT-a braided approach-like trail connectivity to bike on, thru hike. Communities want off and on ramps. Person could bypass larger city if desired. Maps integrated into existing trails. Petition from neighbors supporting Shaun's idea to use Ptarmigan Valley- Claudia Hoverstein-beginning over private property-historical trails-as long as used by public-without private property often cannot be developed or expanded-1 proposal does not recognize or acknowledge how can they proceed without coordination with public property owner. How can connect Anchorage to Palmer-(Beth)-study not done yet as working with the stakeholders. Conceptual only right now. Have existing segments of trails. Vetoed last year. Have to look at trail heads and what is best for everyone. Matt-suggested that Shaun go to all CC's. After discussion passed unanimously.

b) **Parking at Beach Lake Ski Chalet** for BCC meeting nights-Debbie Osslander-thanks to Karen

c) **Follow up use of Chugiak Elementary** for boy's basketball- Andy Holleman-communication glitch—it is open and back at school

## 7. New Business

## **Birchwood Community Council**

a) **Eagle River Community Council proposed bus route**-Add this to Anchorage routes-historically asked for increased bus service- Matt moved to approve, second from Patty-like concept, route every hour proposal-every couple of hours-approve request for increased bus service to Chugiak-Eagle River approved request for increased bus service.

b) **Anchorage Parks Foundation** bonds grant opportunities- Beth Nordlund We vote on bonds, but we don't pay, other bonds Chugach Service area-Canyon Road-ANC Park foundation support Chugiak access and pay for it. Park bonds Prop 4-trail connectivity-provides local maps for Federal Funding-Chamber-road bond-downtown way finding find way by reading signs for pedestrians funding-lots of way finding. 2 grant opportunities-Fed funds urban forests-title 1 schools, Federal govt narrowed down. Challenge grants-can apply for-project assistance-mushing grants been given out. Application deadline March 20—\$500-40K have to match grant dollar and volunteer time. Announced April 24. Debbie on group advise assembly on zoning issues. Bond is for access points in Anchorage not Chugiak. Shaun question-qualified charitable distribution-is there a match for this—challenge grants can match. Matchers, donors goes both ways and can specify. Motion to extend 10 minutes. Matt made a motion to extend the meeting for :10 minutes, seconded by Patty. Motion was made to ask Parks and Rec for a TV—seconded

### **8. Action Items**

**9. Adjournment:** Carol made a motion to adjourn, and seconded by Patty 9:03PM