

Birchwood Community Council

Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2011

Bobbi Wells called the regularly scheduled Birchwood Community Council meeting to order at 7:03 PM with 13 members present.

Approval of April minutes 1st A Peck, 2nd J Crosby

OLD BUSINESS

Guests: Speaking on purchasing of Wallace's 320 ac parcel by MOA-ER-C Parks & Rec Board
Bill Tucker with Colony Homes Investments gave an update on the Wallace Homestead. Bill brought with him maps highlighting neighboring properties to include state parklands. He said that these and several other municipal parks are managed by a memorandum of understanding with the Chugach State Parks. He proposes this type of park maintenance for the homestead. Bill has had conversations with Eklutna regarding their adjoining property. He said that they have no intentions of development in the near future and that they support the idea creating a public park on the homestead. Bill reemphasis the unique flat areas on the 320 acre site are ideal for many diverse needs and uses. Bill is under the impression that the dilapidated cabin has been removed by the Wallace family and the other is a small shed. Council members expressed concerns about the land being placed under the control of Heritage Land Bank could lead to possibilities of the homestead being sold for profit or given another use other than a public park. Council members expressed that support for the proposed park site needs to be clear on the ultimate use as a park. The council assigned the Birchwood Parks and Rec Standing Committee the task of drafting a resolution of support that indicates "purchase only in the event that this land is developed as a public use park".

GUEST SPEAKER speaking on Watana Dam north of Talkeetna project

Frank Mielke, President of Alaska Rate Payers; Frank explains that his organizations' mission is to find solutions to our growing energy costs and needs by finding alternate sources. Frank shares a plan to build Watana dam on the Susitna River way north of Talkeetna. He explains that hydro electric power has been successful in other regions in Alaska and that the proposed location is ideal for this application. The dam would be located in a remote area that would create a 30 mile long lake that could be accessed from the Denali Hwy for recreation uses. Most of the effected property is native held land. Contact info: Call Frank at 907-688-0754, Visit Website: www.alaskaratepayers.org. Watana Project web is <http://susitna-watanahydro.org>

NEW BUSINESS

Elections: Council Chair: Bobbi Wells; incumbent, no other nominees, all are in favor, passed

Council vice Chair: Jill Flanders Crosby; incumbent, no other nominees, all in favor, passed

FCC Rep: Vacant; there are no volunteers

Bobbi and Jill will serve for another two years. Congratulations and Thanks were also unanimously passed. Bobbi Suggests Birchwood Community Council will suspend regularly scheduled meetings for the months of November and December. During this period the council officers will make decisions on behalf of the council. All members are in favor, no opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

Report; Bobbi Wells, reports on the **Official Streets and Hwy Plan** (OSHP) which will implement the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) which is guided by separate Comprehensive Plans. These documents have combined both the Anchorage Bowl and the C-ER into one document. We reviewed only those parts speaking to our community needs and desires. Discussion followed regarding having separate road classifications & roadway design standards by both the State and MOA for the same roadway, such as Old Glenn & N. Birchwood Loop & Spur for examples. Another confusing issue is the fact that the Anchorage Bowl can have different classifications for their Collectors and Arterials while C-ER can only have Class 1B

Collectors and Class 111 Arterials (a major arterial) in our community. The OSHP list will recommend local roads to become collectors and collectors which will become arterials. These are 4 year plans and cover only roadway classifications collector and above for the purpose of getting them funded thru federal and state pass-thru money as well as MOA bonding. However, C-ER does not issue bonds for road construction so we only ask for pass-thru funding with these document project listings. Links to OSHP & MTA documents are: <http://www.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/AMATS/Pages/currentprojects.aspx>. Council comments must be in by Oct 31 for the P&Z public hearing & proposed selections/deletions will be distributed via council email to the membership ASAP.

On Nov 7th there will be a public hearing before P and Z on the OSHP.

Motion; Bobbi will post the proposed streets and roads list on the Birchwood Council website if possible, for council member comments to be submitted by October 31. 1st J Cruckshank 2nd B Olson

Motion to Adjourn 9:07pm 1st J Holmsen 2nd R Holmsen

Next regularly scheduled meeting Jan 25, 2012

Gail Davidson McCain Council Secretary