

BIRCHWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2009

Council Chair Bobbi Wells called the regularly scheduled Birchwood Community Council meeting to order at 7:05 pm with 9 members in attendance.

1. Meeting minutes for Oct 22nd, 2008 were approved as written. Motion was made by J King and 2nd by Harley Sidebottom.

2. Presentation: were moved to Feb meeting

LDN and ER chamber to attend next meeting to discuss ER down town overlay district plan.

Go to www.cer.org Click on overlay

3. **Guest Speaker:** Adam Caswell with Granite Construction (formerly Wilder) discusses the **Eklutna / Birchwood Airport gravel extraction project**. Adam clarified an apparent misunderstanding. Some believed Granite would be excavating to a depth of 97 feet. That is not so. The elevation at the railroad tracks is 97 feet, and they will be excavating the site so that it will match the 97 foot elevation. There are 4 known aquifers in the project area, wells will be monitored and tested. The driveway will be cut in mid March, followed by the rail road spur. Start up date of mid May is planned. At that time there will be only one train running due to light demand in Anchorage, 7 AM to 4 PM. This schedule is subject to possible modifications & could include 2 trains per day if demands for gravel change. Their conditional use permit is for 5 years but is expected to be completed within 4. The project plan is to be completed in phases, starting in mid March, with first area to be cut to create mulch for buffer berm. If there are concerns call Adam at 907-360-9278. Bobbi advised Adam that the adjoining property owners will be monitoring with noise meters. Adam stated there will be no back up beepers on the equipment, that they will use an alternative sensor method. Adam states the berm will be built to a 22 foot height and that permits were issued to the natives to enter and cut firewood most of this winter. Granite does not have a signed contract in place yet with CIRI & Eklutna, Inc.

New business: informative, little discussion took place

- a. Peters creek update was given at previous meeting. Nothing new.
- b. Skate board discussion by Chris Noyles will be given at February meeting.
- c. Voter Opportunity This is a petition to place the question of repairing the tax cap before the voters on the April ballot. You can visit the website at www.mtlanc.org . Petitions are available at Mikes Meats and Hilda's Barber Shop in ER.

Reports:

- **Road Board:** Bobbi reports Road Board passed the state capitol improvement program and the Road Board's work program. Area flooding was discussed with members of the public.
- **Parks and Rec :** Lexi Hill reports John Roda, discussing the budget cuts to come, will make maintenance to existing facilities the top priority with the second priority, on the capital side to continue to move forward altho we will probably recommend collecting under the full mill.
--To honor our agreement in terms of borrowing money internally from the MOA to get the McDonald Center expansion going and repaying from future capital mill payments. There are pieces of money from the State and other places besides requests for funding from the State for this.
Discussion:
--Suggestion to speak with John regarding his proposal for a lesser buffer at the NW quarter Dot CU like at the Birchwood Airport gravel extraction, a 4 ft minimum separation between the bottom of the excavation and the seasonal high water table. A berm could be used to store overburden and then used to reclaim the site (based on the results of the Beach

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Lake Master Plan that included the NW Quarter) to the new Park Master Plan. A berm between a park and residential land is not desirable, but it is when it is residential & industrial. Comment, Jill would like to see the ten acres added back into the NW ¼ of the park.

- **CER Long Range Transportation Plan:** Bobbi reports; Anchorage and CER will combine plans. Comments; Birchwood residents are opposed to this idea.

Open Forum:

Harley brought up the subject of the **police cars parking** at the Eklutna Gravel Pit on the New Glenn and are commuting to work and from work in the patrol cars. He thinks they should commute all the way to work in their own cars.

Mayor candidates are showing interest in speaking at council meetings, they will be invited to Speak in Feb. or Mar.

Chugiak Council is taking a stand again the **development of the 770** adjoining Loretta French Park, developed by Eklutna, Inc.

Lexi doesn't see where Eklutna is offering anything to the community in exchange for this development as planned.

Bobbi says she would like to see them do a Master Plan rather than just a CU for a segment for land preparation. The project appears to be stalled at the moment.

Harley made a **motion** (2nd by Eldon) to support the Chugiak Council's motion to support special zoning district names in C-ER in the chapter 10 and to send a letter to the Consortium stating our support. Motion approved.

Adjourn at 8:45 PM
(1st E King 2nd J King)

Gail Davidson McCain/Secretary