

# ***BIRCHWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL***

## **Meeting Minutes of April 22 2009**

1. Bobbi Wells called the regularly scheduled Birchwood Community Council meeting to order at 7:05 pm with 13 members in attendance.
2. Minutes for March meeting approved as written, 1st E King 2nd A Newberry U.S. Census presentation tabled as guests were called to Seattle.
3. **Announcements:**
  - Pot hole hot line 343-6363
  - Free dump days May 2,3,9 this year
  - Rain Garden info; [www.anchorageraingardens.com](http://www.anchorageraingardens.com)
  - Eklutna's contractor, Granite Construction, (Adam 360-9278) to start next week on approved **airport gravel extraction** project. Monitoring wells on the property will be dug, clearing and grubbing for the rail spur and installation of the rail spur. When new rail spur is completed they intend to start with loading out just one train, at the 7am time slot, each day.
  - **Burn permits;** Sue Rodman of Anchorage Fire Dept, presentation: Go to [www.afd.muni.org](http://www.afd.muni.org) to apply for a burn permit. Permits must be renewed every 90 days and is for beetle kill/spruce areawide, however C-ER may burn trees and brush of all species from April 1-May 31 on approved burn days. Burn days must be confirmed each day of burning, and that information is available on the above website or call 267-5020.
  - Sue advises council members on the availability, under Firewise, of **free home assessments** and spruce tree removal within 15 feet of residence. There is a cost share program available if you choose to participate.
  - **Eagle River wood lot** will open May 16, and operate Friday and Saturdays at the Hiland landfill, 8 am to 5 pm.
  - Ambulance Service through our **Chugiak Volunteer Fire Dept** has been cleared to forego collecting any charges over and above the amount Medicare and other insurance pays for transport of Chugiak residents to hospitals out of the area. While the governing Ordinance passed some years ago, implementation had been deferred by MOA until CVFD Board of Supervisors stepped forward on behalf of the taxpayers within their service area boundary to clear up this matter.

- On Saturday, April 25, **free CPR training**, which includes a free kit to take home, at the UAA Commons from 9am to 3pm will be offered. It is a one hour class beginning each hour.
4. Bobbi asks the council to form a Standing Committee to oversee and advise us on recommendations for the **Beach Lake Master Plan Update**; members are: 1) Barb Trost 2) Jill Crosby 3) Ann Newberry 4) Bobbi Wells
  5. Lexi Hill to look into NW 1/4 acreage that may still be held by Heritage Land Bank with the hope of having it brought back under the umbrella of our Parks & Recreation Service District.

### **New Business:**

Randy McCain indicated that the **U.S. Census** Bureau, in preparation for the upcoming 2010 Federal Census, is currently beginning a nationwide canvassing of all residential properties in the U.S. in order to obtain a GPS triangulation and to calculate the exact location at the front door of each dwelling unit in the United States.

He also indicated that a permanent record and file is being created for each resident with notes gathered, recording information pertaining to the general configuration of each residential property. Randy believed the U.S. Census Bureau was straying outside the scope of both their authority and mission. He also indicated that with such a stray from the U.S. Census Bureau's core mission he felt that there was a far larger opportunity for Federal abuse than good use if such information was allowed to be obtained.

Randy introduced a Federally **Recognized** No Trespassing sign designed to protect property owners from the unwanted or unexpected visits by impeding, under penalty of law, various government agencies attempting to enter upon a residential property without warrant.

Anyone interested in ordering signs or seeking further information may contact Randy by email at [mccain@mtaonline.net](mailto:mccain@mtaonline.net)

### **Reports**

**Road Board: Elections**; Tony Vita (primary) and Bobbi Wells (alternate) were re-elected to serve as Birchwood Council Road Board reps by **MOTION** made and duly approved.. 1st Anne Newberry 2nd Barb Trost.

**Parks and Rec.:** Lexi Hill.

A **Resolution** was introduced regarding the potential purchase of a piece of property located across from Valley River Center for additional parking, etc . (1st R McCain 2nd King) **Resolution** against any purchase of land located across from Valley River

Center as it's not the type of land purchase Parks and Rec. should be making in this economic uncertain time nor best serves the recreational and or preservation activities that our parks and rec. service district should be focusing on. Resolution passed unanimous.

**Resolution:** To require Parks and Rec. to post their minutes and meeting information to their website so that the public may be better informed. Resolution made and duly approved by membership. 1st Lexi 2nd Jill.

In Prioritizing our **Capitol Projects Needs List for 2010**, some members lamented the fact that our informed decisions appear to be ignored by the MOA department in charge, whereby we reject certain projects, stating our reasons, and yet they re-appear the following period, and other projects we request seem to be mis-understood and end up being misclassified thereby changing their intended content and scope.

We also fail to understand why they reject projects on our list when we have given top priority to a project not necessarily in our council area but one that benefits us as well as other councils out here...especially in the areas of health and safety such as additional fire station projects.

We again rejected the Glenn Hwy interchange proposed between North and South Birchwood interchanges until we can receive further information regarding the purpose and communities this is to serve. Also rejected was the upgrade of the North Birchwood Loop/Birchwood Spur upgrade since right-of-way would have to be purchased and DOT/ARRC won't commit to a grade-separated crossing for cost and safety reasons. We rejected the S. Birchwood Loop upgrade since we do not wish this road to be redesigned, widened, or straightened to serve a projected population that might or might not be correct 20 years into the future but would negatively impact a large number of properties as well as their means of access. However we do support any State effort to rehabilitate the pavement on S. Birchwood Loop. Our Capital Projects Needs List will be submitted to the proper MOA Dept.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm 1st E king 2nd J King

Gail Davidson McCain/Secretary