

# ***BIRCHWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL***

## **Meeting Minutes of May 25 2009**

1. Bobbi Wells called the regularly scheduled Birchwood Community Council meeting to order at 7:08 pm with 15 members in attendance.
2. Minutes for March meeting approved as written (1st Randy McCain 2nd E King) U.S. Census speakers unable to attend.
3. **Announcements:**
  - Anchorage Assembly passed with amendments the proposed **Eklutna power plant project**. MEA must start construction by June 2013.
  - **Hillside district comp plan** includes a change to onsite well and septic for property owners to pay up to a \$ 50.00 annual fee for municipal inspections. In the past, It has been a trend that Chugiak Eagle River to follow suit. This idea is of logistic concern to our residents considering the lack of real planning. Your comments on chapter 5, water & wastewater, can be made June 15 before the P&Z Commissioners. Case # 2009-090.

**Guest Speaker** Sara Wilson Doyle with LDN updated the council on **Beach Lake Park Master Plan**. She is seeking community input on suggested uses and potential concepts for park development. The original plan and study is dated 1973 and the required uses and trends have changed and evolved since then. Sara made a map available for council member to look at and discuss while she described her community action plan to include an August presentation to the parks board and there will be public input meetings. Areas of interest include trail access to military land, ski and dog musher additional trails and restrooms located in convenient places for use on trails. Discussion included parking areas for different activities and public transportation access. Jill Crosby suggests that the 8 acres (S E corner of N W quarter) that was intended for a school site and not used for that purpose be added back into the park plan. Bobbi Wells comments on the Chugiak Eagle River Comp Plan as a consideration for guideline in park planning. Birchwood Beach Lake Park Advisory committee to be Ann Newberry, Bobbi Wells, Jill Crosby & Barb Trost.

**New Business: Outdoor wood-fired boilers** are a concern in the municipality , There are 7 residents in Birchwood who are currently using them as a heat source. Barb Trost explained to the council her understanding of particulate matter issues connected to wood burning. Randy McCain discussed some of his research on the subject and believes that the municipality was taking the wrong approach with the proposed regulations, he also spoke to the fact that there were both well and poorly designed

wood boilers available on the market and that the higher quality burners are less likely to pollute as the inexpensive brands do.

He agreed that outdoor wood boilers do not belong in urban settings like the Anchorage bowl or some areas of Eagle River. However he believed that on larger lots, the municipality should broach the issue by implementing the nuisance regulations to mitigate issues and possibly fine those who pollute and offend neighboring properties but should stop short of a total ban or overly restrictive regulations that are designed to entirely eliminate them in rural areas like Birchwood and Chugiak .

## **Reports**

no reports given at the meeting due to lack of time.

next meeting June 24th

Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm

Gail Davidson McCain/Secretary