

# Birchwood Community Council

Regular Monthly Meeting Wednesday, May 28, 2014, 7-9 PM  
Ski Chalet at 17300 South Birchwood Loop

## AGENDA

*Agenda subject to modification to allow input/action on issues that did not make this notice*

### 1 Call to Order

Debbie Ossiander, BCC CERAB representative, as acting chair called the meeting to order at 705.

### 2. Approval of April 2014 Minutes (available at the meeting)

Bobbi moves to approve the April minutes as written. Seconded. There is a correction: Pat Chesbro is running for Senate seat F. The minutes were approved with this correction.

### 3. Announcements

We are scheduling a tour of the Eklutna/Granite gravel pit reclamation for mid-June, and will report back to the council by e-mail, and at the July meeting. Jim Arneson suggests we visit towards the end of June, so there's time for plants to grow. Granite is watering to help things grow. We will send out an e-mail once the date is set. Bobbi asks if the trees are in and the topsoil. Jim clarifies that it's overburden, not commercial topsoil. They planted about 150 more than required; they are about 16-18" tall, every 6' or so. There are also other trees not planted by Granite.

### 4. Presentations:

- a. FCC Report (from Chugiak Representative) Dave Wolfe attended the meeting in anticipation of being our representative, he is active duty military (Air Force). At the FCC meeting they talked about the by-laws; we seem to be in the minority in moving forward well. There's an FCC picnic on July 16, 6 PM, at Valley of the Moon Park. Everyone was invited. They also talked about the new Nixle APD info system (nixle.com). He found text messages telling him about Glenn Hwy traffic jams helpful; the system will send a lot of message though, unless you limit them. If you text message to 888-777(not a typo, just those six digits) with your zip code they will send alerts for 'everything' in your zip code. If you sign up on line you can customize alerts that you get (somewhat). Dave will talk to FCC if we want to have a Facebook Page...FCC has some rules about Facebook pages. We will investigate in the fall. We still have not resolved the issue of FCC giving us our mailing list. **Ray moves to appoint Dave as FCC rep. Bobbi seconds. The motion passes unanimously.**
- b. Eklutna/S4 group on the new plat for tract 40A.  
This will be before P&Z on June 9, Monday, 6:30 PM Loussac  
Tom Dreyer & Dave Grenier from S4, Matt McDonald, and Jim Arneson from Eklutna. This is first phase of Powder Hills. It's in an area zoned as multi family (8-plexes) but they have chosen to move forward with 12000 square foot lots, about the same size as Powder Ridge. He orients audience to map. The commercial area is just below the residential tract. Audience members ask if they drained the pond at the foot of terrace lane. They did not. It seems to have dried on its own. The access road for the units under development in this phase winds from Terrace Lane, through the subdivision and back out to Terrace Lane. Future phases will go into tract B and alongside the school site. Bobbi asks about changes to the internal circulation – it looks as though there is access only through Terrace Lane. The main residential collector loops along the school site then west and north and south

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and back to Terrace. Lexi asks about access from other roads and our concerns that everything dumps to Terrace. Eklutna has hired DOWL to do an update to the traffic study that will be completed before the P&Z hearing; they will get us a copy. A resident is concerned about traffic capacity on Terrace. Tom refers to the Traffic Impact Analysis from 2007. There are no current plans to widen Terrace, unless the traffic update indicates that it's needed. Debbie clarifies how the TIAs fit in the phased approval process. The resident whose property is at the top of the hill wonders if they can build on the water line. He was told that they couldn't build without a 100' buffer. They can't build a road on top of the water line. There is a question on how the school will access Terrace – will there be a stop sign, stop light, or what? Will there be sewer and water imposed on their neighborhood? The traffic question goes unanswered; sewer and water will be only to Eklutna's neighborhood. Debbie asks if the TIA will be available before the P&Z meeting. (probably not). Dave W asks what type of school; it will be elementary. Lexi asks about the type of commercial development. Jim Arneson says it's neighborhood level commercial – Day care, Starbucks, etc. Tract C is half high density residential and half commercial. Dan Saddler asks if it wouldn't be more cost effective to upgrade Terrace to what we'll eventually need instead of many small improvements. Probably not, because we don't know when the future will bring what it brings. We can't afford to build decades in advance. Question on how they would widen Terrace Lane – (they would widen to the east) – wouldn't some people lose part of their property? Tom thinks there is room without much land taking. Debbie asks if there are more questions. Residents would like to have a longer term sense of what will happen with the road. Tom thinks the next phase may bring more road improvements. The internal circulation road will go through the middle of the commercial tract and out onto Terrace farther down than the residential access being planned for this phase. What's the power source for this development? Terrace is always out first back last in power outages. Power will come from the main power line. MEA may bring 3-phase power up Eklutna Park Drive from the Fred Meyer area. Dan Saddler asks about a constituent question about multi family development in Powder Ridge area. It is not Eklutna's. We will double check on what maps have been sent. Lexi asks for folks to get on our internal e-mail list.

## c Official Streets and Highways plan

Debbie presents, and notes that Bill Starr asks us to learn about the streets and highways plan. We (Eagle River/Chugiak) used to have a separate comp plan and transportation plan. But the muni merged us in and put us in the main Anchorage streets and highways plan. The merge didn't work well, partially because Anchorage has 12 classes of streets; we had just 4. Our collectors all got classified at the biggest category of collector. Debbie will send e-mails to Amy and Bill, talking about what she thinks should happen to fix this. CBERRRSA has recommended that we should have different standards, but this has not happened. The plan is scheduled before the assembly on June 10; Bill Starr plans to ask for a delay to June 21. Debbie wants to go over our roads briefly to see if they make sense. Debbie would like to see us have 2 collectors, big and neighborhood. Bobbi comments that it also matters who owns the road. When the state owns the road, we have to influence it through our reps in Juneau. Local, collector, arterial, freeway are all we have. Downtown has country lane (or rather just the Hillside). We used to have country lane, but took it out in a previous plan. We should reinstate it. We also need a rural collector, as well as just a 'collector'.

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Anchorage collectors range from 2-10,000 trips per day, and a ROW 60' to 80'. We need to consider if these seem reasonable?

Debbie reviews collectors in the Birchwood CC area, to see if they seem to be correctly identified:

Almdale (Shims to Husky) - perhaps an issue

Bowery Lane – problem

Hillcrest Shims to S Birchwood – no comments

Jayhawk – some think yes, some no

Pilots Rd from Tarika to Birchwood Loop

Powder Ridge Drive – which was built to collector standards.

S Birchwood Loop from the Glenn to the Spur Rd. (North Birchwood) - should be a collector

Sunset from Jayhawk to Tarika.

Tarika from Sunset to Pilots.

***There is a motion to move Bowery and Almdale off the collector list. Bobbi thinks Almdale from Shims to Husky should not be removed. There is a friendly amendment to divide the question.***

***There is no further discussion about Bowery Lane; the motion passes.***

***The motion is withdrawn for Almdale Shims to Husky.***

We discuss the need for more classification. Debbie notes that we could ask either for the full set of categories used in Anchorage, or that our streets could be taken out and put into the Chugiak/Eagle River comp plan. Dan thinks we should avoid being lumped with Anchorage. Amy thinks we could get into the CER Comp plan. Debbie notes that our road board suggested amendments that would require the planners to look at our area and not just the Anchorage classifications. There are also study areas in our area, in this plan. Bobbi suggests we might have totally separate categories. Gretchen suggests that even if we separate our roads from this plan, we should also revise our categories to be similar. Someone brings up the problem last year where city wanted a zillion lights on every collector. Debbie notes that lights are a DCM issue, also important but not the streets and highways plan. This plan also talks about standards for development, but they reference only Anchorage categories. ***Gretchen moves that we recommend that we have our roads taken out of this plan and put in our comp plan. Seconded.*** Discussion – Lexi asks if the issue is local control, vs AMATS money. But Amy and Debbie note that we don't get AMATS money anyway. ***The motion passes unanimously.***

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## 5. Old Business

### a. Capital Improvement Project rating

Debbie notes that we failed to add the CVFD request for facility maintenance. This would be funding for fire station upgrades; aging structures that need roof and drainage work. It is a \$100,000 state grant request. Bobbi says we need to have separate priority lists for each funding source. We have this tentative list, Debbie asks if anyone objects to the suggested order. Bobbi asks why we need a snow disposal site. It's a request from the road board because we do haul some snow and we don't yet pay for snow storage, but they would like to. On the CVFD, Bobbi suggests that we place them at #1. ***Bobbi moves we accept proposed list as amended with CVFD as #1, renumbering as needed. There is a Second. The motion passes unanimously.***

### b. Monofil update: There is no update; tabled until the July meeting.

### c. MEA Substation update: There will be no Board of Adjustment decision until late July or early August.

### d. BCC by-laws revisions: Debbie reviews the proposed changes. No one raises any concerns. The Board will send these by-laws to the ombudsman for review.

### e. Design Criteria Manual (DCM) revisions – update (no update available)

### f. September Birchwood Bash: we will plan on this, no further discussion at this meeting.

### g. October Elections. Co chair (or Chair, Vice Chair) positions will be open.

### h. There will be a July Meeting.

## 6. New Business

### a. none.

## 7. Reports

### a. CBERRRSA Road Board Report: <http://www.muni.org/Departments/works/operations/streets/Service/Pages/CBERRRSARoadBoard.aspx>

### b. Parks and Recreation Report: <http://www.muni.org/Departments/ERparks/>

### C. Chugiak Eagle River Advisory Board

Dan Sadler discusses accomplishments of the legislature this session.

Amy, reporting from the Assembly, notes that the first quarter budget revisions are done; tax bills are in the mail; freedom days was a success. The MacDonald Center renovations are moving forward again. Amy got a resolution passed to name a baseball field in Loretta French Park. It's been referred to parks and rec, which will recommend a naming committee. The committee will hold a public meeting and move forward. , Work is moving forward on the Artillery road intersection. Fire danger is high, please be careful and no burning. The CIP list must be submitted to the clerk as well as the administration.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.