

Eklutna Valley Community Council
April 5, 2018
Meeting minutes

The meeting was chaired by council president Margan Grover and began at 7:05 p.m. The council met at the new Eklutna ranger station. Eleven council members were present: Margan Grover, Dan Thompson, Bob Reagan, Rick and Lisa Sinnott, Debbie Thon, Deb and Buff Rix, Randy Bangerter, Tom Bohn, and Erlinda Downing. Kristin Bunnell, the municipal historic preservation officer, also attended.

The minutes of the October 26, 2017, meeting were approved. Bob Reagan reported \$466.64 in the council's funds.

OLD BUSINESS

Ernie Turner Center. No new information.

MTA upgrade of Internet service. According to Margan, who called MTA, the upgrade is scheduled to begin in June and be completed by early fall.

Chugiak-Eagle River Advisory Board report. No new information.

NEW BUSINESS

Municipality of Anchorage Historic Preservation Plan. Kristine Bunnell presented a brief summary of planning efforts to date. In 2011 planning for the Knik Arm Crossing resulted in a mitigation plan for historic properties in the original four neighborhoods in Anchorage. When the plan was being adopted in 2013, Assembly member Debbie Ossiander asked for a similar effort for the entire municipality, including Eagle River and Chugiak. A plan for the entire municipality was drafted in late 2016. Much of the work consisted of a review of historic structures, based on recorded dates of construction, and a "windshield survey" of structures found along all roads in the municipality. Kristine admitted that few photos were taken in Eklutna Valley because most structures were hidden from view.

Questions ensued. Bob Reagan asked whether the office of historic preservation could approve or disapprove projects. Kristine said they could only offer comments to the decision-makers. Dan Thompson wondered if private property is exempt from the oversight of the historic preservation office. Kristine said that, in general, activities on private property were exempt; however, not if the property owner had received tax credits for preserving historic structures. Dan also asked about nominating structures and "viewsapes" for the purpose of historic preservation, even if they were in Chugach State Park. Kristine said that was one of the purposes of the plan. Erlinda Downing asked if the muni maintained historic properties. Kristine said she had no funding for maintenance at this time. Tom Bohn asked how much longer we had to comment on the historic preservation plan. Kristine said until April 30.

More discussion ensued. Kristine admitted that little was known about the history of Eklutna Valley. She said if our community council wanted to compile a history of the valley for inclusion in the muni plan, she'd be willing to give us until July 31.

A motion was made and seconded to establish a committee to compile historical information on Eklutna Valley. Margan, Dan, Rick, Deb, Buff, and Debbie volunteered to be committee members. The motion passed unanimously.

Road cleanup. Margan said that the municipal road cleanup would take place April 28 – May 5. Everyone agreed that we would be wise to wait till May 5 to allow ditches to be free of snow. Margan will send out an announcement of time and place.

Chugiak-Eagle River Senior Center garden. Lisa shared a request from her mother, Carol Warren, on behalf of the Chugiak-Eagle River Senior Center, for help in establishing some garden beds at the Assisted Living building, specifically for some dirt and plants. Several people expressed a willingness to help and Lisa agreed to get more info about the scope of the project.

The meeting adjourned at about 8:35 p.m.