

**Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 13, 2019 7:00 pm**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**VFW Post 9785**

MEETING MINUTES – Approved May 8, 2019

Call to order at 7:05pm by David W. Schade, MPA  
Quorum established.

**Candidate Open Mike:**

The following candidates introduced themselves, provided a brief background and shared their qualifications.

- Crystal Kennedy – candidate for Anchorage Assembly, District 2, Seat A
- Oliver Schiess- candidate for Anchorage Assembly, District 2, Seat A
- David Nees – candidate for Anchorage School Board, Seat B
- Margo Bellamy – candidate for Anchorage School Board, Seat A
- Starr Marsett – incumbent & candidate for Anchorage School Board, Seat B

**Meeting Minutes:** February 13, 2019 meeting minutes

Tom Freeman moved to approve February minutes. Pete Panarese seconded. February Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

**Treasurers Report (Patsy):** no update

**New Business:**

Braendel Creek Subdivision Curb Variance  
Skyler Quinn, EIT, AK-CESCL  
RPKA, Inc.  
16515 Centerfield Drive, Suite 101  
Eagle River, AK 99577 Phone: (907) 694-2332 x219

Mr. Quinn's presentation included the following:

- Braendel Creek Subdivision is a 16-acre plot, to be subdivided into 30 lots, Class A improvements. The subdivision is located near Talarik Drive and was approved last October.
- With the 2013 rewrite of Title 21, the curb requirement in subdivisions was changed to a Type 1 barrier type as opposed to the rolled curbs that are typical in Eagle River subdivisions.
- Type 1 barrier curbs discourage people from parking on sidewalk or curb. They also inhibit illegal widening of a driveway after the neighborhood is established. However, there is higher likelihood of snow plows hitting and damaging the Type 1 barrier curbs.
- Type 1 barrier curbs require a ramp on each side of a driveway.
- This subdivision is on a slope so ramps will be steep. In addition, house placement and driveway locations have not been established so it will be difficult to build roads with the required curbs.
- A variance request has been made to use rolled curbs typical of the surrounding neighborhoods.

Questions from the audience included:

- Are the streets in the subdivision to be standard width or narrower?  
Roads are 31 feet which is standard width based on the estimated number of daily trips.

Pete Panarese moved to draft a resolution supporting a curb variance for Braendel Creek Subdivision. Tom Freeman seconded the motion. Resolution was approved by vote of 13 yea, 0 nay and 0 in abstention.

**Old Business:**

**School Board Report:** Starr Marsett

- Proposed bonds are for \$59.113M.
- Eagle River Elementary and Gruening Middle School repairs are scheduled for vote on Monday. Repairs would be completed by next summer.
- The Bond Council was contacted regarding the verbiage on repairs that can be started. Improvements include roof replacement and safety and security items such as entry way improvements and cameras in hallways.
- A study was done in past that recommended improvements needs for Gruening. The bond to finance these improvements was not approved. Looking at option to do some of these improvements now.
- A committee will be formed to look at Eagle River High School and Chugiak High School offerings. We don't want to merge these school because of the anticipated growth in ER/Chugiak area.
- HB287 addresses funding for schools. If Governor's budget is not approved by June 1, school district is contractually obligated to pink slip teachers. If administrators are cut, two weeks' notice is only requirement.
- FEMA reimbursement for earthquake damage will not cover additional upgrades that are needed.
- State of Alaska used to provide funds to municipalities. The state has withdrawn from 60-70% bond reimbursement commitment.
- We are seeing improvement in reading scores.
- The education budget is 750 pages. The governor focuses on and adjusts through the base student allocation.
- There are 46,000 students and 4,000 school district employees.
- Contact the Governor and your representatives to share your priorities and views on the budget.

**Anchorage Assembly Report:** Gretchen Wehmhoff

- A joint meeting was held with the school district to consider different scenarios. The meeting recording along with the presentations is available online on ASD website. School busing was also discussed.
- An 11-member group recommended extending hours to sell alcohol. Establishments can open 1 hour earlier, at 9:00am.
- A property tax abatement program was discussed. In a specific downtown area, buildings with four or more units would be entitled to property tax relief. There will be a five-year lookback and evaluation period before the program could be expanded to other areas of the city.
- Next week, a proposal will be introduced to change representation in the Assembly. There are currently 11 seats in the Assembly. Downtown has only 1 representative while other areas have two. Proposals under consideration include 11 single member districts or having the single member district rotate, or an additional Assembly member will be added so there are six two member districts. This would require a change to the Charter.
- If additional earthquake damage is discovered in spring, requests for property tax abatement will still be considered.

- The upcoming election is by mail-in ballot. South Carolina had an issue with “harvesting ballots” in which groups gather to complete their ballots and then a single person submits them. In Alaska, voters can only submit ballots for their immediate family members.
- Ms. Wehmhoff has two meetings remaining as our Assembly appointee. She expressed her thanks for the opportunity to serve ERVCC. Membership, in turn, thanked her for her service.

**Eagle River Community Patrol – Cliff Cook**

- In February, patrols were conducted for total of 52 hours, 565 miles.
- In the past 30 days there has been an increase in break-ins at trailheads including Baldy, North Fork and Thunderbird Falls. Remember to lock your vehicle and take valuables with you or keep them out of site.
- APD has been called for daytime burglaries in which front doors were kicked in.
- Night-time car entries/ break-ins also continue.
- An aggressive panhandler has been near Carrs, Coldstone and AT&T area. He approaches females in parking lot. If they decline to give him cash, he becomes more aggressive. Ask Carrs security to walk you to your car.
- There was discussion about online reporting of crimes to APD and whether these incidents are addressed. A more effective way to have serious crimes addressed is to report them as emergencies.
- Community Action Policing Teams (CAP) have not been established yet. When we have a CAP team, they will be our contact at APD.

**Committee Reports:**

**CBERRRSA (Road Board) – Crystal Kennedy**

- Money has been approved for design on Eagle River Lane improvements. Storm drain pipes have been an issue. Crystal will ask Mark Littlefield (Eagle River Street Maintenance) to attend our April meeting.
- There is over \$2 million in road damage from the November 30 earthquake. At least half of those repairs will be done.
- All overlays were scheduled to be completed this year. Instead, that money will be used for emergency repairs. Backfills will be delayed.
- Smaller trucks have been breaking up ice on roads. Four sanding trucks are serving our icy roads.
- Additional streetlights requested at War Admiral near Tradition will be activated this summer.
- Watch out for big potholes. Call the Road Maintenance office at 343-1510 to notify them of new potholes or road problems.

**Chugiak/Eagle River Advisory Board: No report**

**Education: No report**

**Federation of Community Councils: Tom Freeman**

- Review proposed bonds and propositions carefully. Do the math to calculate your property tax impact.
- To obtain more information about signing up for a neighborhood watch, contact Mark Butler, 277-1977.

**Parks and Rec: Pete Panarese**

- There was a lengthy report from Chugiak Bike Riders.
- A \$200,000 grant was received to develop trails.
- Mack Center is operating within budget. There may be some earthquake damage.
- Beech Lake trail will be improved and filled.
- Chugiak High School Pool sustained deck damage from the earthquake and will be closed from time to time for repairs.

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**Platting and Zoning:** Pete Panarese – no report

Motion to adjourn by Pete Panarese, seconded by Tom Freeman and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Next meeting will be on April 10 at Ravenwood Elementary School.

ERVCC Board Members (Term Expiration) President: David W. Schade (2021) Vice President: Elisa Snelling (2019)  
Treasurer & Education: Patsy Gunn (2021) Parks & Rec: Pete Panarese (2021) Consortium: Steve Skipper (2020)  
Platting & Zoning: Pete Panarese (2021) Federation of Community Councils (FCC): Tom Freeman (2020) Road  
Board: Crystal Kennedy (2019)/Arlene Rasic – Alt (2019) Secretary: Joy Webb (2021) Susan Fischetti (2019)