

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 10, 2021 6:30pm
REGULAR MEETING
Zoom Virtual Meeting
MEETING MINUTES – Approved April 14, 2021

Call to order at 6:35pm by David W. Schade.

Quorum was established.

Federation webpage: [Federation of Community Councils](#)

Introductions and Announcements:

The following candidate introduce himself:

Pat Higgins introduced himself. He is running for Seat E on the school board. He can be reached at 907-952-5871 or pathigginsforschoolboard@gmail.com. More information at: <https://www.pathigginsforschoolboard.com>

Meeting Minutes Approval: Draft meeting minutes from February 10, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve by Pete Panarese; seconded by Ruth Armstrong. Approved by a vote of 15 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain.

New Business:

Joy Boston, JBER Community Partnerships

joy.boston.2@gmail.com

Ms. Boston introduced herself and provided the following update:

- There is an exercise scheduled at JBER from late April through mid-May. Two thousand (2000) participants will attend. They will be bringing their planes with them. Anticipate some additional jet noise during this time.
- Mark your calendar for next year's Arctic Thunder Open House. It is scheduled for July 30-31, 2022.
- If you have questions about iSportsman, reach out to Ms. Boston.

Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility

Trevor Trasky, Trevor.Trasky@awwu.biz

Mr. Trasky introduced himself as the new project manager for the 900 Reservoir project. He is replacing Paul Hatcher who worked with our council for many years. Mr. Hatcher has changed positions at AWWU.

Also introduced were Jennifer Satterfield, project engineer and Christine Metcalf who will provide information in the future on water service.

Donabelle Shepherd

Ms. Shepherd introduced herself and provided information regarding plans to have a house built on Mount Magnificent Circle, near the Brendlwood subdivision. On the plat map for her property, a note states that a sprinkler system is required for the home. Other homes in the neighborhood have 600-gallon water tanks, which should be applicable to this new home as well.

Ms. Shepherd is attempting to obtain an exemption from the sprinkler requirement from the fire marshal. She is seeking support with a community council resolution for the exemption due to:

- Unequal application of municipal code to this property and
- Fire marshal's selection of properties when evaluating this request includes many homes that have fire hydrant access and city water.

Ms. Jamie Allard and Ms. Crystal Kennedy will continue to work on this issue. This matter is expected to be presented to Planning Board on May 5. Consideration for resolution is postponed until ERVCC April meeting.

Kelly Merrick, AK House of Representatives, District 14

Ms. Merrick provided the following update on House activities:

- The House is organized and at work.
- Sub-committees are working and looking for budget efficiencies, trying to get a sustainable budget.

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- We would have \$3B overdraft situation if governor's proposal for backpay and full PFD are approved.
- A federal "debt review" of CARES Act funds in Alaska is expected.
- With the next federal funds, guidelines will be looser, and fund use can be spread out until 2024.
- In governor's budget proposal, the State's school bond debt reimbursement is now funded at 50%; ~\$42M is in budget now. This would be a big shortfall for Anchorage.
- Senator Reinbold was removed from the Capitol due to non-compliance with COVID requirements. She can vote from the gallery and participate in Zoom and phone meetings. If concerned, contact Ms. Merrick about this.

Questions for Ms. Merrick included the following:

- Regarding \$13.6M allocated for a new trail from Seward to Fairbanks, is it possible to have some of that funding for Eagle River trails and state parks in our area instead? Ms. Merrick is co-chair on the finance committee. They are trying to get a good robust capital budget planned with federal funds that are coming in.

David Schade, ERVCC President

Mr. Schade provided the following update:

- Mr. Schade is unable to volunteer for role of President of the council again due to work commitments. He has been on the board for 9 years; filling role of president for ~4 years.
- Please consider volunteering for the board. Open positions include President, Education and alternate for Parks & Recreation.

Old Business:

Crystal Kennedy - Anchorage Assembly

Crystal.Kennedy@anchorageak.gov, 907-351-1430

Ms. Kennedy provided the following update on the Anchorage Assembly.

- The Assembly postponed the Anchorage School District Budget discussion until March 23 due to lack of public comment.
- There is concern on how to fund \$51M bond debt reimbursement expected from the State of Alaska that the State is no longer providing.
- There is a change of criteria for B3 zoning. This doesn't impact Eagle River or Girdwood.
- A companion code amendment would have broader requirements for where homeless shelters can be opened and how they will be operated. This will result in much more control over the shelters.
- Our representatives from Eagle River may have offices in the Town Center in Eagle River by summer/fall, 2021.
- See Muni website for information on the April 6 elections. The Clerk's office has sample ballot and 2021 bond/property tax fact sheets.
- The Community & Economic Development committee is working on marijuana code. Contact Ms. Kennedy to provide input.

Questions for Ms. Kennedy included the following:

- On Proposition 1 on the April 6 ballot, what building(s) are being referenced? City swimming pools, including those in high schools, are municipal-owned. Earthquake damage requires \$500,000 for new pool filtration system. (This may be at East High School.)
- When will Gruening Middle School earthquake repairs be completed? The construction is proceeding on schedule and within budget. There may be open house events in the fall. Both Gruening and Eagle River Elementary School are expected to open in the fall, 2021.
- Will Anchorage receive any of the latest federal COVID relief funding? We have received rental relief funds of \$36M. Additional childcare and rent assistance funds are most likely.
- State of Alaska will be one of first states to be audited by federal government on its use of CARES Act funds.

- Top Shelf Herb will be presenting at Eagle River Community Council if anyone wishes to join and share opinion on having a pot shop in Eagle River.

School Board Report – Deena Mitchell, Anchorage School Board

Mitchell deena@asdk12.org

Ms. Mitchell provided written updates which are posted in *ERVCC Other Documents Archive* on lower right of our webpage.

Eagle River Community Patrol – Cliff Cook

Mr. Cook provided the following update:

- In February, patrols were conducted for 26 hours covering 260 miles.
- During school release times, there have been reports of vehicles exceeding speed limits in school zones.
- APD reports an increase in individuals checking for unlocked cars between 3am-6am near Walmart, Eaglewood and Park View Terrace neighborhoods. Suspicious white minivan with younger couple. They move from one neighborhood to the next when people become aware.
- Continue to report all crime to APD on 911, 311 or online.

Committee Reports:

CBERRRSA (Road Board): James McCurtain/ Arlene Rasic – No report.

Chugiak/Eagle River Advisory Board – Julie Jessen – No meetings recently.

Education: See Ms. Mitchell's report from Anchorage School Board.

Federation of Community Councils – Tom Freeman

Mr. Freeman's update included:

- Federation of Community Council Center manager Mark Butler reports that most councils are using Zoom for meetings. Be sure to submit council documents early for posting.
- Several bond proposals will be included on the April ballot. They will impact property taxes if approved. Of special interest to Eagle River are Trail and Library/Chugiak Senior Center bonds. One bond will fund body cameras and support technology improvements for Anchorage Police.
- The Anchorage Assembly proceedings can be viewed in person, GCI channel 9, UAA channel, or online stream.
- Kindergarten-2, special ed and small groups of middle & high school students have returned to in-school learning. Sport programs (with masks) have resumed.
- Governor has restored the HFC budget to previous level.
- Legislature must act to authorize another emergency order. Vaccines aren't affected by end of governor's emergency order.

Parks and Rec: Pete Panarese

Mr. Panarese provided the following update:

- Mr. Panarese has been chosen as chair of the board.
- The board's role is to assist with policy and park development, trails, Mac Center and real estate.
- Board includes council representatives and a person assigned by the mayor.
- An alternate is needed for our council's Parks & Rec representation. The previous alternate, Sara, is no longer able to fill this role. Let Mr. Panarese know if you are interested in serving as the alternate.
- Dog Park Study is on our website. Two possible locations: Peter's Creek (larger) and Firehouse Lane (smaller). Firehouse Lane is more affordable and more easily developed but there are neighborhood objections. Three other sites were not suitable. Board will come to councils asking for letters of support.
- Mount Baldy parking lot was enabled by Board of Supervisors and municipal Parks & Recreation.

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Questions for Mr. Panarese:

- Public lost access to Ram Valley. Is there a way to allocate a right-of-way to access this area? This is a big, complex issue. Boundary of Ram Valley comes down to ER Rd but there is no trail and very steep access. There is no parking.

Planning and Zoning: Pete Panarese – No report this month.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.

Next meeting is on May 12, 6:30pm, Virtual using Zoom. Reminder: we do not hold meetings from June-August.

ERVCC Board Members (Term Expiration) President: David Schade (2021); Vice President: Julie Jessen(2022); Treasurer: Ruth Armstrong (2021); Education: open; Parks & Rec: Pete Panarese (2023); C/ER Advisory Board: Julie Jessen (2022); Platting & Zoning: Pete Panarese (2021); Federation of Community Councils (FCC): Tom Freeman (2023); Road Board: James McCurtain(2022)/Arlene Rasic – Alt (2022); Secretary: Joy Webb (2021)