

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting  
Wednesday, April 14, 2021 6:30pm  
REGULAR MEETING  
Zoom Virtual Meeting  
MEETING MINUTES – Approved May 12, 2021

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

Quorum was established.

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

**Introductions and Announcements:** none

**Meeting Minutes Approval:** Draft meeting minutes from March 10, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Corrections were noted. Motion to approve with corrections, by Tom Freeman; seconded by Pete Panarese. Approved by a vote of 11 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain.

**New Business:**

**Joy Boston, Community Partnerships at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson**

joy.boston.2@us.af.mil

Ms. Boston introduced herself and provided the following update:

- For any beneficiaries that use JBER medical facilities, you can order/re-new prescriptions by texting “Get in line” to 1-855-856-5501. There is a new JBER Pharmacy Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/JBERPharmacy/> with a QR code for prescription service and other information.
- Exercise Northern Edge, is scheduled April 29 - May 14. This will be a large exercise with air, land and sea operations from north of Fairbanks to Gulf of Alaska to Cold Bay. Expect increased aircraft traffic/noise, Approximately 2,500 additional people on-base/in town for this event.
- Gate closings are scheduled:
  - Post Rd gate will be closed May 1 to June 30
  - Boniface gate will be closed July 1 to mid-August
- Check out the JBER Facebook page for additional information <https://m.facebook.com/JBERAK/>

**Sabrena Combs, Matanuska Electric Association, Inc.**

Community & Employee Engagement Coordinator

[Sabrena.combs@mea.coop](mailto:Sabrena.combs@mea.coop), 907-350-8070

Ms. Combs introduced herself and provided the following update:

- This is election season for MEA. Eagle River and Matanuska districts are voting for new representatives this year. Positions are for one year. Eagle River has five candidates vying for the ER position. You will be eligible for prizes (e.g. free electricity for a year) if you use the SmartHub to vote. Voting closes on April 26 at 5:00pm.
- The annual meeting will be held April 27 via Zoom. Register to attend the Annual Meeting here: <https://www.mea.coop/news/members-can-register-for-the-virtual-annual-meeting> Those attending will receive a \$10 credit on their bill.
- Clearing season will begin soon. Please report all dangerous trees that could damage lines, even if they are not within the easement. MEA will help mitigate the danger.
- In the first quarter, rates decreased slightly. In the second quarter, rates are unchanged.

**Eagle River-Chugiak Dog Park Study Update**

**Pete Panarese, Eagle River-Chugiak Parks & Recreation**

Mr. Panarese provided the following update on the dog park study:

- A public meeting will be held via *Microsoft Teams* on Monday, April 19, 6:30pm.
- Municipal planners will present the study.

## Eagle River Valley Community Council

April 14, 2021

Page 2

- The sites include Peters Creek, off Old Glenn Hwy. which includes several acres and adequate parking. There are neighborhood concerns for the Firehouse Lane site near the tennis courts.

### **Resolution of support for Eagle River Nature Center - Recreation Trails Grant Proposal (Repair salmon viewing deck)**

#### **Pete Panarese, Eagle River-Chugiak Parks & Recreation**

Mr. Panarese presented draft Resolution 2021-1 supporting a \$100,000 grant for repair of the salmon viewing deck at Eagle River Nature Center.

- Motion by Pete Panarese, seconded by Tom Freeman in support of the resolution. Resolution was approved by vote of 11 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain.
- Mr. Panarese also reminded us that he is a member of the Board of Directors for Eagle River Nature Center.

### **Shepherd home construction - Fire safety requirements**

#### **Pete Panarese, Platting & Zoning and Donabelle Shepherd**

Mr. Panarese provided an update on his efforts regarding Note #6 on plat for the Shepherd family. This was also discussed at our March 10 meeting.

- Mr. Panarese left multiple calls and emails for Dave Whitmore regarding Note #6 on the property plat, to try to understand why special requirements were placed on this property but not on other properties on the street. He received no response.

Ms. Shepherd provided additional information about this situation:

- Brian Dean, the fire marshal, said that even a 10,000 gallon water tank on the property will not satisfy the requirements to build on this site and that he cannot provide a modification. The matter must go to the Platting Board.
- The Platting Board public hearing is scheduled for May 19.

Mr. Panarese drafted a letter of support from our council, requesting that Plat Note #6 be removed so this property is treated the same as other properties in the subdivision.

Motion by Pete Panarese, seconded by Ruth Armstrong to submit the letter of support to the Platting Board. This was approved by a vote of 11 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain.

### **David W. Schade, ERVCC President**

Mr. Schade provided the following update:

- May is our elections month. We have several open positions; president, education, alternate for Parks & Rec. In addition, several terms are up including secretary, treasurer, planning & zoning.
- According to our by-laws, we elect individuals to the board and then board members are chosen to fill various roles. Please consider volunteering.
- A suggestion was made to draft a resolution expressing our appreciation for Susan, who will retire from her position with the Federation of Community Councils office in May. This was approved by unanimous vote. Joy Webb will draft the resolution.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Crystal Kennedy - Anchorage Assembly**

[Crystal.Kennedy@anchorageak.gov](mailto:Crystal.Kennedy@anchorageak.gov), 907-351-1430

The Assembly meeting was underway during our meeting. Ms. Kennedy provided the following update on the Anchorage Assembly.

- The Anchorage Emergency Declaration was extended until June 11.
- The Assembly is awaiting guidance on how federal relief funds can be used.
- Reach out to Jamie Allard or Crystal Kenney with concerns or questions.

**School Board Report – Deena Mitchell, Anchorage School Board – No report**  
**[Mitchell deena@asdk12.org](mailto:deena@asdk12.org)**

**Eagle River Community Patrol – Cliff Cook – No report**

**Committee Reports:**

**CBERRRSA (Road Board): James McCurtain/ Arlene Rasic**

[James.mccurtain@hotmail.com](mailto:James.mccurtain@hotmail.com), 907-301-4042

Mr. McCurtain provided the following update:

- The traffic mitigation team gave an update on the Artillery Road interchange at the last meeting. The previous plans for upgrade have been scrapped. Grant money is available to make improvements in this area so some small changes may be made to use these funds instead of losing them. Nothing has been finalized for this area. Dept. of Transportation may develop new plans.
- Berm plowing – Eagle River community councils, including ours, have not been in favor of berm plowing in the past. To include this plowing would likely triple the cost resulting in higher property taxes. If people change their mind on this topic, let Mr. McCurtain know.
- Submit your ideas for capital improvements to Mr. McCurtain.
- A new maintenance contract has been awarded. The only bid submitted was from McKenna, which is the same company that currently provides our maintenance. The cost has increased 30% in the new contract. It is being reviewed for opportunities to reduce the costs.

Questions for Mr. McCurtain included:

- Is there a contract for street sweepers? He believes this is included in the McKenna maintenance contract. Sweeping is expected to begin soon; hopefully by the the first week of May.
- Is the gravel used in the winter recycled and reused? Sand that is swept up gets recorded and disposed of at the sanitary landfill. If people want sand, they can call the Street Maintenance office @ (907) 343-15100 and get on a list to have it dumped right at their house. It is almost impossible to reuse and is not cost-effective.

**Chugiak/Eagle River Advisory Board – Julie Jessen – Nothing to report.**

- Anchorage is making Title 21 changes regarding snow plowing storage. This doesn't affect Eagle River.

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

**Federation of Community Councils – Tom Freeman**

Mr. Freeman's update included:

- We're on budget at this time.
- Need to submit our CIP priorities to the municipality.
- Homeless shelters and treatment facilities in B3 zones should be submitted to the Assembly by late May or early June.
- We have \$101M in funding coming from US Treasury from Relief Fund.
- Eagle River Elementary and Gruening Middle School, damaged by the earthquake, will re-open in the fall.
- The Planning Department is adding B3 areas with Title 21 amendments.

**Parks and Rec: Pete Panarese**

Mr. Panarese provided the following update:

- The last meeting was Mr. Panarese's first meeting as the new chair. They covered housekeeping items.
- Josh Duran, the Anchorage Parks & Recreation director, participates in the C-ER Parks & Rec Board.

Eagle River Valley Community Council

April 14, 2021

Page 4

- New CARES Act funding may include businesses in parks. There was some discussion about the public being able to buy services (e.g. food) in parks.
- We need an alternate to represent our council in case Mr. Panarese is unable to attend.

**Planning and Zoning: Pete Panarese** – nothing to report

Meeting adjourned at 7:29pm.

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); Planning & 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)