

Birchwood Community Council

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Minutes

BIRCHWOOD Community Council

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Meeting held over Zoom

1. **Call to Order:** 7 PM by co-chair Matt Cruickshank
2. **Approval of the Minutes:** The November 2021 minutes were approved
3. **Announcements**
 - a. AMATS - A 30-Day Public Comment Period on the Goals & Objectives starts today, December 1st and ends on December 31st!
4. **Reports:**
 - a) Secretary's report: Lexi noted she will prepare 2022 permit and fee waiver for our meeting space in the Beach Lake Chalet, and 2022 BCC letter head before leaving office. *Motion made and passed Matt Cruickshank and Debbie Ossiander will share Chair position*
 - b) FCC Report: this position representing Birchwood Community Council is vacant. Seeking an interested BCC member to fill this position.
 - c) CBERRRSA (Road Board Report): Matt Cruickshank: Wait to study Chugiak High School intersection, will send Gretchen the contact information for the Project Manager so he can be contacted directly. There are \$6 Million CIP funds still on the table, hoping for bike path connectivity. Aurora Borealis is flooded and not maintained by the Municipality. There is a "brew ha" about through traffic trying to use the private road and tearing it up. Chief Benningfield noted the road is in good shape and will be gated; the fire department will have a key for access. Matt discussed Starner Bridge. Road maintenance of Birchwood Loop has been very good; McKenna is the permanent operator of the brine station near the airport.
 - d) Parks and Recreation Report: Lexi Hill: Walked the portion of Mirror/ Edmonds Lake park north of Mirror Lake Middle School, where the Municipality has promised (in an old land trade) an easement for Eklutna, Inc, from the Glenn Highway across the park to their property. While the route they have proposed is not bad, it could be even shorter if they went from the highway to the power line, and then along the power line to their land. Parks and Rec board is asking why this isn't an option.
 - e) Chugiak Eagle River Advisory Board: Debbie Ossiander:
Survey on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) available now on Muni website. Notice states:
Accessory dwelling units (ADUs) are small, attached or detached secondary housing units on the same property as an existing single family dwelling. This housing type helps implement 2040 Municipal Land Use Plans policies 4.2 to encourage innovative & compact housing
The Municipality of Anchorage Planning Department is currently looking for feedback on Title 21 regulations relating to ADUs and would like to hear your opinion.

2021-2022 board: Debbie Ossiander, Co-Chair; Matt Cruickshank, Co- Chair, Road Board rep;
Gretchen Wehmhoff: Secretary for Publicity; Barbara Trost, Parks and Rec rep;
Patty Friend, Member at large; Val Jokela, Treasurer

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Assembly Member Crystal Kennedy and Debbie both think the Advisory Board should weigh in on this issue, process will begin in January.

- f) Treasurer's report: Val Jokela: \$277.00
- g) Tim Benningfield-CVFD: responded to 1,029 calls and 51,930 hours so far this year. Peters Creek Station needs funds.
- h) Birchwood Patrol Report: no report. Great news, Jeff is back and will be active in Patrol.
- i) Birchwood Airport Master Plan: Val Jokela: There are 4 potential plans for the airport that will be shared with stakeholders through a survey.
- j) Legislative/Assembly/School Board and other reports:

Crystal Kennedy: Accessory dwelling units-ADU-Planning Dept survey looking at ADU's by lot size. Special Assembly meeting to override budget vetos. \$6M was allocated to purchase 2 hotels for homeless accommodation, and they will also look at the Tudor-Elmore site for a possible structure, so that the Sullivan Arena can be vacated by the homeless. Anchorage School district enrollment declined by 4,000 students during COVID, which reduces state funds to the district. The Assembly will look at our local election code the week of December 12th.

Senator Shelley Hughes: There will be a Legislative town hall at the American Legion Post 17 on December 15 at 7:30 P.M. Looking at how re-districting will affect the legislature, it appears that 19 out of 20 senators will be running – only Donny Olson will not. In north Eagle River: Ken McCarty and Kelly Merrick have filed to run for Senate seats. With the redistricting Eagle River would have 2 senators. It's possible that the people could vote to have a constitutional convention – the question is due to be on the ballot as it is every 10 years.

Pat Higgins: There is a \$67M shortfall for the school district. We have been flat funded from the State of AK since 2017 and impacted by inflation. 90% of the costs are personnel. School resource officers are fully funded and their presence saved the fight that broke out at West High. Lots of roof issues around the district. Tom Ross (?) is working with Chugiak High School regarding South Birchwood and traffic issues, coordinating with Megan Hatswell (the principal). (Gretchen also followed up with Megan and she had a lot of great ideas) Scott Thomas with SOA Traffic Engineering is a consultant and also involved in a study of the road and traffic issues.

Joy Boston: Applications for AIM High Academy deadline are December 10. There will be holiday gate hours for base the 24-25 December and 31 Dec-Jan 1.

- 5. **Appearances:** None
- 6. **Old Business:** Secretary recruitment has not been successful.
- 7. **New Business:** none
- 8. **Open Forum:** none
- 9. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned shortly before 9.