

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 18, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

1. **CALL TO ORDER** (Quorum 5+ Elected Board Members) 7:00 PM

2. **INTRODUCTIONS** (Board Members / Presenters / Guests from outside the Chugiak Community Council area)
 - Jake Horazdovsky, President (at large)..... Present Excused Absent
 - Blake Merrifield, Vice President (E. Peters Creek/ Mirror Lake)..... Present Excused Absent
 - Tom Looney, Secretary (at large)..... Present Excused Absent
 - Burke Wonnell, Treasurer (Eklutna/Thunderbird)..... Present Excused Absent
 - Darryl Parks (Fire Lake) Present Excused Absent
 - Will Tagen (E. Peters Creek/Mirror Lake)..... Present Excused Absent
 - Leslie Echols (W. Peters Creek/Mirror Lake)..... Present Excused Absent
 - Rashae Johnson (W. Peters Creek/Mirror Lake)..... Present Excused Absent
 - Bruce Esprey (alternate, at large)..... Present Excused Absent
 - Harold Parker (alternate, at large)..... Present Excused Absent

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
 - Moved by Burke Wonnell and Seconded by Will Tagen, passed Unanimously.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – November 2022
 - Deferred until February 2023 meeting.

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - Cemetery update – Tom Looney provided an update
 - The bond proposal raised by Girdwood for Cemetery bond is dead for this April. The City Attorney has stated that the Cemeteries are not considered “Area Wide facilities and therefore cannot be bonded via “areawide bonds” Causing Girdwood to rethink their options.
 - The Girdwood proposal for a combined bond was raising some concerns in the CER area, one because of the cost and also because of the bond process versus other means of funding.
 - Assemblyman Kevin Cross has discussed the Wolfpack Drive property issue with the Heritage Land Bank and they are willing to transfer the land to an entity in Eagle River (municipal entity) so that it can be used for a cemetery. This may or may not be the ER Parks and Rec department.
 - Will Tagen stated that at the last ER Parks and Rec meeting the new representative from South Fork, Steve Romanli has stated that he is not in favor of the proposed location.
 - Norther Extension of the Coastal Trail phase 2023 – Will Tagen provided an update
 - Pricing out options and features that could be included in the Coastal Trail. Must be integrated with the Beach Lake mushing trails which will include a potential bridge. Parks and Rec has engaged a consultant to help guide some of the options and development.
 - Need a bridge to separate mushers from pedestrians.
 - May consider a seasonal coastal trail to minimize conflicts with mushing.
 - Plans are still conceptual, next steps will be a preliminary (65%) plan that will provide more details.
 - The bridge could be the entry point to the trail system for some users.

- Preliminary budget numbers from consultant will be back in February for the Parks and Rec to review.
- A six month study on existing trail use was performed as part of the preliminary study and is being used by the consultant to do some of the planning.

6. UPDATES

- Chugiak Volunteer Fire Dept. – Darryl Parks
 - 89 responses in Dec, 1096 responses for 2022
 - 5,577 volunteer hours in Dec, 53,000 volunteer hours in 2022
 - Bond on the April ballot will include money to replace a light service truck
 - In process of hiring a new fire chief, interviewing candidate, have selected winning candidate and preparing a job offer
- Legislative
 - Representative Dan Sadler via phone:
 - Commented regarding the important committee assignments that the CER delegates have received that will enable them to help our community.
 - Feb 19th Legislative town hall in CER
 - Senator Kellie Merrick via email has asked for our legislative priorities to be sent to her so she can pursue them.
- Assembly
 - Robin Dern : Newly appointed Assembly representative filling Jamie Allard's vacant seat. (not here)
 - Kevin Cross: (not here)
- ASD – Carl Jacobs
 - Board provided FY24 budget information to the Administration which has a deficit.
 - Includes savings achieved from unfilled positions and closure Abbot Loop elementary.
 - Cuts to administration positions that will potentially save \$3.1M won't impact district operations.
 - Budget will be handed off to the Assembly in early March.
 - Board is proposing to extend school times for a period of time to make up for school closure lost time.
 - Board is considering adjusting school start to have elementary schools start earlier and High Schools to start later. May take effect next school year.

7. Elections

- Council Seats:
 - Seat 5 Vacant, (E. Peters Creek/ Mirror Lake)..... Election to be carried to Feb meeting
 - Seat 7 Matt Hickey (at large (Nominated by Jake, seconded by Darryl, unanimously elected)
 - Seat 1 Burke Wonnell, Treasurer (Eklutna/Thunderbird) (Agreed to retain his seat, seconded by Will, unanimously elected)

- Seat 2 Blake Merrifield (W. Peters Creek/Mirror Lake) (Agreed to Stay on the Council but swapped from seat 5 to seat 2, seconded by Jake, unanimously elected)
 - Seat 3 Rashae Johnson (W. Peters Creek/Mirror Lake) (Agreed to retain her seat, seconded by Will, unanimously elected)
 - Seat A Tom Looney (alternate, at large) (Agreed to serve as an Alternate, seconded by Jake, unanimously elected)
- Officer Elections, Rashae made a motion to nominate our current slate, Jake seconded, vote passed unanimous.
 - President - Jake Horazdovsky
 - Vice President - Blake Merrifield
 - Secretary – xxx Election to be carried to Feb meeting
 - Treasurer – Burke Wonnell

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Chugiak State Parks Peters Creek trail by Will Taygen
 - Bike club working with State Park to open up more of Peters Creek trail back to Mount Rumble
 - State has plans for development of the trail but no immediate funding
 - They may allow volunteers to brush out the trail
 - Will is proposing that a new parking lot be provided to allow users to park snow machine trailers and etc.
 - Recommends that the Chugiak Community Council prioritize State CIP funding to establish the parking area and trailhead, brushing out the trail.

9. REPORTS:

- CBERRSA - Blake Merrifield
 - Residents have been concerned that McKinna snow removal CBERRSA contract has been used for snow removal in Anchorage. That is not the case, the contract has been used, but the MOA is paying from their funds for Anchorage snow removal..
 - The MOA has come to an agreement with the property owners at Aurora Borealis and the MOA is now going to start maintaining the road and it will be open to the public.
 - Starner Bridge cover bridge money from CIP funds up to \$1.2M to \$1.5M. In order to have the replacement done this next construction season he is recommending that CBERRSA pay for the replacement then seek replacement money from the state. This is the top priority for the Birchwood Community Council and they are asking that we jointly support this expense from CBERRSA. There is money available in the CBERRSA capital projects fund however it may delay some the ski road sidewalk improvements.
 - **The Motion is to allow CBERRSA to utilize existing CBERRSA capital projects money (in savings) to pay for the Starner bridge replacement, approximately \$1.5M with the intent of funding the bridge replacement in 2023 and seek reimbursement from the state as soon as possible. Motion by Blake Merrifield, seconded by Will Tagen, passed unanimously.**
 - CBERRSA needs to increase mill rate by 0.5% to cover an approx. 35% CBERRSA operations cost increase– carry to February meeting and public notice in Feb meeting agenda.
- CER Advisory board – Jake Horazdovsky
 - No report
- Federation of Community Councils (FCC), Darryl Parks
 - ASD presentation
 - Change in how parking minimums for new construction. May significantly reduce or remove parking requirements.
- Financial – Burke Wonnell
 - No update

- Parks and Recreation Board of Supervisors –Will Taygen
 - The MOA is not releasing the money (approx.. \$2M) to support the Chugiak pool repairs. In order to have the pool repaired the next construction season (summer 2023)
 - **Rashae Johnson made a motion that we ask the Assembly to release the approximately \$2M intended for the Chugiak pool repairs so that a contractor can be selected and the work can be completed in 2023. The motion was seconded by Tom Looney and passed unanimously.**
 - Title 17 Leash law is coming back up
 - New law will be defining what under control means for a dog
 - 3 levels of control: leash, command/voice, shock collar
- CER Chamber of Commerce- Leslie
 - 2023 Bear Paw theme “Base camp for Adventure”
 - New even will be a bike race
 - Kickoff in April Brewfest
- Secretary – Tom Looney
 - No comments
- General Council Business – Jake Horazdovsky
 - None

10. OPEN FORUM

- Girdwood Heritage Land Bank Presentation – Dave Nyman
 - Holtan Hills Development
 - Presented concerns with the Heritage Land bank disbursement of 450 acres to a single private developer. The presentation included information that appears to indicate that the terms of the Heritage Land bank has offered the developer are far below the land value and include a significant cost of development to be born by the MOA.
 - **Tom Looney made a motion that we send a “Letter of Concern” to our Assembly representatives Kevin Cross and Robin Dern that asks them to investigate the issue and if improprieties have occurred to vote against the land transfer. The motion was seconded by Will Taygen. Vote: Passed unanimously**

11. NEXT MEETING DATE:

- The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, February 16th, 7:00 PM

12. ADJOURNMENT:

- AT 9:00PM Motion to extend the meeting by Blake Merrifield seconded by Burke Wonnell, passed unanimous
- Moved Adjourn by **Blake Merrifield** seconded by **Burke Wonnell** 9:45 PM