

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 12, 2023 6:30pm
REGULAR MEETING
Alpenglow Elementary School
MEETING MINUTES – Approved May 10, 2023

Call to order at 6:30pm by Julie Jessen. Quorum was established.

Webpage: [Federation of Community Councils](#)

Meeting documents are here: <http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/viewfolder?id=4549>

Approve Minutes: Motion to approve March 8, 2023 meeting minutes by Tom Freeman; seconded by Pete Panarese. Approved by unanimous vote.

Representatives' Reports

AK Senator Kelly Merrick - No report

AK Representative Jamie Allard (by Lindsey Causer, Chief of Staff)

- Participating in numerous committees.
- Parental Rights in Education House Bill 105 – public input needed on Thursday, April 13, beginning at 5:15 pm @ 907-563-9085. Be sure to weigh in with your opinion.

Assembly Report – Kevin Cross / Robin Dern

- Kevin participates/chairs in Public Safety as a Whole and Community & Economic Development committees.
- Fentanyl w/animal tranquilizer is in AK; designed to kill. Warn your children against taking ANY pills.
- We've had record number of fire fatalities this year. Be sure your smoke detectors work and have fresh batteries.
- Anchorage area has a 5000-unit housing shortage. Will become worse as JBER adds 700 new personnel.
- Working to streamline permitting process for 3-plex and larger units so building can occur more quickly.
- Working on joint agreement between state and CBERRRSA to improve snow removal on state roads (ER Rd).
- Efforts to improve and expand trail access in Eagle River; this helps attract younger population to our area.

School Board Report – Carl Jacobs

- In recent election, two incumbents Donley and Holleman, will retain their school board seats. Proposition 1 which addresses safety issues in schools, appears likely to pass.
- Board is committed to providing financial literacy training for high school students. ERHS piloted economics class w/practical financial literacy content. Support Senate Bill 99 to make this a state-wide initiative.
- Family Partnership Charter School's charter was recently revoked; changed to a correspondence school.
- Abbott Loop Elementary School was closed. Building will be used by AK Native Charter School for max. of 5 years; they will pay all building maintenance costs; no rent will be charged.
- School start times likely to change. See ASDK12.org /Hot Topics to view 3 town halls; slide show w/research.

Questions for Mr. Jacobs included:

- How will bus schedules be impacted by new start times? Currently there is 45 minute gap between schools; most likely the schools will swap start times and maintain this gap. Otherwise, driver and bus costs will increase.
- If schools are closed but ASD retains responsibility for building, we aren't really saving money.

New Business:

Anchorage Fire Department

Ryan Staten, Senior Captain – Fire Station 11, 16630 Eagle River Rd. Eagle River, AK 99577 (907) 267-5011 station

- Thank you for support of recent bonds. Funds will be used for two trucks and building repairs.
- AFD is participating, along with hospitals, in a blind study of drug to be administered for cardiac arrest patients.
- PulsePoint app is available, primarily for first responders, to see cardiac-related calls to AFD. App can notify users if they are in the immediate area of a cardiac incident and where defib machinery is located. Smart911.com is available to receive emergency alerts and information.

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- There are streets in ERV that are difficult for fire trucks to access.

Questions for Captain Staten included:

- Institute for Social & Economic Research (ISER) is working on wildfire egress issues. ISER suggests AFD consider access to homes in ER Valley. AFD conducts driver training exercises year-round. Some properties are difficult.
- Firebreaks- A grant was obtained to do information campaigns on removal of woody fuels; probably no crews.
- We are seeking to establish CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) in ERV. AFD would welcome this.
- We lost ladder truck in ER. Will we get another one? Very unlikely. One of trucks was damaged; to be repaired.
- Does AFD conduct CPR training for public? No, contact Red Cross. Office of Emergency. Mgmt. may in future.

Anchorage Fire Department

Officer LaRosa, Patrol/ SWAT Office: (907) 729-7666

- Residents often post issues/concerns on Facebook, but APD needs this information, too. Report issues to APD.
- Contact APD if cars are parked in such a way that traffic/access could be blocked for emergency equipment.
- See CommunityCrimeMap.com to monitor criminal/emergency activity in Eagle River.
- Opportunity to participate in ride-along is available in Anchorage and Eagle River, any shift and location.
- If there is a problem residence in your neighborhood, contact APD every time there is an issue.

Request for Bike Trail Support

Will Taygan, Executive Director, Chugach Mountain Bike Riders (CMBR)

Will@chugachmtb.org 907-306-4733

- Kevin Cross helped obtain \$450,000 federal grant for trail work in Eagle River.
- Seeking letter of support to conduct planning phase for trail buildout from Gruening to Glenn Hwy with switchbacks from Eagle River to Gruening Middle School (Lower Eagle River Trail Concept - Meadow Creek to Gruening Middle School). Motion by Pete Panarese, seconded by Kevin Cross to provide letter of support; passed unanimously. Mr. Panarese will draft the letter.
- Seeking letter of support for a section of Iditarod Trail (West Beach Lake Trail (Concept B Phase 2) – Year-Round at-Grade Crossing) to create fenced, at grade crossing with gates, to separate mushers' trail from hikers' trail. Motion by Pete Panarese, seconded by Tom Freeman to draft a letter of support; passed unanimously.

Update on DNR Projects in ERVCC (Ram Valley Access study, Mile Hi traffic)

Keith Wilson, Ranger of the Chugach, keith.wilson@alaska.gov

- Chugach State Park has 280 miles of managed trails. Recent projects include:
 - Eagle River Campground, new multi-use cabin
 - Crow Pass Trail & Peters Creek Trail improvements
 - Ram Valley access, part of 2016 plan. Received \$100,000 to conduct study. Valid easements exist but may be difficult to build to standards. Usually takes 5-10 years to develop.

Chugiak State Park Citizens Advisory Board

Matt Warden, csp@alaska.gov

- Meets 2nd Monday of each month. To attend meetings, provide support or concerns, contact cps@alaska.gov.
- Mr. Warden participates in outreach, funding, and Ram Valley committees. For Ram Valley, looking for suitable access point where trailhead and parking lot could be located. Trail would ascend 2000 ft. on state park land.

Resolution 2023-1 for Service Recognition – David W. Schade

- Resolution was read aloud and presented to Mr. Schade's family.

Request for Traffic Studies

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- Draft Resolution 2023-6 regarding Traffic Study for Stewart Drive /Mile Hi Trailhead was read aloud. Motion by Crystal Kennedy; seconded by Pete Panarese to approve resolution. Approved by unanimous vote.

Holtan Hills Development, Girdwood. Request for Letter of Support

- Draft Resolution 2023-5 was read aloud, encouraging public participation in local planning and development. Motion by Paul Forward; seconded by Tom Freeman to approve resolution. Approved by unanimous vote.

Chugiak-Eagle River Comprehensive Plan Update

- Draft Resolution 2023-4 was read aloud, requesting Planning Dept to initiate review/update of Chugiak-Eagle River Comprehensive Plan. Motion by Crystal Kennedy; seconded by Tom Freeman to approve resolution. Approved by unanimous vote.
- Question to Mr. Kevin Cross-what is likelihood of this happening? Very likely due to Assembly's push to update all plans to better respond to homelessness and low-income housing shortages throughout the municipality.

10-Year Review of Community Council Boundaries Project Update

- Correspondence received from Tom Davis, Planning Dept. meeting on April 27 regarding boundary changes.
- Motion by Joy Webb, seconded by Pete Panarese to draft Resolution supporting existing boundaries for ERVCC.

Motion of Support for Federation of Community Councils office

- https://adn-ak.newsmemory.com/?publink=08efddd69_134aad1
- The Federation of Community Councils office provides significant support to councils for meeting notifications, distribution list maintenance, council documentation and website maintenance.
- Motion to provide resolution supporting institution of the Federation office. Ms. Jensen will draft.

Community Wildfire Egress Project/ CERT - Art Skoog/ Julie Jessen (w/Institute for Social and Economic Research)

- Wildfire Egress report draft was just provided for review.
- Ms. Jen Schmidt will present results at our May 12 meeting.
- See flyer and sign up to participate in CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) committee.

Eagle River Valley Community Council Annual General Meeting and Elections at May 10, 2023 meeting

- Elections will be held on May 10 for two three-year board positions, four one-year officer positions, and four one-year committee positions. Members are encouraged to volunteer for a position.

Old Business:

Eagle River Community Patrol - Cliff Cook

- Patrols conducted for 15 hours covering 56 miles.
- Mail theft is down. Be aware of theft activity at trailheads. Bears are out on JBER. Moose are ornery.
- Community Patrol will support Grad Blast on May 15 for CHS and EHS and Torch Run for Special Olympics May 20.

Committee Reports:

CBERRRSA (Road Board) – Crystal Kennedy

- Huge thank you to Mark Littlefield, CBERRRSA mgr, for years of service. He will retire soon.
- Sweeping will be soon.
- CBERRRSA by-laws were updated to stagger member terms of office.

Chugiak/Eagle River Advisory Board - Julie Jessen – nothing to report.

Education - Tom Roth

- School start time changes are very likely to happen this time.

Federation of Community Councils - Tom Freeman

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- Free Dental, Medical and Vision Clinic April 15-16 in Anchorage
- Mayor is revising the Capitol Improvement Process.
- To report potholes, call 907-343-1510 in Chugiak-Eagle River.

Chugiak/Eagle River Parks and Rec Board - Ruth Armstrong

- Four resolutions were passed to add items and costs to CIP.
- Mac Center - Ice will be down in two weeks and return in June. Sound systems was updated. Management contract will be up in a few months.
- On April 20 at Chugiak Community Council meeting, plans will be presented for Carol Creek subdivision. This would require upgrading road to the Mac Center and could cause it to be closed during construction.
- Mill rate split has changed from 90% Operations:10% Capital Improvements to 80% Operations: 20% Capital Improvements.
- Board of Supervisors has requested staff to provide firm estimate for Chugiak pool repairs.

Platting - Pete Panarese – Two items were shared by Platting Bd but are not within ERVCC boundaries.

Motion to adjourn at 8:54pm.

Annual General Meeting May 10, 6:30pm at Alpenglow Elementary School, Multi-purpose room.

ERVCC Board Members (Term Expiration) President: Julie Jessen (2023); Vice President: Tom Roth(2023); Treasurer: Ruth Armstrong (2023); Education: Tom Roth(2023); Parks & Rec: Ruth Armstrong(2026)/Mark Littlefield(2026); C/ER Advisory Board: Julie Jessen (2023)/Jared Goecker-Alt(2025); Platting: Pete Panarese (2023); Federation of Community Councils (FCC): Tom Freeman (2023)/Erik Gunderson-Alt (2025); Road Board: Crystal Kennedy (2025)/Arlene Rasic–Alt (2024); Secretary: Joy Webb (2023)