

# Birchwood Community Council

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## MINUTES

### BIRCHWOOD Community Council

Wednesday, October 11, 2023, 7-9:00 PM

Hybrid meeting: Eagle River Town Center Community Room 170

And via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88131919316?pwd=RDA5ZGYrSlhORFhyOUtCM2dTRmJXdz09>

#### 1. Call to Order: 7PM

2. **Approval of September Minutes:** move to approve by Matt and Patty second after fixing the footer and text on first page of the September minutes.

#### 3. **Announcements:** *(reminder please limit presentations to 5 minutes)*

a) Heritage Land Bank will be hosting a series of HLB Open Houses: Monday October 16: 4:30-6PM Girdwood Community Room, 250 Egloff Drive, Girdwood, Tuesday October 17: 1200-1:30PM Permit & Development Center, Conference Room 170, 4700 Elmore Drive, Anchorage and Wednesday October 25: 5:30-6:30PM Microsoft Team, 907-519-0237 use conference ID 262 775 848# For more information, call HLB 907-343-7536 or email [hlb@anchorageak.gov](mailto:hlb@anchorageak.gov) or visit [www.muni.org/HLB](http://www.muni.org/HLB) Interest for us, is the proposed cemetery on HLB land by Eagle River High School

b) Assembly introduced an ordinance to put permits and fees in for B&B and short-term rentals at a rate of \$400.0 per room for a B&B.

c) Joy Boston provided JBER public noise notice for October 9-25, 2023. Debbie in the past has called the noise complaint line and they were helpful.

#### 4. **Reports:**

a) FCC Report: Carol Perkins-combination with OWL and in person on Sept 20. Mayor's office sent rep for homeless problem, assembly talk about homeless-camp abatement Oct 15. School Board meeting schedule and how to testify is on the ASD website. There is continued discussion about closing schools. Ombudsman-Darrill Hess presented and talked about Community Councils: 1. The ombudsman does not have jurisdiction over Community Councils 2. The Assembly has limited powers related to establishing, recognizing and drawing CC boundaries 3. The Assembly can provide notice to a council about offensive practices and if not corrected, they may take action. CC's started when went Anchorage went from a borough to a city. Because Community Councils are voluntary organizations, they are not part of government. They are recognized in the charter and municipal code. Community Council 101 is a document detailing the purpose, bylaws and functions. Both the legal opinion and the CC101 are on the FCC website. FCC is advertising for a new manager. This position is part-time. Debbie noted our councils are more powerful out here, as we elect reps for parks and road boards. In town, it is done by MOA staff. Carol is a member representing home owners on the Water and Wastewater Technical Review Board which is rewrite waste water regs and well regs-SOA has rewritten their water regs. The board is comprised of MOA reps, well drillers, engineers, septic. This was initiated in 2020. MOA controls wells for 1 and 2 families homes while the SOA is only concerned with 6 family residences. Ken brought up that the only acceptable holding tank is manufactured by Greer which is a much more expensive tank and in the MOA escalates the cost of a new septic system. The SOA requirements allow tanks made by 2022-2023 board: Debbie Ossiander, CERAB and Co-Chair; Matt Cruickshank, Co- Chair, Road Board rep; Ben Westveer: Secretary for Publicity, Carol Perkins FCC Rep; Barbara Trost, Parks and Rec rep; Patty Friend, Member at large, and CERAB alternate; Val Jokela, Secretary-Treasurer, alternate Road Board

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Lowe's or Home Depot which are perfectly adequate and much more affordable. Carol will bring this up at the next meeting.

b) CBERRRSA Road Board Report: Matt Cruickshank -On Aurora Borealis the rocks have been moved, but it is still private property, and we need temporary easement to move forward on Starner Bridge. Facilitator is working with the property owner and \$10K has been approved, but once it is used up, negotiations are at a stand-still. So far, the property owner has been unresponsive to the negotiator. Specific times and steps—Mayor's statement will be out this week. Transfer 250K for fund balance from snow dump. Lease space from Eklutna-have additional revenue-keep mil rate flat funded. Assembly approved fund balance? Thanks to fixing up Pilot from Ken M. Plants growing out of cracks on Valley that need fixing. Birchwood Loop is a state road. Potholes Powder Ridge-might be SOA. Matt will reach out to DOT.

c)Parks and Recreation Report: Barbara Trost-Boo on the Beach Oct 14, Beach Lake Multi-use trail-90-day comment period and public meeting-planners looking for letter from BOS, Going to happen anyway whether we support or not. CDMA-mushers ok with trail-get 2 extra miles of mushing-came in at higher cost-P&R find funding for gap-Kourosh Partow is not clear on what he wants-David Bacon wages cost \$200K more. Write letter to SOA agency-agreeing to year-round multi-use trail year-round that trail and connection-in front of Urban Design Commission. Barb's rec: she still believes it will impact the mushers-would have rather seen winter use for mushers. Making it into year-round there will be more conflict with users. Ken: Bypassing conditions-need to stay in place and if not met, cannot be overridden-conditional approval-Barbara will bring up the point-mushers get the funding and support as part of the bargain. P&R work session on budget-not sure when meeting will be held. Room 170 audio visual equipment needs replacement-9 years-need \$50K-Parks and Rec should not be the only entity paying for it. First Capital request-Dan never put in right. Matt recommended to stay clear of smart boards. This room recording capability, more meeting friendly room-ie hanging owl, large monitor and speakers. Projectors expensive-stand along without service contract. Townhall-ie ask if we can be part of funding to hold professional meetings. Establish what the scope is. Pool-renovations pushed back-handled by maintenance dept-get to November 2024—keep HS programs going--\$\$ are allocated. Tree removal Schroder Park-MOA-contract deal with beetle kill—working through smaller parks first

d)Chugiak Eagle River Advisory Board: Debbie Ossiander no meetings held

e) Treasurer's report: Val Jokela \$204.00.

f) CVFD: Chief Scott Fisher- no report this month

g) Birchwood Patrol Report-razor blades on a slide-gun shots and youth-accused drug dealing-BCC patrol-does not do enforcement

h) Legislative / Assembly / School board reports:

*Dan Saddler:* 16<sup>th</sup> Jan start of session. Brief over view of issues: education funding, other ed policy issues, price of oil, greater \$78.00 barrel—500/PFD, work force and child care-voluntary commitment-danger to self and others. Starner Bridge, clarify SIA owner of submerged lands, bill development plan for trace and rare minerals, natural gas cook inlet—provide energy in the next 2 years, railbelt energy, food security and housing, home grown supply of food, \$200M modernization of port. Meeting with Mayor and school board-snow summit next week-where plow. Aging and disability meeting-senior housing

*Jayme Jones-Kelly Merrick's*-legislative aide-vacancy Chugach State Park advisory board, plan in past cut into folks private property-now ballot proposition-Chugach State Park access in town-\$10M mentions South Fork access on April ballot. Can bond for it. Access points out here cross private property-If good model in ANC, it will be considered out here. There are board and

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commission vacancies resulting in some boards not having a quorum. AirBnB-lots of phone calls over the proposed permit and fees. Abatement of homelessness camps by Oct 16. APD- November 13<sup>th</sup> training on body cams, and they purchased 30 new Durangos, 4 plex-triplex-economic hit—pay \$400.00 per room annually. Issue with tax burden-out here.

*Carl Jacobs*-improve reading prof, State board of ed-score related to academic testing. AK-challenging scores-Fallout district-std tests-prof numbers where they are at. Screener to determine where students are, Data district level-50-60% at proficiency or above. Shortage of educators. Attendance-72% ASD meeting 90% attendance threshold-13% gain from last year. Priority board-career academy model-trades, skills, certifications-readiness skill set-next year. Stakeholder meeting-business's onboard-connect with families. UAA relationship with ASD-get college credit—students graduate with associates degree. 150 students get associates degree. Watch for career academy roll out. Ken M-Students trained certification in HS-AOPA training ASD and Galena—who pays for college level classes-no cost to families. Carl will look into costs. Superintendent-career 15M federal grant. Look to private industry to mentor. Rollout community wide-December. Brief stakeholders tomorrow. Still working to develop.

## 5. Appearances

## 6. Old Business

Update homeless-Ken M-update Oct 11 meeting-exit plan-JBER multiple units-Kevin Cross point person-Location-issue of discussion happen after April 30-permanent shelter? Villages-person banned from village-folks that can go back-stats needs to be gathered. Employment 38%-2020-are they working? Census-Chicago-homeless reps .14% Anchorage .51%. Ken to get clarification on the meaning of the statistics, and in reference to individuals returning to their village, some villages do not permit homelessness.

## 7. New Business

- a) Zoning Ordinance proposed by Assembly District 2 Representative Kevin Cross-current version does not effect out here. Small multi-family up to 5 residences into R-2. District 2 and Girdwood is excluded. Increases density.
- b) Upper Cook Inlet Tsunami Study-Office of Emergency Management announces Open Public Meeting October 19 and 20 6:00-7:30PM at Loussac Library, Wilda Marston Theater-look for maps areas in danger around Beach Lake and airport-homes near there-attend meetings. Matt C-Barry Arm-massive tsunami wave now down to 30 feet from 300
- c) Support for Chugiak Dog Musers grant to add 2 miles of trail that would give a total of 10 miles that would be multi-use summer and fall and dedicated in the winter to mushing. Support giving additional funding that will give mushers 2 extra miles: Matt moves to ask SOA for additional funding letter to put forth grant application for mushers. Barb-motion to letter of support from BCC to DOT in support of grant app for funding to extend mushing trails. Ken support with conditional money received motion passed.

## 8. Action Items

Assembly agenda-Artillery road-assembly comments AMATS-highlight projects in district-specific resolution-as body what does Assembly recommends to AMATS-Requests made by CC's and BCC's was not received-broken into pieces-scoring 35 points excluded-combined Artillery road-concern criteria to make decision not streamlined. Assembly projection-arterials in our area-Did not get weighted. General discussion over projects motorized and non-motorized. Have not updated Comp Plan-applied for \$\$ for Federal Grant to update plan. CBERRRSA- CIP project hire grant writer to tap into fed \$\$\$.

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**9. Adjournment:** motion to adjourn by Ken. Seconded by Patty at 8:39PM