

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, October 14, 2009

President Bill Holland opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Introductions were made.

President's Report: Due to the number of items on the agenda, Bill has deferred his report at this time since parts of it will be included in the road board report.

Approval of minutes: Minutes from September 16, 2009 meeting were distributed. Sarah Wright moved approval of minutes, Patsy Gunn second. Unanimously approved. Past minutes & agendas can be found at www.communitycouncils.org

Treasurer's Report: submitted by Sarah Wright. This month there is no formal report. All signatures for the Heritage Estates account are in place.

Assembly Update: Assembly Chairperson Debbie Ossiander reported that the Assembly is currently examining Chapter 7 of the Title 21 rewrite. Many Chugiak/Eagle River residents testified before the assembly concerning dumpsters not being allowed at single family residences. Dumpsters would be allowed in areas zoned R 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10, however they must be screened from street and neighbors and not allowed on the front of the property. In light of the intense concern about the dumpster issue, Ms. Ossiander expects it will be moved to Chapter 10 of the rewrite.

The assembly also examined proposed budget cuts including:

1. stopping all People Mover busses at the downtown ER Transit Center (this would also affect Anchor Rides)
2. closing South Fork fire station
3. cutting or not filling Anchorage Fire Department positions (this could impact water rescues on Eagle River)
4. possibly cutting ER library open hours
5. cutting funding/grants to arts organizations

Ms. Ossiander reported that Mayor Sullivan is planning to use municipal revenue sharing fund money to fund city services rather than providing the customary property tax reductions with that money. She also indicated that assembly members are very concerned about the status of fund balances and are asking the Mayor for monthly budget summaries.

INVITED GUESTS

Eagle River Nature Center: Lucille Baranko, Alaska State Parks and Bill Evans, Landscape Architect, Park Design & Construction, Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Evans reported about the 10 acres on the site, half is adjacent to residential land. His group looked at different alternatives and has drafted a master timeline based on analysis results. Other locations for the Visitor Center were examined, but it was decided that the existing location is the best area for construction/expansion, however three items need to be addressed:

1. Parking must be screened from neighbors and accommodate school buses
2. Trail Systems including back country access and ADA compliance (regrade some trails from 8% to 5%.
3. Building/Operations to include classroom space and maintenance facility.

The public comment period is open until November 2, visit websites for more information:

⇒www.alaskastateparks.org (Alaska State Parks)

⇒www.ernc.org (Eagle River Nature Center)

⇒<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/chugach/planning> (Chugach State Park planning)

⇒[www.eagleriverloop.com/eagleriver road](http://www.eagleriverloop.com/eagleriver%20road) (AK Dept of Transportation)

OLD BUSINESS

Eagle River Lane: Ric Davidge, project manager for CY Investments, LLC. Bill Holland provided a historic overview of the project including the requirement that CY Investments (CYI) needed to upgrade ER Lane by 2009. According to Mr. Davidge, the poor economy and unforeseen additional expenses/complications meant that CYI would not be able to meet their deadline and requested an extension from the platting board until 2011. CYI has proposed Greenhouse Lane as a secondary access and proposes they will establish ER Lane as an emergency access with locked gates. CYI has submitted a preliminary design and Mr. Kiefer of Municipality PM&E has requested test holes to determine the amount of gravel material that must be placed on native soil. According to Mr. Davidge, once the municipality decides what type of road bed/surface are required, then CYI will request bids for construction. They anticipate a 26' wide road bed (probably gravel or RAP) with locked gates at both ends. CYI is required to connect ER Lane by 2012, even with extensions. There followed a very heated discussion about Mr. Hannaway's land - there are some problems with no easements/ROW (his land predates statehood as well as the establishment of the municipality) and actions the city has taken over the years.

Wal-Mart Liquor License Review: Austin Zimiga, Manager ER Wal-Mart. Mr. Zimiga distributed a statistical review of activities/events occurring in or near the liquor store. Store clerks have delayed or denied service 65 times since the store opened November 2008. In order to receive a permanent permit Wal-Mart must go before the Assembly after 18 months with the temporary permit.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Shaun Peterson made a motion requesting a resolution from ERVCC that endorses continuation of Anchorage People Mover routes 76 & 77 as currently scheduled. Mr. Peterson requests that this public transportation endorsement be sent to Mayor Sullivan, MOA transportation and the Municipal Assembly. **Scott Bailey second. Unanimously approved.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education: Linda Kelly reported that of the 60 million dollars in stimulus money the Anchorage School District (ASD) received, 35 million will go to state fiscal stabilization funds and 25 million will go to Title One and other formula programs. ASD will be holding community forums mid November through mid-December. The intent is to receive public input on increasing expenses and declining revenues, how to maintain (or improve) services? Students can receive free H1N1 flu shots, however they require written parent permission.

Emergency Preparedness: Lisa Andersen reported that despite her efforts again this month, the two Anchorage Police Department contacts for this area did not return her calls. Anchorage Fire Department Captain Bayless from ER Station offered the usual autumn safety reminders (smoke detector batteries, chimney sweep, furnace inspect) and told residents they are welcome to tour the fire station.

Parks & Recreation: Sarah Wright reported that there was no quorum at the last board meeting. The members present did approval and Eagle Scout project to build protected information kiosk at the Mt. Baldy trailhead.. The Beach Lake Master Plan will be presented to our council on Jan. 10, 2010. The new trails near ER High School will be groomed/maintained by the ER Nordic Ski Club. Mustang hockey will donate \$30,000 to the MacDonald Center for a covered outdoor sheet of ice.

Road Board: Bill Holland discussed a variety of drainage improvements on the CIP list (Coleman Road French drain, Imperial Drive creek crossing, Stuart Drive control of spring overflow) most are completed but a few are still in process.

Chugiak/Eagle River Consortium: Alternate Doug Maxwell attended last meeting. Bobbie Wells has stepped down as president.

Zoning & Platting: Topics were covered under ER Lane discussion.

Federation of Community Councils: Tom Freeman reported that between 500-600 people are expected to attend the May 2011 neighborhoods Northwest Community Councils Regional Conference.

Sarah Wright moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 pm, Shaun Peterson seconded. Unanimously approved, meeting formally adjourned.
Minutes submitted by Therese Voehl.