

Birchwood Community Council Newsletter
March, 2013

Dear Birchwood members. In an effort to keep you more informed, we are sending out a brief newsletter.

We expect Bobbi Wells to return for the March BCC meeting. Please plan to attend to welcome her back. Additionally, it will be a time for all of us to discuss how we want to re-organize the Birchwood Community Council. As most of you are aware, Bobbi will not be able to return to BCC as chair.

The plat for the new Eklutna subdivision, Powder View, was approved by Planning and Zoning. There are multiple problems associated with this plat impacting the safety of Terrace Drive in the future.

Parks and Recreation Update: The recent possible construction of a skate board park in the parcel next to ER elementary (that includes tennis courts), and the strong neighborhood objections to a skate park, demonstrated some real flaws in the Parks and Rec process for identifying parks projects for development and including the public in the full range of scoping, planning, and timing. Thank you to Randy McCain for bringing up that as a separate topic. Parks projects this summer:

- a) Continued improvements to Loretta French Park around its new status as home field for the Chinooks Alaska Baseball League team;
- b) Beach Lake park development of a new parking area next to the RR tracks on the W side of Beach Lake road with a spur trail access to Junkyard Loop.
- d) Beach Lake park improvements around the lakeside facility including informational kiosks and other things in Phase I improvements of the Beach Lake Master Plan
- c) Beach Lake Park mushing trail improvements centered on improving the parking area on the west side of the road, and on providing gravel fill
- e) more ski trail lighting, the trails by Mirror Lake Middle School and by the parks and rec-managed section of the trails near ERHS. The ERHS portion is likely to be about \$240,000; the MLMS portion estimate was not finished as of the last meeting

Road Board Update: The February Road Board meeting dealt with setting the new mill rate for 2013. The CBERRRSA fund has grown over several years. Discussed was using either \$350,000 or \$600,000 from the fund to lower the mil rate. The road board agreed to use \$600,000 from the reserve fund to bring the proposed 2013 mil rate down a little, pending approval by the MOA.

Birchwood Airport Gravel Pit Update: **April 1st:** final stripping and berm building; **May 6th:** mining begins weather breakup permitting w/approximately 30 trains loaded in the morning; **June 30th:** completion of mining, **Aug 5th:** seedlings planted on berm; **Aug 30th:** complete all planting and equipment removal.

Our next meeting is March 27, Ski Chalet, 7pm. We hope you can all show up and participate. Please see accompanying agenda and minutes.