



Bear Valley Community Council Meeting Minutes - Draft BVCC meeting – April 12, 2006

Compiled by Scott Pexton, BVCC Secretary

The meeting was held in the multi-purpose room at the Bear Valley Elementary School on Mountain Air Drive and began at 7:04 p.m. Twelve members were present, sufficient to indicate a quorum for the council meeting.

Guest Speaker, Jill Liverance, asked to briefly address the council about Anchorage School District plans to change school attendance boundaries for Bear Valley Elementary and other schools. She is a parent of school-aged children and involved with the Before & After Schools Programs in Anchorage. She indicated that due to over-crowding concerns at Bear Valley Elementary, up to 120 students could be transferred to other schools. School District policies dictate school capacity, but an abrupt move of students to other schools is upsetting to the children. Some parents have advocated for a more gradual transition to allow existing students to stay in their current schools, but suggest that new student arrivals be placed at schools based on the revised boundaries. She also mentioned that potential land use re-zoning proposals in the Hillside area could significantly increase the number of homes allowed per acre (up to six homes per acre) and thus cause further overcrowding pressures on existing schools. She said that Anchorage School District Superintendent Carol Comeau would come to Bear Valley Elementary School to speak to parents and residents about school attendance boundary issues on Wednesday, April 19th at 7 PM.

Guest Speaker, Robin Ward, Executive Director of the Municipality of Anchorage Heritage Land Bank (HLB) spoke about plans for Section 36, a large parcel of municipal land along both sides of Clarks Road. She indicated that the Mayor is ready to go forward with survey and platting of Section 36 and that there were no HLB plans to dispose of additional lands. The HLB plans to contract with a surveyor to conduct a property survey of Section 36 that would depict boundaries of the antenna farm parcel and proposed legal access easements for three owners of property adjacent to the east boundary of Section 36. Robin Ward indicated that road grades should not exceed 8 % and that the origin of the proposed access road would be from Clarks Road near the east boundary of Section 36. An aerial photo/map was presented that showed the proposed road location with two possible routes for the upper (northern) portion. A southern fork had more curves, but did not intersect the current jeep trail. A northern fork had a more gradual curve, but went higher up the slope and was near or intersected the existing trail/road. The HLB does not have plans to construct the proposed access road, only to propose and hopefully plat the road location. It would be depicted on a map for review and approval via the municipal platting board public process. Upon final plat approval, the parks zoning designation for portions of Section 36 will become effective. The HLB plans to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to seek bids from surveyors to perform the survey work under contract. Ms. Ward indicated that Parks and Recreation Department Director, Jeff Dillon, intends to start work on a park use plan for Section 36. One resident requested that the proposed road bypass their property (N1/2 of Government Lot 4) to the extent possible. Other residents expressed preference for the lower southern fork of the proposed road.

Ms. Ward also mentioned that \$1.8 million dollars of funding was available to work on a Hillside District Plan and that the municipality had selected a project manager to coordinate the project. She indicated that approximately 12-18 months would be needed to complete various studies involving traffic planning, drainage and soil studies, etc., and that road connectivity, secondary road access, wildfire evacuation routes, and zoning issues were important considerations. She also indicated that the HLB is involved with planning road access and zoning issues of some HLB parcels near Potter Valley Road. Based on other questions asked, Robin Ward said she would check with Sue Rodman, the municipal forester, to determine if there are 2006 plans for beetle killed spruce tree removal in the Bear Valley/Section 36 area, and she will follow-up with concerns expressed about abandoned junked vehicles near the jeep road/trail entrance into Section 36 from Clarks Road.

Treasurer Report

The treasurer position is vacant, but Council Chair Cheri Howland indicated that the current amount of council funds is approximately \$1451 which is now deposited at the Denali Federal Credit Union. The account was transferred from a former Wells Fargo account to reduce the amount of surcharge costs and account fees. There are no monthly fees charged for the BVCC account at the credit union.

Federation of Community Councils (FCC) Update

The FCC community council web pages are located at <http://www.communitycouncils.org/>. Cheri Howland indicated that vice chair Jim Steele is working with the FCC to provide a direct link from the FCC site to the BVCC site web page at www.bvcc.info.

Home And Landowners Organization (HALO) Update

Rodney Powell attended the last HALO meeting where issues were discussed about increased development along Goldenview Drive and potential housing densities in Potter Valley. Title 21 Land Use Plan maps and the Hillside District Plan were also discussed. The municipal planning department selected Lindsey Holmes as the HDP project manager and there is approximately \$1.8 million budgeted for the planning process. The planning schedule anticipates the plan being complete by the fourth quarter of FY07 with the HDP then to be adopted as a part of the overall Anchorage Bowl Comprehensive Plan.

Limited Road Service Area (LRSA) UPDATE

For the Bear Valley LRSA, Caryn Smith indicated that Bill Ennis was re-elected to the road board. She mentioned that due to limited funds in the budget and the current high costs for recycled asphalt and road oil, that road maintenance this year may be done with D-1 gravel only. For the Rabbit Creek View/Heights LRSA, Cheri Howland indicated that John Pezzenti, Jr. was re-elected to the board. He has indicated that depending on costs, it is his intention to have a contractor chip seal Nickleen and Carl Streets from Jamie Avenue up to Roberts Road or possibly all the way up to Paine Street. After that work is done, the LRSA plans to seek input from the BVCC about prioritizing road maintenance work and further chip sealing plans for other interior minor roads within the LRSA boundaries.

Other News and Announcements

Cheri Howland indicated that she had recently looked into mail boxes as a result of vandalism of the existing mail boxes on Jamie Avenue and theft of mail last year. Cheri has determined that the metal mail box units come in 16 unit sets and that they can be placed in the vicinity of the existing mail boxes. The 16 unit sets installation costs are approximately \$2400 dollars or about \$150 per household. The post office indicated that they would pay for maintenance costs after the boxes are installed. Not everyone in the area needs to switch over to the postal boxes; only those that want the new boxes would have to pay for it. Additional information is available at <http://www.mailboxes.com/>.

Cindi Stanton of the Anchorage Police Department presented Bear Valley crime statistics based on 2004 and 2005 crime reports. The reports showed an increase from 21 to 42 total cases with theft being the most significant category of increased reports. Ms. Stanton clarified that theft is the removal of property outside a dwelling unit, burglary is the taking of property from within a dwelling unit, and robbery is the taking of property from a person. Cindi indicated that the municipality has a gang task force that is making efforts to collect weapons and body armor from gang members to reduce potential gang violence. She mentioned that residents can confirm that the municipality has the correct physical property address for your phone number by calling 565-6789. A recording will guide the caller to confirm the property address of the caller's phone. Cindi's phone number is 786-2668 and her email address is cstanton@ci.anchorage.ak.us

- Several residents described concerns about under-aged drinking parties taking place in the middle of the roadway on Nickleen Street, and people think that they tend to party there because they can see the approach of any police cars and flee the scene before police arrive to break it up.
- One resident described problems with snow machine riders in the area and that a particular house was the location of origin for some late night snow machine riders. Cindi indicated that she had explained this situation to the suspect property owner who seemed very surprised that people were living in the owner's house not to mention illegally riding snow machines on the roads and trails in the area at night.

Teri Albrecht with the municipality mentioned that the CIP list would be ready by the end of the month and there would be a question and answer period at an upcoming FCC meeting. She is considered a helpful source of municipal information and an effective problem-solver. Her phone number is 343-8142 and email address is Albrecht1@muni.org

Scott Pexton mentioned that there had been a suggestion at a previous BVCC meeting to revise the Bylaws to eliminate the \$5 dollar per member fees currently required to be a voting member of the council. Scott said he would prepare a proposed amendment for consideration at the May 10th council meeting. Scott also mentioned that a draft Hillside Sub Area Transportation Study was still under review and the draft study is available online by going to the Publications link from the municipal Traffic Department web site. The web address is: <http://www.muni.org/traffic/Publications.cfm>

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM. The next Bear Valley Community Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 10, 2006 at Bear Valley Elementary School on Mountain Air Drive.

End of meeting minutes.