

TO: Federation of Community Councils

THRU: David Baldwin, President

FROM: Erin Dovichin, Secretary-Treasurer

SUBJECT: Chugiak Community Council Approved Minutes for October 20, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Roll Call

Present:

David Baldwin, President
Gale Armstrong, Vice-President
Erin Dovichin, Secretary-Treasurer
Karla Beller (arrived after roll call)
Amy Demboski (arrived after roll call)
Randy McCain
Meredith Mears

Excused:

Benjamin Sherburne

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the September 15th meeting, with minor corrections. (1 Armstrong, Mears). Motion passed unanimously.

Chugiak Council meetings are recorded. Listen to the meeting or review the summary meeting minutes at the FCC's website at www.communitycouncils.org (Click on Chugiak).

OLD WALLACE HOMESTEAD UPDATE

Bill Tucker updated the Council on the progress of the efforts to potentially transfer the homestead into public ownership. Costs of operation and maintenance of the property seem to be the major issues. State Parks has no acquisition funding and it would be unlikely that legislators from other areas could be convinced to increase that budget for Chugach State Park. Municipality probably could not buy it and then give it to State Parks, but at Bird Creek the municipality owns land that is managed by State Parks. That is what they're exploring now. The only resolution he would feel comfortable asking for is a resolution supporting such an MOU. Another issue that has come up is that Eklutna owns lands up there. They too have a MOU with Chugach State Park where some lands owned by Eklutna are being managed by State Parks. There are potential partnerships involved here.

Kovac asked that given the potential for MOUs with State Parks, would the owners of the property have to sell it to anyone or could they retain ownership? Tucker said his investors would like to sell the property and be compensated. Discussion ensued about the precedents set by other properties managed or improved in partnership.

Dovichin gave an overview of the draft of a resolution based on the September meeting. There was discussion about the draft. Armstrong offered clarifications. Baldwin proposed that we send this letter with the clarifications. (Armstrong 1, Mears 2). Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Dovichin reported that the test recording pen worked very well in recording the meetings. The only challenge right now is that the file size is very large for posting on the council website. Baldwin suggested that the Council purchase a pen. Dovichin said it will be roughly \$150 for the pen and \$20 for the recording earbuds. Motion made and seconded for Dovichin to purchase a recording pen for the Chugiak Council meetings (Mears 1, Armstrong 2). Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

CBERRRSA Road Board L. Kovac (688-5356). Kovac reported:

- Budget is looking ok.
- Baldwin attended a meeting on Tablelands. This area has always been very wet even during dry times and would have been challenging to develop well. Unfortunately they developed it poorly and didn't do a good job with the drainage. The study shows it could be as much as \$5.5 million to fix the drainage problems. They will probably phase it as a result
- Two update plans are out for public review—the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the official streets and highway plan. In Kovac's first review of the MTP, there was not much for Chugiak/Eagle River. She hopes this will change
- Baldwin said a landowner had emailed that there was a big hole in Tablelands near Whispering Spruce that a dead moose was in and a dog got stuck in it as well and then the owner got stuck and the fire department had to rescue the person. There were several test pits there that had been dug with a backhoe but never filled. It is now filled and the safety hazard removed. Kovac pointed out several additional examples of a series of problems in the Tablelands Area that P&E allowed to occur. The municipality should never have accepted the work of this developer. Additionally they let the statute of limitations expire before they went after the developer. It will now likely cost Chugiak/Eagle River taxpayers \$5.5 million.

Eagle River-Chugiak Parks & Recreation Board G. Armstrong (696-3543), R. McCain/Alternate (229-6009). Armstrong reported:

- Mr. Tucker and the Wallace brothers provided essentially the same presentation as they gave us. The Board likes the idea of land coming into public ownership, but did not change their resolution stating that the property should be in state hands.
- Beach Lake will be stocked this spring (it has not been stocked in years). There's a movement afoot to establish a trail around the dry side of the lake to make shore fishing more possible in the park.
- The barrier-free facility at Beach Lake has been completely signed over. Focus, Inc. will now manage it.
- McDonald Center addition is well under way.
- We had a bad vandalism year in City Parks - including a \$7,000 loss of the brass figurines on the fences in downtown Eagle River. There was something like \$50,000 in damages this summer. Armstrong urged everyone to keep an eye on our parks, particularly Loretta French.
- Baldwin noted that there are increasing issues with people stealing metal because of the high prices of metal. There was discussion of how the municipality's insurance system works and who pays for such damage and theft, and additional examples of various vandalism/theft acts in the area.

Federation of Community Councils (FCC) D. Baldwin (688-0123) R. McCain/Alternate (229-6009). No report.

Treasurer's Report: E. Dovichin (688-2551) . Dovichin reported: Tonjess Homeowner's Association donated \$300 to us again. Dovichin sent a thank you note. We're now up to over \$3600 in our account. Dovichin needs to be reimbursed for \$19.20 in copying costs and \$110 in PO Box fees. Motion to reimburse her for those costs made and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Glenn Project Citizen Committee (ADOT&PF Project No. 52515) L. Kovac. No report.

On-Site Wastewater System Technical Review Board (no current representative) No report.

Title 21/Consortium of Chugiak-Eagle River Community Councils R. McCain (229-6009), M. Mears/Alternate (622-4077). McCain reported:

Title 21 and Chapter 10 were taken off the P&Z October meeting agenda. They are now tentatively scheduled for December 12th. As McCain feared, Chapter 10 may be delayed for a few months as they wrestle with the administration's changes. A summary of the Coffey amendments is now available on the municipality's web page.

Assembly and Legislative Update.

Representative Dan Saddler reported that he had been meeting with school principals about their funding needs, and urged the Council to share any funding needs, ideas with him. Birchwood Community Patrol was funded and community patrols might be able to help with the vandalism problem. The redistricting plan was ok'd by the Department of Justice.

McCain asked Saddler the status of the prison on the other side of the inlet. Saddler toured the prison. They are testing the prison with a few prisoners before becoming fully operational. As they get funding, they will start to bring more prisoners back from the lower 48. There was a lot of gnashing of teeth about the cost of extending utilities out there, but they think they will have the funding for a "warm" start. Timeline is still unclear. There was discussion of some of the characteristics of the new prison. Dovichin noted that she was very happy to see the community patrol funded. The council had supported it and it was a small amount of money for big results in dealing with local theft and vandalism.

OLD BUSINESS

Baldwin has been working with Representative Stoltze's office on a potential meeting with the commissioner, but still no date set.

Baldwin is also president of the Chugiak Benefits Association. They have decided to convert part of the other building to an AV room. He described the new furnishings and technical capacity. It has good handicapped access unlike the room we're currently in. We can switch to that room for our meetings. Dovichin motioned to switch. Mears seconded. Motion passed unanimously. We can always come back to this room if it doesn't work.

OPEN FORUM

Dovichin has a new job that requires her to initially be away from Alaska for a few months. She is willing to step out of this position and volunteer or she can stay in the position if someone is willing to cover parts of her duties such as, for example, taking the minutes. McCain motioned to give Dovichin an excused absence and then welcome her back. Armstrong seconded. There was discussion about who

might take the notes. There isn't a need to take full notes anymore so all someone needs to do is run the recording pen and make a very brief outline. Baldwin will handle the donations and several Board members will alternate running the pen.

Kovac announced she will be leaving the Road Board. Her term ends in July and she is not renewing. It's a three-year term. If people are interested in serving, they should start attending the meetings. Talk to Kovac if you are interested. Baldwin pointed out how great Kovac's knowledge has been of Title 21 and other issues and how widely recognized this is at the municipality. It will be another loss for all of us if she leaves this position.

Representative Stoltze arrived with cookies. He continues discussion with the DOT Commissioner about coming to the Senior Center to discuss the Old Glenn pathway issue with the community. Stoltze has been trying to impress on the Commissioner how important this section is and he'd like the Commissioner to hear the community members' concerns directly. McCain thanked Stoltze for continuing to follow through on this issue. Stoltze has continued to work on digitizing the system for receiving capital requests. We will receive a password when the system is ready. He reminded everyone that people can always call his office with any requests or concerns.

There was discussion of the local baseball team and the excitement around that.

ADJOURNMENT

McCain motioned to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Thursday, November 17, 2011, 7:00 pm at the Elsie Oberg Community Center.

The Chugiak Community Council serves Fire Lake, Chugiak, Peters Creek, Mirror Lake, Thunderbird Heights and Eklutna. We meet at 7pm on the third Thursday of the month at the Chugiak Benefit Association's north building, the Elsie Oberg Community Center (18606 Old Glenn Highway).

Matanuska Telephone Association is donating the use of email accounts to Chugiak Community Council officers.
