

**Eagle River Valley Community Council**  
**P.O. Box 772812**  
**Eagle River, Alaska 99577-2812**

Annual Meeting Minutes from May 14, 2003

Called to order by President Sarah Wright at 7:08pm

**Guest Speakers:**

**Gary Kobayashi** Project engineer for DOT on the Eagle River Urban Project and Lloyd P. Malone with Quality Asphalt presented the plans for the summer construction project. A longer merging lane will be placed in front of the Jack White building for traffic merging from the highway exit on to Eagle River Road. The project will cost \$4 million and will include Asphalt overlay, electrical upgrades, landscape upgrades including fencing, and drainage upgrades. Roto-mill will start June 15 at night. Most paving will be completed after Bear Paw. QAP has an office on Eagle River Loop-POC is Brett Webb @ 6966110; DOT is Gary @ 694-5703. 80% rehab and restoration, 20% of cost is upgrades. Rock Fence creates a pedestrian traffic corridor. Patterned concrete for distinct look. Message boards will update traveling public and Navigator ads in ADN. Completion date is Sept 30.

Fred Meyer Left Turn signal is a separate road construction project. City says Fred Meyer agreed to address when they moved in. Fred Meyer needs to pay for it.

**Rick Sinnott** Alaska Dept of Fish and Game presented info on bears and garbage. Anchorage is surrounded by bear habitat. Bears eat salmon, moose calves, cow parsnips, chickens, dogs, rabbits and garbage with grease and fat, birdseed, dog food, and scraps left on BBQ grills. ADF&G suggest you put away your birdfeeders during the months of daylight savings time. It was legal to hunt bears in Anchorage until 1986. ADF&G won't allow bear hunts within the city. In 1999 ADF&G received 800 black bear calls and 200 brown bear calls. 96-00 57 bears killed in 5 years for defense of life and property. Most were shot in Chugiak/Eagle River. Males travel more than females. Anchorage residents are tolerant of bears but don't like bears in garbage. ADF&G only destroy bears that are dangerous. Anchorage bear committee formed to maximize bear benefits and minimize bear dangers. Anchorage refuse will leave a tag on your garbage can if they believe a bear has been in your garbage. ADF&G has created a door hanger to remind residents that feeding bears is against the law with a \$100.00 fine.

**Susan Browne** gave us an A.W.A.R.E. (Anchorage Watchful Alert and Ready for Emergencies) update. Heather Handyside has coordinated project. It is a free service of the Muni. Received a FEMA award. Encourages neighborhoods to have an emergency evacuation plan, inventory of skills available (nurses/doctors etc.) who has generators or other equipment, who is vulnerable (handicapped/ elderly) Emergency Evacuation Route will be posted on speed limit signs. Phone Trees, Email, Sneaker Mail for communication. Goal is to have neighborhood emergency teams and plans in place. Tracy Matthews is the Emergency Manager, Hotline = 343-6114.

**Susan Kirsch** with the Anchorage Fire Department gave us an update on defensible space. Home evaluations are available. Take 30-60 minutes. Call 267-5085 or 267-5086. Eagle River wood lot is open near the Birchwood airport. Check muni.org for wildfire updates.

**RJ Gryder** gave an update on volunteer Fire Dept activity on upper Eagle River Road...mile 6-12. Received all Enstar as builds, don't match street locators. Still don't know where the 560 property owners actually live. Surveys printed and ready for distribution. Choices: Full fire service at 1.68 mills /\$1000.00 of property, Volunteer service at .99 mills/\$1000.00 of property, or Current service=pay per use or. RJ's time line is on target. FD in a box only available to Native Villages.

**Dean Kurgis** presented info about Waste Management. They purchased Eagle River Refuse. Can be reached @ 273-2757. Bear problem is real. Working with homeowners in affected neighborhoods. Will call to let homeowners know trucks on the way. Bears look at every piece of garbage in your bag. 32-gallon containers aren't bear proof. New containers have a double locking system. Only a steel cage is bear proof. Bears can be anywhere at anytime. No neighborhood is immune. WM not making \$ on new bear cans. ? About community dumpsters in neighborhoods affected the most...good suggestion. Proposal to franchise...turn their certificate over to the Muni so the city can design a solid waste plan. Pilot program in South Anchorage collecting green waste that went to compost center. Franchise will be a ten year deal. Certificate worth millions of dollars. Gold Standards. Anchorage rates high. 45,000 customers in Anchorage/Eagle River per week. WM will sell or lease bear cans w/ 10 year warranty. Cost \$125.00/96 gallon or \$2.00/month for non bear proof cans.

The April Minutes were approved with the following changes: Mayor was not invited due to miscommunication. Education: CHS phase III deferment will include renovating upper gym. Cafeteria currently being renovated. Z&P #4 regarding ADU=sentence should read: discussion involved the ability to rent said apartment, which undermines purpose of single-family residences.

**Treasurer's Report** Bill Holland reported that all issues related to the HEWCT have been completed. All tax forms have been filed and all payments to the IRS have been sent. All announcements have been published according to the documents. Trust ends in 2012 with \$ to BSA.

### **New Business: Election of Officers**

Jay Brudzinski asked to be removed. Crystal Kennedy not running. John Steiner will step down if someone willing to serve. Tom Freeman made the motion to retain John. Crystal seconded...Passed. Nominations from floor-none. Janet Brand has work conflict with attending ERVCC but OK with Parks and Rec meetings. Dean, Sarah and Therese will serve 3-year term; Fred Ripp will fill Jay's seat and serve remaining 2 years. Susan Browne will chair Wildfire Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Planning committee.

### **Old Business**

**ERR:** Cynthia Ferguson sent email to report no news regarding the Eagle River Road shoulder width decision. DOT still evaluating the 4ft vs. 6 ft shoulder width. Eagle River Road spans 2 Rep districts and 2 Senate districts. After discussion about the original plan having a 6-8ft shoulder a motion was made. The ERVCC finds the 4ft shoulder option unacceptable and again requests the 6-8 foot shoulder. Eagle River Road is the only access road in and out of the Eagle River Valley. 560 families live along the upper reaches from miles 6 to 12. The Eagle River Nature Center is host to many users all year long. In the event of an emergency the Fire Department as first responders need access while the many flee west possibly using both lanes for fastest exit. **Passed unanimously**

**Eagle River Greenbelt Trail:** The State Park is looking for support and comments regarding the trail as it is being developed. A motion was made that the ERVCC support the proposed Greenbelt Trail in general and request it follow the north side of the river as much as possible. After lengthy discussion about bear population on the South Side, Humans on the North and private property issues that must be addressed the motion was revised. The ERVCC supports the concept of the trail with access from the North every two miles to ensure emergency response. No specific route was proposed recognizing that the rivers changing course will dictate best route. **Passed (2 opposed)**

**Eagle River Valley Community Council Boundaries:** The P & Z Commission has completed their recommendations of council boundaries and has submitted its suggestions to the Assembly. After reviewing the ERVCC proposed boundaries a motion was made. The ERVCC opposes the new P&Z boundaries, specifically the removal of the area south of Eagle River Road. This area is adjacent to the Eagle River Green belt and as such has more in common with the residential ERVCC than the business oriented ERCC. Crystal Kennedy amended the motion to read: The ERVCC supports the boundary change with the exception of the Eagle Ridge subdivision south of Eagle River Road. This subdivision's residents have had a long-standing relationship with the council. **Passed**

### **Committee Reports**

**P&Z:** Sarah Wright reported that Heritage Estates Addition #3's last three lots were sold. Developer Mike Quinn has asked municipality to change the lots from 3 to 2 larger lots due to steepness. Motion: ERVCC supports the change in Plat from 3 to 2 lots. **Passed**

Eagle River High School zoning change from Residential to PL&I is a 2-step process. Motion: ERVCC supports the zoning change to allow the high school to be built on the lot off Yosemite. **Passed**

Craig Black reported on the proposed sign ordinance. Purpose of the sign ordinance is to deal with ugly tall business signs and reduce visual clutter. Goal also is to prevent ugly electronic signs. Highlights: Max height for a commercial area would be 25', 8' for a residential area signs. Motion: The ERVCC supports the sign ordinance as outlined in the draft and recommends that the Assembly support the ordinance as written. Discussion included comments that the 10-year phase out was too generous. City will review for non-conformity. A change to the sign in size, shape or character requires immediate conformity. Billboards=> off premise signs are a separate issue. **Passed**

Title 21 being rewritten. Work session review scheduled for May 15 and 17, 2003.

**FCC:** Tom Freeman reported No Burn Permits for 2003. The mayoral/school board election was certified on April 15. Panhandlers are on the municipal agenda. Federation wants to increase the email list due to costs of postage. APD will rehire retired Police Officers to save money.

**Parks and Rec:** Greenbelt Trail discussed, BSA requested easement for access to campground. 2003 ADA Parks projects discussed. Arctic Air walkers asked for permission to use area near Harry J McDonald as landing site for emergencies. Beach Lake Chalet work scheduled. Eagle River Commons still in progress.

**CBERRRSA:** Lee Cline reported that street sweeping, brushing and cleaning taking place now. Plan to chip seal 15 miles of road this year. Eagle River Loop/Glenn highway lighting planned...who will pay? Fred Meyer responsible for street light upgrade at North Eagle River Access Rd and Old Glenn Hwy...complaints should be directed to them that no left turn significant. Motion: The ERVCC would like to see a left arrow to increase safety. **Passed** Light at ERR and Old Glenn still not operating properly. Check old minutes to see who said they would fix it.

**Education:** Crystal Kennedy reported that school would be out June 5<sup>th</sup>. Therese Voehl will be new Education rep. CHS phase 2 complete. ERHS Boundary discussion will begin fall 2004 and last until spring 2005. Site selection committee exists for next elementary school in area. Three choices: Next to new HS off Yosemite, in Eagle Crossing or in Powder Ridge. No motion was made to support development of elementary school in ER Valley.

**Wildfire Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Planning:** Dave Wachsmuth absent. Susan Browne agreed to serve as chair.

Adjourned 10:30pm

Respectfully Submitted Dean Eisberg/Sarah Wright