



## Bear Valley Community Council (BVCC)

Bear Valley Elementary School – Library Room

**BVCC Bylaws are available on the website Federation of Community Councils**

<http://www.communitycouncils.org/>

Select Bear Valley Link

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### Next BVCC Meeting

**December 11**

7:00 – 9:00 pm

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### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The purpose of the community council is for residents and property owners to communicate about and effectively resolve local issues. The BVCC web site is available online by going to [communitycouncils.org](http://communitycouncils.org), clicking on the "Find Your Council" link, and selecting "Bear Valley".

The Bear Valley Community Council has a policy of open membership. There is no requirement to donate money or pay a fee to be a member. Any person 18 years of age or older whose primary residence is within council boundaries is eligible for membership. Non-resident real property owners within the council area can also be members.

A person is a registered member after signing the membership register available at each meeting. In order to be eligible to vote, the member must have attended one meeting within twelve months prior to the vote.

Meetings are generally held at Bear Valley Elementary School on the second Wednesday each month from September through May.

Elections for all seven Council Executive Board positions are held annually, usually during the October meeting. The seven BVCC executive board positions are Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Assembly Liaison, HALO Representative, and Committees Coordinator.

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### Important Announcement

The Bear Valley Community Council (BVCC) invites you to attend this year's upcoming council meetings.

The next meeting will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 pm Wednesday, December 11th in the library of Bear Valley Elementary School.

Guest speakers are frequently invited to meetings to address various local issues.

This newsletter is being distributed to give a summary of previous topics discussed at meetings held since October 2018.

**Scott Pexton**

Chair, 350-5163

[srpexton@icloud.com](mailto:srpexton@icloud.com)

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### HIGHLIGHTS OF LAST YEAR'S MEETINGS

#### October 2018

Elections were held and the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary positions were filled. Fire Department (AFD) responders discussed fire prevention issues and encouraged inspecting homes to ensure smoke and carbon monoxide detectors function properly. They also mentioned that AFD will test new, innovative wildfire sensors that use infrared light to detect and provide GPS coordinates of fire ignitions on the Hillside in Anchorage. Two camera sensors will be installed, one in the Stuckagain Heights area and one near Elmore Road.

## November 2018

This meeting featured guest speaker Trevor Dobell-Carlsson, Forest Stewardship Coordinator with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. He provided information about wildfire prevention, flame resistant vegetation, and the Alaska Forest Stewardship Program which can provide financial assistance grants to participating landowners.

## January 2019

A Land Management Officer with the Anchorage Heritage Land Bank gave an overview of the Heritage Land Bank (HLB). She also provided details of a proposed wetlands mitigation bank plan for approximately 108 acres of wetlands within the southern portion of Section 36 located south (downhill) of Clark's Road. The wetlands mitigation bank plan will be submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for approval and eventually reviewed by the HLB Advisory Commission and the Municipality of Anchorage Assembly. The HLB intends to create a conservation easement to protect the wetlands before the land is transferred to the Parks and Recreation Department.

## February 2019

Guest speaker Andre Spinelli, a real estate developer with Spinell Homes presented information to the council about a potential location of a secondary access road that would connect the western part of Jamie Avenue to Mountain Air Drive in the Shangri La Subdivision. Several council members supported the concept, but it was unclear who would pay for road construction and maintenance costs.

## March 2019

Anchorage Fire Department responders encouraged home owners to be sure home address numbers are clearly visible from the street, particularly those homes with long driveways. Two Anchorage Police Department officers attended and discussed Community Action Policing, a plan for police officers to patrol the particular areas where they live, and to better align crime reporting with existing community council boundaries. Guest speaker Nora Morse spoke about Proposition 9, a proposed alcohol sales tax that later failed at the polls. Also, guest speaker Jack Gadamus, Anchorage Municipal Assessor gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation about the tax assessment process for the Municipality of Anchorage and answered many questions from attendees.

## April 2019

Anchorage Police Department (APD) Officer Chris Wright, who lives in Bear Valley, mentioned that he works the midnight to morning shift and covers mainly the Hillside area. He encouraged residents to use the phone number 311 to report suspicious activities of a non-emergency nature. The annual Bear Valley cleanup and potluck barbecue date was announced as May 11th. Guest speaker Mark Hamilton, Vice President of External Affairs with the Pebble Partnership presented information to the council about the proposed Pebble Mine near Iliamna, Alaska. He went over the permitting process focusing mainly on completing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers review of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A final EIS document will be submitted for approval after comments on the draft version are resolved.

## May 2019

Guest speaker Nellie Williams, Alaska Director of Trout Unlimited provided another perspective on the Pebble Mine proposal and provided several handouts with information related to the draft Environmental Impact Statement. She discussed the amount of water needed for processing mine wastes with potential negative impacts to water quality, flow, and temperature.

On Saturday, May 11th, the annual Bear Valley community cleanup was held. It was followed by a potluck barbecue at the home of David and Cheri Lipps near the corner of Jamie Avenue and Nickleen Street. Lots of folks enjoyed the food and a large dumpster full of trash and junk was later hauled to the landfill.

### September 2019

After a hot, dry, smoky summer break, this well attended meeting featured guest speaker John See, Anchorage Fire Department (AFD) Forester. He discussed Firewise principles and encouraged residents to sign up for free Firewise property inspections to help lower the risk of Hillside wildfires. He also discussed the status of the two new technology fire sensors and efforts to fund additional sensors. John outlined fire evacuation procedures and reported on this summer's wildfire response actions in Anchorage and other areas. Also, copies of a June letter were distributed from the Army Corps of Engineers to the Heritage Land Bank with feedback on a proposed wetlands bank mitigation plan. The HLB will need to substantially revise and resubmit the plan for another review. The HLB agreed to present details of the new plan to the BVCC.

### October 2019

Although fourteen people attended the meeting, only three attendees were actual Bear Valley Community Council members. Therefore, the annual BVCC election was postponed due to a lack of a quorum. Seven BVCC members must be present at a meeting in order to conduct a valid election. Several Fire Station 10 responders attended and indicated our fire station would not be significantly impacted by a municipal overtime budget shortfall that will cause some rig and equipment shutdowns at other locations.

**BVCC** is very fortunate that at each meeting last year, our Assembly members John Weddleton and Suzanne LaFrance (or their representatives) attended and provided updates on the status of a variety of municipal matters. They addressed property tax and zoning issues, land use and drainage concerns, parks, road maintenance, earthquake response, homelessness, crime, fire, school, and budget issues. Additionally, updates were periodically given by the Home And Landowners Organization (HALO), Limited Road Service Area (LRSA), school board, and state of Alaska legislators or their representatives.

#### **NORTH TO THE FUTURE**

In future meetings, we will address efforts to create a Storm-water Utility in Anchorage. This new utility will likely charge all property owners monthly fees to generate funds to address a backlog of flood control and drainage projects throughout the Anchorage bowl. Also, HALO board members have prepared a Problem Statement regarding wildfire concerns for Hillside areas. They will coordinate with Hillside community councils, business interests, non-profit groups, and government agencies to focus more attention to wildfire prevention and mitigation on the Hillside in Anchorage.

If you are interested in getting to know your neighbors, learning more about local and state issues, or have a particular concern to bring up, please attend an upcoming Bear Valley Community Council meeting. Due to a scheduling conflict, a meeting will not be held in November.

*~ Hope to see you there!*

The Municipality and the Federation of Community Councils complies with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and is an equal opportunity employer. Reasonable accommodations will be made available to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Please contact Mark Butler, Community Councils Center 907-277-1977 no later than 10 days prior to the meeting date to make any necessary arrangements.

**Bear Valley Nextdoor - web or mobile app**

Nextdoor is a private online network for neighbors to share community events, recommendations, and items for sale, crime reports, baby/house/dog sitter and more. Register with code on the postcard you received in the mail or Join this free network on your PC or Mobile device at <https://nextdoor.com/join>

**Topics of Community Interest**

**Bear Valley Trick or Treating – Halloween 2019 – Thursday, October 31 ~ 5-7pm**  
**Hosted by the Flint Family (16260 Kings Way Drive)**

You'll start at Paul & Heather's house (16260 Kings Way Dr.) at 4:30. Trailer leaves at 5. Please let them know if you're family wants to join, so they can get a headcount of kids. If you're willing to be a trick or treat house, please add your house to the Treat Map (In Nextdoor Settings) and give a sign on Halloween night (e.g., porch lights on, jack-o-lantern, etc.) that you're open to supply goodies. After trick or treating the valley, you'll return to their house for a potluck-warm up from 7-9 pm.

**How Can You Support Bear Valley Community Council?**

*Be a Member and Participate in monthly meetings. Bring your ideas, concerns and resources to the table. Have a suggestion for meeting guests or topics? Email BVCC Chair, Scott Pexton at [srpexton@icloud.com](mailto:srpexton@icloud.com)*

Please make checks payable to **BVCC (Financial Donations - All donations are tax deductible)**

**2019 - 2020 Fiscal Year (Oct '19 to Sept '20)**

\$5.00 Annual Membership Donation (not required) - includes monthly agenda       General Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Do you prefer to receive newsletters and updates via:    Email    Postal Mail    Nextdoor App

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Subdivision \_\_\_\_\_       Residence    Rental

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Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to: Bear Valley Community Council Treasurer, PO BOX 110264, Anchorage, AK 99511**