

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting
Wednesday, October 9, 2019 6:30pm
REGULAR MEEETING
Ravenwood Elementary School

MEETING MINUTES—Approved November 13, 2019

Call to order at 6:36pm by David W. Schade.
Quorum was established.

Introductions and Announcements: None

Meeting Minutes Approval:

- September 11, 2019 meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion by Tom Freeman to approve; Paul Forward seconded. Approved by a vote of 15 yea, 0 nay and 0 abstain.

Treasurers Report: None

New Business:

Municipal Board Appointment Process

Mr. Jason Bockenstedt, Deputy Chief of Staff

Mayor's Office, City of Anchorage

Mr. Bockenstedt introduced himself. He is visiting community councils to provide an update on the municipal board appointment process.

- The Audit Department reviews boards and commissions periodically. The boards are unique in that the community councils choose their representatives. The Council submits the candidate's resume along with a letter that includes the date the candidate was proposed, voted upon and final vote results, and a recommendation for the board appointment. The Mayor's office enters the information in a computer system. The Anchorage Assembly approves the appointment.
- The Mayor's office is trying to significantly improve the turnaround time for this process.
- Title 12, Boards and Commissions, defines this process.
- The Chugiak/Eagle River Advisory Board (formerly Consortium) records require updates. Steve Skipper is our representative through 2020. We need to resubmit his recommendation letter and resume.
- Three boards are governed by this process: C/ER Advisory Board, C/ER Parks & Recreation Board and CBERRRSA Board (Chugiak Birchwood Eagle River Rural Roads Service Area)
- Steve Skipper was approved to continue as ERVCC representative on the C/ER Advisory Board. See Elections below.
- The Assembly is expected to approve Steve Skipper's appointment at the October 22 meeting.

Questions to Mr. Bockenstedt included:

- Eagle River's fire station is going to lose its ladder truck. This is a crucial piece of equipment that was critical this summer in preventing a condo fire from spreading to adjacent condominiums. We have 3 and 4 story building in our area. Jason will inquire about the status of the ladder truck.

Officer Jared Rogers & Officer Joseph Giammalva
APD, Community Officers assigned to Eagle River

Officer Rogers and Officer Giammalva are assigned to Eagle River and work the 'swing shift' from 3pm-1am.
They provided the following update:

- The purpose of community policing is to have same officers assigned to the community over time. This allows them to be in contact with area businesses and to stay abreast of local activities.
- Officers encouraged everyone to keep pushing our representatives for more officers and more police academies. This would allow us to be fully staffed at 4 officers in Eagle River.

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- Call 311 for non-emergency calls and 911 for emergency calls. All calls are routed through one dispatch center. 311 calls are prioritized: crimes against people are priority calls as are “burglary in progress.” A house broken into while you were on vacation is a lower priority.
- If you would like to know the outcome of your 311 call, tell the dispatch operator when you call in. An officer will contact you after they check into it.
- Be sure to call in suspicious activity. Reporting on Facebook is helpful to neighborhood but APD needs to be notified directly.

Questions to the officers included:

- I have a neighbor who is an APD officer. Why wouldn't they be assigned to work in ER?
Response: Officers submit requests for the type of work they like to do, but don't have say on where they are assigned. Regarding the neighbor, it is sometimes more difficult to work in the community where you live as you may be interacting with neighbors, friends, etc. May be easier to do job effectively if you don't have relationships with citizens you interact with.
- How do you patrol neighborhoods? We change the times we patrol various areas. Vehicle tampering is usually done later in evening so we're watching for that.
- How many officers are assigned to Eagle River? There are 3-4 officers assigned here depending on availability. We do not take Anchorage calls from E/R. When fully staffed, there are 30-35 officers/shift for entire area.

ERVCC Board Elections

- On October 8, James McCurtain and Arlene Basic were approved by the Anchorage Assembly as our CBERRRSA board representative and alternate respectively. The term is 3 years. (Chugiak Birchwood Eagle River Rural Road Service Area Board)
- Tim Freeman made a motion for Steve Skipper to continue as ERVCC representative on the C/ER Advisory Board. Motion was seconded by Paul Forward. Approved by a vote of 15 yea, 0 nay and 0 abstain.
- Patsy Gunn resigned as Treasurer and Education member.
- 3 Seats open:
Vice President: Vacant
Treasurer: Vacant
Education: Vacant
- Motion by Susan Fischetti, seconded by Scott Bailey for a Resolution that two board members have check-writing authority. These will be Secretary and Treasurer. Approved by a vote of 14 yea, 0 nay and 1 abstain.

Representative Kelly Merrick

Representative Merrick provided the following update:

- Rep. Merrick will attend community council meetings in person when possible and will send a representative when she cannot attend.
- She completed her first session in Juneau.
- Crime was the biggest issue during campaign. Accomplishments of first session include repealing the parts of SB91 that were not working and passing HB49. Some of the loopholes were closed including the 'revolving door' where criminals were arrested and then quickly released and later re-arrested.
- Many of the accomplishments were overshadowed by the PFD topic. A third special session was considered regarding the PFD.
- Rep. Laddie Shaw's nomination to replace the late Chris Birch was not approved. Rep. Josh Revak has been nominated.
- Rep. Merrick's Eagle River office has closed. The Eagle River representatives (Rep. Merrick, Rep. Jackson and Sen. Reinbold) are on second floor in the Anchorage LIO, the Wells Fargo building at the intersection of Benson & Minnesota.
- Upcoming opportunities to speak with our representatives:
 - Open House on November 14, 4-6pm, for the C/ER delegation, at LIO Building.

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- Pre-session Town Hall – January 14, 6-8pm, Library.
- Mid-session Town Hall - February 29, 2-4pm, Chugiak High School.
- Contact Rep. Merrick any time with concerns or questions.

Questions/Comments from attendees:

- There will be a school board seat open in April election. It would be helpful to have more representation from Eagle River.
- Gruening Middle School was the Eagle River evacuation center. Has another evacuation center been established?
- Highland Crest Subdivision, Susan Fischetti
 - Seven new homes were to be built in neighborhood.
 - The private developer began work ahead of schedule and has torn up the street and broke the water main. AWWU is monitoring now.

Old Business:

Assembly Report – Crystal Kennedy

Ms. Kennedy's update included:

- A proposal to allow on-site marijuana smoking will be on the spring ballot.
- There are currently 11 Assembly members. Downtown has one representative while all other areas have two. Downtown would like to have two representatives as well. This would 'dilute' our Eagle River votes even more. Currently, we must find 4 Anchorage representatives to help support E/R initiatives. With an additional downtown member, we would need to find 5 Anchorage members to support us.
- Municipality is planning to increase codes and put new fees in place. Solid waste service fees will increase.
- The proposed budget has been published. Work sessions will be set up soon. The Assembly will present all amendments to the budget at one time.
- Ms. Kennedy is putting together a team of volunteers to help with evaluation the budget and proposed amendments. Contact her to be part of the team.
- The Fire Chief has authority to remove our ladder truck. Our fire station needs more tender (for more water capacity) so we lose ladder truck.
- Fire Station 11 has earthquake damage. It is to be fixed over the next year. Fire Station 13 on Hiland is being retained for storage during the earthquake repairs.
- Waterfield Station at old Station 11. If building is torn down, there is question regarding the water field station. It is used regularly, especially in the summer. One possibility is to move it to the booster station near Baranoff, but this is in the middle of a neighborhood. Would prefer to have a backup plan for this.
- Stormwater drain utility proposal – An amendment was included to take Chugiak/Eagle River out of this proposed utility since our stormwater drains are in great shape. The study for this utility will take 2-3 years to complete and then Assembly will decide if a utility will be created. It will only include the Anchorage-bowl.

Summer fires: Scott Bailey

- The Meadow Creek fire was determined to be 'human caused.'
- Eagle River Nature Center fire was most likely caused by lightning strike.
- There were 700 fires this year; 2.5 million acres burned. This was the state's fifth worst fire season.

School Board –Elisa Vakalis (by David Schade)

Ms. Vakalis' update included:

- Watch for school budget surveys.
- Bond discussions will begin next week.
- Gruening Middle School – Ms. Kennedy toured the school. Repairs are 35% complete. In addition to earthquake repairs, some renovation is needed. Funding is still TBD.

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Eagle River Community Patrol – Cliff Cook

- Patrols were conducted for total of 36 hours, 350 miles last month.
- With colder weather coming soon, beware of starting your vehicle and leaving unlocked and/or with keys in ignition. Use a vehicle starter instead.
- Petty crime continues. Bears are still active. Beware of moose.
- Report all crimes/suspicious activities to APD so we can justify more patrol cars assigned to Eagle River area.
- Garage doors left open are easy picking. Do a safety check each night to be sure your home and vehicles are secured.
- Community Patrol will volunteer at Boo at the Beach.
- Volunteers and candy donations are still needed for Boo at the Beach on October 12.
- The Coalition obtained a grant from the state to cover gasoline costs for community patrols.

Committee Reports:

CBERRSA (Road Board): No report

Chugiak/Eagle River Advisory Board - Steve Skipper

Mr. Skipper provided the following update:

- The board is comprised of representatives from 7 community councils.
- Meetings are held at the Library.
- Debbie manages the board activities. Topics are published and a determination is made by members if a discussion is warranted. About half of proposed topics warrant further discussion.
- At discussions, there is usually a briefing on the topic by the city, followed by discussion. Debbie prepares a summary and submits it to the mayor or Assembly.

Education: No report.

Federation of Community Councils – Tom Freeman

- Alcohol & marijuana licensing update. There are 2000 alcohol licenses statewide with 467 of those in Anchorage. Licenses must be renewed every two years. Licenses may be transferred.
- Liability insurance is needed for all community council meeting places. The cost of \$10,000 was not included in the budget. Ms. Kennedy is looking into this issue.

Parks and Rec: Pete Panarese-No report.

Platting and Zoning: Pete Panarese-No report

Adjourned at 8:22pm.

Next meeting is on November 13, 6:30pm, at Ravenwood Elementary School Library.

ERVCC Board Members (Term Expiration) President: David Schade (2021); Vice President: Vacant; Treasurer: Vacant (2021); Education: Vacant (2021); Parks & Rec: Pete Panarese (2021); CER Advisory Board: Steve Skipper (2020); Platting & Zoning: Pete Panarese (2021); Federation of Community Councils (FCC): Tom Freeman (2020); CBERRSA Board: James McCurtain (2022)/Arlene Rasic – Alt (2022); Secretary: Joy Webb (2021)