



Community Council:
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**Bear Valley Community Council (BVCC)
Meeting Minutes
BVCC Meeting – January 8, 2020**

Compiled by Susi Miller and Angie Pinsonneault

The BVCC meeting was held at Bear Valley Elementary School. Meeting was opened by Chair Scott Pexton and began at 7:01 pm.

1. Membership

- *Review of BVCC Bylaws:* anyone who lives in Bear Valley is considered a member of BVCC. All members who wish to cast a vote for BVCC Officers must have attended at least one meeting in the preceding 12 months and must sign in to record their attendance. Community members are not required to pay annual dues to vote or attend BVCC meetings.

2. Introductions, Sign-In, & Announcements

- Chair Scott Pexton welcomed the attendees and announced that the positions of BVCC Vice-Chair and Secretary were still vacant and encouraged anyone interested in serving to contact him.

3. Anchorage Fire Department-Station 10 Updates

- No updates; representatives from Station 10 were unable to attend the meeting.

4. State Legislative & Municipal Assembly Reports

- Kari Nore, a representative for Cathy Giessel, the Alaska State Legislature Senator for District N, noted that Senator Giessel was unable to attend the BVCC meeting because she was attending a meeting elsewhere in her district. If anyone has questions or issues to bring to Senator Giessel's attention, please get on her email list (see cathygiessel.com).
- Joshua Spring, aide for Suzanne LaFrance, Anchorage Assembly Member for District 6, noted that several sales and alcohol taxes are going to be proposed by Assembly members to offset declining revenue previously provided by the State. The proposals include a 3% sales tax being proposed by Assemblyman Dyson – revenue would go towards property tax relief and supporting public safety; and a 2-5% alcohol tax being introduced by Assemblyman Weddleton - revenue would focus on addressing substance abuse and mental health treatment e.g. establishing a recovery (detox) facility



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in Anchorage. Several town halls have been held to provide for public input; the final town hall will be held on January 9, 2020 in Girdwood.

5. Anchorage School Board Updates

- Anchorage School Board member Alisha Hilde provided an update on current School Board activities. Considerable public input has been received on the District's strategic planning effort; Board members will begin working on finalizing the strategic plan this weekend. The Board is also working on their 6-year capital plan and future budget.

6. BVCC Updates

- *BVCC December Meeting Minutes:* A motion was introduced to pass last month's minutes; motion passed.
- *Canyon View Estates:* Copies of the "Bear Valley Community Council Summary of Community Meeting of 12/11/19" on the Canyon View Estates Project was provided to meeting participants. The handout summarizes questions and concerns that were raised last month by BVCC community members regarding a proposed platting action/development for a subdivision along Canyon Road; a part of this project (the area south of Rabbit Creek) is within the BVCC.
- *HALO Update:* Rodney Powell reported that no HALO meetings were held in December/January; the next HALO meeting will be in February.
- *Treasurer Report:* Angie Pinsonneault reported that there are still roadblocks to getting a new bank account set up for managing BVCC funds; BVCC currently has about \$1,200 in funds that can be used for community events such as the annual community cleanup and picnic, signage, or other community needs.
- *Federation of Community Councils (FCC) Report:* no updates were given. Chairman Pexton noted that FCC meetings were usually attended by the BVCC Vice-Chair position, which is currently vacant. FCC meetings offer a good opportunity to interact with and be heard by leaders in our community.
- *BV Committees Update:* no updates were given.



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7. Open Forum

- *Limited Road Service Area (LRSA)-related issues:* One community member raised an issue regarding his property being assigned under the Rabbit Creek/Heights Hill Road LRSA, but because of where the road to access his house is actually located, he receives service from the Bear Valley/Kings Way LRSA road crew. This results in his household paying into a LRSA that he doesn't actually use, and receiving service from a LRSA that he doesn't pay into. Discussion followed on whether it would make economic and practical sense to merge the two LRSAs currently in BV; Chairman Pexton noted that such a decision would have to be voted on by the LRSA Board.
- Another community member raised a concern regarding high water/flooding in parts of BV after the December storm, and the subsequent reduction in drainage capacity of some ditches (e.g. along Byron Drive) that may result in additional road flooding problems when temperatures warm up again. This issue needs to be brought to the attention of community LRSA representatives (no LRSA representatives were present at the meeting).
- *Dell's Woods:* Dell's Woods is a small (6-7 acres) parcel of private, undeveloped land in BV whose owner wishes to convert the tract to a local conservation area/neighborhood park. Efforts to accomplish this have been unsuccessful to date, due to various complications regarding municipal zoning, etc. The landowner is now considering the option of forming a community-based non-profit organization to manage this area in perpetuity. If anyone is interested, please contact Paul Flint.
- *Section 36:* Shelley Rowton, Land Management Officer for the Municipality of Anchorage's Real Estate Department, provided a brief update on the status of the Section 36 Master Plan which guides the future development of this ~640 acre area in Bear Valley located adjacent to Bear Valley Elementary School and Storck Park. She noted that additional review is currently underway to ensure that all aspects of the Plan's proposed implementation are consistent with wetland mitigation banking policies. The Section 36 Master Plan can be viewed at http://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Documents/Section36_Park_Master_Plan.pdf
- *BVCC 2020 planning:* Chairman Pexton solicited input from meeting participants to identify priority topics of interest for future BVCC meetings, pointing out that advance notification is required to ensure participation from invited speakers. The use of drones/radio-controlled aircraft and a few other issues related to use of Storck Park were raised as issues of interest. A representative from the Division of Parks and Recreation will be invited to speak at the March BVCC meeting to address drone flying and other Storck Park-related issues. Road improvements and wildfire prevention were also mentioned as topics of interest for upcoming meetings.



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- *March 2020 BVCC meeting:* Chairman Pexton noted that because Anchorage School District would be on spring break for the regularly scheduled BVCC meeting (March 11), the school would not be available on that date. He asked if there were any objections to rescheduling the March 2020 BVCC meeting from March 11 to March 18. A motion was introduced to change the March 2020 BVCC meeting date to March 18; motion passed.

8. Adjourn

- Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Meeting minutes, notes, agendas, and other BVCC topics of interest can be obtained by going to the BVCC web page at www.communitycouncils.org and selecting Bear Valley.