

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 9, 2020 6:30pm
REGULAR MEETING
Zoom Virtual Meeting
MEETING MINUTES – Approved January 13, 2021

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

Introductions and Announcements:

Mike Robbins – candidate for mayor of Anchorage introduced himself, shared his background and briefly outlined his vision for change in Anchorage. Additional information can be found at <https://robbinsformayor.com/>

Dave Bronson – candidate for mayor of Anchorage introduced himself and shared his background. Additional information can be found at <https://www.bronsonformayor.com>

Meeting Minutes Approval: Draft meeting minutes from November 11, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve by Julie Jessen; seconded by Crystal Kennedy. Approved by a vote of 14 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain.

Treasurers Report: Ruth Armstrong – No report

New Business:

Anchorage Historic Preservation Commission

Jenny Blanchard, Chair

Ms. Blanchard introduced herself and provided the following information on the proposed Local Landmark Register Ordinance.

- The Anchorage Historic Preservation Commission is an advisory board to the municipality on cultural preservation.
- The ordinance has been drafted and lays out the process to be used to recognize local culture, history and to nominate landmarks.
- Link to the draft ordinance, background material, and a virtual open house about the ordinance and what a local landmark register is: <https://anchoragehistoricpreservationplan.com/public-involvement/>
- The Anchorage Historic Preservation Commission was given the duty to draft this local landmark register ordinance for approval by the Assembly in [AMC 4.60.030](#).

Questions to Ms. Blanchard included the follow:

- Why do we need an ordinance now? This has been under discussion for several years, to define specific ways to recognize our culture and history.
- Ms. Julie Jessen provided additional background. This began as part of the Knik Arm Bridge proposal. Anchorage did not have documentation that defined significant cultural history or locations. The ordinance describes a nomination process and recognition list.
- It may be of economic benefit to a property owner to have property designated as having historic or cultural value. Property owner may be able to apply for historic preservation status.
- Office of History and Archaeology, State of Alaska, helped draft the ordinance.

Chugiak-Eagle River Advisory Board

Ms. Julie Jessen was nominated to serve on the CER Advisory Board in November. Her nomination letter has been forwarded to the mayor's Chief of Staff for introduction and approval by the Assembly.

Parents Rights in Education

Annie Massey, AK State Chapter Director

Ms. Massey introduced herself and provided some background on the non-profit, ParentsRightsInEducation.org. Ms. Massey will return in January to provide additional information on the organization, the Proclamation to the school district and recognition of November as Parent Recognition Month.

Old Business:

Crystal Kennedy - Anchorage Assembly

Ms. Kennedy provided the following update:

- Assembly approved a rate hike which seems inappropriate given COVID economic challenges. Must go to RCA Commission for final approval.
- Zoning change for Eagle River Valley, Overlook Estates, from 'planned development community district' to low density residential.
- The Assembly will consider including on ballot a tax to fund APD equipment including body camera funding at \$5.32/\$100,000. Voters just approved the alcohol tax so it doesn't seem appropriate to add more taxes. Alaska Black Caucus contacted Ms. Jamie Allard and Ms. Kennedy to try to find other funding sources (other than additional taxes) for this APD equipment.
- CARES Act funding is being reallocated. The state of AK is forwarding funds now/reallocation, not new funds. The state will pay the commercial match of 25% while FEMA pays 75%. School district owes \$12M which the state will cover.
 - \$3M mental health response paid by alcohol tax.
 - \$15.5M can now be reallocated. Of this \$7.5M will be mortgage/rental relief. \$6.5M to small businesses.
- Forest Mobile Home Park currently has no water access. Municipality stepped in to provide water. Tried using Birchwood Camp for showers. Next option was Mac Center locker room showers.

Questions from meeting participants included:

- There was controversy at Assembly regarding use of \$4M of CARES relief funds for trails. \$3.5M was allocated for trails and fire danger mitigation (ie. Work programs). The concern was jobs were being given to non-residents who came here for summer work. The Treasury Dept questioned this use of funds. So CARES funds were allocated to payroll for first responders instead and payroll funds allocated to first responders was moved to general fund. Half of the funding was used in the summer for a trail in Anchorage and some fire mitigation work. Have \$1.5M for next year so some may come to our area for ER Nature Center. These are now general funds, not CARES funds.
- Who moved \$4M from CARES into the general fund? The municipal administration moved the funds so they could be used more flexibly.

School Board Report – Deena Mitchell, Anchorage School Board

Mitchell_deena@asdk12.org

Ms. Mitchell provided the following update on ASD.

- Destination 2020 is the new strategic plan for the ASD through May 2026.
 - A series of public meetings were held to share the plan and gather public feedback.
 - Three primary goals
 - Improve reading proficiency at 3rd grade level. Currently 40% of 3rd grade students meet or exceed proficiency expectations. Goal is to have 80% of 3rd grade students at or above proficiency expectations by 2026.
 - Improve math proficiency for grades 3-9. Currently 40% of students meet or exceed proficiency expectations. Goal is to have 55% meet or exceed grade level expectations by 2026.
 - For high school students, goal is that feedback from students will indicate they feel they are "life, college and career ready."
- Ms. Mitchell provided three documents for review. See Other Documents Folder link to access the documents.
<http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/viewfolder?id=4549>
 - 2020.12 – Community Council School Board Report

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- 2020.12 – Community Update-Accessible.
- 2020.12 – School Board Draft Goals & Guardrails
- The school board is focused on Put Education First, to get students back to in-school learning.
- The school start plan in November was for Pre-K-2nd grade and special education students to return to in-school half-day and have Zoom the other half-day. Third quarter – older students would return and fourth quarter all students would be back in school.
- School Board is holding a joint meeting with the Assembly to work on a more aggressive plan to return to in-school.
- Less than 30% of kindergarten students in the district are assessed as “kindergarten-ready” when they begin school.
- Teachers will be provided COVID immunizations after the first batch of recipients.

Questions from meeting participants included:

- Will schools offer a parallel Zoom track with student’s home school? Title 1 schools plan this but not others. We anticipate students who don’t return when in-school learning is offered will switch to ASD Virtual option.
- Tentative return date is MLK Day (January 18) but more will be known after December 15th.
- With Destination 2020, how will grades 3-9 be assessed for math proficiency? Current tool is PEAKS.
- With many students not being kindergarten-ready, what about preschool program? You must qualify to be accepted for ASD preschool.
- The COVID rates are much higher now than they were in August and September. Why are you proposing opening now when you wouldn’t earlier?
- Older students may return earlier if they are “at risk.” Who decides who is “at risk?” Administration is deciding on school-by-school basis. Must have parents involved in this, too.

Kelly Merrick, Representative

Alaska State Legislature

Representative Merrick provided the following update:

- She is working with the state DNR regarding Lions Park. Lions Park is actually part of Chugach State Park. It could be sold to Lions Club and then find another 40-acre parcel to give to the state park.
- There is no organization in the Alaska House yet. Senate was supposed to organize but there is 20-20 split now. Ms. Merrick is committed to working with all legislators.
- Ms. Merrick received some input about the TX lawsuit regarding presidential election. Alaska is not joining that lawsuit.
- The municipality will support keeping open one ice rink in Eagle River. Which would be best? Suggestions were Mirror Lake or Ravenwood. Suggestion was made to consider site where greatest number of students can easily reach the rink.

Eagle River Community Patrol – Cliff Cook

Mr. Cook provided the following update:

- In November, patrols were conducted for 19.5 hours covering 56.6 miles. This is lower than usual due to COVID impacting the patrol.
- Assisted on November 23 at Joy Lutheran Church with Thanksgiving Blessing. 131 turkeys were given out.
- Porch pirates are out so be aware of package deliveries. Some cluster mailboxes have been broken into as well.
- UPS is using U-Haul trucks for package delivery.
- Cemetery Committee, Tom Looney chair, continues work. Four sites have been identified: one in Eagle River across from high school next to prison, 3 in Mirror Lake/Edmund Lake area. Two are municipal-owned and two are Eklutna-owned.

Committee Reports:

CBERRRSA (Road Board): James McCurtain – No report.

Chugiak/Eagle River Advisory Board – No report.

Education: See Ms. Mitchell's report from Anchorage School Board.

Federation of Community Councils – Tom Freeman

- Mr. Freeman attended the last meeting. Nothing to report.

Parks and Rec: Pete Panarese – No report.

Platting and Zoning: Pete Panarese – No report.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.

Next meeting is on January 13, 6:30pm, Virtual using Zoom.

ERVCC Board Members (Term Expiration) President: David Schade (2021); Vice President: Julie Jessen(2022); Treasurer: Ruth Armstrong (2021); Education: open; Parks & Rec: Pete Panarese (2021); C/ER Advisory Board: Julie Jessen(2022); Platting & Zoning: Pete Panarese (2021); Federation of Community Councils (FCC): Tom Freeman (2020); Road Board: James McCurtain(2022)/Arlene Rasic – Alt (2022); Secretary: Joy Webb (2021)