

Bear Valley Community Council  
Minutes – April 14, 2021

Call to Order

The regularly-scheduled April 14, 2021 meeting of the Bear Valley Community Council (BVCC) was called to order by BVCC Chair Cheri Lipps at 7:04 pm. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the meeting was held via Zoom videoconference with 11 members and 4 guests in attendance at the start of the meeting. The Chair declared a quorum, allowing business to proceed.

Announcements and Introductions

Chair Lipps introduced guests Joy Boston from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), State Sen. Roger Holland, Nancy Kaufman (staff to State Rep. James Kaufman) and Julie Coulombe representing HALO.

State Legislative Update

To accommodate his evening schedule, the Chair asked State Sen. Holland to provide his legislative update. Sen. Holland reminded attendees that he serves on the Senate's Education Committee and provided an update on SB 111 addressing early education and reading intervention. Sen. Holland noted the program addressed by this bill has proved successful in other states and is enthusiastic and hopeful of its passage this session. Sen. Holland also provided his contact phone number (907-351-8277) and invited concerned constituents to contact him.

Nancy Kaufman, staff for Rep. Kaufman (AK House Dist 28) reported on Rep. Kaufman's recent activities, reminding attendees that he serves on the State Affairs and Labor and Commerce committees. Ms. Kaufman stated that information regarding pending bills and other legislative action is always available at the legislature's website: [www.akleg.gov](http://www.akleg.gov).

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

There were no objections to the agenda. It was moved and seconded (B. Ennis / Kevin Durling) to accept the minutes of the March 2021 BVCC meeting. The motion passed with no objection and the March minutes are approved. Chair Lipps reminded the attendees that meeting agendas and minutes are posted to the chat function during the meeting and are also available on the BVCC website, [www. http://communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/6.html](http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/6.html).

Other Legislative, Municipal Assembly and School Board Updates

Chair Lipps stated that the Municipal Assembly was holding a continuation meeting during the BVCC meeting, continuing business from its regular Tuesday Assembly meeting, and she therefore did not anticipate any Assembly report. There being no representatives from the School Board present, no other reports were received.

BVCC Officer and Committee Reports

Julie Coulombe, HALO Board Member, provided a report on the recent HALO meeting and activities. She announced a public event for the Firewise program to be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 7 pm via Zoom teleconference. Additional information for the teleconference meeting is available on the HALO website at [www.anchoragehalo.org](http://www.anchoragehalo.org). Ms. Coulombe also announced that the next meeting of HALO would take place on May 6 and this would be the annual HALO meeting at which elections would be held. She indicated there were HALO board seats open and invited anyone interested to seek office. Ms. Coulombe provided her contact email: [Julie@yahoo.com](mailto:Julie@yahoo.com) for anyone wishing further information.

Sen. Roger Holland interjected to advise the group that he is holding Open House events in Anchorage this weekend to meet constituents and discuss pending legislation, including this Saturday (April 17) at La Mex on Dimond from 4 – 6 pm, and Sunday morning (April 18) at 9 AM at Krispy Kreme (Muldoon & DeBarr.)

Chair Lipps called for the Treasurer's report, which was provided by BVCC Treasurer Angie Pinsonneault. She reported that the BVCC account at Alaska USA still stands at approximately \$1,400 in funds, with no significant additions or expenditures.

Assembly liaison Scott Pexton provided his report, stating that the Heritage Land Bank was working to purchase a lot in the upper part of Bear Valley: Lot 5, Block 3 Stolle Subdivision on Honey Bear Lane. The pending matter can be found at AO 2021-38. Heritage Land Bank is seeking Assembly approval to purchase this parcel, which has road access. HLB currently owns an adjacent lot that does not have road access. The lot under consideration is between two residential lots, and would permit access down into Rabbit Creek Valley, and potentially add to future access to Chugach State Park. Mr. Pexton reported that further info can be found at the Heritage Land Bank Advisory Boards website, and in HLB's January 2021 agenda.

Bill Ennis, Chair of the Bear Valley LRSA, provided a brief report and stated that the Blue Beary annexation ballot issue passed. As everyone knows, LRSA roads including King's Way are significantly pot-holed at present with the rapid snow melt. He is in communication with the road service provider and once the roadbed has thawed and dried out, surface smoothing will proceed.

David Lipps, Chair of the Rabbit Creek Heights & View LRSA, echoed the rapid pace of snow melt and acknowledged problems caused by water run-off channels in the road. Again, the two Bear Valley Community LRSAs share the same service provider and road surface smoothing and repair work will proceed as soon as weather and road conditions allow.

Member-at-Large Kori Marchowsky reminded attendees of the April 20, 2021 Firewise event at 7:00 PM. She posted a flyer in the chat portion of the meeting and stated she would post additional information regarding the meeting and the Firewise program on the Nextdoor website. Discussion followed regarding the Ready-Set-Go wildfire action plan and the Firewise self-assessments available through the Firewise website: [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org). Additional information on the Firewise program is also available on the Muni website at <http://www.muni.org/departments/fire/wildfire/pages/anchoragewildfireprogram.aspx>. Ms. Marchowsky stated that the Anchorage Fire Department has assisted with individual property owners' Firewise inspections in years past but presently has a very large backlog of requests. In prior years there was federal funding available to help cover inspection costs but this grant funding has ended.

Ms. Lipps announced that the Municipal Woodlot in south Anchorage will be open this year, with re-opening anticipated in early May. Unfortunately there are no free woodlot coupons available to Bear Valley this year. Ms. Lipps also reference the upcoming Neighborworks Alaska Paint the Town event.

Ms. Lipps also reminded attendees that the Chugach Electric Association Board elections begin on-line on Friday, April 16.

Guest Speaker:

Chair Lipps introduced guest speaker Joy Boston of JBER. Ms. Boston announced that the Northern Edge military exercises would take place from April 29 through May 14 over a large portion of the State including Anchorage, Eielson and Cold Bay, with increased military plane

overflights and noise. Additionally, Ms. Boston reported there will be a sequence of JBER gate closures over the course of spring and summer for construction work around the gates and approaches. A community member asked about the next Arctic Thunder air show, and Ms. Boston advised these occur during even years, so the next event will be in 2022.

#### Open Forum and Other Business

Ms. Lipps announced that May 22 will be the annual Bear Valley community clean-up event. Cheri and Dave Lipps will again serve as hosts and have arranged for a large dumpster. As in years past, Alaska Waste has graciously agreed to provide a large dumpster for the clean-up event at no cost. Members expressed appreciation to Alaska Waste for donating the dumpster and associated drop-off and pick-up costs, and to Dave and Cheri Lipps for again organizing and hosting this annual event.

Member Scott Pexton reported on an abandoned vehicle that appeared last week in the lower portion of the Valley, with all the wheels taken off. Discussion followed about prior instances of possibly stolen vehicles being abandoned in the valley. Mr. Pexton stated he reported the vehicle via Anchorage Works on the MOA website (found at <http://www.muni.org/residents/pages/anchorageworks.aspx>) and APD hauled the vehicle away.

Ms. Lipps reported a recent break-in on Marino Drive.

#### Adjournment

Chair Lipps announced that the next regular meeting of the BVCC would take place on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. There being no other business, it was moved and seconded (V. Pomraning / S. Pexton) that the April 2021 meeting of the BVCC be adjourned. Chair Lipps adjourned the meeting at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance Livsey  
BVCC Secretary