



Officers (*Term Expires EOY*)
Pres. – Morris Pickel Jr. (2024)
V. Pres. – Chuck Homan (2023)
Sec - Camilla Hussein-Scott (2024)
Treas. – Sean Murphy (2025)

Directors (*Term Expires EOY*)
Vacant (2025)
Cliff Cook (2024)
Vacant (2025)

EAGLE RIVER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

12001 Business Blvd. #107
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

MINUTES

February 9, 2023
6:30 – 8:30 PM

Call to order – 6:40 PM

Establish Quorum: Established

Attendance:

Morris Pickel – Present
Chuck Homan – Present
Sean Murphy – Present
Camilla Hussein-Scott – Present
Cliff Cook – Excused Absence

Approval of Agenda: Approved

Approval of Minutes: Approved after minor edits of officers' years of expiration

Membership Introductions

Reports

- Treasurer Report: \$65
- Parks & Rec: Camilla Hussein-Scott:
- NOTE: These are January minutes because February minutes were not ready at the time of this meeting.
 - Arctic Heat Softball 2023 Proposal requesting Park's support for fencing and electricity at Loretta French Park. – The board supplied a letter of Support to Arctic Heat Softball for the 2023 Proposal.
 - Further discussion on the Cemetery Bond Proposal was brought before the board two years ago, and a site selection study was conducted. Mr. O'Malley presented some materials to the board at the November 2022 meeting, asking for board support for 11 Million Dollars for this Bond Proposal. The board cannot support the proposal now because only two Community Councils are in support. Eklutna and Chugiak Community Councils support this proposal, while Eagle River CC, Birchwood CC, Eagle River Valley CC, and South Fork CC are not in support now. Some feel there is not enough information provided to support this. Peter sent Tommy O'Malley an invite to return to the board with additional information and more defined costs anticipated with this proposed bond project. Camilla mentioned that Tom Looney suggested that Eagle River/Chugiak Parks & Recreation must acquire the land before proceeding. Mike Braniff feels that the

reality of this happening is in 2024.

- Mushing Trail Improvements (RTP 2023) – Will was waiting to hear from the mushers on any trail improvements or expansions they wanted to present to the board.
- Will feels we have a good chance of being awarded these grant funds, but we need to start the process to achieve planning approval, etc.
- Report on Title 17 Leash Law – There is an Ordinance amending Title 17 code with revised definitions of a dog under control.
 - The current proposal allows e-collars to be used, so a shock collar would be an adequate control, while voice command would not be sufficient, but in a dog park would be.
 - We would like Parks & Rec to be able to define different levels of dog use, so instead of everywhere being shock collared or in a dog park, do we want to determine areas where leashes are always required?
 - The board would like to see the board provide a letter supporting defining control by command since that was our request that it be added.
 - The board requests a board member to provide a letter in support and thank the animal control board for incorporating our recommended definitions of control by command.
- Nordic Ski Club Beach Lake Trail Improvement Proposal – President of the Chugiak/Eagle River Nordic Ski Club (CERNSC), Jason Dennis, presented a PowerPoint presentation proposing improvements to three areas of the Beach Lake Ski Trails. The improvements being offered are the removal of twelve junk cars from the trail system (\$9,075 + 80hrs volunteer labor = area 1 on the presentation), the removal of trees and one junk car to create a flat surface area for kids to play in and for class instruction (\$9,756 + 80hrs volunteer labor = area 2 on presentation), clean up and develop an old resentment area with a couple of trails for the kids to play in (\$6,000 + 80hrs volunteer labor = area 3 on presentation). The total cost and labor estimate in this proposal identifies \$24,978.19 needed for this project which would be realized through a contract with the Nordic Ski Association of Anchorage (NSAA), plus 240hrs of volunteer labor through CERNSC. CERNSC proposes that project costs be split 50/50 with Parks & Recreation.
- **Staff reports brought forward from November 14th meeting.**
- Operational highlights – Status of Engineers Estimate for Chugiak Pool Repair – Mike Braniff lacks that information. Dan Hagarman (pool manager) provided some updates on the assessment and is awaiting final engineer cost estimates associated with work scope priorities being identified. The main priority is the replacement of the deck and drains, with other components being prioritized beyond that. Mike Braniff estimates a budget of \$ 2 million to be needed with the rising costs of construction and the scope being identified for this project. Almost all pool components need replacement or improvements, and it is anticipated that this work will be accomplished in 2024.
 - Steven Romanelli commented that South Fork CC opposes the Chugiak Pool repairs as this project will take away from other projects.
- Mike Braniff informed the board approved Fund Balance Transfer of 4.5 Million dollars scheduled for the 1/10/2023 Assembly Meeting is to fund each of the approved projects and includes funds for this project in the amount of \$1Million and \$3.6 Million for other projects that were listed and approved by the board in February 2022 CIP project listing. This fund transfer will position us to be that much closer to getting these projects moving. Mark Littlefield feels that funds should be transferred when the projects are ready to be worked on and not in advance.
- Progress on CIPs: Maintenance Facility, Peters Creek Dog Park – Mike Braniff reported that John Rodda has been working on the active projects and is unavailable. However, the dog park had clearing and grubbing accomplished last fall before winter and will be picked back up from where it left off. No update was provided on the Maintenance Facility.
- Assemblywoman Jamie Allard, after arriving late, had questions for the board before traveling to Juneau to be

sworn in as representative.

- She was concerned that funds had been put into savings and did not belong there. She thinks the Eagle River/Chugiak taxpayers have been overpaying, money should have gone back to taxpayers, and Mill Rate decreased. She is also concerned that money sits in the capital budget unused and belongs to the taxpayer. She questions having someone under contract for projects and wants to know if the board has seen the contract and pricing.
- Jamie requests that the board postpone their prior approval of the 2022 CIP projects and associated fund transfer of \$ 4.5 million, with John Rodda being contracted to administer those projects and funds. She requests the board's approval to postpone the Fund Balance Transfer at the assembly meeting, stating that it won't hurt anything.
- Jamie thinks the board and department are "robbing the taxpayers."
- Board disagrees with the assemblywoman
- Jamie Allard feels that it is wrong for the previous director of the department, who is responsible for setting up this Fund Balance saving scenario years ago, is now responsible for administering these funds for the department, and the board needs to figure it out all out and fix it.
- Jamie wants the board's support to postpone the Fund Balance transfer and pull it from the Assembly Meeting on January 10, 2023. Board doesn't see any problem with that.
- Board asks if postponing this will delay other already approved projects or increase costs associated with them. They feel this decision is happening quickly and being pushed by the audience. Mike Braniff thinks that this will postpone some project design and possibly push some projects out another year than intended. He thinks the pool repair project should move forward due to the operating time constraints associated.
- Board Goals for 2023: review and approve the budget; provide a report on the budget to community councils; and monitor the public process involved with the Beach Lake Mushing Trails and Beach Lake multiuse trail-mushing trail crossing design alternatives.
- Road Board: Chuck Homan:
 - New mil rate
 - \$ 800k coming out of savings
 - There is an increase in costs due to contracting with McKenna
 - CIPs
 - The board is voting on what projects to take on
 - Starner Bridge is a priority
 - Mark Littlefield took Senator Merrick around the Chugiak and Eagle River to determine which projects to prioritize.
- Advisory Board: Sean Murphy – Alt. Camilla Hussein-Scott
 - No upcoming meeting dates
- Federation Community Councils: Morris Pickel
 - Comprehensive information on the website: <https://www.communitycouncils.org/>
 - Eagle River website: <https://communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/11.html>

Guest Speakers

Assembly/Legislative Updates

- MOA Assembly update (Kevin Cross, Robin Dern) -- Absent
- Legislative update – (Senator Kelly Merrick - Rep. Jamie Allard - Rep. Dan Saddler)

- Senator Merrick sent a recorded message after being sworn in. [Here is the link to watch it.](#)
- No messages from Reps. Allard and Saddler.

Presentation

Community Updates

- Anchorage School Board update (Carl Jacobs) – Not Present
- Eagle River Community Patrol update (Cliff Cook/John Rathert) – Not Present
- Chugiak\Eagle River Library General Update (Nancy Clark) – Not Present
- JBER (Joy Boston) – Joy Boston

Old Business:

New Business:

- Board moved and approved unanimously to appoint Pauline Tise as Alt. Representative to the Chugiak Eagle River Parks and Rec Board of Supervisors

Comments from Eagle River Community Council Membership/Guests

Upcoming Events

- *CBERRRSA Board of Supervisors* monthly meeting:
- *Parks and Rec Board of Supervisors* monthly meeting:
- *FCC meeting: TBD*

Adjourned: 7:32 PM

Important Dates (2023)

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • January 12, 2022 | • July 13, 2023 |
| ○ Monthly meeting | ○ Monthly meeting |
| • February 9, 2023 | • August 10, 2023 |
| ○ Monthly meeting | ○ Monthly meeting |
| • March 9, 2023 | • September 14, 2023 |
| ○ Monthly meeting | ○ Monthly meeting |
| • April 13, 2023 | • October 12, 2023 |
| ○ Monthly meeting | ○ Monthly meeting |
| • May 11, 2023 | • November 9, 2023 |
| ○ Monthly meeting | ○ Monthly meeting |
| • June 8, 2023 | • December 14, 2023 |
| ○ Monthly meeting | ○ Monthly meeting |