

**Officers** *(Term Expires EOY)*

Pres. – Chuck Homan (2025)
V. Pres. – Cliff Cook (2024)
Sec - Camilla Hussein-Scott (2024)
Treas. – Sean Murphy (2025)

Directors *(Term Expires EOY)*

Pauline Tise (2025)
Vacant (2024)
Vacant (2025)

EAGLE RIVER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

12001 Business Blvd. #107
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

Minutes

October 12, 2023
6:30 – 8:30 PM

Call to order – 6:30

Establish Quorum: Established

Attendance:

Chuck Homan
Cliff Cook
Camilla Hussein-Scott
Sean Murphy
Pauline Tise

Approval of Agenda: Approved with moving presentation of the proclamation of Morris Pickel to his family the Pickel family to the top of the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: Approved

Membership Introductions:

- Chief Master Sargent Morris Pickel: Presentation and reading of the proclamation to his family.

Reports

- Treasurer Report: \$65
- Parks & Rec – Pauline Tise for Camilla Hussein-Scott:
 - CER P&R BOS Budget was discussed: No cuts were made to Chugiak Eagle River service areas in the budget.
 - West Beach Lake multi-use trails update. Phase two is not yet funded. Phase one, which is completely funded, will be constructed next year. That will result in an additional about two miles of multi-use trails over by Beach Lake, which is kind of exciting.
 - CIP overview was discussed
 - Loretta French Sports Complex, batting cages. The scoreboards are still in plans to be done, and approval of the budget was tabled until November. The board will meet and have a work session to really dive into the numbers because last year, they weren't brought to the board as clearly as they should have been, so we will have a closer look at those before we approve them.
 - An update on the status of the pool repairs was requested.

- The junkyard project at the ski at Beach at Virtual Beach Beach Lake Ski is now completed. Both the Boy Scout and the Girl Scout projects are completed, and there was emergency work done on Beach Lakes trails because the lights were starting to fall over due to flooding.
- work is ongoing for the updates to the mushing phase.
- The pool closure has been pushed off until December 2024. They're working with the capacity of facility maintenance and trying not to impact high school swimming season.
- Road Board – Chuck Homan:
 - Annual storm system cleaning is completed, and fall maintenance is in progress.
 - All 2023 capital improvement projects have been completed.
 - Starner Bridge plans are 100% Complete and ready to go to bid.
 - Aurora Borealis Access negotiations continue with one property owner.
 - Request capital improvement projects for 2024 be submitted as soon as possible
- Advisory Board – Sean Murphy; Alt. Camilla Hussein-Scott
- Federation Community Councils – Vacant
 - Comprehensive information on the website: <https://www.communitycouncils.org/>
 - Eagle River website: <https://communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/11.html>

Guest Speakers

- AFD:
 - Fall safety tips: it's getting colder, and people are starting to use their furnaces more and use their wood stoves. AFD recommends having furnaces serviced.
 - Getting into the slippery season, take your time and leave a little bit earlier. Otherwise, it will make emergency personnel days a lot busier.
 - Most fire stations have car seat technicians. If you're a new parent or know who is. They can bring their car, they can make an appointment with the fire station in their neighborhood, and they will check out their car seat and make sure it's installed properly.
 - It is prohibited to burn brush in Eagle River or Eagle River Valley. You can check some burn guidelines if you want to have fires in your yard, but go to AFD's website and look at the burn guidelines for that. But at no time are you allowed to burn construction material or brush.
<https://www.muni.org/Departments/Fire/Wildfire/Pages/IsTodayaBurnDay.aspx>
 - Something that you'll be hearing more about next summer is that the fire department got a pretty substantial grant from the federal government for a wildland-urban interface.
 - The fire department will hire a forester and several other staff members, and they will get out in the community more to talk to the public about what AFD can do to make properties safer. That's not they come to your house and make you cut trees down. It's just that it's more informative than anything, and there's going to be more programs.
 - AFD has an Academy going right now. 11 people were hired in January. AFD is looking at doing another Academy with 20 to 25 people. Expect to have 100 members retire in the next two years; that's a ¼ of the current workforce.
 - In Eagle River, 10 people a day, a fire engine, a squad, a Full ALS ambulance with paramedics, and a water tender, and they are also responsible for all the swift water rescue activities in the river, and all AFD personnel are swimmers.
 - They do some front country, but as far as the Backcountry rescue, that is handled by the state troopers.
 - Call volume has increased because of some staffing issues, so you will probably see Anchorage Fire Department units more commonly going out into the Chugiak area for assistance.

Assembly/Legislative Updates

- MOA Assembly update – (Kevin Cross, Scott Myers):
 - Scott Myers:
 - Budget season
 - Housing action week coming up

- Solid Waste Services administrative building was contracted to be a shelter starting October 16th and leased until April 30th.
- APD is rolling out body cams on November 13th.
- Approved 30 Dodge Durangos because they were \$8000 cheaper than other brands.
- Things that are also coming up is the Airbnb ordinance. This entails for Airbnb and VRBO owners to register and noncompliance would be fined.
- There are a lot of board vacancies that need to be filled, and the muni is looking for people who have a passion to sit on these boards.
- Legislative update – (Senator Kelly Merrick - Rep. Jamie Allard - Rep. Dan Saddler)
 - Rep. Dan Saddler
 - Back to Juneau and convene on the 16th of January.
 - Sending out newsletters to constituents in District 24 asking for input on the most important items that need to be addressed in the next session.
 - The biggest issue is the budget.
 - If the oil prices reach \$78/barrel, that means that there will be an extra \$500 in PFD checks for 2024.
 - Another will be long-term education funding, so the BSA and education policy will be addressed.
 - Another concern and issue that will be addressed next session is state workers's pension benefits.
 - State workers make up 15% of Alaskans, and discussing childcare and workforce development is making people scratch their heads and sharpen their pencils to figure out ways to subsidize childcare for working parents.
 - Will introduce a bill that will protect civil liberties while still protecting people who are homeless and have mental health issues. They may benefit by getting some care but do not have the resources or ability to get the care.
 - Another issue that will be addressed is the shortage of healthcare providers. The discussion will be that instead of having state-specific nursing licenses, Alaska could join 45 other states that have a contract to have their licenses recognized in other states.
 - Natural Gas Corp. said that Alaska's natural gas supplier cannot guarantee process and volumes pas 2027. So, the legislature is working to ensure that we have the energy to keep our lights on.
 - Rep. Saddler's personal budget priorities are the Starnier Bridge and getting funding for the Senior Center. Trying to get more housing and work with the Housing and Urban Development Department from Washington DC, to see if they can provide grants to help with the design work.
 - Bills pushed to completion:
 - One is to assert state ownership of the submerged lands underneath navigable water.
 - The second bill would direct the state to develop a plan to develop processes and market critical minerals and rare earth elements. They are as you've heard, lithium and dysprosium hydronium are necessary for our cell phones and renewable energy and high-tech Alaska.
 - There is a bill to take some money to set aside for assistive technology to assist those with disabilities in the building.
 - Planning to have one or two coffee conversation opportunities at Jitters with other legislators in the district.
 - Jenny on behalf of Senator Kelly Merrick:
 - Met with Mayor and ASD Board
 - Met with DOT for Snow Summit to find solutions on snow removal solutions.
 - There are vancancies on the State Park Advisory Board
 - Free session constituent event in the coming months date and location TBD
 - Follow on social media to get udates and reach pout to the office at any time

Presentation

Community Updates

- Anchorage School Board update – (Andy Holloman)
 - Carl Jacobs for Andy Holloman
 - positive signs: roughly the majority of ASD students are either at or above benchmark, which is roughly 53% for second grade, that number for 1st grade is 60%, and roughly 60% 3rd grade, so there's certainly room to improve across all grades, but there are some positive signs of growth as students are advancing through the district grades.
 - Hyper focus on making sure our students are in the classroom. ASD has the highest average attendance rate for students, reaching 90% or above, which is kind of when you delve into chronic absenteeism in Alaska's school districts, So that's 72.8% or roughly 73% right now, which is the highest in 2020.
 - College career Life readiness initiative, some of the same work that's going on at King Tech, where students are attending school, getting things like certifications and a head start to a pathway to a career opportunity post-graduation that might not include a four-year college career.
 - For more updates and information, go to the ASD website: [Hot Topics](#)
- Eagle River Community Patrol update – (Cliff Cook/John Rathert)
 - Cliff Cook:
 - 22 hours 114 miles
 - Don't leave your car running with the keys inside, thieves will smash your windows.
 - More folks living in their cars in Eagle River public parking lots.
 - Increase in vandalism, especially halloween decorations.
 - Trouble Houses: talk to neighbours and call them in for code enforcements, etc.
 - Schroeder Park razor blades on a slide incident, it was reported to APD there is a case number.
 - Its best to check the equipment before your kids use it
- Chugiak\Eagle River Library General – Update (Nancy Clark) – not present
- JBER (Joy Boston) – Noise will be coming off JBER for some military training.

Old Business:

New Business:

- Liquor Licenses: comments to Assembly by November 21, 2023: (approved unanimously by the board)
 - Bears Den Liquor Store (Three Bears Eagle River Liquor store)
 - Stalk Steakhouse beer & wine liquor license.
 - Kim Cuisine: Renewal
- Open Executive officer seats
 - Eagle River Parks and Rec appointments Primary and Alternate
 - Camilla Hussein-Scott expires October 2023
 - Alternate Pauline Tise, appointed July 25, 2023- The President appointed Pauline Tise as the primary.
 - Camilla will step down as primary and will renew to continue as an alternate for that position.
 - John Rathert was introduced and volunteered to take a seat on the ERCC Executive Board. The president, Chuck Homan II, appointed John Rathert to the seat that expires by the end of 2025.
 - Federation of Community Council Rep: Vacant

- Vice Chair Cliff Cook has volunteered for this position and was appointed by President Homan.
- CBERRRSA: Capital Improvement projects request
 - Farm Avenue sidewalk
- AO 2023-103 amends residential development in the Anchorage Bowl

Comments from Eagle River Community Council Membership/Guests

- Boo at the Beach through CER Parks & Recs October 14th, 7 pm to 9:15 pm, Beach Lake.
- Lions Club Halloween party, 21 and over, even though it's from the ERHS booster club. Saturday, October 28, from 7 pm to 11 pm.
- EaglExit meeting, next Tuesday, this room 7 pm.
- Traffic has increased by 20 % in Eagle River, so there is talk about the realignment of bus route 92, but no timeline, and no funding yet. Other routes got funded by the MTP in the last round
- Post office doors are closing at 6:30 now
- Dean Cox ERVCC, emergency preparedness chair, proposing councils to have a community first responder person in case of a mass emergency incident.

Upcoming Events

- **CBERRRSA Board of Supervisors** monthly meeting:
- **Parks and Rec Board of Supervisors** monthly meeting: Every 2nd Monday of the Month, 6:30 – 8:30 PM. Room #170, Eagle River Library Building. (South Entrance)
- **FCC meeting: TBD**

Adjourned: 8:04 pm

ERCC Meetings: Every 2nd Thursday of the month, 6:30 – 8:30 PM, Room #170, Eagle River Library Building. South Entrance.

Upcoming Meetings:

November 9, 2023

December 14, 2023