



Community Council:
At the root of Better Government



Bear Valley Community Council (BVCC)
Meeting Notes
BVCC Meeting – August 13, 2008
Compiled by Angie Pinsonneault, Secretary

The council meeting was held in the Arts & Crafts Room at the Bear Valley Elementary School, 15001 Mountain Air Drive. The meeting started at 7:00 pm, with approximately fifteen people, including three council board members. Thus, a quorum of members was present. BVCC Chair, Cheri Lipps started the meeting, introduced herself, and welcomed guest speakers.

Private Land Transfer to HLB

Bob Ballow, a private investor, spoke about the proposed land swap with Heritage Land Bank (HLB) and asked for community input. The land swap involves 150 acres owned by the Alaska Zoo (50 acres) and the Botanical Gardens (100 acres), formally known as the Stewart (Brewster) Homestead, and a parcel of land on Spruce Street owned by HLB. He explained that the tentative plan is to use the 150 acres for access to Chugach State Park (including a parking area).

Bob asked for feedback that he can pass along to the Municipality, and would ultimately like a letter of support from BVCC. Cheri explained to him the potential conflicts with the community and invited him to attend another meeting when more information is available.

Watershed Rain Gardens

Dawn LoBaugh, Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Project Management and Engineering, gave a presentation on the recent efforts to promote watershed rain gardens in Anchorage. The MOA, through a \$25,000 grant from the Fish and Wildlife Service and a \$25,000 match from the MOA, is providing reimbursements to eligible individuals for one half their expenses, up to \$750, to build rain gardens on their property. Eligibility is determined via a "consultation" with the MOA's designated rain garden inspector, Dawn LoBaugh. Funding is available through approximately May 2009 on a first come, first serve basis. After the current funding runs out, the MOA plans to apply for a larger grant.

Basic guidelines for rain gardens include:

- They should be positioned at least 10 feet away from your foundation
- They should sit downslope, and should be depressed by approximately 6 inches
- They should include native plants that thrive in a wet environment

More information can be found at www.anchorageraingardens.com or by calling 343-8008.



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Anchorage Parks and Rec

Shawna Popovici, Southeast District Park Manager, was unable to attend the meeting.

BVCC Updates

BVCC Parks and Trails Committee: Cheri introduced Vice-Chair, Laurie Holland. Laurie explained the need for the Council to start a parks and trails committee so that the community can be proactive about issues surrounding park and trail access in Bear Valley rather than reactive. Although a few individuals have already volunteered, more volunteers to participate on the committee would be very much appreciated and would help to increase the effectiveness of the committee. Laurie hopes to have the first meeting within the next several weeks.

Cheri pointed out, as an example of why the community needs to be more proactive about parks and trails in Bear Valley, that Parks and Rec has already started appointing BVCC representatives to their Section 36 citizen's advisory panel. Appointees to the panel should come under recommendation from BVCC/BVCC Parks and Trails Committee, rather than from outside the community.

Cheri also mentioned that Bear Tracks Park is nearing completion of Phase 1 of development. The parking area and bench are installed thanks to several volunteers and sponsors. Huge thanks to Ken Schacht and family, David Lipps, Brad Precosky, Leonard Stanley, Jackie Morrissey, Patti Rayfield, Willa Wiley, Cynthia Shaw, and Jeromy Amon for their volunteer hours. Once the park name kiosk is constructed it will be installed near the parking area. Volunteers are still needed to help construct the trails within the Bear Tracks Park. This can be done in the evenings or weekends when volunteers have a couple of spare hours.

The Paine Road Trail is underway and volunteers will be greatly appreciated to help with hand clearing the overgrowth and marking the trail.

Any one wishing to participate on the BVCC Parks and Trail Committee can contact Laurie at bvcc.vicechair@yahoo.com or 644-8807

CPR Anytime Training: Chief, Jeff Foster and other members of the Anchorage Fire Department Station 10 presented information on cardiac failure and how to perform CPR.

80 percent of cardiac arrests happen in the home, and 75 percent of those do not receive treatment until emergency personnel arrive. The victim's chances of survival are significantly improved if immediate CPR is performed.



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BVCC meeting attendees were given a 30 minute crash course on how to perform CPR using instructional materials from the American Heart Association. Remember to push hard, push fast, and don't stop until help arrives! For more information on performing CPR, visit www.cpranytime.org

AFD & BVCC will host another BV CPR day for those interested. Please contact Cheri at bvcc@alaska.net or 345-1378.

Mailboxes Update: Cheri gave an update on the new mailboxes, which will be going in this year! Interested households need to fill out a conversion request form and submit it to Cheri by the end of August (forms are available on the BVCC website or contact Cheri directly). The one-time cost for the new secure mailboxes is \$315.

There will be no disruption to postal service – mail will be delivered to the old boxes until the new boxes are operational. Once the new boxes are operational, it would be appreciated if people would remove and dispose of their old boxes. Conversion is not mandatory; however, as old boxes become non-functional, households will need to switch to the new boxes or to a post office box. For more information on the new mailboxes, see the BVCC website, 2008 Mailbox Upgrade Project on the left side of the page.

Anchorage Daily News is planning to put in a post for newspaper boxes.

Other Updates: No other updates were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12pm.

The next Bear Valley Community Council meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at 7:00 pm in the Arts & Crafts Room at the Bear Valley Elementary School.**

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 select Bear Valley.