

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting Minutes.

Annual general membership meeting, Wednesday, May 14, 2008.

Board members in attendance: Will Earnhart, Therese Voehl, Bill Mendenhall.

Additional attendees: Bob Gill, Anna Fairclough, Doug Maxfield, Bill Holland, Austin Zimiga, Bill Starr, Lisa Andersen, Chase Hullinger, Fred Dyson, Scott Bailey, Bill Tucker, Mike Hawker, Con Bunde, John Rodda, Lora Reinbold, Hannah Roerick, Loren Leman, Dave & Sue Lewis, Crystal Kennedy, John Steiner.

Vice-President Will Earnhart opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Approval of minutes: Minutes from April 2008 meeting were distributed, however no quorum, so minutes not approved.

President's Report: No president, so no report. Past president, Bill Starr informed the council that the domain name "ERVCC" he purchased for \$15.00 three years ago will expire June 2008.

Nominations & Elections: Conducted by vice-president Will Earnhart. Ballots were distributed with three names: Tom Freeman, Bill Holland, and Linda Kelly. A fourth candidate, Lisa Andersen, was nominated from the floor. Thirteen (13) ballots were distributed to council members present, all four candidates were elected unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Sarah Wright emailed the following report.

The Heritage Estates Well Compensation Trust Fund checking account has 3541.27. The 25,000.00 CD just renewed and is a 3 year term. Maturity date: 2/29/2008.

CD #1 5963.75 Matures 12/13/08 Annual %age rate 3.90%.

CD #2 5929.21 Matures 9/20/07 Annual %age rate 3.60%.

CD #3 5900.39 Matures 6/03/08 Annual %age rate 3.55%.

The Eagle River Valley Community Council checking account balance 294.26.

INVITED GUESTS, SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Representative Anna Fairclough spoke briefly about her freshman session noting that the 90 day session limit was a 'bit of a challenge'. Rep. Fairclough spoke briefly about the budget and her committee responsibilities. She also reminded meeting attendees that 90% of the monies in the Alaska State general fund come from oil and we need to diversify.

Senator Con Bunde also discussed revenue related to oil, noticing that it is likely Alaska will experience a deficit in the next 3-4 years. Sen. Bunde observed that an increase in oil production could offset declining revenues, however that becomes more difficult now that polar bears have been listed as threatened and US Congress rejected opening ANWR (again).

Representative Mike Hawker observed that a lot was accomplished in 90 days and cautioned that it is going to be a challenge to be diligent and maintain sustained levels of funding. Rep. Hawker commented about the 'hugely profound change how state operates through budgetary process' and discussed HB 125, fiscal planning legislation that requires the governor to provide annually an updated 10 year forward projection.

Assemblyman Bill Starr spoke about the district 17 veto that will affect AK Veterans Memorial Museum and a portion of the C/ER public library funding. Mr. Starr mentioned has requested state support for the ER Towne Center and responded to a question about state revenue sharing (money that the State gives to the Muni) Mr. Starr indicated that there is \$180 million in the capital budget to fund revenue sharing, all will be applied to property tax relief.

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Senator Fred Dyson commented that the senate is very bad about the budget process and it is an 'ugly process with lots of manipulative power struggles'. Sen. Dyson observed that we need a criteria for evaluating government spending since we do not have a good way of measuring performance. He observed that our energy issues are ten years to solution.

ASD Board member Crystal Kennedy distributed ASD statistics and thanked our legislators for funding education, especially the \$90 million for PERS/TERS assistance. Ms. Kennedy spoke to 'student readiness for the real world' upon graduation from high school, including alternatives to college (trade schools, union apprentices, KCC certificates). Dept. of Labor statistics indicate that only 20% of jobs in Alaska require a college degree. Ms. Kennedy discussed the positive impact of technology in keeping kids involved in school. She also spoke about budgetary impact of special education students (number of students with autism has doubled while the average cost to educate special education student is \$78,000/year).

Volunteer Lora Reinbold presented information concerning trails from ER High School , up through South Fork and into ER Valley. ER Nordic Ski club will serve as design and construction consultants. Chugach State Park Advisory Board has endorsed the plan. Ms. Reinbold observed that the project needs \$50,000 in private funding to work on trails during the summer of 2008. The goal of the volunteer group is to expand existing trails, develop new trails including obtaining one million dollars for a pedestrian bridge over Eagle River to link ER High and Gruening Middle school trails.

Motion by council member Bill Holland: "In light of South Fork Council's approval, requesting ERVCC for a letter of support for the trails concept development of linked trails throughout the Eagle River area including ER High and Gruening Middle schools." John Rodda second, unanimously approved.

Wal-Mart update provided by manager Austin Zimiga. Mr. Zimiga discussed construction to date and anticipated completion dates (landscaping by end of summer, groceries stocked end September), staffing (currently 215 employees, expect to add 75 more upon completion), anticipated grand opening end October. ER Super Wal-Mart will be open 24 hours, lights in parking lot motion activated. Currently recycling over 8 tons of garbage monthly (mostly palettes).

Norfolk Booster Station upgrade: Michael Foster & Associates, presented by Loren Lehman. Part of the Anchorage Water master plan. Three choices: demolish 40 year old station, bring station up to code (very expensive) or function on emergency basis. Discussion of construction on Loop road, installation of 310 foot water main on Crestview Lane between 1st & 2nd Streets.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CBERRRSA (Road Board): Arlene Voehl absent. According to Bill Starr, the Eagle River transportation plan has been sent back to the road board by the Assembly. The RAP roads are designated as collectors, so that means CBERRRSA would need to bring the roads up to Muni standard designation. His interpretation is that AMATS staff is not listening to local road boards regarding specific designation.

Emergency Preparedness, Fire and Safety: Representative Lisa Andersen reports that ERVCC no longer has a specific ASD officer as liaison. Lisa suggested council members utilize muni.org for crime map, city beat (arrest records).

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Federation of Community Councils: Tom Freeman absent. Secretary Therese Voehl met with new FCC manager to discuss updating email lists, posting agendas & minutes on website and electronic in notification of meetings (including distribution of minutes). The FCC offices will be moving during the summer and new software for management of email distribution is being installed.

Parks & Recreation: Sarah Wright emailed a request that ERVCC update our CIP list so that it may be submitted on June 16th to Parks & Rec so that they can put together our master CIP list for Chugiak/Eagle River area. Therese Voehl distributed the existing CIP list, council members briefly discussed items, and ranked their priorities. Six ranked lists were returned, new list will be compiled and distributed at September meeting. Sarah also mentioned that when the Town Center reroofing takes place the blue tiles may not be reapplied. This is due to water damage which led to the reduction in purchase price from 3 million to 1 million dollars. John Rodda commented that he anticipates \$63,000 funding for ASD ski trail grooming at Chugiak High, Gruening and Mirror Lake Middle schools (\$20,000 from ASD, balance from C/ER Parks & Rec).

John also reported:

NW section 25 is going to P & Z this summer, need to resolve noise problem

Mt. Baldy access final documents should be complete by end of July 2008

An emergency operations center will be included within the ER Towne Center

Artificial turf will be installed at Chugiak High School stadium

Zoning & Platting, Land Use: Bill Mendenhall reported on the Title 21 Consortium meeting, area community councils have been asked to submit priority concerns. There have been concerns about the impact that property owners will have on industrial land. In addition, developers can expect their cost to increase 5% due to additional landscaping and setback requirements. Bill suggested that for more information, individuals can go to Muni web site, planning department, title 21.

Two planning notices were discussed: Roseberry Ridge plat change and Eagle Crossing. Council members were concerned about high density (large number of homes on small lots) in Eagle Crossing.

Motion by Bill Holland: “Eagle River Valley Community Council does not support increased density variances requested for Eagle Crossing.” Bill Mendenhall second, unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned 9:35 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Therese Voehl.