



**Community Council:**  
*At the root of Better Government*



**Bear Valley Community Council (BVCC)  
Meeting Notes  
BVCC Meeting – September 9, 2009  
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 seventeen people, including six council board members. Thus, a quorum of members was present. BVCC Chair, Cheri Lipps started the meeting, introduced herself, and welcomed everyone to the meeting, including our new neighbors who bought Kathleen Rice's house.

**Mountain Air Drive Extension**

Steve Kari and Will Webb from USKH, who has been awarded the contract, provided attendees with some information on the Mountain Air Drive extension.

There are essentially four parts to the design phase of the project:

- Geotechnical study – will look at soil quality and structural needs
- Environmental study – will focus on wetland mitigation
- Bridge study – will look at options for crossing the creek
- Water resources study – will focus on drainage and future development

A public comment meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 21, 2009 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. The location has not yet been determined but it will probably be at Bear Valley Elementary school. You can also find out more information and submit comments at [www.mountainairdrive.com](http://www.mountainairdrive.com).

USKH is currently in the process of collecting information, analyzing data, and developing estimates. The final design is planned for the first week in March 2010, and the bid opening is planned for mid May 2010. The project will probably be about 40 percent administrative and development costs and 60 percent acquisition and construction costs. Todd Jacobson is the project contact for the Municipality ([tjacobson@theboutetcompany.com](mailto:tjacobson@theboutetcompany.com) or 907-522-6776).

The extension is going to be a collector road – 2 lanes and shoulders. The current project plans do not include a connection to Jamie Avenue.

**Firewise Communities Program**

Sue Rodman, Forester with the Anchorage Fire Department, spoke about the Firewise Communities Program and other fire issues in Bear Valley.



**Community Council:**  
*At the root of Better Government*



A draft of the Bear Valley Fire Community Assessment is currently being worked on. It includes a variety of information, including a description of risks specific to Bear Valley, recommendations, and next steps.

Anchorage Fire Department will continue to help Bear Valley residents with brush chipping if the community keeps helping with fire mitigation. A couple of notes of interest include:

- Bear Valley residents need to understand the high potential to be forced to take shelter in their homes in the event of a forest fire due to the single road (Clarks Road) access to the community
- Alders are high moisture content in addition to helping keep the grasses down (grasses have a high fire potential). Therefore, you can use alders to help lower fire potential in your yard
- Metal and asphalt shingles are best for protecting your roof from forest fires
- If you have cedar shakes, consider installing a sprinkler system on your roof
- Above the spruce/hemlock line can be considered a fire safety zone, but remember that smoke rises – this could make smoke inhalation a risk
- It takes approximately 28 minutes of extremely hot burning to ignite T-111 siding. A forest fire will burn through in about 2-5 minutes. Therefore, as long as you do not have a long-burning fuel source close to your home, your siding stands a good chance of not igniting
- NEVER use a wet handkerchief over your mouth to protect your lungs from smoke – the steam generated by the heat and the water can burn your lungs and kill you. Use a dry handkerchief instead.
- A tight-weave wool blanket is fire resistant and is a good thing to have in your home

Interested property owners can sign up for a firewise assessment. If the assessment recommends tree removal, and if there is a structure on the property (or a direct influence on another structure or roadway), the property owner is eligible for up to 70 percent reimbursement, up to \$2,000 per acre, of the cost to remove the trees. Applications are available at [www.muni.org/fire](http://www.muni.org/fire).

Cheri mentioned that she has an active list of people who have given permission for others to cut and take dead wood on their property. Please note that it is required that you take the slash too. Contact Cheri if you are interested.

As a side note, it was mentioned to Sue that the driveway with the loan mailbox on the north side of Clarks Road has been being used as access for partiers. The community is trying to get Heritage Land Bank to put a gate across the driveway (no one is currently living there), but bon fires and such pose a fire risk.



**Community Council:**  
*At the root of Better Government*



### **Parks & Recreation Update**

Cheri gave a brief Parks and Recreation update. Municipality budget cuts are causing a several staff cuts, but as of right now, Shawna Popovichi, Park District Manager with the Parks & Recreation Department, has managed to survive the staff cuts. The Council hopes that we will continue to be able to work with Shawna as her knowledge of Bear Valley and its parks is invaluable.

There has been a shipping delay on the Stork Park playground equipment, but it should soon be here and installed.

### **BVCC Updates**

**Assembly and Legislative Update:** Scott Pexton said that the Hillside District Plan is the only topic of interest to Bear Valley currently being discussed by the Assembly.

**Hillside Area Land Owners Association (HALO) Update:** Rodney Powell gave a brief presentation on recent HALO activities:

- There are discussions of trying to get R6 and R10 zoning changes as part of Title 21
- It would be beneficial to the Hillside to get septic systems managed by the Department of Health and Human Services as opposed to Development Services
- There are trails on private property currently designated as public trails within the Section 36 plans. These trails will need to be removed from the plans
- Need more community participation/involvement in the Section 36 planning process
- The last HALO meeting was the Candidate's Forum

It was mentioned that the Stolle Subdivision Chugach State Park access is not shown on the Chugach State Park Trails Plan maps. It was left off in an effort to provide some relief to the neighborhood.

**BVCC Parks & Trails Committee (PTC) Update:** Laurie Holland gave a brief presentation on recent PTC activities and other items of interest:

- The Chugach State Park master plan is expected to be completed in 2011.
- There is a new kiosk at the King's Way mail boxes. Please feel free to post information in the kiosk (i.e. garage sales, for rent information, lost/found pets, etc), but please keep it neat and tidy and take down old postings

**Treasurer Report:** Jackie Morrissey gave the Treasurer's report:

- The current balance is \$816.93



**Community Council:**  
*At the root of Better Government*



## **Open Forum**

Cheri gave a variety of other community updates:

- Arctic Airwalkers: the Arctic Airwalkers (a hang gliding and parasailing group) would like to attend the October meeting to present information on themselves and answer any questions (it may be better to have them wait for the November meeting due to the elections in October). It is illegal to land in Municipality airspace. The group had tried to get a permit to land at Stork Park, and is now trying to get permission to land on Heights Hill Road.
- Neighborhood Watch Program:
  - ✓ Anchorage Police Department (APD) has significantly increased its patrolling in Bear Valley.
  - ✓ There has been a Toyota Tundra seen lingering in areas where children have been playing. APD has identified the driver as potentially suspicious and asked him to stay out of the area. If you see this vehicle, please contact APD immediately. The man is approximately 40 years old, relatively tall, white.
  - ✓ The Neighborhood Watch program only requires 50 percent of the households in a neighborhood to participate. Neighborhoods signed up for the program will be able to get signs posted.
- Storck Park gate: Looking for volunteers to unlock and lock the entrance gate to the park in the mornings and evenings. Storck Park gates should be opened daily by 7 am or sooner and closed at 10 pm or later.

David Lipps made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Cheri Lipps. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

The next Bear Valley Community Council meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 14, 2009, at 7:00 pm in the Arts & Crafts Room at the Bear Valley Elementary School. This meeting is also the annual BVCC Board elections. All seats are up for vote this year. Members are encouraged to view the Bylaws on the BVCC website which include Board member descriptions, qualifications and voting requirements. Nominations will be accepted at the meeting and a vote will be held for each position.**

Please also consider renewing your membership with a donation of \$5 or more. All donations to the Bear Valley Community Council are tax deductible, and we appreciate your financial support.

Meeting minutes, notes, agendas and other BVCC topics of interest can be obtained by going to the BVCC web page at [www.communitycouncils.org](http://www.communitycouncils.org) and selecting Bear Valley.