

EAGLE RIVER COMMUNITY COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 773952
EAGLE RIVER, ALASKA 99577

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 14, 2009
11901 Business Blvd., 2nd floor conference room
(above Garcia's Restaurant, Eagle River)

Call to order – 7:00 PM. The meeting was called to order by President Michael Foster. Directors present were Mike Foster, Bobbie Gossweiler, and Brian Fay. Michael Meliello was in Italy, thus unable to attend.

Mike opened the meeting with the announcement that Mandy Fowle had been appointed to and consented to join the Board of Directors.

Guest Speakers:

- Jen Collins – AFD Wild Fire Mitigation Office
Jen reported that as of Wednesday, May 13th, there had been 34 seasonal fires. Half of the total number for all of last year's season. She noted that fire danger is High right now, and that approved burn days, for permitted burns and campfires would not likely occur until the weather gets a little damper. She noted that the Eagle River wood lot would open this weekend, and that it would be available weekends, Fridays and Saturdays, from 8-5. She also announced that the FireWise program had started, giving homeowners the opportunity to have a free assessment done on their home wildfire readiness, and that applications are available for tree removal when the trees determined to pose a potential fire safety hazard near your home.
- Ted Meyer, Project Engineer, ADOT.
Ted provided updates on Loop Road and the Glen Highway upgrades. For the loop road, August 1 is the finish date. Granite Construction (formerly Wilder) plans to be finished about a month early, though the electrical sub-contractor may be on the god through the deadline. They are currently doing the storm water, pathway grade and Electrical work, including setting the trigger wires for the signalization and replacing two signal poles at each end of the loop. Temporary poles will be erected during the transition. Intersection work, in particular, is being done during the night construction hours. Glen Highway work has just been awarded and the pre construction conference has not yet occurred. The project runs from Highland road to Eklutna and will involve bridge guardrail repair, roadway and bridge resurfacing with the latest material, and under highway drainage installation near Eagle Glen East Subdivision, to aid in reducing the annual flooding there.

- Tanya Iden, Agnew Beck, Beach Lake Master Plan
Tanya was here just to notify us that the Beach Lake Master plan is being updated. The process is in a sort of fact-finding phase, and Tanya inquired about how we would like to be involved in the process. The first meetings on the plan itself will be starting in late August. John Rodda, Parks & Rec, noted that this is an important process, and that the public needs to be actively involved in developing the plan.
Tonya also advised us that the Anchorage Library Plan was under review, and that there was a great opportunity to hear information about progressive library plans, nationally, and find out more about what is happening locally. The presentation is Tuesday from 5:30 – 9 pm.
Mike asked about the HLB lands near the Macdonald Center, another Agnew-Beck project. Tanya said that it was being dealt with between HLB and the Planning department and that there may be some outcome by the end of the year.

New Business:

- Debbie Ossiander, Assemble Person
Debbie said that the work on the Overlay District for downtown Eagle River was moving. And that the removal of the Knik Arm Crossing from the AMATS list was a hot topic, to be presented June 9th, along with a change in the language regarding protected status of additional groups in Anti Discrimination language.
Debbie also spoke to the lack of concessions from some employee groups mandating a furlough of Muni staff to meet budget constraints. John noted that within ER P&R alone, the impact would amount to 1,500 hours of reductions to staff time.
Mike expressed concern regarding the Tax changes and the Knik Arm Crossing removal.
When asked about her chairmanship, Debbie responded that she would be “Chair for a while... Until June 9th for sure”
- John Rodda, ER Parks, Recreation and Community Development
John provided an update on the move in schedule for the muni Center in Eagle River. Transitions will be occurring during July and August. He also announced the addition of a wireless access system for use within the building and for Police Cruisers in the parking lot out front, and that the building included space for Connexions, an organization that will be providing in town day activities/care for adults experiencing disabilities. He said that the Skate Park equipment would be erected in the Valley River Parking Lot shortly.

Appointments:

Mike has appointed Mandy Fowle to the board of Directors.

Brian was re-appointed, by consent of the board to Represent ERCC on the Parks and Rec Board of Supervisors. Mike will follow up with a letter to the Mayors office.

Old Business

- ERCC Web Site is running as a part of the Federation of Community Councils web site. Hannah will work at getting an independent site linked to the Federation site. Thanks to Hannah for the Site and Mail list development.
- Mike noted that we continue to seek new members.

- Mike provided Consortium notes, saying that the group works well together, and is having trouble with specific issues, such as the Wildlife Corridors that prevent development within a zone 200ft on either side of effected streams.
- As there was no quorum for the last meeting, the minutes will be recorded as meeting notes.
- Bobbie provided a Treasurer's Report, noting that most of the money collected by Wells Fargo as account charges was to be refunded. An additional monthly fee was to continue. Brian Moved, Mike seconded that we close the Wells Fargo Account and Open a Savings Account with Matanuska Valley Federal Credit Union. The motion passed, and Bobbie will follow up after getting final returns from Wells Fargo.
- FCC report. Mandy noted that the FCC meeting (2hours) featured information from The Parks Foundation and APD (CAP team), who asked folks who see evidence of drugs and gambling to report them.
- Rotary Club Announcement: I-Did-A-Duck tickets are now on sale, and the club is looking for a new community-partnering Project.

Adjournment

Next meeting: September 10th