

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 16, 2009

President Bill Holland opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Introductions were made.

President's Report: Bill was absent in May, so no report. Bill expressed his thanks to participants and elected board members, new & returning.

Approval of minutes: Minutes from May 6, 2009 membership meeting were distributed. Sarah Wright moved approval of minutes, Doug Maxwell second. Unanimously approved. Bill reminded everyone that you can find past minutes & agendas by going to www.communitycouncils.org then choose Eagle River Valley Community Council.

Treasurer's Report: submitted by Sarah Wright.

Heritage Estates Well Compensation account balance = \$3,318.80

Business account = \$287.06

Once again, we were reminded of the cost of mailing out over 700 meeting reminders each month. Currently the Federation of Community Councils (FCC) provides the mailing service at no charge to ERVCC, however budgets are being cut everywhere, so this funding source may not exist next year. Bill observed that community councils may charge dues as a source of revenue, ERVCC does not at this time, but may want to consider that option in the future.

INVITED GUESTS, SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Eagle River Road Right of Way Acquisition and Project Update: Jim Amundsen, State of Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) Project Manager

Mr. Amundsen reported that the problems with park lands have been resolved. On Sept. 1 funds were requested for right-of-way (ROW) acquisition. The monies are expected to be released Oct. 1. It takes an estimated 18 months to 'get through' the ROW process, then Mr. Amundsen expects it to take 3 months for the final design phase and after that construction bids will be requested. Mr. Peter Crews from URS (a design consultant firm) reported that the road will be widened to provide four foot shoulders, the curves straightened, 'humps' leveled and additional guard rails installed. Staged construction techniques will be used so that when 85-90% of the design is completed (anticipated within the next 12-14 months), the public will be invited to provide public input on such items as mailbox locations, driveway culverts, etc.

Current timelines: fall 2011 advertise for ROW clearing contractors
summer 2012 the bulk of construction will occur

Residents were reminded that no more than two miles of construction will occur at any given time. For more information on this project go to DOT on the State of Alaska's website and search Eagle River Road.

Anchorage Fire Department: Senior Captain Jeff Bayles at Station 11 reminded us to make sure we have a disaster kit for our home/work/vehicle set up and fully stocked. It is time to change batteries in CO2 & smoke detectors, clean the chimney and service your heating system (if it hasn't been done in the last five years). Capt. Bayles discussed the impact of budget cuts upon ISO ratings since the presence of a ladder truck decreases fire insurance risk rates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Federation of Community Councils: Tom Freeman was absent attending an FCC meeting. We were reminded that Anchorage will host the 2010 Northwest Community Councils Regional Conference, more information next month.

Education: Linda Kelly absent. ASD Board member Crystal Kennedy reported that the district received almost 500 more students than anticipated, so more teachers will need to be hired. Ms. Kennedy also encouraged everyone to read the Alaska Star to get the latest information about the failure of the roof membrane at the new Eagle River High School.

Emergency Preparedness: Lisa Andersen reported that Anchorage Police Department (APD) did not respond to a request for information. Apart from the information provided by Capt. Bayles w/AFD, Ms. Andersen reminded residents that they could experience possible shortages of natural gas this winter, so prepare safe auxiliary heat sources (wood, propane, electric, geothermal, etc.).

Parks & Recreation: Sarah Wright reported that the Beach Lake Master Plan will be available for review at the October 14 ERVCC meeting. The last major project for our local parks board to complete was the addition of a soft sided indoor multiuse rink at the McDonald Center, however problems with insuring the structure have now changed the addition to an outdoor rink. The two new loops and trail extension near Eagle River High School are complete and ready for grooming come snowfall. The skateboard park with ramps and other structures has been successfully relocated to a parking lot on Business Blvd, the skaters are providing their own trash clean-up and so far all seems fine. The fee for open swim and use of swimming lanes by clubs has increased, Chugiak pool is not slated for closure due to budget cuts. Sarah about the mil rate CER Parks & Rec collects...do we wish to continue to be taxed at the maximum mil levy of ½ mil (\$50 per \$100,000 assessed valuation)? Originally we collected at the highest possible rate to build/complete projects, but now that all projects are nearly complete do we still need to tax ourselves at this level? After a lively discussion **Pete Panarese moved that ERVCC support the reduction to ¼ mil taxation for CER Parks & Rec capitol budget (operating budget would remain at the ½ mil rate), Scott Bailey second. 17 in favor, 2 opposed, motion passes.**

Road Board: Bill Holland reported that the Road Board has not met all summer, next meeting the end of September. Bill reminded us that the Eagle River Lane upgrade is no longer on our CIP list.

Zoning & Platting: Austin Zimiga absent, no report.

Chugiak/Eagle River Consortium: Bill Mendenhall reported that the rewrite of Title 21 of Anchorage Municipal Code is 70% complete at this time.

Sarah Wright moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm, Patsy Gunn seconded. Unanimously approved, meeting formally adjourned. Minutes submitted by Therese Voehl.