

Basher Community Council Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2010
Baxter Elementary School, 7:00 pm

Meeting called to order by President Dirk Sisson at 7:06 pm

Motion to approve the minutes of October 8, 2009. Made by _____seconded by _____.
After minor edits, the minutes passed unanimously.

Guests: Heather Ireland (Sheila Selkregg's office), Jen Adrina (Mike Guitierrez' office), Phil Shephard (Great Land Trust), Paul Honeman (assembly candidate), Monica Alvarez (CSP master plan coordinator), and Tom Harrison (CSP Superintendent). By teleconference: Representative Mike Hawker, Trevor _____ (Senator Con Bunde's office).

Heather Ireland gave assembly report for Sheila Selkregg:

- Feb 9, 2010 there will be a meeting at the Begich Middle School regarding the East Side District Plan, which is funded this year. (This area includes Basher.) Muni reps from planning will be there. District plans are a subset of Anchorage 2020. The Hillside District Plan is coming to completion, and much of the information contained in the plan could be applied to the Stuckagain neighborhood as Hillside and Stuckagain have much in common.
- H2H proposals are under review, the east side by-pass may be dropped as one of the options—stay tuned.

Mike Hawker called in to give a Legislative report:

- The big picture: FY09 \$100 million surplus, FY10 \$____billion surplus. This will allow state to forward-fund education through FY12 and pay off final obligation to financial budget reserve.
- FY10 budget balanced at \$64/barrel; FY11 will require \$74/barrel to balance. Concern is that with declining production, higher prices are required to balance the state budget.
- Legislature anticipates many demands on surplus: bargaining units would like to put surplus in wages, and there will be a large number of requests for capital projects.

Comments on Legislative Report from community members:

Dirk Sisson mentioned that the CC was preparing to vote on a resolution requesting funding for road improvements to the section of Campbell Airstrip Road between mile .3 and mile .7. Mike Hawker replied that there is \$250,000 in the budget for the design phase of for this project.

Barb Hood asked about state funding for the transfer of the 149-acre parcel purchased by the Conservation Fund to Chugach State Park. Mike Hawker replied that the Governor did not include it in his budget and the Legislature did not plan to include it until there was broader community support for the State Park plans for the parcel.

Jennifer Adrina gave assembly report for Mike Gutierrez:

- Mike has advanced a proposal to require ID checks at liquor for all customers.

Monica Alvarez (CSP master plan coordinator) and Tom Harrison (CSP Superintendent) were on hand to answer questions about the recently released Draft CSP Access Plan. Dirk made copies of the portion of the plan that pertain to the Stuckagain area.

Monica Alvarez did not go over the details of the plan, but encouraged people to review the information and submit comments by May 3, 2010. Tom Harrison explained that this document was the 2nd of three that will be rolled out: the first was the Draft Trail Plan, this one is the Draft Access Plan, and the third will be the Management Plan that will incorporate the first two. Each one will have a separate comment period. The Draft Access Plan represents an update to the 2002 Access Inventory.

Questions on Draft Access Plan from community members:

Q: how do remarks get considered?

A: (Monica Alvarez) we consider common themes and prepare an issue response summary. We are still working on the trail plan comments (270 comments were received).

Q: how do you weigh a community council resolution? And do you weigh the neighborhood concerns over those of the community of Anchorage as a whole?

A: (Monica Alvarez) The process is the same for CC and individual comments. All issues are important.

Q: how did you come up with the recommendations in the plan?

A: (Monica Alvarez) public comments from scoping meetings, agency input.

Q: Does CSP have a bias towards certain access points?

A: (Tom Harrison) the goal is to manage based on the statute that established the park.

Q: There are 4 rangers for the entire park, and they do not work evenings, is this a consideration when proposing new parking lots, given the problems currently associated with many park trailheads?

A: (Tom Harrison) That is a management question.

Q: Does the park assume any liability for adverse effects of trailhead development?

A: (Tom Harrison) That is a management question.

Q: the plan is difficult to read, are you planning on presenting it?

A: (Monica Alvarez) not planning on presenting specifics, it is pretty dense, but please take time to go over it individually.

Q: Access and Management are separate and distinct?

A: (Tom Harrison) related, but treated separately in this phase of planning process.

Q: Is the Management Plan the place to get our community concerns considered?

A: (Monica Alvarez) We have a way in which we are required to evaluate comments (described above).

Q: If you polled the residents of Canyon Rd/Rabbit Lake Valley, would they say that they have had a good experience with CSP?

A: (Tom Harrison) You can find NIMBYs everywhere...[editor's note: I did not follow his answer, he commented about how no one wants a Glen Alps trailhead in their back yard, but we need to get to the point where the public does want a Glen Alps in their back yard]

Q: Have the concerns of the MOA been incorporated? And who at MOA is involved?

A: (Monica Alvarez) MOA concerns have already been incorporated in the draft plan and Tyler Robinson is the MOA contact person. The assembly will have to approve the final plan.

Q: The 5 access points plus new trails will create lots of traffic.

A: (Monica Alvarez) the access points are from the 2002 access inventory. Each point does not necessarily have dedicated trails.

Q: How does trail and access development happen?

A: (Monica Alvarez) Development starts with a request for funding. For new facilities, CSP goes through a site planning process after funding for development is acquired. During this process CSP would work with the immediate neighbors.

A: (Tom Harrison) for example, the South Fork Eagle River trailhead was too small, users were parking up and down the road and on private property. Additionally, there were no restrooms, and residents complained that the parking lot was unsightly. CSP worked with the neighbors in planning the expansion, added restrooms, and built berms to help conceal the parking lot from view.

Q: How will you address the increased traffic to the neighborhood? Need to make the roads safe. Responsible thing to do is address traffic and access together.

A: (Tom Harrison) we can't get into the roads issue.

A: (Monica Alvarez) roads are not our responsibility. We have no control over the traffic that may be generated by access and trail development. Submit your comments.

Q: The Park does not project use levels?

A: (Tom Harrison) we are not traffic engineers.

Q: Improving and expanding the trailhead labeled H6 (Basher Trailhead at the top of the big hill just before the residential area) is a good idea. What is the timeframe for this?

A: (Monica Alvarez) we agree—our intent is to improve that access point in order to direct park users to that trailhead and away from the residential area. The improvements will require funding.

Q: How do you decide where to put access points?

A: (Monica Alvarez) 2002 access inventory, scoping comments, agency input. The draft plan takes into consideration environmental constraints such as wetlands and avalanche slopes.

Q: The access plan notes wetland concerns in the comments for the Basher Trailhead, but does not mention wetlands and avalanche slopes at the proposed trailhead at H3. MOA has mapped wetlands and avalanche slopes at the upper trailhead.

A: (Monica Alvarez) we used the wetlands map from MOA, submit your wetland concerns in comments.

Dirk asked for volunteers for the committee to review the CSP Draft Access Plan. The following people volunteered: Barb Hood, Anne Gabler, Rick Kullberg, John Mitchell, Dave Keddington, Bruce Talbot, Matt Moore. The first committee meeting will be on February 25, 2010 at Dirk's house. The goal is to produce a resolution on the Draft Access Plan to be presented at a special meeting (April 8 or 15).

Paul Honeman is running for the assembly seat currently occupied by Sheila Selkregg (who will not be seeking reelection). Paul has a 23-year career in public safety.

Resolution regarding the funding of road repairs for the section of Campbell Airstrip road between mile .3 and mile .7 was presented to the floor:

Bruce Talbot commented that the Far North Bicentennial Park Plan also supports this proposed road improvement and it is a legislative priority.

Motion to accept resolution: Teri ____

Second: Kris Mann

Call to question ended discussion on the resolution. Resolution passed unopposed (~30 members present)

LRSA update Eric Johnson: mil rate stays the same at 1.25. Harry Haywood: reminding residents to refrain from pushing driveway snow into the road. Elle Neubauer commented that the Big Hill is often not sanded in the morning. The LRSA reply is that this is probably just a matter of resources—they are supposed to get out within four hours (follow up with Bob or Harry).

Paul Honeman offered to give a brief update on public safety issues. A major factor in neighborhood safety is the Crime Watch Program. It works! Family emergency plans are also important. Security for state lands and trailheads is an ongoing issue—who picks up the tab? The APD is not responsible for patrolling trailheads, state park lands, or managing animal problems. The main factors in improving security are 1) visibility, 2) lighting, and 3) location. There are several volunteer groups that assist with safety including: Search and Rescue, AMRG, and Community Patrols.

The CSP Management Plan will need to be approved by the Assembly. If community members have concerns about the Draft Access Plan, they should inform the Anchorage Assembly members.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Boucher
Secretary, BCC