

Basher Community Council Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2010

Baxter Elementary School, 7:00 pm

Meeting was called to order by President Dirk Sisson at 7:07 pm

Guests: Mike Gutierrez and Paul Honeman, Anchorage Assembly, Jim Dennis Anchorage Fire Department, Station 14

Attendance: 21 signed in

May 6, 2010 minutes were approved with no amendments.

Assembly report:

It is budget season and assembly members are encouraging citizen input.

Update on Fort Rich Live Fire: Paul Honeman and Mike Gutierrez sponsored legislation to keep soldiers here instead of sending to Fairbanks, but with no new firing range. They are keeping an eye on the situation. The Scenic Foothills Community Council is also very concerned.

Kris Mann asked about the status of the Live Fire Proposal. Mike Gutierrez replied that the Army's preferred option is the same one supported by the Assembly—the Eagle River Flats alternative.

Dirk Sisson asked about the East Side District planning process. Mike Gutierrez replied that money had been available at one point, but it has since been cut. The east side community councils (NE, Scenic Foothills, Russian Jack, and Campbell Park) are setting up a citizen's advisory council in order to move planning forward in the absence of funding and municipal support. This will allow communities to get priorities in place in advance of the formal process—it will be more of a ground-up instead of a top-down process. When the municipality does eventually get funding, they can facilitate meetings, lend staff, and set agenda. Dirk noted that the first East Side planning meeting will be held on Oct 16, 2010 at Begich Middle School. The advisory council will consist of 2 members from each community council. Basher CC should be represented. Many of the planning elements that concern Basher CC have been outlined in the Hillside District Plan, which was recently adopted by the assembly.

Dirk asked for an update on Highway 2 Highway: Mike Gutierrez said that there are no updates and the east-side alternatives are non-starters. The preferred alternative appears to be through the Fairview area.

Legislative Report:

Due to health issues Representative Mike Hawker was not able to give an update. The Senate seat held by Conn Bunde is up for grabs, candidates provided fliers.

Anchorage Fire Department:

Jim Dennis, Station 14 (at the bottom of the hill) asked about a point of contact for the water tank on Shivalik Circle (it is Joe Henri's). This is the only winter water supply for fire suppression as the natural sources are iced-over and the fire department does not have a method for auguring to access pond or

stream water at the other fill sites. The fire department is concerned about the port size on the tank, and they are also concerned about the potential to damage the well if they draw it down too much.

The fire department is concerned about lack of visible signage for home addresses and stresses the importance of having an address that is visible from the street. This will reduce response time in an emergency.

Christie Prairie Chicken asked about how the Mayor's budget will affect the fire department. Jim Dennis replied that Station 10 will close and Station 14 will lose 2 people.

Campbell Airstrip Road Upgrade:

John Smith, Project Manager, Municipality of Anchorage, gave the following update: \$250,000 allocated for project design. Muni will have a 30-day advertising period in which proposals will be accepted. Oct 15 is closing for the Request for Proposals. The initial work will involve establishing usage through traffic counts; there will also be public meetings, scoping, stakeholders meetings (i.e. botanical garden). Once an engineering firm is selected, a public meeting will be held. There will be no field work until 2011. After the design phase, the next stage will involve acquiring funding, which will likely be sought through state or municipal bonding. The road is currently classified as a "country lane". It would have to be reclassified as a "collector" or something more significant in order to bond for the funds.

The \$250K will probably not be enough to do a complete Concept Report, which would encompass traffic, safety, survey, and geotechnical concerns. The engineering firm will initially produce a Design Study Report. The complete Concept Report would probably cost several hundred thousand dollars over the initial \$250K.

Dirk Sisson asked if this project is a priority on AMATS: Jim Smith said that it is not a priority. The only way for this road project to leap-frog is with a specific, state-funded project. The road classification would need to be upgraded for the project to be in line for bond funding, and there are pros and cons of changing the designation from "country lane" to "collector". The classification will be evaluated through traffic counts.

LRSA update:

Ted Trueblood stated that the mil levy is 1.25%. The LRSA has been successful in staying under the limit of 1.5 % and that is a credit to Bob, Harry, and a great contractor. For this season, work will involve dust control, brush cutting, drainage and surface upgrades between Far Point and Near Point, and improvements to Midden and Atelier (about \$50K). The location of improvements is decided by the 5-person board. Email the LRSA if you have suggestions. There is still a balance of 140K, so the LRSA is in good shape for snow removal.

Rick Kullberg asked if one could opt out of oiling in the summer if the neighbors are in agreement. Ted said this is possible, but that oiling mitigates dust and makes the grading last longer, but the money is provided by the community and the board is elected, so community members do have input. Ted said that the LRSA is limited in the timing of application and type of product they can use—it has to be environmentally degradable, and they have to hit the weather just right to be effective.

Ted said that the municipality is working on improving the safety of the South Bivouac trailhead. They cleared the uphill line of sight but have not worked on the downhill side. The problem is that the drive is steep and people cannot pull out when it is slippery.

Election:

Treasurer: Bruce Talbot's term is up (Bruce was elected to finish out Dirk Sisson's term when Dirk resigned to serve as President). Dirk asked for nominations and Ted Trueblood nominated Bruce Talbot, seconded by Kris Mann. No other nominations were received and Bruce was elected to a two-year term with a voice vote.

Member at Large: Mary Norman's term is up. Kris Mann nominated Mary Norman, Barb Hood seconded. No other nominations were received and Mary was elected to a two-year term with a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Boucher
Secretary BCC