



Community Council:
At the root of Better Government



Bear Valley Community Council (BVCC)
Meeting Notes
BVCC Meeting – April 13, 2011
Compiled by Jackie Morrissey – Acting Secretary

The council meeting was held in the Art room of Bear Valley Elementary School, 15001 Mountain Air Drive, and began at 7:00 pm. Fifteen members, including two officers, attended indicating a quorum of members present.

BVCC Acting Secretary Jackie Morrissey opened the meeting and introduced the first speaker, Jeff Lowenfels, writer of the world's longest-running gardening column (36 years).

Chemical-Free Lawn Care - Jeff Lowenfels

Every Bear Valley resident with running water gets that water from a well. There is absolutely no need to use pesticides, herbicides or chemical fertilizers that will get into the well water. Just because the Environmental Protection Agency says a product is legal to use does not make it safe to use. Well water should be tested each spring and fall.

In Alaska, we use high phosphorous and high nitrogen fertilizers on our lawns, and home gardeners use three times the amount of fertilizers used in agriculture. Nitrogen compounds (nitrates) are demonstrably unsafe for kids in particular. Nitrates get into well water and cause brain damage and possibly Attention Deficit Disorders. A study at the University of California, Berkeley, showed that children who live in homes where pesticides and fertilizers are applied are 6.5 times more likely to get leukemia. Superintendents of golf courses have incredibly high rates of prostate cancer.

The natural system of bugs, microorganisms, bacteria, fungus, worms, etc., has produced redwood trees hundreds of feet tall and hundreds of years old without chemical fertilizers. The natural system is enough to grow grass. Here's how:

If you simply water your lawn it will green up. If at the end of June your lawn needs work, apply a combination of soy bean meal and granulated molasses, available in 50 pound bags at Alaska Mill and Feed. Leave the grass clippings when you mow. Mow the leaves into the lawn in the fall instead of raking and bagging. That's it.

To fight dandelions, dig them, use steam, flamers (with extreme caution), or organic sprays, or bag the clippings if dandelions are especially prolific. Ducks, tortoises, iguanas and canaries like to eat dandelions. There is nothing you can do about moss.



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For more information go to www.safelawns.org, or read [Teaming With Microbes: The Organic Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web.](#)

Storck Park Revitalization Project Update– Laurie Holland

Someone is needed to manage the grant to fund upgrades (replacing bollards with landscaping boulders) to Storck Park or the grant will be turned back at this time. The grant amount is \$12,500 plus matching funds/labor, and the project must be completed this summer. Contact Laurie Holland at 644-8807 or bvcc.vicechair@yahoo.com in the next couple of weeks if you're interested.

Neighborhoods, USA, 2011 Conference Update – Laurie Holland

The Federation of Community Councils (FCC) is hosting the Neighborhoods, USA, 2011 Conference in Anchorage from May 25th -28th to bring together neighborhood leaders, organizers and dedicated volunteers from across the U.S. to discuss common concerns, share experiences and develop ideas and suggestions to build stronger neighborhoods and communities. Due to the current economic situation, attendance from other states is lower than expected, so some neighborhood tours have been cancelled and/or combined. The Bear Valley portion of the Hillside tour has been cancelled. Local residents are encouraged to attend the reception, talks, workshops, tours, and meals. The cost to attend the entire conference is \$200, and \$50 scholarships are available. Register online at www.nusa2011.org. Volunteers are also needed.

BVCC Officer Position Vacancies – Cheri Lipps

Volunteers are needed to fill the BVCC Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary positions. To be eligible, a member must have attended two of the past six meetings. The term is one year. Volunteers willing to take on any aspect of any position are also welcome.

Updates

Airport Runway Closures – Cheri Lipps

Runway closures at the Ted Stevens International Airport are scheduled through October 1st to enable maintenance and improvements. Runway closures may result in greater frequency of flights over the community. The normal flight path restriction (south of Potter Marsh) between 10pm and 7am remains unchanged.



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Municipality of Anchorage Community Development Survey – Cheri Lipps

Members were asked about traffic, disaster preparedness, community organizations, transportation, and e-alerts for new zoning and platting cases in this area (go to muni.org to sign up for e alerts).

Hillside Area Land Owners (HALO) Association Update – Scott Pexton, Member-at-Large

Section 36 and the Mountain Air Drive extension will be discussed at the next Planning and Zoning meeting on May 2, 2011.

HALO voted to support development of an 80-(large) lot subdivision in the Potter Creek area that will connect to the south end of Goldenvue. The initial phase will be 34 three to seven acre lots.

The Hillside District Plan (HDP) is available online. HALO is working on implementing programs outlined in the HDP. The first of these projects is a Well Protection Plan. HALO voted to fund (\$5,000 for the first year or two) the initial mapping of the concentration of nitrates in Hillside well water.

Open Forum

David Lipps, Rabbit Creek View/Heights LRSA Chair, will schedule a meeting for the board to discuss and plan projects as requested.

Community information can be found online by going to www.communitycouncils.org, and clicking on the BVCC link.

The Annual BVCC Community Clean-Up is scheduled for June 4th. The entire community is invited to help clean up, then attend a potluck barbeque at noon at Cheri and David Lipps' home.

If anyone is interested in helping coordinate and/or staff a community-wide yard sale (proceeds to go to charity) the weekend of June 4th, contact Cheri Lipps at bvcc@alaska.net or 345-1378.

David Lipps moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28pm. Claire Steffens seconded.

The next Bear Valley Community Council meeting is scheduled for **May 11, 2010, at 7:00pm** in the Art Room at Bear Valley Elementary School. Please forward any meeting topic ideas to Cheri Lipps.

Please also consider renewing your membership with a donation of \$5 or more. All donations 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 and selecting Bear Valley.