

TO: Federation of Community Councils

THRU: David Baldwin
President

FROM: Linda R. Kovac
Acting Secretary

SUBJECT: Chugiak Community Council – Approved Minutes for Nov. 18, 2010 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Roll Call

Present: David Baldwin, President
Gale Armstrong, Vice President
Karla Beller
Linda Kovac
Meredith Mears

Excused: Erin Dovichin, Secretary-Treasurer
Randy McCain

Unexcused: Tom Devine

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the 10/21/10 meeting with amendments (1 M. Mears, 2 Armstrong). Motion passed unanimously.

Copies of Chugiak Community Council's meeting minutes and bylaws are available on the FCC's website at www.communitycouncils.org (Click on Chugiak).

REPORTS

CBERRRSA Road Board – L. Kovac (688-5356), C. Hudson/Alternate (696-1037). Kovac reported:

- Come spring, all Eagle River Street Maintenance (ERSM) personnel will be relatively new to the job: new General Foreman is Mark Littlefield; new office staffers include Amanda Beaujean and Heather Reed; new road maintenance contractors are the McKenna Bros.; and long-time Road Supervisor Tom Hylton will retire this spring. ERSM is trying to get authorization for an early replacement for Hylton so Hylton can train his replacement.
- So far, the McKenna Bros. have been doing adequate road maintenance. Their real test will come with the first big snow.
- ERSM is planning to re-configure both material storage sites (Hiland and Chugiak) to satisfy new NPDES requirements. Improvements will include erecting sand storage buildings and upgrading existing electrical systems.
- ERSM is planning to begin inspections of storm drains this spring using CCTV.
- The state inspection report of the Old Glenn Hwy Eklutna Bridge is due in January.

The President added that to report a pothole, call 343-MEND.

Eagle River-Chugiak Parks & Recreation Board – G. Armstrong (696-3543), R. McCain/Alternate (229-6009).

Armstrong reported that there wasn't a quorum at the last Parks & Rec meeting so no business was conducted.

John Rodda, Director of MOA Parks and Recreation, reported:

- The McDonald Center expansion is scheduled to be completed in Fall of 2011. At a budget of \$7.1M, the 30,000 sqft expansion will include: a new indoor, multi-use, artificial turf track and field; relocation of the maintenance shop from Fire Station 35; expansion of the community room; increased storage; additional parking; and leasable space.
- Parks & Rec is responding to the MOA budget shortfall by not filling vacant positions and reallocating funds.
- Old computer systems are being incrementally upgraded.
- The Eagle River Chamber of Commerce has moved into the Eagle River Town Center.
- Responding to criticism about disrepair of Beach Lake Park ski trail lighting, Rodda stated he would verify that photocells are working properly. He added that the Nordic Ski Club provides him with an annual ski trail report that identifies any items that need to be fixed.
- There are plans to conduct an areawide park lighting assessment.
- Responding to criticism about park complaints made to the MOA going unheard, Rodda suggested calling him directly at 343-1500.

Federation of Community Councils (FCC) – D. Baldwin (688-0123), R. McCain/Alternate (229-6009) – No report.

- Community Councils Center is located at 1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100; Phone 277-1977; Email info@communitycouncils.org; Web www.communitycouncils.org.

Chugiak Community Council Treasury – E. Dovichin (688-2551).

- The President stated that Dovichin reported there was \$3,295 in the savings account.
- \$13 was donated to the Council at the 11/18/10 meeting.

Old Glenn Project Citizen Committee (ADOT&PF Project No. 52515)

- For Phase I issues (ER to South Birchwood), contact Mike Morris/ADOT Construction Project Engineer (748-2923 cell, 622-4111 office, mike.morris1@alaska.gov). For Phase II issues South Birchwood to Ski Rd), contact Jim Amundsen/ADOT Design Project Manager (269-0595, jim.amundsen@alaska.gov).
- For more information on the Old Glenn project, go to www.oldglennhighway.com.
- Go to www.alaskanavigator.com for travel information on Alaskan road construction projects including description, lane restrictions, road closures, etc.
- See New Business for Pedestrian Pathway between North Birchwood Loop and Chapel Drive.

Consortium of Chugiak-Eagle River Community Councils – R. McCain (229-6009), M. Mears/Alternate (622-4077) – No report.

MOA Assembly & Alaska State Legislature Report

MOA Assmblymember Debbie Ossiander reported:

- The MOA budget has significant challenges and citizens groups are in the process of making recommendations on budget cuts, service reductions, operational efficiencies, and new sources of revenue. There is an effort to reduce the tax burden on property owners and increase it on users. Fees and fines could be increased in many instances. Discussions include increasing the tobacco tax, implementing a sales tax, and implementing an annual business and residential alarm fee.
- Another update to the Long Range Transportation Plan is scheduled for next year.

- A draft of Chapter 10 (C-ER land use regulations) of the T21 Update is almost ready for public review. Planning and Zoning will begin their review of Chapter 10 in December. As far as the rest of the T21 Update, Dan Coffey was hired as a consultant by the MOA to re-write portions of draft Chapters 1-3.
- Kovac reported that a local resident was complaining that some gravel used by parking lot owners to maintain their lots is too big in diameter. This large gravel can eventually get transferred to the roads where it can cause significant damage to vehicles. Ossiander responded that there are discussions underway to implement new gravel standards for such privately owned parking lots. Gravel standards already exist for municipal and state roadways.
- Ossiander suggested making the "Assembly Report" a standard Council agenda item. The President agreed.

Alaska State Representative Dan Saddler (House District 18) reported:

- The State House is organizing for the up-coming legislative session. Saddler will be on the following committees: Armed Services Co-Chair; Military & Veterans' Affairs Co-Chair; Community & Regional Affairs; Energy; and Labor & Commerce.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

NEW BUSINESS

Old Glenn Hwy Upgrade: Pedestrian Pathway Between North Birchwood Loop and Chapel Drive

Resident Mike Miller described a severe safety hazard created by the Old Glenn Highway Upgrade Project that recently reconfigured the pathway on the Old Glenn Highway between North Birchwood Loop and Chapel Drive. Many residents were in attendance specifically to address this issue and they voiced the following concerns:

Before the highway upgrade, a safe pathway existed at this location. The delineation of the former pathway was obvious since the pathway had been separated from the driving lanes by a wide, vegetated drainage ditch. The pathway had been heavily utilized by pedestrians due to its proximity to Chugiak Elementary School, Chugiak Senior Center, Chugiak Post Office, both Peters Creek and Loretta French Parks, and bus stops.

Following the road upgrade work that occurred over the summer, this pathway was changed into a line-designated area existing on the same grade as the driving lanes and with no separation from the lanes. Now, with snow covering the designation lines, drivers do not know this area is a dedicated walking pathway as it has the appearance of a wide shoulder. The ditch that once provided snow storage was eliminated so, now, highway snow plowing by the State moves snow into the pathway area resulting in a reduced pathway width. Pedestrians no longer use the pathway as it has become too dangerous. Also, horse riders no longer ride on the pathway since horses could get spooked from the close proximity to fast-moving traffic.

Jim Amundsen/ADOT Old Glenn Design Project Manager responded that ADOT designed and built the pathway as a non-separated area due to severely limited ROW. ADOT did not want to purchase additional ROW from private landowners given the project's tight budget. Also, the drainage of the road was improved with ADOT's design. Another reason for the design was because the State gives a very low priority to maintaining pathways. If the pathway is level with the driving lanes' grade then state plows can easily plow the pathway while plowing the driving lanes. Keeping the pathway cleared in winter was a design criteria.

Assmbllymember Debbie Ossiander stated that this is a safety issue that needs to be fixed. Ossiander added that school personnel reported there were concerns that the pathway is not a safe walking route although they could not quantify the number of complaints.

John Rodda, Director of MOA Parks and Recreation, stated that a solution is needed as soon as possible before there is an incident. Rodda reported that, even though Old Glenn Highway maintenance is the State's responsibility, MOA ER-C Parks & Rec routinely plowed the old pathway as it was designated as a hazardous walking route. Rodda added that the MOA would allow the State's pathway to extend onto MOA Parks' property in this instance.

There was a discussion of options on how to resolve the safety issue including erecting physical barriers, re-installing the ditch, utilizing gabion baskets to widen usable ROW, utilizing rumble strips, purchasing additional ROW, and relocating the pathway to the westside of the highway. There was general agreement that remediation work should be done next spring to re-do the eastside pathway by installing a six to eight inch high curb followed by repaving.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to AMATS that the recently reconfigured eastside pathway on the Old Glenn Highway between North Birchwood Loop and Chapel Drive (excluding Peters Creek Park) be made safe for pedestrians by re-building it to an elevated curb and asphalt-paved pathway, preferably with a wide separation from the shoulder (1 Kovac, 2 Armstrong). Motion passed unanimously.

December Meeting Cancellation

A motion was made and seconded to cancel the Chugiak Community Council's regularly scheduled meeting for December due to the holiday season (1 Kovac, 2 M. Mears). Motion passed unanimously.

Notice of January Elections

The President informed the membership that the Chugiak Community Council Board has a total of eight seats plus two alternate seats. The Council will conduct elections at the 01/20/11 meeting for the following seats whose terms are expiring:

<u>Seat #</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Current Board Member</u>
1	West Peters Creek	Randy McCain
3	East Mirror Lake	Linda Kovac
5	Eklutna/Thunderbird	Karla Beller
7	At Large	Dave Baldwin

Anyone 18+ years who resides in or owns property in Chugiak is eligible to run. If there is no community volunteer for a district, then any eligible person may fill the seat "at large". Terms are two years. Duties include attending our monthly meetings.

Once the Board seats have been filled, the Council will elect officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) who have additional duties as described in the bylaws. Also, the Council will elect a primary delegate and alternate to the Federation of Community Councils (FCC). Terms for all of these positions run for one year.

If interested in serving, contact the President (688-0123, dbaldwin@chugiakcouncil.org) and attend in January.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

OPEN FORUM

There were no items reported.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.

NEXT MEETING

There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting will be Thursday, January 20, 2011, 7:00 pm at the Chugiak Benefit Association.

BOARD INFORMATION

Term Expires	Name	Phone	Email	District	Seat
01/11	Dave Baldwin, President	688-0123	dbaldwin@chugiakcouncil.org	At Large	7
01/12	Gale Armstrong, Vice President	696-3543	armstron@mtaonline.net	Chugiak/ Fire Lake	6
01/12	Erin Dovichin, Secretary- Treasurer	688-2551	edovichin@chugiakcouncil.org	East Peters Creek	2
01/11	Karla Beller	688-8061	bellers@ak.net	At Large - Eklutna/ Thunderbird	5
01/12	Tom Devine	688-0618	akdevine@mtaonline.com	At Large - West Mirror Lake	4
01/11	Linda Kovac	688-5358	lkovac@chugiakcouncil.org	At Large - East Mirror Lake	3
01/11	Randy McCain	229-6009	mccain@mtaonline.net	West Peters Creek	1
01/12	Meredith Mears	622-4077	meredithmrs@aol.com	At Large	8
01/12	Bill Mears, Alternate	622-4077	meredithmrs@aol.com	At Large	n/a
01/12	Harold Parker, Alternate	696-2684	dippercreek@hotmail.com	At Large	n/a

The Chugiak Community Council serves Fire Lake, Chugiak, Peters Creek, Mirror Lake, Thunderbird Heights, and Eklutna. We meet at 7pm on the third Thursday of the month at the Chugiak Benefit Association's south building (18530 Old Glenn Hwy).

Matanuska Telephone Association is donating the use of email accounts to Chugiak Community Council officers.