

TO: Federation of Community Councils

THRU: David Baldwin
President

FROM: Linda R. Kovac
Acting Secretary

SUBJECT: Chugiak Community Council – Approved Minutes for Jan. 20, 2011 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Due to a lack of a quorum, the President called a Committee of the Whole to order at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call

Present: David Baldwin, President
Gale Armstrong, Vice President
Linda Kovac
Randy McCain
Meredith Mears

Excused: Erin Dovichin, Secretary-Treasurer
Karla Beller

Unexcused: Tom Devine

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the 11/18/10 meeting (1 Armstrong, 2 M. Mears). Motion passed unanimously by the Committee of the Whole.

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:

- **Eagle River Lane Extension** – The Eagle River Lane Extension was built as temporary emergency access for a dense subdivision now under construction. It is located in Eagle River Valley between Ptarmigan Blvd and Highland Ridge Dr on a steep slope.

The history of the road spans more than a decade. Originally, the Platting Board approved the construction of a densely developed residential subdivision with the requirement that the developer build a secondary access into the subdivision. Over the years, the developers were able to delay building this secondary access via appeals to the Platting Board. At the conclusion of the most recent appeal for a delay, the Platting Board required that the developer immediately build a temporary access road for emergency vehicles and to complete the full build-out of the roadway to municipal standards by the end of 2011. The developer did build the emergency extension last summer and signs were posted to limit traffic to emergency access only. The extension is unpaved, has no pedestrian facilities, and was built to a draft standard for a temporary road, that is, a draft standard that has not been accepted by the Municipality. CBERRRSA was tasked with maintaining this temporary emergency access although the Road Board and Eagle River Street Maintenance (ERSM) had not been asked for our opinion on the matter.

Once the extension was built, the public started using it despite the signage. A municipal legal opinion recommended that the extension be opened to the public. The reasoning was that APD could not stop people from traveling the extension because it was impossible to determine if they were in the midst of an emergency. Therefore, Municipal Manager George Vakalis recently opened the Eagle River Lane Extension to the public.

This was a controversial action. Members of the Road Board were extremely upset that local tax dollars are now being spent to maintain this temporary road when they believe it is the developer's duty. It is the Road Board's policy to accept a road for maintenance only if the road complies with the applicable provisions of Municipal Code and has been accepted by the Municipality. Even though the Municipality accepted this extension, it was built to a draft standard. The Road Board is also concerned that the extension might have inadequate drainage and could wash out. It is uncertain who is responsible for repairing specific types of damage or who would be liable for accidents that might arise because of the extension's substandard construction. The Road Board is also worried about how long taxpayers will have to maintain this temporary extension should the developer seek more delays.

Vakalis stated that the Municipality's position is that the developer will be required to build-out the extension to full standards in 2011 as per the Platting Board's requirements. However, the developer stated she intends to get the improvement requirements dropped or obtain more delays. There is also an on-going dispute with an adjacent landowner over ROW that could affect the final build-out. It is hoped that the different sides can work out their differences but the possibility of litigation exists on several fronts.

- **Road Supervisor Position** - Nearly all ERSM personnel are relatively new to the job: General Foreman Mark Littlefield; office staffers; and road maintenance contractors McKenna Bros. Road Supervisor Tom Hylton is the only employee with long-time knowledge but he will retire this spring. ERSM recently obtained authorization for an early replacement for Hylton so he can train his own replacement.

Eagle River-Chugiak Parks & Recreation Board – G. Armstrong (696-3543), R. McCain/Alternate (229-6009). Armstrong 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. There is also a \$1.1M budget to upgrade lighting and control systems to accommodate the expansion. The community had been saving money for this expansion for over 20 years.
- Parks&Rec obtained a five-year agreement with Fire Lake Arena Management, Inc. to continue operating the McDonald Center.

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).

- Reading from the most recent bank statement, the President reported there was \$3,384.72 in the savings account.
- There were no donations to the Council at the 01/20/11 meeting.
- The Treasurer is expected to present a 2010 year-end financial report for the Council when she returns.

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 Old Business for Pedestrian Pathway between North Birchwood Loop and Chapel Drive.

Title 21 Rewrite Committee (Land Use & Zoning Code Rewrite)/

Consortium of Chugiak-Eagle River Community Councils – R. McCain (229-6009), M. Mears/Alternate (622-4077) – R. McCain and Assemblymember Debbie Ossiander reported:

- Former Assemblymember Dan Coffey was contracted by the Municipality to re-work provisionally adopted chapters 1 through 4 of the T21 Rewrite to make them more palatable to business. It was suggested that Coffey would have a “hands-off” approach to C-ER’s Chapter 10.
- The draft version of C-ER’s Chapter 10 is available at <http://www.aswcd.org/>. Assemblymembers Ossiander and Starr will introduce Chapter 10 to Planning & Zoning. They will also be present when the draft is presented to each C-ER community council.
- It is expected that there will be items of disagreement between the drafters of Chapter 10 and the MOA planning groups that will be charged with reviewing it.
- Once Chapter 10 is adopted, the Consortium needs to transition into an on-going advisory body to provide a C-ER community context for future Chapter 10 amendments.

MOA Assembly & Alaska State Legislature Report

MOA Assembly: Assemblymember Debbie Ossiander reported:

- Although several people were complaining about their property tax bill, the market is flat and not in decline. The formula for calculating property tax has not changed. Anyone can appeal his or her property tax bill.
- Property tax exemptions apply to seniors, certain police officers, disabled vets, etc. and there are always more requests. However, whenever a tax exemption is granted to a group of people, other people have to pay more taxes to make up the difference.
- The next Municipal Election is April 5th and there is a proposal to add three school bonds to the ballot. Ossiander wants to reduce their costs. A discussion followed about the Anchorage School District’s budget and how it has ballooned up over the last eight years while enrollment has remained steady. Several members stated they believe that the school budget is out of control.
- Ossiander asked if the ballot should have an advisory vote on whether or not there should be mandatory ID checking at liquor stores to help reduce chronic drunkenness. Although members had differing opinions on the merits of mandatory ID checking, there was unanimous support that the question should show up on the ballot.
- The ACLU has hamstrung the Municipality on how to handle illegal camps on public property. Notices of violation must be posted at the illegal camps with longer deadlines to vacate. The Municipality must also collect and store items found at illegal camps to allow their owners sufficient time to claim them.
- Bruce Bartley and Cliff Gilmore are stepping down from their roles leading the Chugiak Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department. Members voiced their appreciation of their long and dedicated service to the community and for making Chugiak a safer place to live.

Alaska State Legislature: The President read an email from Alaska Representative Dan Saddler (HD#18):

Greetings from Juneau! Though I can't be with you tonight, there's a command appearance of the Legislature at the Governor's residence tonight, I'm grateful for the

brief space on your agenda to give you my first report from the Capitol.

We convened the 27th Alaska Legislature on Tuesday, and I took the oath of office, to defend the constitution, and to serve you and the rest of the people of District 18. It's an honor, and a responsibility I take very seriously. We heard Governor Parnell's State of the State, and are quickly getting down to business of committee and budget work. 90 days goes fast.

I am privileged to serve as co-chair of the Joint Armed Services Committee, and as co-chair of the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs committee. I sought these assignments in order to better serve the active duty, National Guard and Reserve, and the many veterans in our community. I will also serve on three other committees: Community and Regional Affairs; Labor and Commerce; and Energy.

My staff is among the best in the capitol:

- ✓ *Susan Wallen of Eagle River, who worked for Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom, and has graciously agreed to continue serving on my staff;*
- ✓ *Lynne Smith, who has 24 years experience in legislative and executive branch service in Juneau; and*
- ✓ *Paula Spreter, who has served in the Office of Management and Budget, and in the state of Alaska's Washington D.C. office.*

All three are experienced professionals, who'll help me help you.

My office is in Room 409 of the capitol. Please accept my open invitation to come in and visit, get a tour of the Capitol, and if you'd like, be introduced on the floor of the House in session.

If you have any issues or want to share your views on any topic, I will be glad to hear from you. Call 465-3783 or email Representative.dan.saddler@legis.state.ak.us.

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of Linda Kovac

The President announced that Linda Kovac was resigning from the Chugiak Community Council Board but would continue as Chugiak's representative to CBERRRSA. The membership thanked Kovac for her years of service to the community. The President and Assemblymember Debbie Ossiander presented Kovac with a plaque stating, "Linda Kovac, in recognition of your years of faithful and dedicated service on the Chugiak Community Council. You have helped point the way for the future of Chugiak, 2003-2010."

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Tom Devine's Attendance

The President noted that Tom Devine has many unexcused absences and offered to call Devine to see if he is still interested in serving out his term that expires January 2012.

OLD BUSINESS

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

At the last meeting, a unanimous motion passed 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.

Assemblymember Debbie Ossiander stated that Craig Lyon/AMATS (343-7996, lyonch@muni.org) needs a cost estimate for the proposed work. The President offered to contact Jim Amundsen/ADOT Design Project Manager (269-0595, jim.amundsen@alaska.gov) to obtain the cost estimate and it pass along. The President also stated he would contact local landowners to see if they would be willing to cede ROW for the pathway.

Election of Chugiak Community Council Board Members

The President informed the membership that the Council's Board has a total of eight regular seats plus two alternate seats. Four of the regular board seats expire at the end of the January meeting. Anyone 18 years old and who resides or owns property in Chugiak is eligible to run for election to these positions. If there is no community volunteer for a particular district, then any eligible person may volunteer to fill the vacant seat "at large". Terms run for two years. Minimum duties include attending the Council's monthly meetings. The President opened nominations:

Seat #	District	Nominee
1	West Peters Creek	Randy McCain
3	East Mirror Lake	Karla Beller (in absentia)
5	Eklutna/Thunderbird	Benjamin Sherburne
7	At Large	Dave Baldwin

There being no further nominations, a vote was conducted of the Committee of the Whole unanimously electing the individuals to the Chugiak Board until January 2013.

Election of Chugiak Community Council Officers

The Council elects officers every January. The positions include President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. If there is a lack of volunteers, the positions of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined. The duties of each position are described in the Council's Bylaws. The President opened nominations:

Office	Nominee
President	Dave Baldwin
Vice President	Gale Armstrong
Secretary-Treasurer	Erin Dovichin (in absentia)

There being no further nominations, a vote was conducted of the Committee of the Whole unanimously electing the individuals as officers to the Chugiak Board until January 2012.

Election of Delegates to the Federation of Community Councils

The Council elects a primary and alternate delegate to the Federation of Community Councils (FCC) every January. The primary duties of the delegate are to attend the Chugiak Community Council's and the FCC's monthly meetings to maintain an on-going dialogue between the two. The President opened nominations:

Position	Nominee
Delegate	Dave Baldwin
Alternate	Randy McCain (in absentia, McCain had to leave early)

There being no further nominations, a vote was conducted of the Committee of the Whole unanimously electing the individuals as delegates to the FCC until January 2012.

OPEN FORUM

Amy Demboski

Amy Demboski, a local resident and a new face to the Council, introduced herself and described her background and great interest in public service. She stated she would be interested in serving on various municipal or state boards or on the Chugiak Community Council Board.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 17, 2011, 7:00 pm at the Chugiak Benefit Association at which time the bylaws will be reviewed for possible amendments.

OUT-GOING 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	688-5356	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

IN-COMING BOARD INFORMATION

Term Expires	Name	Phone	Email	District	Seat
01/13	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@gmail.com	East Peters Creek	2
01/13	Karla Beller	688-8061	bellers@ak.net	At Large - East Mirror Lake	3
01/12	Tom Devine	688-0618	akdevine@mtaonline.com	At Large - West Mirror Lake	4
01/13	Randy McCain	229-6009	mccain@mtaonline.net	West Peters Creek	1
01/12	Meredith Mears	622-4077	meredithmrs@aol.com	At Large	8
01/13	Benjamin Sherburne	688-0102	flyfisher431@hotmail.com	Eklutna/ Thunderbird	5
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.