

TO: Federation of Community Councils

THRU: David Baldwin, President

FROM: Erin Dovichin, Secretary-Treasurer

SUBJECT: Chugiak Community Council Approved Minutes for March 17, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Roll Call

Present:

David Baldwin, President
Gale Armstrong, Vice President
Erin Dovichin, Secretary-Treasurer
Meredith Mears
Randy McCain
Karla Beller
Benjamin Sherburne

CANDIDATE FORUM/APRIL 5th ELECTION

The President opened the meeting with a candidate forum. Bob Lupo, Douglas Urquidi and Bill Starr each presented his platform for the assembly seat. Anchorage Tomorrow also provided a short presentation on bond projects.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the previous four meetings, with minor corrections made by Linda Kovac. (1 McCain, 2 Kovac). 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).

CHUGIAK COUNCIL BOARD ELECTIONS

A motion was made and seconded to approve all the elections for board seats and officers from the January meeting. (1 Kovac, 2 Bellers). Motion passed unanimously. There was one open seat remaining and Amy Demboski stated her interest in the seat and shared a bit about herself. She has lived in Chugiak since 1989. Arthur Brown also stated his interest in the seat. He does not live in Chugiak but is a representative of his church here and owns property in Birchwood. Linda Kovac pointed out that the priority is for a person who resides in the district. Brown bowed out respectfully. Motion passed unanimously to elect Amy Demboski.

NEW BUSINESS

Care for American flag on Chugiak Sign. Baldwin read an email he received from a resident regarding the poor care of the American Flag on the Chugiak sign on the Glenn Highway. Chugiak Area Business Association is responsible for the sign and the flag. Baldwin and Armstrong connected with Finis Shelden at the association and he will resolve the problem.

Town Center fees for Community Councils. Randy McCain was confirmed as the alternate to the Parks & Rec Board. McCain raised the question again of whether or not the Consortium or councils should be charged for use of the Town Center. This issue was a subject of the last Parks & Rec Board meeting again, and John Rodda invited the Chugiak Council to discuss it and make a recommendation. A long discussion ensued on this topic:

Gale Armstrong reported that part of the issue is economic. Parks & Rec is responsible for the town center and the community room. Originally only private entities were charged a fee for use, but now due to budget constraints Parks & Rec needs to charge councils as well. There is also a significant issue in regard to security. The room and building need to be secured and Parks & Rec doesn't have the staff to handle multiple evening security visits. Parks & Rec offered the Birchwood Chalet as an alternate meeting location.

There was discussion of the budget restraints. Parks & Rec have not been able to rent all of the Town Center space and this is causing a budget pinch. Linda Kovac pointed out that other muni departments had committed/obligated themselves to certain square footage and so they should have to pay regardless of whether or not they decided to show up. Are the rest of the tenants paying for who didn't show? Bill Starr said he is 95% sure that is not the case. The problem is that they haven't been able to rent the 20,000 sq ft. space and that has thrown the business model off.

There was discussion of alternate meeting spaces, where fees go etc., and which groups have been charged or not charged. McCain said that Rodda said the Consortium could afford to pay and McCain felt this was unfair targeting of the Consortium. There was discussion of the difference between AMATS/long-range transportation planning and community councils. McCain is concerned about councils. The discussion then focused on the security issue again. John Rodda often has to come back at night to lock up. Dovichin asked if the police could secure the building. The answer seems to be no at this point.

Kovac offered to pay the Consortium fee personally. McCain thanked her and said no because this is a principle—the community councils are the grassroots, the foundation of our local government. McCain would like a resolution that community councils and their consortium be allowed to use the Town Center for free. Armstrong suggested we come up with an alternate solution to the issue of the lock-up. Dovichin said she agrees with McCain that this is a principle and that security seems to be the real issue and no additional amount of fees is going to compensate Rodda for having to come out at night so that economics are not really the issue.

Dovichin motioned that the council pass the resolution McCain requested. Sherburne seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Armstrong and Kovac both pointed out how committed John Rodda is to our community, that he is an “absolute gem” and he puts in far

more time than required by his job. Dovichin pointed out that charging councils for meeting fees only overextends Rodda further since he will not get compensated through the fees but he will still need to secure the building. Baldwin also shared that the CBA building could be available for meetings as well.

Community Council Survey. The muni has sent out a survey to community councils. Baldwin will scan the survey and send it out to Board members. Dovichin will collect responses.

REPORTS

CBERRRSA Road Board L. Kovac (688-5356). Kovac reported:

- There is a drainage study underway on Yosemite Drive because it may be turned into a collector.
- Plans continue for a disposal site in the back of Loretta French park.
- Asphalt Overlay program
- Eagle River emergency lane access
- A plan is going forward to use closed circuit tv to see the condition of storm drainages. This will help fulfill NPDES responsibilities. Planning also continues for Chugiak and Hiland storage of materials that meets NPDES.
- Road Board meeting notices will now be on the muni website not in the Alaska Star.
- Discussions on combining long-range transportation plans continues at Eagle River Town Center on March 24th from 1-3 pm.
- The mill rate will be 2.0 --- 1.0 for maintenance and 1.0 for capital projects.

Eagle River-Chugiak Parks & Recreation Board G. Armstrong (696-3543), R. McCain/Alternate (229-6009). Armstrong and McCain attended the last meeting. McCain reported:

A lot of emotion at this last board meeting. An Eagle River resident has sent a letter from the Nordic Ski Club asking for state funds for a bridge over Yosemite Drive to connect two ski areas so that skiers don't have to take off their skis and cross the road. In her letter she made it sound like she had the support of the community councils, including Chugiak Community Council. She used old letters from councils supporting other projects. It was pointed out that the bridge was its own project and letters for other projects were not pertinent. She has to go out again and get support specifically for the bridge project.

Kovac is very concerned that the author of the letter is misrepresenting the position of the Chugiak council. Several residents shared this concern and asked whether the Chugiak council should send a clarifying letter. Bill Starr shared that it was his understanding that several councils feel this way. He also said that Yosemite Drive issues are very complicated and potentially very expensive. There are issues with the prison, buffer issues, drainage collection issues etc. These issues would all need to be resolved before there could ever be an overpass/bridge. In his opinion, it is premature to talk about an overpass/ski bridge right now.

Parks & Rec recognized the disconnect with the letters and took no action. McCain thinks there's a possibility that the letter is phrased such that it is just open to misinterpretation. He

doesn't think there was necessarily an intentional misrepresentation of council positions. McCain and Armstrong think it is premature for the council to act.

There was discussion of whether or not people supported the idea of the bridge. No one supported the bridge, but several people weren't sure what it was and so couldn't say one way or the other.

Demboski pointed out that she would like to see the letter before the Council considered a rebuttal. There was no action by the council.

Starr pointed out that if people want funding from Juneau for projects such as these, it is not a good strategy to bring it up partway through the legislative session. He described the process of putting together the legislative request package and how assembly members use the CIP priorities and put together the package before the session. Kovac pointed out that funding for replacement of the Old Eklutna bridge has been one of our CIP priorities for a long time. Starr said it's in there in the AMATS priorities. He just wanted to stress to everyone how the legislative request package works and how you can't suddenly put something in in April and expect results.

Armstrong reported that one of the big issues for the MAC right now is the need for removal of the requirement for a performance bond for the firm that operates the MAC. It's not a for-profit business that is doing the operation. Parks & Rec unanimously asked the assembly to waive the performance bond. The next step is the construction of the addition. There are some small changes to the design so it is still not out to bid yet. We're not asking for additional funds.

Treasurer's Report: E. Dovichin (688-2551) Dovichin reported that there was \$3274.72 in our account as of February and that the 2010 Financial Report would be provided at the next meeting.

Dovichin said there was a discussion at the last meeting about purchasing an external hard drive for long-term storage of council records but we did not have a quorum to authorize the purchase. Kovac moved that we approve the purchase of an external hard drive not to exceed \$300. Sherburne said it should be 4 terabytes.

Baldwin asked whether or not we should contribute to paying for a new flag for the Chugiak welcome sign. McCain moved to table discussion until we see how Finis Sheldon resolves the situation. Sherburne seconded.

Old Glenn Project Citizen Committee (ADOT&PF Project No. 52515) L. Kovac. There was further discussion of the changes to the Old Glenn pathway at the section beginning at North Birchwood, the emergency meeting regarding the pathway and the minutes from that meeting. Baldwin gave a brief overview of the issue. Starr reported that he and Debbie Ossiander are working on the issue and are talking to Anchorage School District about looking at it from a risk management perspective. Starr will also be discussing with Mayor Sullivan on Monday. Kovac

pointed out that there are several maintenance agreements that the State would like the MOA to sign but, so far, the MOA has refused to sign.

Title 21 Rewrite Committee (Land Use & Zoning Code Rewrite) R. McCain (229-6009).

Starr reported that Dan Coffey has it to review on behalf of the mayor but chapter 10 is not included. Debbie Ossiander's committee is on hold until Coffey's review is complete. There's a need to be very careful about street design etc. – "country lane" as a definition, for example. Coffey's review/rewrite will come out in May. Ossiander is doing a great job.

Consortium of Chugiak-Eagle River Community Councils R. McCain (229-6009), M. Mears/Alternate (622-4077)

McCain is talking with Tim Davis in planning to set up a meeting with the Consortium. Starr said that planning is preparing staff recommendations and these will go in front of the Planning and Zoning Board. The Consortium should get ready for testifying before Planning and Zoning. There have been times when the Assembly has overruled Planning and Zoning. Chapter 10 will probably go to Planning and Zoning in June instead of May.

Assembly and Legislative Update

Starr said that he has covered a lot already tonight, but wanted to thank everyone for giving him the opportunity to serve the community. Baldwin read an email from Dan Saddler providing a legislative update. It is attached to these minutes. Kovac brought up to Starr her recommendation that she shared at our last meeting that AMATS funds be prorated per population. Starr will consider it. Starr has been pushing to consolidate the rewrites not the plans.

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

On-Site Wastewater System Technical Review Board No report

OLD BUSINESS

Bylaws. Benjamin Sherburne walked the Council through the proposed changes to the bylaws in his track-changes version. There was consensus that all the edits reflected the discussion from the last meeting. There are two small typos. The Council will vote on the changes in May. Baldwin will sign the final document.

OPEN FORUM

There was a reminder that there is a town hall meeting with legislators on Saturday from 4-6 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Sherburne motioned to adjourn and Dovichin seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 21, 2011, 7:00 pm at the Chugiak Benefit Association.

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 Highway).

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