

TO: Federation of Community Councils

THRU: David Baldwin, President

FROM: Erin Dovichin, Secretary-Treasurer

SUBJECT: Chugiak Community Council Approved Minutes for April 21, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Roll Call

Present:

David Baldwin, President
Erin Dovichin, Secretary-Treasurer
Karla Beller
Amy Demboski
Randy McCain
Benjamin Sherburne

Excused:

Gale Armstrong, Vice President
Meredith Mears

PRESENTATIONS

Chugiak Senior Center

Linda Hendrickson, executive director of the Chugiak Senior Center presented on renovation and expansion plans for the center. The Center has 7 acres on the other side of the horse park. They are looking for a HUD grant to construct 20 units of low income housing. There's a huge demand for low-income housing - 70 people are currently on the waiting list for housing.

Currently the center is planning a \$4.2 million renovation. There is no covered area for seniors who are being dropped off. The kitchen/dining area is over 35 years old. Maintenance needs to be moved. These issues will all be addressed in the renovation.

Amy Demboski noted that she toured the center and there is a real need for renovation. Linda Kovac asked whether or not there would be a need for new septic. The answer is yes but only if there is a new HUD building – the renovation will not require a septic upgrade. The center is on public water. Kovac asked if additional units at the center might affect the mobile home park and the water quality there; do they know if the mobile home park is on city water? The center has not got to that phase of design.

Hendrickson shared that people in the community are allowed to use the center's gym and classes regardless of age. You just have to join the center. David Baldwin said he is a lifetime member and wanted to know if Sunday breakfasts will begin again – it was great to meet and talk with the seniors. There will be a brunch on Easter Sunday.

Baldwin noted some Chugiak history. Chugiak Benefit Association was started in 1954 and owned the land where the school is now, but traded. CBA also owned the senior center land at one point and sold it to the center.

Old Glenn Highway Project

Ted Meyers, DOT project engineer for the Old Glenn, gave an overview of the work planned for this summer. The Peters Creek bridge will be closed for 75 days. Road work from Loretta French to the Lutheran church begins the first week of May. No closures are expected and final paving is likely in July. August 25th is the official end of the project. You can get on the Nerland agency list for weekly updates on the project. Peters Creek park will stay open but the entrance will move temporarily to the north end of the park; the pedestrian pathway and the vet's office will also stay open.

Randy McCain asked how much material would be moved. Answer: 25,000 yards of excavation over 5-6 days and then fill it back again. What will be the hours of operation? Answer: Roadwork is 8am to 6 or 7 pm on weekdays, 7am to 7pm on Saturdays. For the bridge, they have a permit to work all hours but if the noise disturbs local residents they will work only to 9pm.

Meyers has not yet received an answer on the Council's concerns with the pedestrian pathway from North Birchwood to Peters Creek park. The issue has been elevated to the commissioner. Baldwin said that several of our representatives have met with the commissioner and he read an April 5th email from the Commissioner (attached to these minutes). Meyers said initial cost estimates look like \$100,000 for a guard rail and \$350,000-\$400,000 to remove the path, regrade, repave etc. There is still the rumble strip option, but doesn't think that's good enough. Baldwin asked if a right-of-way purchase is still an option. Meyers pointed out that that will take much longer and might have to involve another contract. A resident said the ROW won't work because of the grade –would require huge rock walls and will cost too much and take a lot of time. Meyers agreed. It could add over \$1 million to the project.

Meyers noted that some people have called to say they don't like the guardrail idea – it will be an eyesore. There was discussion and disagreement about what was in the original plans for the project and why people did not understand how the path would be constructed. Meyers suggested that the current design is good for summer but is problematic in winter. He suggested there could be a change of snow maintenance such that a snow berm is created between the road and the pathway as happened in the past. Dovichin said that alone would be a significant improvement. Baldwin read his most recent email to the commissioner (attached to these minutes). McCain noted the difference between the idea of summertime design and winter time. There was brief discussion on this point.

Dovichin said that despite all the problems with the pathway at that section, she was proud of the new path along the Old Glenn south of CBA and how many people were out using it—especially kids and families. Meyers noted that many people complained about installing that path, too. Kovac said that when the council first started asking for a path 20 years ago they had sent around a survey – a majority of residents wanted the path.

Kovac said that we need to stay on the issue of the problematic section of pathway and that people want a barrier. Baldwin said that an Alaska Star reporter (Randi) is doing a story on the Peters Creek bridge; people should contact her if you have any comments on the bridge or the pathway. Meyers noted the bridge used lead-based primer and will not be re-used. Kovac said it was offered to the Road Board and they said no way. Kovac pointed out that the old Eklutna bridge also needs to be taken down and replaced.

DOT will return again for the May meeting and report on progress.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the March 17th meeting, with minor corrections. (1 Kovac, 2 Demboski). 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).

NEW BUSINESS

Care for American flag on Chugiak Sign. Baldwin reported that Finis took down the old flag and put up a new one, but now the eagle is missing.

Baldwin said that the Wastewater Board needs a new candidate. Linda Kovac used to be on the board.

Dovichin noted that we'll need to do the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) prioritization in May, but she has not received anything. Kovac said sometimes they don't announce it. Dovichin will contact muni and find out what is happening.

Colin Fay pointed out that 300 feet of the bike path in Peters Creek park is not paved simply because it is within the park. He would like to see it paved. People agreed. McCain suggested that Fey go to the Parks Board about the issue. Kovac moved that the Council write a letter of support for the remaining unpaved section of bike pathway in Peters Creek to be paved. Demboski seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

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

- Breckenridge flooding area should be fixed this year.
- There is an inspection report for the Eklutna bridge but Kovac has not seen it yet.
- New drainage study completed on Yosemite.

- The developers of a dense subdivision want another delay and reduction of requirements on an Eagle River land that would connect the subdivision to Eagle River Road.
- The plan is going forward to use closed circuit tv to see the condition of storm drainages. We expect of find problems.
- Initial road sweeping has begun.
- They are reconfiguring materials sites per NPDES requirements
- Shawn McBride is new Road Board supervisor, taking over for Tom Hilton – everyone is new and getting the feel for working together.
- Kovac went to look at drainage in Tablelands due to some complaints there. The drainage is terrible. Rex Turner is the developer. Muni has been asking him to fix it for some time. Turner moved to Palmer. Munic has not accepted the road in seven years. This will probably go to litigation. Residents noted that have been many problems with Turner’s subdivisions.
- McCain asked how long the McKenna road maintenance contract is for. He liked the previous company better. Roads used to look more groomed during winter – this year they seemed a mess. They didn’t stay on top of the sanding. There was discussion of the poor sanding in one area down near Peters Creek where people couldn’t get out on any of the roads – they should maintain at least one egress. Kovac said this was also an issue with the last contractor.

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

- The council’s letter regarding the fees for the Eagle River town center was well-received. The issue has been sent to committee.
- The ski bridge over Yosemite proposal was re-presented. The board asked the proponent for a feasibility analysis. Kovac noted that this project had been presented to the Road Board as well and they tabled it. Council discussion ensued on how expensive the project would be and how skiers could just take off their skis and cross the road without a bridge.

Treasurer’s Report: E. Dovichin (688-2551) Dovichin presented the 2010 Financial Report. Kovac motioned to accept the financial report as provided. Sherburne seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Glenn Project Citizen Committee (ADOT&PF Project No. 52515) L. Kovac. No further report.

Title 21 Rewrite Committee (Land Use & Zoning Code Rewrite) R. McCain (229-6009). No report.

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

On-Site Wastewater System Technical Review Board (no current representative) No report.

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

- Same position as last month – getting questions back from planning. The document is now the assembly’s document. Debbie Osslander saw the written questions and arranged a meeting with the planning staff to share her concern that the formal written question and response process was taking a great deal of time. She would rather see weekly meetings between staff and the Consortium. Those are now being arranged.
- Planning staff questions include remarks such as “You have different setbacks and we don’t know if we can accept that.” McCain said that Anchorage has different needs. We don’t want to become Anchorage. He thinks they will be surprised if they start challenging the Consortium’s work – they had very good consultants. Kovac pointed out that the problems that drove the Title 21 rewrite were Anchorage problems not Chugiak problems.

Assembly and Legislative Update

Baldwin read an email from Dan Saddler providing a legislative update. It is attached to these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

Bylaws. There was a short discussion on how we must wait to change the bylaws until next Month per the current bylaws.

MAC center. There was a quick discussion of where the funding was coming from for the expansion. Parks & Rec has the funding – they have been saving it for six years. Part of the Parks mill rate goes to maintenance and part to capital.

OPEN FORUM

- Kovac said we need more oil in the pipeline. Try to get your legislators to act on it.
- Resident Ted Carlson encourage everyone to send another letter to state legislators about the walking/bike path problem. It should say that it appears to us it is not cost prohibitive to fix it. We need to keep the pressure on. Let’s speak for safety. Baldwin committed to stay on it. Demboski shared that she had seen people driving on the bike path and she has a photo. Baldwin will follow up with another letter, perhaps add the photo.

ADJOURNMENT

Carlson motioned to adjourn and Sherburne seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 19, 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.

From: **David J. Baldwin** <dbaldwin@chugiakcouncil.org>
Date: Wed, Apr 6, 2011 at 10:14 PM
Subject: Re: Letter to Chugiak Community Council
To: "Luiken, Marc A (DOT)" <marc.luiken@alaska.gov>
Cc: Huggins Charlie <senator_charlie_huggins@legis.state.ak.us>, Fairclough Anna <representative_anna_fairclough@legis.state.ak.us>, Stoltze Bill <representative_bill_stoltze@legis.state.ak.us>, "Ruaro, Randall P (GOV)" <randall.ruaro@alaska.gov>, "Kemp, Pat J (DOT)" <pat.kemp@alaska.gov>, "Campbell, Robert A (DOT)" <rob.campbell@alaska.gov>

Thanks Sir,

We look forward to working with you and your folks on resolving these issues!

Our next meeting will be 4/21/11 at 7pm.

Dave

On Apr 5, 2011, at 4:11 PM, Luiken, Marc A (DOT) wrote:

Mr. Baldwin,

You make a very compelling argument and from your response you also give me hope we can reach a mutually acceptable agreement on this issue. I am working with both Mr. Pat Kemp, Deputy Commissioner for Roads and Mr. Rob Campbell, Central Region Director to develop alternative solutions to the current configuration along this portion of the highway. I would ask you for a bit more time to allow us to flesh these options out.

You and the community should also hear soon from Central Region on the planned work for this summer and how the department will notify the public on the planned closures and impacts. I also understand the Central Region Project Engineer plans to attend your next Community Council meeting.

Thank you for your patience and thank you for continuing to work with DOT&PF on this project.

Marc Luiken
Commissioner
DOT & PF
907-465-3901

From: David J. Baldwin [mailto:dbaldwin@chugiakcouncil.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:59 PM
To: Luiken, Marc A (DOT)
Cc: Huggins, Charlie (LAA); Fairclough, Anna (LAA); Stoltze, Bill (LAA); Ruaro, Randall P (GOV); Kemp, Pat J (DOT); Campbell, Robert A (DOT); John Rodda; Melissa Devaughn
Subject: Re: Letter to Chugiak Community Council
Importance: High

Dear Mr. Luiken,

Thank you for your March 18th Letter.

When I write, I am writing and speaking on behalf of the community. They voice their concerns through their Community Council. I too join them in their concern.

You state that this meets all design standards and received ample airings during the public involvement process. However, what one sees on paper and what is happening as a result and in practice are two different things, the unforeseen consequences and outcome of filling in this ditch or swale, as you call it.

It appears that an explanation is in order here of what is alarming the community regarding this portion of the path, why they feel that this is a safety issue that needs immediate address.

If this was a straight and flat road, there most likely would be no issue. It is also understood that no amount of separation would prevent an out of control vehicle from crashing into the path (and well beyond) on any portion of the Old Glenn highway. The grassed swale, itself, offers no physical protection.

However the unique problem here is the rise and drops of road elevation in combination with the particular curves on this portion of the Old Glenn highway.

As you know, the tendency of drivers is to "straighten" curves by cutting the inside edge, over the fog line and even to the edge of physical roads. Here they are coming up over a rise and into the curve at some spots which exasperates the problem, much less not seeing path users timely due to line of sight issues.

With the previous grassed ditch, or swale, drivers could see it...they could feel it...if they dropped a wheel off the road. In the winter, plows would plow and fill it, (and the path) and then Parks and Recreation, feeling this was (and is) a highly hazardous area to attempt to walk along the roadway, would plow the path open and the result would be a berm in this swale between the road and path users. Everyone was happy.

What is happening now as a result of the swale being paved over, drivers are not only free to cut the corner deeper, into the previous swale area and onto the path portion of the road, but especially in winter when you can no longer see the fog line generating a new roadway "path" through the curve. Until the snow and ice is plowed or worn down to where you can see the solid white line, it is not apparent that they are actually driving along and into the previous swale and pathway areas.

Now what really doubles the danger is that the plows have not at times been fully clearing the path its full width, narrowing it dangerously.

Obviously the first thing that can be done to improve the situation until changes are made is to ensure that the plow operators are fully clearing the pathway to its full width.

And as far as your statement that this meets all design standards. Typically these are minimum standards. Keep in mind that the Titanic also meet all design standards. She set sail for New York City with 2,227 people on board. The high casualty rate when the ship sank was due in part to the fact that, although complying with the current regulations of the time, the ship carried lifeboats for only 1,178 people.

We again encourage the DOT to acquire additional right of way and to guard rail the critical areas to increase the protection of the path users until that can be accomplished.

Please contact me for further discussion or if you have any questions.

Dave

From: "Rep. Dan Saddler" <Representative_Dan_Saddler@legis.state.ak.us>

Date: April 21, 2011 4:58:23 PM AKDT

To: "dbaldwin@chugiakcouncil.org" <dbaldwin@chugiakcouncil.org>

Subject: Rep. Saddler Report to Chugiak Community Council

Dear Dave –

Here's a quick update for the Chugiak Community Council meeting tonight:

As you've seen in the papers, the Legislature is on Day 4 of a special session. The the Eagle River delegation has a column in today's Alaska Star explaining why in more detail, but here's the short version:

The House launched the operating budget to the Senate six weeks ago, but the Senate hadn't sent us the capital budget by Sunday. It looked like the Senate was going to blow past the voter-passed 90-day limit, while insisting that the House accept possibly unconstitutional efforts to thwart the governor's threat to veto projects in the Senate's extraordinarily large \$2.9 billion capital budget. So, the governor ended the regular session at the House's request, and then he called a special session, with a limited agenda.

That agenda includes several bills that have passed this week:

- AEA/Susitna hydroelectric dam (plus 2 S.E. hydro projects) – planning and design
- Vocational Education and tax credits – extra public school money for vocational education
- Extend Regulatory Commission of Alaska for three years
- Extend various boards and commissions

And several that our leaders and finance committees are still working on:

- operating, capital and supplemental budget bills
- the governor's performance scholarships
- Coastal Zone Management Program renewal

I'm afraid the Senate's version of the capital budget does not include funds for the CVFD tender truck, Birchwood Community Patrol, or other District 18 projects I had requested; though there is still hope that a final compromise version of the bill will include them.

As we faced the interim between sessions, I'm proud to report that the House has passed bills to:

- Reform oil taxes to attract investment
- Extend benefits to senior citizens
- Protect women and children through an omnibus crime bill
- Outlaw synthetic marijuana
- Require performance reviews of state departments

- Call on Congress to open ANWR, and stop improperly hobbling development of offshore oil and gas, seeking to designate new “wilderness” in Alaska, or otherwise interfere with Alaska’s economic development opportunities
- Many other bills and resolutions

Finally, I’m proud to have sponsored one of the few pieces of legislation to get through both the House and Senate: a measure authorizing award the Alaska Decoration of Honor to 30 Alaska service members killed in armed conflict.

I’m looking forward to being with you again soon to discuss the session, and your concerns, in more detail. Thanks for your attention, and have a good meeting!

Representative Dan Saddler
House District 18
907/465-3783 phone
907/465-2293 fax