

TO: Federation of Community Councils

THRU: David Baldwin, President

FROM: Erin Dovichin, Secretary-Treasurer

SUBJECT: Chugiak Community Council Approved Minutes for March 3, 2011 Emergency Meeting

**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

**OLD GLENN PATHWAY ISSUE**

*It is important to note that the following minutes constitute a summary of the discussion and are not intended as exact quotation of any of the individual participants.*

David Baldwin gave a quick overview of the reason for the meeting. At the November meeting many people attended the meeting to share their concern about the change to the pathway along the Old Glenn Highway between North Birchwood and South Peters Creek. Portions of the originally separated path have been changed into a wide road shoulder with only a painted line delineating the trail. Residents are very upset about this, are concerned about safety, and want it changed. Baldwin pointed out that for 20 years the Council has requested a safe pathway along the Old Glenn and it was ironic that now just as most of a pathway had finally been built the project had taken our only good section of pathway away and turned it in essence into a wide shoulder, and in winter, snow storage. Baldwin described how since that meeting there were several misunderstandings with the State and residents' concerns had yet to be adequately addressed. This meeting is to determine how to resolve the issue. Baldwin then opened up the meeting for questions and discussions.

Resident: Is anyone here from DOT? Is this pathway the final configuration?

DOT REP (Ted Meyer): The path is in its final configuration

Resident: There are a lot of seniors that use that path. I know it is easier to plow but plowing is only pushing path closer to the road. Walked it the other day and the path at one spot was completely on the other side of the line. People are walking their dogs and the traffic is so close. Somebody is going to get killed. This is totally unacceptable. They should put a jersey barrier up – that shouldn't be a big expense.

Meyer: It is very expensive.

Resident: What is the value of a little kid's life? They walk that trail. This is serious. Something must be done.

Baldwin: There are curves there. There's always a tendency of traffic to straighten the curves – pushing the cars into the pathway.

Resident: This council has to take a stand and say this is totally unacceptable.

Beller: My kids and I walk there and do not feel very safe anymore. What about rumble strips or something to warn cars they are moving into the path.

Resident: Those don't work in winter.

Multiple residents and board members: Discussion over what the issue was...was it easy plowing? Was it a maintenance agreement? At November meeting, Jim Amundsen was here. Understood him to say that he would go back to AMATS and ask for a raised curb. What changed? He backed off. Why? Is it to do the project more cheaply? My understanding was John Rodda had said maintenance was not a problem

Parks representative: We will maintain the path. We've always maintained the path. We have told the State this.

DOT: We're looking for a signed agreement

Baldwin (to DOT): We've been asking for that path for years because it was dangerous to walk. You're using federal funds. The responsibility for maintenance is yours. You can't put that on others.

McCain (to DOT): Are you suggesting the pathway is safe for our families?

Meyer: I don't have the authority

McCain (to Meyer): Do you think it is safe?

Meyer: I think it is. I walk with my kids in Eagle River on a similar path.

Residents: Several comments on how we used to have a separate path. We want a separate path. Why did it have to change? What happened?

DOT: We expanded the road – expansion took over the whole right of way

Kovac: They didn't want to put the cost of extra right of way into the budget. They wanted the maintenance to be easy. Couldn't you have stretched the budget to buy more right of way?

Residents: Several comments regarding the change – Seniors that live along there can't even walk safely from the senior center to Peters Creek park. It's not safe. My wife was out there the other day dodging cars.

Baldwin: Twenty years ago all we asked for was a bike trail and connectivity. My kids couldn't walk to school safely. All we wanted was a path. We didn't ask for a widened road. In my mind this project is not complete until this is fixed. This is unacceptable.

Resident: How much money was spent on the fill for the section of the Old Glenn by Klondike. Did we need that?

Meyer: If we didn't do that fill it would not be handicapped accessible or to grade. How would a handicapped person make it up the hill?

Resident: He's right about that.

Residents: Several comments. There needs to be some type of barriers. I still don't understand why they can't do it like the Fire Lake section with raised path. Amundsen said they could do that. We thought we had that addressed. Parks could continue to plow it.

DOT: The issue is that this is on a state ROW.

Residents: We just want our trail back.

Meyer: Believe me. I do, too. I am the PE—I don't have the power to change it.

DOT (Alan Drake) I can't either.

Residents: This seems like a silly game of chicken. This should be a crime

Representative Stoltze: This is enough. These guys aren't going to do anything. Give me a letter and I'll take care of it. *to DOT* -- I work for these good people and you to do, too. *to Board* --This is a song and dance. We're spinning our wheels. Just give me a letter.

Residents: Get a letter to Bill. Give him the ball.

*A motion was made and seconded to write a letter demanding the path be fixed. Passed unanimously.*

Mears: The area around Fire Lake is great. They did a great job. Why couldn't you do that?

Meyer: Do you think that sidewalk is going to stop a car?

Armstrong: The important thing is delineation

Representative Stoltze: The letter should say that the State should maintain the path safely. They should not try to skate on their responsibility.

Kovac: In November, we did discuss this and we did agree on a curb. Debbie Ossiander said we needed a cost estimate to go to AMATS. Jim Amundsen wouldn't give one to us.

Resident: We just want our trail back. We took care of it. Parks and Rec did an excellent job. We want the old trail back—not a curb. It's our community.

Baldwin: The one place that had a path and it was eliminated.

Kovac: You can look at the old pathway on Google

Resident: I took pictures of it. I used to walk there all the time. I don't walk there any more. It's not safe.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

McCain motioned to adjourn. Mears seconded. The meeting was adjourned.