

**Basher Community Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Oct 6, 2011**  
**Baxter Elementary School, 7:00 pm**

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Meeting was called to order by President Dirk Sisson at 7:07 pm

**Guests:**

James Dennis Anchorage Fire Department, Station 14  
Wendy Wilber, CRW Engineering  
John Smith, Project Manager—Campbell Airstrip Road Upgrade  
Andy Clary, spokesperson for Assembly member Adam Trombley  
Kristy Cada, spokesperson for Assembly member Paul Honeman  
Paul Honeman, Assembly member  
Sharon Long, Chief of Staff for Senator Cathy Geisel  
Representative Mike Hawker  
Representative Pete Peterson, House District 19  
Representative Lance Pruitt, House District 21  
Claire LeClair, Deputy Director for Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Attendance: 29 signed in

May 5, 2011 minutes were approved with no amendments.

**Assembly report:**

Andy Clary, spokesperson for Adam Trombley:

In the Mayor's budget \$85K was allocated for the East Side District Plan. Adam Trombley would like the community to contact him or submit comments about the plan. The city budget is \$451 million which represents a 1.9% increase over last year's budget. Some of this is for police and fire department. There will be 28 more police officers on street by end of the year.

Lowell Humphrey asked how the East Side district plan will be enacted, and Dirk Sisson asked if Planning and Zoning would be working on it.

Andy Clary responded that he is not sure how the plan will be enacted, but the money that has been allocated will cover the cost of a consultant.

Kristy Cada, spokesperson for Paul Honeman

With the budget increase, property taxes will increase by \$7 per \$100,000 of home value. There will be a public safety meeting on October 12 from noon to 2 pm at the Public Works Building on 4700 Elmore Road. Two of the topics that will be addressed are fireworks on New Year's Eve and standards for non-consent towing charges. Paul has gotten a lot of mail on the fireworks issue, and he would really like to know how people feel.

Paul Honeman (late arrival):

The city budget is available online. The budget projects a 1.9% increase from last year. The conundrum is that there has been a surplus the last 2 yrs, but 20 positions will be lost within the city. He would like to hear from community members on the budget issue.

**Legislative report:**

Sharon Long, Chief of Staff for Senator Cathy Geisel:

Please contact the Senator's office about capital budget issues. Cathy Geisel's main topic that she is working on is to make Alaska competitive on a national and global scale on oil and gas production.

Representative Pete Peterson, House District 19

Introduced himself to the neighborhood. He currently serves on the following committees: Transportation, Energy, State Affairs, and Veterans Affairs. He co-chairs the Anchorage Caucus with Rep. Lance Pruitt.

Representative Lance Pruitt, House District 21

Introduced himself to the neighborhood. He currently co-chairs the Energy Special Committee and he is the Vice-Chair of the Education and Transportation Committees. He encouraged community members to get in touch with him on issues.

Representative Mike Hawker, House District 32

Because of redistricting, Stuckagain will no longer be represented by Mike Hawker. His district will be split, and Stuckagain Heights will be with East Anchorage. Change will be effective at the next seating.

Mike Hawker stated that the main topic for our neighborhood is our relationship with Chugach State Park (CSP). He stated that neighborhoods adjacent to CSP, like ours, have been viewed by the park as the doorway that the neighborhood has to pay for. For example, on Campbell Airstrip Rd, most of the usage is people getting to park trailheads (state and municipal).

Rep. Hawker stated that he has been successful going to state to get funding, he understands that it is the state's responsibility to maintain the road. He also wants to make sure our investments as homeowners are respected.

He said that in the past few hours he had received some "colorful" emails from angry residents regarding the recent letter from Ben Ellis (Director of Parks and Outdoor Recreation) about the Near Point parking lot proposal and the CSP planning process. He encouraged all to use respectful language and refrain from personal attacks. He says he is less likely to listen to emails with attacks.

Rep. Hawker stated that he was disappointed that the Commissioner and Ben Ellis had indicated in a recent letter that the BCC recommendations would not be incorporated into the management plan. Rep. Hawker stated that, although there is nothing definitive yet out of DNR, he believes we are still going in the right direction. He will continue to represent us on this issue. Rep. Hawker stated that he has enjoyed working with and serving our neighborhood.

**Update on the Chugach State Park Draft Management Plan and Issue Response Summary to the Draft Trail Plan:**

Background:

Dirk summarized the information contained in the meeting packet pertaining to Chugach State Park planning. The Draft management Plan mentions access development at two Stuckagain locations: the Basher Trailhead and the proposed Near Point Trailhead. At the Basher Trailhead the plan calls for expansion and redesign of the parking area and addition of latrines and a kiosk. At the proposed Near Point Trailhead the plan calls for a parking lot, latrines, kiosk, fee station, and caretaker hut.

In August Dirk convened a meeting to craft an Executive Committee response to the Draft Management Plan (the initial deadline for comments was September 9, 2011, but it was extended to October 31, 2011). This letter is included in tonight's meeting packet. The Executive Committee letter recommended changes to the management plan language to conform to the BCC resolution on the Draft Access Plan. These recommendations include developing the Basher Trailhead as the primary access point and

reducing the development at the proposed Near Point Trailhead to a small (2-6 car) parking area and a trailhead kiosk.

On July 15, 2011 Rep. Mike Hawker and Ben Ellis called a meeting with community members to discuss accepting our community council input as the direction for the park plans. Ben Ellis presented a site plan for the Near Point Trailhead that addressed the concerns raised by the neighborhood. This plan was well-received by the meeting attendees. A representation of this site plan is on display at the front table.

Dirk described BCC trails recommendations (outlined in the October 2009 resolution), and noted that BCC recommendations were not adopted in the recently released Issue Response Summary (IRS) to the Draft Trail Plan. Dirk asked for volunteers to be on the committee to respond to the IRS for the trail plan.

Claire LeClair, Deputy Director for Parks and Outdoor Recreation:

Because Ben Ellis had a prior engagement this evening, Claire LeClair presented the concept plan for Near Point that was initially presented by Ben Ellis at the July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting at Rep. Hawker's office.

Dirk asked if the site concept plan will be adopted in management plan.

Claire LeClair responded that it will not be incorporated in the plan. The concept plan is a tool used to help the public see how the management plan might be applied. What is in the plan and what the park ends up building are often different.

John Mitchell stated that the current park plan for the Near Point parcel calls for an ever-expanding parking lot, a caretaker hut, latrines and other facilities. The only parking lot on hillside with a caretaker hut is Glen Alps. There is a big difference between the concept Ben Ellis presented to residents on July 15<sup>th</sup> and what is in the current version of the management plan.

Claire LeClair responded that the management plan represents the vision for park, and the site concept plan represents development realities.

Lowell Humphrey stated that the park could adopt the concept plan as the direction for the management plan.

Claire LeClair responded that the management plan is still in draft form, nothing is final.

Rep. Hawker said he that is disappointed that we haven't gotten more commitment from DNR. The neighborhood needs more assurances, and residents need to know that CSP won't spring a Glen Alps-style parking lot on them at the top of the neighborhood.

Lowell Humphrey stated that the current version is even worse that what was first drafted. The neighborhood felt great about the July 15<sup>th</sup> plan, but now the park is calling for even more development. In addition to the parking facilities, they are calling for additional trails and development.

Claire LeClair responded that the draft plan was created in May 2011, it's possible that the reason that your community comments are not reflected is that the July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting took place after the release of the draft management plan.

Barb Hood clarified that there are two documents that are relevant: The Draft Management Plan and the Issue Response Summary (IRS) to the Draft Trail Plan. All of the neighborhood comments that were submitted through a BCC resolution were dismissed in the IRS to the trail plan and that was released after the July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting on August 30, 2011.

Tina Boucher stated that trail development drives access planning. At the Near Point parking area CSP is recommending a class 2 hiking and a class 3 bike trail. These trails have a projected daily usage designated by the trail classification. How should we view the concept plan presented by Ben Ellis (7-car parking) given the IRS rejection of BCC trails comments, which recommended a class 1 hiking trail at

Near Point? The trail development proposed by CSP and the parking development proposed by Ben Ellis are not compatible.

Claire LeClair responded that the BCC comments won't be dismissed; and that they have not been dismissed.

Tina Boucher clarified that CSP did indeed dismiss the BCC comments in writing in the IRS.

Rep. Hawker stated that he had read through IRS and noted that there were inconsistencies and contradictions in the responses, and that the document read as though it was written by someone who didn't understand the issues. He noted further that the CSP planners did not adopt any of the BCC comments.

John Mitchell asked if there would be any restrictions on development on the Near Point parcel once it is transferred to the State. For example, could they just put a road and parking lot in as soon as it is transferred?

Claire LeClair responded that DNR would look at the law and statute when making the decision. If it is to increase recreational opportunities for the public, then yes.

Rep. Hawker clarified that DNR has the power to do what they want if they own the land.

Kris Mann stated that it is important for CSP to recognize the history of the Near Point parcel. The neighborhood fought the zoning change that would have allowed an antenna farm, and it was the neighborhood that invited the Conservation Fund to purchase the land. Without the work of our community this parcel would not even be an option to be added to the park. To have the BCC resolutions ignored by CSP is very unfair. It shows a total disregard for what this community has done with regard to this property.

A community member asked when the issue response summary will come out for the access plan.

Claire LeClair answered that planners are waiting for municipal input, and they also need assembly input.

Barb Hood asked how the community can endorse the site concept plan presented by Ben Ellis in a way that will have a lasting effect.

Claire LeClair responded that the community could endorse the concept plan, but the language in the final plan will be policy.

Rep. Hawker reminded the community council that it is a government entity, and has a strong voice. He encouraged the community to continue take on the issues presented in this round. He stated that he thought it was interesting that the Chugach Advisory Board had not weighed in on this.

Tina Boucher stated that the Chugach Park Access Coalition did weigh in on the access plan: they suggested that CSP adopt the BCC resolutions in this management cycle.

Rick Kullberg suggested that the BCC invite Monica Alvarez to address our CC to explain how comments were adopted or rejected, because the process appears rather obscure. Dirk responded that she had been invited to this meeting.

### **Campbell Airstrip Road Upgrade, Wendy Wilber, CRW Engineering**

There will be a second open house on the design study phase of the project; the invitation is in the mail. There was good feedback from the first open house, and it has been incorporated into the draft design.

The road will be raised slightly for drainage and will have 5 ft shoulders on each side for bike lanes. The proposed paved trail will be offset on the down-slope side about 50 to 70 ft from road. They will save the trees between trail and road. The trail and road cannot be on the same grade because too much fill would be required. The biggest change in the plan is the proposal to remove the Rendezvous parking lot. Both the BLM and Muni Parks and Recreation agree that it should be removed. The Campbell Airstrip Trailhead is nearby and serves the same trails. This will reduce maintenance costs and will eliminate the conflict with cars turning in and out at an awkward point in the road. Further, it allows the trail crossing to be located at the school entrance road. The trail would be routed behind the mailboxes, and the short section of existing trail on the opposite side of the road next to school will be removed.

The draft Design Study Report will be out next week. The cost estimate to complete the road and trail upgrade is about \$3.5 million.

Rep. Hawker recommended that the Community Council get the capital request in early; he is still our point of contact.

The next meeting isn't until February. Dirk proposed that the Executive Committee draft a letter to request funding for the road upgrade. A motion was made and seconded for the Executive Committee to draft the letter.

#### **LRSA update Ted Trueblood**

Eric Johnson created a traffic spreadsheet to assess traffic load to help plan maintenance and upgrades. The plan is to continue the chip-seal program next summer. The contractor did a good job cutting and brushing this summer. The winter snow plowing standard is 6" of snow accumulation. LRSA board members (Bob/Harry) patrol in the morning to assess the condition. The contractor will plow before accumulation reaches 6" if the conditions are deemed dangerous. LRSA tax rate is still 1.25% (only area that does not tax to 1.5%).

#### **Elections:**

##### President, Vice President, and Secretary

Dirk opened the floor for nominations for President, Vice President, and Secretary. He indicated that all current office holders would be willing to continue for another two-yr term. Lowell Humphrey motioned to keep the current officers in place for another term; the motion was seconded and passed. The current officers (President Dirk Sisson, Vice President John Beebee, and Secretary Tina Boucher) will each serve another two years.

##### Member-at-large

John Mitchell nominated Ann Gabler for the open Member-at-Large position. The nomination was seconded and no other nominations were received. Ann was elected to a two-year term.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:56 pm

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Respectfully submitted,  
Tina Boucher  
Secretary, BCC