

**Basher Community Council Meeting Minutes**  
**May 2, 2013**  
**Baxter Elementary School, 7:00 pm**

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Meeting was called to order by President Dirk Sisson at 7:04 pm

**Guests:**

Representative Lance Pruitt

Senator Anna Fairclough

Municipal Planner Thede Tobish

Monica Alvarez, Chugach State Park Plan Coordinator

Sue Rodman, formerly Anchorage Fire Department (AFD) Wildfire Mitigation Office, currently ADF&G

John See, Anchorage Fire Department Wildfire Mitigation Office

Adam Trombley, Anchorage Assembly,

Mark Sledge, Senior JBER Conservation Enforcement Officer.

Attendance: 23 signed in

The minutes from February 7, 2013 were approved with no amendments.

**Legislative Report, Senator Anna Fairclough and Representative Lance Pruitt**

Senator Anna Fairclough gave an update on the legislative session and also provided a written narrative of goals and accomplishments to date. The session was largely focused on energy issues.

- SB21 changes the oil tax structure, the opinion of the majority was that progressivity within the tax code was cooling investment in new exploration.
- HB4 establishes the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation as an independent public corporation that will have the authority to develop and operate a gas pipeline.
- SB23 is an energy relief bill that authorizes the development of a plan to truck LNG to residents in interior Alaska where fuel oil prices are high.

Dirk Sisson asked if funding for the Campbell Airstrip Road upgrade made it into the budget.

Representative Pruitt responded that the funding did not make it into the final budget. He added that funds were very limited, but that they were able to get funds for Station 14, including the planned drive-through and a wild lands fire truck.

Ann Gabler stated that the Campbell Airstrip Road upgrade is a safety issue. If the Legislature is able to give money away to the oil companies in the form of tax incentives, they should be able to find funding for the road project.

Senator Fairclough responded that the road funds were limited, and that East Anchorage was particularly underfunded. Many road upgrade projects were identified, and they were only able to fund the most pressing projects. Representative Pruitt added that the Community Council should reach out to the Assembly and emphasize the safety aspect of the road upgrade project.

Representative Lance Pruitt:

HB30 is a bill that directs every state entity to identify areas with their budgets where cuts could be made. State agencies were asked to identify cuts of up to 10%. This does not mean that these cuts will take place, but the process allows agencies to plan ahead and to prioritize budget items should revenues decrease.

Several community members asked about how the state will evaluate the success of the new oil tax structure. Senator Fairclough responded that Alaska's oil taxes are higher than most other oil producing countries, and by becoming more competitive the state will be able to see whether or not more investment by the oil companies will be generated.

**AFD Update, Sue Rodman (ADF&G) and John See (AFD Wildfire Mitigation Office)**

Sue Rodman introduced John See who will be taking over Sue's job at AFD. John See was instrumental in getting the wildfire mitigation program started with in the AFD.

John See described the Firewise evaluation program, and mentioned that homeowners can get many of the costs of treatment covered, for example, up to 70% of the cost of tree removal can be covered. The fire break work on the south side of the neighborhood has been completed; it is a 1-mile long, 300-foot wide, shaded fuel break. In the event of a wildfire, this fuel break will give fire fighters time to prevent a crown fire from approaching the neighborhood from the south. Because the Stuckagain neighborhood is in an area where wildland fires occur, and there is only one way in and out, residents need to take the Firewise principals seriously. In an emergency it is possible that residents would not be able to leave, and would be forced to shelter in place.

Sue Rodman described the re-seeding program for burn piles within the fire break: the burn scars were seeded with a mix of native fescue and bluegrass--the rationale for this is that these are relatively short-lived species that will prevent noxious weeds from invading and will eventually be replaced by native shrub and tree species.

**Assembly report, Adam Trombley**

This year there was a municipal budget surplus after the first quarter budget revisions came in. Some of that money was taken for the 2015 Anchorage Centennial. Contact Mr. Trombley if there are any requests from East Anchorage for the Centennial celebration. Property taxes were relatively flat this year, up 0.1% from last year. Both the police and fire academy are included in this year's budget.

Community members asked about Mr. Trombley's proposal to cut the budget in the Long-Range Planning Department, or reorganize the Planning Department under Public Works. Mr. Trombley responded that the proposal to cut the planning budget did not pass and the proposal to reorganize the department was tabled.

**Mark Sledge, JBER iSportsman Program**

Mark Sledge, Senior JBER Conservation Enforcement Officer, gave a presentation on JBER's recreational access program, which has recently been updated and is now known as the iSportsman Program. People wishing to recreate within JBER can now sign in and sign out via phone or internet. Permit registration and annual renewal can also be accomplished via phone or internet.

**GCI Cable Installation, Nick Williams, Project Manager**

Nick Williams provided a map of the neighborhood that showed which areas have had fiber-optic cable installed and which areas are on deck for installation. GCI plans to have the brush cleaned up and chipped by the end of June. They plan to re-seed areas along road that have been exposed. Several community members expressed concern about the disruption that the installation is causing within their neighborhood.

**Chugach State Park Access Plan Update, Municipal Planner Thede Tobish and Monica Alvarez, Plan Coordinator**

Thede Tobish gave an update on the status of the status of the Chugach State Park Access Plan (CAP) and its relationship to municipal planning. He explained that the CAP is slated to become part of the Comprehensive Plan after it is adopted by the Assembly. The CAP is currently before the Planning and Zoning Commission, they have had two public hearings and several work sessions and it is not clear when the Commission will vote on adoption of the CAP.

A community member expressed concern about the amount of traffic that the proposed plan would direct through the residential portions of Stuckagain Heights. Mr. Tobish noted that many roads on the Anchorage Hillside are worse and if the community is concerned about the traffic that the proposed development would generate, then the BCC could request a traffic impact analysis prior to any new parking lot development.

Several community members commented that the time frames for the various planning documents were unclear. Mr. Tobish said that each planning document is supposed to be updated after a specified period of time, but it often doesn't happen on schedule.

**BCC Resolution –Chugach Access Plan**

Tina Boucher presented a resolution explaining BCC opposition to elements of the CAP and expressing opposition to the adoption of these elements into the Comprehensive Plan. The resolution summarized prior BCC resolutions and described the access development supported by the BCC. Dirk Sisson gave a summary of the background information, including prior BCC resolutions and Executive Committee letters that preceded this latest resolution. The resolution was discussed, and a friendly amendment was submitted by Barb Hood. The resolution passed with no opposition after adoption of the amendment.

**LRSA update**

Jeff Allen reported that they plan to work on the frost heaves on Atelier.

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm**

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Respectfully submitted,  
Tina Boucher  
Secretary, BCC