

**Bear Valley Community Council**  
Minutes – January 8, 2025

Call to Order, Announcements and Introductions

The regularly-scheduled January 8, 2025 meeting of the Bear Valley Community Council (BVCC) was called to order by Council Chair Cheri Lipps at 7:05 pm. The meeting was held via Zoom and was recorded. At the start of the meeting, there were 11 BVCC community members present and Chair Lipps declared a quorum for conducting business. During the meeting, two additional members joined. Several guests were present including our State legislators and Assembly representative.

Legislative, Assembly and School Board Updates

Reports were provided intermittently by Rep. Holland, Sen. Giessel, ASD Board member Carl Jacobs and Assembly member Randy Sulte as they called in to the Zoom BVCC meeting.

Newly-elected State Representative Ky Holland (House District 9) introduced himself, reporting that he would be formally sworn in on Jan. 21, 2025. He stated that he has been involved in South Anchorage and Bear Valley fire resiliency work for the past several years. He hopes to serve on the Energy Committee, with a focus on our natural gas shortage issues (sec. note: Rep Holland is co-Chair of the House Energy Committee this term.) Rep Holland's contact phone is 907-727-2735 and his email is [representative.Ky.Holland@akleg.gov](mailto:representative.Ky.Holland@akleg.gov). He invited public input on attendees' priorities for the legislative session.

New Business

Legislative reports were paused while the Council took up the agenda item of the MOA Planning Department's 10-year review project on Community Council boundaries. Chair Lipps summarized the Planning Department's review process and conclusions, and the resulting recommendation that the Bear Valley Community Council's boundaries remain unchanged. Discussion followed with no significant disagreement as to the recommendation. It was moved and seconded (A. Pinsonneault / B. Ennis) that the "No change" recommendation be approved and a resolution to that effect (Resolution 2025-01) was adopted by a vote of 11 members in favor, 0 opposed.

Legislative, Assembly Updates (continued)

State Senator Cathy Giessel provided her report, stating that she will be continuing as Senate Majority Leader for the third year, and Chair of the Senate Resources Committee. She expressed concern regarding arctic issues, including national security, coastal erosion and environmental protection, and referenced increasing problems with "ghost vessels" in the Bering Strait region, which typically are older foreign vessels that don't use AIS, are difficult to track, and frequently transport hydrocarbons thus posing pollution risks. Sen. Giessel also addressed budget issues, outlining the Senate's view that there should be no spending-down of savings to fund either the PFD or the state budget. She noted the Governor's proposed budget contained a large (\$1.6 billion) deficit that the Senate was likely to find unacceptable.

BVCC Officer and Committee Reports

BVCC Treasurer Angie Pinsonneault provided her report, noting no change in the BVCC checking account balance. She reminded attendees that the Council has elected to move forward with having the FCC hold the BVCC's funds, this being the most straightforward and cost-effective approach given our minimal financial activity.

Vice Chair and FCC representative Kaitlyn Jackson and Member-at-Large Sean Holland were not in attendance.

Member-at-Large Kori Marchowsky reported that the wildfire Resiliency Committee is expanding in its geographic coverage, but had not met recently.

### LRSA Updates

RCV/H LRSA Board Member Dave Lipps gave a report for his LRSA, noting there had been little snow but a lot of sanding being performed due to icing and overflow. BV LRSA Chair Bill Ennis expressed continued satisfaction with his LRSA's service provider and also noted overflow problems.

Bear Valley LRSA Board Member Paul Flint addressed the CAPSIS (the State's capital improvement submission mechanism) proposal being submitted by his LRSA, which seeks capital improvement monies for the 1/4 mile stretch of road from the bus turn-around to the King's Way/Snow Bear intersection. The funding, if obtained, would be used to install culverts to address drainage problems and a RAP (recycled asphalt product) surface for this section of road, which receives the heaviest usage as the collection point for all the LRSA's road traffic. Regular LRSA funding does not permit (and is not adequate for) capital improvements. He sought Council approval for this submission, and a resolution to that effect (Resolution 2025-02) was adopted by a vote of 13 members in favor, 0 opposed.

### Legislative Assembly Updates (continued)

Chair Lipps directed us back to representative updates, and ASD Board Member Carl Jacobs spoke on recent School Board action. The Board gave final approval in December 2024 to its "right-sizing" plan after considerable public input. Bear Valley Elementary School was removed from the school closure list and several members expressed relief at this news. ASD will be closing two elementary schools next year: Lake Hood and Nunaka Valley. ASD also ceded a plot of land north of the Totem Theater to the MOA since it did not anticipate any need for the land for school building purposes. Mr. Jacobs directed attendees to the ASD website and a survey available there which permits the public to give input into the ASD budget for next school year. He noted ASD continues to focus on reading proficiency, which suffered during the pandemic closures. He also noted that the MOA Assembly approved a school bond proposal for the April 2025 municipal election, which is directed at school security and safety improvements and maintenance, particularly for Bartlett High School. He urged a vote in favor of the bonds.

Anchorage Assembly Member Randy Sulte provided his report, stating that the Municipality's warming shelter for our homeless population is up-and-running. He reported that the MOA has approx. 400 beds available for our homeless residents, with roughly half that number in a congregate or "mass" setting and half non-congregate. There are also privately operated shelters including Brother Francis shelter and the Anchorage Rescue Mission. Mr. Sulte reminded attendees that he is available to meet with constituents each Saturday morning from 8:00-10:00 AM at Kaladi Bros. on Huffman & Industry Way.

### Approval of Minutes, Other Business and Adjournment

Attendees were asked to review and approve the minutes of our November 2024 meeting. It was moved and seconded (A. Pinsonneault / V. Pomraning) that the minutes be adopted, and the motion carried without objection. Attendees reaffirmed that the two Resolutions approved at the meeting would be published on the Federation of Community Councils' website. Chair Lipps announced that the February meeting would take place via Zoom on February 12, 2025. There being no other business, it was moved and seconded (A. Pinsonneault / C. Livsey) that the business meeting be adjourned (time not recorded). The motion carried and informal discussion among members continued for several minutes.

Respectfully submitted,  
Constance Livsey  
BVCC Secretary