

Eklutna Valley Community Council
January 18, 2017
Meeting minutes

The meeting was chaired by council president Margan Grover and began at 7:00 p.m. The council met at the new Eklutna ranger station. Seventeen council members attended: Debbie and Steve Thon, Keith and Vicki Darby, Deb Rix, Margan Grover, Dan Thompson, Glen and Mary Keller, Bob Reagan, Randy Bangerter, Bob and Kathy McElroy, Helen and Tom Bohn, Rick Sinnott, and Erlinda Downing. Guests included park ranger assistant Lilly Toal, Michelle Ritter and Tim Potter from DOWL, and Kevin Morford and T. Frank Box from the Move to Amend, Anchorage chapter.

The minutes of the April 25, 2016, meeting were approved with no changes. Bob Reagan reported \$466.64 in the council's funds.

OLD BUSINESS

Move to Amend. Kevin Morford and Frank Box discussed their grassroots effort called Move to Amend, a national movement to amend the U.S. Constitution to clarify that corporations and other artificial entities are not "people" and money donated to influence elections is not "free speech." Move to Amend is gathering resolutions in support from community councils, who advise the Anchorage Assembly, who may be able to influence state or national representatives to get the ball rolling.

Based on the sponsor's presentation at our last meeting and the discussion that followed, Rick had prepared a draft resolution to support the Move to Amend effort and ask our municipal, state, and federal representatives to support the amendment to the Constitution. A motion to adopt the resolution was seconded, and the resolution was passed with 16 yeas and 2 nays. It was then moved and seconded to approve the whereas's. Several changes were made to the whereas's, and the complete resolution (EVCC Resolution 2017-01) was passed with 16 yeas and 2 nays.

Ernie Turner Recovery Center. Eklutna, Inc., Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC), and Cook Inlet Housing Authority (CIHA) are partnering to build a new Ernie Turner Recovery Center near Mile 2.5 on Eklutna Lake Road. Their proposed 16-bed facility will treat individuals with substance abuse within all stages of recovery. The treatment program will include short- and long-term residential care. There will be a stringent screening process for all applicants accepted into the program. The focus will be inpatient treatment, and there will be no detox services. The facility plans to employ 13 staff onsite during daytime hours as well as several staff persons who will be onsite for 24-hour care and management of the facility.

The proposed development will require a replat, a zoning map amendment to rezone the smaller area from Chugiak-Eagle River Low-Density Residential, Alpine Slope District with Special Limitations (CE-R-10-SL1) to Chugiak-Eagle River Public Land and Institutions (CE-PLI) District, and a conditional use permit. Project details are still being worked out; e.g., the water and soils are untested and the facility is still being designed.

Based on information received at a community meeting on the project that Margan and Dan attended, Rick had drafted a resolution agreeing with the concept of the recovery facility, but cautioning the project sponsors that our council would review new information as it becomes available and may comment further.

A motion was made and seconded to that end and the resolution was adopted with 17 yeas and 1 abstention. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the draft list of whereases's. A few changes were made and the entire resolution (EVCC Resolution 2017-02) was adopted with 17 yeas and 1 abstention.

NEW BUSINESS

MTA upgrade. Randy has been talking with an MTA representative about upgrading our internet speeds. Eklutna Valley residents represent a large share of the 100 or so households in the Municipality of Anchorage with access to internet speeds less than 1 Mb. A fiber optic cable that supports much higher speeds currently extends only to the AWWU Water Treatment Plant. The folks from DOWL believed the proposed Ernie Turner Recovery Center would warrant extending the cable another half mile and would support providing access to residents farther up the valley.

Eagle River Traffic Mitigation. The MOA is holding an open house to review proposed improvements to the Old Glenn Hwy/Eagle River Road intersection. This is part of the Eagle River Traffic Mitigation Phase 1 in preparation for the future Business Blvd extension. The MOA is looking for feedback on the intersection concept design. Margan said there would be an open house on January 26 between 6pm and 8pm at Eagle River Town Center. The intersection design is available for review online at <http://www.brooks-alaska.com/ERTrafficMitigation/documents.htm>

Eklutna Lake Road snow plowing. Eklutna Lake Road is the lowest priority road in the municipality for plowing and sanding; however, the first two miles to the AWWU Water Treatment Facility have a higher priority. Dakota Keller had asked that the council send a letter to the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities suggesting that it consider plowing the big hill between Mile 2.5 and 3.5, which would entail plowing and sanding an addition 1.5 miles of Eklutna Lake Road whenever the road is plowed to the AWWU facility. The big hill is difficult to ascend and dangerous to descend on unsanded ice or unplowed snow. The problem is exacerbated by visitors to Chugach State Park, many of whom are pulling snowmachine trailers.

Building the proposed Ernie Turner Recovery Center would presumably result in plowing Eklutna Lake Road to Mile 2.5 when the road is plowed to the AWWU facility. From there only an extra mile would need to be plowed to include the big hill. Council members agreed that a letter requesting that DOTPF consider plowing the extra mile was warranted. Rick agreed to write the letter from the council for Margan's signature.

Neighborhood Watch. Dan and Margan attended a Chugiak Community Council meeting about crime and setting up a neighborhood watch. The number of local crimes is increasing and APD recommends that neighbors be vigilant. APD welcomes calls to their non-emergency regarding suspicious behavior in neighborhoods. Dan congratulated members on the joint effort to report the suspicious white van last fall, which turned out to belong to someone with a rap sheet full of burglaries. He reported that one method the burglars use is to watch whether driveways have recent tracks after fresh snow.

The meeting adjourned at about 9:10 p.m.