

TO: Federation of Community Councils
THRU: Amy Demboski, President
FROM: Erin Dovichin, Secretary-Treasurer
SUBJECT: Chugiak Community Council Approved Minutes for February 16, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Roll Call

Present:

Amy Demboski, President
Gale Armstrong, Vice-President (arrived after roll call)
Erin Dovichin, Secretary-Treasurer
David Baldwin
Randy McCain
Meredith Mears

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the January 19th meeting, with minor corrections. (1 Baldwin, 2 Mears). Motion passed unanimously.

Chugiak Council meetings are recorded. Listen to the meeting or review the summary meeting minutes at the FCC's website at www.communitycouncils.org (Click on Chugiak).

PRESENTATION

Representatives of Leadership Anchorage, a leadership development program at the Alaska Humanities Forum provided an overview of a community service project they are doing as part of their curriculum. They are implementing a volunteer and mentor drive and an awareness campaign for McLaughlin Youth Center. The center is one of eight juvenile detention and treatment centers in the state. The Center houses incarcerated youth and works to rehabilitate them. Volunteers are needed to visit with the youth to give them positive adult role models. Studies have shown that positive adult non-authoritative relationships significantly decrease recidivism. A short movie on the center was provided. Potential volunteers can contact Leadership Anchorage or the center.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Station 35 Issues. Ronnie Sullivan from the Chugiak Volunteer Fire Department gave the council a briefing on structural issues at fire station 35. After discovering ceiling leaks with the heavy snowfall, an engineering evaluation found the building structurally unsound. It is not repairable and the building is condemned. The fire department has rented a warehouse as a temporary station, including space for their administrative offices. They are looking for a location for a new fire station, and this will likely involve constructing a new building. Initial estimates are in the \$5 million range. Lengthy discussion ensued around many details of the needs of the fire department, potential sites, who would own the

building etc. There are many questions at the moment as this just happened. For example, it is unclear what role insurance on the old building will play as the fire department did not own the building—the municipality owns the building. There is no action for the council at this time. The fire department mainly wants to give a heads up. They will have much more information as plans develop for dealing with the situation. Representative Saddler assured the council that the state legislative delegation is aware of the issue and already working on it. At a future meeting, there may be a need for a resolution of support for the funding to construct a new building. John Rodda reported that Chugiak-Eagle River Parks & Recreation is also working closely with the fire department to locate potential parcels and to assist in providing temporary staging areas for fire trucks and equipment. There is a potential lot very near the old building.

Election of New Board Member. At board elections earlier in the year, Meredith Mears noted she would like to step down from the Board but she would serve until a new board member could be elected in her place. Faye Mulholland is interested in serving on the board. Kovac motioned to replace Meredith Mears. Motion passed unanimously. A motion was made and seconded to open nominations. Faye Mulholland was nominated. A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. Mulholland introduced herself and spoke of her background. Motion was made and seconded to elect Mulholland to the board. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

CBERRRSA Road Board L. Kovac (688-5356).

Kovac could not attend the meeting. Demboski attended and reported:

- Several people testified about the problems with snow berms and their driveways. There is a surplus in the budget for snow removal and part of it will potentially be used to clean up the snow berms.
- The other big discussion was whether or not to raise the mill rate. Likely they will not have to raise it as there is a surplus this year even though we have had a very big snow year. The discussion was tabled, and it will likely be taken up again at the next meeting.

Kovac distributed a flyer for a public meeting on February 23rd on whether or not to close the old Eklutna River bridge. CBERRRSA wants to close the bridge because it is deteriorating and it is unsafe. The Eklutna overpass bridge has issues as well and has load restrictions.

Eagle River-Chugiak Parks & Recreation Board G. Armstrong (696-3543), R. McCain/Alternate (229-6009). Armstrong reported:

- Parks and Rec Board meeting was postponed from last Monday to the coming Monday so no report from the meeting
- People should check out the new McDonald Center. The new construction is coming along very well.

Federation of Community Councils (FCC) A. Demboski (688-2671), R. McCain/Alternate (229-6009). No report.

Treasurer's Report: E. Dovichin (688-2551) . Dovichin reported that the 2011 financial report will be available at the next meeting. The Council has \$3430

On-Site Wastewater System Technical Review Board (no current representative) No report.

Title 21/Consortium of Chugiak-Eagle River Community Councils R. McCain (229-6009), M. Mears/Alternate (622-4077). McCain reported:
No update since the last meeting.

Assembly and Legislative Update.

Representative Dan Saddler reported that he and other legislators went to D.C. to lobby for opening ANWR. Oil taxes are the big issue in this legislative session. There are several other bills such as the anti-texting on cell phones while driving, education funding. There's a proposal to allow municipalities to choose whether or not they wish to provide a real estate tax exemption for volunteer firefighters. There was some discussion of the exemption, how important our volunteer firefighters are, but also how other volunteer interests might also want an exemption. There was also a discussion of the anti-texting-while driving. Some thought that was over-reach. Others felt it was an important safety issue, that driving while talking on a cell phone has been proven to be effectively like driving drunk, and the bill does not go far enough. Representative Stoltze continues to lead the effort to move ABC to the Division of Commerce. The ABC Director recently reversed the decision to not accept passports as valid id for purchase of alcohol.

OLD BUSINESS

DOT Path Issue. There is no update on this issue.

OPEN FORUM

Gayle Schuh from One Anchorage asked to put a resolution in front of the council supporting ballot proposition #5. Demboski said that the Council would table that issue until the upcoming meeting – the Council needs to make the offer to both sides in a ballot proposition to present to the council and there is interest from both sides in doing so.

David Baldwin noted that this meeting room is available to the community for meetings at \$10 an hour. They are steadily improving it.

Representative Saddler noted that the new baseball team is looking for accommodations for players during the summer as well as donations of supplies for the first season.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 15, 2012, 7:00 pm at the Elsie Oberg Community Center.

The Chugiak Community Council serves Fire Lake, Chugiak, Peters Creek, Mirror Lake, Thunderbird Heights and Eklutna. We meet at 7pm on the third Thursday of the month at the Chugiak Benefit Association's north building, the Elsie Oberg Community Center (18606 Old Glenn Highway).

Matanuska Telephone Association is donating the use of email accounts to Chugiak Community Council officers.
