

TO: Federation of Community Councils
THRU: David Baldwin, President
FROM: Erin Dovichin, Secretary-Treasurer
SUBJECT: Chugiak Community Council Approved Minutes for March 15, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Roll Call

Present:

Amy Demboski, President
David Baldwin
Harold Mears
Faye Mulholland
Benjamin Sherburne

Excused:

Erin Dovichin, Secretary-Treasurer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from February 2012, with minor corrections. (1 Baldwin, 2 Mulholland). Motion passed unanimously.

Copies of Chugiak Community Council s meeting minutes and bylaws are available on the FCC s website at www.communitycouncils.org (Click on Chugiak). These minutes are a summary form of the discussion and key decisions. Audio files of the full discussion are also available on the website.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION FORUM

All candidates for the municipal election for mayor and school board were invited for an election forum. One mayoral candidate, Paul Honeman, and two school board candidates, David Nees and Tam Agosti-Gisler, presented their platforms for election. Participants had an opportunity to ask a variety of questions about the candidates stance on various issues.

A representative from Anchorage Tomorrow gave an overview of the bond propositions. There was extensive discussion about how we sustain municipal investments over the long-term and the hidden costs, and whether or not we can afford some of these things. There is concern about the future and the cost of these investments and interest over the years. Residents need to be educated about what these decisions really mean. People don't know. Do we handle public funds like we do our own private funds, and if not, why not? Chugiak is a fiscally

conservative community. You shouldn't be spending money you don't have. We are living beyond our means. Participants reflected on the pros and cons and the nuances of these perspectives.

Most of the bonds apply only to Anchorage, but people throughout the municipality must vote because the entire municipality is responsible.

The forum then turned to proposition five, which also involved a proposal for a resolution from the Council in support of proposition five. Gayle Schuh returned to present the case for voting in support of proposition five. Gayle talked about how people in our community live in fear of reprisals because of their sexuality. There was a motion to adopt the resolution as presented. (Kovac 1, Mulholland 2). Discussion ensued. Baldwin was concerned that the council can't represent the whole community on this issue. There were differing opinions. Some felt it was a special interest issue. Others felt this was not a gay issue, but an issue people being treated equally. We're not promoting a special group. We're promoting humanity. Demboski asked what position this proposition put churches and religious institutions in terms of hiring in conflict to their belief systems. Religious institutions are exempt. Sherburne said he would not sign on to the resolution because it was already on the ballot and was before the people to vote. If the resolution had been brought to the council before it became a ballot initiative, he would have endorsed it. Once it is on the ballot he didn't feel he could sign his name to it one way or the other. Demboski thanked OneAnchorage for coming because this type of discussion is so beneficial to the community. Demboski call the vote. Five opposed. Two supported. Motion failed.

REPORTS

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

- Budget close to limits because of all the snow and they may need to dip into savings.
- Some people are proposing extra service levels and these might include significant policy changes and increased mill levies. There was discussion about how this may be an over-reaction to an unusual snow amount this year and we need to consider whether or not it's necessary to increase the service levels. It's not good to budget on outlying years. People generally felt the snow removal was good here in the Chugiak-Eagle River, and this is Alaska and we should expect this from time to time. Gating equipment in order to avoid the driveway berms would be the one improvement people really think they should consider.
- Old Eagle River Road will be reworked, including sidewalks and better drainage
- A meeting was held on the old Eklutna Bridge. The municipality is determining when to close the bridge. They are doing some more risk assessment. Sherburne added that Thunderbird Heights is afraid it will just steadily fall apart. No one has been willing to take responsibility, and we probably won't see the bridge replaced. Lengthy discussion ensued on the timing of potential repairs on the Glenn Highway Elkutna bridge and how that might interact with closures on the old Eklutna bridge.
- They are working on the mill rate. Likely there won't be a large increase.
- Kovac reminded everyone that she is stepping down as Road Board representative in July.

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

- Eagle River skate park budget is \$50,000. More detail to come.
- The park at town square is being expanded to include equipment for an all-inclusive playground for children with special needs. Funded almost entirely by private funds from organizations such as Rotary and Focus
- Loretta French ballfield will be ready for the Chinooks first baseball season
- Beach Lake trail lighting. Parks and Rec appropriated over half a million for new lighting, but needs have increased significantly and the pricetag increased to \$900,000. The lights are all in the Beach Lake master plan and it is more cost effective to do the project at once instead of phases. Almost the entire meeting was dedicated to this issue. Parks and Rec felt this is a regional park and could be one of the jewels of our community and the funding was approved except for one vote.

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

Treasurer’s Report: E. Dovichin (688-2551) . Baldwin gave a brief overview of the annual treasurer’s report in Dovichin’s absence. The balance is \$3,395.06. Baldwin gave a brief overview of the report. Motion made and seconded to accept the annual report. Motion passed unanimously.

Title 21/Consortium of Chugiak-Eagle River Community Councils R. McCain (229-6009), M. Mears/Alternate (622-4077). No report.

ASSEMBLY and LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Demboski read an email from Dan Saddler with an update on funding for the Chugiak fire department building.

Demboski said that, according to legislators, \$250,000 was put into a supplemental budget to fix our bike path along the Old Glenn.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 19, 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.
