

Chugiak Community Council Meeting Minutes of 11/17/2011

TO: Federation of Community Councils  
THRU: David Baldwin, President  
FROM: Erin Dovichin, Secretary-Treasurer  
SUBJECT: Chugiak Community Council Approved Minutes for November 17, 2011

**CALL TO ORDER**

The President called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

**Roll Call**

*Present:*

David Baldwin, President  
Gale Armstrong, Vice President  
Karla Beller  
Amy Demboski  
Benjamin Sherburne

*Excused:*

Erin Dovichin, Secretary-Treasurer

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the October meeting were not available as the Secretary was not present. Approval of October minutes tabled until the next meeting.

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

**UPDATE ON WALLACE HOMESTEAD**

Bill Tucker provided an update on their efforts to move the Wallace Homestead into public ownership. State Parks has no budget for more acquisition and it would be very difficult to convince legislators from places such as Ketchikan, Barrow etc. that Chugach State park needs more acres. That's not going to happen. But this real estate has real value to the community and so the Mayor said if there is community support, Anchorage could put it on their CIP list and secure funding for it through that vehicle. However, Parks & Rec does not have the funding to operate and manage a property such as this. With research, they found it is possible for the municipality to own land and State Parks to manage it. That's what's happening at Bird Creek. The municipality did put the acquisition on the CIP list. It is still important to generate support. Next month they are going to the Chamber of Commerce and the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau.

There was a question of how many acres and at what price. Tucker said it is 320 acres and the most recent evaluation they have, based on development, is \$6.45 million. The pricetag is negotiable. Sherburne asked what the current tax value is and what the impact would be of losing those funds. Tucker said he wasn't sure, but maybe something like \$15,000 a year.

There was discussion of what municipal entity would hold the property. Demboski thought it was the Heritage Land Bank. Tucker disagreed. Discussion ensued about the Birchwood Community Council resolution. Armstrong pointed out that Parks & Rec's Advisory Boards hands are tied. They can't actually do Capital Improvement Projects. There was further discussion about potential costs of managing the lands.

Kovac suggested that maybe the Council should sign on to the Birchwood Community Council resolution. Armstrong read the resolution (appended to these minutes). Kovac made a motion to endorse the Birchwood Council resolution. No one seconded.

Demboski said she does not have enough information. \$6.45 million is a lot of money and we don't even have basic information such as the tax value. She pointed out that there are issues with Flattop and parking, for example. We don't even know the range of issues with this property and she thinks it's premature to jump on the bandwagon. There was discussion of the problems at Flattop parking lot and other vandalism issues on the road system. Sherburne noted that the property could be a benefit to the community, but if it's not properly patrolled and maintained, it could become a destination for vandalism. Discussion continued on this topic and then Tucker gave an overview of the history, health issues etc of the investors.

Beller shared her concern that putting this property on the CIP list might divert funds away from the road issues, for example, that we already have and they may not get fixed. Who is going to end up paying for Tablelands, for example, and that's millions there alone.

The Council took no action on the issue pending further information. Tucker said he would get more information to Baldwin.

### **NEW MEETING FACILITY**

Baldwin provided a brief overview of the new facility and its developing audio visual capability. The Chugiak Benefit Association wanted to provide a place for meetings and webinars here in Chugiak so people don't always have to go to Eagle River. This council meeting is the first meeting at this facility so we're the test group.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

**Winter Driving.** David Baldwin provided a powerpoint presentation on driving risk, how and why collisions happen, the legal consequences, and the mechanics and techniques involved to lower driving risks particularly in winter.

## **REPORTS**

**CBERRSA Road Board** L. Kovac (688-5356).

Kovac read from the Chugiak Community Council Road Board Report. The report is incorporated at the end of these minutes.

There was discussion of CBERRSA's request to the state to close the old Eklutna Bridge. It's an unsafe bridge. Fixing the bridge used to be a CIP priority for CBERRSA, but now it fixing it is not prioritized because the priority is now just the funds to close it. The reason they did the 2010 study was to document how unsafe the bridge is. Sherburne noted that the Eklutna bridge overpass is also now structurally unsound because it's been hit by both sides, and residents of Thunderbird Falls are concerned because if that bridge goes then they will have to drive north on the Glenn to the Knik River exit in order to get to Anchorage. Discussion ensued between Sherburne and Kovac on both bridges. Kovac can provide the report on the old Eklutna bridge by email. The report is also on the CBERSSA site. Right now CBERRSA has only requested the bridge be closed—it is not closed yet.

Jill Hall and another resident came to discuss drainage issue at the end of Northwoods. They are having the same type of issues as Tablelands. Kovac said the area is the same developer as Tablelands and is likely included in the Tablelands project/ resolution. She will check. Discussion ensued on the drainage problems in the entire area. Resident have been trying to get it resolved since 2005.

Discussion turned to street light issues in that same area. Kovac gave an overview of how the Eagle River Street Lights Service area works. Hall's area is likely part of this service area. Various subdivisions are included and they are not contiguous. Kovac said the municipality's preference is that developers get new subdivisions into the service area.

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

Armstrong asked for feedback on the ski trail conditions and grooming after the recent snowfall. He also reported that construction on the McDonald Center addition is ongoing and he continues to be excited about the benefits this will provide the community.

**Treasurer's Report:** E. Dovichin (688-2551). No report

**Old Glenn Project Citizen Committee (ADOT&PF Project No. 52515)** L. Kovac. No further report.

**Federation of Community Councils (FCC)** D. Baldwin (688-0123) R. McCain/Alternate (229-6009). No report.

**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) No report.

**Assembly and Legislative Update.** No report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Kovac motioned that there be no Council meeting in December. Sherburne seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

DOT Path issue. Baldwin reported that Representative Stoltz said the potential public forum on the pathway is still on, but a date has not been chosen. Demboski gave a brief overview of the pathway issue and how the Council is still concerned about it and it still hasn't been resolved. Discussion ensued on Baldwin's digital images of the problems with the pathway. Sherburne noted that since he's been on the Board all he's seen from DOT is a desire to get the project closed and not resolve the issue. Discussion ensued on the need and importance for this problem to be resolved. Baldwin will follow up again with Representative Stoltz and DOT on the forum and resolution of the problem

**OPEN FORUM** No discussion

**ADJOURNMENT**

Sherburne motioned to adjourn. Armstrong seconded. Meeting adjourned.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be Thursday, January 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.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**11/17/11 Chugiak Community Council Road Board Report by L. Kovac**

**Pavement Overlay**

Pavement overlays completed over the summer in the Chugiak area included Woodcliff Drive, Woodcliff Court, Deer Park Drive, East Lake Ridge Drive, James Way, Whaley, and Tulwar.

## **CCTV Storm Line Inspection**

The closed-circuit TV storm line inspection project has ended for the season and is about 65% complete. The inspections noted 30 potential failures with 9 that are critical and due for repairs in 2012. There were also 12 pipe intrusions discovered. The companies and individuals responsible for the pipe intrusions have been notified and repairs are being scheduled.

## **Eklutna River Bridge**

The Road Board unanimously approved a motion to support Mark Littlefield, CBERRRSA's General Foreman, in his 10/25/11 request to the MOA Traffic Department to permanently close the Eklutna River Bridge on the Old Glenn Highway to all vehicular traffic, as soon as possible, in the interest of public safety. Specifically:

- The bridge continues to deteriorate unabated. The bridge's worsening condition and failed areas are documented in state inspection reports with the most recent inspection report dated September 2010.
- The bridge is deemed in need of replacement.
- MOA and CBERRRSA are responsible for the maintenance of the bridge but the amount and type of repairs are beyond our maintenance capabilities and funding.
- Enforcing weight restrictions on the vehicular traffic that crosses the bridge is not a realistic expectation.
- Bridge deterioration will lead to failure and possible injuries.

The Road Board is seeking state funding to replace the bridge.

## **Tablelands**

The Road Board approved going ahead with work to fix drainage problems in The Tablelands Subdivision by installing subdrains. The work will be accomplished in phases. The first phase will cost \$2M and will be funded via state grant money.

## **Yosemite Drive**

The Anchorage School District (ASD) has made a request to the Platting Board to 1) reduce the number and extent of the required improvements that ASD must construct on Yosemite Drive and 2) to extend the construction deadline (P&Z Case No. S11099-6). The Road Board unanimously approved a motion to recommend that this request be denied.

## **2012 Capital Improvements Project List – State Grants**

The Road Board prioritized our wish list for state grants. Projects include:

- Areawide road and drainage improvements (including The Tablelands Subdivision);
- Constructing a sand storage building at the road materials facility at Hiland to meet new federal regulations;
- Upgrading Homestead Road to a collector;
- Constructing Eagle River Lane to a collector in Eagle River Valley;
- Repairing the asphalt overlay on Hiland Road;

- Improving the area around Brooks Road, Chugiak Drive, and Cross Drive in Eagle River;
- Upgrading Citation Road from Eagle River Loop to Eagle River Lane;
- Replacing the Eklutna River Bridge on the Old Glenn Highway;
- Developing a snow storage site; and
- Obtaining a traffic-calming grant to be administered by MOA Traffic on behalf of the CBERRRSA area.

## **OS&HP**

The Official Streets and Highways Plan (OS&HP) Update is on the Muni's website and the Muni is seeking public comment. The Road Board reviewed the draft and is making a recommendation that the update be approved with a few changes.

One recommended change is not to lump all Chugiak-Eagle River (C-ER) street typology in with the Anchorage Bowl's. Street typologies are intended to supply additional design guidance when a road is constructed or rebuilt to take into account the surrounding land uses and the needs of non-motorized users. It was recommended that differences in street specifications for C-ER be included in Title 21, Chapter 10 (C-ER's land use regulations).

## **MTP**

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is on the Muni's website and the Muni is seeking public comment. This is the document that is combining the Chugiak-Eagle River Long-Range Transportation Plan and the Anchorage Bowl Long-Range Transportation Plan into a single plan. The Road Board received a presentation on the draft MTP and we will review it in more detail during a work session at our next Road Board Meeting (Tuesday, Dec 13th, Eagle River Town Hall, work session starts at 6pm).

## **Eklutna Overpass on the Glenn Highway**

One project that had been removed from the list of road projects in the MTP was fixing the Eklutna Overpass on the Glenn Highway. This overpass is too low and taller vehicles run into it. AMATS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members informed Kovac that the lights and signage that had been installed at this overpass was intended to be the solution to the problem. That is, the signage was meant to warn drivers about how low the overpass is so they can avoid going under the overpass if they are driving tall vehicles. They could simply exit the Glenn Highway at the Eklutna Overpass and re-enter the highway on the other side. That was the reason, given by AMATS, as to why the project was removed from the list.

Kovac expressed surprised that AMATS deemed this project complete. Kovac informed TAC members that there were still vehicles that were running into the overpass and that the lights don't work. In response, TAC members said they would add that overpass to another project that is supposed to review all Glenn Highway interchanges and ramps for possible improvements.

Now, however, Mark Littlefield reported at the Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> Road Board Meeting that someone hauling a backhoe had rammed that overpass again and has made the overpass structurally unsound. Littlefield further reported that ADOT says the project to re-construct this overpass is back on.

**CBERRRSA Chugiak Road Representative**

Kovac's CBERRRSA Chugiak Road Representative term expires in July 2012 and she won't be seeking another term. Anyone interested in representing Chugiak on the Road Board should start attending the Road Board meetings.

**Northwoods Circle**

A couple of homeowners from Northwoods Circle complained about improper drainage in their cul de sac. Kovac stated she would follow up with Eagle River Street Maintenance to determine if any drainage work was planned for that area.