

# **Bear Valley:**

*Where Anchorage meets the last frontier!*



## **Bear Valley Community Council Meeting Minutes**

### **BVCC meeting – August 9, 2006**

Compiled by Scott Pexton, BVCC Secretary

The council meeting was held at the outdoor Storck Park picnic shelter along Clarks Road and began at approximately 7:05 pm. It was somewhat cold, cloudy and rainy, but nine people attended and eight people signed the Meeting Sign-in register indicating a quorum of council members present.

**BVCC Chair Cheri Howland** started the meeting and indicated that BVCC Vice-Chair Jim Steele had a work related conflict and would not be able to attend this meeting. She introduced Tom Simes, President of the Anchorage Radio Control System (ARCS).

#### **Alaska Radio Control System**

Tom Simes indicated that several ARCS members had flown radio controlled model airplanes at Storck Park on Sundays in accordance with the Permit and that several spectators had asked ARCS members for more information about the hobby. He indicated that ARCS members had handed out several ARCS applications to people that were interested. He was aware of only two specific reports of people flying planes in the park on non-permitted days and he did not think that those people were ARCS members. Rodney Powell indicated that there was one other instance he was aware of that occurred two or three weeks ago. Tom indicated that if people saw people flying model planes inappropriately in Storck Park that they could either call him or Shawna Popovici, the municipal Southeast District Park Manager. It is helpful to provide a license plate number so Shawna can coordinate with APD to help identify people involved. Scott Pexton commented on the potential for confusion due to current sign placement in the park, as a sign prohibiting model airplane use is currently posted in the parking lot in a place that is sometimes obstructed from view. Tom indicated that they post a copy of their permit over the sign on Sundays and that ARCS members are instructed to keep a copy of the permit on hand whenever they fly model planes at Storck Park. Scott indicated that Shawna had mentioned on several different occasions that the Parks Department would be rearranging the signs at Storck Park to better organize them in a central kiosk type area, but it never seems to get beyond the talking stage. Tom indicated that he was in favor of reorganizing the signs and he would be happy to post information about the ARCS permit at a central kiosk if built. Cheri indicated that allocation of money from the municipal budget seems to be the sticking point for the sign reorganization idea at Storck Park.

#### **Parks**

Cheri mentioned that Shawna Popovici could not make it to this council meeting as she had another work commitment. Cheri had talked with Shawna earlier, and Cheri passed out a sign up sheet for a tour of parks in the Bear Valley area with Shawna at an unspecified time. Five members indicated interest and signed the sheet for the tour. Cheri also mentioned that the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) budget was well underway for this year, but that it makes sense to start thinking about potential CIP projects pertaining to Bear Valley for next year and that this will come up for more formal discussions in about eight months.

#### **Land Use Plan Map**

Scott Pexton discussed changes to the Planning Department's Land Use Plan Map recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission as a result of public input and testimony. He passed around information including maps and the June 2006 issues-responses and addendum obtained from the municipal web site for the Planning Department. Scott indicated that some of the public comments about housing density in Bear Valley and comments about Section 36 were addressed, and that the Special Study Area designation for Section 36 was removed. Scott also passed out a notice about the Heritage Land Bank Commission meeting scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup> and passed out information from the proposed draft 2007 HLB work plan. He mentioned that the HLB work plan discussed two projects in Bear Valley: Section 36 road

access surveying and platting, and a 20-acre parcel along Brewster's Road that is identified for potential lot disposal and trailhead access to Chugach State Park.

Leonard and Ellen Stanley asked about whether there were changes planned for the existing R-6 zoning along Francesca Road. They indicated that the current R-6 zoning with its set backs and other requirements made it difficult to upgrade septic systems within existing lots. Scott indicated he didn't think that zoning changes were the main goal of the Land Use Map which was more of a conceptual plan for potential future zoning changes, but it was more a goal of proposed Title 21 ordinance changes. Rodney indicated that he thought the Land Use Plan Map might have some legal problems as mentioned further below.

### **Home and Landowner Organization (HALO)**

Rodney Powell indicated that at the last HALO meeting State Senator Con Bunde spoke about the proposed Alaska Gas line project legislation and that Assemblymember Janice Shamburg indicated that the smoking ordinance and rezoning issues for a proposed Wal-Mart were topics of concern for the Assembly. Rodney mentioned that the Hillside District Plan now has advisory members identified and selected to participate in the process. He also indicated that an attorney pointed out something about the proposed Land Use Plan Map that raised concerns about its legality with respect to the zoning process. He thought the Land Use Plan Map concept was basically a dead issue and might not continue on for submittal to the Assembly.

### **Limited Road Service Area (LRSA)**

Cheri Howland indicated that Rabbit Creek View/Heights LRSA Board member, Johann Hamerski, had recently resigned from the LRSA Board and the position was currently vacant. She indicated that she had talked with municipal officials and that it was her understanding that it would be helpful if a BVCC member was appointed by the Mayor's Office to the LRSA on an interim basis until the next LRSA Board election is held. As Cheri and her husband have road construction experience and she is willing and interested in filling the position, Vice-Chair Jim Steele drafted a proposed letter to Mayor Begich that supports the nomination of Cheri Howland as an interim Rabbit Creek View/Heights Board member to fill the vacancy. This proposed letter was passed around to council members present at the meeting. A motion was made and seconded to call for a vote to approve sending the letter to the Mayor on behalf of the BVCC. The issue was briefly discussed and then a vote taken. All eight members present voted in favor of the letter to support appointment of Cheri Howland to the Rabbit Creek Heights/View LRSA Board and no one was opposed, so the motion passed unanimously.

### **Mail Box Replacement Options**

Cheri indicated that there wasn't much response to an email request she had sent out earlier this year inquiring about mail box replacement, and that it was too late in the summer to realistically expect the project to get underway before winter arrives. She indicated that further pursuit of this topic will likely be postponed until next year.

### **Other**

Scott asked if the next council meeting would be held at the Bear Valley Elementary School and Cheri indicated that a new school use permit needed to be issued by the ASD, but that the next meeting would likely be held at the school. Scott asked if council members were interested in inviting an HLB representative and/or the Traffic Department Director to come to the next council meeting to discuss Bear Valley projects including potential traffic routing plans for areas such as the nearby Shangri-La and Horace Subdivisions. Council members generally indicated support for these invitations and no one suggested other topics or concerns for the next meeting.

As no one else seemed to have anything more to talk about, a motion was made and passed to adjourn. The council meeting adjourned early at approximately at 8:00 PM.

The next Bear Valley Community Council meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 13, 2006, 7:00 – 9:00 PM at the Bear Valley Elementary School.**

End of meeting minutes.