


June 7, 2004

TO: Federation of Community Councils

THRU: Merten Bangemann-Johnson  
President

FROM: Linda R. Kovac  
Secretary 

SUBJECT: **Chugiak Community Council - Approved Minutes for May 20, 2004 Meeting**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The President called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

#### **Roll Call**

Present: Merten Bangemann-Johnson, President  
Linda Kovac, Vice President and Treasurer  
David Baldwin  
Mick Fischback  
Marty Parsons

#### **Unexcused:**

Gale Armstrong  
Charlie Cox

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the April 15, 2004 meeting. Motion was approved unanimously.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION**

John Arzie of East Peters Creek was nominated and seconded to replace Art Isham (former Secretary) on the Board. There being no further nominations, a vote was conducted by all members unanimously electing John Arzie to the Board.

Board Member Linda Kovac nominated herself to be Secretary/Treasurer as well as Board Member Dave Baldwin to be Vice President. The nominations were seconded. There being no further nominations, a vote was conducted by the Board unanimously electing Dave Baldwin to Vice President and Linda Kovac to Secretary/Treasurer.

### **REPORTS**

CBERRRSA Road Board – Ted Kinney (688-2477), Chris Hudson/Alternate (696-1037) – Ted reported that contractors are working 6-day weeks to ready roads for chip-seal. Almost every dirt road in Chugiak has now been chip-sealed. In Scimitar, gravel upgrades and temporary pavement is being installed which will be later replaced with permanent pavement. The Lower Fire Lake culvert dam is still not repaired and West Lake Ridge Road remains closed. The CBERRRSA Road Board is not responsible for dam repairs or budget. There appears to be legal problems with the dam repair funding but it may come from the Federal government. The Eklutna River Bridge, which the CBERRRSA Road Board is responsible for, will be replaced as it is less expensive than rebuilding it.

Eagle River/Chugiak Parks & Recreation Board – Ray Burger (688-3835) – Ray reported that Requests For Proposals (RFPs) are still needed for a new caretaker for Loretta French Park (located on the Old Glenn Hwy). There are currently two groups proposing park management. Work on the adjacent ball field dugouts will be done this summer. This park is normally open 8am - 5pm. If you are planning an event, a permit may be required. Please verify permit status by contacting Eagle River/Chugiak Parks & Recreation at 694-2011. At Beach Lake Park (located off South Birchwood Loop), work on the chalet is planned for this summer. At Marianna Koehler Park (located on Hilltop Drive), irrigation work is planned for this summer. Ray does not anticipate an impact on the Peters Creek Community Park from the Old Glenn Highway Rehabilitation Project.

Federation of Community Councils (FCC) – Merten Johnson (688-6575), Dave Baldwin/Alternate (688-6158) – Merten reported that the annual Assembly grant of \$100,000 to FCC has been eliminated but the Assembly did authorize a \$26,000 grant for this year. Members are encouraged to switch receiving their community council agendas and newsletters by U.S. mail to email as email is much less expensive to send. In addition, long time Operations Assistant, Charlene Whiting, has left the FCC. She is being replaced by Betty Kremer who may be contracted through year end. Hours: 8am-noon Mon-Fri. Phone: 277-1977. Address: 401 E. Northern Lights Blvd.; Suite 204

Chugiak Community Council Treasury – Linda Kovac (688-5356) – Linda reported that there was \$1,528.86 in the savings account which includes a \$10 donation from members attending the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. No expenses were reported.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

See Planning & Zoning Case No. S11275-1 as well as Context Sensitive (Road) Design.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Planning & Zoning Case No. S11275-1

Planning & Zoning Case No. S11275-1 is a short plat that proposes to subdivide five lots into one lot in the Candlelight Subdivision in Peters Creek. The case is scheduled to go before the Platting Officer on Monday, July 5, 2004.

After Mr. Gale Johnson (688-9042) gave a brief presentation on his subdivision plans to the Council, a motion was made and seconded to endorse the plat as proposed. The motion carried with 38 in support, two abstaining, and none opposed. The Secretary was requested to prepare and send a letter to the MOA Planning Department recommending the plat be approved.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Context Sensitive (Road) Design

Frank McQueary/Anchorage Road Coalition (243-2999) gave an abbreviated version of the same presentation he gave at the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding the organization and goals of the Anchorage Road Coalition. The Coalition, which includes several community councils within the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA), advocates 1) safe, neighborhood friendly, cost effective street construction, 2) educating users to understand the impacts of street design, 3) and lobbying the MOA and SOA to adopt a rigorous process prior to street design to consider potential impacts to all stakeholders.

Subsequently, a motion was made and seconded to support a resolution to urge the State of Alaska (SOA) and MOA to adopt context sensitive design practices for road building. With much discussion and two minor modifications, this motion passed with 32 members in support, 7 members opposed, and one member abstaining. The resolution is as follows:

*Resolved that: Whereas the citizens of the Municipality/State have found their ability to participate in and influence the road planning functions of the Municipality and the State to be inadequate, we request that the Mayor/Governor adopt the following policy and require the MOA/State road planning organizations adhere to it:*

- **New Executive Order for Context Sensitive Solutions**

*This New Executive Order directs MOA/SOA employees to implement Context Sensitive Solutions tools on all department projects.*

- **Context Sensitive Solutions**

*Context Sensitive Solutions is a model for transportation project development that has recently received much discussion and broad acceptance. Its essence is that a proposed transportation project must be planned not only for its physical aspects as a facility serving specific transportation objectives, but also for its effects on the historic, aesthetic, social, economic and environmental values, needs, constraints, and opportunities in a larger community setting. MOA/SOA endorses the Context Sensitive Solutions approach for all projects, large and small, from early planning through construction and eventual operation.*

*This means that MOA/SOA employees working on projects and facilities should:*

- *Engage from the project's inception with representatives of affected communities, including elected and appointed officials and a widely representative array of interested citizens.*
- *Assure that transportation objectives of projects are clearly described and discussed with local communities in a process that encourages reciprocal communication about local views and needs in the overall project setting.*
- *Pay attention to and address community and citizen concerns.*
- *Ensure the project is a safe facility for both the user and the community.*
- *Context Sensitive Solutions is a process that places a high value on seeking and, if possible, achieving consensus. MOA's/SOA's belief is that consensus is highly advantageous to all parties and may help avoid delay and other costly obstacles to project implementation.*

Old Glenn Highway Rehabilitation Project (ADOT&PF State Project No. 52515)

A large group of members voiced deep concerns and opinions about the project. No one from ADOT had been invited by the Council to the meeting so many questions went unanswered. The President stated he would invite ADOT representatives to next month's meeting.

In general, the comments included:

- Some members were frustrated with the Chugiak Community Council and ADOT, believing their issues are falling on deaf ears. One member asked what the goal of the discussion should be. As it turned out, everyone wanted their opinions to be heard and matter.
- One member stated that the project has a long history with the Chugiak Community Council, the Chamber of Commerce, and much historical roadway research had been previously conducted and reviewed by community members.

*Secretary Note:*

*In fact, in 1992, the Chugiak Community Council, in response to an area-wide survey, requested that the State make the Old Glenn Highway a safer road by adding shoulders and a trail. The project finally made it through prioritization, AMATS, and funding and is now underway.*

- One long-time member stated many years ago the zoning advisory committee had to zone much of the land along the Old Glenn to be commercial and industrial as the community required a place to conduct business, despite the fact there were residences along the highway.
- Some members were confused with the current AWWU water and sewer work along the Old Glenn south of the South Birchwood Loop/Old Glenn Hwy intersection. The only way this work is related to the Old Glenn Highway Rehabilitation Project is that the two departments are trying to coordinate their work so the road does not have to be torn up several times. The budgets for the AWWU and ADOT projects are separate.
- One member stated that she wanted a two lane road without potholes and safe shoulders.
- Several members wondered why so much vegetation should be cut if it is not necessary. The road currently looks like a country lane and many people do not want to lose its character.
- One member suggested that the community needs our rural and historic areas and the current project might destroy them.
- Several members were concerned about impacts to the Larimer Fire Station and the Chugiak Benefit Association (CBA) buildings, parking lot, basketball court, and fenced play area. One member stated his understanding was that individual properties would be limited to only one access which means the CBA would have only one access instead of the current two. The CBA is managed by and belongs to the community.
- Some members wondered if ROW encroachments, like wells, lift-stations, sheds, etc. could be grand-fathered-in.
- Several members were worried about impacts to their businesses. If parking lots shrink or are removed completely from the ROW, could their businesses die?
- One member suggested that if all the traffic from any new developments were forced to utilize the New Glenn only, there would no need to upgrade the Old Glenn. Others stated that would not be practical for going to the store, post office, school, etc.
- One member stated the project should be deferred and some wanted to cancel it.
- Many members desired to know exactly how far along the design was, could it be changed, and could principles of context sensitive road design be retroactively applied to this project.
- Many people stated they wanted to be more involved with the design process and encouraged others to do the same. One member recommended getting organized, gathering petitions, making phone calls, and making personal presentations (preferred to emails and letters). One member suggested writing comments in the [www.freein2003.org](http://www.freein2003.org) forum.

Most of the group believed that a way forward was to setup a citizen committee to identify community issues and develop a process to make recommendations to the Chugiak Community Council, ADOT, and CRW Engineering Group. It was recommended to include an engineer who understands both the technical and community issues. Consequently, the Old Glenn Highway Project Committee was set up, is open to the public, and includes the following volunteers:

Name	Phone	Email	Mailing Address
Cairy, Mike and Stiner, Jennifer	694-8720	cairstiner@aol.com	P.O. Box 772633, Eagle River, AK 99577-2633
De Caprio, Dave	688-3919	oscstmbt.ddecaprio@gci.net	P.O. Box 670845, Chugiak, AK 99567-0845
Kinney, Ted	688-2477	tkinney@mtaonline.net	P.O. Box 671074, Chugiak, AK 99567-1074
Kovac, Linda	688-5356	lkovac@chugiakcouncil.org	P.O. Box 671271, Chugiak, AK 99567-1271
Mears, Bill and Meredith	622-4077	meredithmrs@aol.com	P.O. Box 770123, Eagle River, AK 99577-0123
Waddell, Dixie	688-2610	sprcreek@mtaonline.net	18915 Old Glenn Hwy, Chugiak, AK 99567
Wells, Bobbi	688-4321	barb@mtaonline.net	19213 Spruce Crest Dr, Chugiak, AK 99567

Standard meeting times and dates are not yet set up for the Old Glenn Highway Project Committee. If anyone is interested in joining the committee or attending the meetings, please contact someone on the list for details.

State Representative Bill Stolze, in attendance, offered to be a conduit between the community and ADOT for the project (622-4958 or 688-5754).

Other important contacts include: Dave Yanoshek, P.E./CRW Engineering Group, LLC. (Phone 562-3252, Fax 561-2273, Email dyanoshek@crweng.com); Ken Chapman/ADOT (269-0586); Carl Nelson/ADOT (269-0595); and Al Burton/DOT ROW Questions (269-0689).

Chugiak Website: **[www.chugiakcouncil.org](http://www.chugiakcouncil.org)**

The Chugiak Community Council's website is still under development. The President suggested a meeting be set up with Birchwood representatives to finalize and implement the design.

Chugiak/Birchwood Fact Sheet

Board Member Linda Kovac will distribute the Fact Sheet to all residences and business in the Chugiak/Birchwood since mill rates have now been finalized.

Review of Chugiak Community Council By-Laws

The by-law review has been postponed to a later date.

## **OPEN FORUM**

### **Chugiak Fire Service Area (CFSA) Board of Supervisors Opening**

The Council had endorsed Former Assemblymember Dan Kendall to the open seat on the CFSA Board. Mr. Kendall, in attendance, stated that Mayor Begich intended to appoint someone else.

### **Municipal Forum Announcement**

There will be a municipal forum on May 24<sup>th</sup> at Gruening Middle School in Eagle River from 7pm-10pm. Mayor Begich and municipal department heads will present their vision for Eagle River/Chugiak/Birchwood.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

## **NEXT MONTH**

- ADOT and CRW Engineering Group to answer questions regarding the highway ROW for the Old Glenn Highway Rehabilitation Project.
- Eklutna, Inc. to present proposed road alignments north of Mirror Lake Middle School.
- APD to present an update on current police activity in our area.

## **BOARD INFORMATION**

<b>Term Expires</b>	<b>Name and Phone</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email Accounts</b>	<b>Area</b>
12/05	Merten Bangemann-Johnson, President	688-6575	mertenbj@chugiakcouncil.org	At Large - Chugiak
12/04	David Baldwin, Vice President	688-6158	akbmwclub@alaska.net, dbaldwin@chugiakcouncil.org	At Large - Chugiak
12/04	Linda Kovac, Secretary/Treasurer	688-5356	lkovac@chugiakcouncil.org	At Large - East Mirror Lake
12/05	Gale Armstrong	696-3543	armstron@mtaonline.net, garmstrong@chugiakcouncil.org	At Large - Chugiak
12/05	John Arzie	688-6035	jarzie@chugiakcouncil.org	East Peters Creek
12/05	Charlie Cox	688-1261	coxfamily@gci.net, ccox@chugiakcouncil.org	West Mirror Lake
12/04	Mick Fischback	688-6895	maflaf@hotmail.com, mfischback@chugiakcouncil.org	At Large - West Peters Creek
12/04	Marty Parsons	688-8020	mpar@alaska.net, mparsons@chugiakcouncil.org	Thunderbird Heights

Note: Chugiakcouncil.org email accounts are still in the process of being setup.