

# EAGLE RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ERVCC)

P.O. BOX 772812  
EAGLE RIVER, AK 99577-2812

RECEIVED  
Date: 12-10-03

Regular Meeting:

Wednesday, December 10, 2003, 7:00 pm

## GRUENING MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY

Our boundaries have changed. They are Eagle River to the south, Chugach State Park to the north and east and Eagle River Loop Road through to Skyline to the west including Park View Terrace West. If you do NOT live within these borders and would like your name removed from our mailing list please respond to this email by typing REMOVE in the subject line. Thank You!

<u>ERVCC Board</u>	<u>Term expires</u>
John Steiner	2004
Arlene Voehl	2004
Bill Holland	2004
<b>Treasurer</b>	
Lee Cline	2005
Tom Freeman	2005
Fred Ripp	2005
Therese Voehl	2006
Dean Eisberg	2006
<b>Vice-President/Secretary</b>	
Sarah Wright	2006
<b>President/Secretary</b>	

**AGENDA** (Subject to change to allow input on any important issues that did not make this notice.)

### GUESTS

Miriam Tanaka P.E. with DOT will present the Eagle River Road Rehabilitation project.

John Steiner will discuss a subdivision being planned for Lower Skyline Drive. 38 acres is being subdivided into 1+ acre lots with well and septic systems with an R7 zoning designation. Platting Board will hear request at its January 6, 2004 meeting.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### NEW BUSINESS

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### **Meeting Minutes from November 12, 2003**

Called to order by President Sarah Wright at 7:10 p.m.

#### **Guest Speaker:**

Cynthia Ferguson/Miriam Tanaka PE's for ADOT unable to attend due to weather and road conditions.

Chuck Casper Project manager and Ken Mortin Landscape Architect with Alaska State Parks presented the proposed Eagle River Greenbelt Trail plans. The pathway is being planned as a multiuse pathway from the Glenn Highway to the Eagle River Nature Center. AMATS and Federal funding will pay the approximately 13 million dollars necessary to complete (~1 million\$/mile to pave the whole length). Maintenance of a paved trail is cheapest. Currently the project is between stages 2 and 3 of public involvement phase (Stage 1 = introduction, 2 = segment investigation and 3 = list of alternatives). Stage 3 goals will be to present alternate routes. Decision making process considers several factors: habitat, private ownership, flood plain, view, and slope. Green belt includes flat land where the soils are poor and prone to flooding. Private land is usually well drained but may be steep. The public input during stage 3 is minimal but comments can be made at [www.alaskastateparks.org](http://www.alaskastateparks.org). Click on the Eagle River Greenbelt. Alaska State Parks will have another Open House in February to present options and will pick the route favored by community and easiest to build with least maintenance needs in April '04. DOT only planning on building a 4-foot shoulder to Eagle River Road during the rehabilitation project due to ROW limitations so the idea of commingling the path along Upper Eagle River Road won't work. If project survives Environmental Impact Statement work construction will be planned for 2009. South Fork CC opposes the planned trail on the South side of Eagle River specifically opposing the parking area for the South fork Waterfall area. Currently on the North side there are three access points that include parking. 1=Eagle River Nature Center, 2= North fork Parking Area, and 3= Eagle Crossing. Robert Halcro donated 10 acres next to the greenbelt at about mile 7.4 to build Unity Park that will be accessed by the McIntyre Road. A 4<sup>th</sup> possible access point to the trail may be Unity Park. The plan includes access points to abutting subdivisions for users to access trail without cars.

**Questions?** Horses allowed? Chuck responded that that would be a decision by State Park Superintendent Jerry Lewanski. Typically horses and bikes don't mix well.

### Federation of Community Councils

Representative: Tom Freeman

### Parks & Recreation Board

Representative: Janet Brand

Alternate: Scott Bailey

### CBERRRSA (Road Board)

Representative: Lee Cline

### Education

Chair: Therese Voehl

### Wildfire Hazard Mitigation

Chair: Susan Browne

### Zoning & Platting

Chair: Fred Ripp

### OLD BUSINESS

- ❖ Eagle River Loop Road petition received from DOT opposing improvements.

### Future Agenda Items

#### **January 7, 2004:**

Robert Halcro will give us a presentation about his plans for Unity Park being built on a 10-acre site near the AT&T dish site.

#### **February 11, 2004:**

Chuck Casper with Alaska State Parks will present the highest-ranking alternative for the Eagle River Greenbelt Trail.

#### **NOTE: Eagle River Valley Community Council (ERVCC)**

**Bylaws** require that a person be qualified to be a council member and have attended at least one previous ERVCC meeting to be eligible to vote on an issue. Anyone may be recognized to speak, even at their first meeting.

Access Points? The Platting Board must mandate future developments granting access points. It is possible the trail will be partially paved and partially unpaved but improved. Can a paved pathway stand up to flooding? A trail along Eagle River Road will not impact wildlife as much as a trail along the river! Rather than a continuous trail from the Nature Center to the campground it should be smaller loop trails. Few people will travel the length. Original concept had a continuous trail from South Anchorage to the Nature Center.

RJ Gryder made a motion regarding the apparent disconnect between what DOT says about the Eagle River Road width necessary for bikes and State Parks Greenbelt Trail plans. "The ERVCC demands DOT and Parks and Rec coordinate the design and construction of the Eagle River Green Belt Trail project prior to the next phase." Discussion: This position is premature. Council can advise but can't demand. State Parks is doing the best to move the project forward with limited funding. Ask DOT to come to Dec. meeting. Motion Failed.

The October minutes were approved without change.

### **Committee Reports**

FCC Tom Freeman absent. No report.

**CBERRRSA** Lee Cline reported that the summer RAP program completed the majority of the work. One more year of work and all roads will be RAPPED. Won't have excess money for future RAP and maintenance. Less funding=slower response time for plowing. Will rely more on pick-ups with nose plows than graders. Limited snow blowing to widen roads expected. Eagle River residents at 1<sup>st</sup> and LeDu; Birch, and Eagle River Lane have gone to Ombudsman to put/keep fences and bushes in the ROW. Road Board is against allowing fences and bushes in the ROW. Fences force swails into deep ditches because there isn't enough room for swail. **Question:** A culvert on Prudhoe Bay Drive put in during RAP upgrade drains water on to private property. Lee will ask about it.

**Parks and Rec** Scott Bailey reported that Janet did not provide report from Parks and Rec meeting. Community disappointed that a skateboard ramp stolen from local skate area in Town Square Park. Anchorage Water and Waste Water Utility master plan includes building a 3,000,000-gallon water tank across from the Green House in Hylan Crest Subdivision in 2019-2020.

**Education** Therese Voehl reported 4 separate citizen committees met to try and close the \$26 million dollar budget shortage with each focusing on a different part of the budget. The 26 million dollars represents 7% of over all budget. Suggestions include reducing services and increasing fees. Increasing class size by 3 students in HS, 2 students in MS and 1 student in elementary. Eliminate ice rink repairs and maintenance. Requiring parents pay for bus service of \$100.00 per student (waived if qualify for the free or reduced lunch program) and changing school start times to reduce number of busses used in Anchorage. For a detailed report of suggestions visit [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org).

**Wildfire Hazard Mitigation** Susan Browne absent. Sue Fison sent pamphlets explaining the expansion of the Wildfire Prevention program and outlining the expansion of who is eligible for the dead tree removal.

**P&Z** Fred Ripp reported that Wal-Mart asking for a second extension to preserve approved plat for two lots west of store. First granted Mar 2002. No opposition.

Request that a variance be given to allow a house to encroach in 50' set back due to steep terrain. Foundation is already in. Owner was not present to explain request. No action taken.

Lee Cline requested vacation of the 10' Public Utility Easement along the north line boundary of his property. Utilities are already in the street. RJ made the motion "The ERVCC supports Lee's request to vacate a 10' public utility easement across the north line boundary of 11015 Steeple Drive."

*Discussion* Is it Public Use or Public Utility? It gives access to Chugach State Park. Once was 20', now 10'. There must be access to park. Lee replied that he worked with Platting to change access point to an existing trail that crosses his property from the lower switch back. This access point has a parking area because the Road Board pushes snow in the area. Jones Tool Rental sold property above Lee's and new owner built a house on it. Old trail is new owners driveway. Lee's house was built on easement prior to Lee's ownership of the property. The motion passed 7 to 5 with 3 abstentions.

P&Z approved the Janke tower. The landowners are appealing the decision.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Dean Eisberg/Sarah Wright

## **EAGLE RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING NOTICE**

Please come to YOUR community council's monthly meeting, December 10, 7:00 p.m. and thereafter the second Wednesday of each month, through May, at GRUENING MIDDLE SCHOOL Library to discuss and advocate local and citywide ISSUES THAT AFFECT YOU. Because community input is sometimes requested on short notice we may take up important new issues that did not make it into this notice.

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We hope to see you . . .

**WEDNESDAY, December 10, 2003 at 7:00 p.m., GRUENING MIDDLE SCHOOL, Lee Street.**

Please see inside for details about our December agenda. Budget restrictions limit our ability to mail out copies of our minutes. To get a copy of each month's draft minutes even if you can't make the next meeting, and to get electronic notices of meetings and other interim information, please be sure to send an email to [councils@alaska.net](mailto:councils@alaska.net) with a copy to [swrights@aol.com](mailto:swrights@aol.com) to receive e-mail newsletters, minutes and notices. Between paper and postage, this service saves about 10 cents per newsletter!