

Eklutna Valley Community Council
October 26, 2017
Meeting minutes

The meeting was chaired by council president Margan Grover and began at 7:05 p.m. The council met at the new Eklutna ranger station. Eighteen council members were present: Margan Grover, Dan Thompson, Bob Reagan, Rick and Lisa Sinnott, Mary and Glen Keller, Skip and Tena Cheely, Debbie and Steve Thon, Deb and Buff Rix, Josiah Trout, Robert and Cindy McElroy, Randy Bangerter, and Jim Riley.

The minutes of the June 8, 2017, meeting were approved. The agenda was approved with one addition. Bob Reagan reported \$466.64 in the council's funds.

OLD BUSINESS

Straw poll regarding more APD patrols to apprehend speeding vehicles on Eklutna Lake Road. At the June meeting a motion to ask APD for more patrols on Eklutna Lake Road was approved unanimously; however, the motion also required a straw poll of Eklutna Valley council members who were not in attendance because they could be directly affected. If the majority of respondents approved, the motion would pass without further action. This unusual requirement was implemented by polling the entire EVCC mailing list by email on October 24 and 25, with the exception of several politicians who do not live in the valley. The final tally was 8 "yes" and 12 "no". So the motion did not pass.

Ernie Turner Center update. Dan met with the construction manager on-site to tell him their gate had been open late one night. The manager knew about that, but asked local residents to call him if anything suspicious seemed to be happening at the site when construction crews aren't present. Dan is going to get the manager's name and phone number and email it to everyone on our mailing list. In other news, the manager told Dan the facility had been having some difficulty finding water and had hired a dowser. They plan to complete construction by April 2018.

Eklutna Dam removal. The dam has been completely removed. The second large crane on the bluff will be removed this fall, but the largest crane will be laid on the ground until it can be removed next spring.

Rick read an Anchorage Assembly resolution sponsored by Fred Dyson, and supported by Mayor Berkowitz, that recognized "the contribution of the Native Village of Eklutna and Eklutna, Inc., to the development of Anchorage," supported "efforts to restore the hydrology and fisheries of the Eklutna River," and directed Municipal Light and Power (ML&P) "to begin collaborative efforts on an expedited basis to restore water flows to the Eklutna River."

MTA upgrade of internet service. At our June meeting Margan had agreed to write a letter to MTA asking them to consider upgrading our internet service, which is demonstrably the worst in Anchorage. The fastest speed available to us is 750 kbps, whereas MTA's Basic plan offers 10 Mbps (approximately 13 times faster) and their Elite plan offers 1 GB (more than 100 times faster). Margan sent the letter on June 26. MTA has not responded. Bob Reagan moved (seconded) that we submit an informal complaint to the Consumer Protection Division that MTA's service is unduly discriminatory, and he agreed to draft it. Bob McElroy proposed an amendment (seconded) to first resend MTA the letter via certified mail, allowing MTA a month to

respond. The amendment passed with one “no” vote. The amended motion passed unanimously.

In further discussion several members said they have been using Excede satellite internet service for months and were very happy with it, compared with the service offered by MTA. Randy said it was unlikely that MTA could cost-effectively upgrade their internet service to upper Eklutna Valley comparable to that provided by Excede.

NEW BUSINESS

Crime in Eklutna Valley. Several of this summer’s incidents were discussed. All of them were reported on the EVCC Facebook page. Members are concerned about what appears to be an increasing amount of local burglaries, larcenies, and thefts. There was some discussion of erecting a “neighborhood watch” sign and increasing the number of motion-sensitive cameras on private properties. Generally speaking, members believe that we are more alert to suspicious behavior than other Anchorage, Eagle River, or Chugiak neighborhoods and that the best deterrent is staying vigilant and reporting any suspicious behavior to your neighbors by calling or using social media.

Does the construction at 37350 Eklutna Lake Road meet zoning requirements? A member asked to include this issue on the agenda. This is Dave Vanord’s property. Unfortunately, Dave wasn’t present to provide details. After a brief discussion of the language on the posted permit, members concluded that the municipality has permitted the construction of a 6,000-square-foot warehouse/shop on Dave’s CE-R-10 lot as long as it includes an apartment and as long as he eventually builds a house as well. It was noted that the date on the posted permit had expired.

On-site marijuana consumption. The Federation of Community Councils has suggested that individual councils submit resolutions on the issue of whether the municipality should allow marijuana to be consumed at commercial marijuana businesses. As there are no such businesses in our council area, and none likely at this time, nobody made a motion.

Items to be discussed at the next Chugiak-Eagle River Advisory Board meeting. Two issues involve R-3A zoning and changes to on-site septic regulations. Nobody at the meeting had details of these proposals. There are no R-3A lots in our council boundary. Members advised our CER advisory board representative, Bob Reagan, to not agree to any changes in septic regulations that he isn’t comfortable with on his own property.

The meeting adjourned at about 8:15 p.m.