

Bear Valley Community Council
Minutes – October 14, 2020

Call to Order

The regularly-scheduled October 14, 2020 meeting of the Bear Valley Community Council (BVCC) was called to order by Council Chair Scott Pexton at 7:02 pm. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the meeting was held via Zoom videoconference, with 15 members in attendance. The Chair declared a quorum.

Announcements

The Council spent \$500 in funding provided through a Firewise grant from the U.S. Forest Service to haul and dispose of wood at the Municipal woodlot in south Anchorage. It was noted that the woodlot is now closed for the season. Chair Pexton thanked Bear Valley resident and USFS employee Kori Marchowski for facilitating the Firewise grant funding for wood disposal.

Approval of Minutes

Following brief announcements, the Minutes of the September 9, 2020 meeting were approved by unanimous consent upon motion by Bill Ennis / Cheri Lipps. The September minutes were submitted by BVCC Treasurer Angie Pinsonneault.

Presentations

Two members of the MOA Assembly, Suzanne LaFrance and John Weddleton, were in attendance and were invited to give presentations. Ms. LaFrance provided an update on the Assembly's use of CARES Act funding, noting the Assembly had allocated funding to small business relief and relief for non-profit agencies. She also noted that the Assembly planned to consider enactment of an ordinance to replace or supplement the Mayor's emergency declarations pertaining to Covid-19. Assembly member LaFrance also reported on agenda items for upcoming Assembly meetings, including APD body-cams and the sale of ML&P.

Assembly member Weddleton addressed the recent resignation of Mayor Berkowitz and stated that the former Mayor's staff was providing good continuity to avoid disruption of MOA functions. Mr. Weddleton gave a progress update on the Mountain Air Drive road extension, stating the project is being funded, with further public announcements anticipated. Mr. Weddleton also addressed revisions to the International Building Codes, noting that the MOA revised its building codes every 6 years. Brief discussion followed regarding requirements of sprinklers in homes located more than 600 feet from a municipal water source, and the status of the Mountain Air road project funding.

No representatives from the Anchorage School Board or Alaska State Legislature were present.

Candidate Forum

Chair Paxton invited candidates for the upcoming state election to speak. Ms. LaFrance, candidate for Alaska House District 28, addressed her candidacy and goals if elected. Carl Johnson, candidate for Alaska Senate District N, also addressed the group and provided background on his qualifications and goals.

Invited Guest Speaker

Maury Robinson, Manager, MOA Street Maintenance, was invited to address the Council regarding the two Limited Road Service Areas (LRSAs) within Bear Valley. They are the Bear Valley LRSA, generally comprising the eastern and southern portions of the Valley, and the Rabbit Creek View Heights LRSA along the lower and western portions of the Valley. Mr. Robinson noted that the BV LRSA is funded by a 1.5 mil property tax assessment and the RCVH LRSA is

funded by a 2.5 mil tax assessment, resulting in an annual budget of approximately \$50,000 for BV LRSA and \$114,000 for RCVH LRSA. Mr. Robinson explained that boundary changes and mil rate changes require a vote during municipal elections, and that homeowners and developers can petition the MOA to be annexed into a LRSA. Brief discussion followed regarding the annexation process for the Blue Beary Estates subdivision.

Reports

Chair Scott Pexton reported on the October 1, 2020 HALO meeting and reminded members that HALO meets on the first Thursday of each month.

Treasurer Angie Pinsonneault reported that BVCC had \$1,296.36 in its account. She reported she was working on opening an account with Alaska USA FCU, and noted the Federation of Community Councils (FCC) needed to submit its biennial report to the State of Alaska in connection with renewal of its business license. Ms. Pinsonneault stated that she had obtained a business license for BVCC.

Business

Chair Pexton brought up the community's ongoing concerns with gunshots in the vicinity of Carl and Jamie. Community members discussed this issue and member Christopher Wright noted that calls of "shots fired" presented a hazardous response situation for APD. He recommended that members report possible gunshots to APD via the 311 line rather than simply noting them on the NextDoor website.

Mr. Pexton reported that he is now occupies the 3rd seat on the Rabbit Creek View Heights LRSA, and members thanked him for taking on that position. Brief discussion by Mr. Pexton for the RCVH LRSA and by Bill Ennis, chair of the BV LRSA, followed regarding the status of LRSA budgets and road maintenance issues.

Discussion turned to the multiple vacancies in BVCC officers' ranks, with Mr. Pexton noting that there are 7 elected officer positions on the Council. Members were reminded that the BVCC web page is found on the MOA Federation of Community Council's website, at http://communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/bear_valley_the_council.html

It has become increasingly difficult to keep our slate of officers full, and Mr. Pexton announced he is not willing to continue as Council Chair in view of his time in the post and his new responsibilities on the RCVH LRSA board. Ms. Pinsonneault expressed her willingness to continue to serve as Treasurer and was thanked by the attendees. Member Cheri Lipps expressed her willingness to continue to support the functions of the BVCC and to serve as Acting Vice Chair and received the group's thanks for her many volunteer hours to the community. Discussion followed regarding the duties and time commitments for the various officer positions, but no members volunteered to assume the roles of Chair, Vice Chair or Secretary. Mr. Pexton explained that the Vice Chair typically attended FCC meetings, and that expenditures from the BVCC checking account required the signatures of two officers. Following further discussion of positions vacancies and in view of the upcoming holidays, it was agreed by unanimous consent to suspend meetings in November and December, and reconvene at the regularly scheduled January 13, 2021 meeting date (2nd Wednesday of the month.)

There being no other business, it was moved and seconded (C. Lipps / C. Livsey) to adjourn, and the Nov. 2020 meeting was adjourned by Chair Pexton at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Constance Livsey, BVCC member