

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting  
Wednesday, February 10, 2021 6:30pm  
REGULAR MEETING  
Zoom Virtual Meeting  
MEETING MINUTES – Approved March 10, 2021

Call to order at 6:35pm by David W. Schade.  
Quorum was established.

**Introductions and Announcements:**

The following candidates introduced themselves:

Carl Jacobs - School Board Seat G (Candidate): <https://www.carl4anchorage.com/>

Elisa Vakalis - School Board Seat G (Candidate for re-election)

Alisha Hilde - School Board Seat E (Candidate), alishahilde.com 720-1060

**Meeting Minutes Approval:** Draft meeting minutes from January 13, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve by Julie Jessen; seconded by Paul Forward. Approved by a vote of 17 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain.

**New Business:**

**AWWU, 900 Reservoir Site Update**

Paul Hatcher, Real Estate Coordinator/Engineering Tech III Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility  
Direct: 907-564-2721. [Paul.Hatcher@awwu.biz](mailto:Paul.Hatcher@awwu.biz)

Mr. Hatcher's update included the following:

- 900 Reservoir Site project has been on hold awaiting funding. The funding has been received.
- Conditional Use Permit was approved two weeks ago.
- R&M Contractor has one additional soil test to perform near the booster station site.
- Project continues to move forward but may not begin construction this year.
- This project is confirmed to include a partially buried, concrete reservoir tank.
- Water line locations are still being determined.
- Mr. Hatcher expressed how much he has enjoyed working with our community council. Our relationship is an excellent example for other project teams to work with their respective councils.

**Chugiak-Eagle River Cemetery Committee**

**Tom Looney**

Mr. Looney provided the following update:

- Land use consultant Boutet Company has been engaged to study possible locations for Chugiak-Eagle River Cemetery.
- Twenty (20) sites were identified and studied for suitability including slope, soil, acreage, etc. Properties are owned either by municipality or Eklutna, Inc.
- Some of sites under consideration are:
  - A2 - Wolf Den Drive (Yosemite Drive) near Eagle River High School and the Hiland Correctional Center. This is Heritage Land Bank owned. Development could include driveway and paths; buildings for equipment and shelter; high shrubs for barrier to Yosemite Dr. Phase 1 – 7700 burial plots (7.7 acres); Phase 2 – 4700 burial plots (4.7 acres); Phase 5 – 5200 burial plots (5.2 acres). Best suited and least cost to develop.
  - Near MacDonald Center
  - Near Edmonds Lake – unlikely due to more complex and costly to development. This might be more suitable for trail development. 33 acres (3300 burial sites).
  - Near Mirror Lake Middle School, Eklutna, Inc. owned. Might be better fit for residential development.
  - Knik Vista Dr. – Eklutna, Inc. owned

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- Oak Knoll
- Judd Dr & Ersa Major – Traffic would flow through subdivision, hilly.

Questions to Mr. Looney included:

- Great job on this effort. Good prioritization on potential use and positive/negative factors for each site.
- Next steps – get public input. First visit the community councils and then The Boutet Company will conduct public meetings.
- Girdwood would like to partner with us to promote the required bond on the ballot. All of Anchorage would help pay cost.
- Many of the sites under consideration have existing trails and are Eklutna, Inc. owned.
- Hope to be ready for bond to be voted on in April 2022. Construction in 2023.
- Who would make the final call on the site chosen? The Assembly would approve the bond measure.
- How would maintenance be covered? Health & Human Services maintains and operates the downtown cemetery. Would like them to manage Chugiak-Eagle River site as well.
- Contact Tom Looney or Cliff Cook to provide feedback.

### Old Business:

#### Crystal Kennedy - Anchorage Assembly

Ms. Kennedy provided the following update regarding the February 9 Assembly meeting.

- The ordinance aimed at Ms. Allard has been unanimously postponed indefinitely by the Assembly. This essentially means it won't be considered again. The resolution wasn't open to public comment. The term "breach of public trust" does not have a standard definition. Action taken with regard to the ordinance is for the public to use; not the Assembly against another Assembly member.
- There was an attempt to put mask mandate as an ordinance. This would move issue to Assembly's hands instead of the mayor's responsibility. This was also postponed indefinitely.
- Regarding CARES Act funding, remaining \$22M will be used to extend programs allowed by CARES Act funding. This includes child care, rapid rehousing, small business stabilization and hospitality industry support.
- A true reconciliation of reduced expenditures will take place in March.
- There are eleven (11) propositions, mayor's position and four school board openings on the upcoming, April 6 ballot. See <http://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Clerk/Elections/Pages/default.aspx>
  - Three (3) are in regard to annexations in south Anchorage.
  - Eight (8) are bonds. Bonds of most interest to our council are
    - Library and senior citizen bond to finish construction started last year.
    - Anchorage Roads
    - Anchorage Parks & Recreation
- The police chief is retiring in June. There may be an interim chief. There is a question on how to fill this given the new mayor will begin term on July 1.

Questions for Ms. Kennedy included the following:

- How involved could the public be in selecting a new police chief? Let Crystal know your thoughts.
- Regarding mask mandate, how can the Assembly have an impact and help make such determinations? Mask mandate has failed in the Assembly three times. It would give APD option to issue fines to businesses or individuals.

#### School Board Report – Deena Mitchell, Anchorage School Board

[Mitchell\\_deena@asdk12.org](mailto:Mitchell_deena@asdk12.org)

Ms. Mitchell provided the following update:

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- Kindergarten – 2nd grade students returned to in-class instruction on January 19. Third through sixth grade returned February 8. There have been a few shutdowns due to Covid-19.
- Teachers can now be vaccinated.
- Register students now to attend kindergarten in the fall.
- Virtual Visits at all schools – contact your local school for additional information.
- Lottery applications for charter and alternative schools can be submitted until March 18.
- There are no schools bonds this year because a two-year bond was passed last year.
- The school budget is due to the Assembly in March.
- Federal relief funding gave us ~\$50M to maintain supplemental learning due to Covid. More information will be forthcoming on broadly available summer programming.
- At an upcoming meeting, Ms. Mitchell could discuss the preliminary budget, the 6-year capital improvement plan and new policy to review school boundaries every 10 years.
- Spring Break is March 8-12.

### **Eagle River Community Patrol – Cliff Cook**

Mr. Cook provided the following update:

- In February, patrols were conducted for 29 hours covering 262 miles.
- APD reports slight uptick in petty crime in our area (e.g. walkers checking for unlocked cars, shoplifting at local stores).
- There have been a few daytime burglaries in ER with front doors kicked in. Groups in valley and in ER are believed to be responsible. We are increasing our neighborhood drive-throughs.
- Mark your high value items so if stolen, APD is able to identify the stolen items on Craigs List.
- Drug use on the street is increasing.
- Continue to report all crime to APD on 911, 311 or online.

### **Committee Reports:**

**CBERRSA (Road Board): James McCurtain/ Arlene Rasic** – No report.

**Chugiak/Eagle River Advisory Board – Julie Jessen** – No meetings recently.

**Education:** See Ms. Mitchell's report from Anchorage School Board.

**Federation of Community Councils – Tom Freeman**

Mr. Freeman's update included:

- Federation of Community Council part-time employee raise was approved.
- The Federation provided some recommendations for conducting Zoom meetings.
- Everyone should have received their green card with property assessments. Be sure your applications for property tax reductions (i.e. resident, senior citizen, veteran) are submitted.
- A number of bonds will be included on the April ballot. They will impact property taxes if approved.

### **Parks and Rec: Pete Panarese**

Mr. Panarese provided the following update:

- Mac Center will be getting a new sound system.
- A Covid-19 testing van is available to test students participating in hockey.
- Bike trails for Mirror Lake and Schroeder Park tennis courts are being considered.
- Peters Creek Dog Park is being re-considered.
- 2021 Summer Camp Program is being discussed relative to Covid-19 concerns.
- Title 17 addresses leash laws. Dogs must be on a leash on any multiple use trail. Proposed changes include shortening length of leash to 3 feet if pet is being left alone. This will be hard to enforce.

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- AMATS included very detailed plans for motorized trails and non-motorized trails. These plans have existed for about 20 years and included connecting trails between communities. The planned trails are “disappearing” from plans now which is a concern. More details will be available on this topic at a future time.

**Platting and Zoning: Pete Panarese**

Mr. Panarese provided the following update:

- There was one proposed change in our area. In Majestic Valley Estates, two lots were combined into 1 lot.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.

Next meeting is on March 10, 6:30pm, Virtual using Zoom.

ERVCC Board Members (Term Expiration) President: David Schade (2021); Vice President: Julie Jessen(2022); Treasurer: Ruth Armstrong (2021); Education: open; Parks & Rec: Pete Panarese (2023); C/ER Advisory Board: Julie Jessen (2022); Platting & Zoning: Pete Panarese (2021); Federation of Community Councils (FCC): Tom Freeman (2023); Road Board: James McCurtain(2022)/Arlene Rasic – Alt (2022); Secretary: Joy Webb (2021)