

Minutes
South Fork Community Council
September 2, 2021

1. Call to Order at 7:05pm by **Joe Wright**, President, on Zoom. A total of 17 participants with several guest speakers (see below).
2. Agenda approved without additions or amendments.
3. Minutes approved from May 6, 2020 without changes.
4. Message and announcement from **Joe Wright**, President: He is planning to run for an Assembly seat in April, provided that Crystal Kennedy decides that she is not going to run. Feels that we are at a point where we need strong grassroots representation.
5. Guest Speakers:
 - a. **State Sen. Reinbold** representative **Kelli Toth** was present to discuss the special session. The State is proposing to join a nursing pact with other states, so that nurses can come and practice here with without an additional license. Some other telehealth changes. Hiked the Muktuk Marston trail and interested in hearing our feedback on that project and on any other topics. Please contact her at Kelli.Toth@akleg.gov
 - b. **State Legislature, Rep. Kelly Merrick** reports that new bills have been added today. A few weeks ago the South Fork residents met with a representative of Rep. Merrick's about the Muktuk Marston trail and had some great dialogue. They walked to the beginning of Hunter Pass Trail and had some discussion of paving Arctic Valley road to help alleviate the congestion at the South Fork Trailhead. Next step will be a discussion with **Ben Corwin, Park Superintendent**. Budget is already set for this year for projects but if we have capital projects we are interested in for next year, let her know. The PFD continues to be hotly debated and it is currently at \$1,100 pending the Senate's decision.
 - c. **Jamie Allard, Assembly** reports that we have a new Anchorage mayor, Dave Bronson. Plastic bag ban is still in effect. Many projects are going on around Anchorage on roads to get them done before winter. Please contact her at Jamie.allard@AnchorageAK.gov if we have any questions or comments.
 - d. **Nancy Clark, Eagle River Library** reports that the library has lots of programs and events coming up. Thursdays at 10:30am will be story time. School readiness programs. Scout Library tour is coming up. The library could really use volunteers as they are short staffed at the moment. Circulation is continuing to climb since the library opened. September is library card month – a special Baby Yoda library card for a donation. Over 3,000 online magazines are now available. Their department is taking a 5% cut in 2022 but all staff positions in Eagle River are staying. www.anchoragelibrary.org for more information.
 - e. **Denny Hostetter, JBER Community Rep** reports that JBER had an honorary commander's induction ceremony last week. Boniface Gate is now open. Masks

are required when inside on the base. On September 10th from 11am-12 will be a 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony held at the Chapel and on Sept 19th the JBER Band will be performing at the Alaska Airlines Center. This Saturday, the Arctic Valley ski lift will be operating for berry picking.

- f. **Cliff Cook, Community Patrol:** 92.5 hours, 714 miles over the summer by Community Patrol. Did lose some members this summer, there are 3 active members and 3 in reserve. Uptick in crime in Anchorage over the last year, possibly attributed to the lockdown being lifted.
 - g. **Pat Higgins, School Board** reports that they are committed to keeping the schools going but COVID numbers are high. Working to find solutions to students and staff being impacted by positive tests or close contacts. He is not happy with the Assembly and School Board meetings being on the same night. A joint meeting with the Assembly is coming up and he will be bringing this topic up for discussion.
6. Old Business –
- a. **MOA Emergency Orders:** Emergency Orders have all been lifted. People are encouraged to do what they can to help stem the current COVID surge.
 - b. **Muktuk Marston Trail/Hunter Trail: Erik Fredeen** was able to attend the meeting with State representatives and Mr. Corwin to discuss the next steps and what the trailhead needs. The trail projects were funded against the wishes of the community. Hoping to be able to change Mr. Corwin’s mind or make adjustments to the trail classification to make the Hunter Pass trail less visible. This project did not originate in the South Fork, it originated with an outside group raising money for it. The Chugiak Park State Access Plan was written in 2011 and only passed in 2016 and it hasn’t been revisited since. Jamie Allard is going to check on the feasibility of the Arctic Valley road being paved.
 - c. **Resolution of the South Fork Community Council Requesting Fire Lane Signage Along West River Drive and South Creek Road** – brought by Erik Fredeen in an attempt to stop the illegal overflow parking on the roads near the South Fork trailhead. APD is writing tickets and people are frustrated because they don’t understand the ordinance of 20ft required on any Anchorage street. This supports the installation of “Fire Lane” signs along the roads to let people know that they can’t park along those roads. Assembly might be looking at a Shuttle for trail users in South Fork to help with the parking situation. Heavier traffic is anticipated with the Muktuk Marston Trail/Hunter Trail project so this may help cut down on the illegal parking. Resolution is tabled until meeting with the Traffic Engineering Department to modify the resolution if the Department has recommended changes.
7. New Business –
- a. **Proposed Hangar/House Variance:** Property on Bernard Drive is requesting a variance to the backyard setback so that the hangar is on the same level as the airstrip to provide safer access for the homeowner. Janelle Wight, Secretary, requested the Community Council pass a letter of support for this variance. It was unanimously approved, 17 – 0.

b. Open Board Positions and October Elections: Annual election of officers will be in October (Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary, Treasurer, and Board Director Positions). Additionally, we need an alternate CBERRRSA representative and we need a new Parks & Rec representative because Joshua Ream is moving away. Jamie Allard also shares that there are 60 vacant Boards and Commissioned Seats across the Municipality. Urges our community to get involved across all levels. Contact Joe Wright or Jamie Allard for more information.

8. Committee Reports

- a. Road Board: **Joe Wright** the Road Board didn't meet much over the summer. Continuing to push CBERRRSA about Artillery Road and the interchange of Eagle River Loop and the Highway. Mil rate stayed the same.
- b. Parks and Recreation: **Joshua Ream** reports that the Parks & Rec Dept was audited over the summer. It did find a culture of excess in the Department and the Eagle River Parks Manager has been on administrative leave. Several rooms full of supplies that were unused; Board is working to get those to where they can be used. In August, the Board asked for a more detailed financial review and will be giving more oversight because of this August. Bear Paw festival went well. Dog Park is continuing to be developed. The McDonald Center is being managed by the Municipality and there are some concerns there. The caretaker of the cabin at Beach Lake is no longer there and Parks will be seeking a new one. Lastly, he thanks the Community Council for the opportunity to be our representative to this Board. His last meeting will be this September meeting.
- c. Treasurer: **Randy Beilfuss** not in attendance.

9. Good of the Order:

- a. Bear Paw Festival went well and was a great community event. The Anchorage Fire Dept. continues to cut down on the vendor spaces and that continues to be frustrating.
- b. Cliff Cook drives around in the morning while buses are picking up kids and notices that people are still not stopping when the school bus lights are red. Most of those drivers are young adults. If you are a parent, please educate your kids about stopping for school bus with red flashing lights.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:39pm.

Janelle Wight, Secretary