

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting  
Wednesday, January 12, 2022 6:30pm  
REGULAR MEETING  
Zoom Virtual Meeting  
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Call to order at 6:35pm by Pete Panarese.

Quorum was established: 14 members; 4 guests in attendance.

Federation webpage: [Federation of Community Councils](#)

**Introductions and Announcements:** none

**Meeting Minutes Approval:** Draft meeting minutes from December 8, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve by David W. Schade; seconded by Ruth Armstrong. Approved by a vote of 14 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain.

**New Business:**

**Lions Club Alcohol License Renewal**

- Our community council received notice of the alcohol license renewal request from the Anchorage City Clerk. We have been asked if we support, are neutral or oppose renewal of the license.
- The Lions Club has had an alcohol license for many years. Several members spoke about the Lions Club:
  - The Lions Club is a private club that hosts a bar on the upper floor for members only. Special events offering alcohol are held in the lower level.
  - Pete Panarese: It has operated this way for 20+ years with no issues.
  - Ruth Armstrong: Lives near Lions Club for 30+ years and has never witnessed any issues.
  - Cliff Cook: Community Patrol visits area and has seen no issues.
- Motion made to respond to the municipality supporting renewal of the alcohol license, passed unanimously.
- Several members commented on the spectacular fireworks show on New Year's Eve.

**Follow-up items:**

**AMATS and 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)**

Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Anchorage Bowl and Chugiak-Eagle River areas. The MTP is a 20-year, integrated, multimodal plan that addresses both current and future transportation needs. This was discussed at previous meetings. Here are some ways to stay up to date on plan progress.

1. General AMATS E-mail list – This is for everything we do, from meeting notices to project/plan notices to sending out our newsletter. You can select what you are interested in: [AMATS Metropolitan Planning Organization \(list-manage.com\)](#)
2. 2050 MTP E-mail list – This is the mailing list that is specific to the long range plan: <https://www.amats2050.com/>. In the upper right of the page there should be a bar you can enter your e-mail in and click join.

**Application for Marijuana Establishment License**

Alice's, 12111 Horseshoe Drive, Eagle River

Update was provided by Ms. Joy Webb:

- Alice's was scheduled, at their request, to present at Eagle River Community Council meeting on January 13. However, they later withdrew that request.
- Alice's has not yet obtained a state of Alaska license. That license is required before they can apply to the municipality of Anchorage for a license.
- Ms. Crystal Kennedy shared that Ms. Jamie Allard is meeting with Alice's owners in two weeks.

**ERVCC Meetings – Continue with Zoom in 2022?**

- Due to spike in COVID cases, members agreed to continue meeting via Zoom for now.

**Old Business:**

**Representative Kelly Merrick - Alaska House of Representatives –**

Representative Merrick provided the following update:

- She will be returning to Juneau on January 18 for next session.
- A Town Hall was held that was well-attended.
- Lions Club land swap with the State of Alaska for Chugach State Park. Ms. Merrick continues to work on this with Department of Natural Resources. She hopes to complete this during the upcoming session. At this time, no one has come forward opposing this land swap.
- She encourages members to reach out to her any time to share views, ask questions, raise concerns, etc.

**Crystal Kennedy - Anchorage Assembly**

Ms. Kennedy provided the following update:

- The Assembly met on January 11 and will hold a special meeting on January 18, 6:00pm to discuss the following:
  - Bond propositions for upcoming election.
  - An advisory proposition is under consideration on whether Chugiak/Eagle River leaving the municipality of Anchorage should be investigated.
  - A proposition may be proposed for voters to decide if the city Charter and municipal code should be revised regarding a special election when mayor's position is suddenly vacant.
- Based on the most recent census, the state has proposed redistricting. The city then does re-apportionment. Town Hall meetings will be held on re-apportionment proposals.
- Ms. Kennedy gave a presentation for Chugiak-Eagle River area. The maps are available at the CER Library or at <https://reapportionanc.org>. This tool allows viewing the maps or drawing your own proposals. Please provide feedback to our Assembly members, Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Allard. Town Halls will be held January 26 and January 27 in Anchorage and during the first week of February in Chugiak/Eagle River.
- Green cards with property appraisals and valuation will be distributed in mid-February or look online at the municipal site. See 2022 Property Appraisal Annual Valuation Report. <https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/SiteAssets/Pages/Meetings-Worksessions/2022%20Assessors%20Valuation%20Report%2c%20Assembly.pdf>
  - There is a 5.1% increase which will allow the municipality to increase taxes by the same amount.
  - There is a 30-day period to appeal. Use the phone number on the green card or on the municipality's website.

**Eagle River Community Patrol – Cliff Cook**

Mr. Cook provided the following update:

- December patrols were conducted for 12 hours covering 99 miles, somewhat reduced from the usual due to inclement weather and the holidays.
- He spoke with our APD liaison officer last week. Crime has slowed down in Eagle River.
- Porch pirate issue isn't likely to end though.
- Be mindful of leaving garage doors open both as an opportunity for theft and for risk of frozen pipes which can cause considerable damage. If Community Patrol notices open garage door and there is no response, they will contact APD. APD may come and do a safety check and then close the door.

**Eagle River COVID Testing Site**

Updates were provided by the following:

- Cliff Cook/Community Patrol: The COVID testing site moved from the parking lot near Garcia's to the parking lot near Corks and Hops on Old Glenn. Due to high volume of testing, there have been traffic issues. The test site may move back to near Garcia's. However, the site doesn't have electric power.

- Crystal Kennedy: The Capstone Testing Site on Old Glenn Hwy is problematic. Ms. Amy Dembloski is working on this issue. It is a state contact, but the traffic issue is a municipal matter.
- Ruth Armstrong shared that in addition to Old Glenn Hwy site, there is another free COVID test site in Eagle River.

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ALASKA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**RAPID COVID TESTING  
(20-MIN RESULTS)**

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know you are there. Printed results will be provided. PCR send-  
outs are collected here.

GLACIER MENTAL AND FAMILY HEALTH SOLUTIONS  
17051 Mercy Dr. Eagle River, Suite 204 AK 99577

**Committee Reports:**

**CBERRRSA (Road Board): James McCurtain/ Arlene Rasic**  
[James.mccurtain@hotmail.com](mailto:James.mccurtain@hotmail.com), 907-301-4042

**Chugiak/Eagle River Advisory Board – Julie Jessen – Nothing to report.**

**School Board Report - Pat Higgins, Anchorage School Board**

[Higgins Pat@asdk12.org](mailto:Pat@asdk12.org), 907-952-5871

Mr. Higgins provided the following update:

- It has been difficult to keep the schools open due to staff illnesses. There are many vacancies for teachers and substitute teachers. Some administration team members are helping to keep classrooms open.
- Teachers' union contract is in non-binding arbitration. We currently don't have a contract in place.
- The school district is facing significant financial challenges.
- Anchorage is being targeted by lower 48 headhunter firms for our teachers and our medical personnel.
- The search for a new superintendent is underway. See the ASDK12 website for additional information.
- The last seven years have seen declines in student test scores in math and reading.
- Mr. Higgins feels they are not focused enough on academic outcomes due to so many other issues.

**Education: Open position – See School Board report.**

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**Federation of Community Councils – Tom Freeman – no report**

- Alternate position - open

**Chugiak/Eagle River Parks and Rec Board: Pete Panarese (Chair)**

Mr. Panarese provided the following update:

- The Board has been learning more about the budgeting process over the last several months.
- Board members and alternates are nominated by their community councils to serve (6 councils). Key responsibility is the budget (operations and capital). Mill rate funds the budget; none of the funds lapse.
- CER Parks and Rec employs 17 full time and 34 part time employees (seasonal); managing 2500 acres of parkland, 16 developed facilities including 4 major facilities (Beach Lake Chalet, Beach Lake Lodge, Chugiak HS pool, Mac Center), 13 undeveloped parks, 32 km groomed & lighted ski trails, 10 playgrounds, 11 picnic shelters, many ballfields, many restrooms, flower beds, hanging plants downtown, 18 vehicles, attachments and ATVs.
- Operating budget ~\$4M; CIP budget over the years-spent \$9M over many years.
- We cannot 'bond' successfully in Chugiak/Eagle River, so we use CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) instead. The funding for these projects can roll over if not used. Projects are planned and executed; project savings may be used to fund future repairs for the project or re-allocated to other projects. The fund balance (i.e. savings account) is currently over \$5 million due to rollovers during recent years.
- Since 2019, the budget is split 0.1/0.9 respectively for CIP/operations. In 2014, the split was 0.3/0.7 and prior (2004), 0.5/0.5.
- The Park & Rec Board meetings are open to the public so you can provide input. Held on second Monday of the month via Zoom, 7:00 pm. See website for details.

Mr. Mark Littlefield provided some additional information:

- Parks & Rec budget operates like Streets and Maintenance Dept. Recommend going back to 0.7/0.3 split for operations/CIP fund.
- The fund balance (i.e. savings account) is currently over \$5 million due to rollovers during recent years. It is difficult to get this money out (6 weeks and requires Assembly approval). The fund balance earns interest. If funds are taken out of the fund balance for project that is a few years out, you will lose the opportunity to earn that interest. Earmark the funds for future projects, but don't pull it out until project is ready to execute. CIP budget is easy to get at.
- Excess project funds earmarked for maintenance should be returned to CIP fund balance so it can earn interest.
- Municipal swimming pool maintenance should be moved to area-wide bonding to maintain all municipal pools instead of having Chugiak High School pool be part of CER Parks and Rec budget.

Mr. John Rada provided additional information:

- Needed a long-term maintenance/storage facility for the community and the Chugiak HS pool. Much of fund balance was dedicated for that maintenance. We completed many projects; no major projects planned at this time.
- Need to be able to maintain after project is complete; not deferred maintenance.

**Platting: Pete Panarese – nothing to report**

Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm.

Next meeting is on February 9, 2022 6:30pm via Zoom.

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