

**Bear Valley Community Council**  
Minutes – October 13, 2021

Call to Order and Announcements

The regularly-scheduled October 13, 2021 meeting of the Bear Valley Community Council (BVCC) was called to order by Council Chair Cheri Lipps at 7:05 pm. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the meeting was again held via Zoom videoconference with 10 members and several guests in attendance. Chair Lipps declared a quorum and reminded members that this is the month for annual BVCC elections

Chair Lipps announced that there were no carry-over or old business agenda items from the summer 2021 meetings. There are no written minutes from the last regular meeting in May 2021 as the Council secretary was out of town, but the meeting was recorded and the recording is available through the Federation of Community Councils.

Legislative, Assembly and School Board Updates

State Sen. Roger Holland provided an update on the Alaska Legislature's special session. He reminded attendees that this is the legislature's fourth special session and acknowledged that with the entrenched differences in opinion among legislators as to budget and PFD issues, it was difficult to see how a resolution would be achieved. Sen Holland also reported that two senators were out with Covid-19 and two others were presently in quarantine. He reported that there were eight legislators in the Fiscal Plan Working Group and he felt there was a good mix of urban and rural representation and members across the political spectrum. In response to a question, Sen Holland stated that the special session had been called to address four issues: two potential constitutional amendments, a revenue bill and SB 53 ("An Act relating to use of income from the PFD.") Sen Holland provided his cell phone contact information (907-351-8277) and reiterated his willingness to hear from constituents.

There were no Municipal Assembly reports, as the Assembly was in session.

Anchorage School Board Member Kelly Lessens reported on ASD issues, stating that we were at the end of the first quarter of the school year, and there would be parent-teacher conferences held during the following week. She announced the next school board meeting and described the board's work on reading proficiency, math, and career, college and life readiness. Member Lessens also discussed the board's "Strategy 26" five-year plan. Ms. Lessens reminded attendees that upcoming board meetings and committee/sub-committee meeting information was available on the School Board's calendar. She also reported that there would be an upcoming vaccine clinic held at Goldenview Middle School on Wednesday, Oct 20 from 12:00 – 7:00 pm. Ms. Lessens stated that ASD has a Covid dashboard that provides information at the individual school level and advised that the district's policy is that quarantining of asymptomatic close contact students is recommended but not required. At present, six schools have Covid-19 testing availability Monday – Friday from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm for symptomatic students. Ms. Lessens reminded parents of the ASD parent connection website and stated that there were still occasional school bus disruptions due to driver shortages.

Guest Speaker

Chair Lipps introduced guest speaker Joy Boston of JBER. Ms. Boston reported that JBER leadership had declared a public health emergency on base due to the extremely high Covid-19 numbers in the Anchorage area. All persons on base are directed to wear masks while on base and are recommended to wear masks off base. This order is due to expire on Friday October 15 but it is likely to be extended for an additional 30 days. Ms. Boston also reported that US Army Alaska has a new Commander appointed this summer.

### BVCC Officer and Committee Reports

The Council does not have a HALO representative at present, so there was no HALO update.

BVCC Treasurer Angie Pinsonneault provided the Treasurer's report, advising that there is just over \$1,000 in the council account. She renewed the BVCC business license with the state for a two-year period through the end of 2023. There was no cost for the license renewal.

Assembly Liaison Scott Pexton reported that the Assembly has passed an emergency ordinance the previous evening, implementing a requirement that individuals wear a mask or other face covering when in public indoor spaces or communal gatherings outside the home. The ordinance will expire in 60 days or when other conditions are met.

Member-at-large Kori Marchowsky reported briefly on the Firewise program and also reported on the Rabbit Creek Community Council Resilience Committee meeting that she recently attended. RCCC's Resilience Committee has expanded its focus to include not only wildfire mitigation efforts but also earthquake, wind and snow events. In view of the recent high winds and associated power outages, Ms. Marchowsky reported that Chugach Electric Association has resources available to the public, including instructions on how to correctly hook up a personal home generator. Chugach Electric also has an undergrounding plan available on their website that outlines their priorities for undergrounding power lines, but Bear Valley is a low priority.

Bear Valley LRSA Chair Bill Ennis provided a report on the BV LRSA, stating that considerable work had been done over the summer on improving the first .2 miles of road surface along King's Way, which had unfortunately resulted in the annual budget being overspent and additional funding coming from the capital account. The road surface is considerably improved, but does deteriorate rapidly from heavy use.

Cheri Lipps provided the report for the Rabbit Creek View/Heights LRSA on behalf of RCVH LRSA Chair Verne Pomraning. Ms. Lipps announced there has been a new group created on the Nextdoor site to disseminate information within the RCVH LRSA. She stated that the existing road service contract with Northern Gravel and Trucking (Jim Baxter) had expired and the company had opted not to seek renewal. A new road service contract has been awarded to Western Construction (John Light) which has previously held the service contracts with the LRSA.

### New Business: BVCC Annual Elections

Chair Lipps reaffirmed that there are ten BVCC members in attendance, which is sufficient for a quorum (requirement of seven members), in order to proceed with elections. She announced the following positions, which carry a one-year obligation:

- Chair
- Vice-Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Three Member-at-Large: HALO Representative, Assembly Liaison & Committees Coordinator

Discussion briefly followed regarding position responsibilities and members' and current officers' availability and willingness to serve.

Kori Marchowsky was nominated for the Committees Coordinator seat. Ms. Marchowsky accepted the nomination. There being no other nominees, the Chair asked for unanimous consent. There being no opposition, Ms. Marchowsky is elected Committees Coordinator.

Nominations were opened for Assembly Liaison and volunteers were sought. There being no volunteers or nominations, current secretary Conni Livsey offered to serve informally on an interim basis. No election was required.

Nominations were opened for the HALO representative seat and volunteers were sought. There being no expression of interest, it was agreed that for the time being, this seat would remain unfilled, but interest would be solicited within the BVCC community.

Current Treasurer Angie Pinsonneault expressed a willingness to continue to serve as treasurer. There were no other nominations. The Chair invited election by unanimous consent. There being no objection, Ms. Pinsonneault was re-elected as BVCC Treasurer. Several members expressed gratitude for Ms. Pinsonneault's willingness to continue to serve in this important position.

Current Secretary Conni Livsey expressed a willingness to continue, with the proviso that there are periods she is unavailable, usually during the late summer. There were no other nominations, and oddly, no volunteers. Ms. Livsey was re-elected by unanimous consent.

Nominations were opened for Vice-Chair, a position that is currently unfilled. The primary duties of the Vice-Chair are to conduct monthly meetings if the Chair is unavailable, and to serve as liaison to the Federation of Community Councils (FCC). There were no nominations or volunteers, and after discussion it was agreed to leave this office unfilled and to seek interest from within the BVCC community.

Nominations were opened for Chair and several members urged Ms. Lipps to continue to serve. Despite some reservations due to her multiple other time commitments, Ms. Lipps was nominated and was re-elected by unanimous consent. Members thanked Ms. Lipps for her continued service to the Bear Valley community.

#### Other Business

Ms. Lipps announced that there would be a virtual public meeting on October 25 regarding the Mountain Air Drive extension projected, and that additional information would be posted in the meeting chat. Member Conni Livsey asked if Katie Bailey, who graciously spearheaded the Heights Hill sign project, had been reimbursed all costs associated with the sign that were not paid by member voluntary contributions. Ms. Lipps and Ms. Pinsonneault confirmed that Ms. Bailey was made whole. The total cost was \$605, as originally projected, and \$400 was contributed by community volunteers. The BVCC contributed \$205. Several members commented on how pleased we are to see the return of this sign. A member asked how to make dues payments to the BVCC, and attendees were reminded that dues payments could be sent to the FCC via payment to Bear Valley Community Council c/o the FCC at 1057 W Fireweed Ln, Ste 100, Anchorage, AK, 99503 or directly to our Treasurer, Ms. Angie Pinsonneault, at P.O. Box 110264, Anchorage, AK 99511.

#### Adjournment

Chair Lipps announced that the next regular meeting of the BVCC would take place on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. She reminded interested attendees to go to the Treat Map on Nextdoor if you would like to participate in the Halloween Bear Valley Trick-or-Treat Hayride event. There being no other business, the October 2021 meeting of the BVCC adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Constance Livsey  
BVCC Secretary