

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 9, 2022 6:30pm
REGULAR MEETING
Zoom Virtual Meeting
MEETING MINUTES – Approved April 13, 2022

Call to order at 6:33pm by Julie Jessen.

Quorum was established: 18 members; 7 guests in attendance.

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

Introductions and Announcements:

Gretchen Wehmhoff – Candidate for Assembly District 2, introduced herself and provided some background information and key priorities. See <https://www.TeamGretchen.com>

Kevin Cross – Candidate for Assembly District 2, introduced himself and provided some background information and key priorities. See <https://www.crossforak.com>

Lee Cruise - Republican party Chairman for newly formed District 22. This District encompasses Southfork, Eagle River Valley, and other parts of Eagle River. We are seeking alternative delegates to the Republican State convention in April. Also seeking individuals who would like to serve as party leadership in this District. Please reach out to me by phone 907-302-1170 or email cruise045@hotmail.com. Also please refer anyone who might want to be involved.

Meeting Minutes Approval: Draft meeting minutes from February 9, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve by Pete Panarese; seconded by Tom Freeman. Approved by a vote of 18 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain.

Meeting documents are here: <http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/viewfolder?id=4549>

New Business:

EagleExit

Sean Murphy. 907-632-5307, sean.eagleexit@gmail.com

Mr. Murphy provided the following update:

- He is visiting all community councils to introduce himself as new chair.
- Efforts to create our own borough began in 70s.
- There are seven (7) community councils in District 2.
- Current effort began in 2017. Next steps are:
 - File petition to Anchorage Boundary Commission. We are using current District 2 boundaries. If approved, then it's a three-year process.
 - Notify the public.
 - Conduct analysis.
- Only those who would detach can vote on detachment.
- No propositions on detachment are included in the upcoming election.
- Preliminary reports are available on tax impact.
- Negotiations would be required to determine what we pay for and would continue to pay. Likely to take several years.
- State statutes and constitution dictate the responsibilities of a new local government.
- See website for updated materials.
- The petition and charter are currently under development with plans for completion by April.
- The petition would be submitted to the Boundary Commission this summer.

Questions posed to Mr. Murphy included:

- How will reapportionment impact the study? If District 2 changes, then adjustments will be made accordingly.
- How would separation impact us? What about current property tax exemptions for seniors and military? More information is needed before signing petition of support. We have a lot of data and analysis that has been compiled that can be reviewed.

Eagle River Valley Community Council

March 9, 2022

Page 2

- If the area including Bartlett High School is included, we would have to provide services there. In current, proposed boundary map for Anchorage, district 2 loses the area of Bartlett High School.
- Where does Eklutna, Inc. stand on this separation?
- Are Chugiak-Eagle River Parks & Trails funds being using for EaglExit? No, there was an information request regarding CARES Act funding. Mayor's office responded with request to other organizations to provide support. EaglExit did not request anything from CER Parks & Rec.
- AWWU water tank project is underway. How will this infrastructure be handled, and funds transferred?
- We'll have more information after we receive Boundary Commission review.
- Years ago, when Eagle River was a borough, we only had State Troopers for law enforcement. We currently pay \$8M for APD. This funding could instead be applied to a local law enforcement organization.

Anchorage Equal Rights Commission Outreach

Megan Moffitt, Investigator. www.muni.gov/aerc

907.343.4340 | Megan.Moffitt@AnchorageAK.gov

632 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 110 | Anchorage, AK 99501

Ms. Moffitt provided the following information:

- She is an investigator with AERC. We are a municipal law enforcement agency, located in City Hall, charged with investigating unlawful discrimination complaints. Goal is to prevent and eliminate discrimination in our city. Jurisdiction and process are determined by Title 5 of municipal code.
- Service is available to anyone who feels they may be experiencing discrimination or who would like to learn more about anti-discrimination law.
- It is free and confidential to speak with them. If located within the jurisdiction, they will help draft a complaint and walk through process or will refer you to the correct place for your situation.
- Discrimination law training is available.
- See *Meeting documents* link above for presentation and brochure.

Eagle River Road Bike Path Rehabilitation (Genora Street to Fire House Lane)

Draft Resolution 2022-4. See Meeting documents link above.

Mr. Panarese provided the following information:

- Representative Merrick picked up on Parks & Rec Board of Supervisor AMATS applications for funding and put in a capital project request via CAPSIS (Alaska Legislative Capital Project Submission and Information System).
- We have draft Resolution 2022-4 to support the bike path improvement. Motion by Paul Forward, seconded by Tom Freeman to approve resolution. Resolution was approved by a vote of 18 yea, 0 nay and 0 abstain.
- Cliff Cook: Eagle River Community Council has a similar resolution drafted for consideration at March 10 meeting.

Informational Items:

Assembly Candidate Forums - Eagle River/Chugiak (District 2, Seat A) on Monday, March 14th, at 7:00 PM

sponsored by Anchorage Faith & Action - Congregations Together

Candidates: Kevin Cross, Gretchen Wehmhoff, Vanessa Stephens

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN__vr6CxhISrawpeQ7m-Y24w?fbclid=IwAR1Wj08pxwo1t2ghFf72pvwpeMg0x-ylt5OQ7Qgx_rUllhu3HtdfW7WT1p0

Eagle River Valley Community Council Elections

- Our annual meeting including board elections, will be held on May 11.
- We have many open positions. Please consider volunteering.

Old Business:

Representative Kelly Merrick - Alaska House of Representatives

Representative Merrick provided the following update:

- Operating budget work is proceeding. Governor's budget is expected on March 16.
- The House would like a \$1300 energy relief check for residents.
- On Friday afternoon at 1:30pm, there will be a finance meeting regarding the Anchorage port and food security issues.
- HB304 is the land swap bill for the Lions Club property. Letters of support are welcome. A hearing will be held with Resources Dept. In 2024 the Lions Club lease expires so it is important that this bill be passed during this session.

Crystal Kennedy - Anchorage Assembly

Ms. Kennedy provided the following update:

- Municipal election is April 5. Mail ballots should be received by March 15. Town Center by Library has accessible voting and assistance if needed. Muni.org site has additional information regarding the ballot. There is an area-wide fire department bond that affects some in Eagle River. There is a facilities bond for renovations on municipal buildings. See School Board update for information on school bonds.
- American Rescue Plan funds – Assembly received an update on how funds were spent thus far. The next \$50M has not been allocated yet.
- Regarding port of Anchorage repairs lawsuit, \$379M will be awarded (pending appeals).
- APD has its own website that contains useful information including the Citizens Academy opportunity. <https://www.anchoragepolice.com>
- The third public hearing regarding reapportionment will take place March 15. Ms. Kennedy supports the current remaining map, Map 11. There may be some additional amendments.
- Birchwood Airport – FAA regulates the airport. State has asked the muni to take over management and sponsorship of this airport.
- On Monday, a work session will be held regarding a homelessness navigation center. The efforts are to end use of Sullivan Arena as homeless shelter. As much as \$70M has been spent on use of Sullivan Arena as a homeless shelter. It is still unclear if we will receive FEMA reimbursements for this cost because we've never received confirmation from FEMA.
- EaglExit
 - No propositions will be on ballot regarding this.
 - We still need more information regarding keeping our services and costs.
 - From preliminary EaglExit reports, funding looks positive so far.
 - Utilities are regulated by state, AWWU, regarding water tank.
 - It would be a negotiation of what we've paid for and what we would still have to pay for. Probably several years of negotiations for the separation.
 - State statute and constitution dictate local government's responsibilities.

Eagle River Community Patrol – Cliff Cook

Mr. Cook provided the following update:

- February patrols were conducted for 28.5 hours covering 201.4 miles.
- Call Road Maintenance if your side street has snow issue.
- Since Patrol started in 2018 through February 2022, they've donated 2,278.25 hrs. and driven 21,512.5 miles. This includes events that the Patrol has supported.
- Currently there are four businesses that have submitted applications for marijuana locations in Eagle River. Alice's application is complete. Two are retail and two are cultivation.

Committee Reports:

CBERRRSA (Road Board): James McCurtain/ Arlene Rasic – No report

James.mccurtain@hotmail.com, 907-301-4042

Chugiak/Eagle River Advisory Board – Julie Jessen

Ms. Jessen provided the following update:

- Accessory dwelling units discussed. Board advised keeping this as flexible as possible.
- We need an alternate for this Board. Please consider volunteering. It only meets twice/year plus for any special topic meetings.

School Board Report – Carl Jacobs, Anchorage School Board

jacobs_carl@asdk12.org, (907)632-7285

Mr. Jacobs provided the following update:

- Agreements have been reached with two largest unions (AEU and Totem)
- School district newsletter has been reconfigured.
 - Signup for ASD Connect Newsletter: <https://conta.cc/3INR62A>
- Twenty-three (23) qualified candidates have been found for superintendent position.
 - Superintendent Search Timeline: <https://bit.ly/3KGjViV>
 - Most Recent Superintendent Report: <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/16184?fbclid=IwAR1-3YTvHS7GICdibvOWgor1hHJhLBWspyPSSHDITmUfLHM4sHQvG6ZrRA>
- To enter spring lottery for charter programs for 2022-2023 School Year: <https://bit.ly/3nULM5i>
- ASD Hot Topics Page: <https://www.asdk12.org/hottopics>
- A two-year school bond will be included in the April 5 ballot. See Meeting Documents link above for more information. 2022 School Bond Info: <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/18705>
- FY2022-2023 Budget: <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/18726>
- Upcoming ASD Board Meeting - 3/15 @ 6:00pm
- Link to agenda (when available) and to register for testimony: <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/4329>

Education: Open position – See School Board report.

Federation of Community Councils – Tom Freeman

Mr. Freeman provided the following update:

- Raises were approved for Federation manager and administrative staff.
- Spenard representative will organize an FCC training committee.
- Office of the mayor went to Juneau to support getting funding for the port of Anchorage.
- Assembly is considering a tax for construction of accessory dwelling units.
- ASD superintendent search is still underway.
- Homeless task force is hoping to end use of Sullivan Arena by June 30.

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

Mr. Panarese provided the following update:

- Approved a resolution for a land trade between the muni and Eklutna, Inc. land near Edmunds Lake Park. Eklutna, Inc. needed right of way so approved this to complete a swap for expanded parking area on Baldy that was created 10 years ago.
- Dog park proposal will be presented at public meetings in the coming months. The updated proposal incorporates feedback received from residents.
- Prepared resolution and provided information to Representative Merrick regarding Eagle River Road Bike Path Rehabilitation (Genora Street to Fire House Lane) so it could be included in capital projects budget.

Eagle River Valley Community Council

March 9, 2022

Page 5

- Working on bike path initiative and approving CIP budget. We may adjust this mid-summer.

Platting: Pete Panarese – nothing to report.

Next meeting is on April 13, 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)