



Officers (*Term Expires EOY*)
Pres. – Morris Pickel Jr. (2024)
V. Pres. – Chuck Homan (2023)
Sec - Camilla Hussein-Scott (2024)
Treas. – Sharon Gibbons (2023)

Directors (*Term Expires EOY*)
Sean Murphy (2023)
Cliff Cook (2024)
Michelle Banfield (2023)

EAGLE RIVER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

12001 Business Blvd. #107
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

Minutes

October 13th, 2022
6:30 – 8:30 PM

Call to order – 6:37 PM

Establish Quorum: Established

Attendance:

Morris Pickel, Jr., Chuck Homan, Camilla Hussein-Scott, Sean Murphy, Cliff Cook, Michelle Banfield.
Sharon Gibbons (absent)

Approval of Agenda: Approved

Membership Introductions

Reports

- Meeting Minutes: September 2022, approved.
- Treasurer Report: Sharon Gibbons. \$65
- Parks & Rec: Camilla Hussein-Scott:
 - CIP Project Status Report
 - **Beach Lake Lodge and Caretaker Pilings** – This project has been completed.
 - **Beach Lake Road & Parking Lot– Phase II** – The roadway and parking lot paving has been completed. The parking lot striping design has been accomplished, and we are awaiting quotes to complete that portion and intend for this year.
 - **Schroeder Park Tennis Courts** – Court resurfacing has been completed, and the final design and striping of the courts will be completed in the Spring.
 - **Dog Park** – Currently undergoing the Planning Review Process, and we are expecting to have a determination from Planning approximately September 26th or shortly after.
 - Clearing and Grubbing quotes are being requested, and we plan to have the clearing and grubbing for the parking lot area this year and the initial dirt work build-up for the parking area. The dirt work is anticipated for this year with the intent to let materials surcharge over the winter. The final grading and parking lot paving and completion next summer with fencing and park trail and feature design and build following that.
 - **Chugiak Pool** – The pool engineer assessment is scheduled for September 16th and should provide a more comprehensive estimated cost report for repairs and improvements needed.
 - **Loretta French Dug Out Hardening** – The Purchase order is being created, and the Contractor is standing by to complete this work of paving the eight dugouts needed.
 - **Eagle River Town Square Concrete Hazard Repair** – Problem areas were removed, the new concrete was poured last Saturday, and the light pole has been reseated. Final inspections will follow.
 - **Parks & Recreation Warm Storage Facility** – The letter of non-objection has been executed, so power should be established to the facility within the next week, and they can proceed with hooking up and energizing the facility to complete the interior needs. Due to the construction delays, we will probably be

unable to move anything in until winter.

- **Beach Lake Ski Trail Improvements** – No new information from the club has been received, and the project manager (Taylor Keegan) is in the process of bringing everyone together to coordinate and re-group for the Spring.
- Beach Lake Lodge questions from the August meeting – Walter was able to compile the 2022 Beach Lake Lodge rental information and year-to-date permit sales totaling \$23,500, with total expenses at \$3,500 this year with three months left. The remaining improvements include converting heat registers in the caretaker’s cabin and on-demand hot water heaters in both the caretaker and the lodge. The Septic system will need some improvements and attention as well in the next year or two.
- AURA Study – (Arctic Urban Risks and Adaptations) – the University of Alaska Fairbanks is conducting a climate change impact study on the vulnerability of Arctic urban communities to natural hazards such as unstable permafrost, wildfire, and rain events. They have identified and requested one site study be performed within Beach Lake Park.
- They will be installing a ground monitoring system with minimal impact on the park and will consist of a buried sensor and box with a short ground wire.
- ARPA – Beach Lake Multiuse Trail and Chugiak Eagle River Greenbelt Trails
- 2023 CIP Proposed Projects – Kevin Cross asked if any current or proposed projects include culvert replacement, drainage issues, or soil stability issues. There are IRRA (Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Replacement Act) funds in the amount of 1.6 trillion dollars available in federal grants through 2026.
- Now is the time for community councils to bring forward their requests for 2023 priority projects. We will need to discuss and identify a 2023 project list to submit to the administration. We received \$425,000 in CIP funds for 2022, so we should use approximately \$400,000 to \$420,000 as a benchmark for our 2023 project fund list.
- BOO at the Beach 2022 – Boo at the Beach 2022 will be on Saturday, October 15th, and the department intends to operate only the kids trick or treat trail and not the haunted trail due to staffing and some upcoming changes within the department.
- Road Board: Chuck Homan:
 - Breckenridge drive storm drainage project encountered materials shortages and had to be delayed until next year.
 - Starner Bridge: Funding was vetoed; difficulties of access to residents.
 - Next meeting October 17
 - On agenda Birchwood Chugiak back route upgrade.
 - Hillcrest Birchwood traffic studies, Chugiak HS improvement.
- Advisory Board: **see New Business**
 - Update to the Board from Sean Murphy about the appointment; waiting for Michael Foster to term out in October. Need to follow up about appointments with Amy Demboski or Jamie Allard.
- Federation Community Councils: Morris Pickel
 - Comprehensive information on the website: <https://www.communitycouncils.org/>
 - Eagle River website: <https://communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/11.html>

Guest Speakers

Assembly/Legislative Updates

- MOA Assembly update (Kevin Cross, Jamie Allard)
 - Not in attendance
- Legislative update (Sen. Reinbold, Rep. McCarty, Rep. Merrick):
 - Kelly Merrick is in attendance. Not a lot to report at this point. The main thing is the legislative budget was audited if there was collusion between Governor Dunleavy and the PFD board to fire the director. No

substantial evidence. Early voting started on November 7th. Question about the cost of the most recent damage to the bridge and issue of liability.

Presentation

Community Updates

- Anchorage School Board update (Carl Jacobs)
 - Board has been grappling with a \$68 Million operations deficit for FY24. Reasons why there is a deficit, look at the website's graphs in [October 2022 Newsletter](#).
 - ASD school closures to be announced.
- Eagle River Community Patrol update (Cliff Cook/John Rathert)
 - 22 hours, 173 miles for September
 - Petty crime has increased since August, with early morning door checkers.
 - Call in crimes to APD first to get incidents recorded
 - Election season, signs destructions, vandalism, spray paint. Report incidents to Cliff.
 - Increase in homelessness, but no evidence it is caused by the Centennial Park camp situation.
- Chugiak\Eagle River Library General Update (Nancy Clark)
 - Not in attendance
- JBER (Joy Boston)
 - Community partnerships
 - School bussing, in September ASD/JBER will hire active-duty airmen to drive on base until November
 - [Aim High Flight Academy](#) application due in November
 - [Defense Community Infrastructure Program](#) \$5,300,000 to the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska, in support of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson for the construction of a new Port of Alaska microgrid, battery energy storage, and electrical infrastructure to provide energy resilience for the region.

Old Business:

- EagleExit update (Sean Murphy)
 - New changes, new website, new donate page, is a 501c3 now.
 - Commitment for an action item for assembly district 2, written a petition, got a charter done, is with the legal team. Legal needs money, a fundraiser to pay the attorney. Due date by Christmas.
 - Petition is a constitutional process, signatures, 18-month process, then it is the vote of only the people detaching from the Municipality.
- Request for Marijuana Shop is still floating through the system of AMCO. Take a wait-and-see approach until the beginning of next year.

New Business:

- At the last ERCC meeting, Assemblyman Kevin Cross informed the council that the Geotechnical Advisory Commission is considering a resolution recommending expanding Building Safety Services to enforce code compliance in our area.
- **Advisory Board Issue:** Community Councils are concerned about recent reports that the Municipality is considering adding the Chugiak-Eagle River to the Building Safety Service Area. If so, this would mandate we use building permits rather than land use permits and must have municipal inspectors watch all local building projects. In response, Birchwood CC passed a resolution.
- The ERCC moved to draft a resolution. After discussion Eagle River Community Council resolved that the assembly and administration take no action on expanding the Building Safety Division. The resolution passed unanimously on October 13, 2022. (Resolution attached as Appendix A)

Comments from Eagle River Community Council Membership/Guests

- 3 Minutes each (time permitting)
 - Roger Branson, candidate for state house, District 23

Upcoming Events

- *CBERRRSA Board of Supervisors* monthly meeting:
- *Parks and Rec Board of Supervisors* monthly meeting:
- *FCC meeting: TBD*

Adjournment

Important Dates (2022-2023)

- **October 13, 2022**
 - Monthly meeting
- **November 10, 2022**
 - Monthly meeting
- **December 8, 2022**
 - Monthly meeting
- **January 11, 2023**
 - Monthly meeting

Appendix A

Eagle River Community Council

12001 Business Blvd. #107
EAGLE RIVER, ALASKA 99577
eaglercommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Eagle River Community Council Resolution 2022-4

WHEREAS, the establishment of service areas allows local communities within the Municipality to choose the governmental services the community desires to be utilized; and

WHEREAS, the communities of Eagle River, Chugiak, Birchwood, Eagle River Valley, Eklutna Valley, and South Fork have voted against being included in the Building Safety Service Area; and

WHEREAS, there appears to be widespread general opposition in the community to being regulated by the Building Safety Division; and

WHEREAS, the building codes adopted by the Municipality of Anchorage apply area-wide; and

WHEREAS, there are cost-effective alternative services providing similar verification of building code compliance; and

WHEREAS, property and building owners outside the Building Safety Service Area have the option to utilize the building code compliance services of the Building Safety Division if they so choose;

NOW, THEREFORE, The Eagle River Community Council RESOLVES that the Assembly and Administration take no action on expanding the Building Safety Division.

The resolution was passed unanimously on October 13, 2022.

Signed and sent to FCC

Morris Pickel Jr., President