

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting  
Wednesday, September 14, 2022 6:30pm  
REGULAR MEETING  
Zoom Virtual Meeting  
MEETING MINUTES – Approved November 9, 2022

Call to order at 6:33pm by Julie Jessen

Quorum was not established.

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

**Introductions and Announcements:** none

**Meeting Minutes Approval:** – Postponed due to lack of quorum.

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

**New Business:**

**Anchorage Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)**

The Anchorage LEPC seeks to uphold federal, state, and local laws pertaining to emergency/disaster planning and Community Right-to-Know reporting. The Anchorage LEPC is administered by the Municipality of Anchorage Office of Emergency Management. Next quarterly meeting is September 28, 2022, 1-3pm, Loussac Library. Ms. Jessen will attend and report in October.

Website: <https://www.muni.org/Departments/OEM/Plans/Pages/LEPC.aspx>

**Wildfire and Egress Kick off Meeting - September 13**

**Alaska Community Forest Council**

Ms. Jessen attended the kickoff meeting and provided an update:

- Plan was last updated in 2007.
- Focus on developing a community action plan and obtaining funding for mitigation strategies including development of the assessment strategy, hazard reduction priorities, and action plan.
  - Identify where fuel breaks should be
  - Where are access areas of concern
  - What are communication issues
  - Identify residents with mobility issues
- Reach out to Ms. Jessen for more information. All are welcome to participate.

**ERVCC Board Elections** – Postponed due to lack of quorum.

**Alice's Marijuana, Horseshoe Drive, Eagle River**

- Requested postponement on state license review
- State permit license is first step.
- Since we have Title 21, Chapter 10 restrictions on the location, the Assembly cannot approve the license without bringing forward amendments to change Title 21 code. This would entail a multi-step public process.

**Future council meetings – in person or Zoom?**

Discussion was held regarding switching back in in-person meetings.

- Ms. Webb to check into meeting at Gruening MS or one of elementary schools.
- Ms. Armstrong to check into meeting at Joy Lutheran.

**Old Business:**

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

Representative Merrick provided the following update:

- PFD payments of \$3284 will be made soon; September 20 if direct deposit and early October if paper check.
- Some political signs have been vandalized. Please report to APD if you witness this.
- Next election is November 8. To request an absentee ballot, contact Division of Elections beginning October 14. Early voting begins October 24.

- A well-attended celebration was held during the summer regarding transfer of Lions Park property from state to the Lions Club.

**Jamie Allard/Kevin Cross - Anchorage Assembly** – no report.

**Eagle River Community Patrol: Cliff Cook** – no report.

**Committee Reports:**

**CBERRRSA (Road Board): Crystal Kennedy/ Arlene Rasic**

Ms. Kennedy's resume has been submitted for approval.

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

**School Board: Carl Jacobs, Anchorage School Board**

Mr. Jacobs provided the following update:

- He will attend our council meetings as school board representative this year.
- There is ~\$60M shortfall in the school budget. The board wants to be very transparent as it addresses this shortfall and is soliciting feedback through a variety of channels on how to address the deficit.
- State of AK had not honored its commitment to help fund school bond debt since 2017. Legislators made one-time allocation of state funds to honor the entire funding commitment. The board is determining how it will prioritize disbursing these funds.
- A survey is available to community members.
- School bus driver shortage is expected to improve by mid-October. Eagle River area may be prioritized due to greater distances and no People Mover option.

**Education: Tom Roth**

Mr. Roth provided the following update:

- Budget gap has existed for a long time.
- Defunding school officers may be proposed again but Mr. Roth believes this is a very beneficial program.
- School district is still awaiting federal reimbursement for ~\$25M in earthquake repair.

**Federation of Community Councils – Tom Freeman/Erik Gunderson** – no report.

**Chugiak/Eagle River Parks and Rec Board: Ruth Armstrong**

Ms. Armstrong provided the following update:

- UAF is conducting AURA (Arctic Urban Risks and Adaptations) study on climate change at Beach Lake Park. There will be one test site at each lake but shouldn't impact any trails. First results expected in one year. See [Meeting documents](#) link above for project materials.
- Bike Club seeking \$450,000 to extend Beach Lake trails, connecting to Coastal Trail. This would be a single lane bike trail; not paved and not for hiking.
- Boo at the Beach is scheduled for October 15. Only children's section will be held. Teen section (haunted trail) will be held next year.
- One new project manager and one new maintenance lead to be added to staff.
- All capital projects are on time and on budget except warm storage near Chugiak Fire Dept. That project is one month behind schedule but expected to finish in late October. Equipment will be centralized in this location.
- Gorsuch Park/Edmunds Lake-\$65,000 grant was used to repair gravel road. Mirror Lake has new bike trail as well. Great area for biking and hiking. This land was returned by Boy Scouts to Parks and Recreation.

**Platting: Pete Panarese** – no report.

Motion to adjourn at 7:27pm.

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**Next meeting October 12, 2022, 6:30pm (via Zoom or location TBD)**

ERVCC Board Members (Term Expiration) President: Julie Jessen (2022); Vice President: Tom Roth(2023); Treasurer: Ruth Armstrong (2022); Education: Tom Roth(2023); Parks & Rec: Pete Panarese(2023)/Ruth Armstrong-Alt (2024); C/ER Advisory Board: Julie Jessen (2023)/Scott Bailey-Alt (2024); Platting: Pete Panarese (2022); Federation of Community Councils (FCC): Tom Freeman (2023)/Erik Gunderson-Alt (2025); Road Board: Crystal Kennedy (2025)/Arlene Rasic–Alt (2022); Secretary: Joy Webb (2022)