

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting
Wednesday, October 12, 2022 6:30pm
REGULAR MEETING
Zoom Virtual Meeting
MEETING MINUTES – Approved November 9, 2022

Call to order at 6:38pm by Julie Jessen

Quorum was not established.

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

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

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

Representatives' Reports

Alaska State Legislature - Senator Lora Reinbold - no report.

Alaska House of Representatives - Representative Kelly Merrick

- Nothing new happening in Legislature due to upcoming election.
- Early/absentee voting begins October 24. Request absentee ballot by October 29.

Assembly Report – Kevin Cross

- Assembly and school district are trying to resolve traffic issues related to bus driver shortage. Traffic study task force formed to investigate alternatives to school buses. Still short drivers but more are in training.
- Budget season is approaching. Reviewing large budget items and resources to ensure adequate Chugiak-Eagle River funding. We have lowest crime and highest education levels in schools so we receive less funding.
- October 15 Assembly meeting regarding building safety. Geotech Advisory Committee reviewing issues like shifting soils, seismic concerns, permitting and desire to extend regulations to Chugiak-Eagle River. Data presented seem convincing but are not representative of past 10-15 years. Being part of Anchorage Building Safety requirements will add significant cost and time to construction in our area.
- Working with Assembly to address homelessness issue in Anchorage.

School Board Report – Carl Jacobs

- Representative Merrick was instrumental in ASD receiving one-time capital improvement funds from state. Funding distribution: \$16M-one-time operating funds and rising costs; \$9.5M-major maintenance and capital projects to be identified; \$7.4M security improvements; \$38.4M-large scale capital improvements-safety related and other. Offered amendment to allocate \$3M to 2900 item backlog of minor maintenance items to catch up; \$37M remaining TBD.
- FY24 budget will have \$68M deficit. \$13M additional could be allocated to deficit. Considering immersion programs, combining school, class size changes. October 18- six schools will be named for closure.
- Introduced anti-bullying proposal for district to provide anonymous option for reporting bullying. StopItSolutions- 24 hr. hotline, mental health support. Will roll out slowly if approved.
- Why are bonds every other year? Why not ask when funds are needed? Bonds are for capital needs, not operating costs. District decided to go with alternate year approach; separate bonds can be offered but “yes” fatigue impacts likelihood of approval. State should lift its moratorium on school bond reimbursement.
- Some discussion on busing options. Student count has increased for second year to ~44,000 students.

New Business:

Wildfire and Egress Kick off Meeting - Julie Jessen/Art Skoog

Alaska Community Forest Council

- Municipality is updating maps and plans. Many community councils and agencies are involved. Stage 1- determine how to evacuate efficiently; what resources are needed & where; and where are staging areas.
- Participate on November 7, 6-8pm to identify egress issues and resolution, particularly Eagle River & Hillside.
- Community patrols may assist but AFD/APD would go door-to-door for evacuations.
- Timeline-need plan to obtain federal funding for mitigation activities. Want 13 community councils to submit 3-5 substantive comments each for the plan.

Eagle River Valley Community Council

October 12, 2022

Page 2

ERVCC Board Elections – Postponed due to lack of quorum.

ERVCC meetings – We will switch to in-person meetings beginning November 6 at Alpenglow Elementary.

Old Business:

Eagle River Community Patrol - Cliff Cook

- Patrols conducted for 99 hours covering 762 miles since last report to our council. Report all incidents to APD.
- Petty crime continued over summer. Some homeless individuals in area. Contact muni's Mobile Intervention Team for homelessness issues – 786-8837.
- There is a property owner in Eagle River that allows homeless to camp on their property.

Committee Reports:

CBERRRSA (Road Board) - Crystal Kennedy/ Arlene Rasic

- Fall sweeping continues. Snow equipment (4 sanders, 4 graders, supply of sand) ready to go.
- Starner Bridge issue and access still under discussion with property owners.
- \$400,000 request for summer project expenses to be discussed at Oct. 17 meeting.
- Extent of damage on Artillery Rd. bridge? – Ms. Kennedy will investigate.

Chugiak/Eagle River Advisory Board - Julie Jessen

- Meeting will be held Saturday, Oct. 15 @ noon in Eagle River Town Center (near library) to discuss expansion of Building Land Use permit requirements to Chugiak-Eagle River area.
- Ruth Armstrong: Banks and lending institutions in CER require same inspections now as Anchorage. Only difference is these are not performed by a municipal employee so with less red tape and less expense.
- If proposal is passed, the number of municipal inspectors would need to triple. Long backlog exists now.

Education - Tom Roth

- School busing is provided through state grant program; not district operating budget. Must comply with state requirements. Finding busing alternatives was studied previously without good alternatives.
- Chugiak-Eagle River will very likely be impacted by upcoming school closures. This will be a long public process.

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

Chugiak/Eagle River Parks and Rec Board - Pete Panarese/Ruth Armstrong

- Very active summer including assessing Loretta French Park for additional public access; Beach Lake Lodge improvements; pool improvements & assessment of additional needs; Chugiak Mountain Bike trails discussions; AK softball. Ms. Armstrong is very involved and doing a great job. She should be Mr. Panarese's successor.
- Short-staffed at ½ level needed. Boo at the Beach will be held for all age groups due to many volunteers.
- Has board had recent discussions on CER Cemetery? No, need to determine how to move this forward.

Platting - Pete Panarese – nothing to report.

Motion to adjourn at 8:38pm.

Next meeting November 9, 2022, 6:30pm at Alpenglow Elementary School, Multi-purpose room.

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)