

Bear Valley Community Council Minutes – May 10, 2023

Call to Order, Announcements, and Introductions

The regularly scheduled May 10, 2023, meeting of the Bear Valley Community Council (BVCC) was called to order by Council Chair Cheri Lipps at 7:02 pm. The meeting was held in-person at Bear Valley Elementary School Library. Chair Lipps announced a quorum of nine community council members present including two as guest speakers.

The following community member guests were present: Katie Bailey from Anchorage Cops for Community and Rick Farrell from Bear Valley Community Association (BVCA SACC).

Agenda: The agenda was distributed and reviewed.

Legislative, Assembly, School Board, and JBER Updates: No guests were present for updates.

Guest Speakers

Chair Lipps introduced Rick Farrell from Bear Valley Community Association (BVCA SACC) as guest speaker. Rick discussed the role of BVCA SACC and the recent changes to the upcoming next two school year start time changes. This may also increase the time students spend at SACC.

He also provided an update that the BV Fun Run disbursed a couple of years ago due to safety and property access issues. It was replaced with the BVCA Winter Fest which is now held Annually in March. He is planning to expand the event to include not only BV Elementary School families but BV community members. This exciting fundraiser includes Food Trucks, music, skating, skiing, sledding at a great time for everyone. Stay tuned for future notices and events.

Rick also talked about the extensive cost of \$35k the BVCA SACC endured to rehabilitate the school's ice rink. ASD was going to demolish it due to significant deteriorating conditions, but BVCA SACC came to the rescue due to the popularity in the community. Rick maintains the rink each winter, however it requires a significant amount of water to get the base started. Previous years AFD Station 10 was able to provide the water dump however due to staffing changes they do not expect to be able to continue. Community member, Caryn Smith indicated she would pursue a connection with Chief Schrage to see if a permanent arrangement can be agreed upon. Hot mopping and plowing are done primarily by Rick, and he welcomes other community volunteers.

Chair Lipps introduced the second guest speaker and community member Katie Bailey from Anchorage Cops for Community. Katie provided that the main goal of AC4C is to humanize law enforcement by actively participating in community events. They are a non-profit that main functions are to raise money, volunteer and support and supply funding for other organizations.

They are currently asking for community businesses to volunteer by hosting Clothing Drop Off Box locations through the summer to collect items for the Annual Fall Clothesline Project event August 5th at Clark Middle School, where they supply back to school items to families that may need clothing items.

This is completely free of charge. In addition to clothing, they also provide haircuts, and this year they hope to have a local provide guiding families to other resources for financial and healthcare needs within the community. They are looking at the possibility of setting up an Amazon Wishlist to provide new socks and underwear which are the most highly sought items. The Anchorage Police Department, Anchorage Fire Department, Walmart, and other organizations, along with community members donate and participate in this event.

They are looking for approximately 75-100 volunteers that typically get together on Tuesday and Thursday from 6-7:30pm and Saturday at 11:30 to prepare clothing items for a shopping experience. More information can be found on their Facebook page or website Anchoragecopsforcommunity.org.

BVCC Officer and Committee Reports

BVCC Chair, Cheri Lipps provided the Financial Report on behalf of Treasurer Angie Pinsonneault: The bank previously deducted \$5.00 dollars per month from the account, and Angie reached out to get this amount recovered as we are a non-profit and the fee does not apply. AKUSA/Global refunded all the bank charges. Currently there is a total of \$916.72.

Chair Lipps also provide a historical cost for the Annual BV Community BBQ items. Chair Lipps requested a motion for an amount. It was moved by V. Pomraning to spend a max of \$130.00 dollars on items for the June 10th event, and seconded (K. Marchowsky) to approve the amount. All were in favor, and it was approved without objection.

BVCC Committee Chair, Kori Marchowsky provided the Firewise Update. The community group is still actively working on a Firewise map and reducing the risk of fires in all the communities in Anchorage. The Rabbit Creek Community Council has additional information on their website. It was also noted that the Woodlot will be open and thanks to a grant should be free all summer.

BVCC Vice Chair Kaitlyn Jackson provided an update on the Federation of Community Councils (FCC) meetings, she was not in attendance of the April meeting but there was a special meeting called today (May 10th) to discuss the upcoming changes as the FCC board nominations/elections is set to happen at the May meeting on May 17th. Also, Mark Butler is retiring on June 30th and his position will be open. In the next month the FCC will be forming a committee that will create a job listing for this position. If anyone is interested in joining this committee, please email info@communitycouncils.com.

LRSA Updates

Rabbit Creek View & Heights LRSA Chair, Verne Pomraning updated that it had been an expensive winter and they have spent approximately \$49,000 for snow removal, and things may be a little tighter in the budget for road maintenance this summer. Currently the roads are too soft to grade. There are some decent potholes and Verne has been keeping an eye on these. Verne had put cones on the huge dip on Heights Hill and someone stole them, it would take way too much paint to mark that dip decently.

At the top of Nickleen the road is very soft, there is an issue with the current culvert there and it isn't directing the water as needed. Verne noted that it needs to be dug out and moved South which may be

prohibitive. Meanwhile he regularly requests the contractor provide rock and gravel be placed to divert the water flow. This, however, is often not done to his specs.

Bear Valley LRSA Chair Bill Ennis provided a report ahead of the meeting and read by Cheri, it stated that the snow had mostly melted, and the roads were dry, however, they also have a decent number of potholes and surface issues to address.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from March 8th were reviewed. Chair Lipps requested a motion approving the minutes. It was moved and seconded (W. Yankauskas, V. Pomraning) to approve the March minutes, and they were approved without objection. When Secretary Livsey returns from traveling the April meeting minutes will be drafted and available to review.

Other Business and Adjournment:

- Chair Lipps announced upcoming events of community interest:

May 20, 2023- AFD open house from 10am-2pm at 1150 Airport Heights DR.

May 25, 2023- Spruce trees from the Anchorage Audubon Society. More information can be found on the agenda or on the website <http://www.mrwhitekeys.com/trees.html>

Saturday, June 10, 2023- is the Bear Valley Community Clean up. This will begin at 9:30am. The dumpster is donated by Alaska Waste and is anticipated to arrive on Thursday June 8 at the Lipps' home on Nickleen St. for those unable to attend the official clean-up activities but desire to participate early. On Saturday, Dave and Cheri Lipps will host the Annual Clean-up and BBQ event for the Bear Valley community.

June 12, 2023- meeting for the 10-year Review of Community Council Boundaries. This begins at 6pm in the planning department's conference room 170 of the Planning and Development 4700 Elmore RD, Anchorage. This is a hybrid meeting. More information can be found on the agenda.

- Chair Lipps announced that no other items of interest were on the table for summer to hold meetings. However, if something were to arise, information would be disseminated. Ms. Lipps announced the next meeting will occur on September 13th, 2023. There being no other business, it was moved and seconded (W. Yankauskas, V. Pomraning) that the meeting be adjourned. Chair Lipps thanked attendees and speakers and concluded the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Lipps, BVCC Chair
Kaitlyn Jackson, BVCC Vice-Chair