

Basher Community Council Meeting
May 11, 2023
7:00 p.m.
Scenic Park Elementary School, Multipurpose Room/Cafeteria
3933 Patterson Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

Officers Present: Matt Moore, Vice President
Troy Weiss, Member at Large
Ted Trueblood, Member at Large

Members Present:

Eric Ash	Dawn Ash	Sam Barber
Duby Baxter	Loran Baxter	John BeeBee
Nancy Boardman	Robert Bundtzen	Debbie Cameron
Scott Cameron	Don Crafts	Ron Everett
Ben Barnett	Kathy Haghghi	Gisella Harris
Barbara Hood	Gwen Hufford	Katherine Karabelnikoff
Susan Kent-Crafts	Robin Klein	John Kress
Jessie Kullberg	Kris Kullberg	Martha Linden
Dianne Mahaffey	Kirsten Marchant	Chris Marchant
Rob Merchant	Dodi Merchant	Sandra Mierop
Stephen Mierop	Edward Mjolsnes	Mary Moline
Matt Moore	James Mahaffey	Aaron Novak
John Oberst	LuAnn Piccard	Carlton Roberts
Peggy Rotan	Diane Schenker	Dirk Sisson
Mark Soquet	Anita Soquet	Nanette Stevenson
Halldora Sveinbjornsson	Bjartmar Sveinbjornsson	Ted Trueblood
Ted Vacek	Eve Vacek	Neverley Wake
Troy Weiss	Joseph D. Weiss	Joyce Wojciehowski
Jim Wojciehowski		

Guests:

Karen Bronga, Anchorage Assembly
George Martinez, Anchorage Assembly
Sr. Capt. Nick Davis, Anchorage Fire Department
David Battle, Wildlife Biologist, Alaska Division of Fish & Game

CALL TO ORDER

V.P. Matt Moore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and introduced Sr. Capt. Davis from Fire Station 10.

ANCHORAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT (AFD) and PROPOSED RESOLUTION CREATING A BCC WILDFIRE RESILIENCY COMMITTEE

Sr. Capt. Davis noted that he heads up the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) program for AFD. He has been involved in all things “wildfire,” including mitigation, evacuation, prevention, training, and initial attack for the AFD. He emphasized the evacuation plan, especially since the BCC area has one ingress and egress out of the neighborhood. He noted that evacuation must be the priority of the government, the community councils and our neighbors.

Troy Weiss introduced the Stuckagain Heights Wildfire Response that he put together in coordination with AFD Station 14. Sr. Capt. Davis requested the name be changed to “Stuckagain Wildland Urban Interface Fire Response” because when we think of “wildfires” we think of a fire in the forest; not about fires that affect people and property. Troy Weiss continued to outline everything the community is doing – and other things the community could consider doing – to address wild fire risk. Troy Weiss noted “muster points” for helicopter evacuations throughout the neighborhood in the event of wildfire. It is a must that those areas remain free from parked cars. The hope is to get no parking signs in those four areas. **Barbara Hood introduced a resolution to create a BCC Fire Resiliency Committee. Four BCC members volunteered to serve on the committee:** ~~Troy Weiss introduced the BCC Wildfire Resiliency Committee, noting that a good start for members of the committee are~~ Diane Schenker, Neverley Wake, Sandra Mierop and Troy Weiss.

MOTION to ~~create~~ **adopt a resolution creating** a BCC Wildfire Resiliency Committee was made by Ted Vacek; seconded by Diane Schenker. **MOTION PASSED** unanimously via a vote by a showing of hands.

MOTION to appoint Diane Schenker, Neverley Wake, Sandra Mierop and Troy Weiss to the BCC Wildfire Resiliency Committee was made by Ted Vacek; seconded by Don Crafts. **MOTION PASSED** unanimously via a vote by a showing of hands.

LEGISLATIVE AND ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Sen. Cathy Giessel and Rep. Laddie Shaw were not available when called.

Assemblywoman Karen Bronga spoke about just completing the first Assembly meeting. Committee assignments were given out today. There will be a housing summit next week, and she noted that code changes will be coming forward to allow more density to get more buildings in. Homeless camps will not be abated this summer until a sanctioned camping area can be figured out, but please continue reporting camps so they can be cleared out after a plan is in place. She noted that we will all have to “give a little bit” so that a permanent solution can be had regarding homelessness – smaller permanent shelters going this fall to prevent last year’s situation.

Assemblyman George Martinez noted telephone numbers to reach him and Assemblywoman Bronga: (907) 343-4119 for Bronga; (907) 343-4120 for Martinez. He mentioned that this past Tuesday’s Assembly meeting was the shortest one in the past two years. It was also the first meeting in which a mayoral veto was not overridden.

BEAR and MOOSE AWARENESS

David Battle with ADF&G gave a wildland safety talk. He emphasized that moose calves are dropping, and that bears need to be kept away from food. He noted that preventing bear problems is everybody’s

responsibility. Bear-resistant trash containers are paramount in Stuckagain. Please keep meat and fish smokers away from bears. Close and lock doors and windows that a bear could enter. Moose defensive behavior will be cranked up around May 20th, which is high season for calving.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 11, 2022

Diane Schenker suggested corrections to the minutes. MOTION to approve the minutes, as amended, was made by TED VACEK; seconded by DON CRAFTS.

MOTION PASSED unanimously via a vote by a showing of hands.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 9, 2023

Diane Schenker and Barbara Hood suggested corrections to the minutes. MOTION to approve the minutes, as amended, was made DON CRAFTS; seconded by KRIS KULLBERG.

With one abstention, the **MOTION PASSED** unanimously via a vote by a showing of hands.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOUNDARY REVIEW

V.P. MATT MOORE went over the BCC Community Council Boundary. He noted that the BCC has a say in anything that happens down to Tudor Road.

BCC HOMELESS AND HOUSING REPRESENTATIVE

A nomination for Hilary Morgan to represent BCC as the Homeless and Housing Representative for Basher Community Council -- in response to Assemblyman Felix Rivera's request for East Anchorage councils to select one representative -- was made by LuAnn Piccard; seconded by Sandra Mierop, and approved by unanimous consent.

LRSA REPORT/SUMMER ROAD SAFETY

Chair Ted Trueblood noted that the LRSA Board met on April 11th via email to discuss Proposition 6 regarding the creation of a Service Area to fund improvements to the access to Chugach State Park. Three priority projects will be submitted for the spring 2024 bond proposition: Basher Trailhead parking lot expansion, and fixing the curve at the bear pullout where flooding/heaves occur. The second meeting was the board's annual "drive-through" on April 27th. It was decided by unanimous vote that the LRSA take a \$100,000 draw from the \$367,000 Fund Balance to finish the approximately two miles of gravel roads with RAP. A RAP overlay of Basher Road where it connects to Campbell Airstrip Road will also be undertaken. Also contemplated is a RAP overlay on the beginning of Copper Drive where the earlier RAP has not performed well. Please drive slowly past construction areas. When asphalt emulsion is applied to the roads, please drive slowly and avoid walking on newly sprayed roads. Pets should be kept off the roads until the emulsion has had time to set up. The next LRSA meeting will be in September to review the summer work and the remaining budget for the coming winter work.

NEIGHBORHOOD SPRING CLEANUP

Meet at the Chugach State Park Basher Trailhead at 10:00 a.m. on May 13. Cleanup will continue until 2:00 p.m. Refreshments will be available.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MOTION made to nominate Dirk Sisson as President of BCC by Kris Kullberg; seconded by Halldora Sveinbjornsson. **MOTION PASSED** unanimously via a vote by a showing of hands.

MOTION made to nominate Sandra Mierop as Secretary of BCC by Diane Schenker; seconded by Barbara Hood. **MOTION PASSED** unanimously via a vote by a showing of hands.

MOTION made to nominate Don Crafts as Treasurer of BCC by Sandra Mierop; seconded by Ted Vacek. **MOTION PASSED** unanimously via a vote by a showing of hands.

STUCKAGAIN HEIGHTS BLOCK PARTY

The Stuckagain Heights Block Party is scheduled for July 13th, 2023. Aubrey Chester and Kevin Doughty will host.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Audubon Society is giving away white spruce seedlings on May 25th. For more information, please contact Diane Schenker via text at (907) 227-2000, or email at diane.schenker@gmail.com.

ADJOURNMENT

BCC meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.