

# Birchwood Community Council

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## MINUTES

### BIRCHWOOD Community Council

Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 7-9:00 PM

Hybrid meeting: Beach Lake Ski Chalet

And via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88131919316?pwd=RDA5ZGYrSlhORFhyOUtCM2dTRmJXdz09>

#### 1. Call to Order: 7PM

**2. Approval of February Minutes:** Tom Prunty made a motion to approve, and Carol Perkins seconded-Minutes were accepted

#### 3. Announcements: *(reminder please limit presentations to 5 minutes)*

a) Mayoral candidate forum March 18: 7-8PM sponsored by AFACT (Anchorage Faith in Action Congregations Together) First Covenant Church 1145 C Street

b) FCC representative needed to take over from Carol Perkins-6-8PM or zoom at BP Energy Center-good way to see what other councils are doing.

c) Conflict of Interest disclosure statement from MOA-for both Debbie and Carol or for any board member

#### 4. Reports:

a) **FCC Report:** Carol Perkins- Feb 21 meeting date: Mayor has a task force to address the Nat gas shortage. Eklutna Dam city water and power needs would be compromised by demolishing the dam. Funding for projects- can apply up until March 20. ACCEE-Anchorage Child Care and Early Education Fund by Austin Quinn-Davidson-care for kids: there are fewer than 200 licensed facilities, want to use underutilized schools, and would set up an accountability board to oversee the funds. Homeless Next Step Initiative-Daniel McKenna-Foster: there are 15 employees doing street outreach. There are 3, 683 homeless in shelters and unsheltered. They had an award from HUD to convert some hotel rooms to housing. Shelters cost 100.00 per day but housing costs 85.00 per day. The MOA is needing more folks to fill positions on various boards and commission. The list is on the MOA website. There are 38 boards and commissions. FCC will hire a new manager the week of March 17 and then there will be an election of new board members and treasurer.

b) **CBERRRSA Road Board Report:** Matt Cruickshank -Bid was out 3/12/2024 for Starner-temporary bridge next to present bridge-temp bridge next to it for access-posted for 28 days, pursue grants for projects-sister agency for term contract-major projects out here-widen Hillcrest? Approved mil 2.1, which now puts us at the mil rate cap. We are 50K in red and in negotiations with McKenna. Choices are to take a vote of folks to raise the cap or lower CIP to stay under 2.1. Not much Fed or State funding. STIP was rejected by FEDs DOT is rushing to resubmit. 90% fed dollars on hold until approved. TIP-local: Unless project on TIP can't use STIP dollars. Now subject to AMATs for full projects for STIP-MTP. Low income and congestion, but new development will automatically score higher than Chugiak-Eagle River. Complete work Eagle River Road and trails-had \$2.5M for Eagle River Road rehab-\$60M too expensive removed 2.5—reduce scope so fiscally constrained. This is the reason why need folks to participate on the policy or TAC. Everything has to live on MTP—clover leaf STIP project not TIP...use STIP money for cloverleaf.

2022-2023 board: Debbie Ossiander, CERAB and Co-Chair; Matt Cruickshank, Co- Chair, Road Board rep; Ben Westveer: Secretary for Publicity, Carol Perkins FCC Rep; Barbara Trost, Parks and Rec rep; Patty Friend, Member at large, and CERAB alternate; Val Jokela, Secretary-Treasurer, alternate Road Board

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c) **Parks and Recreation Report:** Barbara Trost- Carol Perkins attended- hiring 3 full-time for summer, and hiring a general manager that has been in the budget. Working on Mirror Lake/Edmonds Lake Park Master Plan hoping to be done by next year. Waiting on parts for the pool heat exchanger and hope to have it open by the end of April. Drainage Oberg soccer fields needs repair as it is not draining. Fields top notch—approved 110K for repairs. Mark Littlefield would like to review options. Many projects on the capital project list take time to do and are either ready to start or getting design work done. AK Long Trail garnered lots of discussion and one member thought BCC jumped the gun in our resolution. Several councils were concerned about the traffic in the neighborhoods. If the Cemetery bond passes, concern expressed over who would care for it? Tommy O'Mally stated we need an Eagle River person on the cemetery board. Heating cooling system is to be replaced at MacDonald Center. AKLT-Board cost factors on trail-move forward. Take away course-Kelly Merrick-folks at townhall and spoke about LT funding CAPSIS Ram Valley access is the priority. Access plan state park b4 advisory board—controversy.

d) **Chugiak Eagle River Advisory Board:** Debbie Ossiander- not had meeting-however might hold one later as there is a proposed change in residential zoning-so far this impacts Anchorage only. Proposal is to get rid of R-1 and combines with 2, R-5,6,7 would be combined and make lots smaller-Hillside is very unhappy-scared---homeless concern hitting lots. Stay vigilant- P and Z meeting on the March 18---works in bowl have tendency to spill over to ER-Chugiak—impact density. Chugiak Council held a board meeting about Carol Creek

e) **Treasurer's report:** \$204.00.

f) **CVFD:** Chief Scott Fisher-January:102-volunteers and 9ALS providers, 109 calls, vol hours 5,023. February 99 volunteers, 9ALS providers, 104 responses, 213 calls, volunteer hours 4705: 9,078 hours total. Concerns about Carol Creek: narrow streets for emergency vehicles and saw plans: width of streets...not wide enough to park-not culdesac turn arounds. Did concerns go to Planning Dept. Bond rescue truck-Bond will be sold? Political—want CVFD enact the bond. Don't want to set precedent and burden our taxpayers. Not corrected. Scott will talk to Mayor. Dan talked with Mayor and did not get response back about it being on the ballot.

g) Birchwood Patrol Report: none

h) **Legislative / Assembly / School board reports:**

**Senator Kelly Merrick**-Long trail-reached out to Haley Johnson-support new access point because it keeps folks out of neighborhood, working on capital budget for Starner-townhall coffee chat Satu-ANC delegation meeting-important for legislators to April 13 1030-1200 community room at library. Gov SB140 he will veto bill March 14—house and senate veto override. House subcommittee close out-will make recommendation to full finance committee. Debbie called Governor's office asking him not to veto the bill for education funding.

**Representative Dan Saddler**-Jitters Sat-newsletter-education funding not clear what the Governor will do. Compromise bill: Did support increase in BSA-8 ex orders shot down, 40% money comes from Feds-operating budget in front of finance committee. Cook Inlet railbelt -tax relief oil and gas-big solution pipeline. Supporting Starner, senior housing, connection bike trail. Pick click save bill-go before house. Firefighters bill. ½ way through session

**Andy Holleman**-not much to report-spring break-graduations, still working on budget..based budget on no increase to BSA. Restored some cuts—match 140.00 on BSA..voluntary transfers and movement..principals build off of FTE, maintain health, and councilors at the elementary level. Hoping for 680,000. Hope to save more programs. Bond packaged on ballot. Birchwood ABC on chopping block-Secure or not? None are safe—pare down. Would relocate ABC to another building-No reason to disband program. It would save 1 principal, nurse, councilor, office staff,

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maintenance on building. Principal makes the school—Birchwood started ABC from having a bad principal? Going to bus and cost? Neighborhood schools are losing population. Expectation there be less elementary kids. Don't have 60 some good principals. Saves state money-costs ASD money to consolidate schools. This would be more efficient use of staffing. Relocate program would keep ABC program. Move to building not far away-timeline? Do one or 2 schools per year but start 2026. Andy thought maybe in the future expand Birchwood ABC and expand the use of the building.

## 5. Appearances

### 6. Old Business

a) **Birchwood Airport Master Plan**-Shelly Wade-subcontractor-role is land use planning pieces-started Sept 2020- Since there has been a change in project managers. DOT level: personal tragedy for team members, and funding questions-Nov 2022-public meeting, public review draft is out for public comment deadline April 8. Birchwood Airport Master Plan full doc-500-page doc, specific excerpt 30 pages, preferred alternative. Highlight summary-simple version-in a 30-page doc Alternative 2 got a lot of feedback surveys—alternative 2 preferred. Included is a matrix that breaks down each alternative by runway dimension, matches present and widens runway. Early in process, safety was brought up as a main concern. The 500-page doc details: Implementation and FIN plan. Proposed costs Alt 2---10-20 years from now plan. Goal is to make flying more affordable for younger pilots. Loc hard copy-March 22 Advisory group meeting, March 30 10-1PM—public meeting at the CAP Hangar. Opposed casino-jet traffic. Character of airport needs to be preserved. Early on understanding of funding limitations by FAA—early discussions-Jonathan (FAA Airports) attended public meeting: and it was found there was a misunderstanding of application and funding.

### 7. New Business

a) **Huddle Edmonds-Mirror Lake Master Plan**-Peyton Johnson Landscape Designer-Lucy Wittlinger-Park Master Plan-20 year vision plan-id current and future needs. Current plan 1973 for only Edmonds Lake-lots of development- what is happening in park consistent with public needs. Started with site assessment-Citizen Adv committee-CMBR, boy scout, 7/8 grader, residents-productive meeting. Stakeholder interviews—April 9 first public workshop-vision for park-April 9-6-7 in community room 170. Fall will have a draft plan-second workshop in September. Go to commission fall time-next spring have final plan. Community survey—scan QR code and take survey. Tom Prunty—info inlet side access---Eklutna has easement Paradise Lane Mirror Lake is busiest park. This plan will help guide future development. Middle school connect to mountain side of park. Concept connect both sides. Issues utility easement is Eklutna..access minimal. Coyote trails on park land. See phrase multi-use trails-does not go now because of bike trails—Alan Kurzynski—terrible multi-use trails. Separate uses. Bikes are not compatible nor mixing mushing. Meeting summary on website. All materials will be posted on website.

b) **Carol Creek Development Case No. 2023 Public Hearing 4/8/2024**-Chugiak CC very active in this-Quimby's in particular. Scott Myers and Kourosh Partow the developer were on hand to explain the process and answer questions. Heritage land bank decided to get rid of some of their property-fear major impact to folks in area-water issues, Mac Rd—through many meetings and discussion plan for 115 new homes. Developer asking for variance for development standards, and Planned unit development-fear Chugiak folks—design has homes funneling out Mac Center road and not up to standard—requirements plan impact traffic analysis-done last year-TIA completed—zoned for 456 units—reduced to 115—no high density housing in Eagle River: lot sizes 15,000 square, height increase-open space specific areas around. Plans to walk to Fred Meyer—just down

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Mac Ctr Rd Changed from Senior housing due to covid. Road width-not sure of confusion. Some believe if road dedicated to MOA, they would improve it. Developer needs to pay for-not CBERRRSA. Housing costs too high—losing population. Covid pushed costs up 35%-so had to do something else...trying to keep costs of lots at \$78K. Keep offsite improvements to min-to hold down costs. If offsite costs are increased-cost of project increases. Helping AWWU to extend line, access to parks. Snow storage and no on-street parking-adhere to all codes MOA requires. Multi-family homes behind AIH—make sure parking is provided. Snow storage on each plat. Biggest concern is infrastructure on everyone. Planning department website has current plats and plans. Look at what is on line and comment. Concern is on road and path to Fred Meyer. What is Eklutna resource-land—ride market based upon developing. Road will come out into Chugiak so there would be 2 ways out. Exits at Mendenhall.

### **8. Action Items**

**9. Adjournment:** move to adjourn by Carol seconded Tom Prunty 8:46PM