

Bear Valley Community Council

Minutes – March 13, 2024

Call to Order, Announcements and Introductions

The regularly-scheduled March 13, 2024 meeting of the Bear Valley Community Council (BVCC) was called to order by Council Chair Cheri Lipps at 7:09 pm. This meeting was announced and held as a Zoom meeting, and was recorded by the Chair. There were 12 Bear Valley community members present along with guests from Anchorage School District, the Federation of Community Councils (FCC), HALO and JBER. Chair Lipps declared a quorum.

Legislative, Assembly, School Board and JBER Updates

There were no state legislators or Assembly representatives present for the meeting. Chair Lipps introduced ASD Board Chair Margo Bellamy and ASD legislative assistant Larry Morris. Ms. Bellamy and Mr. Morris stated that ASD has passed its budget for the 2024-25 school year. They urged a vote in favor of Proposition 1 on the April Muni ballot, which approves bonds to fund various ASD capital projects. None of this funding goes to ASD operating budgets. Projects encompassed by the bonds include Inlet View Elementary, long-term maintenance needs on District buildings including roof repair at several schools, and critical safety work like secure entry vestibules for schools. Many of ASD's schools date from the 1960s and 1970s and maintenance/improvement needs are urgent. The projects will serve over 10,000 ASD students.

JBER Community Liaison Joy Boston returned for this meeting and was welcomed back after several months away due to a planned schedule conflict with BVCC meetings. Ms. Boston announced that the Arctic Thunder event, which takes place in even-numbered years, will be held in July 2024 and will include an Open House on base. Ms. Boston also stated that the JBER iSportsman app, previously used to schedule recreational access to JBER, has been replaced by RecAccess, <https://jber.recaccess.com/> and that arrangements are by SMS text or smartphone. This app allows members of the public access to 3 areas of JBER for recreation.

Guest Speakers

Chair Lipps introduced Roger Marks (Glen Alps LRSA member) to speak regarding Ballot Measure 9, the Chugach State Park access bond. Mr. Marks explained that Prop 9 is part of the CASA (Chugach Access Service Area) project, and that this ballot measure follows the Assembly's approval of efforts to fund road maintenance and parking access for the Park. These funds are intended to defray the costs borne by various Hillside LRSAs for the general public's use of LRSA-maintained roads to access and enjoy Chugach State Park. This first stage will provide funding for Canyon Rd, which accesses Rabbit Lake and Flattop. Mr. Marks is hopeful that Prop 9 passes and this first stage of the CASA project is successful, allowing it to be expanded to other LRSAs with Park access roads, including the Bear Valley LRSA. He said that Chugach State Park generates 1.5 million individual visits per year, including Anchorage-area and tourism visits, which exceeds the number of visitors to Denali National Park.

Our second guest speaker was introduced as Katie Nolan, President of HALO (Hillside Home and Landowners Organization: <https://anchoragehalo.org/>) Ms. Nolan reported that HALO has been working on Firewise planning for emergency egress routes for both earthquake and fire hazards. Firewise is working with Team Rubicon, a group of mostly retired military personnel who focus on emergency planning and response. Ms. Nolan stated that the Firewise program obtained funding for Team Rubicon to work on projects at the neighborhood level, in conjunction with private residents, and is not limited to governmental responses. There was discussion among attendees that BV Neighborhood clean-up, removal of debris and brush, and firebreak construction could be appropriate projects for Team Rubicon assistance.

The third guest speaker was Gretchen Stoddard, FCC Chair. Ms. Stoddard encouraged any interested party to become involved in the FCC and invited Community Council representatives to attend monthly FCC meetings.

BVCC Officer and Committee Reports

BVCC Treasurer Angie Pinsonneault was not in attendance but had provided her written Treasurer's Report, which is available in the Zoom chat function. Our checking account balance is \$1,066.89, which includes the \$75 BVCC dues check to HALO, as yet uncashed.

BVCC Vice-Chair and FCC representative Kaitlyn Jackson reported that there is an FCC meeting next week that she hopes to attend. The FCC website is: www.communitycouncils.org

Member-at-Large Kori Marchowsky reported that there is a spring Wildfire Awareness event at the Campbell Creek Science Center on Thursday, May 9 from 7:00 - 8:00 pm.

Chair Lipps read Secretary Conni Livsey's draft Jan 2024 meeting minutes into the record and requested a motion to approve. The motion was made and seconded (B. Ennis / W. Yankauskas) and the minutes were approved without objection.

Member-at-Large Sean Holland (BVCC Assembly liaison) reminded attendees that the MOA website has an Assembly page <https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/default.aspx> with meeting agendas, minutes and various other useful information. He reported there is an ordinance pending on short-term rental licenses that he is tracking.

LRSA Updates

BVCC LRSA Chair Bill Ennis gave a brief report, noting that it has been an expensive winter for road service given the large volume of snowfall.

RCVH LRSA Chair Verne Pomraning reported that their service provider had recently come through and widened several roads in response to citizen concerns about access.

Other Business and Adjournment

Chair Lipps reminded attendees that it had been decided during the October 2023 in-person meeting that the BVCC would try to hold 2 in-person meetings per year and that the next meeting, on April 10, 2024, would be in-person. She confirmed that the Bear Valley Elementary School library will again be available as the meeting venue. The group exchanged greetings and extended a welcome back to Mr. Yankauskas, who said that he had experienced some daunting health problems but was on the mend.

There being no other business, it was moved and seconded (D. Lipps / B. Ennis) that the meeting be adjourned. Chair Lipps adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance Livsey
BVCC Secretary