

Basher Community Council Meeting  
Scenic Park Elementary School, Multi-Purpose Room  
3933 Patterson Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99504  
February 8, 2024  
7:00 p.m.

Officers Present: Dirk Sisson, President  
Sandra M. Mierop, Secretary  
Don Crafts, Treasurer  
Ted Trueblood, Member at Large

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Robin Dublin	Jessie Kullberg	Robert Bundtzen
Scott Cameron	Kris Mann Kullberg	Rick Kullberg
Tina Boucher	Ann Gabler	Diane Schenker
Ed Mjolsnes	Barbara Hood	Bruce Talbot
David Matthys	Nanette Stevenson	Steve Mierop
Gwen Hufford	Jim Wojciehowski	Joyce Wojciehowski
Susan Kent-Crafts	Carlton Roberts	Hilary Morgan
Debbie Cameron		

Guests:  
Karen Bronga, Anchorage Assembly  
Bill Popp

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Dirk Sisson called the BCC meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. He noted that the fall BCC meeting was canceled due to a large snowfall and the schools being closed. He asked for a Motion to accept the Minutes from the September 14, 2023, BCC meeting.

**MOTION:** A Motion to accept the minutes from the September 14, 2023, meeting of the Basher Community Council was made by Ted Trueblood; seconded by Kris Kullberg.

*After the correction of a few minor issues, the MOTION was APPROVED.*

**ASSEMBLY AND LEGISLATIVE REPORTS**

Assembly Member Karen Bronga updated the BCC regarding the Basher Trail Parking Design Study. She explained that she was outplayed at the Assembly, and the study did not move forward. But the Canyon Road Bond went forward, which is on the back side of Flattop, the Rabbit Lakes Trail, a very important access to Chugach State Park. The bond is for \$4 million for widening the road. She joined in with Assemblyman Volland on the Parks Bond Package. If it passes, there will be \$600,000 for Russian Jack, with a \$600,000 State match. The East side has the most Level-4 playgrounds that are not inclusive for people with access issues. If the Parks Bond passes, the East side will get three inclusive playgrounds: two in Nunaka Valley; and one close to Muldoon. The restroom proposal got carved out at \$5 million which

she thought was too much and compromised to get it as a bond vote. The cost of the restrooms is huge, but the price includes maintenance for 10 to 15 years. She voted against Holtan Hills because it came too fast. It was “laid on the table” and nobody expected that the issue was ripe for the meeting, and she wanted it put out for two weeks so that the public knew it was an upcoming issue and could provide testimony. She hoped that the community of Girdwood could have their final plan put together first. February 27<sup>th</sup> is the public testimony on the project. She voted to put the Eklutna project on a two-year hold so that they could get information on the “secret documents.” The Village of Eklutna land includes the landfill and the water treatment plant used for the good of Anchorage, and they negotiated to get their stream back. She explained the CAPSIS list, capital projects important to the community, which need to be submitted to State Representatives Giessel and Shaw by February 15.

Representatives Giessel and Shaw were not available for a Legislative Report because the Legislature was in session.

#### **RESOLUTION 2024-1 TO ESTABLISH A BASHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

The purpose of the committee is to monitor issues related to land use, transportation, and safety that affect the neighborhood, and to provide recommendations to the BCC Board and general membership.

**MOTION:** The resolution was moved by Ted Trueblood. After a lengthy discussion, the question was called by Hilary Morgan, and Resolution 2024-1 passed with no objections. Barbara Hood moved to appoint Stephanie Aicher, Bruce Talbot, David Keddington, Diane Schenker, and David Matthys to the committee, also with no objections.

#### **LRSA UPDATE**

Ted Trueblood reported that the LRSA Board of Supervisors had met twice since the last BCC meeting: once on October 3, 2023, to close out the 2023 summer work program; and on February 5, 2024, to review the 2023 budget report. To fund last year’s summer work plan, in April 2023, the LRSA Board decided to take a \$100,000 draw from its Fund Balance of \$367,000 and surface all of the remaining gravel roads (about two miles) with RAP. That was all accomplished, with the exception of the upper end of Nearpoint, where the existing roadway is too narrow to surface a full fire lane road width. The Nearpoint project is high on LRSA’s list for next summer. The contractor did some ditch and berm improvements at the S-curves to help contain potential winter flooding from the South Fork of Campbell Creek. The 2023 budget report had not been finalized by the time of the BCC meeting, but calculations of the remaining budget, with all of the outstanding charges and additions made, indicate that about \$50,000 of the \$100,000 Fund Balance draw had been spent. The remaining \$50,000 will roll over to the Fund Balance, which will then be about \$319,000. The LRSA submitted three projects for the upcoming Chugach Park Access Service Area bond proposition, but they all fell out at the Assembly’s final cut, despite the strenuous efforts of Assemblywoman Bronga to have the Basher Trailhead overflow parking project and the Campbell Airstrip Road realignment engineering work included. Ted Trueblood noted that the LRSA Board of Supervisors meets quarterly, and the next meeting will be in April to assess the condition of the roads, and to set the summer work program scope and the Fund Balance draw request, if needed. All LRSA meetings are open to the neighborhood. The MOA and BCC receive meeting notices.

Rick Kullberg asked about the poor visibility and poor design around the South Bivouac parking area. The snow clearing has not been adequate. Ted Trueblood noted that that issue needs to be addressed by Parks & Recreation. Don Crafts will look into the possibility of a big mirror for safety in the area.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Community Patrol:** In 2023, there were 268 patrols, which accounted for 159 hours of volunteer time. So far in 2024, there have been 17 patrols, accounting for seven hours of volunteer time. Most of the problems occur at the trailheads and the parking lots of the Chugach.

**Fire Resiliency:** Sandra Mierop joined the Hillside Fire Resiliency meeting late on January 22, 2024, due to a work conflict, and minutes were not posted before tonight's meeting.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**MOTION:** Ed Mjolsnes asked for **Unanimous Consent** for the election of the following positions on the Basher Community Council: Ted Trueblood, Member at Large; Don Crafts, Treasurer; Dirk Sisson, President. The Motion was seconded by Hilary Morgan. Without any objections, the three positions were filled.

### **COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA/OTHER**

There was an inquiry about BCC meetings being held via Zoom. The Federation of Community Councils (FCC) has three Zoom accounts, but meetings via Zoom will probably require bylaws changes. Hilary Morgan volunteered to study the Zoom/Hybrid meetings situation and report back.

Don Crafts volunteered to be the BCC representative for the FCC which meets once a month.

Bill Popp spoke about his candidacy for the Mayor of Anchorage. He noted that there will be a debate put on by the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce on March 26<sup>th</sup> at the Bear Tooth. Voting is by mail. The ballots will be mailed out on March 12<sup>th</sup>, and Election Day is April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The next BCC meeting will be May 9<sup>th</sup> at Scenic View Elementary School.

Ted Trueblood moved for adjournment of the meeting.

(Basher Community Council meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.)