

TO: Federation of Community Councils

THRU: David Baldwin
President

FROM: Linda R. Kovac
Secretary-Treasurer

SUBJECT: Chugiak Community Council – Approved Minutes for October 18, 2007 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Roll Call

Present: David Baldwin, President
Paula Caywood, Vice President
Linda Kovac, Secretary-Treasurer
Gale Armstrong
Marty Parsons

Unexcused: Merten Bangemann-Johnson
Tom Looney
Randy McCain

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the 09/20/07 meeting (1 Parsons, 2 Baldwin). Motion passed with no objections.

Copies of Chugiak Community Council's meeting minutes and bylaws are available on the FCC's website at www.communitycouncils.org (Click on Chugiak).

REPORTS

CBERRRSA Road Board – Ted Kinney (688-2477), Chris Hudson/Alt (696-1037) – Kinney reported:

- The last Road Board meeting was in June and the next one will be in November.
- Street Maintenance is working on a big project to fix drainage in the residential Meadow Creek area of Eagle River.
- Street Maintenance is gearing up for winter.

Federation of Community Councils (FCC) – Merten Bangemann-Johnson (688-6575), Dave Baldwin/Alternate (688-6158) – No report.

- FCC Info: Hours: 8am-5pm, Mon-Fri; Phone: 277-1977; Fax: 277-3952; Address: 3350 Commercial Drive, Suite 230 (Mountain View); Email: info@communitycouncils.org.

Eagle River-Chugiak Parks & Recreation Board – Gale Armstrong (696-3543), Ray Burger/Alternate (688-3835). Armstrong reported:

- Parks & Rec made grants totaling \$29,000 to various local organizations including youth groups, a literacy program, ER Lions Club, mushing society, soccer club, etc.
- Loretta French Park's sledding hill will not be available this winter as previously reported but will be available next winter. The hill is 3½ acres and will be lighted by four poles.
- The Alaska Club and the MOA have agreed to jointly purchase the Valley River Center (north building). Part of the building would serve as the new Eagle River Town Center.

Chugiak Community Council Treasury – L. Kovac (688-5356) reported:

- There was \$2,458.83 in the savings account including a \$10.00 donation from members attending the 09/20/07 meeting and a \$104 withdrawal for the P.O. Box rental.

On-Site Wastewater System Technical Review Board – L. Kovac (688-5356) – No report.

Old Glenn Project Citizen Committee (ADOT&PF # 52515) – see Presentations

- For project information and its history, go to **www.oldglennhighway.com**.

Title 21 Rewrite Committee (Land Use & Zoning Code Rewrite) – L. Kovac (688-5356) reported:

- On 04/10/07, the MOA Assembly provisionally adopted these four chapters of the Title 21 Rewrite:
 - Chapter 01: General Provisions
 - Chapter 02: Boards, Commissions, and Municipal Administration
 - Chapter 08: Subdivision Standards
 - Chapter 13: Enforcement
- On 08/06/07, the MOA Planning Department released the Public Hearing Drafts for four additional chapters of the Title 21 Rewrite:
 - Chapter 04: Zoning Districts
 - Chapter 05: Use Regulations
 - Chapter 06: Dimensional Standards and Measurements
 - Chapter 12: Nonconformities
- On 09/24/07, the MOA Planning Department released the Public Hearing Drafts for the remaining four chapters of the Title 21 Rewrite:
 - Chapter 03: Review and Approval Procedures
 - Chapter 07: Development and Design Standards
 - Chapter 14: Rules of Construction and Definitions
- Go to **www.muni.org/planning/prj_Title21_PublicHearingDraft.cfm** to review the Public Hearing Drafts.
- All community meetings and public hearings for the Title 21 Public Hearing Drafts are posted at **www.muni.org/planning/prj_Title21_citpar.cfm**.
- Assembly T21 Rewrite Committee meetings are generally scheduled for Thursdays, Planning Dept. Conference Room at Tudor and Bragaw; 9:30am-11:30am. Assemblymember Debbie Ossiander is Chair; Assemblymember Dan Coffey is Vice Chair; Assemblymember Sheila Selkregg is the third member. For an up-to-date schedule, go to the Assembly Calendar at **www.muni.org/clerk1/Calendar.cfm**.

Consortium of Chugiak-Eagle River Community Councils - L. Kovac (688-5356) reported:

- The Consortium is dedicated to overseeing the creation of a separate chapter of land use regulations for C-ER in Anchorage Municipal Code Title 21. For more information, go to **www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/consortium_c_e.html**.
- The one-year terms of the alternate representatives to the Consortium Board have expired. On 10/04/07, Tom Looney offered to serve as alternate representative. A motion was made and seconded to elect Looney as alternate representative to the Consortium Board (1 Kovac, 2 Caywood). Motion passed unanimously.
- The Consortium is in the process of formulating the first task order to be performed by Land Design North. This first task will likely include conducting interviews with major stakeholders and conducting some project advertising.
- The Consortium is identifying issues arising from a review of Chapter 8: Subdivision Standards and making recommendations.
- One resident recommended that regulations be modified when adding a garage so that a homeowner will not be required to pave the resulting driveway. In his case, the MOA required that the driveway to his new garage be paved (R-2A SL zoning).

PRESENTATIONS

Citizens Against Noxious Weeds Invading the North

Lori Zaumseil (245-2373, akcanwin@aol.com), spokesperson for Citizens Against Noxious Weeds Invading the North (CANWIN) described her non-profit organization as making a difference one weed at a time. Zaumseil warned members about invasive weeds that are invading Alaska. The weeds are often showing up in potted plants shipped in from the L48. Zaumseil showed a presentation with photos of weed infestations around Anchorage with some of the worst being Canada Thistle and Purple Loosestrife. However, there are many more weeds out there like Orange Hawkweed, Bird Vetch, Yellow Star Thistle; etc. Weed infestations are quite destructive and expensive to contain. Early detection and prevention is needed since weeds produce countless seeds. Control methods can include pulling weeds, biological control, and herbicides. Some states just give up on trying to contain certain weeds.

In Alaska, the State has no ability to enforce the control of noxious weeds due to insufficient funding. Additionally, Alaska's database and weed statutes are extremely out-of-date. Zaumseil recommends that people voice their concerns to state legislators and request that the State update Alaska's noxious weed list as soon as possible and create a weed management plan for Alaska. The existence of a weed management plan is a requirement before the State could apply to receive federal funding.

Anchorage School District - see P&Z Case Nos. 2007-154 and 2007-155 in Old Business

Randy Ribble, P.E (348-5267, ribble_randy@asdk12.org), Project Manager, presented an overview of the proposed Chugiak Elementary School Traffic Safety Upgrades. Ribble stated that Chugiak Elementary was the fifth largest elementary school in the Anchorage School District (ASD). Currently, Chugiak Elementary generates a great deal of unsafe traffic on Birchwood Loop Road where parents stop along the roadway to drop-off and pick-up their kids. In order to create a safer environment, ASD proposes to re-route the school's public access to: facilitate student drop-off/pick-up; separate bus access from parent vehicle access; and relocate the crosswalk. The bus parking area would continue to serve as overflow parking for the school. The parking redesign would add 52 more parking spaces overall and would require relocating the existing ball field and sledding hill. The project would be funded by an approved \$1.2M bond. ASD hopes to start and complete construction next summer.

Some residents were concerned that the new location of the ball field might cause balls to hit the school. Susan Okeson (742-3400, okeson_susan@asdk12.org), Chugiak Elementary School Principal, replied that there would be minimal risk for balls hitting the school. She added that the relocated ball field would not be regulation-sized but would be smaller and geared to PE classes. The small-sized ball field and the lack of a backstop for it might discourage adults from playing on the field after school hours.

Old Glenn Highway Rehabilitation Project (ADOT&PF State Project No. 52515)

Jim Amundsen/DOT&PF (269-0595, jim.amundsen@alaska.gov), Design Project Manager, and Ken Chapman/DOT&PF (269-0586, ken.chapman@alaska.gov), gave a project update:

- The project started in 1993 when the Chugiak Community Council requested upgrades to the Old Glenn Highway;
- ADOT&PF was 60% complete with the design two years ago;
- ADOT&PF has been working on right-of-way issues for the last two years and is nearly complete. The new right-of-way agent is Joy Kerley (269-0699, joy.kerley@alaska.gov);
- All driveways must be permitted and illegal driveways will not be permitted. Most driveway permits will have been certified by December 2007; however, should some permits not be completed by then, that would not slow the construction schedule;
- Community concerns have been taken into account, for example, minimizing the removal of natural vegetation and working with Lower Fire Lake residents to reduce the project's impact to the lake frontage;

- Amundsen distributed a cross-section for the Old Glenn Highway at Lower Fire Lake which showed a planned retaining wall and trees. The generalized drawing was not to scale. Amundsen added that some of the Lower Fire Lake residents' suggested options to minimize the retaining wall are cost prohibitive;
- ADOT&PF will schedule a public forum in the coming months to present the 90%-95% complete design for Phase I: Fire Lake to South Birchwood;
- Phase I construction is being coordinated with AWWU's planned installation of water and sewer line along the Old Glenn Highway;
- The Phase I Construction Project Manager has not been selected yet;
- Phase I Brushing might begin in April 2008;
- Phase I Construction might begin in mid-May 2008;
- The community is encouraged to offer suggestions to Amundsen on how traffic re-routing might be achieved during construction. School buses, city buses, gravel trucks, and local traffic will have to continue in some fashion. Full closures are likely. One suggestion was to have a single lane open running in one direction from South Birchwood Loop Road to Eagle River.

The membership posed some questions:

- Property-owners asked specific questions regarding their properties. Amundsen stated that he would address individual concerns outside of this meeting or at the future public forum which would be dedicated to this single project.
- Ted Kinney inquired about the type of street lighting that would be installed and at which intersections. Amundsen did not have the information to answer.
- The President read a portion of enrolled HB 279 (24th Legislature) which stated that ADOT&PF may not remove an encroachment present within the right-of-way of an interstate, primary, or secondary highway unless the owner, occupant, or person in possession of the encroachment or any other person causing or permitting the encroachment to exist receives the notice provided under AS 19.25.230 and is informed of the application process for an encroachment permit. The President asked if ADOT&PF has sent out encroachment notices yet since the Council had not heard of any notices that have been received by encroachment-owners. Amundsen stated that it had already been done.

Speaking for residents of Lower Fire Lake, Bill Mears (622-4077, meredithmrs@aol.com) presented a written list of concerns to Amundsen. Mears identified the following two main concerns that persist for the entire project:

1. Preserve the natural existing vegetation.
2. Prevent the remainder of the project from looking like it does by Fred Meyers and the McDonald Recreation Center entrance.

In addition, Mears identified the following five issues that persist for Lower Fire Lake and which need to be resolved to local residents' satisfaction before the project is put out for bid in December 2007:

1. Lower the speed limit to reduce dust and noise pollution.
2. Design a combination "bulkhead/guard rail" at four feet from the existing pavement which is what DOT stated is all that was needed on the west side of the road one year ago.
3. Pull the retaining wall and guard rail shown on the latest plans up to the proposed shoulder on the east side of the road.
4. Design the pathway on the east side of the repositioned retaining wall and guard rail (benefits are safety, year-round usability, better natural lighting and ease of maintenance). This would mean that parts of it would be elevated and parts would not be elevated.
5. Design retaining walls on the east side of the road using either a vegetatable "soil nail", "filfiger", or other similar walls to reduce the destruction of current natural vegetation by reducing the foot print that a gabion wall would require.

NEW BUSINESS

Recognition of Ted Kinney

Ted Kinney, Chugiak's representative on the Chugiak-Birchwood-Eagle River Rural Road Service Area (CBERRRSA) Board of Supervisors, announced that he and his family were moving to the Mat-Su and, therefore, he was resigning from CBERRRSA. The President thanked Ted for his outstanding service to our community, for his thirteen years as a volunteer on the Road Board, and presented Ted with a plaque stating:

*Ted Kinney
In recognition of your years of faithful and dedicated service on the Road Board
You have helped point the way for the future of Chugiak.
1994-2007*

Many members personally thanked Ted and stated that he will be sorely missed.

Election to CBERRRSA Board of Supervisors

Linda Kovac was nominated and seconded to replace Ted Kinney as Chugiak's representative on the CBERRRSA Board of Supervisors. There being no further nominations, a vote was conducted by all members unanimously electing Kovac to the CBERRRSA Board of Supervisors. The Secretary-Treasurer was requested to send a letter to the Mayor requesting confirmation of the position by the Assembly.

Blasting Complaints

Local residents, Thomas Zanino (Rainbow Circle, 688-0133) and Martin Mall (Mall Circle off Bending Birch Drive, 688-2847), informed the membership that the loud blasting from Skookum Rock Quarry (688-9700), located on the Old Glenn Highway, continues to persist. Although Skookum had agreed to reduce the noise and frequency of the blasting last year, noise and vibration continue to rock the local residents. Vibration and fly rock have caused property damage. Examples include brownouts, fly rock on house roofs, broken windows, damaged windshields, a damaged computer, downed powerlines, items knocked to the floor, and well water running dirty after blasting. Well owners fear that their wells might get fractured.

The residential zoning in the area pre-dates the existence of the quarry. The vibration is making the quiet enjoyment of the residents' homes impossible and is so bad that they feel like they are living in an active earthquake zone. They are at their wits end.

Although residents have complained to the Municipality and several State offices, there is still no clear accountability between the State and Municipality as to who is ultimately responsible to enforce blasting regulations in this instance. MOA Land Use Enforcement has taken some steps to control the situation but the problems persist. AMC Title 21 Land Use Regulations is silent on the subject.

Board Member Marty Parsons stated that adhering to existing MSHA regulations should eliminate the blasting problems being experienced by residents. He added that there are many ways to reduce vibration and fly rock.

Mary Kelly, speaking for Skookum, stated that she would work with local residents to relocate existing seismometers to the residents' property to record what the residents are experiencing.

A motion was made and seconded to support efforts to bring Skookum Rock Quarry into compliance with existing State blasting regulations, to require that Skookum handle blasting in the proper way, and to make Skookum a more responsible quarry owner (1 Armstrong, 2 Caywood). The motion passed unanimously with 18 members voting. Board Member Marty Parsons agreed to write a letter to the appropriate MOA and State personnel.

OLD BUSINESS

Planning & Zoning Case Nos. 2007-154 and 2007-155

Planning & Zoning Case No. 2007-154 is a non-public hearing public facility site plan review for upgrades to Chugiak Elementary School. Upgrades include re-routing public access to facilitate student drop-off/pick-up. The case is scheduled to go before the Planning & Zoning Commission on 11/19/07. An associated case, Planning & Zoning Case No. 2007-155, is a landscape plan which is scheduled to go before the Urban Design Commission on 11/14/07.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend that the proposed safety improvements at Chugiak Elementary School be approved but with the assurance that the existing sledding hill shall be moved to another location on school grounds (1 Parsons, 2 Caywood). The motion passed with 20 in favor and 2 opposed. The Secretary-Treasurer was requested to send a letter to MOA Planning.

Draft Policy on Context Sensitive Solutions

The MOA released a Draft Policy on Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) with public comments due 10/19/07 (www.muni.org/iceimages/traffic/CSSPolicy070906PublicReviewDraft.pdf). CSS, also known as Context Sensitive Design, is a proposed methodology for designing future MOA roadways in a way that actively includes stakeholders in the planning and design process. The Council passed a resolution in support of CSS in 2004.

The Old Glenn Project Citizen Committee presented their recommendations to the membership on the CSS draft. The Council concluded that this document would be a good and comprehensive policy for the Municipality to implement. Adhering to this policy should produce better roads with less public controversy. A motion was made and seconded to support the draft policy with the following recommendations (1 Kovac, 2 Mears):

- On Page 1, under Introduction”, it states:
“This CSS policy applies to the projects once they are handed to MOA Project Management & Engineering for study, design, construction, and maintenance.”
The Council took this to mean that this draft policy does not apply to State road projects. The Council highly recommends that once this policy is adopted for the Municipality, the State of Alaska should be persuaded to adopt it as well.
- Correct the page numbers on pages 11, 12, 13, and 14.
- On Page 14, Guidance Documents, add missing references including the Chugiak-Eagle River Comprehensive Plan and Chugiak-Eagle River Long Range Transportation Plan.
- In Section 3: Plan Conformance, Item # 21, change the wording from “Zoning/Anchorage 2020 Comprehensive Plan” to “Zoning/Comprehensive Plan”.
- During the implementation phase of the policy within the Municipality, include budgeted funds for a CSS consultant to facilitate its implementation, train municipal staff, and arbitrate disagreements.

The motion passed unanimously with 18 members voting. The Secretary-Treasurer was requested to send a letter to the MOA.

OPEN FORUM

Peters Creek Walkway Petition

There were questions from members about a petition that is circulating in the Chugiak area. Darrell Breese/Alaska Star reported that the Chugiak Area Business Association (CABA) has a petition out to build a walkway in Peters Creek. CABA would like the walkway built immediately in order to create a better and safer environment for pedestrians. The walkway would extend from Lake Hill Drive, along the Old Glenn Highway, along Bill Stephens Drive, and along Oberg Road to Oberg Park. Petitions have been distributed to various Chugiak area businesses.

Recognition of Linda Vizenor

Resident Dixie Waddell announced that Linda Vizenor/CER Parks & Rec was retiring after working for the Municipality for 22 years. The public is invited to attend a farewell celebration for Linda on Tuesday, October 30, in the MOA Conference Room above Garcia's, 4:40pm-6:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:49 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Thursday, November 15, 2007, 7:00 pm at the Chugiak Benefit Association.

BOARD INFORMATION

Term Expires	Name	Phone	Email	District	Seat
01/09	Dave Baldwin, President	688-0123	dbaldwin@chugiakcouncil.org	At Large	7
01/08	Paula Caywood, Vice President	694-8758	cmmgen@mtaonline.net	East Peters Creek	2
01/09	Linda Kovac, Secretary- Treasurer	688-5356 phone 688-5456 fax	lkovac@chugiakcouncil.org	At Large - East Mirror Lake	3
01/08	Gale Armstrong	696-3543	armstron@mtaonline.net	Chugiak/ Fire Lake	6
01/08	Merten Bangemann- Johnson	688-6575	mertenbj@chugiakcouncil.org	West Mirror Lake	4
01/08	Tom Looney	688-0644	looney@coffman.com	At Large	8
01/09	Randy McCain	229-6009	randy.alaskalogistics@alaska.com	West Peters Creek	1
01/09	Marty Parsons	688-8020	mpar@mtaonline.net	Eklutna/ Thunderbird	5

The Chugiak Community Council serves Fire Lake, Chugiak, Peters Creek, Mirror Lake, Thunderbird Heights, and Eklutna. We meet at 7pm on the third Thursday of the month at the Chugiak Benefit Association's south building (18530 Old Glenn Hwy).

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