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**Bear Valley Community Council (BVCC)
Meeting Notes
BVCC Meeting – October 14, 2009
Compiled by Angie Pinsonneault**

The council meeting was held in the Arts & Crafts Room at the Bear Valley Elementary School, 15001 Mountain Air Drive. The meeting started at 7:00 pm, with approximately twenty-one people, including six council board members. Thus, a quorum of members was present. BVCC Chair, Cheri Lipps started the meeting, introduced herself, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Arctic Air Walkers

Jake Schlapfer from the Arctic Air Walkers Paragliding Club gave a presentation on what paragliding is, what the Arctic Air Walkers club does, and why they would like to get a permit to land in Storck Park and/or Section 36. Paragliding, at approximately 8-10 miles per hour, is the slowest mode of flight with the exception of hot air balloons. There are approximately 4,200 registered pilots in the U.S. Arctic Air Walkers is the second member club of the U.S. Hanggliding and Paragliding Association.

The Bear Valley area has been flown since the 1970's. Storck Park, because of the large, flat, treeless area, is a great place to land. There is an area in Section 36 (right next to Heights Hill) that is very attractive for landing as well, but it currently has long grass and lots of stumps, making it easy to twist an ankle. Some mild manicuring would be necessary before it would be safe to land there.

Because the conditions have to be just right, flying days in Bear Valley are limited. At maximum, there are 10-12 flying days a year. There are generally 5-6 people flying at a time, and most often they park at Storck Park and carpool to the place they are going to climb from. They carry their equipment up in a backpack and essentially walk off the hillside.

Paragliders are able to land in parks in the Municipality as long as they have a permit. Arctic Air Walkers already has permits to land in Chugach State Park, Kincaid, Eagle River (at the Harry Mac Center), and at Alyeska (through Heritage Land Bank). Arctic Air Walkers also carries \$1 million in third party insurance.

The group has already applied for a permit to land in Storck Park, but would like the community's support to do so. Any questions, comments, or concerns can be directed to Jeffrey Travis, Vice President of Arctic Air Walkers, at 349-2326.



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Section 36 Master Plan

Susan Luescher from Dowl HKM provided the latest information on the Section 36 Master Plan. They have completed the site analysis and have developed the vision and goals. They are currently in the conceptual/design phase.

More information can be found on the Muni website at <https://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/Section36MPHome.aspx>.

There is an open house scheduled for November 10 in the Goldenview Middle School multi purpose room. Public comment will be taken until November 30.

Written comments from Bear Valley residents are needed! Section 36 is in our backyard, and very few comments have been received from our residents so far. There are lots of comments from Rabbit Creek and other hillside areas, so let's make sure our voice is heard. Everything from groomable, lighted ski trails, to minimal foot paths are being considered.

BVCC Updates

Anchorage Fire Department (AFD) Station 10: Richard Hood from Station 10 provided an update for the Anchorage Fire Department:

- As of 2010, the Assembly has voted for no more rolling closures. However, there have been several staff cuts
- The Assembly is also proposing stopping backcountry rescue services in the winter. The biggest effect that this would have on the public is in instances of injuries that happen relatively close to a trail

Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Assembly and Legislative Update: Scott Pexton said that nothing directly affecting Bear Valley is currently being discussed by the Assembly. He pointed out that there is an open house for the Mountain Air Drive extension project on October 22, 2009 at Bear Valley Elementary. He also pointed out that the Hillside District Plan went before the Planning and Zoning Committee on Monday (October 12). The next step is for it to go before the Assembly.

Hillside Area Land Owners Association (HALO) Update: Rodney Powell gave a brief presentation on recent HALO activities:

- Jennifer Johnston was at the last meeting and mentioned that:
 - ✓ She is anxiously awaiting the Hillside District Plan to get out of Planning and Zoning



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- ✓ The public interest in sales does not seem to be strong, and it looks like taxation in the Municipality will remain the burden of home owners
- Community councils can nominate a community council member to be a representative at HALO. As Rodney is a director of HALO, he cannot represent Bear Valley. Scott Pexton volunteered to be the Bear Valley representative.

Federation of Community Councils (FCC) Update: Laurie Holland said that she had nothing to report regarding the FCC. However, she did mention that there is an initiative to help direct the future of Anchorage's libraries. The Anchorage Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library are developing a community plan to shape the future of the city's public libraries. Anchorage libraries are experience record-high usage and are providing more services with less resources. See more information on the website at www.anchorage21stlibraries.org.

Laurie also gave an update on the Citizen's Advisory Committee for Section 36:

- There has been a lot of stress in comments from outside Bear Valley to have lighted trails in Section 36
 - ✓ Bear Valley needs to consider ways to compromise so that it will be able to get some of the things that it wants. Some ideas for compromising on lighted trails include:
 - Use lower light posts
 - Use lights that only shine directly down
 - Use an early shut off schedule, for example lights off at 8:00 pm
 - Implement a daily schedule for the lights to be turned on, for example lights are off on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
- Currently, wildlife corridors are being considered designated in the designated wetlands
- **Written comments from Bear Valley residents are needed!**
- Claire proposed that BVCC consider a resolution at the next meeting to say that the Council is not in support of lighted trails. She will draft a resolution and bring it to the November meeting

Membership Sign-In

Cheri reminded everyone to make sure they had signed in, and explained the eligibility requirements for both voting and being an officer.

BVCC Board Member Elections

BVCC Chair: Cheri asked for nominations or volunteers for the BVCC Chair position:

- Claire Steffens nominated Cheri Lipps
- Scott Pexton seconded
- No other nominees or volunteers



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- Cheri noted that she would accept the nomination, with the caveat that this will be a very busy year for her and she will need help
- Cheri Lipps was unanimously elected as BVCC Chair through a showing-of-hands vote

BVCC Vice Chair: Cheri asked for nominations or volunteers for the BVCC Vice Chair position:

- No one was nominated or volunteered
- The Vice Chair seat is vacant

BVCC Secretary: Cheri asked for nominations or volunteers for the BVCC Secretary position:

- Laurie Holland nominated Jackie Morrissey
- Claire Steffens seconded
- No other nominees or volunteers
- Jackie Morrissey was unanimously elected as BVCC Secretary through a showing-of-hands vote

BVCC Treasurer: Cheri asked for nominations or volunteers for the BVCC Treasurer position:

- Jackie Morrissey nominated Angie Pinsonneault
- Cheri Lipps seconded
- No other nominees or volunteers
- Angie Pinsonneault was unanimously elected as BVCC Treasurer through a showing-of-hands vote

BVCC Member-At-Large (HALO Representative): Cheri asked for nominations or volunteers for the BVCC Member-At-Large (HALO Representative) position:

- Scott Pexton volunteered
- No other nominees or volunteers
- Scott Pexton was unanimously elected as BVCC Member-At-Large (HALO Representative) through a showing-of-hands vote

BVCC Member-At-Large (Assembly Representative): Cheri asked for nominations or volunteers for the BVCC Member-At-Large (Assembly Representative) position:

- No one was nominated or volunteered
- The Member-At-Large (Assembly Representative) seat is vacant

BVCC Member-At-Large (Committee Coordinator): Cheri asked for nominations or volunteers for the BVCC Member-At-Large (Committee Coordinator) position:

- Dan Stone volunteered
- No other nominees or volunteers



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- Dan Stone was unanimously elected as BVCC Member-At-Large (Committee Coordinator) through a showing-of-hands vote

Congratulations and thank you to all!

BVCC members are encouraged to consider volunteering, and to invite or nominate other interested members to serve as future Council officers.

Open Forum

Claire announced that Dan Stone is now a published author! Congratulations Dan!

Cheri recommended that a committee be created for public safety issues in Bear Valley. Anyone interested can contact Cheri.

Cheri also recommended that some changes be made to the bylaws, including:

- Specifying that it is the Chair's responsibility to update the community database
- Fix a variety of typos

Cheri also recommended that some research be done on the FCC and UAA archive processes so that we know how/where the BVCC minutes are archived by them.

Cheri noted that the BVCC agendas and newsletters are sent to all property owners in Bear Valley.

The next Rabbit Creek View Heights LRSA (limited road service area) meeting will be before the end of the year.

Rodney thanked all of the previous board members for all of their hard work last year.

Claire Steffens made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

The next Bear Valley Community Council meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 11, 2009, at 7:00 pm in the Arts & Crafts Room at the Bear Valley Elementary School.**

Please also consider renewing your membership with a donation of \$5 or more. All donations to the Bear Valley Community Council are tax deductible, and we appreciate your financial support.

Meeting minutes, notes, agendas and other BVCC topics of interest can be obtained by going to the BVCC web page at www.communitycouncils.org and selecting Bear Valley.