



**Bear Valley Community Council (BVCC)
Meeting Notes
BVCC Meeting – November 11, 2009**
Compiled by Jackie Morrissey, Secretary

The council meeting was held in the Arts and Crafts room of Bear Valley Elementary School, 15001 Mountain Air Drive, and began at 7:00 pm. Twelve members, including 4 council members, attended indicating a quorum of members present.

BVCC Chair Cheri Lipps opened the meeting and invited fire fighters from Fire Station 10 to address the council.

BVCC Updates

Fire Department Update

Rolling closures of fire stations will be stopped as of January 2010.

Residents need to check the APD web page for burn days, and just as importantly, hours of burn, to avoid illegal burning. If a fire is called in, AFD must respond.

Fire rigs have computerized GPS maps now, but it is still important to have reflective house numbers at the end of a driveway or on the house if it's close to the road.

The procedure for fires in non-hydranted areas is to bring four 2,500-gallon water tenders on a rolling basis so that water is continually available.

An EMT is always part of the Station 10 response team, and nine out of ten times a paramedic will be on board as well. No ambulance is housed at Station 10. The nearest ambulance is housed at Station 9.

BVCC Vacancies

Cheri Lipps announced that the Member-at Large (Assembly Liaison) seat remains vacant. The position entails attending Assembly meetings pertinent to the Bear Valley community, such as Heritage Land Bank issues and Section 36 issues. There were no nominations.

The Vice Chair position is vacant as well. The Vice Chair position includes attending monthly Federation of Community Council (FCC) meetings. Laurie Holland, former Vice Chair, is currently attending FCC meetings until the Vice Chair seat is filled. There were no nominations.

FCC Meeting Update – Laurie Holland

Public hearings on the H2H project are garnering considerable interest in many communities that could be heavily impacted.

Anchorage community councils will be hosting a national community council meeting in a year or two, bringing thousands of people to Anchorage.



The FCC would like to have community council support for their budget as the municipality works through budget cuts. Community councils may be asked to contribute funds to the FCC for office supplies and stamps if the municipality cuts their budget.

BVCC Parks & Trails Committee Update – Laurie Holland

There are many proactive potential projects in Section 36 for next summer.

Hillside Area Land Owners (HALO) Association Update – Scott Pexton, Member-at-Large

The Hillside District Revised Plan and public comments have been reviewed by a subcommittee, which is now compiling its comments and recommendations. Those recommendations will go next to the municipal Planning and Zoning Commission, and then to the Assembly in December or January after the municipal budget issues are resolved. There will then be another formal public comment period. HALO is hoping to get a copy of the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendations to distribute to community members.

HALO has updated their website and is shooting for doing a quarterly newsletter.

There are five HALO districts on the Hillside; each district has 2 directors and a set of officers. The boundary between districts 4 and 5, in the area of Mountain Air Drive and Rabbit Creek Road, is inaccurate in the HALO bylaws. BVCC is in District 4. HALO is working on updating their maps and correcting the boundary.

Rodney Powell mentioned that as part of the Hillside District Plan's drainage section, water runoff from a property being developed will be measured before and after development.

BV Committee Update – Dan Stone

Dan Stone is unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Mountain Air Drive Extension Open House Update – Scott Pexton

There are three alternative proposals, A, B, and C, for the Mountain Air Drive Extension. All three proposals require a bridge across Little Rabbit Creek and have wetlands, geotechnical, and cost issues as well. Alternative C is largely considered not viable. Comments are being taken and are posted on the website, www.mountainairdrive.com. Construction is slated to start next spring. A Jamie Road extension is not proposed or funded as part of the Mountain Air Drive project.

The Mountain Air Drive extension is designed as a lighted corridor to route traffic from future developments to Rabbit Creek Road rather than to Goldenview Road. It is felt that the intersection of Mountain Air Drive and Rabbit Creek Road will have the same peak hour traffic backup problems as the intersection of Goldenview Road and Rabbit Creek Road have now. That, compounded with the fact that the intersection lies on a curve, indicates that the intersection will need to be upgraded. However, no upgrades are included in the current plan or funding. Project designs are posted on the www.mountainairdrive.com website.

Cheri Lipps asked that if a long, vacant corridor is built and no one is yet living in that area, who would patrol the area and are we going to end up with the same safety issues of vandalism, crime, and violent crime as we have on the vacant Snow Bear Drive?



Laurie Holland brought up the subject of lighting and asked that everyone comment individually on the type and amount of lighting they'd like to see on the Mountain Air Drive corridor. **Individual comments are critical to the planning process.**

Michael Malvick brought up the discussion on the www.mountainairdrive.com website about the plan to eventually tie in Potter Valley Heights Road and Southpoint Subdivision to Mountain Air Drive, and having a road similar to Elmore.

Laurie Holland made a motion that she write a BVCC resolution stating that the community wants state of the art, downward-shining lighting installed on Mountain Air Drive. Rodney Powell seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by a show of hands vote.

Cheri Lipps echoed Laurie Holland's comment about individual comments being critical. Cheri stated that she has seen in the past few years that individual comments are a larger voice than one document such as a single resolution.

Treasurer Update - Angie Pinsonneault

There has been no change in BVCC funds in the past month, but donations are always appreciated.

Heritage Land Bank (HLB)

Before the meeting started, Cheri Lipps passed out copies of a memo from HLB requesting an agency review for proposed updates to the HLB Operating Policies. Rodney Powell asked if people could request that HLB, as part of their operating policy, put up a gate at the "jeep trail" road that goes through Section 36. Cheri Lipps stated that the road was originally put in illegally, and that the last she knew, the one and only resident that uses that road was incarcerated so there shouldn't be any issue with putting up a gate.

Miscreants have been partying, having bonfires, and tearing up the land in that area by driving monster 4-wheel drive trucks and all-terrain vehicles and motorcycles off road. A vehicle with blue headlights has been seen up there several times in the last week and a half. The Section 36 Master Plan is not yet in place, so the land is still under HLB and is not designated for vehicle access. Driving off road in Section 36 is illegal regardless of what stage of the process the property is in.

Residents are urged to call APD dispatch (786-8900), with license plate numbers if possible, when they see any illegal or suspicious activity. Cheri Lipps has been working closely with Lt. Gilliam, APD Liaison, in recent months. Lt. Gilliam currently works the night shift and has been extremely responsive to issues in Bear Valley. If Cheri is e-mailed (bvcc@alaska.net) with the information after a call to APD dispatch has been made, she will follow up with Lt. Gilliam.

Council members who have concerns are encouraged to make comments to HLB about appropriate access limitations to the Section 36 property. Comments to HLB are due no later than Tuesday, November 24, 2009 by e-mail (mehnerwm@muni.org), fax (343-4526) or mailing to the Heritage Land Bank at 632 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 160, Anchorage AK 99501.



Section 36 Open House Update – Laurie Holland

Laurie Holland presented graphics from the open house outlining the different types and classes of trails and their widths on flat terrain as well as maps depicting the proposed 3 levels of development. Concept 1 reflects the least development, Concept 2, a mid level of development, and Concept 3, the most development. The issue of lighting arises in Concepts 2 and 3. Recent changes in Concept 2 are lighting only the north/backside of the proposed ski trail and a great reduction in the amount of boardwalk in the wetlands south of Clarks Road so as to preserve wildlife corridors. There were maps at the open house for people to write on, and there was more good information given on wildlife corridors that will be taken into consideration. Trails designated as equestrian class 2 refers to the type of tread of the trail, not that the trails are designated for horses.

Concept 3 includes parking, a yurt, lighting all the way around the ski trail, and a boardwalk through the wetlands for interpretation platforms for educational uses.

Concept 2 includes an intermediate ski trail system in the non-wetlands area south of Clarks Road. The huge ski contingency was very well represented at the open house. Mountain biking groups and paragliders were there as well. All in all, it was a very diverse showing with a lot of opportunity to interact with the project managers. Some individuals were taking the opportunity to draw on the maps and make lots of comments. Comments ranged from no anything to support of the most development. Everyone is urged to advocate for the things they do or don't want. The more geographically specific your comments are, the easier it is for those to interpret your comments.

Secondary Motion, to adopt a Resolution regarding Bear Valley status as “No Lighting” for Section 36

Claire Steffens stressed that your comments are critical, and are not limited to responding to the proposed concepts. There may be other uses or non uses or applications that people want. Claire made a motion to open discussion of the language of the resolution written to make known our intention in creating the park rather than to challenge any specific offered proposal. The ultimate essence of the park is that it is something that's not available anywhere else in Anchorage. Claire wondered why we should have another set of lighted ski trails when there's a huge area of lighted ski trails a couple of miles down the road, and questioned the definitions of low, medium and high impact. She urged people to stress the much larger endeavor of the plan for the park, not only to critique the proposal when they comment. The point of the park was to maintain a place for wildlife that has been driven out of the Anchorage bowl. The proposal will go on to the Assembly and to the Parks Commission. A BVCC resolution will serve to maintain the momentum of the work that started in 1984.

Cheri Lipps added that her understanding is that the park was created to protect wildlife and the integrity of a smaller community and wondered why we would want to create the problems with bear/human interactions that other areas have. She personally doesn't want to see any impact to the wetland area. She seconded the motion.

Michael Malvick asked if lighting was an all or nothing proposition. There was discussion about the park being a peaceful wilderness alternative to lighted trails with most nights having adequate light either from the moon or reflected from the city.



Rodney Powell stated that the contractor failed to read the 1995 settlement agreement and thus failed to include wildlife corridors in the proposal. He asked that language be included reflecting the wish that the terms of the November 1995 litigation settlement agreement, including but not limited to wildlife corridors, be adhered to at all times.

Jackie Morrissey requested that “hang-gliding” be stricken from the language. Her take from the Arctic Air Walkers’ presentation last month was that there are 25 to 30 members, and that for every time they actually fly, they’ll drive up to the Grandview neighborhood access point five or ten times. That’s more use than the access point was intended for.

Ian Moore objected to that logic and said that it was picking out one user group and saying that we don’t encourage their use of the park. Angie Pinsonneault stated that the current wording takes Section 36, which is much further down the road, and adds one specific user group that affects neighborhoods that are nowhere near Section 36. Claire stated that the group was included because they would have a low impact on Section 36, the point being that user groups have low impact on the land. Cheri stated that the other named uses, orienteering, walking, nature hiking, and cross-country skiing are contained within Section 36 whereas parasailing originates outside of Section 36 and 90% of that activity is outside of Section 36.

Claire suggested replacing hang-gliding with berry picking. Ian suggested that all specific user groups be stricken from the language and say in general that we support low impact usage. He suggested that supporting cross-country skiing implies support for lighted trails which would not be considered low impact. Claire suggested that the wording be changed to non-team, non-competitive cross-country skiing.

For the sake of time, Cheri Lipps proposed a vote on the following propositions:

- Eliminate all specific user groups from the language while keeping the language of lowest impact.
- Exclude “hang-gliding” simply from the standpoint that it doesn’t originate in the park area and is not inclusive of the park; substitute “berry picking.”

Claire added a third proposition:

- Exclude “including but not limited to,” replace “hang-gliding” with “berry picking” and add non-team, non-competitive to describe cross-country skiing.

Cheri asked for a show of hands vote. Option 1 received 4 votes, Option 2, no votes, and Option 3 passed with 7 votes. There was one abstaining vote.

Cheri then asked for a show of hands vote to adopt the resolution with the current changes: addition of item number 6) to include adherence to the settlement agreement and changes to the language of number; 3) the resolution was adopted 11-0. One member abstained from voting.

Cheri thanked Claire for her time drafting the resolution language.



Main Motion, to amend Bylaws

The following changes were considered:

Article V Function J – amend or strike language pending determination of Community Councils Center current policy for archives due to modern electronic storage.

A show of hands vote indicated 0 in favor of striking the language, 11 for leaving the language as is.

Article X Officers, Section 3A-3 by striking the words “of the past meeting and other events” and inserting “#4. Maintain master community database”

A show of hands vote indicated 0 in favor, 5 opposed.

Claire Steffens made a motion to extend the meeting past the 9:00 pm cut-off. Caryn Smith seconded the motion.

Article X Officers, Section 3B-2 by striking #2 and inserting it as #5 in Duties of Council Chair

A show of hands vote indicated 2 in favor, 2 opposed. A second show of hands indicated 1 in favor, 3 opposed.

Article X Officers, Section 3B-3 by striking “sending copies of minutes to the Community Councils Center” and inserting “posting copies of minutes to the Community Councils Center web page for BVCC”

A show of hands vote indicated 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

Article X Officers, Section 3E-3 by inserting “officer” after member-at-large and before shall

A show of hands vote indicated 3 in favor, 0 opposed.

Claire Steffens moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm. Cheri seconded.

The next Bear Valley Community Council meeting is scheduled for ***Wednesday, December 9, 2009, at 7:00pm*** in the Arts and Crafts Room at Bear Valley Elementary School. Please forward any meeting topic ideas to Cheri.

Please also consider renewing your membership with a donation of \$5 or more. All donations 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.