



Community Council:
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Bear Valley Community Council (BVCC)
Meeting Notes
BVCC Meeting – February 10, 2010
Compiled by Jackie Morrissey - Secretary

The council meeting was held in the Art room of Bear Valley Elementary School, 15001 Mountain Air Drive, and began at 7:00 pm. Twelve members including 5 council members attended, indicating a quorum of members present.

BVCC Vice-Chair, Laurie Holland, in BVCC Chair Cheri Lipps' absence, opened the meeting. The first scheduled guest speaker from MAP Consulting was absent so Ms. Holland invited guest speakers Joann Mitchell and Steve Kari from USKH to address the council.

USKH Mountain Air Drive Project Update

USKH has completed their design study, surveyed down to 155th Street, and has recommended Alternative A for Mountain Air Drive. Alternative A, the most direct route, includes a 50'-high, 150'-span bridge with an attached walkway over Little Rabbit Creek. The preliminary design will be updated after geotechnical exploration is conducted and is expected to be complete in a couple of months. The www.mountainairdrive.com website will be updated soon to reflect the current schedule and design. Construction is expected to start in 2011.

The original project did not include plans to improve the Rabbit Creek Road/Mountain Air Drive intersection, but there was enough concern that if the road were built without considering the intersection, it would get left behind. Therefore, USKH will survey the area and will be asking the legislature for additional funding to improve the intersection. At a minimum, turn lanes will be added to relieve the anticipated congestion. AFD is concerned that without intersection improvements, there might be gridlock which would prevent emergency vehicles from pulling off the ramp at Station 10. USKH will take into consideration the anticipated increase in traffic, speed limits, the geometry and grade of the road, and sight distances when designing the intersection.

The total construction cost of Alternative A will be 5.8 million; 4.5 million in hand will get the road built across the creek. The hope is to get additional intersection improvement money in time to incorporate those improvements into the bid package. Right of way costs will run around \$280,000. The plan is to work with the landowners' engineer and re-plat the area to get enough right-of-way to construct the road.

Laurie Holland brought up the BVCC resolution to have minimal lighting on Mountain Air Drive. USKH has no problem with using cut-off fixtures. The current plan has one separate pathway which will be lit for safety reasons.

No one was sure who, the LRSA or the municipality, would maintain the road once it's built.



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Candidate Introduction

Cathy Geissel is running for the State Senate, challenging the incumbent Con Bunde. Her main concerns are Alaska's economy and jobs.

BVCC Updates

Fire Department Update – Station 10

AFD is still looking for money to support specialty teams.

No rolling closures of fire stations in 2010.

David Lipps heartily thanked APD for sharing information at the community council meetings and particularly for warning people about the dangers of carbon monoxide. His family was recently saved when their CO alarm went off, alerting them to a furnace malfunction that could have been deadly.

Assembly Liaison Member-at-Large - Sean Holland

Jennifer Johnston is running unopposed in the April 6th election. The deadline to file to run for her Assembly seat is February 12th.

The following bonds will be on the April 6th ballot: \$37.1 million for roads, \$1.2 million for fire, \$250,000 for Sand Lake ambulance and \$930,000 for public transit.

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

HALO has improved their website, www.anchoragehalo.org.

HALO adopted a resolution to send a letter to Assembly representatives asking them to support the HDP, particularly the issue of cluster wastewater systems.

A Candidate's Forum will be held at 7pm on March 4, 2010 at O'Malley's on the Green.

Bylaws relating to officer elections were amended to define the term of office as one year and to specify when seats A and B will be elected (even and odd years).

In their January meeting, HALO passed a resolution requesting that HLB replace the gate at the beginning of the Jeep trail to prevent further destruction of park land by off-road vehicles.

A second resolution was passed requesting that HLB re-plot Section 36 with the addition of the wildlife corridors recognized in the 1995 settlement agreement. An amendment was passed changing the word "re-plot" in the main motion to "amend the Section 36 plat."



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Discussion followed as to whether or not there was a set time frame for HLB to get a gate put up or if the gate issue would be lost in the transfer of Section 36 from HLB to the Municipal Parks Department once the master plan is approved.

Claire Steffens made a motion to accept the two HALO resolutions as those of the BVCC, adding a friendly amendment changing the word "HLB" in the first sentence to "HLB and/or the Municipal Parks and Recreation Department," and changing the word "re-plat" in the second resolution to "amend the Section 36 plat." David Lipps seconded and the motion passed unanimously:

RESOLVED that the BVCC requests that HLB and/or the Municipal Parks and Recreation Department, as land manager for Section 36, replace the gate at the beginning of the "jeep" road (at Clark's Rd) in order to prevent further destruction of the parkland by vehicles that use the park as an off-road recreational area. Access should be limited to property owners to the east who have no other access to their property and to public safety vehicles. HLB policies IX, A.2 states HLB will protect municipal land from off road vehicle damage.

RESOLVED that the BVCC requests that HLB amend the Section 36 plat with the addition of the wildlife corridors that appear on Exhibit A from the 1995 settlement agreement between HLB and the Alaska Center for the Environment.

BV Committees Update – Dan Stone

Nothing to report.

Treasurer Update – Laurie Holland for Angie Pinsonneault

BVCC has taken in \$150 between October 1, 2009 and January 31, 2010: \$70 in membership dues, \$60 in general donations, and \$20 for parks and trails. The current account balance is \$966.03

Money raised in last summer's fundraising garage sale event was donated to the vet that provided care for the abandoned dogs (he refused), to Friends of Pets who have continued to provide foster homes and rehabilitation for the dogs, and to Animal Care and Control to go towards a net gun.

BVCC Parks and Trails Committee Update – Laurie Holland

The final Section 36 CAC meeting to discuss the Draft Master Plan was held in January. The Draft Master Plan public review and comment has been delayed while DOWL HKM seeks legal opinion on how the settlement agreement should be interpreted based on a change in the proposed use from residential to park.

The Bear Valley community needs to invest the money, time, and effort to develop the type of trails they want to have in Section 36.



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Planning and Zoning changes to HDP are available online. Some of the language was softened, but the possibility of a major trail head in upper Bear Valley remains. The plan supports larger development in the Brewster's area. Members are urged to look closely at page 20 of the HDP as it pertains to Bear Valley.

The Draft Chugach Access Plan which addresses trailhead access has been released and is available online at www.dnr.alaska.gov. Open house sessions are scheduled for:

March 5th 11:30am-1:30pm
Atwood State Office Building, Room 240
550 West 7th Avenue

March 10th 6:30-8:30pm
Campbell Creek Science Center Multipurpose Room
5600 Science Center Drive

Public comments must be received no later than 5:00 pm AST, Monday, May 3, 2010.

There's a lot going on in Bear Valley with CSP access issues along the boundary in the Brewster's area and in the Grandview neighborhood and with Section 36. Residents are strongly encouraged to at least look at the plans and comment on what they do or don't like. Development is inevitable, and all residents will be affected whether or not they are trail users.

The Chugach Trails Plan has been adopted with the Grandview trail staying at a very low-level designation, a minimal-sized (Class 2) trail.

The designation "Equestrian Trail" will be removed from the Section 36 Master Plan due to confusion. Equestrian trails are designed to accommodate horses, particularly with the clearing height, but are not exclusively for horses. All trails in Section 36 will be designated as multi-use.

Scott Pexton, on behalf of the BVCC, thanked Laurie Holland for all her effort and participation in the Section 36 CAC.

Federation of Community Councils (FCC) Update – Laurie Holland

The FCC is getting revved up for the NUSA conference they're putting on a year from May.

School Board members reported that ASD is asking the legislature to increase funding for their Career and Technical Education program and to change the attendant age requirement.

Limited Road Service Area (LRSA) Update –RCVH, David Lipps, and Bear Valley, Bill Ennis

The fairly mild winter has allowed the RCVH LRSA to recover emergency funds. They anticipate having money for summer work, the goal being to improve drainage and roads through widening, surfacing and ditching. Gerry Steele and GLS are doing a great job.



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Bear Valley LRSA is doing fine financially as well. It is illegal to plow snow into roadways. Last winter it cost one person a \$900 fine.

Residents commented that some roads are not always getting plowed when Smithson's comes up, that huge drifts have been left in the roads, and in general, the roads and switchbacks have not been plowed as wide this year, starting with the first plowing. Residents need to call the LRSA reps if the roads need to be plowed and they don't see any equipment in the area.

It was suggested that the alders be cut back this summer to make more room for snow pushback next winter.

The Bear Valley LRSA Seat A will be voted on in the April 6, 2010 Municipal Election. Filing to run for office closes Friday, February 12, 2010.

David Lipps moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm. Dan Stone seconded.

The next Bear Valley Community Council meeting is scheduled for **April 14, 2010, at 7:00pm** in the Art 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