



## Bear Valley Community Council Meeting Minutes

### BVCC meeting - November 9, 2005

Compiled by Scott Pexton, BVCC Secretary

The meeting was held at Fire Station 10 on Mountain Air Drive and began at 7:05 p.m. Eight members were present and a quorum was noted.

**Guest Speaker, Shawna Popovici**, Southeast Park District Manager with the Municipality of Anchorage, spoke about hillside area parks projects in the vicinity of Bear Valley. She said that during the winter her office is located in the Bittner House near the intersection at Old Seward and Dowling.

- ? The Assembly hearing to accept public testimony about the draft *Anchorage Bowl Natural Resources Parks Plan* was deferred from November 8<sup>th</sup> to the December 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly meeting. Public testimony on that plan will be taken when it goes before the Assembly.
- ? This fall the Parks and Recreation Department coordinated bark beetle tree and brush removal efforts along the Old Rabbit Creek Park trail located north of the Clarks Road intersection and east of Hillside Drive/Rabbit Creek Road. Dead trees, lower limbs and brush were removed or trimmed for approximately fifty feet along both sides of the unpaved hiking trail. Lots of firewood is available for pick-up.
- ? Land Design North, a contractor working for the Anchorage Parks Department, is preparing a draft Storck Park Plan. The municipal parks department will likely seek public input on this draft plan during December 2005 or January 2006. Ms. Popovici indicated that the plan would include ideas for a natural wind break area, replacement of the current sign, and a strategy to decrease the number of wooden bollards by replacing them with more aesthetic landscaping features.
- ? No public announcements were made about Section 36 at this time, but she thought something might happen during early 2006.
- ? The Parks Department is looking for suggestions to utilize the Hilltop Ski Lodge buildings, and for parks related ideas for use of Rasmusson Foundation funds.

**Guest Speaker, Lance Wilber**, Director of the Municipality of Anchorage Traffic Department, spoke about a draft *Hillside Sub-Area Transportation Study*.

- ? Mr. Wilber distributed several copies of the draft *Hillside Transportation Study*. The study area focuses attention to approximately 550 acres of undeveloped land located immediately east of the Bear Valley Council boundary.
- ? The purposes of the study are to: 1. establish alignment of neighborhood collector/access roads; 2. Identify the impact of neighborhood traffic upon off-site intersections/roadways and recommend improvements; 3. Recommend collector/access roadway design criteria to assure adequate neighborhood access and circulation; and, 4. Recommend the location of trails and pedestrian facilities.
- ? Mr. Wilber said that he contacted Section 6 Assemblymembers last spring to ask them to identify people to serve as community contacts. Later, he arranged meetings with some interested community members and the potential developers to discuss future subdivision development issues.
- ? Mr. Wilber indicated that federal funds were used to pay for a contract with USKH, an engineering firm in Anchorage. USKH prepared the draft *Hillside Sub-Area Transportation Study* on behalf of the Municipal of Anchorage.
- ? Mr. Wilber initiated meetings during spring 2005 that included HALO members and Rabbit Creek Community Council members and six large lot landowners to discuss the draft study and issues about potential trail and road connections. He indicated that the plan displays potential road alignments based on various preliminary subdivision plans. Some of the preliminary subdivision or plot plans used are much older than others, but they serve to indicate potential road alignments if the properties are developed.
- ? Mr. Wilber indicated that no particular state or municipal laws require that this study be conducted. It is unclear if there are federal requirements that limit uses of the funding source in regards to this project study. Mr. Wilber indicated that he wants to conduct additional studies in other areas along the Hillside, such as large undeveloped land areas in the vicinity of Potter Creek valley.
- ? The draft study shows three potential future streets connecting to existing roads in Bear Valley, one connection at Byron Street, one connection at Marino Street, and one connection at Jamie Avenue. All three connections would be located east of Carl Street at the boundary of the recently re-surveyed Rabbit Creek View-Heights subdivision.
- ? Mountain Air Drive currently connects into Rabbit Creek Road at a curve in the road directly in front of the recently upgraded Anchorage Fire Station #10 facility and terminates at Bear Valley Elementary School. The draft study shows Mountain Air Drive as a future significant potential ingress and egress route connecting traffic from

potential subdivisions to Rabbit Creek Road. The draft study indicates that currently unbuilt portions of Mountain Air Drive may be extended to connect with an unbuilt portion of Hillside Drive which would then be extended south across wetlands and Little Rabbit Creek to eventually connect with currently unbuilt East 155<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

- ? Mr. Wilber said a final draft *Hillside Sub-Area Transportation Study* will be presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission on Monday, December 5, 2005 and that public testimony will be taken (case #2005-118). After the hearing, the plan may potentially be presented before the Platting Board, and later offered with a proposed resolution for consideration by the Assembly.
- ? Comments regarding the draft study may be submitted online by going to <http://munimaps.muni.org/website/htmlviewer/generic/casebody.asp?case=2005-118> , and clicking on the "Submit Comments" link.

## **Elections**

Bear Valley Community Council nominations and elections were held for all seven Bear Valley Community Council officer positions. The following members were elected to four of the seven available positions; three council officer positions remain vacant and may be filled at future council meetings:

Council Chair – Cheri Howland  
Vice-Chair – Jim Steele  
Secretary – Scott Pexton  
Member-at-large, HALO liaison – Dan Stone  
Treasurer – VACANT  
Member-at-large, Assembly liaison – VACANT  
Member-at-large, Committees Coordinator – VACANT

BVCC fees were discussed and some members objected to current council bylaws language that specifies a \$5.00 registration fee as a condition to vote at council meetings, equating it to a poll tax. After discussing the topic, everyone present agreed that it would be a good idea to eliminate the \$5.00 registration fee condition for voting. A motion to call for a vote to revise the existing bylaws to address this (and any other potential bylaw changes) may be made at a future council meeting.

## **Treasurer Report**

The treasurer was unavailable, but Cheri Howland and Jim Steele indicated that the current amount of funds is approximately \$1400, held in the Wells Fargo Bank account. A small amount of Council funds were spent over the course of the 2004-05 year to pay costs for the current BVCC website set-up and associated monthly server/maintenance fees.

## **FCC Update**

The FCC community council web pages were recently updated (now located at <http://www.communitycouncils.org/>), and this website has a link that provides some Bear Valley Community Council information. This website also has links to all other councils in Anchorage. The Community Council Center office has moved from the former location on Northern Lights Blvd. and is now located at 3350 Commercial Drive within the Mountain View Community Council district.

## **Home And Landowners Organization (HALO) Update**

Scott Pexton attended the last couple of HALO meetings. The meetings focused mainly on citizen sponsorship and creation of a Hillside District Plan (HDP). One meeting was held at O'Malley's on the Green on September 29th with over 100 people attending. This meeting seemed to stimulate a lot of community support and interest in proceeding with the Hillside District planning project. However, the follow-up HALO meeting on November 3rd was sparsely attended and did not seem very productive with respect to HDP coordination. Scott indicated that he did not think the HDP would make much headway any time soon in this particular forum.

## **LRSA UPDATE**

Cheri Howland indicated that she had recently talked with LRSA Chair John Pezzenti, Jr. and that the Rabbit Creek View/Heights LRSA had received approximately \$10,000 of Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds for the purpose of repairing the severely damaged guard rail at the bottom of Heights Hill at the intersection with Jamie Avenue. She also indicated that additional CIP funds may soon become available which could pay for chip sealing the entire lengths of Carl Street and Nickleen Street next year. Caryn Smith indicated that the Bear Valley LRSA has very limited funds remaining in the budget for use to pay for plowing and snow removal activities.

**BVCC.INFO Update**

Jim Steele indicated that he had made some recent updates to the web page at [www.bvcc.info](http://www.bvcc.info) and that he will continue to update the website as new information is available and as time permits.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 PM. The next Bear Valley Community Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **December 14, 2005** at Anchorage Fire Station #10 on Mountain Air Drive.

**END**