

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 11, 2009

President Bill Holland opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Introductions were made.

President's Report: Bill Holland reminded council members there is currently one ERVCC Board Member position vacant. ERVCC members/area residents are invited to become involved and serve on the board.

Approval of minutes: Minutes from membership meeting were distributed. Austin Zimiga moved approval of minutes, Patsy Gunn second. Unanimously approved. Bill reminded everyone that you can find past minutes & agendas by going to www.communitycouncils.org then choose Eagle River Valley Community Council.

Treasurer's Report: written report submitted by Sarah Wright. The Heritage Estates Well Compensation Trust is composed of four certificates of deposit:

- 1) \$6,271.74
- 2) \$6,262.15
- 3) \$6,172.48
- 4) \$25,000.00

The Heritage Estates Well Fund Account has a balance of \$3,498.65. Debit payments included Alaska Star public notice, USPS Box rental, IRS tax preparation fee and Super Signs.

Anchorage Municipal Assembly Update: Assembly member Bill Starr discussed the assembly's 'first crack' at approving the budget, currently 10 million below tax cap. Assembly committee members are still working on amendments including funding considerations for the library, FCC, transit, health & welfare. Currently the South Fork volunteer fire station on Hiland Road will remain open, but funding is uncertain. When asked about specific cuts to transit, Bill Starr reported that commuter runs on Route 102 will not be affected, but routes 76 & 77 are scheduled to be eliminated due to low ridership. Assembly member Debbie Ossiander reported that she is attempting to have monies dedicated for additional alternative transportation, such as expanding 102 and/or Anchorage Rides service areas. Bill Starr told ERVCC members he is working to get more ShareARide vans for the area, currently Chugiak/ER/Muldoon area has four while the MatSu Valley has 38. The \$125,000 budget allocation for the FCC is not supported by the Assembly. Bill Starr observed that some of the functions of the FCC could be handled by the Assembly clerk's office and a \$40,000-50,000 annual stipend could provide for part-time paid staff and volunteer assistance. At this time, property taxes are 2.5% higher than last year (and that includes the 3% reduction from state revenue sharing). Bill Starr reported that on Nov.17th he will request removal of the "temporary" limitation on Wal-Mart's liquor permit. This will allow Wal-Mart to

apply for and receive a regular (full) liquor permit. Mr. Starr observed that Wal-Mart has been a 'good neighbor' and has accommodated all the ERVCC requests/limitations for their conditional liquor license (see ERVCC meeting minutes Oct.2009).

OLD BUSINESS

Eagle River Lane Update: No formal update/presentation. Mr. Kiefer from Municipal PM&E is expected to attend December 2009 ERVCC meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

ERVCC Newsletter Distribution-Reduce Postal Cost: Currently FCC pays Speedy Mail to mail out each month over 700 notices to residents in the ERVCC area. Council members suggested four action items to help reduce this cost:

1. Email notification sent to all members asking them if they receive a notification via USPS, please respond so that we can limit their distribution to electronic only.
2. Redesign meeting sign-in sheet with room for only email address.
3. Next ERVCC Newsletter delivered via USPS will have a card/flyer that must be returned in order for individuals to continue to receive the newsletter via USPS. Linda Kelly volunteered to do this.
4. Contact area schools and ask them to insert an announcement in their parent newsletter about the next ERVCC meeting (and changing notification from USPS mail out to electronic). Linda Kelly volunteered to do this.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education: Linda Kelly reported that Anchorage School District (ASD) is changing their budget process so that ASD will go to the Assembly first to determine what funding schools will receive, then ASD will build their budget based on that number. Currently the school district has a fiscal gap of \$15.4 million. ASD is holding public meetings to receive input from citizens regarding budget cuts. To view the full ASD budget go to their web site, or view the Anchorage Daily News November 15 edition.

Emergency Preparedness: No report.

Parks & Recreation: Bill Holland read Sarah Wright's written report Fee increases were approved, still below Anchorage P & R levels. Primary affect of increase is pool use fees. The Skateboard Park worked well this summer in it's temporary

location off Business Blvd. in the Hickel parking lot between Garcia's and the movie theatre. The planned permanent location for the Skateboard Park is a small Heritage Land Bank parcel along Fire House Lane next to the tennis courts near Eagle River Elementary. The MacDonald Center repairs have been successful. It is uncertain how the expansion of another sheet of ice will work out - the current plan is for a covered outdoor rink that is connected to the Mac Center so the Zamboni can surface both sheets of ice. This would allow for space for future construction, that would include an expanded entryway plus toilets/dressing rooms upgrade. Beach Lake Master Plan continues to move forward. Eklutna Corporation has been included as an integral community member who borders the park on two sides, the first stake holder meeting was this month. The ski trails are in good shape, just waiting for snow. Trail work at Beach Lake is complete. Eagle River High School trails are in good shape. Chugiak/Eagle River Parks & Rec has been told to only spend resources grooming trails that were developed on P & R land, This is the last year of the contract, it will need to be renegotiated next year.

Road Board: Bill Holland reported on the CIP list. Currently ER Lane design/construction has been moved to 100% state funded so no action will occur but the project stays on the list (it was 70% state/30% local funding previously). South Fork Council has been working with us to put ER Road improvements (after mile 3.7) before three other South Fork projects. This is primarily due to safety connections.

Chugiak/Eagle River Consortium: Right now there are some challenges with funding. Land Design North will still provide some services. Bobbi Wells has stepped down as chair.

Zoning & Platting: Austin Zimiga brought forward three items: a vacate of a 30' telephone/communication/electric easement; one lot broken into two in Golden View and a large animal ordinance with RO zoning. There were no emails or public comments on any of the items. ERVCC did not take any action.

Federation of Community Councils: The FCC funding was discussed Bill Starr's Assembly report.

Austin Zimiga moved to adjourn, Linda Kelly seconded. Unanimously approved, meeting formally adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Minutes submitted by Therese Voehl.