

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting  
Wednesday, February 13, 2019 7:00 pm  
REGULAR MEETING  
Ravenwood Elementary School

Minutes – Approved March 13, 2019

Call to order at 7:03pm by Pete Panarese  
Quorum established.

**Introductions and Announcements**

Representative Kelly Merrick joined via phone. Her comments included:

- Rep. Merrick is the House Representative for District 14.
- The House is awaiting organization.
- Governor's budget has been published. Will be looking at where cuts are. House and Senate will prioritize most critical services. Trying to establish a sustainable budget.
- Town Hall will be held at Chugiak Senior Center on February 23, 2-4pm. Please attend.
- Follow Rep. Merrick on Facebook @RepKellyMerrick. Sign up for legislative update newsletters here.

**Candidates Open Mike:** None

**Meeting Minutes:** January 2019 meeting minutes

Tom Freeman moved to approve. Donna Forward seconded. January Meeting Minutes were approved by a vote of 14 yea, 0 nay, and 0 abstain.

**Treasurers Report:** None

**New Business:**

**Alaska Communications – Request for Conditional Use Permit re Broadcast Tower in Eagle River Valley at 12715 Golden Eagle Drive, Ms. Alissa Haynes & Ms. Gayle Doty**

A handout was provided and presented by Ms. Haynes. Key points included:

- Conditional Use Permit for the 180' tower expired. Revised Title 21 requires a new permit be issued.
- Tower and building have existed for 34 years.
- Several carriers are on the site including cellular, radio and TV.
- The tower and building are located on approximately 2 acres within a 17.7 acre lot zoned R8. Site is located at the top of Skyline Drive, off a paved, unnamed access road from Golden Eagle Drive.
- This tower is essential to broadcasters. Height is required to broadcast to southcentral Alaska.
- No further development is planned. Building is unmanned and requires only occasional maintenance.
- Broadcasters include the only Spanish broadcast in AK, AK Integrated Media, I Heart Radio, and UAA student-operated educational radio and others.

Questions included:

- Is this a renewal? Previous permit expired. Title 21 rewrite requires a new permit be issued. Planning Commission will determine the duration of the new permit.
- Are any changes planned? No, site will continue to operate as it has been for many years.
- Any earthquake damages? Beacon light at top shattered and had to be replaced. Replacement beacon was planned prior to the earthquake. No structural or foundation damage.

Susan Fischetti moved to draft a Resolution supporting the CUP. Art Skoog seconded. Resolution supporting the issuance of a conditional use permit was approved by a vote of 14 yea, 0 nay, and 0 abstain.

Copies will be sent to Ms. Haynes, Ms. Doty, Ms. Gretchen Wehmhoff and Mr. Fred Dyson.

### **AK1 / Artillery Road Interchange**

DOT has developed plans to modify this interchange, from Quick Lube to VFW Rd. Municipality may have plans, possibly at the DOT website.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Assembly Report – Susan Fischetti**

Ms. Fischetti's update included:

- Local elections will take place on April 2. Mail-in ballots will be mailed on March 12.
- It would be helpful for Eagle River to be represented on the School Board by two Eagle River residents. Elisa Snelling is our current representative. Consider supporting other Eagle River candidates.

#### **School Board – Starr Marsett**

Ms. Marsett's update regarding earthquake-related school impacts included:

- Ms. Marsett attended community meetings regarding the earthquake damaged schools and the impact on Chugiak and Eagle River.
- More community meetings will be held on February 20-21 to solicit input on how to address earthquake related school closures.
- Community meetings are going well, with participants separated into groups of 25-30 to facilitate the input process. Feedback is being recorded. Feedback will be reviewed. No decisions have been made yet.
- February is Visit Your School Month. All ASD schools are open for visits by the public on each Tuesdays at 9:30am or on Tuesday, February 26, at 6:00pm.

Regarding the governor's budget, Ms. Marsett's comments included:

- There is a \$148M-\$152M loss in proposed budget.
- Teachers may be pink-slipped as in previous years. Per contract, teachers must be given notice if there is no budget for their service. They may be rehired.
- Let your representatives know if you value education and want to avoid cuts and elimination of school programs.
- A request has been made to increase our bond by \$4M for Eagle River-Chugiak.

Questions included:

- How does debt reimbursement work? The city and state agreed to a 50/50 split on debt but since the state has withdrawn, city must pay 100%.
- Members offered thanks for work of the School Board.
- Rep. Merrick is committed to education and wants to restore funds. She encouraged individuals to send emails to herself, Senator Reinbold and Governor Dunleavy supporting more funding for education.
- We spend more on students but our results are among the worst in country. What can schools and school board do to fix this? Schools have been "flat-funded" for 5 years. So many cuts have already been made. Budget increases go to salaries and health care costs.
- Regarding improvements, there is a new English Language Arts program. This is the 3rd year that it is fully implemented and we expect to see improvement in our students.

#### **Eagle River Community Patrol – Cliff Cook**

- In January, patrols were conducted for total of 48 hours, 512 miles.
- In the past 3 weeks, there has been an uptick in car entries near Heritage Estates near WalMart. Activity is typically between 3am and 6am and has moved to Eaglewood, Kantishna and Meadow Creek. Lock your cars, especially when vehicle is running.
- Several trailheads have also been hit, especially when people leave items in view in their cars.

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- Number of stolen vehicles is declining over past year. More than 3000 were stolen last year and all but 100 were recovered. Usually used for joy-riding and drug use. We rarely see chop shops now.
- License plates are being stolen. Consider getting special bolts that require specialized tool to remove.
- APD is beginning community policing with team members being assigned to each community council. Recommend inviting your officer to an ERVCC meeting.
- Be aware of school parking lots when lights are turned off at 8pm. These are gathering spots.
- If you call to report activity on 311, the call is rated based on type of crime you are reporting. There are 4 patrol cars/shift so there may be delays in response. Community policing will call you back.
- Hard copies of call-in reports may take a long time to receive as there is a backlog at this time.
- Be sure to report all crimes to Anchorage Police Department. These data are used by Gretchen Wehmhoff to help justify more patrol cars in our area.
- ERVCC members expressed appreciation for the efforts of Cliff and his team.

### **Committee Reports:**

**CBERRRSA (Road Board)** – No report.

**Chugiak/Eagle River Advisory Board** (formerly C/ER Consortium): No report.

**Education:** No report

### **Federation of Community Councils:** Tom Freeman

- Please ensure documents are submitted in timely manner to Federation of Community Councils and MoA.
- Authorization of a 5% alcohol sales tax is on spring ballot. Proceeds would be used for specific purposes related to alcohol usage.
- Eric Croft, Assembly. May consider re-districting community councils in the future.
- Mr. Arthur Whitehead, SACC, is promoting use of NextDoor, a neighborhood communication tool, as a way to notify people of upcoming CC meetings.

### **Parks and Rec:** Pete Panarese

- Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission consists of 9 members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Anchorage Assembly. They meet monthly; Karen Richards reports to Eagle River/Chugiak Parks & Rec.
- The Mac Center suffered earthquake damage and usage dropped. There is an \$11,000 shortage. The car show was cancelled. They may try opening an archery center.
- The Beech Lake/Mirror Lake parks trails will receive 1000 yards of material to improve the trails.
- There has been some graffiti reported. If murals are added, there tends to be less graffiti.
- Members of the public reported vehicles on Fire Lake which is illegal. Better barriers are needed.
- There is an issue with lack of funding due to reduced tax revenue.

### **Platting and Zoning:** Pete Panarese

- Nothing to report for our area.

Motion to adjourn by Tom Freeman. Adjourned at 8:08pm.

Next meeting on March 13 at Ravenwood Elementary School.

ERVCC Board Members (Term Expiration) President: David Schade (2021) Vice President: Elisa Snelling (2019)  
Treasurer & Education: Patsy Gunn (2021) Parks & Rec: Pete Panarese (2021) Consortium: Steve Skipper (2020)  
Platting & Zoning: Pete Panarese (2021) Federation of Community Councils (FCC): Tom Freeman (2020) Road Board:  
Crystal Kennedy (2019)/Arlene Rasic – Alt (2019) Secretary: Joy Webb (2021) Susan Fischetti (2019)