

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting  
Wednesday, April 10, 2019 7:00 pm  
REGULAR MEETING  
Ravenwood Elementary School

MEETING MINUTES – Approved May 8, 2019

Call to order at 7:05pm by David W. Schade  
Quorum was not established.

**Introductions and Announcements:** None

**Meeting Minutes Approval:** Quorum not established.

**Treasurers Report:** None

**New Business:**

**Mark Littlefield, Eagle River/Chugiak Streets Maintenance**

Mr. Littlefield provided an update on November 30 earthquake damage, sharing the following key points:

- Initial assessment of road damage from Nov. 30 earthquake was \$2M.
- With spring thaw, survey of damage is \$3M and still going up. Likely there is \$3.5M - \$4.5M in road damage in Eagle River/Chugiak area.
- On April 23 a scoping meeting will be held with FEMA. We expect some help from FEMA, but our roads were severely damaged by the earthquake. After the scoping meeting, we have 60 days to identify additional damage. Many road repairs can wait until next year for repair but must be fixed.
- Chugiak has 3 bad roads. We hope to use our own contractors and our own dollars to pay for these.
- If damage is over a certain dollar limit, we must bid nationwide for contractors.

Other information provided by Mr. Littlefield included:

- Work cannot be done in a right-of-way without a permit. Permits are usually granted beginning in May.
- Sweeping of gravel will begin on Monday, April 15. This takes about 30 days and should be complete by mid-May.
- We have \$2.1M - \$2.2M in overlay work in Eagle River/Chugiak. If FEMA doesn't come through with assistance, we will use this money for earthquake damage repairs.
- Eagle River Lane – This is a collector street.
  - An engineering firm is beginning to work on design.
  - Plan is to get rid of the hill near Ptarmigan and align Wren St. and Ptarmigan intersections.
  - The work will be planned this year and constructed in 2020.
  - Plans will include sidewalks, storm drain system improvements, and street lights.

Questions included:

- What is a collector street? It provides a route into and out of the surrounding neighborhoods. Streets in neighborhoods all feed into ER Lane.
- Will three-way stop remain at Ptarmigan & ER Lane? Yes
- When will planning be completed? A "65% plan" is expected by winter, 2019.
- Will this work impact or slow down the proposed housing development at Ptarmigan & ER Lane? No.

Other questions from attendees included:

- Is sand and gravel from spring sweeping re-used? No. It has too much mud and organic materials in it. Tried it previously. You can get sweepings at no charge from Streets Maintenance Dept. It makes good fill. Just call the office with request.
- Lucas Street mailbox area needs fill.
- Lions Club tennis courts – These are an eyesore. Streets Dept can't repair all three courts. Economic situation isn't good this year, to try to repave these. Possibly try to fix one court and then get support to fix other two.
- The Streets mill rate was reduced this year.

### **JBER Gate Construction Timeline**

**Westin Warberton, Community Engagement  
673D Air Base Wing, Public Affairs**

Mr. Warberton provided the following information regarding security upgrades for JBER gates.

- JBER gate construction is scheduled for May-October, 2019, and is expected to impact traffic on the Glenn Hwy and on the gate roads.
- The 2019 construction schedule includes:
  - May: D Street
  - May: Boniface - Inbound closed
  - June: Boniface - Outbound closed
  - July-September: Muldoon gate closed
  - October: Post Road gate closed. (Commercial)
- Additional construction is planned in 2020 for Muldoon and Government Hill.
- See the ERVCC web page for the timeline. <http://www.communitycouncils.org>

### **Eagle River/Chugiak Cemetery Proposal**

**Tom Looney**

Mr. Looney is from Chugiak and is visiting community councils in ER/Chugiak area to determine interest in establishing a local cemetery. Mr. Looney provided the following information:

- There is no local cemetery in Eagle River/Chugiak.
- Girdwood has started a cemetery project to establish a local cemetery. Since they are further along in process, it is unlikely we could partner with them.
- Mr. Looney presented at the Eagle River/Chugiak Consortium and requested support.
- Approximately 20 acre parcel would be needed; not too rocky or soggy. There are several parcels in the area that would work.
- A committee should be formed to determine site selection criteria and work with land owners to obtain the land.
- The committee would be made up of community council representatives, local ministers, Chamber of Commerce representatives.
- It would likely take about 5 years for the cemetery to be established.
- Typical use is 1000 plots/acre. Two to three acres would be developed initially.
- Would ERVCC agree to support this endeavor and appoint someone to participate in the committee?

Questions from members included:

- Have you talked to Eklutna about obtaining land? Mr. Looney is working on the right introductions to begin this.
- How would this work? Would need to go through a community involvement process. Other property possibilities are Heritage Land Bank and JBER.
- How would it be funded? This is TBD. Public funds could be obtained through a bond, but all of Anchorage would have to vote and approve.  
We can only do an area-wide bond. We could partner with Girdwood, Birchwood, Chugiak and Eagle River to try to get the bond passed.  
We are at early planning stage and would not need to address funding at this point.
- Would like to committee to brainstorm how to move the concept forward. This needs to be a community-lead effort.
- First three steps: (1) Establish criteria. Is there a need? What is that need?  
(2) Determine properties that fit criteria.

(3) Determine options on funding.

- Is this included in the latest Comprehensive Plan? Yes, page 56 of the 2006 Plan. Cemetery is included in section J.
- Can this be discussed further at ERVCC May meeting? Yes, added to agenda to discuss a resolution of support and to identify a volunteer from ERVCC.

**Public Comment – Sarah Davenport**

Ms. Davenport lives on Upper Terrace and is seeking advice on a right of way issue. Part of the woodshop on her property is on the right of way. Municipality requires a 25 ft. setback and she has been advised she must remove part of the woodshop.

- Mark Littlefield will look into this with Ms. Davenport to see if an encroachment permit can be granted.

**Old Business:**

**Assembly Report – Crystal Kennedy (for Gretchen Wehmhoff)**

Ms. Kennedy's update included:

- Approval by Assembly for planned housing development at Ptarmigan and Eagle River Road will be on April 23.
- There is a proposal to include e-cigarettes and vaping in the no smoking ban in public places.
- Currently it is illegal to sell e-cigarettes and vaping products to those under 19. There is a discussion about increasing the age to make it illegal to purchase or possess these items for those under 21. How would this impact stores and the employees who sell these products?
- There is a proposal to close all land within the municipality to public hunting and trapping.

**School Board – Starr Marsett – No report.**

**Eagle River Community Patrol – Cliff Cook**

- In March, patrols were conducted for total of 60.5 hours, 682 miles.
- Trailheads are still being hit. A recent auto break-in included a gun and a purse being stolen. Stolen credit cards were quickly being used locally.
- North Fork – bears are out. Be trash aware.
- In Chugiak, there were 3 reports yesterday and one today of a man in a red SUV approaching children and offering rides. Back window of SUV is wood.
- For break-ins and burglaries, criminals must be caught in the act.
- APD allocates patrol cars based on community councils. There are four in our area.
- APD response time is improving.
- Community Action Policing teams should be assigned in our area soon. They will have cell phones so they are more easily accessible to residents.

**Committee Reports:**

**CBERRRSA (Road Board) – Crystal Kennedy**

This is Ms. Kennedy's last report as Road Board representative, as she will assume her new role as Assembly member next week.

Ms. Kennedy provided an overview of the 8 policies for Eagle River Street Maintenance. These policies should be aligned to how ERVCC feels about road maintenance issues. The contracts will be renegotiated for 5 (or 7) year terms.

1. Roads maintained: Response to all requests will be in writing.
2. Snow berms will not be cleared by Street Maintenance. Snow and ice around mailboxes also is not cleared by Street Maintenance.

An option for next contract would be to include a wing drop on plows that could clear driveway berms.

3. Snow hauling – Street Maintenance does very little of this now. It is primarily in dense housing areas such as Eagle Crossing. Having the Eklutna lot available for snow storage saves a lot of money.

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4. Walkways – There is limited winter and summer maintenance. These must be in approved areas and use recycled asphalt.
5. Eligibility for roads to be included in Rural Road Maintenance is set.
6. Snow placed in right-of-way (e.g. roads) is illegal. Don't put snow from your driveway into the road. \$100 fine.
7. Newly developed subdivisions – service won't be provided unless approved by Board of Supervisors. Must also be inspected by Road Board before maintenance will begin.
8. Use of snow markers. Place six inches behind curb or edge of pavement.

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

**Education:** No report

**Federation of Community Councils:** No report

**Parks and Rec:** Pete Panarese

- Ice will be coming out of Mack Center on May 2.
- There is a proposal to ban all public hunting and trapping within the municipality. This would impact some parks where it is currently allowed.
- JBER contacted the municipality regarding payment to keep some land undeveloped and not allow any permanent development in buffer areas.

**Platting and Zoning:** Pete Panarese

- Carol Creek area – the Heritage Land Bank has changed their mind multiple times regarding development in this area. They are selling property (29.62 acres); from driveway of Mack Center to Fred Meyer. First proposed density of 500 units, then fewer and now considering higher density again with an assisted living facility.

Additional questions raised:

- Braendel Subdivision – Stuart Drive is not part of original development. Would like developer to be sure to keep Talerick Rd. clean.
- Question for Starr Marsett – has the 2018 school board audit been completed?
- Water Tank – It hasn't been determined where the pump house will be located. This isn't proceeding at this time due to lack of funding.

Adjourned at 8:45pm.

Next meeting on May 8 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:  
Vacant (2019)/Arlene Rasic – Alt (2019) Secretary: Joy Webb (2021)