

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 8, 2019 7:00 pm
REGULAR MEETING
Ravenwood Elementary School

MEETING MINUTES – Approved September 11, 2019

Call to order at 7:01pm by David W. Schade
Quorum was established.

Introductions and Announcements: None

Meeting Minutes Approval:

- March 13, 2019 and April 10, 2019 meeting minutes were reviewed.
- Motion by Tom Freeman to approve; Pete Panarese seconded.
- Approved by a vote of 12 yea, 0 nay and 0 abstain.

Treasurers Report: None

New Business:

Steve Barenburg, Captain

Anchorage Fire Department Station 11, Eagle River

Numerous members of the Anchorage Fire Department, Station 11, Eagle River, attended the meeting to conduct a “hands only” CPR class. In addition, Mr. Barenburg provided the following:

- Car Safety – Be especially careful. Be on lookout for vehicles slowing down to look at moose and bears. There have been some roll-overs lately. Don’t drive distracted.
- Outdoor burning is restricted to recreational/open cooking/ceremonial burning. Permits are not issued for burning, but you must call in to Fire Department prior to burning for approval. Fire area must be limited to 3’ in diameter, 2’ high. See muni website for burning rules.
<http://www.muni.org/Departments/Fire/Wildfire/Pages/BurnPermits.aspx>
- Hands only CPR was demonstrated, and all attendees had a chance to practice on manikins.
 - If an adult is non-responsive/not breathing normally, first call 911.
 - Then start chest compressions at rate of 100/minute.
 - Early CPR makes survival much more likely.
 - A study was done in Seattle. When hands only CPR training was provided to the community, the survival rates increased substantially.

Mark Hamilton, Executive Vice President, External Relations

markhamilton@pebblepartnership.com 907-339-2600

The Pebble Partnership, www.pebblepartnership.com

Mr. Hamilton introduced himself and shared the following:

- A draft environmental impact statement provides assurances that no one will build ‘junk’ that can ruin the environment.
- EPA wrote the rules and defines the process for environmental studies.
- The process includes a baseline environmental study first on what currently exists in the area. This can take years to conduct and is quite costly.
- A “narrative of fear” has been published since 1968.
- The National Environmental Policy Act requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions.
- Also involved are US Army Corps of Engineers, seven government agencies and tribal consortiums.
- There are also periods of public comment to gain local perspective on the proposed activity.
- From April 2018-June 2019, 210 days (of 255 days) were open for public input.

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- The EPA reviews the final Environmental Impact Study. The project can be stopped at this point as well as by litigation.

Mr. Hamilton provided copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Pebble Project.

- The public comment window runs from March 1, 2019 – May 30, 2019.
- Provide comments via email to drafteis@comments.pebbleprojecteis.com or via mail to: Program Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers, 645 G Street, Suite 100-921, Anchorage, AK 99501.

Questions/comments from attendees included:

- Red Dog Mine was also built with all the government agency reviews. But now there are many different contaminants caused by not following the rules. The government agencies and regulators that do the reviews are not the ones running the project.

Eugene Carl Haberman

Eugene@mtaonline.net, 907-277-2415

Mr. Haberman is from Mat-Su Valley. He provided the following information:

- His focus is to help ensure that public input process is followed properly. He attends many public meetings.
- There is an ordinance proposal 2019-57, that would change the conduct of public hearings, audience participation and appearance requests.
- If the public does not have an opportunity to provide input, state law is violated.
- For a legislative act, policies and procedures must be subject to public input. Adequate notification of public input periods must be provided.
- He encouraged attendees to be aware of this proposal and provide input on it.

Eagle River Valley Community Council Elections

- Vice-President – Position is open.
- Road Board – Position is open.
- Chugiak-Eagle River Road Board duties and election process was described by Crystal Kennedy:
 - The community council recommends the Road Board candidate to the Mayor, who approves.
 - Oversees funding and projects for local roads.
 - Reviews and approves capital improvement projects.
 - Approves mill rate.
 - Oversees large projects.
 - The Board doesn't usually meet in the summer.
 - Due to earthquake damage, a summer meeting may be needed to address funding. If FEMA funding is used, work must be put out to bid instead of being able to choose contractors.
 - Meetings are monthly on last Monday of month and last about 1 hour.
 - Streets Maintenance functions independently.
 - The Board members may help Street Maintenance understand the needs of the community.
- Road Board Alternate– Arlene Rasic is interested in serving another term as alternate. Pete Panarese made motion for Ms. Rasic to continue as alternate; Tom Freeman seconded. Arlene Rasic was elected as Road Board alternate by a vote of 12 yea, 0 nay and 0 abstain.
- Open positions will be addressed again at next meeting.

Draft Resolution 2019-4 Recognizing Gretchen Wehmhoff

- Motion by Pete Panarese to approve; seconded by Crystal Kennedy.
- Approved by a vote of 12 yea, 0 nay and 0 abstain.

Draft Resolution 2019-5 Supporting establishment of a CER Cemetery Steering Committee

- Motion by Pete Panarese to approve; seconded by Paul Forward.

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- Approved by a vote of 12 yea, 0 nay and 0 abstain.
- Cemetery Board Meetings will be held on second Tuesday. Next meeting is May 14, 5:30pm at Room 170, Chamber of Commerce.
- Pete Panarese provided some background on the local cemetery efforts.

Old Business:

Assembly Report – Crystal Kennedy

Ms. Kennedy's update included:

- Resolution was approved to recognize Lee Jordon's contributions to ER-Chugiak. Commemoration will be held on June 6, opening night for Chinooks.
- Ordinance regarding trapping – passed 9/2 with Fred and Crystal in opposition. Intent is to protect dogs and children from trap injuries, but a "trail" couldn't be defined and there are questions regarding who has jurisdiction. There may be litigation with federal and tribal groups.
- Ordinance regarding cell phone usage in school zone. Discussion was held.
 - There are school zone signs on Eagle River Lane near Gruening Middle School even though it is closed. Would this still apply?
 - The 20 mph speed limit should be enforced first.
 - The ordinance would state you 'can't touch your device' so Bluetooth would be exempt.
 - Another work session will be held.
- Climate Action Plan
 - Work session to be held on Friday.
 - Will be coming before the Assembly soon.
- FCC presentation on ordinance regarding number of assembly members per council.
 - All councils have 2 members but 1.
 - Could alternate who has 1 representative.
 - Or could add a second person for the downtown district that currently has 1 representative.

Eagle Exit

- This is an effort to see what it would take for Eagle River to secede from Anchorage municipality.
- This was tried in 70s and failed.
- There is a website and a meeting was held last Friday.
- Research –
 - Can we do this?
 - Does it make sense legally? Financially?
 - A lot of information must be gathered.
- What is motivation?
 - Eagle River gets ignored by Anchorage. Things are forced on us.
 - Rising property and business taxes – what is benefit to Eagle River?
 - Schools – there is higher performance here but ranking is brought down by rest of schools.
 - Pay for services that we don't receive.
 - Losing a ladder truck at ER Fire station.
 - AnchorRides – 1 shuttle in morning and evening and we may lose that.
 - Would like to make our own decisions closer to home.

School Board – Starr Marsett – No report.

Eagle River Community Patrol – Cliff Cook

- In April, patrols were conducted for total of 36 hours, 313 miles.
- Bears are out. Black bear at Eagle Point; brown bear at Briggs Bridge.

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- Petty theft is ongoing – an open garage door is “easy picking.”
- Community Policing is evolving. Officer Danny Gill will be Eagle River’s officer.
- Trailheads are still being hit. Don’t keep any valuables in your vehicle.
- Garage door openers and address from car registration being taken / used for break-in.
- There was a theft incident in ER while a child was still in the car.
- Report all crimes/suspicious activities to APD. Social media is being used to report crimes to public – tie your Facebook posting to your APD report.
- Community patrols are volunteering for Gradpast and Torch Run for Special Olympics.

Committee Reports:

CBERRRSA (Road Board)

- Road repairs to be prioritized.
- Waiting to hear back from FEMA regarding \$3M in road damage in Chugiak-ER.
- The fire department storage facility on Hiland to be abandoned by AFD and may be used by Road Board for storage.
- Loop Rd & Skyline Drive bus stop is a high traffic area while students are present.
- Brooks and Centerfield design is on hold.
- Artillery Rd access and Glenn Hwy – there is no progress, no funding and no decisions have been made.

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

Education: No report

Federation of Community Councils – Tom Freeman

- Event insurance is needed by all community councils.
- Mark should be notified of all events remaining in 2019.
- Fire Department is reorganizing to reflect medical vs. fire call volume. In 2018 there were 25,000 medical calls and 700 fire calls. This cost may be shifted to local residents at estimated \$425/average-priced residence.
- Elections were held. The president, vice-president and treasurer will remain in office. There is no secretary.

Parks and Rec: Pete Panarese

- Meeting to be held on Monday.

Platting and Zoning: Pete Panarese

- No new plats coming up in our area.
- Yates compound
 - Eyesore property cleaned up on land belonging to Heritage Land Park.
 - Neighborhood has ideas for property but additional feasibility study is needed.
- Planning & Zoning Commission has a vacancy.
 - Role involves looking at Title 21 and reviewing plans.
 - Would be nice to have representation for Eagle River.

Adjourned at 8:30pm.

Next meeting on September 11 at Ravenwood Elementary School.

ERVCC Board Members (Term Expiration) President: David Schade (2021) Vice President: Vacant 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 (2022) Secretary: Joy Webb (2021)