

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 12, 2020 6:30pm
REGULAR MEETING
Ravenwood Elementary School

MEETING MINUTES – Approved March 11, 2020

Call to order at 6:34pm by David W. Schade.
Quorum was established.

Introductions and Announcements: None

Meeting Minutes Approval:

- December 11, 2019 meeting minutes were reviewed. Approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurers Report: None

New Business:

Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility – Site Purchase Update

Paul Hatcher, Real Estate Coordinator/Engineering Tech III

907-564-2721 Paul.Hatcher@awwu.biz

Mr. Hatcher provided the following update on the proposed water reservoir:

- Uplands Tract 3 was purchased ~2 years ago for the water reservoir site.
- Since the land is zoned R1, a conditional use permit is required (MOA Planning & Zoning)
- The reservoir site is currently in the design stage. Draft plan includes the booster station and location of the reservoir.
- Public meeting to review design is scheduled for February 27, 6:30 at Library.

Questions/comments from attendees included:

- A very good working relationship has been established between AWWU and our community council over the past 10 years.
- What is the timeline for construction? 2020 – Design. 2021 – Construction with completion in 2021 or 2022. Expect to break ground in 2021. Work cannot be completed by a single contractor.
- Booster station may look similar to one on Sun Beau Dr. and Eagle River Loop. It will be visible from Lucas Ave.
- Tank will be round. If it is metal, all would be exposed but a bank would be built around it. If concrete, part can be buried.
- Grading will be done around tank and vegetation will be restored.
- Safest tank in an earthquake? All piping will be underground except pumper.
- There will be a right of way for the booster station access and water line easement. A gate will block 4-wheeled traffic.
- The booster station will have its own generator or will be such that a generator can be backed in for power.
- Preuss Lane – still don't know if the line will service. It.

ERVCC Board Open Seats

- Candidates Julie Jessen and Michael Tavoriero introduced themselves.
- Motion by Crystal Kennedy, seconded by Paul Forward to approve Ms. Jessen for Vice President and Mr. Tavoriero for Education. Passed unanimously.

Some ideas were considered for future meetings:

- Spruce Bark Beetle – May meeting
There will be a presentation by Division of Forestry on February 26, 6-8pm, BP Center, 900 E. Bensen.
- \$5M Budget proposal for fire breaks and mitigation funding.
- Panel discussion on emergency preparedness with APD and AFD.
- Emergency Service Plan for Eagle River – AK Senator Lora Reinbold is currently working on this.

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Old Business:

Crystal Kennedy - Anchorage Assembly Report

Ms. Kennedy provided the following update:

- The Assembly will be making comments on the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The Glenn Hwy/Artillery Rd. interchange is still on the plan. A study was done previously but a 'new conversation' is starting on this interchange. Plan can be found at <http://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/AMATS/Pages/default.aspx>.
- The Assembly approved an ordinance banning trapping within 50 yds. of park trails. See the "Maps & Apps Gallery" here: <https://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/default.aspx>
- Ms. Kennedy was approached by Fairbanks marijuana store owners who are interested in opening a marijuana store in ER. They are interested in vacant property across from new Lime Leaf restaurant on Old Glenn Way. A variance would be required from Assembly since ER has requirement for a 1000 ft buffer from town. In the past, ER has been opposed to marijuana stores in our area. Two other groups have sought approval to open stores in past.
- Title 23 was amended, and notice requirements have changed. The Building Safety Service Area is expanding. Previously it was limited to city of Anchorage.
- A work session was held on restoration of the Eklutna River. Village wants to store to pre-dam (70-90 years ago). 90% of water goes to hydro-electric plan and 10% to recycle.
- Students at ER High School Government class proposed changing Yosemite Dr to "Wolf Den Drive." Two property owners impacted (both non-resident) approved the change, but nearby residents are opposed.
- There is a proposal to add another Assembly member, so all districts have 2 representatives. Possible boundary changes.
- The spring ballot will be discussed at the March meeting.

Elisa Vikalis - School Board

Ms. Vikalis provided the following updates from recent ASD School Board activities:

- A second vote on the budget was scheduled for February 18. If any significant changes are made, request will be made to delay the vote a week. Feedback and input are always appreciated.
- Upcoming two-year bond (April ballot) is \$82.8M. \$60M is slated for ER earthquake repairs. If this bond passes: \$112M bond will be retired and there will be no new school bonds next year.
- Work at ER Elementary has started. Anticipate opening in fall, 2022. Last year's bond included \$6M for roof plus \$4M additional. Still need \$3M more to complete required work.
- Two school board seats are up for election (neither from ER).
- Contact your city, state and federal representatives about increasing school funding.

Questions/comments from attendees included:

- What is total school debt? \$550M – 600M. Plan is to retire \$112M and add \$82.8M.
- FEMA funding for earthquake repairs? Have received \$550,000 thus far. Expect \$5M - \$5.5M more. This will be reimbursement for money we've already spent. There are strings attached to FEMA money at some levels (i.e. Must get earthquake insurance. We will try to get an insurance waiver so we can accept the funds.)
- We still have \$19.5M budget gap.
- How are expenditures to be reduced?
 - IGNITE-gifted program for K-6 will be redesigned.
 - Health will be taught through PE, classroom teacher or librarian instead of health teacher.
 - 3 schools are losing security officers.
 - Losing library assistants
- Teacher/student ratios are being maintained.

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Eagle River Community Patrol – Cliff Cook

Mr. Cook provided the following update:

- Patrols were conducted for total of 73 hours, 500 miles since our December meeting.
- Community Patrol volunteered at Polar Plunge.
- ‘Porch pirates’ taking packages slowed after the holidays.
- Chugiak-Peters Creek area has had some mail theft. This area has been assigned one APD patrol car.
- If you see someone canvassing the neighborhood, contact APD. Try to get vehicle description & license plate.
- We are still trying to have fourth patrol car assigned to ER consistently. Crystal Kennedy continues to push this. Reporting all suspicious activity to APD helps as well.
- Some stolen vehicles in area; usually when unlocked and running.
- Be aware “Ring” doorbell cameras don’t work well in subzero weather.

Committee Reports:

CBERRRSA (Road Board): James McCurtain

Mr. McCurtain provided the following updates:

- Last meeting was end of January.
- Capital Improvements List – plan to approve this in March. Contact James if you have any additions/ideas.
- Policy changes – plan to approve this in March.
- There was some discussion about plowing berms in ER.. This will not be done.
- There is an Anchorage road bond proposed that would include a small amount for Saddle Rd. access. Since ER has its own road board, we should not be included in an Anchorage road bond. Crystal Kennedy will pursue this.

Questions from the attendees included:

- Update on Eagle River Lane upgrades? No further action on it at this time.

Chugiak/Eagle River Advisory Board - Steve Skipper – No report.

Education: No report.

- Mr. Tavoliero shared that he has put together spreadsheets comparing schools. Proficiency scores in math and English are included.

Federation of Community Councils – Tom Freeman – No report.

Parks and Rec: Pete Panarese– No report.

Platting and Zoning: Pete Panarese– No report.

Adjourned at 8:13pm.

Next meeting is on March 11, 6:30pm, at Ravenwood Elementary School Library.

ERVCC Board Members (Term Expiration) President: David Schade (2021); Vice President: Julie Jessen(2022); Treasurer: Ruth Armstrong (2021); Education: Michael Tavoliero(2021); Parks & Rec: Pete Panarese (2021); C/ER Consortium: Steve Skipper (2020); Platting & Zoning: Pete Panarese (2021); Federation of Community Councils (FCC): Tom Freeman (2020); Road Board: James McCurtain(2022)/Arlene Rasic – Alt (2022); Secretary: Joy Webb (2021)