

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 13, 2020 6:30pm
REGULAR MEETING
Zoom Virtual Meeting
MEETING MINUTES – Approved October 14, 2020

Call to order at 6:32pm by David W. Schade.
Quorum was established.

Introductions and Announcements: None

Meeting Minutes Approval:

March 11, 2020 meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion by Julie Jessen; seconded by Michael Tavoriero. Approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurers Report: Ruth Armstrong – No report.

New Business:

Tract A Overlook Estates Addition 3 - Zoning & platting for 40 acre tract on Eagle River Rd.

Mr. Craig Bennett, CraigB@s4ak.com (907)350-2602

S4 Group | Surveying | Land Design

124 E 7th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501

Mr. Bennett provided the following update:

- Handout (20 ERVCC 2020.05-Overlook Estates 3.pdf) is under 'Other Documents' here:
<http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/viewfolder?id=4549>
- Property is located at approximately Eagle River Rd. Mile 7.5 after Vantage Rd, across from State park.
- First step is to have property rezoned to R10, low density residential with 1 1/4 acre minimum lot size.
- Development is one long cul-de-sac, 2200 feet long with 28 lots.
- Would prefer loop but DOT restricts access to Eagle River Rd. to one access point.
- Preliminary plat will be considered in June, after rezoning.

Questions from attendees included:

- Why only 1 access point to neighborhood? Anchorage Planning prefers two access points to a development, but DOT overrules municipality on roads they maintain. DOT minimizes access to roads they maintain.
- Will there be a homeowners' association that prohibits street parking so emergency vehicles have clear access? Covenants have not been written yet but they will probably be similar to others in the area.
- Can CCRs be used instead? Planning Dept prefers homeowner associations. Two trails are planned; one at end of cul-de-sac and one between lots 5 and 6. Homeowners association is desirable so homeowners must maintain these trails.
- On preliminary plat, last house has very long driveway. For R10 zoning, long driveways are permissible. Fire Department must review and approve that owner's plat plan to ensure access and turnaround space.
- Well and septic. Test holes will be done in next few days to verify. Development across the street had very good results. Start with 1 test hole per lot and add more if necessary.

Eagle River/Chugiak Streets & Maintenance

Mr. Mark Littlefield, Eagle River/Chugiak Streets Maintenance

- Upper Skyline Drive drainage issue:
 - A new home was built on Upper Skyline Dr. in 2018. Drainage is improperly directed onto private property. The culvert will be plugged and upgraded to redirect water drainage off private property.
 - This is a maintenance issue that will be fixed.
 - Mr. Littlefield has been in touch with the homeowner.
 - Mr. Panarese also confirmed this is not a Planning & Zoning issue.
- Eagle River Lane upgrade
 - Plan is still under development.

Eagle River Valley Community Council

May 13, 2020

Page 2

- Upgrade will be from Ptarmigan Blvd. north to 2nd Avenue.
- There is an AWW issue encroaching on a water line.
- Trying to keep from disrupting one property owner's (Diane) space.

Questions from attendees included:

- Street sweeping schedule: Streets & Maintenance alternates where they begin in community each year. Goal is May 23 completion date. Completion date, by regulation, is June 1. Sidewalks are swept first and then return to do streets.

Eagle River Valley Community Council Elections

Mr. Schade provided the following update:

- Elections were not held today, as is typical for our Council. We will cover the two open positions at our September meeting.
- Positions available:
 - Chugiak/Eagle River Consortium: Steve Skipper(incumbent)
 - Federation of Community Councils: Tom Freeman (incumbent). At our April meeting, Mr. Freeman said he is willing to remain in this position.

Old Business:

Crystal Kennedy - Anchorage Assembly

Ms. Kennedy provided the following update:

- Marijuana licensing
 - Community & Economic Development Committee is reviewing the marijuana licensing process. This committee may be changed to a commission which would be more productive in the licensing process.
 - Eagle River must abide by municipal code allowing marijuana establishments. However, Chugiak-Eagle River established 1000 ft buffer in Title 21 land use/zoning.
 - We hope to maintain our current 1000 ft. buffer (to schools, day care, parks, other businesses, etc.) in Eagle River.
 - Good Cannabis, based in Fairbanks, has expressed interest in establishing a location in Eagle River and has visited other community councils here. Would like to see buffer reduced to 500 ft. as in Anchorage. The councils visited have not been supportive. To date, no application has been filed for a variance of 1000 ft buffer.
- Ms. Kennedy is co-chair of the Public Safety Committee.
 - Looking at how to be more cost effective. Currently reviewing fire department and public safety budgets and how staffing is managed. Though Chugiak-Eagle River is approved for 4 officers, we usually have only 3; one in Chugiak and 2 in Eagle River. Our area is slightly less than half of total municipal acreage, but we have far fewer officers for our area than Anchorage.
- CARES Act – waiting on more specific information on how funds will be distributed.
 - Funds need to be distributed to businesses and individuals most impacted by coronavirus shutdowns. Possibly property tax relief.
 - Assembly will receive briefings on funding gaps from federal funding.
- Alcohol tax passed in last election. Revenue will start flowing from this next year. More to come on how funds will be used.
- Should Alaska be a mail-in election state? Lt. Governor is looking for input. Alaska Division of Elections unofficial poll on Mail-in ballot elections: call 907-465-4611 or email Lt.Governor@alaska.gov to provide input.

Eagle River Valley Community Council

May 13, 2020

Page 3

- Hunker down order - Emergency declaration ends June 5. Don't know yet if it will be extended. Small businesses must put together transition plans to re-open.

Kelly Merrick, Representative

Alaska State Legislature

Representative Merrick provided the following update:

- CARES Act funding – A lawsuit has been filed claiming that approval was illegal.
- State legislature per diems have been in the news. She claimed lowest amount in Assembly.
- Health mandates – State and municipality can recommend use of face masks but not mandate it. However, businesses may require masks to enter their facilities.

School Board Report – Elisa Vakalis – No report.

Eagle River Community Patrol – Cliff Cook

Mr. Cook provided the following update:

- Patrols were conducted for total of 43 hours. The patrols contacted APD to determine if patrols were still allowed during Hunker Down orders. (They were.)
- APD distributed an email that community policing visits to council meetings have been put on hold during coronavirus situation. However, Mr. Cook remains in contact with our officers.
- Some reports of transients coming to Eagle River as Anchorage is closing down campsites. May be approaching people directly.
- If you see transient campsite activity, go to municipal website and report the location. More people reporting a site helps prioritize it for action.
- Parks are now open. Park rangers are working to keep transient campsites out of parks.
- State parks usually rely on volunteers from lower 48 to staff parks. This year many openings are available to camp at a state park and monitor.

Committee Reports:

CBERRRSA (Road Board): James McCurtain, james.mccurtain@hotmail.com

Mr. McCurtain provided the following updates:

- Road board should be meeting later this month.
- Feel free to reach out to James with any questions or concerns. He's happy to share more information about projects (e.g. the Eagle River Rd. project, etc.)

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

Education: Michael Tavoliero

Mr. Tavoliero provided the following update:

- EaglExit – Northern Economics was engaged to perform a study on financial feasibility. The report is now available on the EaglExit website <https://www.eaglexit.com>. You may also submit questions online.
- The Northern Economics analysis is based on figures published by the municipality. The base figures are not 'developed' by Northern Economics.

Federation of Community Councils – Tom Freeman – No report.

Parks and Rec: Pete Panarese

Mr. Panarese provided the following update (via email):

Eagle River Valley Community Council

May 13, 2020

Page 4

- Eagle River Nature Center will be closed until June 3rd. Indoor programs are canceled until after that date. Pet owners beware. Someone is illegally setting lynx snares in the vicinity of ERVC, Albert Loop trail and the North Fork Trail head. Report any incidents or observations to Chugach State Park at 345-5014.
- Park trail heads are receiving heavy visitation throughout the council area and that of South Fork CC. Please remember, maintaining physical distancing applies to cruising our hiking trails, too.
- ER/Chugiak Parks and Rec. has canceled all summer camps. Playgrounds are open with the standard conditions. Maintain a physical distance of 6', avoid crowds, wash or sanitize hands after using the equipment. Check the MOA Parks and Rec. website for further details.
- As of May 8, Loretta French baseball fields are not open.

Feedback from the attendees included:

- **Jamie Allard** - Anchorage Assembly
Provided an update on baseball, that the commissioner of the baseball league at state level is planning to open the season, possibly as early as June 1. The municipality may delay the start depending on emergency declaration and re-opening.

Platting and Zoning: Pete Panarese

Mr. Panarese provided the following update (via email):

- See Eagle River/Chugiak Streets & Maintenance section above on Upper Skyline Dr. drainage issue. This is not a Platting & Zoning issue.

Adjourned at 7:36pm.

Next meeting is on September 9, 6:30pm, Virtual using Zoom or Ravenwood Elementary School Library - TBD

ERVCC Board Members (Term Expiration) President: David Schade (2021); Vice President: Julie Jessen(2022); Treasurer: Ruth Armstrong (2021); Education: Michael Tavoriero(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)