

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting
Wednesday, September 8, 2021 6:30pm
REGULAR MEETING
Zoom Virtual Meeting
MEETING MINUTES – Approved October 13, 2021

Call to order at 6:32pm by Julie Jessen.

Quorum was not established.

Federation webpage: [Federation of Community Councils](#)

Introductions and Announcements:

Huhnie Lee – Independent candidate for US Senate introduced himself. Additional information can be found at <https://huhnielee.blogspot.com/> facebook, twitter name is: huhnie

Meeting Minutes Approval: No action due to lack of quorum.

New Business:

Nancy Clark, Manager, Chugiak-Eagle River Branch

Anchorage Public Library

907-343-1533, nancy.clark@anchorageak.gov, <http://www.anchoragelibrary.org>

Ms. Clark provided the following update:

- Fall programs are available for school-age children.
- A demo of school readiness skills will be given for preschoolers.
- A scouting tour will be held on Sep 25.
- September is library card month and all are encouraged to sign up. Baby Yoda card is available for September only.
- Ebooks and 3000 online magazines are available.
- A service point has been established at Dimond Transit Express (Dimond Mall) so holds may be picked up there.
- The Chugiak-Eagle River Branch is down by two staff members. There is a hiring freeze at the municipal level.
- There are no late fees for overdue items.
- Library is looking for volunteer workers. Contact Ms. Clark directly to volunteer.

Representative Kelly Merrick

Alaska House of Representatives

Representative Merrick provided the following update:

- A third special session is underway.
- An appropriations bill was passed including \$1100 PFD. Bill goes to Senate next.
- A disaster declaration bill was introduced in the Senate. House bill 76 ended the previous disaster declaration.
- A constitutional amendment was introduced to prevent overdrawing PFD fund.
- Rep. Merrick has received suggestions to make across-the-board cuts to the budget, but this doesn't make sense and doesn't come close to bridging the budget gap.

EagleExit

- There was a request to receive CARES Act funding to support EagleExit but that request was withdrawn.

Traffic Calming Study request for Eagle River Lane

- Over the summer, a letter was drafted to the Traffic Department requesting a traffic study on Eagle River Lane due to speeding and presence of school-age children. We will request Kris Langley, MOA Traffic Department, join our October meeting to share the traffic calming study process.

Application for Marijuana Establishment License

Alice's at 12111 Horseshoe Drive, Eagle River

- A presentation was given to Eagle River Community Council in which Alice's would be located.
- The application is at a standstill now due to priority for alcohol and marijuana license renewals.
- This is expected to be a hot topic this fall as the application moves forward.

Eagle River Valley Community Council Elections

Open positions on our Council board include:

- Vice-President
- Education
- Platting & Zoning (re-elect incumbent Pete Panarese)
- Federation of Community Councils Alternate

If interested in any of the positions, please reach out to Julie Jessen @ juliekjessen@gmail.com.

Community Council meetings – Zoom or in-person?

- We will continue to meet via Zoom and will discuss again in December.

Additional topics of discussion:

Lions Club Liquor License

- We received notice that the Lions Club's liquor license was renewed.

How to increase attendance at our Council Meetings

Several ideas were discussed including adding our meeting notices to Representative Merrick's home page, investigating a Facebook page (our own or using the Federation of Community Council page), sending notices via the Nextdoor app and obtaining the Federation's distribution list for our Council.

Old Business:

Crystal Kennedy or Jamie Allard - Anchorage Assembly

Crystal.Kennedy@anchorageak.gov, 907-351-1430

Ms. Allard provided the following update:

- The mayor does not have mandates planned for COVID.
- Flags will be displayed at Delaney Park for 9/11.
- On September 14, 5:00pm, the Assembly will meet to discuss Homelessness resolutions and ordinances.
 - It appears unlikely the Sullivan Arena will open this year.
 - Testify at Assembly meetings to provide your view on this issue.

Comments/questions from participants included:

- Should we, as a community council, take a position on the mayor's homelessness proposals? It was suggested that Ms. Rasik draft a resolution for consideration at our October meeting. Another suggestion is to send an email of your position to the mayor.

School Board Report – Pat Higgins, Anchorage School Board – No report

Eagle River Community Patrol – Cliff Cook

Mr. Cook provided the following update:

- Patrols were conducted for 92.5 hours covering 714 miles.
- The Community Patrol provided patrol support for the Anchorage Police Torch Run for Special Olympics.
- We continue to have the same petty crime issues within Eagle River including mail theft and vehicle break-ins at trailheads.

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- Over the past few weeks, Mr. Cook has concentrated on the community patrol driving through neighborhoods during school bus activity, both morning and afternoon. The morning hours have more violators and most being young adults just not paying attention what's going on. Parents, please remind your driving age children that they must stop for our neighborhood school buses when the red lights are flashing. Our young children depend on it!

Committee Reports:

CBERRRSA (Road Board): James McCurtain/ Arlene Rasic

James.mccurtain@hotmail.com, 907-301-4042

Mr. McCurtain provided the following update:

- Road Board did not meet over the summer. Next meeting will be later in September.

Chugiak/Eagle River Consortium Advisory Board – Julie Jessen

- The Board received an update from the Eagle River/Chugiak Cemetery Board.
 - Of the locations under study, the location near Eagle River High School is lead choice.

School Board: Pat Higgins - No report

Education: open position/no report.

Federation of Community Councils – Tom Freeman – No report

Parks and Rec: Pete Panarese

Mr. Panarese provided the following update:

- The Board of Supervisors continued to meet through the summer months and meets this month on September 13th.
- The Board spent much time this summer waiting to hear from the Parks and Recreation Director on the results of the personnel investigation under way after a financial audit found several problems with how ER/C Parks and Rec managed its property and contracts.
- We are also planning on seeing a report from the Director on the overall budget for ER/C Parks and Rec. and hearing from the staff on recent problems reported at the Mac Center.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.

Next meeting is on October 13, 6:30pm via Zoom.

ERVCC Board Members (Term Expiration) President: Julie Jessen (2022); Vice President: open (2022); Treasurer: Ruth Armstrong (2022); Education: open; Parks & Rec: Pete Panarese/Ruth Armstrong - Alt (2023); C/ER Advisory Board: Julie Jessen (2022); Platting & Zoning: Pete Panarese (2021); Federation of Community Councils (FCC): Tom Freeman (2023)/Alt: open; Road Board: James McCurtain(2022)/Arlene Rasic – Alt (2022); Secretary: Joy Webb (2022)