

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 8, 2023 6:30pm
REGULAR MEETING
Alpenglow Elementary School
MEETING MINUTES – Approved March 8, 2023

Call to order at 6:30pm by Julie Jessen. Quorum was established.

Webpage: [Federation of Community Councils](#)

Meeting documents are here: <http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/viewfolder?id=4549>

Representatives' Reports

AK Senator Kelly Merrick (recorded from Juneau)

907-465-3777; Sen.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov; Facebook- still listed under Representative Kelly Merrick.

- Three weeks into session. Enjoying new position as senator representing Chugiak and Eagle River.
- Member of Finance, State Affairs, Joint Armed Services and Labor & Commerce Committees,
- Chairing budget subcommittees: Dept of Revenue, Dept of Environmental Conversation, Dept of Military & Veterans Affairs
- Just starting to hear legislation; focus now is on Governor's FY24 budget.
- Send capital budget priorities by February 14. Limited funding but may try to get some smaller projects approved. Working w/Rep. Allard and Rep. Saddler to prioritize. Trying to get Sterner Bridge approved again after veto.
- Town Hall w/Rep. Saddler on February 17, 5:30-7:00pm, Chugiak Senior Center

Assembly Report – Kevin Cross

- Confirmed bond proposals for April election. Matching amount bonded to amount retired except Parks & Rec bond is larger than amount being retired; try to keep property taxes same.
- Purchasing Dept. was 'working around' Assembly approval process. Undergoing very time-consuming audit.
- Community & Economic Development Committee Vice-Chair-Working with state on marijuana, a controlled substance, while hemp is controlled through Agriculture Dept with less regulation. Manufacturers have developed synthetic derivatives that are intoxicating, and market has developed selling hemp products through stores to minors in AK. Working with state, federal agencies & marijuana industry to stop sales and close loopholes.
- Muni. relationship with AK Dept of Transportation has improved significantly with monthly meetings being conducted to prioritize work.
- Chugiak-Eagle River Parks & Rec has new director, Tanya Lieberman. Chugiak Pool repairs are highest priority.

Questions:

- Artillery Rd. DoT project – DoT is considering re-prioritizing due to multiple accidents; traffic congestion.
- Girdwood Housing Resolution – Too much Girdwood opposition so Assembly has tabled this indefinitely. Heritage Land Bank is working with Girdwood to create a Girdwood Housing Board to address issues.
- Municipal Board appointments – haven't been kept up to date. Approved 60-day extension on current members.

School Board Report – Carl Jacobs

- \$68M budget deficit reduced by \$25M but still issue due to funding at 2016 level.
- Policy revision to student nutrition and physical activity. Guarantee 20 min. for lunch from time student receives meal. Updated recess and physical ed. practices to federal recommended levels.
- School choice lottery is open for applicants until February 15. See ASDK12.org website.
- School bond in April is focused on school safety (e.g., entryways)

Question: Is adding 6th grade to middle schools under consideration? Yes, for some schools.

New Business:

Community Wildfire Egress Project - Art Skoog/ Julie Jessen (Institute for Social and Economic Research)

- Goal to update community wildfire protection plan.
- Michelle Torres is coordinating training for Community Emergency Response Teams (responding to variety of emergency response needs).

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- Community Wildfire Prevention Plan in Eagle River is very outdated. Also have other topics to investigate:
 - Ask fire dept for priority projects.
 - Have FD trucks drive our roads to be sure they can maneuver in all neighborhoods.
 - Establish an evacuation area.
 - Can't apply for grants to fund activities without accurate, up-to-date plan.
- Sign up at end of meeting to participate in an ad hoc committee on this topic within our council.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Michelle Torres, Outreach Branch Chief, CERT State Administrator

Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management michelle.torres@alaska.gov 907-428-7032

- CERT is nationally supported (FEMA), locally implemented initiative that teaches people how to better prepare themselves for hazards that may affect their communities. CERT trains the public in basic disaster response skills such as team organization, disaster medical operations, fire safety, light search and rescue, disaster psychology, freeing professional responders to focus their efforts on more complex, essential, and critical tasks.
- Have trained members in community to help your neighbors in emergency.
- Need CERT team Lead, sponsoring agency (e.g. fire dept, police team, community council, etc.) & 20-hr training.
- Willow – helped set up shelter prior to Red Cross arrival, runners during fire w/FD, vaccine clinics, traffic control.
- Kevin Cross: Anchorage Office of Emergency Mgmt to setting up Emerg. Mgmt. Task Force to provide CERT training.

Girl Scouts of America

Rayshana Alexander, customercare@girlscoutsalaska.org (907) 248-2250

- Outreach to promote membership, form new troops, grow support for GSA. Cookie sales are coming.
- Have openings in day camp and overnight camp for this summer.
- Share brochures throughout the community.

Platting Action Notification – 104 acres either side of Eagle River Road near Eklund Ave- See meeting documents link.

Craig Bennett, S4 Group | Surveying | Land Design, CraigB@S4AK.com

124 E 7th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501 907-350-2602

- Entire 104 acres must be included in plan due to it being a single parcel. At this time, nine (9) lots are planned on north side of Eagle River Rd (drawings displayed). No other development is planned at this time per Eklutna representative (owner).
- Lots will be minimum 1 acre each with well & septic; probably one road with cul-de-sac; R6 zoning.
- Lots will be offered for sale.

Questions included:

- Will school bus turn-around be changed? Probably not since it is part of an access easement.
- Further development on north? No plans to develop Tracts A & B on north. Zoned R6 and R10. Would be very expensive and difficult to develop due to zoning change requirement and need to develop roads and infrastructure.
- Access? Eagle River Rd. is a state road so DoT typically denies requests for driveway access.
- Timing? If ready to present to Platting Board by June, will conduct soil tests for septic and possibly offer lots for sale by fall, 2023.
- Write to Anchorage Planning Department if you feel a conservation easement is needed.
- Please provide an update on this project at the May 10 ERVCC meeting.

Community Council Boundaries 10-Year Review – survey extended until February 17

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPC/Planning/Projects/Pages/CommunityCouncilBoundariesReview.aspx>

- We may need a council representative to participate in boundary review.

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Public Access to Ram Valley in Chugach State Park – Pete Panarese

- Mr. Panarese presented a draft letter for ERVCC to support Alaska Trails actions to secure \$100,000 for planning and research to provide public access to Ram Valley in Chugach State Park through CAPSIS. We need public access across public land so hikers are not crossing personal property to reach Ram Valley.
- Motion of support by Ms. Crystal Kennedy; seconded by Mr. Paul Forward. Approved by vote of 14 yea; 1 nay.

Elections: Chugiak-Eagle River Advisory Board

Mr. Jared Goecker volunteered to fill alternate role. Motion to approve by Ms. Ruth Armstrong; seconded by Ms. Crystal Kennedy. Approved by unanimous vote.

Resolution recognizing service by David Schade, past president – Contact w/Julie Jessen.

Old Business:

Eagle River Community Patrol - Cliff Cook

- Patrols conducted for 22.5 hours covering 243 miles.
- Mail theft from holidays is down. Continue to track your packages or use drop off locations (UPS, Freds, Carrs, Walgreens, etc.). Report all mail theft to postal inspector. APD responds during 'active' crime.
- Vehicle theft is up again. Lock your vehicle if you do early morning 'warm-up.' Close your garage door at night.
- Report all crime. Let Assembly reps know we need more APD coverage than 3 officers.

Committee Reports:

CBERRRSA (Road Board) – Crystal Kennedy/Arlene Rasic

- **Capital Improvement Projects List**
 - Ptarmigan between Wren & Eagle River Rd-Traffic congestion and safety issue for children at end of school day for Ravenwood Elementary. Principal shares concern. Changes are planned per Mark Littlefield. Motion by Ms. Kennedy for ERVCC to support safety changes; seconded by Ms. Rasic.
 - Several projects are on CIP thus far. First phase of Citation Rd (road rehab and sidewalks); storm drain improvements. CIP list to be finalized in March.
 - Call Ms. Kennedy, Ms Rasic or CBERRRSA office with your suggestions for additional projects.
- High expenditures this year due to high snow fall.
- Call ER Streets & Maintenance with any issues; 343-1510.
- Kudos to Mr. Mark Littlefield and staff for snow removal this year.

Chugiak/Eagle River Advisory Board - Julie Jessen – has not met recently.

Education - Tom Roth – See School Board report.

Federation of Community Councils - Tom Freeman

- Anchorage Affordable Housing and Land Trust, Victor Mollozzi, presented on purchase of various buildings (inns, guest houses, etc.) with intent to provide more affordable housing (\$850-\$1000/month).

Chugiak/Eagle River Parks and Rec Board - Pete Panarese/Ruth Armstrong

- \$4.5M in funding available due to lack of spending in recent years. Some will be used for Chugiak Pool repairs.
- New director has been named. Next week's meeting should reveal more information on budget plans.
- Bond package for cemeteries in Girdwood and Eagle River needs more work. Won't be on April ballot.
- Mr. Panarese will resign from board in March. Endorsed Ms. Ruth Armstrong as replacement. Mr. Mark Littlefield volunteered as alternate. Motion by Joy Webb to elect Ms. Ruth Armstrong as representative and Mr. Mark Littlefield as alternate. Seconded by Pete Panarese. Approved by unanimous vote.

Platting - Pete Panarese – See Platting Action Notification – 104 acres above.

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Motion to adjourn at 8:39pm.

Next meeting March 8, 6:30pm at Alpenglow Elementary School, Multi-purpose room.

ERVCC Board Members (Term Expiration) President: Julie Jessen (2023); Vice President: Tom Roth(2023); Treasurer: Ruth Armstrong (2023); Education: Tom Roth(2023); Parks & Rec: Pete Panarese(2023)/Ruth Armstrong-Alt (2024); C/ER Advisory Board: Julie Jessen (2023)/Jared Goecker-Alt(2025); Platting: Pete Panarese (2023); Federation of Community Councils (FCC): Tom Freeman (2023)/Erik Gunderson-Alt (2025); Road Board: Crystal Kennedy (2025)/Arlene Rasic–Alt (2025); Secretary: Joy Webb (2023)