

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting
Wednesday, October 11, 2023 6:30pm
REGULAR MEETING
Alpenglow Elementary School
MEETING MINUTES - Approved 12/13/2023

Call to order by Julie Jessen at 6:31pm. Quorum was established.

Webpage: Federation of Community Councils

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

Approve Minutes: Motion to approve September 13, 2023 meeting minutes by Mark Littlefield; seconded by Art Skoog. Approved by unanimous vote.

Representatives' Reports

AK Senator Kelly Merrick (by staff)

- Senator Merrick met with Anchorage mayor, Anchorage School Board, Eklutna, Assembly.
- Chugach State Park Advisory Board has only one (1) representative from Eagle River-Chugach area. Encouraged people to volunteer for this board.

AK Representative Jamie Allard – No report

Anchorage Assembly Report - Scott Myers

- Work session to be held on use of Solid Waste Maintenance facility for winter shelter for homeless.
- APD will conduct training and begin using bodycams in November.
- Budget has been presented. ~1400 pages to review before work sessions begin.
- An Airbnb Assembly ordinance was presented by regarding new Airbnb regulations. Let Mr. Myers know your thoughts on additional regulations it would impose on property owners. Proposal includes licensing and regulations by municipality including \$400/fee to register, requirement for property manager who can respond to concerns promptly and three (3) possible fines if regulations are not followed.
- Board appointment approvals continue to be a challenge. Mayor puts names forward and Assembly must approve.
- CIP and AMATS priorities and input needed from Chugiak-Eagle River community councils. Only one Chuagiak-ER CC provided feedback this year. Trying to change timing of this since input is required over summer when CCs don't meet.

School Board Report – Carl Jacobs

- Reading proficiency improvement is big area of focus. Don't have test scores from last year yet but early indications are that scores are improving.
- State is doing a proficiency level review.
- A new screening tool is available on local level to test students on reading. 53% of 2nd graders and 60% of 3rd graders are proficient, up from recent years.
- Attendance is improving. Seventy-two percent (72%) of students are meeting goal of 90% attendance rate.
- College/Career Readiness initiative for high school students: Financial literacy instruction roll-out is underway. Bringing more technical classes to large high schools is under consideration. Defining "What does a successful graduate look like?"
- Opportunity for students to earn high school diploma and associate degree while in high school under consideration. (King Tech – earn EMT certificate while in high school).
- Are Master Tradesmen granted a one-year teaching certificate? Allowed in state but not sure about Anchorage.

New Business:

Homelessness Task Force Update (See **2023.10.11-Homelessness Task Force Synopsis & 2023.10.11-Housing Action Week flyer** via Meeting Documents link above.)

Ken McCarty

- Met on September 20th and October 11.

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- Additional shelter planned at Solid Waste Maintenance facility would be fenced in with only residents allowed on property.
- Alex and Aviator Hotels will provide 546 beds.
- If camp abatement is requested, contact APD. APD cannot abate camps on private property.
- See **Housing Action Week** flyer for Oct 30-Nov 4 events.

Anchorage Fire Department update

- Fire Chief has provided a list of topics to cover at community council meetings. These will be featured in coming months.
- Ensure your smoke detectors are installed, working and have fresh batteries. All fire fatalities this year were at buildings that lacked working smoke detectors.
- For wood stoves, ensure chimney is cleaned and damper is open before using.
- Get boiler serviced to avoid carbon monoxide issue.
- Install a reflective house number at end of your driveway so AFD can find you in emergency. GPS isn't always accurate.
- Sign up for PulsePoint to receive muni emergency alerts. If you are a trained in CPR and there is need in public place, you will be notified of patient location.
- Fire chief to touch base with Marvin(Dean) Cox regarding Emergency Preparedness Plan.
- Is there anything specific to Chugiak-Eagle River area in the CIP budget?
- AFD needs new recruits. Refer anyone you know who is interested. Expecting large number of retirees.

Eagle River Crossing Expansion Proposal (See Meeting Documents link above for two additional documents.)

Tony Hoffman, The Boutet Company Inc., Andre Spinelli
thoffman@tbcak.com 907-270-6764, 907-317-7724

- Driftwood Bay extension to construct ~70 homes with various lots sizes, many larger than recent developments. Expected to take 10-12 years to fully develop.
- Is this neighborhood contingent on new water tank (AWWU) being installed? Probably not, original plan was 300 homes.
- Next step – submit application with platting board. ERVCC will be notified when it's before Platting; probably early 2024.
- Decision to be made regarding completion of Eagle River Lane in this area.

Emergency Preparedness

Dean Cox

- Michelle Torres requires 8-10 volunteers for CERT to schedule training. Begin w/FEMA training and then take in-person training.
- CERT members assist professional responders in case of emergency.
- Mr. Cox drafted standard operating procedures for ERVCC to consider as a CERT authorizing body.
- **All are asked to review draft before November meeting. (See Meeting Documents link above.)**
- Mr. Cox will reach out to other community councils in our area to possibly do 'train the trainer' classes.
- Is there a grant available to offset costs of communications, gas, etc. for CERT? Ask Kevin Cross and Scott Myers.
- Is there an integration effort across community councils and the muni?

ERVCC By-Laws review and revisions (See Meeting docs link above: Bylaws)

Crystal Kennedy, Julie Jessen

- Received confirmation there is an FCC requirement for the treasurer position. Approved that treasurer responsibilities be added to Secretary position. No treasurer responsibilities at this time due to no funds.

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Eagle River Valley Community Council Elections

- Federation of Community Councils – Alternate position. Joy Webb volunteered to fill alternate position. Motion by Paul Forward, seconded by Mark Little field to approve Ms. Webb as alternate. Approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Eagle River Community Patrol - Cliff Cook

- With cold weather, vehicle theft uptick as people start engines to warm up vehicle and leave unattended.
- Check doors and garage doors at night.
- More transients in Eagle River area, living in vehicles in Town Center, on private property, at elementary schools. APD cannot respond if vehicle is on private property unless complaint is filed for trespassing.
- We are seeing more vandalism in the area – report vandalism to 311.
- Report all crime to APD on 311 (or 911 if emergency).
- Mr. Cook encouraged everyone to attend ERCC meetings, held on 2nd Thursday, Room 170, Town Center.

Committee Reports:

CBERRRSA (Road Board) – Arlene Rasic (written report of September 25 meeting)

- Fall sweeping and storm drain clean out completed.
- Winter prep work being done on streets (brush clearing-etc.)
- All 2023 CIP projects completed.
- Breckinridge lift station arriving this month to improve storm drain water drainage.
- Falls Creek drainage improvements out to bid.
- Board approved setting up funds for a grant writer to try to get more money for our area and write project descriptions for AMATS ratings-since a lot of our projects got low ratings.
- Board would like our council to have a list of large projects and prioritize them- then allow our board reps to choose a few projects that we can all get behind to support - better chance of success if the councils are all working on a few projects instead of a lot of different projects.

Chugiak/Eagle River Advisory Board - Julie Jessen – no meetings held.

- Ms. Jensen will check with our Assembly representatives regarding funding for Comprehensive Plan update.

Education - Tom Roth

- During October/November, administration will present bond proposal to School Board; then on to Assembly.
- There is a significant budget deficit for next year.

Federation of Community Councils - Tom Freeman – no report.

Chugiak/Eagle River Parks and Rec Board - Mark Littlefield

- Eagle River Lane needs to be completed as part of Driftwood Bay extension project. Proposed that we draft of letter to CBERRRSA superintendent. Ms. Jensen & Mr. Littlefield will draft it.
- Parks & Rec. received complaints about some posters for Boo at the Beach(too scary). They've been removed.
- The pool renovations to be done fall, 2024-2025.
- Beach Lake Trail Phase 1 has been funded. Phase 2 to be estimated and funding pursued.

Platting - Pete Panarese – Nothing to report.

Adjourned 8:07pm.

Next Meeting November 8, 6:30pm at Alpenglow Elementary School, 19201 Driftwood Bay Dr, Eagle River.

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ERVCC Board Members (Term Expiration) President: Julie Jessen (2024); Vice President: Tom Roth(2024); Education: Tom Roth(2024); Parks & Rec: Ruth Armstrong(2026)/Mark Littlefield(2026); C/ER Advisory Board: Julie Jessen (2023)/Jared Goecker-Alt(2025); Platting: Pete Panarese (2024); Federation of Community Councils (FCC): Tom Freeman (2024)/ Alt-Joy Webb-proposed (2025); Road Board: Crystal Kennedy (2025)/Arlene Rasic–Alt (2024); Secretary/Treasurer: Joy Webb (2024)