

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 6:30pm
REGULAR MEETING
Alpenglow Elementary School
MEETING MINUTES – Approved April 10, 2024

Call to order by Julie Jessen at 6:30pm. 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 January 10 meeting minutes by Tom Roth; seconded by Ruth Armstrong. Approved by unanimous vote.

Representatives' Reports

AK Senator Kelly Merrick

- Both Legislature and Governor are working on budget.
- Education is a high priority. SB140 has been amended to include items in addition to internet access.
- SB118 – addresses extracting Alaska's critical minerals.
- CAPSIS close date is Friday. Working with DoT and Representative Allard on Artillery Rd project. Nine to 1 funding match with federal government.
- March 9 @ UAA – Anchorage delegation Town Hall will be held. Please attend.

AK Representative Jamie Allard – no report

School Board Report – Andy Holleman – written report

Holleman_Andy@asdk12.org 907-301-7004

- Budget for the 24/25 school year is nearing finalization. Some programs will be cut and delivery of others will change to reduce staff. Pre-K through 3 class size will remain same. Grades 4-12 class size will increase.
- All 6th grade classes move into middle schools next year; this will also save some staff positions. Consider elementary school consolidations for 25/26 school year.
- We have reduced student count and flat state funding since 2017. There are not many places that can be cut without wrecking our ability to deliver services, so complete cuts will have to be made. Mr. Holleman recommends telling your legislators to make a significant adjustment in the BSA and begin regularly voting to adjust it for inflation from year to year.
- Changes are planned to IGNITE, immersion staffing, Pupil/Teacher Ratio in 4 through 12, health and art classes in elementary, and other adjustments.
- Go to ASDK12.org and look for "Hot Topics" near the top for our biggest issues.
- There was an incident today where a student made verbal threats that were serious enough to warrant involving our School Resource Officer. A student reported the comments, and the building was searched. No weapons were found, and the conclusion was there was no actual danger to students.
- Emails to SchoolBoard@asdk12.org go to all Board members, Superintendent, and several senior staff.

Anchorage Assembly Report – no report

New Business:

Eagle River Valley Community Council will not meet in March.

ASD

Kirby Senden, Eagle River High School Career Academy Coach, Senden_Kirby@asdk12.org

- Mr. Senden introduced himself; 26-yr teacher and coach for the new Career Academy Model at ERHS.
- In 2017, Anchorage Economic Development Corp and ASD began meeting to discuss out-migration and attendance issues. After high school, 1 in 3 do not return to Alaska.

- Academy model is based on successful Nashville model which has been used for past 15-20 years.
- Implementation in ASD began this fall at King Tech and will begin at all high schools for freshman in fall 2024.
- Overarching career areas with careers within each area will be established. Career areas will vary between schools as not all schools have facilities to offer all career areas.
- Connect students with local businesses -> increased attendance and local job opportunities.
- AP path will still exist. Fall 2025, will likely transition from 6 periods to 7 or 8 period schedules to retain two electives and add career exploration track.
- High school and 8th grade evening events will provide more information to students and parents.

MasTec Network Solutions Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Amendment Application

See Meeting Documents link above for presentation and additional detail.

Alexis Gutteridge, Alexys.Gutteridge@MasTec.com

Nick Spiropolos, Sr. Construction Mgr, Nicholas.Spiropolos@MasTec.com MasTec Communications Group, www.MasTec.com 907-440-2071

- Seeking Conditional Use Permit Amendment 2011-044, 18530 Whirlaway Road, Eagle River, AK 99577.
- MasTec Network Solutions, as agent for AT&T, is proposing to install a 30 kW Kohler 30REOZK standby diesel generator at the existing telecommunication facility. The CUP Amendment is required to move forward with the design, construction, and operation of the proposed generator.
- Site is existing telecommunications facility and operates unmanned 24/7, 365 days/year. Standby generator will be operated during planned and unplanned power outages. Generator will also be run periodically (4 times/year) for ~30 minutes to confirm operability (Tuesday mornings).
- Construction is planned Spring/Summer 2024. No visible change to existing equipment/facility.
- Public safety implications – site is running 700 Firstnet carrier for first responders for call and data response needs. In power outages, subscribers will have access to 911.

Chugach Access Service Area (CASA) Bond, Marc June, junelawyer@cs.com

Mr. June is visiting community councils to request support for upcoming CASA Bond #9.

- ~\$4M Bond Proposition #9 to improve access to Chugach State Park; road upgrades and parking on Canyon Road, that goes to the trailheads on the back side of Flattop and Rabbit Lake.
- Muni-wide effort to approve this bond. Chugiak, Eagle River, and Girdwood are needed to support bond but will not pay for these improvements. Mr. Pete Panarese strongly encouraged all to support this bond.

Mirror Lake / Edmonds Lake Park Master Plan project

Jeff Urbanus, Project Manager, Eagle River Chugiak Parks and Recreation, Jeffrey.D.Urbanus@anchorageak.gov 907-343-1507. See Meeting Documents link above for more information.

- Kelly Jorgenson, director of Chugiak-Eagle River Parks & Recreation was introduced.
- Mirror Lake/Edmonds Lake Park are very popular. Development of overall master plan is underway. Citizen Advisory Board will form at end of February. Public meeting in April. See Meeting Documents link above for project overview, schedule, and project contacts.
- Peters Creek Dog Park-2017 study of preliminary design. On March 7, 6:30pm, Community Room 170, ER Town Center, 12001 Business Blvd, ER, presentation on plans. Plans include lighted parking lot and two fenced areas. See Meeting Documents link above for Flyer on this project.

Eagle River & Chugiak routing of the Alaska Long Trail. See Meeting Documents link above for proposal.

- Draft Proposed Resolution by Shaun Sexton (Chugiak CC) supports a specific route (red). After discussion, postponed taking action.

Requesting resolution to improve bus service in Eagle River

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Proposed Eagle River Bus Route R. See Meeting documents link above to view proposed bus route.

- Consider bringing old north route (102) back. Postponed action at this time.

Long Range Transportation Strategy for Transportation Infrastructure – our community is not represented!

- Complete survey so Chugiak-Eagle River is represented in the strategy: [Survey Link](#)
- Attend public open house, Beluga Room, Loussac Library on Monday, February 26 4:00 to 7:30 pm.
- Residents are also strongly encouraged to provide feedback using survey link above.

Anchorage Metropolitan Transportation Planning – Severe reduction in Eagle River projects

AMATS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 2-Public Comment Period

<https://publicinput.com/q6273> - Provide feedback before March 15

- \$60M project for Eagle River Road Rehab was eliminated and replaced by \$2M bike path which may not be funded.
- Chugiak-Eagle River receives approximately 2% of transportation funding in spite of paying significant taxes.
- Motion by Arlene Rasic, seconded by Dean Cox for ERVCC to provide Letter strongly objecting to removal of Eagle River Road Rehabilitation funding from 2023-2026 TIP Amendment and supporting addition of funding to update design for same to also include separated pathway for non-motorized users to Ravenwood Elementary School. Create prioritized list; include Artillery Rd. interchange. Ms. Jessen will draft letter.
- Residents are also strongly encouraged to provide feedback using public input link above.

Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District - Informational

First annual Local Work Group Open House on Wednesday, February 28th from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

See Meeting Documents link above for more information. [RSVP here.](#)

Homelessness Task Force Update - Ken McCarty – no report

Mr. McCarty reports that meetings are scheduled but then cancelled by chair Felix Rivera.

Old Business:

Eagle River Community Patrol - Cliff Cook – no report

Platting – Pete Panarese

- Builder Hultquist is requesting a time extension on development of 5.5 acre plot near Lions Club.

Chugiak/Eagle River Parks and Rec Board – Mark Littlefield

- Chugiak Pool will be open for short time; then close for long period for repairs.
- Beach Lake Trail Updates
- RFP planned for Mac Center for new management contractor.
- Baldy trailhead – Plans under development for new parking area and road this summer.

Federation of Community Councils – Tom Freeman – No report.

Emergency Preparedness

Dean Cox

- Training for Community Emergency Response Team will consist of 20 hours of online coursework followed by one (1) day of in-person training.

Education - Tom Roth – see ASD and School Board updates above.

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

CBERRRSA (Road Board) – Crystal Kennedy

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- Avalanche on Hiland Rd was cleared quickly.
- Very expensive year for snow removal. We need to rebuild our snow removal fund. Budget may require increase in mill rate. Tax increase is expected.
- Eklutna Valley Community Council has requested a seat on CBERRRSA board.
- CIP Program includes two sidewalk projects and Citation Rd. in our area.

Adjourned 8:36pm.

Next Meeting April 10, 6:30pm at Alpenglow Elementary School, 19201 Driftwood Bay Dr, Eagle River

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