

EAGLE RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
at Alpenglow Elementary School Library
Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2024, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

- Call to Order: (Quorum - 10 voting members of the Council)
- Approval of Minutes: October 9, 2024, meeting. Motion to approve by Tom Roth, second by Pete Panarese, approved.

Public Safety Reports:

- AFD: Ryan Staten & Chief Schrage
 - 2025 budget update, taking over MCT team.
 - Bond proposals passed, which includes two new ambulances.
 - FD has a mental health crisis team that runs 24 hours a day, 3 days a week.
 - FD obtained a wildfire manager through grants.
 - Chugach Electric is putting up Gridwire Fire-spy systems. There are 30 currently in use. They detect wildfires and notify the FD immediately.
 - The FD provides Firewise Inspections to help residents assess their property and give recommendations on how to be more protected during a wildfire.
 - In the summer the FD has bike helmets for kids that need them.
 - Smoke detectors are available at the fire stations and on the trucks.
 - Lithium batteries are not to be placed in the regular garbage that goes to the dump. In 2020 a lithium battery fire damaged the liner of the Eagle River dump, which is contributing to the odor near Hiland.
 - The dump has a separate designated area to dispose of lithium-ion batteries.
 - Roof collapses for flat roof with wood trusses and gang plates. Flat rooves need to be shoveled and ice dams should be removed.
 - The FD got two new truck companies this year Truck #3 and Truck #5.
 - Anchorage and Eagle River has a 57.4% cardiac arrest survival rate. Really high nationwide. Last year 42 people survived.
 - PulsePoint has dispatch notes of all 911 calls. If you are CPR trained, you can sign up on PulsePoint to be notified of cardiac calls in your neighborhood.
 - <https://www.muni.org/departments/fire/Pages/default.aspx>
 - Gridwire wildfire maps.
 - Strategic plan

Elected Officials Reports:

- Alaska State Legislature: Senator Kelly Merrick
 - Kelly is out of town, but she sent a message for Julie to read.
 - Nov. 30th is the target date for election certification.
 - Town hall event to be scheduled in January.
- Anchorage Assembly Report: Mark Littlefield
 - Several mayoral appointees were approved including a Chief Medical Officer, which is new.
 - Waived procurement requirements for Senior Center so they can get water damage fixed.
 - AO: Free parking for vehicles with handicap tags and increased fines for illegal parking in handicap spaces.
 - AO: 3% sales tax, \$1000 cap. 2% to property tax relief, 1% to capital improvements.
 - AO: Required mandatory ID check for sales of alcohol in restaurants.
 - \$200,000 set aside for Chugiak/Eagle River Comprehensive Plan (2012) and Long-Range Transportation Plan.
 - Split rail fence on Old Glenn, belongs to the State, it needs to be fixed, replaced, or removed.
 - Plow website was rolled out for Anchorage area, doesn't really apply to Eagle River area.
 - New housing dashboard features 13 years of historical data.
 - Working on request for Chugiak Fire Department funding.
 - November 19th is the next assembly meeting.

Officers:

President – Julie Jessen (2026)
V. President – Tom Roth (2025)
Secretary – Sarah Davenport (2027)

Board Members:

Ruth Armstrong (2025)	Tom Freeman (2026)
Arlene Rasic (2025)	Pete Panarese (2027)
Alex Jorgensen (2027)	Crystal Kennedy (2025)

EAGLE RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
at Alpenglow Elementary School Library
Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2024, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

- School Board Report: ASD Board Member, Pat Higgins 2008-2017, 2020-present (907.952.5871)
 - Big changes: Start times, 6th grade in middle school, number of high school courses per day.
 - School closures:
 - Three closures are being proposed this year: Bear Valley, Tudor Elementary, Lake Hood.
 - Four more closures are being proposed over the next two years.
 - Directly related to state funding issue. Over \$200 million behind. This year the school district received “one time” funding. Funding for next year is unknown.
 - Teacher recruitment and retention issues: ASD salary is 20% lower than nationwide, no defined benefit program.
 - Building maintenance is backlogged.
 - 1:15 ratio (K-3) in lower 48, Anchorage is 1:30 (3rd grade).
 - Academies are introducing high schoolers to options for future careers.
 - Reading proficiency question led to discussion of score improvements.
 - 50% of kids entering kindergarten in Anchorage are not ready for kindergarten.
 - By 4th grade ASD students have reading scores that are higher than national average.
 - Question regarding the Fire Lake elementary school building led to discussion of building safety. Charter schools are part of Anchorage School District yet may be located in a strip mall.
 - <https://www.asdk12.org/>

New Business:

- DOT&PF Glenn Highway and Hiland Road Interchange Improvements: DOT&PF Project Manager Galen Jones and DOWL Project Manager Kelly Kilpatrick
 - Galen Jones
 - Enhance highway merging on southbound ramp.
 - Fix bridge; do maintenance to prolong life of the bridge.
 - Kelly Kilpatrick, Dowl Engineering
 - 7am-9am is peak use time.
 - Bridge is 50 years old, with 75-year design life.
 - Five alternatives are being proposed to the public.
 - Public meeting in January.
 - <https://www.glenn-hiland.com/>

- Ram Valley Update: Haley Johnston, Deputy Director of Alaska Trails
 - Chugach State Park has 1.5 million visitors per year.
 - Previous access to Ram Valley was granted by private landowner. In 2019 this access was revoked.
 - A 2024 grant from the State to Alaska Trails (non-profit) is for five-years of funding to create a **feasibility study** for access to the valley. The timeline does not include actual construction.
 - Gus and Joe, both from Eagle River Valley, are on the advisory board.
 - The Chugach State Park Citizens Advisory Board is a 15-person committee.
 - Study is looking in to trail design and parking areas.
 - ADF&G was consulted on dall sheep population.
 - 5 possible alignments are being analyzed and scored by committee. The park will have final say over any action on the feasibility study when it’s finished.
 - A public feedback opportunity is going to be available.
 - <https://www.alaska-trails.org/ram-valley> (maps will be up later this month)
 - “Community Support” was suggested as one on the scoring rubric criteria.
 - A separate stand-alone meeting was suggested for those that don’t attend community council meetings.
 - The 5 options do not cross private property. They all originate on a publicly platted road and the trail is on land that is owned or administered by the DNR/State Park. Recreational Easements currently exist on some private parcels.
 - Road safety is being considered when selecting parking areas.

Officers:

President – Julie Jessen (2026)
V. President – Tom Roth (2025)
Secretary – Sarah Davenport (2027)

Board Members:

Ruth Armstrong (2025)	Tom Freeman (2026)
Arlene Rasic (2025)	Pete Panarese (2027)
Alex Jorgensen (2027)	Crystal Kennedy (2025)

EAGLE RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
at Alpenglow Elementary School Library
Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2024, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

- The 9 scoring criteria will be on the webpage, along with a map with 5 alignment options.
- ADN mistakenly reported that the Nature Center was working in conjunction with Alaska Trails. Do not contact the Nature Center for Ram Valley information.

Informational Reports:

- AKDOT&PF - Two proposed projects: Glenn Highway Airport Heights to Parks Highway Rehabilitation and the Glenn Highway Incident Management Traffic Accommodations. <https://dot.alaska.gov/creg/glenn/>
 - A public meeting is scheduled for November 20th from 4:00pm - 6:30pm in the Community Room at the Chugiak/Eagle River Library.
- Community Council Boundaries 10-Year Review. <https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Projects/Pages/CommunityCouncilBoundariesReview.aspx>
 - Requested resolution from ERVCC, due by February.
 - Recommending no change to boundary
 - 3 parcels that belong to the Heritage Land Bank and BLM, recommend incorporating in to mapped area.
- Long Range Chugiak Eagle River Transportation Plan
 - Chugiak/Eagle River Advisory Board

Committee Reports:

- Eagle River Community Patrol: Cliff Cook
 - Community Patrol logged 14 hours, and 79 miles last month.
 - Lexus Nexxus, APD website shows where crimes are happening in your area.
 - 233 reported crimes and non-crime events that APD assisted on.
 - 85 were more serious, assault and vehicle theft.
 - 15 events in Eagle River Valley, near Eaglewood area and Alpenglow area.
 - 3 patrols in the Chugiak/Eagle River area.
 - Volunteering for thanksgiving blessing, give out full meals to families in need. November 25th sponsored by Food Bank of Alaska.
- Platting: Pete Panarese
 - No report.
- Parks & Rec: Ruth Armstrong/Jared Goecker (Alt)
 - There will be an in person Recreational Trails Plan Public Meeting at Beach Lake Chalet on November 20th from 6:30pm - 9:30pm.
 - 17300 S. Birchwood Loop Rd.
 - Hosted by AMATS and Anchorage Parks and Rec.
 - The plan has not been updated since 1997.
 - <https://publicinput.com/rectrails>
- Federation Community Councils: Alex Jorgensen/Joy Webb (Alt)
 - Absent.
- Emergency Preparedness: (Marvin) Dean Cox mdcox@msn.com 703.209.1532
 - CERT assists first responders with local emergencies like earthquakes and landslides.
 - Online certification and training is available to anyone that wants to participate.
 - 8-10 people are required to bring an in-person training to the area.
- Education: Tom Roth
 - Funding comes from the State per student. Does not fund infrastructure. ASD lost 1000 students this year. Projecting losing another 1000 students next year.

Officers:

President – Julie Jessen (2026)
V. President – Tom Roth (2025)
Secretary – Sarah Davenport (2027)

Board Members:

Ruth Armstrong (2025)	Tom Freeman (2026)
Arlene Rasic (2025)	Pete Panarese (2027)
Alex Jorgensen (2027)	Crystal Kennedy (2025)

EAGLE RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
at Alpenglow Elementary School Library
Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2024, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

- Fire Lake is at 40% of potential capacity. Students would be relocated to other locations that are prepared to receive the students.
- Eagle Academy is a charter school that is currently in a non-school building.
- An Education-Only council meeting will be planned to allow time for more questions and discussion.
- Chugiak/Eagle River Advisory Board: Julie Jessen/Jared Goecker (Alt)
 - No report
- CBERRRSA: Crystal Kennedy/Arlene Rasic (Alt)
 - Need to replace alternate now.
 - Need to replace Crystal's seat in February 2025.

- Comments from Eagle River Community Council Membership/Guests (3 minutes each)

Upcoming Events:

- Next ERVCC meeting will be held on December 11th 6:30 – 8:30pm at Alpenglow Elementary School Library.
- Parks and Rec Board of Supervisors monthly meeting November 18th 6:30 – 8:30pm.
- FCC Meeting November 20th 6:00-8:00pm.
- CBERRRSA Board of Supervisors meeting: November 25th 6:30 – 8:30pm.

Adjournment at 8:23pm

Officers:

President – Julie Jessen (2026)
V. President – Tom Roth (2025)
Secretary – Sarah Davenport (2027)

Board Members:

Ruth Armstrong (2025)	Tom Freeman (2026)
Arlene Rasic (2025)	Pete Panarese (2027)
Alex Jorgensen (2027)	Crystal Kennedy (2025)