

Minutes

South Fork Community Council

February 7, 2019

1. Call to Order at 7:04 p.m. by **Karl Von Lührte, Chair**, in room D107 of the Eagle River High School. There were (14) present at the time of the call, and (2) more arrived late.
2. Brief introductions were made around the room: **Cliff Cook**, Community Patrol, **Mark Littlefield**, CBERRRSA, and **Crystal Kennedy**, candidate for Assembly were present among others.
3. The Agenda was approved as amended by **Karl Von Lührte**, who noted that our members of the State Legislature would be meeting at the Chugiak Senior Center on February 23rd.
4. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved without Amendment.
5. Guest Speakers:
 - a. Alaska Emergency Management Q&A – Earthquake Damage. **Bryan Fisher** reports that the State Disaster Relief Program has been taken over by FEMA and will be extended to at least February 28, 2019. Register by phone (800-621-3362), or online (www.DisasterAssistance.gov). More funding is available under FEMA, going from \$17,000 in the State program to \$34,900 in the Federal program. A business recovery center located in Room 170 of the Eagle River Town Hall will be in operation for 3 weeks M-F, 8-4 until the end of the month. Amounts up to a \$200,000 limit at 2-4% interest will be available. Home owners may also qualify. 260 FEMA inspectors will be working in the Municipality. Applicants can expect a FEMA inspector within 10 days of registration. Garages are not covered under the State program unless they contain essential appliances or have dwelling space above. **Karl** noted that some damage may be unseen or noticed until after breakup; He says it is important to register for relief by March 31st. **Crystal Kennedy** says that a deduction in income tax can be expected from earthquake repairs.
 - b. State Legislature Representative(s): No connection with Kelly Merrick in Juneau.
 - c. **Mark Littlefield**, CBERRRSA, reports that the current (5) year contract for services ends in February 2020. He is expecting a change in both their policies and their business model going forward, and also expects a change in the mil rate. He is looking for input and guidance from the Community Councils. He estimates 20 million dollars in damage to the area's roads. How much FEMA participation we can expect is still uncertain. He says we can table the 2.5 million going toward capital improvement and address some 32 breaks and cracks in area roads. Heather Reed can be called with road snow and ice problems at 343-1510, as per **Crystal Kennedy**, the current Road Board president. The South Fork CC needs a new member on the Board to replace **Jose Vicente**. **Josh Ream** asked Mr. Littlefield about traffic calming on Bird Song. He is collecting signatures on a petition to remedy the on-going problem. Bird Song is being used as a short cut by traffic using Hiland Dr.
 - d. Muni Assembly Representative(s): **Crystal Kennedy** is running for one of the Assembly Seats in our area on April 2nd. That seat is currently occupied by **Gretchen Wehmhoff**, who was appointed to Amy Demboski's spot, but is not running for re-election. **Crystal** is a 25 year resident of Eagle River, currently Chair of CBERRRSA, long time participant in the Eagle River Valley Community Council, and other boards and organizations. She is against changing the Building Permit process for our area. The Questions quickly moved to the Anchorage School District situation, particularly with the pending action on Eagle River Elementary and Gruening Middle School, and the participation of FEMA in that process. While analysis is still on-going, there needs to be an assessment and evaluation of the best way forward, including the location of the schools in question, as well as other alternatives. They have (2) months to work with FEMA on this issue. There will be public meetings at Chugiak High on February 12th, and Eagle River High on February 13th. The Anchorage School District will meet on February 20th. Check on the ASD website for more info.

e. Anchorage School Board: **Lisa Snelling** appeared at 8:07 p.m. She is on the ad hoc committee to address the School issues relating to Earthquake damage. She is a (15) year resident of Eagle River and a School Board member. She is not at this time supporting an alternative to move Gruening middle school to ERHS with a “plan B” expansion. Eagle River elementary students are currently being bused to 4 different area schools. A change in the middle school concept would make Gruening a 6-7-8 grade complex instead of a 7-8 grade school. FEMA participation is critical and what they will support is currently not known. The School District is considering different options, the engineering analysis is still on-going, and the work with FEMA needs to be concluded within 60 days. School District bonds will be on the ballot April 2nd totaling 59 million with 4 million specifically for Chugiak-Eagle River. **Starr Marsett**, then appeared. She will be our Community Council contact on the School Board. The District has lost 500 students in 2017, 700 in 2018, and expects another 500 loss in student numbers in 2019. On February 26th there is a District wide open house for all schools at 6:00 p.m. The public is invited.

f. Community Patrol: **Cliff Cook** reports that they logged 48 hours and 112 miles over the last month. The Anchorage Police Dept “CAP” Officer met with community patrols in February and provided special cell phones. Crime appears to be on the decline. The majority of car thefts occur on unlocked vehicles, and are believed to be used by drug dealers. (10) CAP team officers now serve the Municipality. Need one assigned to our area. Lighting at the school parking lots is not sufficient. Karl will follow up.

6. Old Business: none

7. Committee Reports:

(a) Road Board. **Karl** reports that the budget is on track. **Joe Wright** volunteered to fill the remainder of Jose’s term. Motion to appoint Joe to the Road Board made by Jose Vicente, seconded and approved unanimously. The pullouts being used to access the Mental Health Trust land have been blocked by snow, taking care of the No Parking signs for the time being. Some dog clubs have gotten permission from the MHLT to use the area however. If sand and gravel is needed on your road, call 343-1510.

(b) Parks and Recreation. **Joshua Ream** estimates that 8,500 dollars was lost in revenue at the Mac Center due to the recent earthquake, adding to its financial difficulties. The well at the Beach Lake Chalet has failed as a result of the Earthquake on November 30. The Beach Lake Lodge and Cabin are OK. The Ski Club participation remains good with 167 participants and 100 families engaged in activities. Moose killed by the Alaska Railroad and left on Park roads for pick up have become an issue. Cleanup on site is problematic. **Joe Wright** reports that the Alaska Moose Federation can pick up and remove the entire moose to another location for harvest and disposal of remains for a small fee/donation. The C-ER Dog Park issue remains on-going; more information is needed from the Contractor, and the Board needs more input from the Chugiak Community Council. It is estimated that 25 thousand dollars will be needed to repair the Beach Lake Lodge roof.

(c) Treasurer. **Randy Beilfuss** reports that we have \$201.56 in our account, unchanged.

8. New Business: none

9. Good of the Order open forum: **Joe Wright** is concerned about the Muni Building Service Area (BSA) being expanded to our area without community involvement. **Karl** says that requests for relief from Property Appraisals should be applied for by February 15th. Earthquake damage should be a consideration.

11. The meeting was adjourned about 8:54 p.m.

Andrew Brewer, Secretary

Approved as amended March 7, 2019 at SoFCC Meeting.