

Minutes
South Fork Community Council
October 1, 2020

1. Call to Order at 7:00pm by **Karl von Lührte**, on Zoom. A total of 15 were present with several participants joining later for a total of 17 voting Community Council members and 8 guests (see Guest Speakers, below).
2. Brief introductions were made in Zoom.
3. The Agenda was approved
4. Minutes from the August meeting approved.
5. Guest Speakers:
 - a. **State Legislature, Rep. Kelly Merrick** updates: Voting is coming up; reminder that absentee ballots are available. House Finance meeting is October 2nd.
 - b. **State Legislature, Senate: Kelli Toth** representative not present
 - c. **Crystal Kennedy, Assembly** provided updates on Title 23 changes and was available to answer questions as they arose.
 - d. **School Board: Deena Mitchel** is new rep, not in attendance.
 - e. **Officer Ross** in attendance and answering questions. Some instances of criminals removing porch lights from random houses but no clear rhyme or reason. **Cliff Cook, Community Patrol** reports April through September 173 hours, 9,142 miles. COVID outbreak has had an impact as some older patrol members reduced their time. Community Patrol liaison contact information should be provided this week. “Light bulb bandit” is around; keep an eye on neighbors. Bears are still out, recommends we keep garage doors closed. Requests that we report all crime. Crime does seem to have gone down, maybe as a result of COVID. Donations for gas can also be made to the Community Patrol through the Federation of Community Councils; it is tax deductible.
 - f. **Nancy Clark – Eagle River Library:** Library is currently open and operating, offering pick ups curbside or walk up to check out books. In September, they circulated 20% of the material in the library system. Also offering virtual programming including story times on Facebook Live, book clubs, etc. They also have a personal librarian service where they can take into account what you like and offer new books you may enjoy. Also offering research assistance for students or adults. Online and downloadable resources available.
 - g. **Prop 2 Discussion –Jason Grenn (Yes on 2):** The Ballot measure would change the Alaskan election system; it began with a bipartisan group discussing some of the challenges of the current system. It proposes to: 1. Create one primary ballot rather than having to choose one of the two party primary ballots; it would allow for the top four candidates regardless of party to move to the General election 2. Introduce Rank Choice voting which would provide majority support and promotes voting for third party candidates without “throwing away” the vote. 3. It aims to identify the source of all money in an election and if more than 50% of

that money comes from outside of Alaska, that information is required to be disclosed. **Brett Huber (No on 2):** Ballot Measure 2 is being promoted by out of state funders. Rank Choice Voting requires that voters rank each candidate which could risk ballot not being counted. For the primary election system currently, Independents can choose which ballot they vote on, therefore it is not closed. This reform is a huge change and an experiment. Maine has Rank Choice voting and they are currently working to revoke it. Alaskan elections are open and provide good representation as they are and should not be changed. Our election system isn't broken.

6. Old Business –

- a. **AO 2020-85 Title 23 Change:** Sprinkler portion of this code has not been adopted by the State of Alaska. The concern would be that this adaptation will mean that the Municipality officials can now inspect homes even outside of the Building Service Area. The Advisory Board meeting recommended to the Anchorage Assembly that they wait to vote until after Community Councils have time to review. **Crystal Kennedy** shared that this has been postponed until the October 27th meeting at the Assembly. For an average size home, the cost can be up to \$35,000. This applies to new builds or additions for homes. **Jamie Allard, Assembly,** is also working to stop this or to have it not apply to CER. Both Assembly representatives highly recommend that community members provide public testimony either written or spoken to the Assembly to make an impression and demonstrate how the community feels. A Community Council Resolution could be impactful.
- b. **Joe Wright proposes the motion: South Fork Community Council does not support any changes to Title 23 while we are still living under these emergency restrictions. Furthermore, there should be at least 90 days after the end of emergency restrictions to allow community input.**
Outcome of vote: 16 in favor, 1 abstain, 0 opposed. The motion carries.

7. Committee Reports

- a. Road Board: **Joe Wright** reports that most projects in the SoFCC area are several years out. The repaving of Hiland road seems to have been approved twice by the State by error.
- b. Parks and Recreation: **Joshua Ream** reports that his alternate has had to step down and is now looking for another alternate. Noting that there are squatting problems in some of our undeveloped service area parks and the Municipality does not seem to be willing to provide enforcement. Concerns about Fire Lake access but Parks and Rec only has ownership over the center island at the lake. **Jamie Allard** has been looking into the trouble with Fire Lake and access. Barriers will be left in place for the winter but this will be revisited in the spring. **Cliff Cook** notes that trees were being cut down at the Firehouse Lane Park and people were very upset, but they are only clearing brush and blown over trees, not clear cutting. This has been a controversial park, largely due to its small size and limited parking near Seabolt Lane. The general manager of the Fire Lake Area

Management Inc. (FLAMI) has stepped down; this is following repeated attempts by Parks to get information on budgets and planned improvements to the McDonald Center property. The Board is particularly interested in a trust donation received by FLAMI in 2020 and how those monies are being spent. There have been several upgrades at Beach Lake Park including the installation of a new dock, paving of the driveway, and replacement of doors and windows on the lodge. The roof still needs to be replaced in 2021. There will be no Boo at the Beach event this year.

- c. Treasurer. **Randy Beilfuss** not in attendance, shared at 5:35pm via phone call that SoFCC has \$201.91 in our account.
8. New Business: Elections postponed to the next meeting for the SoFCC.
 9. Good of the Order:
 - a. **Joe Wright** encourages fellow residents to become involved in our community. Lots of opportunities for people to get involved with different Boards.
 10. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm; next meeting is November 5, 2020 and will likely be on Zoom – plan on that unless we hear otherwise.

Janelle Wight, Secretary