

EAGLE RIVER/CHUGIAK PARKS & RECREATION
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Regular Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Eagle River/ Chugiak Parks & Recreation (ERCP&R) Board of Supervisors convened on January 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Teams. Chair Brian Fay called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Brian Fay, Mayor's appointee
Ms. Alexandra Hill, Birchwood Community Council
Mr. Josh Ream, South Fork Community Council (via internet)
Mr. Will Taygan, Chugiak Community Council
Ms. Camilla Hussein, Eagle River Community Council
Mr. Pete Panarese, Eagle River Valley Community Council

Karen Richards, Manager
Josh Durand, Parks and Recreation Director

III. MINUTES

The November minutes were approved.

IV. APPEARANCES - (none)

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Harry J McDonald Center –

Welcome Steve McSwain from the board. Pat McCormick has told us he anticipates needing a significant subsidy for 2021. It can take some time to put this request through municipal processes. Brian asks Steve to let us know his role and impressions so far. He has been at the Mac 2 months so far – it's an honor to be there. He has lots of ideas, but for today he will be short. As the new guy, there's a learning process; the Mac Center is different than places he's worked before. On the budget, Pat has noted that December was better than expected, with an estimated small (\$1500) profit. If Jan and Feb are like December, it pushes out the timing of the cash subsidy need perhaps until March. Brian asks if he's worked with Reid in the transition; he has, a little, but holidays have left limited time to coordinate. He's taken the information Reid passed on and is thinking about what he learned, in the context of all the ideas he has. Steve leaves the meeting and we continue to discuss the Mac Center.

Josh Ream asks a procedural question – what happens with the audio recording of the meetings? Karen answers that the recordings are public. Josh is concerned that FLAMI may not know our concerns with their management. Brian agrees, but had hoped Pat McCormick would be here, because Steve is too new to be able to answer the sorts of questions we have. Josh doesn't want them to be surprised when we don't recommend a sole source contract. Brian refers that question to Josh Durand. He replies that he thinks that he and Karen can use the board better, not to deal with the day to day issues, but bring us in when they need our input. Brian notes that we as a board were very active in the FLAMI issues several years ago, and our involvement might be necessary. We're responsible as a board for the financial

impact of our decisions. Josh D thinks that he feels FLAMI conversations are often on incomplete information, so not ready to be elevated to board level. Will asks if our financial role is unusual. Josh D replies that the in-town board does not have that role, and Brian points out that it's different from most boards. Josh D thinks it would be useful to have a document of processes, roles and responsibilities. Will notes that he's not super concerned with the details of Mac Ctr management, but is concerned with a large subsidy request. Josh R finds he gets confused about many of the issues. Lexi notes that there are two big issues we have with the FLAMI board – lack of communication and incomplete information. Karen notes that with a new manager, Josh and Karen moving forward can lay down expectations, probably in writing. She thinks that, with a new manager, we can lay the groundwork for a much more productive relationship. The expectation since the expansion has been that they will operate without subsidy. The board asks if Steve is aware of the history and issues, like the bonus. We are not sure. Josh R notes that he doesn't see the professional management skills that he would expect. Josh asks if we will be involved in requesting subsidies. Yes, we will need to be as it's a term of the contract.

B. Park/Trail Oversight – Update.

Karen notes that the ski jump out put up at Loretta French over the weekend was well constructed, but unfortunately had to go away. Ski Club permits for trail use are underway – a few are late but catching up. The Chalet will continue to be closed – there are Rent-a-Cans at the trailhead. Outdoor ice: we, ASD and volunteers are maintaining town square, Mirror Lake, Fire Lake Elementary; public skate venues. There are hockey rinks at Mirror Lake Middle School, Alpenglow, and Ravenwood, and a very small community rink at Spirit Park. Sledding hills getting lots of use and rave reviews. Only one complaint, about sanding the walkway at town square park. At New Years, Loretta French had fireworks and trash cans set on fire, but that was the only problem we had.

Will had requested that we talk about the Eklutna Water Line through Mirror Lake Park. In response to a question from his community council, he looked at our trails plans (bicycle, pedestrian, trails). Josh D talks about issues around trails plans and trail development. Will notes that Chugiak CC has been requesting safety paths, through CBERRRSA, and has been getting them. He wonders how many of the trails on the plan are real trail projects, as opposed to just a line on a map. Pete notes that it's difficult to actually implement things that affect subdivision plats; Eagle River Greenbelt was a project, but is costly, and has some terrain problems. Will notes that there's not much mention of these projects in any plans, except Eagle River Greenbelt and the water line. He thinks most of the trails in the plan are already there as social trails. But he sees the potential for new trails, being reduced as times go on. Brian asks if Will thinks it's part of our role to consider these larger trail connections. Josh notes that these sorts of projects can be triggered by Community Council requests to assembly or state representatives; AMATS funding is some of the more available funding for these sorts of things, with modest local matches. It helps if projects are part of an adopted plan. In Anchorage they got funding for the Fish Creek trail and a small northern extension of the coastal trail. Brian thinks it's a worthwhile endeavor to look at. It could make sense to see what from the map might be doable. Will notes (as a trail builder, not cc rep) that he's talked to Eklutna and asked about whether they were involved in the original plan. Will has been meeting with Noel, but has been recommended to meet with Steve Connelly (the land manager).

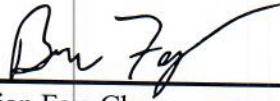
- C. Cares Act Funding.
 Josh D: Crystal Kennedy asked what we do with Beetle Kill; we have the information, and will eventually put it into GIS; right now we have notes. In Eagle River, we have one dedicated crew. They worked for 12 weeks in our area, focusing on areas near actively used spaces. Bulk was in Beach Lake area; also Eliason Park, Schroeder Park, Loretta French; in Peters Creek park (near disc golf) there is both beetle kill and other dead spruce. There is still a lot of work to do in other parks. We are applying for a lot of grant opportunities; some include reforestation. In the future you'll see parks, volunteers, and youth conservation camps re-planting. Additionally, some round 1 CARES they was used to hire a manager to manage 8 elementary school outdoor rinks, including Fire Lake Elementary. In Round 2 funding, Will got money for his singletrack projects; also on the list is a new roof for the Nature Center, and some money going to Girdwood for Trail improvements. Will tells us that CMBR got about \$155,000 to build a bike playground at the Mirror Lake trailhead as well as do some associated repairs on nearby trails. They will also integrate the bike area with the picnic area better. They will have a pump track, a few jumps, all safely designed for relatively novice riders. There will be a series of balance features as well.
- D. Dog Park – Update
 Karen – Maeve looked at the Peters Creek site, and they will have a discussion about the priorities – whether to include Fire House Lane in the current project or not – and she will take up where the public process left off. She'll go briefly back over our site selection process to date and will then have a meeting to get public feedback and move forward. In February's board meeting, she will have a presentation on where we are and what she sees as being needed. She should be able to provide a cost estimate based on what's most needed, as well as taking into account materials we have stockpiled. Josh R asks for clarification about how this new public meeting fits in our public involvement process. For example, what if there were a lot of opposition, as there was for Firehouse Lane? Karen replies that we would have to deal with that, and we would try to mitigate any valid concerns raised. Karen feels that dealing with just the one site will help clarify issues and will also take out the very loud voices about Firehouse Lane. Will thinks the nearby property owner will be unhappy, because they will lose their 'back yard' park. Josh notes that Brian has let all the adjacent property owners know before the last meeting, and they did not show up at the meeting to object. Brian has a related question – do we have some of Maeve's time on a regular basis now? Josh notes that about 30% of her time will be dedicated to Eagle River/Chugiak.
- E. FEMA / Quake repairs - no update
- F. Parks & Rec Maintenance Storage Yard Site (Old Glenn) No update
- G. Mt. Baldy Parking no update
- H. Chugiak Eagle River Cemetery No update.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Proposed Title 17 Amendment – Animals in Public Places
 Linda notes that this will call for more enforcement, when we already don't have enforcement capability. She also notes that we don't have off-leash areas designated out

here so it's more problematic for us even than in Anchorage. Pete asks Josh D about the motivation behind this legislation. Josh is not certain, but his guess is some felt that that there was too much room for interpretation. There was a lot of feedback that comes from people who come to the animal control advisory board meetings. He thinks it might make sense for our community to be different. Pete notes that it's been a very time consuming issue in the past. Looking at the ordinance, it does mostly more clearly define things. Josh R asks why this item is on our agenda – do we play a role in this? If we wanted to exclude Eagle River/Chugiak from this, could we make that recommendation? Josh D said we could. Lexi objects to two aspects of the changes: (1) – it doesn't solve the problem, and (2) they added lots of specific language that doesn't work very well. Will notes more examples of poorly thought out specifics, such as whether mountain bikes with dogs on narrow trails need to be leashed. Karen notes that this doesn't preclude us from designating parts of our area where we allow loose dogs, although that would be risky with unintended consequences. Camilla notes that there are areas in Eagle River this could helpfully apply to, but not the whole area. Will would like us to oppose this as written. Will makes a motion that the *Eagle River/ Chugiak Parks and Recreation Board of Supervisors would like to exempt Eagle River from the changes as written* Josh R seconds Unanimous.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.



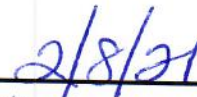
Brian Fay, Chair

February 8, 2021

Date



Karen Richards, Manager



Date