

EAGLE RIVER/CHUGIAK PARKS & RECREATION
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Regular Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Eagle River/ Chugiak Parks & Recreation (ERCP&R) Board of Supervisors convened on February 8, 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
Mr. Will Taygan, Chugiak Community Council
Ms. Camilla Hussein, Eagle River Community Council
Mr. Pete Panarese, Eagle River Valley Community Council

Karen Richards, Manager
Tanya Iskra, Administrative Officer
Josh Durand, Parks and Recreation Director

III. MINUTES

The January minutes were approved.

IV. APPEARANCES

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Harry J McDonald Center – Steve McSwain

There was a \$4 – 5,000 positive cash flow this month. They did apply for another PPE loan and were approved; the money is not here yet. They will soon have a COVID trailer that will be at the Mac Center on Mondays & Thursdays to test kids before games. Steve met with Karen and went over lock and sound system issues. That ends Steve's report, and he leaves the meeting. Brian continues with some questions: have there been communication with Pat or the FLAMI board?; and is there any new information on the sound system? Karen notes that they have approved the replacement system; the motherboard and controlling equipment is very old and does need to be replaced, and complete replacement is only a bit more than that. There is a \$35,000 invitation to bid on the street, and we have spent \$7,000 to get to this point. We had set aside \$60,000 total for the project. Once the bids are in, we'll see what the cost actually would be. Once we know that we can discuss funding with the FLAMI board. Right now, the money has been fronted from the Mac Center reserve for capital improvements. Tanya and Karen will be walking through next month reviewing the phone system, starting the process all over. Brian asks again why we are investing in a fixed phone system, rather than mobile phones. Karen is keeping options open and will talk to Steve. Brian also asks if Karen has a sense of where we are with the financials. Karen is talking to (Mac Ctr) Karen to resolve some questions. She has not heard from Pat at all since he told us he anticipates needing cash in March. Also, Pat has requested to eliminate the retainage. Tanya and Karen have put together a spreadsheet with the last 5-6 years of income and

expenses to show trends.

B. Park/Trail Oversight – Update.

The trails are looking great – Bill has been doing wonders with the icy conditions. The ski clubs are doing well, even without the Chalet. She has been meeting with the softball players – they are using Loretta French and planning a Jamboree and state tournament and are willing to meet Karen’s COVID-19 requirements. They will be working on the fields quite a bit and will get discounts on their seasonal permits. Next year we should be at full permit price. The Chinooks are still planning on coming this year. All the lakes have been calm. Will reports that the single tracks are in excellent condition. Project update: Single track improvements – Will is working with Maeve on design. Beach Lake lights/poles: We will be replacing those that need it. Maeve will be seeing what needs replacement; Jacques is hoping that no re-wiring will be needed, that there is new wiring on the old poles and between the old poles. If we have to replace the old wiring underground, it would be costly. Schroeder Park tennis courts: Maeve will be looking at what is needed to repair the surface and deal with root systems. The pickle ball people are eager to use them. Maeve’s other project is the dog park, below.

C. Dog Park – Update

Maeve and Nicolette are working on dog park issues. She was looking through all the material from R&M, and from Brian’s survey. They went out to the site and determined that she’ll need to make a new presentation and start over with the public process. Will asks if we considered the NW quarter for a dog park. He doesn’t see that as a high value for single track/ski trail development. Discussion diverges into NW quarter issue – Karen sees it as a place for year-round walkers, people with their dogs, families, etc. Will asks if the dog park is envisioned as a fenced-in area, or a larger area with trails (like University lake). Karen says more like University Lake, but with fencing around the edge, a trail in the outer part and open area in the middle. Will asks why the parking lot down in Peters Creek park is locked. Because of drug use and vandalism. It does get opened for rentals. Will wonders if the whole area could be opened as a dog park. Possibly, as a phase 2; it has been discussed. There is more discussion about where parking might be placed. And using more of what we have. Brian points out that the area under current consideration is not being used, and that was one reason for putting a dog park there. Once plans are firm, we could be looking at a 2022 build. We discuss how Firehouse Lane would actually be ideal for a dog park. Brian asks Josh D. how to deal with the neighbors’ objections to that area. Josh notes that in a really well-facilitated meeting the many can drown out the loud. Lexi says that there are other reasons for putting Peters Creek first – it will draw the most use and keep a later Firehouse Lane park from being overcrowded. Josh D adds that we’ll be able to show the community that a dog park can work, we will be better able to advocate for this one. We discuss the issues around reflexive opposition to use of the public park by the public.

D. Proposed Title 17 Amendment – Animals in Public Places

Brian notes that he crafted our resolution and sent it off to the Assembly and the Animal Control Advisory Board. Brian did attend the ACAB meeting. They are still working to

make a better ordinance. And the ordinance will cover here as well as there. Pete discusses his experiences with dogs. This weekend they had a bad experience with a friend losing a dog to a trap – so he’s a fan of leashes. His daughter’s dog is very well trained and is on or off leash, depending on circumstance. He does see how the regulation can cause confusion about what’s allowed. Also, dogs on leash can be a problem if the leash stretches across the trail. We discuss the specifics of the law, and pros and cons of different approaches. Lexi pitches her definition of ‘dog under control’. Brian would like to submit something more constructive than just objecting.

- E. Parks & Rec Maintenance Storage Yard Site (Old Glenn)
M&O has complete drawings and are going to purchasing to get an invitation to bid. The Engineer’s estimate is \$750,000 for the bid – about \$150,000 more than Karen had anticipated. We will not be able to have any equipment in there over 10,000 lbs. because code would then require sprinklers, which would raise the cost too much. Those larger pieces of equipment will need to be in the second building (when we get to that point) because it will need sprinklers anyway.
- F. Chugiak Eagle River Cemetery
There is a site selection report. Will notes that the GIS in that report is not good, because the Muni’s GIS is incomplete. Brian notes that the sites are all parks or Eklutna land; he thinks it will be key to get community council input on if this is a use they want for their parks. Josh D notes that he now has the Anchorage cemetery in his purview, and he’s learned something of the history. Girdwood is ready to build a cemetery, but will need to bond for it, and feels there will have to be benefits to the larger community in order for the bond to pass. If there is a site in Eagle River/Chugiak (as it would be a good thing to have out here), then that may be a bond that people will vote for. The Girdwood cemetery backers believe Anchorage will vote for an areawide bond if it is all pitched as the two sites serving an areawide need (more cemetery space), which does exist. But if the site is to be on park property, those who are advocating for these cemeteries will need to get our, and our communities’ approval. Tanya notes while there aren’t a lot of muni-owned cemeteries, there are many other cemeteries (JBER, and privately owned) and we are not running out of space for Anchorage, overall. There is also the possibility of a private cemetery in our area. Karen adds that she also has heard that the funeral homes out here were interested in establishing a cemetery; she asked the cemetery committee if they had talked to funeral homes. They had not. Lexi comments that it sounds as if there is a lot more information needed, about space needs are and what’s available.
- G. AMATS
Will asked for this item to be added. He feels that the new AMATS plan is not good. This is supposed to be an update, but the old plan is much better. Some of the things that were in the old plan, but not the new plan, have been built, but what’s built is not shown on the new plan. Also, the planners realized they could not do a comprehensive trails update. Will feels that this is a poor guide to the next 30 years. Josh D. did share some of Will’s emails with the Planning Director but did not get much of an answer. The point of the plan is for transportation-centric trails – they may be recreational, but to be in the plan must also serve a transportation purpose. The recreational trails would be a future update. Based on this plan, he doesn’t think an AMATS-organized recreational trail plan would serve us well. He can’t say why all the planned trails from older plans are no longer there. And he feels that those earlier planned improvements should be included, not lost. Lexi

asks what we should do – we should get our community councils to pay attention; and perhaps comment as a board. Comments due March 5. Brian thinks it's important that things be in the plan, or they won't happen. We will take this back to our councils.

VI. ACTION ITEMS (none)

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2021 Summer Camp

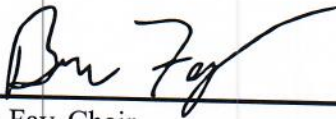
We are cancelling summer camp again this summer. There are so many challenges – for example trying to use ASD facilities, where they do not want to commit until May. ASD only wants to allow 8 weeks of camp (which makes it hard to hire). This year we will try to re-vision what we can do for the community, and what's the best way to run the camp moving forward. Perhaps we can supplement the camps that have emerged out here without directly competing with them. Karen discusses several ways we could do this. Brian notes that it is great to hear us thinking about how to provide recreation, as well as parks, to the community.

B. Brian notes that he's like to spend some time on two issues we've neglected – board governance and elections.

VIII. TABLED ITEMS

- A. Cares Act Funding
- B. MT. Baldy Parking
- C. FEMA/Quake Repair Projects

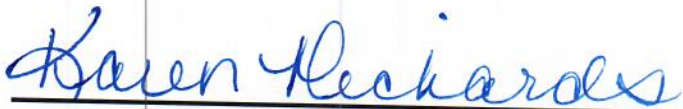
VIII. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.



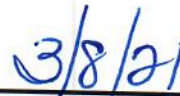
Brian Fay, Chair

March 8, 2021

Date



Karen Richards, Manager



Date