

EAGLE RIVER/CHUGIAK PARKS AND RECREATION
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Regular Meeting Minutes – July 12, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Eagle River/Chugiak Parks and Recreation (ERCP&R) Board of Supervisors convened on July 12, 2021, at 7:00 pm in person. Chair Pete Panarese called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

~~Ms. Alexandra Hill, Birchwood Community Council~~

Ms. Barbara Frost, Birchwood Community Council Alternate

Mr. Josh Ream, South Fork Community Council

Mr. Will Taygan, Chugiak Community Council

Ms. Camilla Hussein-Scott, Eagle River Community Council

Mr. Pete Panarese, Eagle River Valley Community Council

Josh Durand – Parks and Recreation Director

Tanya Iskra – Parks and Recreation Senior Officer

III. MINUTES

The May minutes were approved.

IV. APPEARANCES

Assemblywoman Jamie Allard appeared to discuss the recent ERCP&R audit.

Brian Fay appeared as a notetaker for the Board.

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Eagle River/Chugiak Parks and Rec Audit

Assemblywoman Allard and Josh D. begin by discussing the audit and the assembly meeting. The assembly did not pass the audit and it was discussed in a work session open to the public where Josh D. was able to go through and say how this is going to be fixed to prevent it from happening in the future as well as immediate fixes. The assembly is most likely going to be moving forward with an investigation. Mrs.

Allard has been receiving accusations from the public that live in the area and employees that use to work for ERCP&R going back 5 years. All information she receives is forwarded to the Muni HR Director to be handled. The HR director then reports to the new municipal manager Amy Demboski who then reports to the mayor.

Josh D. discusses the results of the work session. Guiding programmatic documents will be established for all things critiqued in the audit such as special events and inventory. They will then go back to the board with a recommendation of an annual budget for each one of those things. He states that he cannot speak to personnel matters as relates to an active investigation but can answer questions as it relates to the board. The audit has impacted moral. Will wants to know the plan for the interim and how roles have changed for the boards and publics interaction. He states that he is working with Tanya and the office staff to fill that void the best he can. Pete says that there is nothing that ties the Board to this, and it is between Josh D and his staff but does ask who Karen's supervisor is. Josh D. states that it is him and there is no superintendent between them. Barbara asks what are the range of actions that are being considered on the personnel issue. Josh D. believes that there will be some sort of disciplinary action, but that HR has not shared anything they have learned with him yet other than that they have been working on this for some time.

Josh R. wants to know ways that they can help to correct this in the future but wonders where the oversight and how this was allowed to happen. Josh D. takes responsibility and states that he was told the spaces were being used due to the earthquake and that there is a storage facility being built. He also looks at the budget every week and related to the P-card he would be looking at operating supplies and we were spending less than normal, and nothing flagged. Will wants to understand the impact that this is having on the money and the staffing. Jamie has requested the audits for the past five years to see if there is a pattern. Once the HR investigation is complete only the outcome will be discussed, no details will be released. No one is sure how long the investigation will take. The plan moving forward is to scan all purchasing documents in so it will all be available on the g-drive for approval. Measures are being taken to improve accountability. Pete would like to begin looking for assistance from Josh and Tanya on the budget in the future but ultimately what is happening with the audit is for the Municipality to handle. Barbara disagrees and believes that the board does have a say in the budget function such as plans and activities as well as if there is mismanagement of funds. Camilla states that the board has the right to see an overall summary of the budget and can ask for further explanation if something seems off. Brian states that the annual budget is to go through the board for approval before going to the assembly. He also states that the board has big budgeting numbers on projects that are primarily dealt with and do not know how much money is spent and how much income is brought in from special events such as Boo at the Beach. He also thinks it is a big step to use terms such as mismanagement as the board has not been given all the information yet. Jamie reminds the board that the audit report is fact and that the responsibility of the board to view what ERCP&R is spending. Josh R. agrees that the board should see more of the financials, using FLAMI as an example. Will states that the board should only review annually and not micromanage as they are not the Director. Pete believes that there should be some form of oversight.

Josh R. asks what projects are being impacted with the audit and Karen's administrative leave. Josh D. states that FEMA funding did present a challenge, but they were able to work around it so that the money is not lost. The dirt work for softball is actively happening. Jamie, Tanya, and Josh D. also discuss the Parks & Rec personnel. Josh D. states that a hard look needs to be taken at the organizational chart and that there are two missing positions, including the person on administrative leave. Tanya states that some PDs need to be written after the funding is looked at to fill the missing position. Josh is actively working on the org. chart.

- B. The board discusses if they are meeting in August. Josh R. would like to meet in August to hear on what can be said about the budget issue relating to the audit and what has been facilitated and if help is needed. He also wants to hear from FLAMI as well as other topics that have not been able to be discussed. Will makes a motion to take August off. There is no second and the motion is withdrawn. The board will meet in August.
- C. Camp Gorsuch has some of their picnic tables and some of their campgrounds on municipal property. The board discusses possible options such as permitting.

VII. **ADDITIONAL**

- A. Josh R. asks Jamie if she has been tracking the Muktuk Marston trail proposal from Chugach and South Fork Trail Head parking lot. Jamie states that the state budget to fund the project passed but was not taken up by the state senator or representative to the governor. There was a concern for South Fork residents about extending the parking lot as well as people bringing their horse trailers. She is working with the engineer department to get more signage posted about the fire lane. It is a state park issue. Jamie suggests a possible shuttle and Will suggests discussing later other possible access points and options for parking.

VIII. **TABLED ITEMS**

- A. MT. Baldy Parking
- B. Chugiak/Eagle River Cemetery
- C. AMATS Non-Motorized Transportation Plan

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.


Pete Panarese, Chair

August 6, 2021
Date


Josh Durand, Director

AUGUST 6, 2021
Date