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www.biglakecommunitycouncil.com
Big Lake Lions Rec Center

General Membership Meeting Minutes: February 7, 2017

1. Call to Order/Determination of Quorum

This meeting was called to order at 6:02pm with a quorum established and board members present as follows: Casey Steinau -- President; Sandy Baker-- Vice President; Diane Lada -- Secretary; Cathy Mayfield -- Member; Yvonne Ruth--Treasurer. (Absent: Jennifer Tew, Margaret Billinger)

2. Pledge of Allegiance-- group

3. Approval of Agenda--

Cathy made a motion to approve the agenda and Sandy seconded.

4. Approval of Minutes – dated January 10, 2017

Sandy made a motion to approve meeting minutes with corrections, and Cathy seconded for approval.

5. Update on Big Lake Pre-K Program—Big Lake Grade School – The Federal Programs representative spoke about our funding information and expectations for the future. Along with Lucy Hope, Director of Special Education; Pre-schools are not funded as a part of the K-12 system. In order to have pre-school programs, we have to find grants to keep them supported. Indian Education Act has funding set aside for such programs. Title 1 is another way to fund these programs along with Student Support Services. However, each year, those grant dollars are reduced. Big Lake may be at risk to lose their pre-school, but with careful attention to budgetary changes, extra efforts may be needed to seek outside sources for grant dollars. Big Lake Elementary has a *Special Education Pre-school* program for 20 years now and will continue into the future, consistent in its funding source.

Questions: How much is the cost for general education Pre-School? It was noted that the cost is for personnel (3.5 employees) mostly, with benefits attached as well. (\$80-90,000/personnel)

If community members want to support the program, who do they contact? The Governor would be a first contact. The House Members would also be a point of contact.

6. Persons to Be Heard—

Yvonne Ruth – read a letter to Community Council Members from Sammy Taylor. Expressed concern about the Big Lake transfer site may reduce its days (closed on Sunday and Mondays)

of operations. Sunday is an ideal day for many to haul trash and recyclables. If you agree that the site should remain open on Sundays, please contact Butch Shapiro at macey.shapiro@maysugov.us or at 746-2841. Also Char Avril at Charlene.avril@marsugov.us or 746-2841. Perhaps better days to close the site would be Tuesdays or Wednesdays to keep our recycling site available to the public.

Jill Parson – Would like to see *persons to be heard* at the bottom of the agenda, like the General Assembly format, so that new information can be presented first and then discussed. The order change would be helpful. Do basic reports first, and then later address persons to be heard. Secondly, Alaska *WildBird Rehab Center* is having a free event on Saturday from 12-3pm –Owlentine Celebration. Bringing all owls available for learning and celebrate Valentine’s Day a little early. Casey noted that we should “give a hoot” about this event!

John Rush – Update on the 907 Club: Testified at the Mat-Su Borough Board meeting noting the number one priority of government is to protect its citizens. The club will be right on a bike trail and presents danger. DOT has commissioned a traffic safety study—R & M Engineering will complete pedestrian safety and traffic safety. He would like to send a letter to the Borough to wait on the club approvals, till the traffic safety study is complete. References to a “bar” have caused the Borough to relook at what is allowable in this plot. They were allowing a restaurant but Mr. Button has met that with appeals.

Cindy Bettini – Her property is next to the planned 907 Club with concern; part of the update is that this issue has gone to the Board of Adjustments and Appeals. Two people are appealing this decision. Never had a vote on this issue since we have been unable to get a motion from the Board of Directors. She feels as well that a motion should be made to vote on waiting for the traffic study to be completed before any approvals. Also, she presented a letter of variance on Diane Lane roundabout. This was received by council today. Casey will cover this on Land Use and Planning on the agenda.

Lori Boltz – Shared information regarding Andy Murr’s application for limited marijuana cultivation facility in his garage. Many have shared letters of objection regarding this application. Now asking that Big Lake Community Council establish guidelines according to State regulations of the marijuana industry. Also requesting that the BLCC board read the regulations and determine what can be done to stop these businesses from forming in our backyards. Recent reports confirm rising crime in and around the valley with a common denominator of drugs. She provided a handout that included local options by our community council to block these applications. Once again, a motion was requested to get something going against this issue.

7. Treasurer’s Report—Yvonne shared the current budget report :
 - a. Checking \$26,748.80
 - b. Savings \$281.11
8. Membership Report-- Casey presented the current membership report at **43** in total

9. Reports— General Assembly: No one available to report, but Casey spoke to them regarding the marijuana grow facility rules. As well, she shared information about the revenue sharing grants program for the community. Total for this coming year is \$12,900.00.

Big Lake Grade School: Bre Reintsma—Principal of the Elementary School-Parent teacher conferences are next week along with Science night on Wednesday (2/15/17). At the end of the month is a combined concert with Houston Middle School, Tuesday Feb. 28th. Skate night sponsored by the PTO at 6pm on Friday night.

Fire Service – no report

Road Service – Bill Haller announced the next meeting is in March as they meet quarterly. New contractor has been busy with much snow, but there is a problem with residents plowing their driveway snow out onto the road. There is numerous places where the road is encroached upon dramatically. Response time has been excellent with roads cleared within 24 hours of notice.

Chamber of Commerce: Cathy Mayfield announced the Fishing Derby on Feb. 18th and 19th in conjunction with the Iron Dog—please do not drill holes in the Iron Dog chute. Also, a Family Fun Run on the 18th.

Valley Recycling: Jo Walch reported that the Recycling Coalition held their meeting this past January, 2017 and reported that solid waste management budget is \$9million dollars. Our recycling efforts resulted in a 3.5 weeks' worth of trash that was saved from the line. They developed a road map for the recycling management system and hired a consultant for assistance with progress.

10. Correspondence—Casey presented one letter from the Mat-Su Recycling Coalition regarding the plastic bag usage survey. The hazards of single-use grocery bags adds up to 26 million in use each year and less than 3% are recycled annually. Called the “bag it campaign”

11. Land Use/ Platting-

Casey spoke of the Diane Lane roundabout that has resulted in a subdividing petition of that lot. First, they would like to divide that into two properties d/t the road down the middle of it. Typically there is a 60ft ROW dedicated between the two. With construction, it resulted in only a 50ft ROW. The Borough did not complete the approval process before construction originally. So the request is being asked after the fact. The response is due Feb. 16th.

Cindy Bettini spoke of the grant waiver that Tim McGhan noted which was after completion of the project. She asked that the Board write a letter to postpone; until we can see what the drainage looks like in-season. Casey spoke to the Council's response to such projects is 30 days, but with late mailings, sufficient time is not always available to give notice.

Bill Haller was called upon to address what verbiage to use in the request. He noted “positive drainage” is important in the ask.

Ken Walch was involved in the original pre-construction phase. The request regarding drainage will affect Diane Lane and Northshore. The real issue is the platting process.

Casey reiterated the vote request: The Board will write a letter responding to the objection of the proposed resolution until positive drainage is observed. *A motion was entertained that a letter be sent to the Borough requesting more information on positive drainage and snow removal before we can comment.*

Sandy motioned and Cathy seconded.

This is an excellent opportunity to contact our assemblymen for comment, Dan Mayfield @ 602-8490

Vote taken by the raising of hands: the ayes have it, affirming the letter

12. Unfinished Business--

13. New Business—Casey noted several topics for next month's agenda:

- 1) Where the plan is on the 907 Club in regards to the Safety Study
- 2) Where plans are developing for the marijuana grow facility (Wants planned educated speakers to address these issues, the laws and the business aspects of this industry)
- 3) Going to address what a SpUD (Special Use District) looks like
- 4) What covenants and restrictions look like in regards to property management

Also, a letter to the DOT was sent to one of our community members in November 2016 in response to a request for a street light at the Big Lake Rd and Beaver Lake Rd intersection. Due to a high demand for lights, the department looks first at crash history. This particular intersection does not qualify for installation based on that history. It would have to be community paid if the request is still made. *Casey is requesting the BLCC write a letter stating support for the installation of a street light at the Big Lake Rd and Beaver Lake Rd intersection. Traffic numbers will be provided as well.*

Motion made to move forward with this letter: Sandy supported with Cathy seconding the motion

Tim offered 18 mercury vapor lights for use in this project.

Vote: in favor affirmed

14. Announcements—Bill Haller—Pond Hockey-Gomez Foundation-March 10, 11 and 12th on Big Lake at Burkshore Marina.

15. Board Member's Comments—Sandy welcomed our members to stay for the Airport Planning meeting scheduled immediately after this council adjourns.

16. Adjournment--

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm
Minutes respectfully submitted,

Diane Lada, Secretary

