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Big Lake Lions Rec Center

General Membership Meeting Minutes: January 10, 2017

1. Call to Order/Determination of Quorum

This meeting was called to order at 7:04pm with a quorum established and board members present as follows: Casey Steinau -- President; Sandy Baker-- Vice President; Diane Lada -- Secretary; Jennifer Tew -- Member; Cathy Mayfield -- Member; Margaret Billinger -- Member; (Yvonne Ruth, Treasurer absent).

2. Pledge of Allegiance-- group

3. Approval of Agenda--

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

4. Approval of Minutes – dated December 13, 2016

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

5. Big Lake Airport Master Plan – **Thomas Middendorf, DOWL** – The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has just started the Big Lake Airport Master Plan along with the help of DOWL, mapping out a 20 year plan for airport development. The goals of this project include the following: 1) Safety –for all traffic levels over time 2) Efficiency—as we invest wisely, that serves future needs 3) Compatibility--(Environmentally and Community level)—keeping the Big Lake network functional with 230 acres of real estate amidst the surrounding neighbors.

Project Started: Late December 2016 (1st Stages)—Copies of the plan made available in the meeting for all to review. The project will take about 12 months, as they are in the inventory stage currently. The objective here is to develop a comprehensive list of needs, desires and issues to address future planning over a 20 year span.

Chris Cole –the Mat-Su Aviator Advisor was recognized-- spoke of the Public Open House-Feb 7, from 7-9pm in the small room of the Big Lake Lions Club (conflict of time with our BLCC as noted by Sandy Baker—we will be meeting the same day). A goal of the plan is whether Big Lake Airport should become an *obligated airport*; refers to funding. An unobligated airport is State funded improvements, where obligated is an airport, made with federal funding. Although strings attached with federal funding, there are trade-offs. State funding develops projects quicker, not as demanding design standards, but state funds are hard to come by these days. FAA has grants for developing airports-

many regulations attached to using these funds, with demanding design standards and how your airport will be operated.

State of Alaska gets about \$135 million/year of federal funds for airport improvements; makes up 90% of AK capitol program. There will be 3 alternatives to this development. The unobligated alternative is a modest alternative. There will be a federally funded alternative, more aggressive. And then a moderate alternative, by May 2017 draft for input. Then it will be taken back to the DOT for selections. Final plan around November 2017 for public comment.

Website available for all community members at biglakeairportmasterplan.com

Questions: 1) Bill Kramer—can you give a rundown of the tie between the land airport and the water entry area past the park? Thomas—the park is part of the municipal property and not part of the airport. Of course most crafts are brought in by trailer across the highway and onto Homestead Rd., then to the runway. We need to manage this better. It is possible to shift the runway further to the East. 2) Diane Lada asked if there are any foreseeable conflicts with all the private airstrips in BL that would affect planning and Thomas could not see any to date. Also, there is a shortage of lease lots—need to find a way to double the number of lease lots and have them available within 5 years. There are obstructions on the West end of the runway needing attention. Also, another problem is vandalism and ATV riders not allowed to be on airport runways; all have asked for proper fencing. EMS emergency access will be available.

6. Persons to Be Heard--

Jim Boltz: A 23-year resident of BL and here to inform the council of Andy Murr, his neighbor, applied for a Commercial Marijuana Cultivation Facility in his home, in the middle of Anderson Point Subdivision. His concern is a commercial marijuana growing facility in a residential neighborhood (Anderson Point and Lakeview Subdivisions) is inappropriate. This will impact our neighborhood's property values along with a multitude of other reasons, and is asking the Big Lake Community Council to oppose this operation and the application.

Robin Carvalho: Here to remind everyone that next week the legislature is reconvening and if they have concerns about the alcohol issues in our community, they need to be heard. There are changes to be made for this session and it is good time for those in the more rural areas to speak up.

Joe Walch: The Mat-Su Borough Waste Management committee is looking to do away with white plastic bags seen in our community. She is passing around a survey for your input; they want to know if you would support placing a fee on the single-use plastic bags; what amount and if you would consider placing a ban on their use.

Scott Wilson: Lives in the same subdivision as the Boltz and he opposes the marijuana cultivation facility and would like the BLCC to do the same when it comes up for application. It is currently at the state level for an application. This type of facility brings unwanted people and more traffic into our neighborhoods that are not desirable. This is a residential area and this facility is a commercial application not zoned for this subdivision. He is looking for more information at the next BLCC meeting as to how this takes place.

Sandy Baker: Shared that she was unaware of this issue until tonight, and wondered where this subdivision is located? The community noted it is right past Fish Creek, by the old red church. Scott

also stated that these facilities require a 100 ft. setback from the property line and 50ft from the right-of-way.

Casey Steinau: Stated we had the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office come and speak to our council meeting about regulations and we may want to ask an official to come back and speak to these matters, considering all the new legislation lately. The person to talk to at the Borough level is Mark Wisenhunt.

Cindy Bettine: Sympathizes with the marijuana operator concerns since she has a bar in her neighborhood (Rocky Lake & Birch Lake), and would like to have the BLCC plan where these legal establishments can be located. If we do not speak to it, then they will develop in our own backyards. She is urging the Board of Directors to look into a Special Use District (SpUD) designation—the next step beyond the Comprehensive Plan passed in 2009. This may be the only way to control overgrowth of the negative effects from some of these establishments. And if we started this today, it would be about a 2 year process.

Casey recommended having an expert come in to speak to the BLCC about this SpUD, concerning marijuana grow facilities in residential neighborhoods.

7. Treasurer's Report-- Not available tonight—Yvonne at a School Board mtg. Will report next month
8. Membership Report-- Chairperson, Casey Steinau reminded the participants that with the New Year, membership renewals are due at \$10.00/person. Applications are available tonight or online. Sandy shared a footnote that last month we had 30 members renew with 12 more tonight=current membership of 42. Encourage your neighbors to come, join and be heard.
9. Reports--

Big Lake Grade School: Bre Reintsma—Principal of the Elementary School- Noted the second semester is going well. Enrollment is holding steady. Before and after school tutoring available; a Lego robotics team has earned a place at the State competition; Native Youth Olympics started today. Getting ready to start athletics. Business partnerships are needed to help with supplies and other activities for our students. Credit to-Arctic Insulation for sponsoring parent events and basketball for our girls and boy; BL Lions Club for ice skating lessons; Floaters sponsored 40 new pairs of X-Country skis and right before Christmas Eve, they dropped off a check for \$1000.00. She was able to provide food baskets for several families that are less fortunate. This is a direct result of the generosity from our community. Also, pastry-for-parents and celebrate reading.

Assembly:

Fire Services: John Fairchild, Fire Chief, noted the following report: 428 runs for the year (a lot for a volunteer fire station). We have 3 stations, one is a medic station and the other is A2 which needs more volunteers.

There is a Fire Service Board Member opening—couple applications have been filed and the Assembly makes this appointment.

The Lake will be busy on Feb 19th for Iron Dog with EMS and Fire staff with an ice rescue team. Pond Hockey, March 2017.

Roy Roystacker was called to speak at this time: Prevention Officer for Big Lake. Back in October 2016 provided prevention services between Meadow Lakes and Big Lake/Westlake Fire Service area, to 1150 kids/residents. Considering the start to this program began with Fire Fighters as role models in afterschool activities; they met with and served 690 kids in the afterschool program last year. They go to churches, daycares, PTO meetings, community council events; recently went to the elementary school with prevention methods for active shooters.

The Big Lake Community Council donated a significant amount of money to the Westlake Fire Dept. through the Horseshoe Lake Firewise Program (Cathi Kramer)—initiative here, they were able to purchase 50 Carbon monoxide monitors at a discount price. On top of the 32 already donated to the department. They donated 24 more monitors (\$960.00 retail at no cost). Also installed smoke alarms; along with the borough-compliant street house sign. So that we can find you if we need to help you! If you need a sign, let the Fire Department know, it will be made and a small profit that comes from them, goes to make more signs. Don't forget, CO monitors are the best defense at warning you of Carbon monoxide poisoning in your home.

Road Service: Bill Haller: Announced we have a new contractor, the McKenna Brothers. Meeting to be announced.

Chamber of Commerce: Margaret announced she is the Chamber President. Also, the Fishing Derby is coming up Feb 18th and 19th next month. With sponsorship from the Salmon Coalition there is a Pike Fish Derby as well. The Chamber meets the first and third Mondays. Feb. 6th is the next meeting.

Valley Recycling: Jo spoke about the last meeting and recycling promotions. Steve Hawk is the new president. Open Sat and Sundays, due to not enough monitors. Check the Mid Valley Recycling website for all details. Also, the borough-wide Recycling Coalition is working on waste management issues meeting on Jan 21 @ 10:30am at the Fire Station. Board Members needed.

10. Correspondence-- Casey presented a letter from Mat-Su Recycling Coalition which is different than the Mid Valley Recycling Coalition—identifying recycling solutions to help Big Lake become more environmentally responsible and engage local residents to actively participate in these efforts. Looking to form a Board—next meeting to check it out, is Sat. Jan. 21 from 10:30-1:30pm at Station 6-1.

Also presented was a notice for a liquor license renewal for the Hanger Lounge. These licenses are no longer annual but seasonal.

Of note, is one of our community members (Scott Sterling) has been trying to have a street light placed at the intersection of Big Lake Rd and Beaver Lake Rd. A letter was sent informing us of the work that has been taking place on this project. Currently with only 2 evening accidents at this intersection, with no injuries, there is no commitment to move forward with a light installment. They recommended that if the community was interested in lighting the intersection on their own, they would have the option to place a pole and have electricity wired at the cost of the community members. A note to the DOT may be the next step to get this moving forward considering this legitimate complaint. The community questions the number of accidents as probably really amounting to much more and may be worth investigating.

Cindy Bettine proposed a motion from this council to send an official letter regarding this issue.

Casey responded that we should have this placed on the agenda for next month as new business, with more attention to a letter and notice for our community.

11. Land Use/ Platting—

Casey presented a Notice of Public Hearing for a Right-of-Way vacation request at Gothenburg Subdivision. This includes vacating a 1 ft. x 5 ft. easement with the understanding that they are replacing it with a road maintenance snow storage utility easement on the final plat.

Public Notice: On January 3rd, received an Application for a Marijuana Establishment License. This specifically pertains to a limited marijuana cultivation facility on 3907 S. Lakeview Loop. Interested parties should submit comments to the AMCO regarding license # 11804 (party name, Andrew Murr and Kandee Murr). This is a notice from the applicant and not the Borough at this time. It was shared that reasons to object this submission should be sent within 30 days to the AMCO (Jan. 31, 2017 is the deadline).

A format was shared on *How to Object to a Marijuana License Application*, provided by a member with instructions by email to the marijuana.licensing@alaska.gov from the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

12. Unfinished Business--

Mid Valley Recycling bylaws encourage interested members from the Community Council to sit on their Board (including Houston, BLCC, and Meadow Lakes) representing the constituents they serve. They are still in need of a member. Desperately need volunteers to cover a shift at the dump site on Hollywood. Shifts are 12-3pm and consider a monthly commitment

13. New Business--

14. Announcements--

Bill Haller reminded us that the Lion's Club has two big events coming up: Feb 4, 2017 is the *Spring Ice Breaker* with a prime rib dinner and all the fixings. And, *Mat-Su has Talent* where singers perform and the audience votes for the winners with cash prizes.

Full cocktail bar from Floaters, which is fundraiser for the Lion's Club to keep the doors open. It is in conjunction with the Susitna Rotary out of Wasilla.

March 10, 11, 12, 2017 is the *Scotty Gomez Frontier Pond Hockey Classic* on Big Lake. With 13 hockey rinks and about 90 hockey teams available, they are in need of bed and breakfast type housing for folks coming to Alaska from all over the country staying in the area for the 3 day weekend. Alaskapondhockey.com has more information. Fireworks on Saturday night for this event.

Casey mentioned, Feb 11th at the Grill is the Mat-Su Food Bank *Hunger Vow* (Grandview).

15. Board Member's Comments--Margaret wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Sandy thanked everyone for coming out in the cold January weather, and for understanding our “hiccups” as a Board, despite being volunteers, your patience is appreciated.

Casey reminded everyone that our next meeting is Feb 7, 2017.

16. Adjournment--

Meeting adjourned at 8:09pm
Minutes respectfully submitted,

Diane Lada, Secretary