

Big Lake Community Council
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www.biglakecommunitycouncil.com
Lakeshore Studio, South Side, East Lake Mall
3261 S Big Lake Road

General Membership Meeting Minutes

2/12/14

7:00 P.M.

1. Call to order

President Bill Kramer called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. A quorum was established with the following Board Members present: Bill Kramer, Carol Kane, Dan Mayfield, Jim Faiks, and Margaret Billinger. Absent excused – Jim Hutton and Ina Mueller.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Agenda

The agenda was approved as printed.

4. Approval of Minutes

A motion by Dan Mayfield and seconded by Jim Faiks passed by unanimous consent to approve the minutes as amended:

Page 8 Item 22 Announcements

“Jim Faiks announced there would be a 40 member team from Group Christian Missions coming to Big Lake in July. The group wishes to help elderly or handicapped people with 5 member work teams for a week in July. Jim has application forms for individuals or groups that might know of people who could use the help.”

President Kramer indicated the approved minutes were to be forwarded to the Debra Wetherhorn, Administrative Secretary – Mat Su Borough on a monthly basis. Additionally, by the Wednesday prior to each meeting, the minutes would be sent out for comments and posted on the Big Lake Community Council web page.

5. Presentation of Officers for 2014

President Kramer presented to the membership the following 2014 officers as elected by the Big Lake Community Council newly seated board members at the January 8, 2014 meeting.

- Bill Kramer, President
- Dan Mayfield, Vice President
- Carol Kane, Secretary
- Ina Mueller, Treasurer

6. Persons to be Heard: 3 min max

To ensure Persons to be Heard would be limited to the 3-minute maximum protocol, President Kramer indicated he had asked Jim Faiks to serve as the timekeeper for Persons to be Heard with monitor assistance by President Kramer.

a. Mokie Tews requested Big Lake Community Council write a letter of support to the Borough RSA Board for Tews RSA #21 contract renewal for one more year. He anticipated the RSA Board should have an answer from the RSA Board by March.

Following general discussion with suggestions to include appreciation but not limited to the high quality of services provided throughout the year and donated services within the Big Lake Community such as preparation of the ice for the Big Lake Winter Fest, a motion by Jim Faiks and seconded by Margaret Billinger passed by unanimous consent.

b. Sammy Taylor – Big Lake area recycling coordinator provided an update on the Big Lake area recycling issues noting things are coming along nicely, a business plan is still a work in progress, and a need exists to have a covered permanent recycling space provided by the Borough. Sammy requested the Big Lake Community Council write a letter of support to the Mat Su Borough to provide the covered permanent recycling space. Additionally Sammy said they do have a compost receptacle, recycle glass needs to be taken to Target, there have been no negative comments regarding 20 x 30 space for the recycling efforts, and now there is an acting manager who is working very cooperatively with the recycling efforts. A question of inquiry was posed if the Borough could provide support for services by non-profit entities.

A motion by Margaret Billinger and seconded by Jim Faiks passed by unanimous consent for the Big Lake Community Council to write a letter of support to the Mat Su Borough to provide the covered permanent recycling space as requested by Sammy Taylor.

7. Proposed bylaw change to modify Article 12, Meetings, Paragraph B. by deleting the word “Wednesday” and replacing with the word “Tuesday”. The change is intended to be permanent and is in response to multiple other Wednesday evening conflicts that may be limiting participation in the council.

Jim Faiks indicated this proposal was introduced at the 1/8/14 BLCC meeting. Reasons for the recommended change from the second Wednesday to the second Tuesday include the following:

- a. allow Borough officials to attend meetings which would not conflict with Wednesday Borough/Community Council/Community scheduled meetings
- b. the 2nd Tuesday of each month there are no community council meetings
- c. BLCC representatives could now attend other community council meetings on Wednesdays
- d. enable increased participation by church youth programs
- e. if a need should occur for larger facility, a church space could meet that need.

The audience was provided the Agenda Action Item Article 12, Meetings, Paragraph B handout which also included the summary dates for the balance of 2014.

Following general discussion, which included prior notice had been presented at the January 8, 2014 Community Council meeting and thank you extended to the Board for the efforts leading up to this proposed amendment change to the bylaws, a motion by Jim Faiks and seconded by Carol Kane passed by unanimous consent.

Invitational letters to Big Lake area organizations will be sent indicating the meeting change and request to attend future BLCC meetings. Jim Faiks agreed to draft the letter for President Kramer to be sent to organizations inviting them to the next meeting.

8. Borough Assembly Report None

9. Road Service Area Report

President Kramer announced because Gerard Billinger would not be seeking an additional term for RSA #21, the BLCC Board would be looking for new board member. Thanks of appreciation were extended to Gerard for all the years served and efforts in making roads safer.

There are three board members on the RSA Board. The current RSA #21 Board members include Alternate # 1 Jill Parsons and newly selected Alternate # 2 Leo Von Scheben. Gerard served as the RSA#21 Board Primary Board member and was on the RSA board for 10 years.

Each area is assigned a Primary RSA Supervisor and two alternative Supervisors who assist with questions regarding maintenance, snow removal and other issues regarding roads. Cindy Bettine stated capital projects are being voted on which did not have a letter of support from the BLCC. In the past, the Borough has not always been attentive to the needs of all RSAs. Cindy believes there is a need to have a full time resident serve on the Big Lake RSA Board, which is a mayoral appointment, meetings are held quarterly, and the term is for three years.

Jim Faiks indicated he may have a neighbor who might be interested. Cindy Bettine said she would email an application for Jim to forward to that individual

10. Fire Service Area Report No Report

Information item: There is no report because the fire chiefs are attending a meeting in Juneau. At this time, West Lakes Fire Service Board is down a member. Noted were meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and a potential board member may not be an on-call fire person.

11. Treasurer's Report 2/12/14 Treasurer Ina Mueller

Checking: \$23,974.56 current balance

Savings: \$255.19

12. Membership Report Chairperson Margaret Billinger

35 voting

7 non-voting

13. Chamber of Commerce Report Nancy Linley President

Chamber President Nancie Linley announced a calendar reminder - the Big Lake Winter Fest is Saturday 2/15 and Sunday 2/16. She extended her appreciation to Mokie Tews for his assistance preparing the area on the ice for all the activities. Both days' events will begin 10 a.m. and conclude at 7:00 P.M.

"Family Friendly" events include many of the following -

All Day Events: Bucking Salmon, Chainsaw Tom Show, Timber Man Competition, Horse Drawn Carriage Rides, Helicopter Tours

Saturday: Tanalian Air Helicopter Rides, Big Lake Trail Family Snowmachine Run, Alaska K-9 Dog Weight Pull, Lion's Kid 120 snowmachine races, Frozen T-Shirt Contest, Bunny Boot Bling Contest, Vintage Racers Ice Points, Floaters – Pool/Darts Competition, Scott Mueller Memorial Fireworks Display at 7:00 P.M., "Wish Lantern Launch and live music in the beer garden.

Sunday: Pancake Feed prior to the Iron Dog start, Helicopter Tours, and Hover Challenge.

Nancie related Floaters would be sponsoring \$100 gift card from Three Bears. "Wish Lantern Launch" tickets would be on sale for \$5/each. It is intended the Food Bank will receive proceeds from the sales. Nancie was amazed at the number of permits that have been applied for the Winter Fest events.

Concluding her report, Nancie announced the Big Lake Chamber officers are: President – Nancie Linley, Vice President – Dan Mayfield, Treasurer - Jillyan Hendrickson, and Secretary - Richard Kirk.

14. Parks and Trails, Chairperson, Jim Faiks

Jim Faiks reported there are 6 parks and several trail systems within the Big Lake Community Council area. He announced there is a need for extra help to maintain and mark the trails. Currently the boat launch located off the Big Lake Road scheduled for improvements this summer will cost \$50,000. The parking lot has high usage for individuals just to launch boats as well as individuals needing boat access for cabins on the lake.

Jim continued his report saying the Jay Nolfi Park has no insurance requirements. Additional consideration is to construct a pavilion 28 x16 (450 sq.ft.), which would be open on three sides. Suggestions have been to have this as a music venue. The Borough has indicated no oversight interest to become involved in such a proposal. Other future concerns would be power usage fee. Inquiry has been raised if financial support might come from the Big Lake organizations such as Chamber and Community Council. Additionally, Jim said it is against Borough code to have an event such as a beer festival.

Future planning includes DOT to construct a bike trail across the bridge and Jordon Lake Park area to have a property line survey completed due to conflict with homeowners. At this time any future park work to be done by the borough is 2 – 3 years behind. Currently Cathi Kramer is working on a final draft for Jordon Lake Park to address major drainage issues, additional trails to be built, and a boardwalk to be built within the park. Included in the design plan is to identify a person(s) to continue the planning project. Intended in this year's the plan would be to double the current trails which would be looped. Assisted with funding from Elementary Forestry, dedicated within the park would be a Firewise walk to discuss Miller Reach Fire. Jim announced a desire is to have boy/girl scouts involved to help develop the rest of the trail design. He said he would also be contacting a couple of Eagle Scouts to also help with the project.

Within the trail system are three state parks. The trails are dedicated for non-motorized bike trails, walking trails for dogs, nature hikes, bike riders, hiking, and snow machine trails. Dan Mayfield said currently maintaining trails have been stymied due to the weather conditions such as limited snow and excessive ice. During this past week on Monday and Tuesday, it was fortunate to have trails flattened and the groomers able to turn over the top snow for some lubrication. Dan was hopeful these conditions would provide cooling to send off the Iron Doggers and for family fun run bringing people back to the trail system. He continued saying, even though snow is expected tomorrow, the lake is still icy. Right now Trail 3 is a total sheet of ice, while Trails 1, 4, 5, 6 are in great shape.

General discussion followed regarding the tree removal process occurring on the work for the rail system phases. Gage Tree Service has the contract for doing trail re-route work at this time; next season the entire trail system will be re-done. An expectation is for Gage Tree Service to clean up the trail debris and provide a three - day notice for any issues. Dan shared concern the procedures were not being done as expected. Bristol Construction is also doing work, which impacts the trails.

Cindy Betinne raised the issue about the Big Lake Elementary ball field gate being locked. She noted the gate should be moved so the public could park in the school parking lot while games are being played. Cindy said there was a conflict because this was the only field being mowed and did

not want this practice to continue. Additionally she felt it should not be the community's obligation to raise funds to build a building on Fish Creek Park. Jim Faiks said it would be better to come up with local management. Nancie Linley did contact the borough to find out how parks are operational. Rosa Shilanski would prefer local communities take responsibility. Jordon Lake use can be signed out through the Library. President Kramer suggested having a separate meeting to further discuss the issues. Additionally noted was airport landing issues, leaseholders not aware and need to be informed about the rules. Jim Faiks agreed to draft a usage letter.

15. School Report, Chairperson, Jim Hutton None

President Kramer stated the entry arches for the covered walkway are being constructed. Additionally administrative offices have been moved back into the building.

16. Transportation, Interim report by Jim Hutton and Dan Mayfield Co-Chairs

President Kramer reported the BLCIA FINAL DRAFT was issued with a very short (15 day) community comment period. As a result of this short response deadline, he made a request to extend community comment period to March 14, 2014. A final draft will be given to the co-chairs. The draft has been posted on online with 15 days to respond. Gary Swearer stated the draft included what has been presented in the past. His review indicated there is not a lot of new information presented. An expectation for BLCC would be to make comments for a recommended route after discussion at the March 11, 2014 Community Council meeting. The public comment period is expected to be two days after the BLCC meeting.

Cindy Bettine stated there should be a one-month period provided after the community comment period. This period would allow enough time to communicate with our borough and state legislators regarding impacting future issues. Cindy stated every submission deadline has been missed. Suggested needs for the Big Lake area should be a preference according to Borough's "top three" list.

Jim Faiks indicated two choices to include: Alternate 2 Route - Rail Route, Alternate 3 City Center/Existing Road Route, Alternative 3 ByPass – Option A, Alternative 3 – Option B, and Alternate 5 – Johnson Road. Alternative 3 ByPass – Option A was left on the list because it was a prime concern of the community. Jim stated it is necessary to have proponents help provide views both pro/con. It would be hopeful a presentation would include documents being displayed on the wall for better visibility and understanding the issues related to costs.

Reference was noted about Mark VonDoggen's presentation at Chamber, which alluded to the future developments in the Big Lake area. It is imperative to advertise the issues and pass a

resolution of support for the communities preferred route. After the public comment, the report will go back to Agnew/Beck for a final proposal to be acted upon. Jim Faiks continued his comments saying an open house should be held at least one week prior to the March 11, 2014 Community Council Meeting. He stated previous transportation committee members should be present to bring insights to the discussion. Additionally a request also should be made to have the Borough make 25 copies of the report. While it is a good intention for having the report available ahead of time, most would not take the opportunity to read the report. Copies should be provided for the BLCC Transportation Committee members, available in the Library, and maps and posters available as previously displayed in the community.

Cindy Bettine said a recommendation should be made to the Borough to sponsor a long-range transportation plan. Darcie Salmon as stated officially on record for acceptance of such a plan. Even though there might not be a funding allocation at least a recommended route could be proposed and accepted with an added note the State would be the final fiscal agent. The accepted document would be the footprint for the Borough. It is also expected the City of Houston will weigh in on their preferred route. Cindy reaffirmed this is a community impact assessment, not a selection document to be reviewed by committee to identify what is the community preference.

Dialogue continued regarding the BLCC Transportation providing a public forum on a Big Lake Community preferred transportation route. Gary Swearer proposed the recommendation could be based on a time specific recommendation. Cindy Bettine preferred it not be time specific. Dan Mayfield said he would revisit the evaluation criteria for choice option preferred to ensure basis is laid out, public review provided, and criteria recorded. As past practice, the Borough will have copies for full review at the Library. Bill Kramer will follow-up to post information at the Big Lake Post Office and the Big Lake Mall.

17. Incorporation, Chairperson, Carol Kane

Carol Kane reported following an interested group of individuals' discussion for the future options to proceed forward with the Incorporation efforts, a plan was developed to review the current petition signers as submitted to the Local Boundary Commission. It was determined there were 82 signers who did meet the LBC signer qualifications for a variety of reasons. Charlene Hutton volunteered to sort the LBC list to identify those individuals whose signatures would not be current after January 31, 2014. New petitions were disbursed to attain at least 205 valid signers. By January 25, 2014 the efforts to complete the process for valid signers was completed. Jim Faiks took the updated petition list consisting of 292 signers, containing new signers as well as those who were still current to the Local Boundary Commission for validation the criteria was met and proceed with the process to move forward on the Incorporation efforts. Jim said he expected it would take at least four weeks from the time the LBC received the information and provide feedback on status to date.

18. Community Grants, Chairperson, Ina Mueller No Report

19. Correspondence

Information online – Planning or Platting. Removal of property lines no opposition.

20. Land Use/ Platting

Presented as received

21. Unfinished Business/Action Items:

Following general discussion regarding needing to have a BLCC Resolution for reducing the speed limit along Big Lake Road from 45 mph to 35mph within the downtown Big Lake corridor between Beaver Lake Rd. and South Big Lake campground, Bill Haller agreed to draft proposed resolution.

President Kramer shared Representative Newman without a request from the Big Lake Community Council had requested \$250,000 be in the Governor's Budget to study the speed and safety issues in the corridor through Big Lake. Additionally, there would be value to have a discussion about lighting to be included as a priority. Todd Renaldi shared there are restrictions on speed limits related to enable cross walks near a fire station as well as a recommendation is needed to re-evaluate DOT cost vs. risk factors. Additional comments noted 1) moose collision "hot spots" were introduced at the State level with input from the City of Houston and 2) a need to be business friendly, which has been a long standing issue. Cindy Bettine suggested a letter should be sent to DOT regarding these issues.

22. New Business

Letter to MSB requesting notifications be sent to all active Community Councils regarding any proposed ordinances change(s) that affect current borough code within the boundaries of the respective Council.

Need for notification exists because all community councils need to be notified so comment can be provided; currently the practice is only through the Assembly members or members on the Planning Commission, examples where this had impact are the Race Track recent ordinance which did not pass, and placement of new towers.

Cindy Bettine agreed to draft a resolution to address this issue at the next meeting.

23. Announcements

Winter Fest will be this weekend – February 15 – 16, 2014 on the ice at the intersection of Burkeshore Drive and Ice 5.

24. Board Member Comment

- a. Stop Valley Thieves – Face Book served has served to be highly valued for Mat-Su Borough residents. Unfortunately, some individuals have chosen to misuse the site, which has caused a negative effect on the intended outcome to minimize thefts and catch the perpetrators.
- b. Additional State Troopers assigned to the Valley with focus on Property Crimes President Kramer provided positive feedback on Trooper response to expedite stolen property, which resulted in the thief soon to be charged in front of the grand jury.
- c. Margaret Billinger expressed her appreciate to many who provided condolences and on-going support during her recent loss of her mother.
- d. Dan Mayfield encouraged attendance at the Winter Fest this weekend where lots of stuff happening and will be fun.
- e. Carol Kane expressed her appreciation to those individuals who assisted with the process to gather petition signers to meet the criteria for the LBC Commission so the Incorporation efforts can move forward.

25. Adjournment 8:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol G Kane, Secretary

Big Lake Community Council Purpose:

To provide a direct and continuing means of citizen participation in government and local affairs; to provide a method by which they can work together for expression and discussion of their opinions, needs and desires in a manner that will have an impact on our community's development and service; to provide to governmental agencies a method for receiving opinions, needs, desires and recommendations of residents and groups, and to give local governing bodies an improved basis for decision-making and assignment of priorities for all capital improvements and governmental programs affecting community development and individual well-being.