

Big Lake Community Council

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Lakeshore Studio, South Side, East Lake Mall

3261 S. Big Lake Road

General Membership Meeting Minutes 4/8/14

7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Bill Kramer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. A quorum was established with the following Board Members present: Bill Kramer, Ina Mueller, Dan Mayfield, Jim Hutton, Margaret Billinger, absent excused Jim Faiks and Carol Kane. Cathi Kramer was asked to act as secretary for this meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Dan Mayfield requested an opportunity to acknowledge the passing of former BLCC President, William "Bill" O'hara who passed away on March 31, 2014. A moment of silence was observed in his memory.

3. Approved Agenda

A motion by Margaret Billinger and seconded by Jim Hutton passed by unanimous consent to accept the agenda as printed.

4. Approved Minutes

A motion by Jim Hutton and seconded by Dan Mayfield passed by unanimous consent to accept the minutes of 3/11/14 meeting as printed.

5. Program: Principal John Simon, Bill Lake Elementary School Update

Mr. Simon has been the principal at Big Lake Elementary for the past 3 years. Before that time he was working with troubled youth in a school system outside of Alaska. Just after being hired to take the position up in Alaska he was diagnosed with cancer. Due to residual effects from that cancer treatment he will be leaving Alaska to a job in Washington State next year.

He expressed his goals when coming to Big Lake were to assure students had the resources that other schools in the district enjoyed. During his time the school now has cross country ski equipment, upgraded playground equipment, technology, and an upgraded school facility that has eliminated many health and safety concerns to include a new roof. There is new Math and Literacy curriculums in the district that he is encouraged will benefit students in our area.

There are still many challenges and deficits. Academically girls are outperforming boys overall. Boys are scoring borderline proficient in mandated testing. The school population fluctuated between 430 -450 students with a 40% transient rate. There are 179 students with special needs IEP's. Four classrooms are dedicated as self-contained for students with severe academic and behavior needs. 70% of students receive Free/Reduced lunch based on low family income level, with many non-employed parents. Many students entering school have little or no academic stimulation prior to kindergarten resulting in low oral language skills (resulting in poor reading skills), as well as a lack of social skills. With the opening of the new prison in the area there are now about 50 students who have a parent, who is incarcerated, many with drug and alcohol issues that are affecting the family. Attendance issues are also a challenge with 40 students that have over 30 absences this year. He sees a need for Adult Learning for parents and recent High School Graduates in our area.

The board expressed their appreciation to Principal Simon.

6. Persons to be Heard: 3 min max

- a. Cindy Bettini shared with the group information from the state level regarding Revenue Sharing dollars which could affect property taxes in the next five years. This year the community will receive \$20,200 which will go to community grants. The other issue to be aware of is the buying down of the PERS/TERS liability which is a part of the state retirement system. Cindy requested a letter be written from BLCC regarding the continuation of the Revenue Sharing dollars from the state.

Bill Kramer will call Mark Newman regarding further information of these matters.

A motion by Dan Mayfield and seconded by Ina Mueller to "Write a letter supporting the continuation of Revenue sharing". The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion by Dan Mayfield and seconded by Ina Mueller to "Write a letter supporting the Governor's budget in regards to funding PERS/TERS". The motion was approved unanimously.

- b. Tabby from Aurora Dog Musers announced that the Mat-Su Borough Assembly has approved the purchase of the Track and Club House by the club. Dog Mushing trails will have signs to make other users aware of their use and some areas where trail cross will be cleared to provide better sight lines to eliminate snowmachine vs dog team issues in the future.
- c. Floyd Shilanski shared information regarding the BPA Program at Houston High School. The BPA has requested an opportunity to open and close a meeting in the future. They will be attending the Big Lake Chamber Board Meeting this month.

7. Reports: 3 min max

8. Borough Assembly report – None

9. Road Service Area Report- Ken Walch reported that there are currently 3 RSA Projects for this year. There is some discussion regarding existing contracts and the combination of some RSA's Big Lake is not one of those.

10. Fire Service Report - Fire Chief, Bill Gamble reported that currently there are 65-70 responders in the area and that West Lakes is the 2nd busiest department in the borough. Funding for a new station at Spring Street is still in question. A new fire truck will be arriving early this summer and renovations at the Big Lake station will take place in the next week on the annex building to raise the door height to accommodate the taller apparatus that currently cannot be housed inside.

11. Treasure's Report – Ina Mueller reported: Checking \$23976.51 Savings \$280.26

12. Membership Report – Ina Mueller reported: 51 paid members to date

13. Chamber of Commerce Report–Nancie Linley reported that the Big Lake Chamber Annual Banquet will be held on May 3rd with a "Casino Night" theme. Tickets are available at the Chamber office. Nomination forms are available online for the Bob Grosse and Business of the Year. Ice Classic tickets are available until April 25th. The Big Lake Triathlon will be July 27th.

14. Parks and Trails Report, Chairperson, Jim Faiks

A request by Friends of Jordan Lake Park (Cathi Kramer, coordinator) for a BLCC Resolution in support of modifying the existing Jordan Lake Master Plan to include new trails and a parking lot. A motions by Margaret Billinger and seconded by Jim Faiks to "write a resolution in favor of the modifications made by SDG to the existing plan" to be sent to the borough parks, planning and assembly for approval. The motion passed unanimously.

15. School Report, Chairperson, Jim Hutton – Jim expressed his appreciation to Mr. Simon for his service.
16. Transportation Report, Interim report by Jim Hutton and Dan Mayfield, Co-Chairs BLCIA update and presentation of newly released Executive Summary and supporting documents was given by Dan Mayfield. The committee has been working on getting some revisions to the report regarding comprehensive planning, bullet points on the matrix, and traffic data which is most important. The Final Draft has been received and copies were made available. Members were encouraged to read and understand the report. At this time a route will not be chosen, however the committee has requested and EIS study before route selection. A resolution may be requested at next month's meeting.
17. Incorporation Report, Chairperson, Carol Kane - Bill Kramer reported that the committee is working on revisions and the paperwork will be refiled in the next 30 days to the Boundary Commission.
18. Community Grants, Chairperson, Ina Mueller – No report at this meeting.
19. Correspondence
 - a. A letter was received regarding Summer Food Programs for local government – informational only
 - b. Land Auction information – if interested see after meeting
 - c. Letter from “My House” updating status of new facility in Wasilla for homeless youth
 - d. Open House – April 16th at Wasilla Senior Center – Knik- Goose Bay Road updates
 - e. Letter from Shelly Wade – Big Lake Management Plan has receive grant funding to work on this year regarding water quality
 - f. Tariff filing information from Alaska Waste, MEA, and ENSTAR
20. Land Use/Platting
 - a. Platting for Rosalie Court (New Sports Bar behind Big Lake Superstore) – Frontage access is being requested for both sides. Discussion about the access into the Rocky Lake neighborhood was not appropriate.

A motion was made by Jim Hutton and seconded by Ina Mueller to write a letter that states “Lot 5 of the proposed Marjorie’s Manor (Rosalie Court) have one driveway access at Rosalie Court and not Rocky Lake Drive to prevent through traffic from the Big Lake Road to a residential subdivision road”. Motion passed unanimously.

Previous subdivision rules prevented lots from having more than one access to borough roads. Both Rosalie Court and Rocky Lake Drive are borough roads. The new code is unclear as to the ruling on driveway access as stated by Cindy Bettine.
21. Unfinished Business/Action Items: None
22. New Business: None
23. Announcements
 - a. Bill Kramer -Big Lake Gun and Outdoor Show, April 26, 27, 10 am – 5 pm, Big Lake Rec. Center Proceeds of this event will benefit Houston High School activities.
 - b. Big Lake Trails – Dan Mayfield shared that 12 miles of new trails are being worked on as well as renaming trails that were previously numbered.
 - c. Ina Mueller requested feedback on table arrangement for the evening (table rather than just chairs)? Members expressed that they liked the new arrangement.
 - d. Ina Mueller shared that the NO LITTERING signs on Beaver Lake Road that were requested last year by Scott Mueller have been installed..... Thank You Scott
 - e. Margaret Billinger shared that there was a Film Production Crew in the area.
24. Adjournment at 9:30 PM