

Meeting Minutes May 8, 2019

Meadow Lakes Community Council Inc.

◆ 3 Officers required for quorum:

TOTAL = YES ◆ Pres: Patricia Fisher ◆ Vice

Pres: Linda Conover

Treasurer: Cindy Michaelson ◆ Sec: Janet Henkel

Council Coordinator: Camden Yehle

◆ 3 Committee Chairs required for quorum:

TOTAL = YES ◆

Education: Cally Leader ◆ CIP: Tim Swezey

Bylaw: Terry Boyle ◆ Mem: Lacy Harris

Trail: Lori Benner-Hanson ◆ Safety: Chad Smith

Gaming: Ariel Cannon

◆ 10 Members of the Meadow Lakes Community required for quorum: TOTAL = YES ◆

Meeting Quorum = YES

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Patti Fisher. It was determined that a quorum was present.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited.
3. **Approval of:**
 - a. **Agenda** – Linda Conover motioned to add Trooper Markquest to the agenda as a speaker and was seconded by Lacey Harris. Linda Conover motioned to approve the amended agenda and was seconded by Cindy Michaelson. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous in favor.
 - b. **Minutes** – Cindy Michaelson motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Linda Conover. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous in favor.
 - c. **Treasurers Report** – Cindy Michaelson presented the treasurers report.
4. **Presentation** – Trooper Markquest stopped by to show support for the community council and to answer and address any questions. When asked if what we were doing was helping the troopers, Trooper Markquest replied that everything that we did was helping. When you see something, please call 745-3333 to report this. Any personal descriptions make and model of vehicles, etc. is very helpful. Please pay attention to emergency vehicles and pull over when they are behind you as this has become a problem when responding to emergency calls. Linda Conover thanked the troopers for their presence in the valley. Trooper Markquest stated that if an abandoned vehicle is on the road side of the fog line then the troopers will have it removed. If it is on the right of way side of the fog line the borough is then responsible. Troopers are not responsible for enforcing any borough regulations. Highest priority calls come first, and we try to take care of these issues as quickly as we can. Linda Conover thanked the troopers for their presence in the valley.
5. **Board Reports** –

Gaming: Ariel Cannon reported that at the last AK Tuesday Night Fights split the pot tickets equaled \$906.00. Gaming has also been working with some other organizations, and will work with the Great Alaska Cannabis event in July. We donated our 2018 funds to Skeetawk.

Community Safety: Nothing to report.

Education: Nothing to report.

Membership: Nothing to report.

Parks & Recreation: Lori Benner-Hanson reported that they are still trying to get a legal route to Bench Lake. Please stay off of the existing trails for another couple of weeks as they are very muddy and some of them are completely impassable at this time.

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Capital Improvements: Tim Swezey reported that we have quite a few reservations for the park, with many of them during the middles of the week. We are seeing quite an increase in park usage, and project that use of the park will continue to increase. The security cameras that have been installed are working very well, and we are in the process of setting more cameras.

Council Coordinator: Camden Yehle reported that there have been several requests for T-shirts with the new logo on them. She is in the process of putting something together to display at the next meeting.

President: Patti Fisher reported that there was an incident on the sports field where a vehicle was present overnight for several nights. The vehicle was tagged with a letter stating that it would be towed if it was not moved. Troopers returned the call and let Patti know that the vehicle was stolen from Trunk Road. Patti mentioned that five of the Kalmbach family was present tonight including Maria Victoria.

Bylaws: Linda Conover reported that there three ways to vote – online, in person and by mail. Terry Boyle motioned to accept the candidates as presented, Camden Yehle seconded. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous in approval. All nominees were elected.

6. **Presentation:** Sean Baski, project manager for the Parks Highway Reconstruction Project, gave a presentation on the project. There has been a high percentage of head on and nighttime collisions on this stretch of road, as well as a high incidence of moose/vehicle crashes. There is significant congestion as well during certain parts of the day. The four lane divided section will be continued with a depressed grassy median. There will be a limited frontage road system, with some of the frontage roads being behinds the businesses. There will also be some signalized intersections at Big Lake Road, Johnson Road, and also at the newly realigned Meadow Lakes Road. The walking path will be considered along the frontage road and there will be continuous lighting as well, as it will help to lower the moose/vehicle problem. This project has been pushed back to 2020, as all of the property acquisitions have not yet been acquired, and we are still waiting for all of the utilities need to be relocated as well. Hopefully some of the utilities on the side roads will be relocated during the upcoming season.

Patti Fisher is very frustrated with the intersection at the Holiday and does not feel that the intersection is properly signed, making people unsure how to turn, resulting in accidents and close calls. Sean said that her concerns had been passed on. Another member suggested some lighting at this intersection. Sean suggested contacting Kyler Hylton, Mat-Su Supervisor of Maintenance at 745-2159. Chief Fairchild confirmed that persons are making left turns out of the side roads onto the wrong side of the road which has resulted in two head on collisions. Dewey Bitner suggested painting lines on the road guiding people through the intersections. Sean Baski said that even to put up a road side sign they need to have environmental approval, and he added that painting guide lines on the highway was not allowed due to federal laws. Several other members expressed their frustration with signage on the roadways. Sean said that they love to serve the community to the best of their ability, however they are very short staffed and things take longer. The bid will not be let until everything is in place. Sean replied that more room was needed to add a left turn lane at Pittman/Parks Highway and they were not able to acquire the additional property to add the additional lane due to federal highway standards.

Louisa Branchflower of Skeetawk thanked the community council for their contribution from the gaming account. She said that they now have enough funding to build their first ski lift and hope to be operating their first triple chair lift this coming winter. Skeetawk is located at Mile 10.6 Hatcher Pass Road on the left hand side. Louisa feels that this area will serve a wide variety of skiers and snow boarders. They have a nice ski patrol shack built by volunteers and will have a yurt for a ski lodge where you can buy tickets, etc. They are very excited about providing the local communities a local area to ski in without having to travel. There is a management agreement with the borough and Skeetawk is currently working on a long term agreement with them. They are currently discussing selling lift tickets between \$30-\$40 per person. Skeetawk is a non-profit. This project will eliminate the kids sledding hill. Louisa said that they are accepting volunteers with all different skills sets, donated materials, trail clearing, construction knowledge, marketing, accounting, etc. Once actual operations actually begin there will be volunteer positions in addition to the paid positions. Cash donations are accepted on the Skeetawk website.

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7. **Correspondence:** Correspondence links are listed on the agenda.
8. **Business:** Sherri Rusher gave a report on Clean Up Week. Cleanup will begin Friday evening at Three Bears where we will be handing out trash bags. Please don't bring household or lawn/yard garbage as this is for road side trash. A dumpster will be available at the fire station on Pittman. The cleanup will take place all during the week with our block party being held on Sunday at the sports field. There will be a bake off on Sunday and baked goods will need to be presented before noon. This bake off will be for pies, cakes, breads and cookies. Volunteers are still needed, especially for the block party on Sunday. Patti will be at the Meadow Lakes Center at 10:00 am on Saturday with trash bags for the Adopt a Highway cleanup.

Bylaw change review – Linda Conover gave a report on a bylaw change that was requested by membership at the last meeting. The bylaw committee approved this change and tonight we will be voting on whether to present this to the general membership for a vote at the next meeting. Frank James motioned to present the bylaw change to the general membership at the June meeting, and was seconded by Cally Leader. There was no further discussion and the motion carried with a split vote.

9. **Reports:** Chief Fairchild advised that everyone needed to get a burn permit before burning. There have been several small fires and we need to stay on top of this. They are reinforcing the fire stations to prevent further burglaries. Over \$14K in rescue equipment has been stolen so far this year, and the fire station is taking this very seriously. Security systems are being installed. If you see anything report it, and if you are out driving around please take a drive through the lot. ISO testing will be coming up and we will be trying for a Class 3, we are currently a Class 4 and confident that we will retain that at the least. As far as budgeting, we maintained 2.2 mils, so the mil rate will not change. The budget has been cut, however other budget cuts are not affecting us at this time. As of now, the FSA side of the budgeting is the same; however Chief Fairchild cannot speak for the other side of budgeting. Thank your volunteers – there are 4 paid firefighters, the remaining 55 are volunteers.

Jasmine Martin, Senator Wilson's aid, advised that their office was another avenue to get through to DOT, so please contact them if you are having an issue. The senate and house have passed a budget and it is in conference committee at this time. They are supposed to be done by the 16th, and she is hoping that they finish everything up without going into special session. There was a crime bill passed, however she is aware that there were changes made to it today, which essentially watered it down, so that is still up in the air. Education should be fully funded moving forward. Community revenue sharing is in the budget. Sherri Rusher asked about the suspended senior benefits. Jasmine said that she thought that this was a governor's issue.

10. **Persons to be heard:** Tam Bovey, MSB assembly, said there were three budget hearings last week, with good attendance at all three. Budget deliberations have not yet begun. The first meeting is scheduled for May 16, with the remaining hearings towards the end of the month. The borough is looking at other revenue sources, including a gravel tax, lowering the senior property tax exemption, and a gasoline tax as well as a sales tax. These are all just ideas at this point. The borough manager has made many cuts and assembly members are concerned about services going forward under these cuts. The area wide mil rate may be increased from 10.33 mils to 11.55. We are currently waiting to receive some numbers from the state so that we can begin making final decisions on some of these items. The borough is actually looking at septage treatment options. They have received two proposals that they are currently reviewing, and both of the proposals will locate the facility at the current borough landfill site. One proposal is for a lagoon style system and the other proposal uses recycling in their system. The companies presenting the proposals will be completely responsible for their system, and there will be no kickbacks as to responsibility or break even.

Cally Leader said that the Meadow Lakes Garden Club will be holding their spring garden sale on May 24 and 25 from 10-5 at the Meadow Lakes Center. Please support them by buying their plants. There will also be many experienced gardeners available to answer questions.

Kim Kalmbach asked about funding for the Beverly Lakes Extension and Patti replied that she had been told by the a borough representative that there was no funding available and there would be no funding coming from the state for this project either.

Miss Lund of the newly formed Tanaina Community Council attended our meeting.

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11. Approve Meeting Location:

Camden Yehle motioned to approve and was seconded by Terry Boyle. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Birch Creek Villas Senior Housing
1210 N. Kim Drive
Meadow Lakes

Wednesday, June 12, 2019
Sign In: 6PM to 7PM
Meeting: 7PM – 9PM

12. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm by President Patti Fisher.

Patti Fisher, President Date

Camden Yehle, Acting Secretary Date