

# Meeting Minutes September 11, 2019

## Meadow Lakes Community Council Inc.

☛ 3 Officers required for quorum: TOTAL = YES ☛

☒ Pres: Patricia Fisher ☛ ☛ Vice Pres: Linda Conover  
☒ Treasurer: Cindy Michaelson Sec: Vacant  
☒ Council Coordinator: Camden Yehle

☛ 3 Committee Chairs required for quorum: TOTAL = YES ☛

☒ Education: Cally Leader ☒ CIP: Tim Swezey  
☒ Bylaw: Terry Boyle ☒ Mem: Holly Gramt  
☒ 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 approve the agenda and was seconded by Chad Scott. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous in favor.
  - b. **Minutes** – Linda Conover motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Cindy Michaelson. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous in favor.
  - c. **Treasurers Report** – Cindy Michaelson presented the treasurers report.
4. **Board Reports**

Safety: Efforts are being continued to expand the Neighborhood Watch groups. Patti explained what is included in the kits.

Education: the Program for 2020 is still in the planning stages.

Membership: There were several new members at the last meeting and this meeting.

Park and Rec: Looking to mark the trail to Bench Lakes around private property this fall.

Capital Improvements Program: The Borough has discontinued this program. Sports Field: There are only a few more reservation for the field for this fall.

President: The Borough will arrange for MEA to install a light at Meadow Lakes Loop and Pittman, which is a school bus stop.
5. **Presentation:** Bonnie Quill, Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau: The Impact of Tourism in the Mat-Su. Visitors Center was established in 1989. Access became difficult with the interchange, the hospital, and Trunk Road roundabout. In 2008 started looking at relocating the visitor center. Three sites elevated out of 12. The Homestead RV Park was chosen, mile 36 of the Glenn Highway. Now shares access with the state park. The Borough purchased the site in 2014 from MEA. The design is shovel ready. Currently raising funds. Board voted to raise the bed tax from 5% to 8%, but ultimately decided to look at alternative funds. The organization is a 501c6 so there is no tax benefit for donations. Formed a 501c3 non-profit in 2017. Most of the grants applied for are federal. What are the costs to operate the facility? Have an operations agreement with the Borough that capital maintenance and improvements would be the responsibility of the Borough. The Visitors Bureau is financed by 65% of the bed tax; this would pay for staff and operating the building. 5.8M still needed to build it. Mat-Su Borough has the lowest bed tax in the state (5%), Denali is 7%, 8% in Fairbanks, 10% in Anchorage. More visitors to Alaska, 7% increase last year, 16% increase this year of cruise passengers. About 1/3 of those include a land portion. Anchorage broke tourism records this year. Up 13% increase in bed tax for the Borough this year. Winter is getting bigger and summer is stronger. Uptick in hiking tourism leading people who are here for family, stay longer for hiking. The trails page on the website is one of the most visited pages.

Denali Dispensers: Denali Dispensers is changing ownership. Located at the 3000 square foot facility at the old gravel pit on Pittman. There were increases in summer sales in Anchorage. Denali employs 7 in cultivation. They produce roughly 30 pounds per month. One notice of violation of smell but replaced the air filters right away.

6. **Correspondence:** The correspondence links were presented as listed in the Agenda.

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7. **Old Business:** None.

8. **New Business:**

**Bylaws change:** A by-law change was introduced to remove the line “Chairs of three (3) standing committees” from the section on Quorum. The argument in favor is: The change would allow all the chairs of the standing committees to be counted in the quorum. They are currently not counted. The argument opposed is: Effectively reduces the number of general members needed for a quorum. The By-Laws Committee will revisit the proposed change.

**Appointment of a new Secretary:** Postponed to next month.

**Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup:** Saturday, September 14 at 10 am was set for the cleanup. Milepost 48 to 49. The contract with the state expires this year. Chad offered to take on organizing for next year. There is a requirement to clean 3 times per year.

9. **Agency Reports:**

Senator David Wilson discussed the past legislative session.  
Jake Almeida from Senator Shower’s office introduced himself.

Assembly Person Tam Boeve: Transportation Fair tomorrow. Roadside hunters are expected to be careful of homes in the surrounding area. A couple of homes in Big Lake have been hit. It is illegal to scare away moose to interfere with people hunting. DOT&PF 80% done with earthquake repairs. What about the Borough road bond match? Currently no match. The Borough is advocating for Valley transportation projects. Community Assistance funds for Community Councils is secured for next year.

10. **Persons to be heard:** Judy Hunter spoke about the new Meadow Lakes Market which she and her husband have started at the corner of Meadow Lakes Loop and the Parks Highway.

11. **Next Meeting Location:**

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

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

12. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm by President Patti Fisher.

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Patti Fisher, President                      Date

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Linda Conover, Vice President                      Date