

Meeting Minutes May 9, 2018

Meadow Lakes Community Council Inc.

❖ 3 Officers required for quorum: TOTAL =3 YES ❖ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pres: Patricia Fisher ❖ <input type="checkbox"/> Vice Pres: Rae Arno <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer: Cindy Michaelson ❖ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sec: Janet Henkel <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Coordinator: Tim Swezey	❖ 3 Committee Chairs required for quorum: TOTAL = 5 YES ❖ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education: Cally Leader ❖ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CIP: Terry Boyle <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bylaw: Linda Conover ❖ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mem: Lacy Harris <input type="checkbox"/> Trail: Lori Benner-Hanson ❖ <input type="checkbox"/> Safety: Larry Michaelson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gaming: Ariel Cannon
❖ 10 Members of the Meadow Lakes Community required for quorum: TOTAL = 18 YES ❖ Meeting Quorum = YES	

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by President Patti Fisher. It was determined that a quorum was present.
1. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited.
2. **Approval of:**
 - a. **Agenda** – Patti Fisher added Todd Smith from DOT as an additional speaker. Dawn Houston motioned to approve the agenda, with a second from Lacey Harris. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous in favor.
 - b. **Minutes** – Lacey Harris motioned to approve the April minutes, and was seconded by Cally Leader. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous in favor.
 - c. **Treasurers Report** – None
3. **Reports:**

President – Patti Fisher gave the presidents report. Patti asked that everyone please take a moment to look at the artwork and posters displayed by students from the different area schools related to recycling and pollution.

Cleanup is underway and Patti hopes everyone will get out and clean up around their neighborhood. The dumpster will be at the fire station beginning Monday evening. Next Sunday will be our big cleanup party at the sports field. Please add this event to your calendar and plan to show up! Saturday, May 19 we will be doing our Adopt a Mile cleanup. Our mile is located right before Pittman Road, and we will be meeting at the mall at 10:00 am on the morning of May 19th.

Patti said that she has been pushing for a coalition of community councils, and our troopers have recently asked that the community councils get together and form a safety coalition. This group will be meeting on the third Wednesday of the month for the coming months.

\$50,000 has been set aside by the borough for Neighborhood Watch and Civil Aerial Patrol. This money will be divided by all community councils, which will result in approximately \$2,000 per community council. These funds will be used to help with safety projects here in Meadow Lakes.

The Meadow Lakes Garden Club will be having its annual plant sale at the Meadow Lakes Mall on Friday and Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.

Gaming – Ariel Cannon presented the gaming report. There was \$514.00 sold in Split the Pot ticket sales during the last AK Tuesday night fights event.

Parks & Rec – None

CIP – Terry Boyle had nothing to report.

Education – Cally Leader reported that \$500 was presented to each of our schools, and \$1000 was donated to the Dolly Parton Imagination library. Funds have been set aside for a community patrol in the future.

Meeting Minutes May 9, 2018

Membership – None

Bylaws – None

Council Coordinator – Tim Swezey reported that there have been several groups which have reserved the sports field during the upcoming spring and summer months.

4. **Presentation:** Todd Smith, from State of Alaska DOT, gave a presentation about the progress and ongoing work on the Parks Highway upgrade. Work is again underway on the highway between Church Road and Pittman Road. Todd expects restrictions to start coming off during the next week, at which time paving will begin again, with another 2" of asphalt being placed over the existing roadway. There is a section of road by Rappe Excavating that will be removed and replaced as the construction crew ran out of time last fall to get this done. June will most likely be the busiest month on this project, as striping will begin just as soon as the paving is completed. The striping will be inlaid, and should last for quite some time. There is a little work left on some of the signals, as well as some touch up work, including final seeding, etc. Todd feels that this section of the project will be wrapped up by the end of July. The transition just past the Holiday station is being addressed, and some additional funding has been requested in order to smooth this out and improve it. We hope to extend this transition lane through the curve, as well as adding some additional lighting, etc. The Meadow Lakes signalized intersection will be coming into play further down the road. The next phase will probably be a fall of 2019 startup with utility relocation, and construction beginning in 2020.

Roy Roistacher and Cathy Kramer gave a presentation on Firewise. Roy lives in Meadow Lakes and works out of Station 71. Cathy is a volunteer who lost her home in a wildfire. In the last 36 hours alone the fire station has responded to 3 escaped fires from burn barrels, and all firefighters are currently carrying both structural and wildfire gear due to the high fire danger at this time. Wildfire in our community is more frequent than in many other areas because of all of the black spruce and beetle killed spruce. Roy and Cathy will be leaving their contact information with everyone today for further questions and information.

The main thing that you can do to protect your home from fire is to remove fuel loads that are within 0-6 feet from your home and create a defensible space. Defensible space is the area that you can defend until the fire department is able to show up and help you. Remove fuels such as firewood, flammables, etc. from your decks and patios. Covering your woodpile with a welders blanket is another option. Rake back the dead leaves and pine needles in these areas as well, and consider using rock instead of bark when landscaping within 5' of your home. A plant that is green and has leaves is a fire wise plant; if it has needles you should dig it up and move it further away. Annuals and perennials are also good landscaping choices. Limb your spruce trees up to approximately eye level, as it reduces the fuel load underneath the trees, and place compost piles in open areas, not in the woods.

All of the ideas listed above will greatly reduce the risk of losing your home to a wildfire. Embers and radiant heat are the principle dangers in a wildfire situation and by interrupting the continuity of the fuel that the fire feeds upon, you reduce the risk of the fire spreading. Spruce beetles are back and are very active in this area. If you have black spruce on your property that you would like to keep, Cathy suggested calling Gage Tree Service and having the trees treated. Trees can either be injected or sprayed. The injections are good for two years, and the spray will need to be reapplied annually.

Population density in the "wildlands" is increasing, as more people are moving into these areas. By being proactive in creating a defensible space around your home, engaging in safe burning practices, and having an evacuation plan and evacuation bag packed, you will be able to leave and be safe, knowing you have taken all of the necessary precautions to protect your property should there be a wild fire in your area.

There are a lot of little things that we can do for not a lot of money and just a little initiative to protect ourselves and our neighbors. Why would we not do that?

Roy and Cathy also mentioned that house numbering is very important, and Cathy can provide numbered signs for a small charge, with the proceeds being used to print more signs. Please see her after the meeting for more information. Roy also mentioned that the fire department would come out to your home and do a home inspection fire survey, please see him after the meeting for more information on this as well.

Meeting Minutes May 9, 2018

Patti thanked Roy and Cathy for their presentation.

Julie Esty of Matanuska Electric Company, and her coworker John, gave a brief presentation on projects that will be going on in the Meadow Lakes area this season. There will be some clearing going on during the summer season, but no capital projects. There is however, a project planned for 2019 in the Blodgett Lakes area, which will replace the existing lake cable with new cable. This cable would be very difficult to repair, especially during the winter months which why the new cable will be transitioned to overland cable. Julie said that many of our lakes have underwater cable, which usually doesn't last near as long as overland cable. They are beginning to replace the underwater cable based on the areas which have the largest number of outages. MEA is also hoping to expand their facilities in this area to keep up with growth as there are so many people moving here, although any future expansion will most likely not occur for another 4 – 5 years.

Julie stated that MEA is only allowed to clear within the easement area, although they will be working within the different communities as the beetle killed spruce begin to age to keep them from falling into the electric lines.

Patti thanked Julie and John for their presentation.

6. **Correspondence:** Correspondence links were listed on the agenda.
7. **Old Business:** None
8. **New Business:** The community council was asked by the borough to put together a resolution approving a parking area and trailhead at Baldy. Funding would be from the Pittman/Robinson fund, which comes from ammunition sales. The borough will be applying for this funding and will then match it. When the borough was asked who would be attending our meeting to speak on this, they advised that they had decided to cancel their request, as the funding would in part require a 20 year commitment for trail maintenance, as well as easement acquisition, which may be extremely hard to come by. This trail is currently listed as a trespass trail by the mental health trust. We are currently going to hold off on this resolution until we have had time to review all of the details and can provide you with more information.

Election results are as follows:

Vice President – Linda Conover
Treasurer – Cindy Michaelson
Council Coordinator – Camden Yehle
Chair, Parks & Recreation – Lori Benner-Hanson
Chair, Bylaws Committee – Terry Boyle
Chair, Membership – Lacey Harris

All parties nominated were elected for a two year period.

9. **Agency Reports:** Fire Chief John Fairchild gave a report on behalf of the fire department. Station 73 is up and running and things there are going well. Several new firefighters are coming into the program; several of them are part-time, on call personnel, who are basically volunteers. Burn permits are required, please be aware of the weather, etc. and don't forget to call in when you are burning, as well as making sure that you have water and the necessary equipment on site. Things are very dry and we can't get there fast enough. Burn permits are also required for burn barrels. Please make sure that your burn barrels are sitting on bare ground or gravel with no flammables within the defensible space. Please get your house numbers up – we can't help you if we can't find you! The fire department is currently recruiting and in need of volunteers in both West Lakes and Susitna areas.
10. **Persons to be heard:** Carol Rice, Wasilla Area Seniors, Inc. spoke briefly about the senior luncheon that will be held one week from today. The cost is \$6 for seniors and \$9 for non-seniors. Please join them; the topic will be "Keeping Seniors Busy". The annual Miles for Meals event will be held on June 9, 2018. Race time will be from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm, with a BBQ to follow. Sign up is \$20 before the day of the race, and \$30 the day of the race.

Stacie Windsor of Forest Lakes Subdivision spoke about the growing drug problems in her neighborhood. She

Meeting Minutes May 9, 2018

said calls to troopers are not being responded to, as there are so many. She asked what they could do to help stop crime in their neighborhood. Patti Fisher responded that setting up a neighborhood watch program would be a good start, as well as community and civil patrols. Patti stated that part of a secondary road in and out of the subdivision will soon be blocked off, which will help, although this is a temporary solution. Patti advised staying on to the borough officials and attending borough meetings.

Jasmine Martin, representative from Senator Wilson's office, spoke briefly. She advised that the capital budget passed yesterday with \$75K in it for community watch programs. Hopefully this funding will stay in place, however until it is signed into law, anything can happen. Earlier in the year, a couple of persons from Senator Wilson's office were allowed to go on a ride along with troopers. One of the things that took up a large amount of the trooper's time was serving warrants. There is currently some work being done on how we can fund troopers, and retain troopers, including allowing them to become more efficient and reduce the attitude of hopelessness within their ranks. There was a bill discussed in the senate on reinstating trooper pensions, however Jasmine does not believe it passed. Talk with your Senators and voice your opinion in keeping and expanding our trooper program. Representative Neumann has been working overtime on this issue. Ariel Cannon suggested using bounty hunters to serve warrants, and Patti Fisher suggested recruiting new troopers at the high school level.

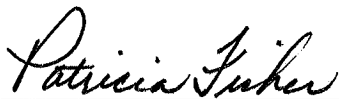
11. Approve Meeting Location:

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

Wednesday, June 13, 2018
Sign In: 6PM to 7PM
Meeting: 7PM – 9PM

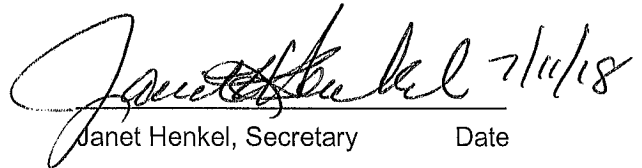
Jan Henkel moved to approve the June meeting location and was seconded by Lacey Harris. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous in favor.

12. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm by President Patti Fisher.



Patricia Fisher, President

Date



Janet Henkel, Secretary

Date