

# Meeting Minutes September 12, 2018

## Meadow Lakes Community Council Inc.

<b>✚ 3 Officers required for quorum: TOTAL = 4 YES</b>	<b>✚ 3 Committee Chairs required for quorum: TOTAL = 5 YES</b>
✚ <b>Pres:</b> Patricia Fisher ✚ <b>Vice Pres:</b> Linda Conover	✚ <b>Education:</b> Cally Leader ✚ <b>CIP:</b> Tim Swezey
○ <b>Treasurer:</b> Cindy Michaelson ✚ <b>Sec:</b> Janet Henkel	○ <b>Bylaw:</b> Terry Boyle ✚ <b>Mem:</b> Lacy Harris
✚ <b>Council Coordinator:</b> Camden Yehle	✚ <b>Trail:</b> Lori Benner-Hanson ✚ <b>Safety:</b> Larry Michaelson
	✚ <b>Gaming:</b> Ariel Cannon
<b>✚ 10 Members of the Meadow Lakes Community required for quorum: TOTAL = 12 YES ✚</b>	
<b>Meeting Quorum 4 Officers + 5 Chairs + 12 Community Members = YES</b>	

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.
  - 1a. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited.
2. **Approval of:**
  - a. **Agenda** – Jan Henkel motioned to approve the agenda and was seconded by Ariel Cannon. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous in favor.
  - b. **Minutes** – Lacey Harris motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Kim Kalmbach. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous in favor.
  - c. **Treasurers Report** – Patti Fisher presented the treasurers report.
3. **Reports:**

**President** – Nothing to report.

**Gaming** – Ariel Cannon thanked Sherri Rusher for hosting Bingo. Ariel also mentioned that he had put in some wheel stops at the sports field and thanked everyone for using the field.

**Parks & Rec** – Nothing to report.

**CIP** – Nothing to report.

**Education** – Nothing to report.

**Membership** – Nothing to report.

**Bylaws** – Nothing to report.

**Council Coordinator** – Camden Yehle invited everyone to attend the transportation fair as there would be approximately 110 projects represented.
4. **Presentation:** Neil Fried gave a presentation on the economy of our state as a whole. Neil has been the economist for the State of Alaska since 1978, and has served under every governor but one since Alaska became a state.

The Mat-Su Borough has shown very rapid growth since statehood, with a temporary dip in the early 80's. Other than a slight decline in 2009, and a flat economy in 2016 and 2017, the Mat-Su Borough has shown some growth every year. Even when jobs in Anchorage were showing a decrease, Mat-Su jobs were either remaining flat or showing a slight increase. The number of jobs lost or gained has basically been the same.

Neil presented a chart which showed that 55% of all MSB residents work within the borough, although this did not

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include federal or military employees, and 7% of Valley residents work on the slope. The MSB exports either labor or payroll and is one of the few places that imports money. This model is very different than other locations within Alaska. Although Alaska is a very seasonal employer unemployment rates are no higher than they have been in the past. There are now a larger percentage of people commuting to the slope and a smaller percentage commuting to Anchorage. The forecast for the slope is positive.

Building permits at the end of 2017 equaled 1005, which is close to the 2006 number of 1762. Even though the MSB represents only 14% of the entire states population, over 50% of the housing starts were in the MSB. The first half of 2018 looks very similar to 2017.

Health care has been the fastest growing sector in the economy in the past year, and there are a larger number of retired and multigenerational families. Alaska is currently the second youngest state in the nation.

Military spending has started to show an increase statewide, and cruise ship passengers are returning by the "boatloads". Over half of the households in the MSB are either at or above the median US wage. Rural Alaska is now growing faster than Anchorage due to natural migrations – births versus deaths. The MSB school district is one of the only districts in the state that is actually growing. Manufacturing is declining statewide, however mining is beginning to show growth. The valley has a smaller self-employed population than the country as a whole, with the majority of these being fisherman.

Big beer consumption, i.e.: Coors, Bud Light, etc. has declined, however craft beer consumption has increased. Coffee consumption has also increased, although there is no evidence to prove we are one of the major ice cream consumers in the US. Marijuana incomes are also growing, but expected to flatten out over time.

More than half of the state's growth through 2010 was in the valley and the MSB is becoming a much bigger slice of the pie in the state's economy. Patti Fisher thanked Neil for his presentation, and Neil thanked the audience for their participation.

Ryan McKee spoke in favor of ballot proposition B-3 and John Strassenburg spoke in opposition.

Ryan stated that moving the overall election to a general election day seems to be a more cost effective measure, as well as gathering a much larger number of voters, in turn creating a more positive outcome. Including Mat-Su Borough elections in this program would gather larger voter participation without increasing voter cost. While there is a potential to save money with this program, this election process would need to be supervised by the state, and would be fully implemented in 2020. Any costs incurred would most likely be split between the borough and the state. There are still quite a few issues to be decided before this program could be implemented.

John Strassenburg believes that this issue is not as simple as his opponent portrays it to be. The state will currently not allow combined elections, and would require a statutory change. This would lead to two separate ballots and two separate elections. It is anticipated that most locations would be able to accommodate both elections at the same time; however there are a few areas that would not be able to make these accommodations. Right now the borough borrows the states election machines, which would create an issue. The purchase of new machines would incur a great expense, as would the recruitment of election workers, as the majority of these workers are shared between elections. Local issues should be on a separate ballot as these are issues that affect our daily lives, and as such, should demand our total attention.

- 6. Correspondence:** Correspondence links were listed on the agenda. There will be more education classes coming up, and these classes are free.

**Platting:** Links are listed in the agenda.

**Marijuana:** Links are listed in the agenda.

- 7. Old Business:** None.

- 8. New Business:** Volunteers are needed for the Adopt A Highway cleanup scheduled for September 15, 2018. We will be starting at 10:00 am. Please come out to help us clean up our neighborhood!

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- 9. Reports:** Roy Roistacher of West Lakes Fire Department said he is happy to hear about the education classes being offered and added that the fire department provides education to everyone who asks from daycares on up. Fill the Boot brought in slightly less than \$2000, which was slightly more than last year. These funds are in turn passed on to the Muscular Dystrophy fund.

Jasmine from Senator Wilson's office said that she enjoyed the meeting.

- 10. Persons to be heard:** Dan Dees is running for Assembly District 7. He is a retired Navy vet and is hoping to use some of his public safety experience in public office. He would appreciate your vote in the upcoming election.

Tam Boeve is running for Assembly District 7 also. She has been active in the Willow community and attended Assembly meetings for the last two years. Please contact her if you would like further information.

Walt Kloepfer is also running for Assembly District 7. Walt is retired from the Coast Guard, has taught school as well as serving on the city council and as city manager in the bush. He is from Talkeetna and loves to drive. He believes that you represent the people in your area and is willing to do that.

Patti Fisher spoke with Jeannie Trost of Midnight Sun Charter School and they are working to address the traffic issue on Pittman turning into the school.

Richard Nevins is concerned about the street lights on Pittman and Parks Highway and will be attending the Transportation Fair.

Radio Free Palmer has been taping and recording tonight's meeting, and although familiar with Meadow Lakes, was not familiar with this facility. Radio Free Palmer is headquartered next to Fireside Books and programming is available throughout the world. They stream borough assembly meetings, etc. and are there to encourage you to tell your story. A recording of tonight's meeting will be available on their website – [radiofreepalmer.org](http://radiofreepalmer.org)

**11. Approve Meeting Location:**

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

Wednesday, October 10, 2018  
Sign In: 6PM to 7PM  
Meeting: 7PM – 9PM

- 12. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm by President Patti Fisher.

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Patricia Fisher, President      Date

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Janet Henkel, Secretary      Date