

Meeting Minutes March 11, 2020

Meadow Lakes Community Council Inc.

❖ Officers ❖

Y Pres: Patricia Fisher Y Vice Pres: Linda Conover
N Treasurer: Cindy Michaelson Y Sec: Camden Yehle
Y Council Coordinator: Tim Swezey

❖ Committee Chairs ❖

Y Education: Cally Leader N CIP: Vacant
Y Bylaw: Terry Boyle Y Mem: Holly Gramt
Y Trail: Lori Benner-Hanson Y Safety: Chad Smith
N Gaming: Ariel Cannon

❖ 13 Members of the Meadow Lakes Community required for quorum: TOTAL = NO ❖

Meeting Quorum = NO

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by President Patti Fisher. It was determined that a quorum was not present.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited.
3. **Approval of:**
 - a. **Agenda –**
 - b. **Minutes –** Vote postponed.
 - c. **Treasurer's Report –** Included in meeting packet.
4. **Presentation:** Criminal Justice in the Mat-Su Borough by Roman Kalytlak, Mat-Su District Attorney. He brought three other younger prosecutors from the office. Glenn Shagner (misdemeanor prosecutor), Mellissa Howard (felony sexual assault prosecutor), and Josh Trainer (drugs and felony prosecutor). New criminal case in 2019: 3033 in Palmer court. Still have cases from previous years. They also cover Prince Williams Sound, Cordova, Valdez, and Glennallen. SB91 brought the number of cases down by 500 to 600 cases. Once SB91 was repealed, the cases went back up to where they were before. Small office with large caseload per person. Usually 20 felon trials and 20 misdemeanor trials per year. Basically, back to pre-SB-91 law. Makes prosecutor's lives easier. Theft problem tied to drug problem. Seeing more situations that turn violent related to drugs. Too much reliance on Troopers and prosecutors in the Borough. Serious problems with court backlogs, excessive litigation, excessive delays, revolving door, two-year appellate (appeals) backlog. Higher numbers of serious offenders and gangs coming to the valley. Other major issue is the budget, affects resources. All the money comes through the central State office; the District Attorneys don't control their own budgets. More money and more prosecutors would help. Drugs and gangs make cases complicated and people too scared to come forward. 17 pending murder cases with no scheduled trial time. Lost on prosecutor and one office assistant with the budget cuts. There are many big questions out there. 1) Can the Mat-Su continue to rely on the Troopers alone? 2) How can the Mat-Su get more police and prosecutor resources? (Budget/politics) 3) Will the Mat-Su see Anchorage-type crime rates in the future?

Will a reputation of being tough on crime help keep people out? If we suggest no plea bargains it would clog up courts. Always look at the offender and risk to the community and prioritize. Work with the victims on plea bargains. The process takes a long time.

What about automatic sentencing? There are existing presumptive ranges and mandatory minimums, but they don't help move cases faster. The court system is not setup for all cases to go to trial. Cases are not as cut and dry as they seem, even if there is video and confessions.

The Troopers always have the discretion to not investigate. They have become the go to for all things, search and rescue, public safety, etc.

If a new defense attorney comes onto the case, the timeline starts over. The judge won't push defense attorneys into trial before they are ready because cases can be appealed and overturned.

If the drugs are a major part of the problem, where are the opiates coming from? The State has a special unit regarding doctors over prescribing. Drugs also come from out of state. The profit margin is high and attractive.

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Many people are sitting in jail that haven't been sentenced. Can be caused by paperwork, court backlog, or repeat offenses. Most people bailout.

5. Board Reports

Gaming: No report.

Trails: Visnau trail is skiable and snow machinable.

Safety: More Neighborhood Watch Kits available.

Education: Had to cancel the classes this week due to low signup.

Bylaws: No changes.

Membership: No report.

Council Coordinator: No report.

President: Legislative meeting this weekend, 10 am to noon. Health Fair coming up March 28, 8 am to noon. No meetings will be canceled at this time. Former President Bill Brown passed away. He was instrumental in getting the land owned by the Meadow Lakes Community Council. The driveway permit application deadline will be extended.

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

7. **Old Business:** Capital Improvement Plan nominations, hold for now.

8. New Business:

- a. Appointed Sherri Rusher, Chad Scott, and Patti Fisher for the nominating committee for May election.
- b. May 11 to 16 for spring cleanup. The block party will be that Saturday, May 17.
- c. The legislative grant for the "Visnau Lake to Bench Lake Trails" will close out. President Fisher reported that the Borough has asked that we close out the grant, and apply and report 2017 Revenue Sharing expenditures against the balance of \$4,971.41 remaining in the grant. That money in the grant account will be transferred to "Revenue Sharing 2017", and can continue to be used for Trail work in the future.

9. Agency Reports:

Tanya Hightower, West Lakes Fire Department. 36 calls in February, 1 structure, 3 cars, alternate heating sources used to thaw pipes caused the rest. Get your beetle killed trees taken care of now. The landfill will take trees.

Tam Boeve, Assembly. The Assembly sent the outdoor shooting range discussion back to the Planning Department for more discussion.

10. Persons to Be Heard:

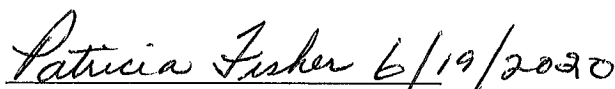
Molly Wood: running for MEA board. Please vote.

Dan Mayfield, Assembly: terming out and running for State Senate as a non-affiliated candidate.

Kevin McCabe: running for State House as a Republican.

11. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, April 8, 2020, 7 pm to 9 pm, at Meadow Lakes Senior Center, 1210 N Kim Drive, Meadow Lakes, Alaska 99623.

12. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm by President Patti Fisher.


Patricia Fisher, President Date


Camden Yehle, Secretary Date