

Meeting Minutes February 14, 2024

Meadow Lakes Community Council Inc.

Minutes of February 14, 2023

◆ 3 Officers required for quorum: TOTAL = YES ◆

Pres: Camden Yehle Y; Vice Pres: Steve Edwards
Y; Treasurer: Trish Jacob Y; Sec: Patricia Fisher
N; Council Coordinator: Tim Swezey Y

◆ 13 Members of the Meadow Lakes Community required for quorum: YES ◆

Meeting Quorum = Yes

**Meeting conducted at the on Zoom and in Person at Meadow Lake Seniors
Recorded live and posted on Facebook after the meeting**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Camden Yehle.

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited.

Determination of a Quorum: President Yehle announced that a quorum was achieved.

Board Reports:

Council Coordinator, Tim Swezey reported that Steve Edwards had cleared snow on the 40-acre trail project in the Park.

Gaming: Ariel Cannon reported that over \$400 Split the Pot tickets were sold at the January event in Palmer. The next event is February 23rd at the Palmer Train Depot.

A separate gaming activity is a possible contract that Ariel is discussing with Floaters for a Pull Tab concession.

Trails: Lori Benner thanked Dewey Bitler, and others, for their work maintaining the Little-Su Trail.

RSA Chair: Steve Edwards reported on the new road contracts under consideration by the Borough.

It is proposed that homeowners be charged for the height of the berm that is left by graders at the entrance to their drive. The charge would be reflected as an addition to the RSA mill rate. No dollar amount has been determined as of yet. Steve asked that residents call him with their comments on the new proposal. The RSAs will be voting on contract changes in the near future.

Treasurer's Report: Trish Jacob presented the Treasurer's Report for January.

President's Report: Camden reported that the Meadow Lakes Health Fair will be held on March 2nd at Meadow Lakes Elementary. She also reported on the status of the Army Corp of Engineers permit decision on the Island Lakes Float Plane Facility project. The Corp is still evaluating the project and had made no decision as of February 13. No decision has been made on the request to hold a public hearing.

Presentation: Eklutna River Restoration and Dam Mitigation, Carrie Brophil, Native Village of Eklutna (NVE). Mark Lamoreaux and Brenda Hewitt from the Village were also present. Carrie began the presentation with a brief history of the Eklutna tribe and the tribal site, including the construction of the dams built on the Eklutna river in the 1920s and the 1950s. The second dam effectively cut off the river from all Eklutna Lake water. The lower dam was taken out in 2018. The Village's goal is to have water flow through the river all year round. There is currently a 4-1/2 mile length of river bed which is not connected to the Lake. The Native Village has been conducting numerous events to garner support for having the river returned to a functioning entity.

Negotiations have been held with the operators (Matanuska Electric Associate and Chugach Electric

Meeting Minutes February 14, 2024

Association) of the Eklutna Power Project. They have not been in favored returning water to the full length of the river; they would leave one mile of the river dry, and would not restore fish passage to the lake. NVE is asking for public comment to support returning salmon to Eklutna Lake. The comment period is open February 19th at info@eklutnahydro.com.

NVE proposals would not affect the amount of water taken out of the lake going to Anchorage.

MLCC Business:

Proposed Bylaw changes: The changes to MLCC's Bylaws were recommended by the Bylaws committee, and reviewed by the MLCC Board. They are presented tonight and, as required by MLCC Bylaws, will be voted on at the following (March) membership meeting.

Camden read through all of the recommended changes.

President Yehle asked for a motion to send a letter to the state recommending that the Eklutna river be returned to its original state. Ariel made the motion, seconded by Linda Conover. Camden presented a draft letter supporting restoration of the Eklutna river to a salmon sustainable status for public use.

Comments from several members expressed the opinion that we should hear from MEA and Chugach Electric on their position on the restoration of the river before we send a letter.

A voice vote was taken regarding sending the letter. The voice vote was 11 in favor of sending the letter, 7 opposed to sending the letter to Eklutnahydro.com.

Agency Reports

West Lakes Fire, Tawyna Hightower. Tawyna reported there were 72 emergency calls with 10 homes lost to fire. One fire death occurred. West Lake Fire has fire alarms which they will install. She invited everyone to their Fire Preparedness /Free Wood Chipping Day, May 4th.

Persons to be Heard: None.

Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, March 13th at 7 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Camden Yehle, President Date

Patricia Fisher, Secretary Date