

Meeting Minutes January 11, 2023

Meadow Lakes Community Council Inc.

Minutes of January 11, 2023

◆ 3 Officers required for quorum: TOTAL = YES ◆

Pres: Camden Yehle Y; Vice Pres: Steve Edwards
Y; Treasurer: Trish Jacob Y; Sec: Patricia Fisher
Y; 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.

Quorum: The Membership Committee determined that there was a quorum.

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited.

Consent Agenda: President Camden Yehle asked for a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, which includes the agenda and the minutes dated November 11th, 2022. The motion was made by Sherri Rusher, seconded by Patti Fisher. The Consent Agenda was pass with no objections.

Board Reports:

CIP: Chair Kim Kalmbach reported on the approval by the Assembly of the CIP nominations made by the Planning Department. She reported that MLCC members Chad Scott, Lori Benner-Hansen, Patti Fisher and Kalmbach spoke to the Assembly in favor of the CIP nomination of the Council. It was announced that a meeting of the CIP Committee would be held on Tuesday, January 17. Dewey Bitler asked for a meeting notice including the Zoom Link.

Membership: No report.

ByLaws: No report.

Gaming: Chair Ariel Cannon reported on the gaming event at the Palmer Depot in November. The next event will be held on January 20 in Palmer, with additional events occurring in February, March and April. Ariel asked for nominations of the names of charities to which our 2023 gaming funds could be distributed.

Safety: No report.

Parks and Trails: Chair Lori Benner-Hansen gave thanks to Dewey Bitler and others who have participated in maintaining the Visnaw-Little Su trail.

Education: No report.

Council Coordinator: No report.

Secretary: No report.

Vice President: Steve Edwards reported that Assembly Person Tew removed funding for Sand Storage from the Road Service CIP list. Tim Hale objected for his district and got the funds restored. Meadow Lakes Assembly person Bernier did not object and Meadow Lakes lost the funds. Steve plans to bring this up at the next Big Board meeting and may write a resolution regarding the funds.

Secretary Fisher reported that the Assembly had accepted the report of the Road Service Area Task Force at the meeting on December 20th. The report did not recommend moving to a Time and Materials contract.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Trish Jacob gave a report of the highlights of the financial report.

Meeting Minutes January 11, 2023

Presentation: Parks Highway Alternative Study.

Camden stated that the Council will discuss comments and prepare a formal statement for vote at the February Council meeting:

Representatives from Dowl Engineering gave a presentation on the Parks Highway Alternative Study: Jovie Garcia and Renee Whitesell represented the project group. A video on the project was shown, and then the representative answered questions from members. The Plan is funded by the Federal Department of Transportation and the State of Alaska Department of Transportation. It currently includes 9 possible routes. The Study group is now refining alternative routes for further consideration.

Questions:

Patti Fisher: What is the northern boundary of the study area? Ms. Whitesell reported that the edge of the study area is Big Lake Road. What is the cost of the study up to this date? Ms. Whitesell estimated the amount to be 2-1/2 million.

Ms. Whitesell reported that the study group is in the process of adding detail to the plans and will have a narrower list in the spring (perhaps 3 to 6 routes). She acknowledged that the Alternative Plan has been studied since the 1980s, with the most recent analysis undertaken during the 2010s. This study will be completed in 2024.

Sherri Rusher: Stated that she will need time to review the routes before giving her responses. She commented that this work is a "study" with no guarantee that it will actually be built.

Dewey Bitler: What is the plan for the size of the roadway? Ms. Whitesell reported that it is planned to be 4 lanes with controlled access. She is hopeful that the criteria will be available in a week and will be put on the website soon.

Kendra McLean: Kendra commented that Hollywood and Sunset have a large number of driveways. How would this impact the Hollywood route.

Ms. Whitesell stated that Hollywood would be a complete rebuild, which is a major challenge for that option. Kendra also asked why the Plan does not stop at Johnson and the Parks, rather than continue to Big Lake Road. Ms. Whitesell commented that BL is not definite as a termination point of the plan.

Steve Edwards: Steve commented that the stage we are at now should have been done 20 years ago.

Ms. Whitesell says that the team is aware that the issue has previously been studied; however, conditions have changed: population, safety issues.

Patti Fisher: Patti asked for clarification of the status between federal and state funds. Ms. Whitesell: All federal funds are funneled through the state. There is a state match which is required.

Kendra McLean: Kendra asked about road maintenance. Ms. Whitesell: It is most likely that road maintenance will be managed by the State.

Camden Yehle: Camden is concerned about the "Greenfield" routes, and believes that it has become is a question between cutting down trees and cutting down houses. She wants more consideration of changes to the existing Parks Highway to accommodate traffic. She also is concerned by the apparent lack of participation by various stakeholder groups: MSB, City of Wasilla, Road Service Area Boards, other community councils. Ms. Whitesell asked that Camden's comments about the existing highway be included in our Council's formal comments. Ms. Whitesell stated that the planning group is making personal contact to various groups to encourage participation.

Business: Camden stated that the 2023 budget will be presented at the February 8th meeting.

Correspondence: None.

Agency Reports:

Senator David Wilson reported that he is currently in Juneau preparing for the legislative session. Steve Edwards thanked the Senator for being part of the group that is working together to get things accomplished. He is concerned about legislative changes to "defined benefits" as a means to solve the employee retention problem, and hopes that this issue will be discussed.

Camden announced that there will be a Zoom meeting of the CIP Committee on Tuesday January 17th at

Meeting Minutes January 11, 2023

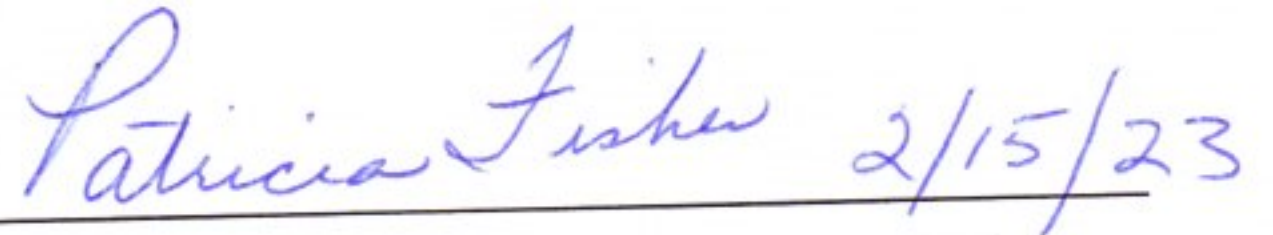
6:30pm.

Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, February 8th at 7 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.



Camden Yehle, President Date 2/15/23

 2/15/23

Patricia Fisher, Secretary Date