

Minutes February 8, 2023

Meadow Lakes Community Council Inc.

Minutes of February 8, 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 7:01 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 add 3 items to the Consent Agenda, which includes the agenda and the minutes dated November 11th, 2022. The added items were 2 platting letters and a letter to the Borough manager concerning the Council's CIP nomination for a parking area at the Baldy trail head on the Little Su. Hearing no objections, the three items were added to the Agenda. A motion was made by Patti Fisher, seconded by Tim Swezey, to approve the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda was pass with no objections.

Board Reports:

CIP: Chair Kim Kalmbach reported that she will be contacting DNR for their comments on the CIP nomination.

Membership: No report.

ByLaws: No report.

Gaming: Chair Ariel Cannon reported on the gaming event at the Palmer Depot in January, with over \$550 in split-the-pot tickets sold. The next event will be held on February 25 in Palmer. Volunteers were requested for the event.

Safety: Chad Scott report that the Alaska Troopers were requesting comments on their policy regarding body cameras. Cam asked if we should write a letter with Council comments about the Trooper policy on Body Cams. She asked that Chad draft a letter for the Council to be presented at the March meeting. Chad also reported that Talon Boeve was acknowledged at the Assembly for her work with Emergency Services.

Parks and Trails: Chair Lori Benner-Hansen gave thanks to Dewey Bitler for maintaining the Visnaw-Little Su trail. She also reported that the Department of Forestry has put in their fire break, called the Sunset Fuel Break, on Bald Mountain.

Education: No report.

Council Coordinator: No report.

Secretary: Patti reported that we had received a grant from Rasmuson Foundation for the Infield Grader which will be used to maintain the baseball diamonds. She also reported on the winners of the Midvalley Recycling competition which sought ideas for reuse of waste products. The Youth prize of \$3,000 went to a group from Teeland Middle School, who call themselves the Banana Botz, with an idea to construct low-cost housing from refrigeration containers. The Adult prize was for a plan to construct plastic lumber.

Vice President: Steve Edwards gave a brief RSA report saying that we were down one (of three) road

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superintendents.

President: Camden reported on a change the MSB code on waterbody setbacks. The ordinance will be introduced at the Planning Commission on March 6th with the public hearing on March 20th. Camden will include the ordinance on the agenda for discussion at our March meeting.

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

Correspondence:

Correspondence was received from the Borough including a map of right away access for Seldon Extension Phase 2. Camden proposed writing a letter to support the Borough continuing to obtain the right away as shown on the map.

A platting application at Swiss Castle subdivision was presented. The application allows the creation a flag lot. Camden presented a draft letter which objects to flag lots in general and to excessive driveways. Steve Edwards suggested adding a comment that long driveways hamper Emergency Service response. Camden introduced a letter written to the Borough Manager by Kim Kalmbach requesting support, in the upcoming budget discussions, of the Council's CIP nomination of a parking lot at the trail head for Bald Mountain. Camden asked Assemblyman Ron Bernier, in attendance, for his support of the project. Motion was made by Steve Edwards to approve the three letters, seconded by Patti Fisher. An individual voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Presentation: Parks Highway By-Pass Alternative Study - Discussion.

Camden read a draft letter with comments regarding the study. The comments in the letter had been received by Camden by voice, email and from discussion at the January meeting. Member discussion took place and the following comments were added to the letter:

Chad Scott: He sees a big need for a by-pass and is in favor of the Yellow Line. Believes downtown Wasilla is too built-up already and is beyond fixing. Supports future development south of the existing Parks Highway. He is in favor of slowing down the study process, having more options, more planning and more discussion.

Dewey Bitler: Submitted comments on line. Fairview Loop needs to be upgraded. Hyer Road connection to Parks needs to be improved. Nelson Road, which branches off of Trunk Rd, need to extend into Fairview Loop. That would take a lot of pressure off Wasilla traffic. Dewey supports development of existing corridors.

Dan Phillips: Fairview Loop resident, not a member of MLCC. A number of the routes proposed affect him - 2015 approved path, purple and green paths. He suggests a plan (originally proposed by Bruce Carr of the Alaska Railroad) to build a bridge across to Pt. Mackenzie, with a road across the top of the rail way.

Steve Edwards: For years he has advocated moving the railroad. Opening up the rail corridor would allow massive amounts of development in Wasilla. A new roadway could then go way south of the green route and not impact as many communities. He believes that the cost of moving the railway would be less than developing a new highway.

Ariel Cannon: Originally was recommending bridges over the Wasilla intersections and express lanes, but would absolutely support the bridge over the inlet.

Al Leonard: Biggest concern: the road would be expensive and would not be executed.

Sherri Rusher: This is the third study that has taken place. It does not have support from the Borough, the City, the state, the feds. Supports Mr. Phillips idea of the bridge. Build the Railroad and the highway will follow. Otherwise she supports improving the existing highway.

Mike Phillips: Supports upgrading the existing highway. Believes that improving the route through Wasilla can be done. In favor of getting the railroad out of Wasilla. Supports the bridge across the inlet.

Joan Tovson: Planning is the key. Should take road counts, population distribution, geology into consideration. Camden reported that the study group did a significant traffic study. The study is on the Alternative Route website. She showed a map which plots the areas to which traffic are flowing at critical times of the day.

Patti Fisher: She advocates improving the area through Wasilla in the choke area, Hyer through Church.

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Camden showed a map of the proposed traffic flow changed (described as channelizing) which are being proposed through Wasilla at Main, and the drive ways which would be closed.

Steve Edward: Moving the railway would open an area for upgrades to the highway. The vacated railway would allow for expansion of the highway. Need separated grade at two bottle necks: KGB/Main, and Palmer/Wasilla highway.

Dewey Bitler: Need a sign at the park-and-ride at the bus barn.

Baerent Strandberg: Asked if there are projects planned for Church Rd. He would like to see Moose fences all along Church and Pittman and removal of brush along the roadway. Camden said that she would pass that comment along to the Department of Transportation.

Steve Edward made a motion to submit the letter to the project team, seconded by Terry Boyle. A voice was taken and passed without objections.

Presentation: The presentation on spring garden planning by Joan Tovsen was deferred until the March meeting.

Agency Reports:

Ron Bernier: Property tax assessment notices have been sent by the Borough. Appeals can be made by February 28. There will be a strategic planning session by the Borough on March 11. There will be public testimony for first responders on March 22. Ron reported that the governor wants to do more public safety on fentanyl, domestic violence and carbon footprint.

Dewey asked for Ron's position on the 75-foot water setback. Ron stated that he saw no reason that the setback should be any closed than 75 feet. Dewey feels that just changing the rule because there are people that don't like it is wrong. There are reasons for the rule.

Ron reported his phone number as 907-354-7877.

Senator David Wilson: The Senate is starting to look at the budget. No specifics yet. The Senator is serving on the Finance, Health and Social Services and Transportation Committees. Steve Edwards expressed support for pension/retirement bills. Camden is concerned that people are not getting their SNAP benefits. The Senator reported that new systems are being looked at to support public services. Senator Wilson supports looking at retirement benefit changes for everybody, not just some groups. Baerent Strandberg reported a flaw in the banking system regarding mining leasing. Senator Wilson asked Mr. Strandberg to call his office with more details.

Patti Fisher made a motion to extend the meeting for 5 minutes, seconded by Steve Edwards. No objections were voiced.

No persons asked to be heard.

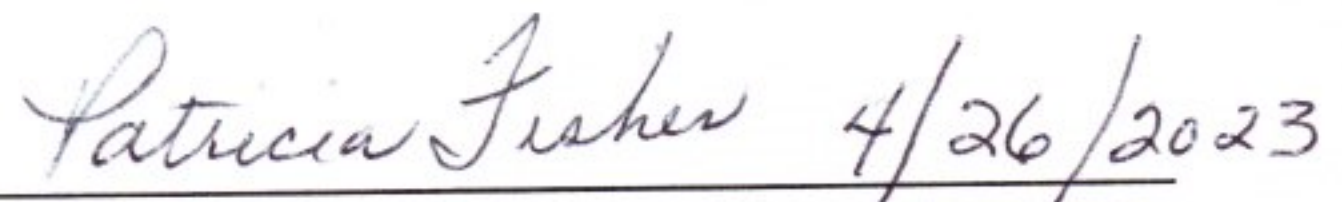
Camden made an official announcement that she and Al are expecting a new addition to the family on July 8.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.



Camden Yehle, President Date 4/24/23



Patricia Fisher, Secretary Date