

**Talkeetna Community Council, Inc.**  
Regular Meeting  
July 6, 2011 - Talkeetna Public Library  
DRAFT Minutes

**1. Call To Order/ Quorum Established**

Sharon Montagnino called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Board members present - Sharon Montagnino, Howard Carbone, Mary Farina, Rick Schreiber, Cary Birdsall, Whitney Wolff

**2. Minutes**

Taken by Rick Schreiber

**3. Approval of the Agenda** – move to approve with Title 27 added under New Business: Cary Birdsall, second: Whitney Wolff. Agenda approved unanimously.

**4. Approval of June 6, 2011 Minutes**

Moved to approve: Cary Birdsall, second: Howard Carbone. Minutes unanimously approved.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

Howard Carbone reported that the Talkeetna Community Council Playground Account has a balance of \$ 8126.51.

The TCC, Inc. general account has a balance of \$6353.82, \$5000.00 is United Way grant money passing through the Council to Sunshine Transit Coalition, \$500.00 is unclaimed revenue sharing money to be rolled over, leaving \$853.82 belonging to the Council.

**6. Correspondence**

Sharon Montagnino read the correspondence summary (See attached).

**7. Announcements**

None

**8. Persons to be heard**

Ann Yadon gave an update on their request to apply for a study of the Talkeetna Public Library for potential improvements. If accepted, the study will look at the sustainability and feasibility of making library improvements including a larger building. Ann Yadon noted the circulation at the Talkeetna Public Library is the highest per capita in the borough. There will be a meeting August 9<sup>th</sup> regarding this request and Ann asked the TCC for a letter of support for their request. The Library study letter of support was moved to New Business.

Chris Owens informed the TCC that he just moved here with his wife and they have recently purchased the property along the river near downtown where past horse activity was located. He has been involved in property management in the past and they are considering starting a food service and lodging business on this property.

Jim Kellard noted that a Water and Sewer Meeting will take place on July 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm and the

discussion will center on the rate increase.

## **9. Assembly Update**

Vern Halter noted on the following:

Talkeetna Water and Sewer: Chuck Braun will be at the aforementioned Water and Sewer Meeting and that there is a rate increase ordinance before the borough.

Redistricting Lawsuit: The Mayor had previously vetoed to join a lawsuit regarding redistricting. The Assembly did not override this veto.

Local Park Improvement Funding: The Talkeetna Downtown Park has been awarded \$70,000.00, Christensen Lake Park \$50,000.00, and Talkeetna Lakes Park \$56,000.00. Potential improvements may include, but are not limited to new benches, shelters, and barbeques. Vern suggested that TCC contact James King (Project Manger) to discuss how these funds may be best used to improve these three local parks.

Title 16 and 27: Vern commented on these Titles that are associated with subdivision codes. Go to <http://www.tkacouncil.org/201107july-2011-documents> to download the file, Differences between 16 & 27\_PC\_Plating\_06272011.doc, for details.

## **10. Committee and Board Reports**

### **a. Road Service**

John Strassenburgh submitted the following report: "No Parking" signs in the alley between the Post Office and B Street still need to be installed. Brushing and fill work on Old Lake Road should be completed by the end of June. Calcium chloride will be applied to several roads, primarily in the downtown area. The Board requested that the alleyways be added to the application list. Approximately 11 miles of gravel roads will be reconditioned this summer using the Elliott Grid Compactor.

### **b. Matanuska-Susitna Borough Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Board**

(See attached report)

### **c. Susitna Dam**

Whitney Wolff noted that she joined a teleconference where many questions were addressed regarding the proposed project. The next meeting is July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 am where the scheduled 25-minute comment period has been extended to 50 minutes. Whitney feels that this shows some responsiveness considering the concerns of numerous individuals and organizations.

## **11. Unfinished Business**

### **a. Talkeetna Airport Improvements**

A letter was sent to TCC in response to the letter that TCC sent to Senator Huggins regarding numerous questions about the current plan for Talkeetna Airport Improvements. 10 million dollars has been approved for this project. Rick Schreiber noted that he would review this letter to ascertain whether he should contact Steve Hanson to see if he can assist with getting all our questions addressed regarding the proposed project.

### **b. State and Timber Harvest Schedule**

The comment period is still open. Cary Birdsall stated that he would reformat the letter that was sent by TCC to the Mat-Su Borough regarding their Timber Harvest Schedule.

**c. Mat-Su Borough Harvest Schedule**

This schedule has been postponed.

**d. Sewer and Water Rate Increase**

There have been two phone calls received by TCC regarding the rate increase. Ruth Woods commented that she is concerned that the Department of Transportation is not hooked up to the system. General discussion revealed that the arsenic filter is the main reason for the rate increase.

**e. Local Area Parks Improvement**

Sharon will contact James King and Chris Mannix to help facilitate the improvement project on the following parks: The Talkeetna Downtown Park has been awarded \$70,000.00, Christensen Lake Park \$50,000.00, and Talkeetna Lakes Park \$56,000.00.

**12. New Business**

**a. Lichenwalner Communication Tower**

The comment period as originally stated has passed. There is community concern that the tower can be moved back from the Talkeetna Spur Road so that it is less visible. Other items of discussion included setbacks and permits.

Cary Birdsall moved to write a letter to Alex Strawn (Mat-Su Borough) requesting an update on the tower process. Cary Birdsall will write the letter and will include a request for clarification that proper set backs have been addressed (including a corrected map), as well as a request for no lights and no visibility of the tower form the Talkeetna Spur Road. Seconded by Mary Farina. The motion passed unanimously.

**b. Talkeetna Public Library Letter of Support**

Ann Yadon noted that the letter should be addressed as "To whom it may concern" as well as including the following: the TCC and Talkeetna Public Library relationship, that TCC holds some meetings at the Library, and that voting for TCC Council Members occurs at the Library. Cary Birdsall moved to write a letter of support for a Talkeetna Public Library Study. Mary Farina seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (See persons to be heard: Ann Yadon for more details)

**c. Title 16 and 27**

John Strassenburgh gave background information on these Mat-Su Borough subdivision codes. Title 16 is the outdated code and Title 27 was put in place to replace Title 16. The proposed revisions to Title 27, sponsored by Jim Colver, include reverting back to some provisions from the Title 16 code which John considers a step back. There is a common understanding that the reversion back to some of the provisions in Title 16 is so that development can move at a more rapid pace. He shared these concerns with the proposed revisions to Title 27: emergency access and maintenance regarding roads in subdivisions, utility easements, and the notice period being reduced form 21 days to 15 days, no follow-up verification, and a reversion to sewer and water development regulation that will allow more impact to neighbors.

Rick Schreiber moved that TCC write a letter to the Mat-Su Borough Planning Commission stating that Title 27 needs revision, but reverting to Title 16 is not a viable option. Comments in the letter will include: reverting to Title 16 will result in an inadequate public comment period, and that proper Title 27 revisions will help reduce mistakes that cost taxpayers money. Whitney Wolff seconded

the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sharon Montagnino volunteered to write the letter. There was discussion on someone from TCC attending the Assembly Meeting regarding the proposed Title 27 revision.

### **13. Adjourn**

Sharon Montagnino moves to adjourn at 8:57 pm. Cary Birdsall seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The next Talkeetna Community Council Meeting will be Monday August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 at 7:00 pm at the Talkeetna Public Library.