

Willow Area Community Organization

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 5, 2014
Occasion: Board/General Meeting
Called to Order: 7:02 pm

Quorum: Board Quorum and Community Quorum present
Agenda: Approved
Minutes: April 7, 2014 minutes approved with correction to page 2 should have read "Motion is to continue the discussion on the process to declassify the wetlands in front of the community center...." instead of "Motion is to continue the process to declassify the wetlands in front of the community center....."

Assembly report: Rep. Vern Halter was not present to report.

Officer's reports:

Secretary: Gave give report of her notes from May 2, 2014 Borough Budget meeting held at the Willow Community Center.

Treasurer: Vincent Viet not present to give report.

Vice Chair: Roni Widner reported that the floors and windows had just been cleaned. The area outside the building will be checked to see if anything needs to be done.

Chair: No report given.

Past Chair: John Anderson expressed gratitude to John Woods for contribution to efforts to move forward with geothermal project by getting the state to contribute \$100,000.00 towards the project. John said Vern Halter is very certain the the Borough will contribute \$25,000.00 and there is a grant application for \$25,000.00 in with the Rasmusson Foundation.

Committee Reports:

1. **Carnival:** Meetings for next year's carnival will start in July. The carnival theme will have something to do with fish.
2. **Trails:** The Snow Cat is now working. Projects for next season will include upgrading and repairing trailhead Kiosks, purchasing trail signs and purchasing a blade for the snow cat. A thank you to the Willow Dog Mushing Association for \$500.00 that will be going to the purchase of signs. Summer projects will include the re-alignment of Sunday Drive (pending go ahead from Borough) and Lucky Shot bridge.
3. **Fire/EMS:** There were 7 total callouts, 4 medical assists, 2 cancelled en-route and 1 aircraft standby. The full time fire chief position is moving ahead Willow may have a fire chief by June. The matching fund requirement for the Four Mile warming station was taken out. The money is now available for that station without having to come up with \$150,000.00 match. Crystal Lake is now an RFP status for design on that station. The

hope is that once a design for a warm storage is approved it can be used for all three warm storage stations at Four Mile, Crystal Lake and Nancy Lake. A new tanker has been ordered and it will be an estimated 230 day build.

4. **Youth Forum:** They had a meeting in April, there will be no meeting in May. There will be a Park clean up, coinciding with the community clean up, on May 17th from noon to 4pm.

Honored Guest Speaker: Bea Adler from the Mat-Su Borough spoke about Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the need for this program in Willow to continue. Those who wish to become CERT volunteers can get official ID cards from the borough along with personal equipment, contact Bea Adler for more information about this at 861-8015.

Quote from Borough website that summarizes Bea Adler's presentation :

CERT is a free 20 hour course that teaches people how to take care of themselves, their family and their neighbors in the event of a disaster. The course covers Disaster Preparedness, Fire Safety, Search and Rescue Techniques, Medical Triage, Medical Operations, Disaster Psychology, and ends with a simulation drill where trainees utilize the skills learned in a realistic hands-on disaster setting.

Unfinished business

1. Scholarship winners: Each applicant was awarded a \$1,000.00. The winners and their chosen field of study are as follows;

Khristin Nida - Medical Assistant

Samantha Nida - Culinary Arts

Shana Barber - Accounting

Elizabeth Anderson - Early Childhood Development

Samantha Davenport - Fine Arts

Reckia Hueton - Nursing

Savanah Wells - Occupational Therapy

2. Revenue Share Projects Committee: We still need people to volunteer to be on Revenue Share Projects Committee. \$20,000.00 for community projects is available, applications are available online and at Roni's Deli, they are due July 15th. If you would like to be on committee contact WACO Boad members Roni or Brenda.

3. The status of the discussion on the process to declassify the wetlands in front of the community center: Is still pending and will be raised again when any new developments come up.

New business

1. 4th of July Picnic and Parade: Sue Morgan and Linda Oxley graciously volunteered to head up those events.

At-Large Representative Reports

Val Schachle: Stated the need for the chairs in the community center need to be repaired or replaced had been brought to her attention by a Willow resident.

Brenda McCain: Thanked Bea Adler from the Mat Su Borough Emergency Services for bringing the CERT training to Willow this fall, as it has not been available for many years. She also stated that anyone who wished to join the training this fall to contact her to sign up.

No other reports

Community groups/clubs

- 1. Chamber of Commerce:** May 17th - May 25th Willow Clean-up Week. Trash bags will be on posts in convenient places. Each bag will have a raffle ticket in it for a cash prizes. There will be a bag on a trailer to put raffle tickets in at the community center. Can get bags from Jim Houston 355-4700. Set bags out on side of road or bring them to community center and place in the trailer. Yellow bags can also be brought to the transfer station for no fee. No Personal Trash in yellow bags. Safety vests and cones are also available. Chamber will post next meeting information on WACO website and will post flyers, expecting several legislators as guests.
- 2. Willow Dog Musers:** Gave \$500.00 donation to trails committee. Membership renewals are due. They expressed thanks for all donations and stated the all monies will roll over to next year. John Anderson asked about the "John Bower's" and to please have it brought up at next Dog Musher's meeting for possibility to hold it in March.
- 3. UMC/Food Bank/WHO/Recycling:** Fran Lynch reminded everyone of the recycling program (information is on WACO website). She also reminded everyone about the Mayor's Ball.
- 4. Library:** Reminded everyone of the Mat-Su Community Choir's concert at the community center May 10th. The summer reading program will begin June 5th.
- 5. Willow Transit** will start Monday trips to Wasilla the schedule will be posted on the WACO website and flyers will be posted around the Willow area. Contact numbers are 733-9279 or Driver 354-7433 for information and preferred one day advanced scheduling.

Meeting adjourned: 8:17pm

Next meeting scheduled: June 2, 2014 at 7:00 pm

