



Willow Area Community Organization
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www.waco-ak.org

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 6, 2016

Occasion: General Meeting

Called to Order: 7:00 pm

Quorum: Community and Board Quorum present

Agenda: Approved with amendment to move Youth Forum report to later in meeting

Minutes: May 2, 2016 minutes approved as written

Borough Assembly Report: Randall Kowalke reported Borough progress on MV Susitna and conference he attended on Port MacKenzie and the gas line. He discussed the Borough recreation bond and projected improvements for Willow such as upgrading the ice rink, improving trails and developing the park on Willow Creek Parkway. He encouraged the public to share their thoughts on the recreation bond with the Borough Assembly.

Officer Reports:

- 1. Secretary:** Absent.
- 2. Treasurer:** Absent.
- 3. Vice Chair:** Absent.
- 4. Chair:** Provided comments in a handout.

Committee Reports:

- 1. Carnival:** Committee meets the 3rd Monday in WCC at 7 pm every month starting in July.
- 2. Trails:** Friends of State Parks gave \$1,000 towards interpretive panels about Salmon and the Sockeye fire.
- 3. Youth Forum:** June 12th will stake locations of venues on parkland with reference to master plan. Bring tools and staking equipment.
- 4. CERT:** Safety Fair was very well received with 281 people participating. Talon expressed thanks to WACO for helping fund a CPR/AED class that 17 CERT members and one community member attended.
- 5. Willow Recycling:** Number of recyclers has gone up due to new bins and extended hours. There have been 45 households on each recycling day of the month. Willow recycling will apply for \$6,000 through revenue share money for a 3rd container.

Guest Speakers:

Michele Overstreet gave an overview of My House's history, objectives current activities as well as the work they did for Willow Community during Sockeye Fire. My House helps youth in Trapper Creek and Willow Areas. She graciously thanked WACO for their support and donation.

Amy Broome from Mat-Su Borough spoke on importance of installing house/address signs at the end of driveways to make it easier for emergency personnel to locate residence. If your home is more than 50 feet off the road a house number sign at the end of the driveway is mandatory as stated in Borough code.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business

1. Christie Sibole spoke about the lack of preschool or daycare services in Willow. A state grant will no

longer fund the current pre-school services in Willow. There are 24 families interested in pre-school for fall. She discussed three possible solutions: 1) Secure funding, partially from WACO, for a headstart program, 2) Have Sunshine Clinic open a Willow branch of their daycare (secretary annotation: this needs to be corrected – Sunshine Clinic does not operate the daycare), 3) Open an independent daycare/preschool in Willow. Discussion followed.

MOTION by Dana Hills: Draft a letter to Wes Keller, Governor Walker, Gene Stone and Lucy Hope as follows: We as the Willow Community are appalled and devastated at the lack of consideration shown for our preschool age youth. We wish to voice our support for this issue and urge reconsideration. Motion seconded.

VOTE: Passed.

Chair Harry Banks suggested a task force be created to research the issue. Christie Sibole agreed to be the contact. Her contact information is (907) 631-9580 alldrywalls@gmail.com.

Vern Halter reminded everyone the Borough raised school budget from 3% to 6% but that funding was removed at the state level.

At-Large Representative Reports:

1. Carrie said she has been asked if Willow will get the Iditarod Restart sign not that is has been removed from Wasilla.

Community Groups/Clubs

1. Chamber of Commerce: Clean up week went well with 22 of 25 miles cleaned up.
2. Community Enrichment: Yoga, dance and movie options are on for the summer.
3. Library: Summer Reading program a successful start with 50 attending the first week. Project plans for new Library are almost complete.
4. Lion's Club: No report.
5. Willow Health Organization: Farmer's Market schedule discussed.
6. Willow Long Term Recovery Team: Still working on a few homes – if anyone affected by the Sockeye fire needs something contact Pastor Dan Wilcox.
7. Willow Historical Wildlife Foundation: Quilters will be meeting in the log building.
8. WHO: No report.
9. WDMA: Spoke on Iditarod restart sign.
10. Parade Safety Committee:

MOTION: Accept safety guidelines handout. Motion seconded. **VOTE:** Passed.

Persons to be Heard:

Amy Tuma spoke about WACO writing a letter supporting May Vern Halter's overturned Marijuana Moratorium veto and suggested a 10% excise tax on the sale of marijuana. This will go on July agenda.

Announcements: Tam Boeve spoke about Garden Club Sockeye fire distribution day. Dave Korpi spoke about his concerns regarding a proposed amphitheater site in his neighborhood. This will go on the July agenda.

Next Meeting July 11th at 7 pm
Adjourned

SUBMITTED:

Secretary Date

APPROVED:

Harry Banks, Chair Date