



Willow Area Community Organization
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Meeting Minutes

Date: July 11, 2016

Occasion: General Meeting

Called to Order: 7:07 pm

Quorum: Community and Board Quorum present

Agenda: Approved as written

Minutes: June 6, 2016 minutes approved as written

Borough Assembly Report: Randall Kowalke reported Borough has a budget deficit of \$5.7 million.

Officer Reports:

- 1. Secretary:** No report.
- 2. Treasurer:** Revenue share applications are due July 15th. WACO is exempt from Borough taxes for 40-acre park as long as it is open to the public. The new geo heat system reduced the WACO fuel oil bill to zero since March. Electric bill is \$5,000 so far this year, however WACO is asking the Borough to help cover those costs in the new management agreement with the Borough.
- 3. Vice Chair:** Kitchen remodel is moving along with new dishwasher arriving soon.
- 4. Chair:** Sent letter to government officers regarding the closure of Willow preschool. Borough & WCC maintenance agreement is on administrative hold so can revise the agreement.

Committee Reports:

- 1. Carnival:** First committee meeting will be the 3rd Monday in August at WCC at 7 pm and every month thereafter.
- 2. Trails:** Grooming fund has been eliminated by state. This will affect West Gateway Trails system as 70% of grooming costs were funded by the state. Unused money from past years may be available for this season. Windsock trail is currently being hardened. A library group used the new park trailhead for an educational hike to Lucky Shot Bridge.
- 3. Youth Forum:** On June 12th locations of venues on parkland were staked. Some trees still need to be removed.
- 4. CERT:** Nine members of CERT helped with WACO 4th of July parade. CERT members helped with an EMS training.
- 5. Willow Recycling:** Sixty households participated in Saturday's recycling. Recycled materials need to be clean and dry. Hope to obtain one more recycle bin this summer.
- 6. Fire Service:** June was quiet with only 5 calls. MEA will connect power to new Nancy Lake warm storage building. Four-Mile warm storage building was approved by Borough Assembly and should be operational by January.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business

1. Marijuana Businesses

Amy Tuma provided information on commercial marijuana business State Statue 306. She discussed the process of application for a commercial license. Concerns were presented that the Borough may not allow any commercial marijuana within Borough boundaries.

MOTION: (By Vince Viet) Approve commercial marijuana businesses with WACO boundaries.
Motion not seconded so motion fails.

MOTION: (By Dana Hill) Table a decision on commercial marijuana businesses within WACO boundaries until September. Motion seconded.

FRIENDLY AMMENDMENT: Move date until after October 15 vote in Borough.

VOTE: yes 33 no 25 Motion passes so issue is postponed until November WACO meeting.

WACO Chair Harry Banks suggested that Amy write down marijuana information and present at a town hall meeting.

2. Willow Preschool

Preschool is trying to find a location to hold the preschool. Dana Hill said she is considering starting a preschool and is currently working on licensing.

3. Old Log Building

Letter was read from Borough regarding offering \$200,000 to remodel building.

MOTION: (By David Staub) Table a response to letter till November. Motion not seconded so motion fails.

MOTION: (By Talon Boeve) WACO exercise its rights as the seller in an August 18th 2006 bill of sale to revert title of the property from the Willow Historical and Wildlife Foundation, Inc. (WHWF) and to transfer the title to the Matanuska Susitna Borough via a quit-claim deed. Motion seconded.

Much discussion ensued on the historic nature of the building, why the Borough wants the building and why the WHWF wants to keep the building.

VOTE: yes 22 no 30 Motion fails.

MOTION: (By Hermann Spegel) I move that WACO members at tonight's meeting direct WACO's Board and Willow Historical and Wildlife Foundation's (WHWF) Board to decline an offer by Mat-Su Borough to assume legal title to the original Community Center Building because MSB ordinance 16-063 does not ensure that; a) it will remain in its present location, b) provide that renovation work will protect its historic landmark status, c) provide for its development as a future Willow Museum. Ownership and management of the building, including responsibility for keeping it available for public use and for all cost of upkeep, utilities, maintenance and repair is to remain with WHWF as it has been during the past 10 years.

VOTE: yes 32 no 7 Motion passes.

MOTION: WACO and WHWF ask the Borough Assembly to assist in getting the building on the National Historic Register. Motion seconded.

Discussion followed about the historic nature of the building.

VOTE: yes 30 no 0 Motion passes.

At-Large Representative Reports:

No reports.

Community Groups/Clubs

1. Chamber of Commerce: No report.

2. Community Enrichment: No report

3. Library: Summer Reading program picnic needs help on July 28th. 230 books given out during 4th of July parade.
4. Lion's Club: No report.
5. Willow Health Organization: No report.
6. Willow Long Term Recovery Team: No report.
7. Willow Historical Wildlife Foundation: No report.
8. WHO: No report.
9. WDMA: No report.
10. Garden Club: Garden Tour is July 23rd.
11. LNG: No report.

Persons to be Heard:

Dave Korpi lives on Sockeye Road. A resident in the area is building an amphitheater to hold large events such as concerts. Dave expressed concerns about road use and impact on homeowners in the area. He intends to circulate a petition. This will be on the August agenda.

Next Meeting August 1 at 7 pm
Adjourned 9:50

SUBMITTED:

Secretary Date

APPROVED:

Harry Banks, Chair Date