



Willow Area Community Organization
P.O. Box 1027 - Willow - AK 99688
907-495-6633
www.waco-ak.org

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 12, 2016
Occasion: General Meeting
Called to Order: 7:05 pm

Quorum: Community and Board Quorum present.

Agenda: Approved as written.

Minutes: August 1, 2016 minutes approved as written.

Borough Assembly Report: Randall not present.

Officer Reports:

- 1. Secretary:** Read report of MEA updates sent by Kierre. Report on file.
- 2. Treasurer:** Vince stated there is \$26,000 in WACO gaming account and needs to drop to around \$10,000 by end of year. This is a result of fuel oil bill lowered due to geothermal heat pump.
- 3. Vice Chair:** Kitchen almost completed. Motor home in parking lot will be towed as overnight parking is not allowed.
- 4. Chair:** Discussed his month's correspondence (report on file). On August 9th attended Borough Assembly to present numbers on fuel oil savings since geothermal heat pump was installed. Stated it is important to thank folks who worked on securing preschool grant. Ten seedlings were purchased for planting between WCC and Fire Department buildings.

Committee Reports:

- 1. Carnival:** Need someone to take charge of kid's games and need help with parking. Also need someone to take charge of fall bizarre. Next Monday is carnival meeting.
- 2. Trails:** WTC thanked WACO for revenue share money. They are applying for 4 grants with Borough and State for trails. Were awarded a grant to purchase one new sled for grooming Hessler Norris trail system. A grant is in process for a sled to groom Emil Stancec trails.
- 3. Youth Forum:** Road and first parking lot will go in soon. Sept 24th is clean up day in the park - also plan to brush out a trail across the lake and put in more staking. It was brought up that there is some dog theft in the Borough.
- 4. CERT:** Mat-Su Emergency Preparedness Fair at Menard Center from 11- 3 Saturday Sept 17th. Two CERT Willow members will be attending training in Virginia. Red Cross will train a team on how to open a shelter.
- 5. Willow Recycling:** Thanks to WACO for revenue share funds. A third container for corrugated cardboard will be available soon. Also taking newspaper and household aluminum.
- 6. Fire Service:** Nine calls last month. The Nancy Lake building is finished and two trucks are located there. Digging hole at 4 mile for water tank and shed. May be completed by January. There has been some vandalism at fire house so keep eyes open.

Guest Speakers:

1. School district representatives discussed Willow preschool. Willow Elementary has 151 students and preschool has 21 students. K through 12 only is funded by school district. Preschool is funded by an additional grant "Widening the Net". To receive "Widening the Net" must show economic need and Willow does. The grant amount received will be reduced each year and last for no longer than 3 years. The community must sustain the preschool at the community level. Special Ed funding is secure but not preschool. School district is willing to partner with the community and offer space in the school for a preschool.

2. Tyson Johnson spoke about MSB Proposition 4. This is a general bond with payback over 10 years by an increase in taxes. Three projects for Willow are part of Proposition 4; upgrade and cover the ice arena, complete a significant amount of work in Willow 40 acre park, construct trail system reroutes for winter trails. Other projects in the Borough are upgrade and maintenance of 2 swimming pools.
3. House District 10 candidate Patricia Faye-Brazel presented background of community activities and her political outlook for Alaska.

Unfinished Business:

1. Dave Korpi presented a letter he drafted to the Borough Permitting Agency concerning the amphitheater for concerts in Sockeye Road area. Letter on file.
MOTION: Accept and send letter. Motion seconded.
VOTE: Passed unanimous.
2. Old log building – Jim Huston said he will be meeting with Borough manager on building soon but no date set yet. Windows have been updated to match historical windows. He wanted it noted that wording in July minutes about building stating 50-year requirement should instead be 50-year consideration.
3. Preschool Grant – Harry asked that letters be sent to those instrumental in obtaining preschool funding.
MOTION: WACO will send letters of appreciation to those instrumental in securing preschool funding. Motion seconded.
VOTE: 2 opposed. All remaining were for the motion. Motion passed.

New Business

1. Vince proposed that the Borough dedicate the marijuana tax on ballot to education and also encouraged folks to vote for the marijuana tax. He used numbers from CO and WA to estimate up to \$260,000 to as much as \$500,000 could be generated by this tax. Suggested WACO write a letter that the tax money go to education and specifically preschool funding.
MOTION: Send letter to Borough requesting they use tax money from marijuana to fund education and specifically preschool. Motion seconded.
VOTE: Yes 17, NO 7 some abstentions. Motion passed.
 Discussion followed on where to designate the revenue.
2. Vince also proposed a community vote on commercial ban. Discussion followed of positive aspects of allowing commercial growing in Borough and whether this should be an open public vote at WACO.
MOTION: Allow commercial marijuana business in Willow. Motion seconded.
NO ACTION TAKEN as this was addressed in a July motion.
 Discussion followed and it was suggested this topic could be well served at a Town Meeting.

At-Large Representative Reports: No Reports.

Community Groups/Clubs

1. **Chamber of Commerce:** Alaska Pioneer Award was presented to Mrs. Earl Norris family.
2. **Community Enrichment:** Waiting for Borough grant.
3. **Library:** Story time 11 am Friday where young people also eat lunch and have a playgroup. Computer class will be offered in October. Also a concert will be held and a fiber arts group will start in October.
4. **Lion's Club:** Family skate night Friday. Contact Lynn if you want anything on the Community Calendar. Pig raffle coming up.
5. **Willow Health Organization:** This is the last week for Farmer's Market.
6. **Willow Long Term Recovery Team:** Work is continuing on two houses.
7. **Willow Historical Wildlife Foundation:** Meeting 7 pm Wednesday night at old building.
8. **Willow Dog Musers Association:** K-9 Symposium Oct 1-2. The movie "The Great Alone" will be shown Saturday night.
9. **Garden Club:** Harvest Dinner moved to September 22 at 6:30 in WCC.

10. **LNG:** There is a meeting at Houston Middle School – will post project information on bulleting board.
11. **PTA:** No report.

Persons to be Heard: Elementary school principal thanks the community for supporting education.

Announcements:

Mat-Su Federal Credit Union Junior Achievement – National Organization will go to schools Sept 23rd.

Willow Road Service Meeting coming up. Cemetery project going strong – Thanks to WACO for revenue share money. Plots priced at \$1,000.

Next Meeting October 3 at 7 pm

Adjourned 9:10 pm

SUBMITTED:

Secretary

Date

APPROVED:

Harry Banks, Chair

Date