

Chena Flats Greenbelt Project Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 5, 2007  
Old University Park Building, Rm. 154, 5:30-7:00 pm

Attendees: Bob Henszey, Karen Brewster, Sally Andersen, Larry Bright, Marie Beaver, Don Lokken.

We discussed the fund appeal. So far, it has been incredibly successful, with more donation envelopes yet to be opened.

The group discussed auction details such as how many people are needed to help out during the auction, when to write up the auction list, how many items would be ideal for the auction, how to get a hold of a cash box, whether to use credit cards during the auction or just accept cash and checks, etc. Marie Beaver agreed to contact someone at the Northern Center to seek advice on auction logistics.

We also discussed advertising for the auction. Sally Andersen agreed to make up a poster for the auction. It was decided that we would start posting the flyers two weeks prior to the event. We discussed advertising in the Community Events section of the News-Miner and through a Public Service Announcement at KUAC. We questioned whether we should spend the money on a real ad in the News-Miner. Marie Beaver agreed to look into the cost of doing this.

Karen Brewster listed the many businesses she has approached for donations to the auction—an impressive achievement.

Bob Henszey updated the group on the Railroad Realignment issue. At the request of the Fairbanks Northstar Borough, the Alaska Railroad Corporation is considering realigning and/or improving the freight rail tracks. At an open house last week, ARRC representatives asked for public comment on three possible routes the tracks could follow. One goes through the Chena Flats region, intersecting one of the Greenbelt properties the Conservation Fund purchased last year. Another follows the Parks Highway. And a third, the least expensive, follows the existing tracks but is elevated to alleviate existing traffic congestion problems when the train crosses roads. You can learn more about the issue by going to <http://www.akrr.com/arrc22.html> and clicking on 1/31/07 Public Meeting Power Point Presentation. To comment, go to: [public\\_comment@akrr.com](mailto:public_comment@akrr.com).

Marie Beaver talked about potential funding sources for the Chena Flats Group. Possibilities include the Wilburforce Foundation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Private Stewardship Grants Program, and the Safe Routes to Schools Program. The first two may not be the best options right now as they don't give money for land acquisition. We'd have to come with a different kind of project such as trail maintenance to pursue those sources. The latter may be a possibility as the federal government has allotted \$1,000,000 to the state of Alaska for Safe Routes to Schools Projects. Marie and Sally agreed to check into this program. Larry Bright suggested that the Project Coordinators

also look into Walmart who earlier showed an interest in supporting our efforts. Finally, a Wetlands Reserve Program grant (for conservation easements) is another program we plan to look into in the near future.

Bob Henszey talked about pending grants. We hope to hear soon about the NAWCA grant request for \$75,000 and the Conoco Phillips grant request for \$100,000. The Alaska State Trails grant for which we received a grant last year has run into complications. Alaska State Parks' funding source, the Federal Highway Administration, has withheld the money from State Parks because it believes State Parks is not complying with certain regulations. State Parks thinks it has. We are currently working with State Parks on this issue and plan to send a letter explaining the issue to Senator Ted Steven who supports the State Parks Program.

The next meeting date is scheduled for March 5 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at the Old University Parks Building, Room 154. The major agenda item at this meeting will be wrap-up for the auction.

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