

\_\_\_\_ President: Jodi Riddell  
\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_ Vice President: Margaret Billinger  
\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_ Secretary: Lisa Behrens  
\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_ Treasurer: Irene Crowley  
\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_ Member at Large: Ben Tew  
\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_ Member at Large: David Haggard  
\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_ Member at Large: Lindy Moss



PO Box 520931  
Big Lake, AK 99652-0931

**General Membership Meeting – February 13, 2024 – 7:00 PM**  
**Big Lake Lions Recreation Center**

**MINUTES**

**1.) Call to Order/ Determination of Quorum**

By: Margaret Billinger Time: 7:00pm  
Quorum: Yes Attendees: **18** persons signed in, **6** board members present

**2.) Pledge of Allegiance**

**3.) Agenda Approval**

Motion: Irene Crowley Second: Yes

**4.) Previous Meeting Minutes Approval (January 9, 2024)**

Motion: Ben Tew Second: Yes Copy signed: Jodi Riddell

**5.) Presentation(s)**

1. Arctic Winter Games update: Cheryl Metiva – Thank you to our home community of Big Lake. It's good to see our home council meeting well-attended. We're working 7 days per week, and a little less than a month from the start of the games. So far, there are 2100 participants, and 2000 volunteers from the valley, other states, and even other countries. Opening ceremonies will be at the Menard Center. This is an opportunity that won't come around again until 2034, so be sure to attend the games this year! Thanks to Grizzly Fireworks for their generous donation of fireworks. [Awg2024.org](http://Awg2024.org) is the best place to find the schedule of events. Lindy Moss: What other volunteer roles are needed? Cheryl: All types, and particularly security personnel. They don't need to be police officers, just people willing to help direct and control crowds. Also, volunteers will receive a really nice jacket! Additional sponsors are needed too, but more sponsorships are coming in every day. If more questions come up, call me any time.

**6.) Treasurer's Report**

Checking: \$ not available Savings: \$ not available (Still working on the changeover of financial access)

Mat Valley Federal Credit Union account access change approval:

Outgoing Board Members: Dave Malo, Bill Gamble, Terry Gorlick

Incoming Board Members: Irene Crowley, Jodi Riddell, Margaret Billinger

**7.) Membership Report**

Voting Members renewed for 2024: **60**

Associates (non-voting) renewed for 2024: **4**

**8.) Reports**

1. Legislative (State House & Senate)

Senator Shower: Staff person present. "Lots going on" SB88 has passed the senate and going to the house. Any specific questions can be sent to our office.

Representative McCabe: Linn McCabe present to speak on behalf of Representative McCabe.

"This session he has four or five subcommittee assignments, and five standing committee roles. Transportation committee is very active this year. A bill has been introduced to develop a joint port organization by combining Anchorage and Point Mackenzie. Budget subcommittee meetings can be seen live on KTOO. HB3 is currently being heard (allowing for gold and silver to be used as legal tender.) Several US states have already passed this type of legislation. Reach out to Representative McCabe's office with questions or to be placed on the mailing list."

2. Assembly (District 5)

Assembly Representative Gamble: Have been in conversation with Representative McCabe about the joint port idea. There have been some controversial items before the Borough Assembly recently. The proposal to increase assembly terms from 3 years to 4 years is intended to improve voter participation by having all borough elections on even years, to coincide with state and federal elections. That was approved by the assembly. The proposal to allow candidates to include their political party affiliation on election ballots was determined to be too large an issue to be decided by the assembly and will go to the voters in the next election. There is a move to resurrect the crime task force work that was done a few years ago. Hugh Leslie would like to make a presentation at the BLCC March General Membership meeting, to introduce the Jay Nolfi park improvement/upgrade project. Also, would like to work on additional community funding through Mat Su Health Foundation. This coming Saturday, meeting at the Cottonwood Public Safety Building re: Mat Su Borough Strategic plan. Irene Crowley: Is there any way for the "skunk" smell from cannabis businesses to be addressed by the crime task force? Bill Gamble: The task force is much more focused specifically on crime, drug trafficking, etc. Bill and Rep. McCabe have been in conversation re: utilizing the VPSO concept for the smaller communities in Mat Su Borough. Asking State of Alaska to assist with the \$10 million funding needed to run the task force concept for roughly 5 years, handling Mat Su Borough as a pilot program for the program. Ben Tew: Is there a consideration in the crime task force report for facilities to hold individuals who are investigated, arrested, and charged with these crimes? Bill Gamble: Not at this point.

3. Fire Service (West Lakes Fire Department)

Chief Fairchild: The Fire Department deals with many overdose emergency calls, and the VPSO program could be helpful. Have seen it work out in rural areas of Alaska. January had 72 calls (15 fire calls, 15 good intent calls and 42 rescue / medical assists.) There is a Board of Supervisors opening for West Lakes Fire board. Call Chief Fairchild or Hightower for information and assistance, if interested. Be safe, keep smoke alarm batteries up to date, get the chimneys cleaned, think about getting roofs cleared of snow. Will be busy around the lake with Iron Dog starting on Saturday, February 17. The 3-day Pond Hockey tournament is also coming up soon.

4. Road Service Area: Jill Parson – Very busy time right now, working on the Big Lake RIP list. Priority focus right now is improving RSA21 impassible roads. Jolly Creek drainage is also being considered a priority. The road bond issue that voters passed during the November 2023 election will cover roughly half of the cost. RSA21 received roughly \$180,000 in residual state funds to supplement the annual budget. Also, asking MSB Public Works for road improvement standards code, which does not currently exist.

5. Valley Recycling: No one available

9.) Correspondence None



#### 10.) Unfinished Business

1. Committee Updates: Ben Tew – introduced the proposed schedule and requested volunteers.  
Michael Dale: Would like email copies of the current BLCC, Meadow Lakes, and WACO bylaws.
  - a. Bylaws: Ben Tew, Lisa Behrens, Irene Crowley, Jill Parson
    - i. Meeting Proposal: Schedule and update 2024 meeting calendar to reflect Bylaws Committee meeting 1 hour prior to BLCC General Membership (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays) and Board of Officer (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays) meetings, until project is completed.
  - b. Capital Improvements: Ben Tew, Lindy Moss – Ben introduced the intent of the committee, and requested volunteers and ideas for the committee.
    - i. Meeting Proposal: Will address meeting schedule at the February E-board meeting
2. Lake Setback Ordinance & Waterbody Setback Advisory Board:  
<https://matsugov.us/boards/waterbody-setback-advisory-board>
  - a. Update from most recent meeting: Bill Haller – 3 of 12 meetings so far, mainly informational. This is the information gathering phase, and identifying the major challenges of the proposed changes
3. Big Lake Comprehensive Plan
  - a. Update: Not available at this time
4. Bob Fisher remembrance project: Ben Tew and Terry Gorlick – Ben and Terry will meet when Terry returns from out of state. Changing the name of Northshore Drive has turned out to be prohibitively complicated. Will have more information to share at the next meeting. Bill Haller: The Fisher Family has requested that Lions Court be renamed as Fisher Court – much less complicated than the idea of Northshore Drive.
5. BLCC website rebuild with online BLCC membership renewal:
  - a. Status update: No one available

#### 11.) New Business

1. Concern about odor from cannabis cultivation facilities. Margaret Billinger: Not much that can be done to address this.
2. Big Lake Lions request BLCC resolution of support for facility loan payoff via State of Alaska legislative grant request
  - a. Draft resolution attached to meeting agenda
  - b. Bill Haller: This is a project that has been in the works for over 15 years. The first phase was funded by grants and public donations. The second phase required an ADA loan of roughly \$300,000. Operating this facility with that type of loan debt and minimal financial support is extremely challenging. This year we have requested a legislative grant to pay off the ADA loan. The costs of running this facility are over \$10,000 per month.
  - c. Membership vote: Vote passed by consensus of the membership

#### 12.) Persons to be Heard (3 Minute Maximum time per person)

#### 13.) Announcements None

**14.) Board Member Closing Comments**

Jodi Riddell:

Margaret Billinger: Happy upcoming Valentine's Day!

Lisa Behrens: Reminder about 2024 membership renewal

Irene Crowley: Will be glad to help out with membership renewals

Dave Haggard: Check heat traces in summer, not winter (school of hard knocks this winter at -40 degrees)

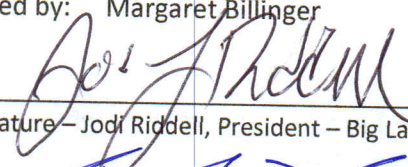
Ben Tew: I will continue watering community beautification flowers and keeping the grounds maintained. We could use some more volunteer assistance. I'm also participating in meetings for comprehensive plan updates. There was a focus and numerous questions about public safety. Linn McCabe: can speak to the 7 priorities identified by the steering committee.

Lindy Moss: I keep hearing the need for volunteerism repeated tonight. It is important to raise kids and grandkids to understand the value of investing in our communities, and the importance of giving back by participating.

**15.) Adjournment**

Called by: Margaret Billinger

Time: 8:07pm

  
Signature – Jodi Riddell, President – Big Lake Community Council

3-12-24  
Date

  
Attestation – Lisa Behrens, Secretary – Big Lake Community Council

3-12-24  
Date