

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



PO Box 520931

Big Lake, AK 99652-0931

**General Membership Meeting – May 14, 2024 – 7:00 PM**  
**Big Lake Lions Recreation Center**

**MINUTES**

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

By: Jodi Riddell Time: 7:02pm

Quorum: Yes Attendees: **20** persons signed in / in attendance, **4** board members present

**2.) Pledge of Allegiance**

**3.) Agenda Approval**

Motion: Margaret Billinger Second: Yes

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

Motion: Margaret Billinger Second: Lindy Copy signed: Jodi Riddell

**5.) Treasurer's Report**

Checking: \$36,377.03 Savings: \$2529.96

**6.) Membership Report**

Voting Members renewed for 2024: **79**

Associates (non-voting) renewed for 2024: **5**

**7.) Presentation(s)**

1. Simon Johnson – Skeetawk, Hatcher Pass. Update on Arctic Winter Games. Bill Gamble: "You need to make everyone more aware of all you have accomplished. Arctic Winter games were amazing. Can you elaborate more?" Simon: We are continuing to develop the area and hoping to have more accessibility to the area. We can have smaller/shorter buses, but not full-size buses at this time. We are looking to improve in the future. Terry Gorlick: Are you non-profit? Simon: Yes, we are working on additional funding sources. We want to open the season earlier – keeping in mind that we don't always have the needed snow. We are looking into additional grants and funding sources. [www.skeetawk.com](http://www.skeetawk.com) is our web address. We appreciate community letters of support. (Sample support letter and brochure available on back table for individual support) Favorable vote of the membership present was taken, to provide a letter of support from BLCC.

**8.) Reports**

1. Legislative (State House & Senate)  
Senator Shower: no one available

Representative McCabe: Linn McCabe – Day 119 of 120-day session, today. Representative McCabe is currently on the floor, finishing up the 2-year session. Any individual piece of legislation requires multiple steps in the process of passing into law. Today has been a "mad rush" to finish the process. May go into special session. Topics include funding for Willow and Big Lake Lions Club debt relief.

2. Assembly (District 5)

Assembly Representative Gamble: The Mat Su Borough passed its budget with the mil rate at 8.748. The areawide mil rate is the second lowest in 35 years. West Lake Fire Service mil rate decreased. The RSA 21 mil rate increased to 2.8 due to the change in road maintenance contract requirements. W. Lakes Blvd is one of the highest priorities for RSA21. Bill went to bat for RSA21 and has received word that “W Lakes Blvd will be upgraded this year.” Over the next couple of months, Bill will be working closely with the MSB to ensure attention to roads in need of improvement in RSA21. Re: the \$3.5million tunnel under W. Susitna Pkwy, that project is currently under “cost vs benefit” review. Question: Margaret Billinger: I heard there was a lower bid that was turned down. Why? Bill: We will have access to specialists from the MSB to address those questions in June. They will be able to answer in greater detail. Question from audience: Jay Nolfi Park? Bill: The park will have improved access, through public grant funding for lighting, playground equipment, and a gazebo area. We are working with the community council and local residents to address concerns for safety and lighting for the area. Also, working with Rep. McCabe re: fencing to improve security in the area. Terry Gorlick: willing to work toward obtaining additional funding for improving this area, that is the primary park area for this community.

3. Fire Service (West Lakes Fire Department)

Chief: Tanya Hightower: 750-1000 attended the recent wildfire safety event. Please be very careful with any outdoor burning – this is the most dangerous time of year for wildfires. Keep yourselves safe. Asking residents to please clear 5 feet from the foundation of buildings to improve fire safety. Saturday, June 1 will be the day for chipping, to provide fire barriers, and residents can ask for chips for landscaping. West Lakes still has open seats on the Fire Service Area Board. Thanks to Caroline Haggard for providing Big Lake Ice Road condition reports all winter. West Lakes is currently hiring and training firefighters for our fire service area.

4. Road Service Area: Andrew Traxler – We have a new contract, and yes it does cost more. The higher mil rate will result in an increase of \$31/100,000 home value. Residents want better roads, and this costs money. There have been many questions about why it costs more this year. The reason is the new contract structure with many extra provisions for maintenance. It also includes construction specifications. This bid looks high. We did need more work than what previous contracts provided for. In the long run, this improves matters for the future. This is a 1-year contract and will be reconsidered next year. If the MSB and the Contractor agree, the contract may be extended, but if either does not agree, the contract must be renegotiated.

9.) Correspondence

1. Next Level Labs: Application for Marijuana Product Manufacturing Facility  
(emailed to BLCC contact list & packet on back table)
2. Lakeside Relief: Application for Retail Marijuana Store  
(emailed to BLCC contact list & packet on back table)
3. Irish Hill Subdivision (RFC [request for comment] packets on back table -or- Secretary can email)

## **10.) Unfinished Business**

### **1. Committee Updates:**

- a. Bylaws: Ben Tew, Lisa Behrens, Irene Crowley, Jill Parson, Lindy Moss, Margaret Billinger, Michael Dale – Update: draft document distributed to the Council Membership for review on April 14, per existing bylaws. See “New Business” for vote to adopt updated BLCC Bylaws.
- b. Capital Improvements & Big Lake Comprehensive Plan: Ben Tew, Lindy Moss, Margaret Billinger, Cindy Bettine, Dan Mayfield, Jim Faiks – Update: No update available
- c. Community Revenue Sharing Grants: Irene Crowley, Jodi Riddell, Lindy Moss, Margaret Billinger, Janet Henry – Update: Grant applications will be accepted until midnight, June 1. June 8 is the scheduled meeting for the grants committee to review applications.

### **2. Lake Setback Ordinance & Waterbody Setback Advisory Board: Bill Haller**

<https://matsugov.us/boards/waterbody-setback-advisory-board>

- a. Update: Last meeting cancelled – next meeting in 2 weeks.

### **3. BLCC website rebuild with online BLCC membership renewal:**

- a. Update: Jodi - Finally up and ready to go this evening.

## **11.) New Business**

1. Vote to adopt 2024 BLCC Bylaws update (Eligible voting members listed on sign-in sheet – back table) Update from Michael Dale. Not a whole lot of changes. Improvements, like a table of contents, clarification of things like transition period for new officers, defining board officer roles, etc. All voting members received an email copy of the bylaws and a list of adjusted items.

Vote of the membership present: Unanimous in favor of adoption.

2. Discussion re: Next Level Labs & Lakeside Relief marijuana facilities proposed in Big Lake town center. Jodi Riddell: 344 feet from Big Lake Library, which may be seen as violating the 500’ distance from a youth facility requirement in state law. Bill Gamble: Where is this in the approval process? Still working through the AMCO process. Bill Gamble: This business will be bringing in and processing product and generating odor. Bill Haller: Not sure how this could be approved next door to a residential area. This may be a problem. Audience question: Is this still in violation of federal law? Yes. Michael Dale: Federal law is in the process of changing the classification of marijuana. Bill Gamble: Did you invite the owner to speak here to the council? Yes. The owner has agreed to speak at our next general membership meeting. Bill Gamble: AMCO may have their public hearing in mid-June, so the council will need to plan their response in light of this schedule. Andrew Traxler: Why do we need multiple marijuana-based businesses in a community of this size? Jodi Riddell: Research still in progress. Do we know when in June the AMCO meeting will be? Bill Gamble: After the middle of June. Jodi Riddell: We have time to meet as a council. We need to be aware and not waste time making the desires of the community known. Terry Gorlick: There may be a tax benefit here, that we need to consider as a community. Linn McCabe: Be cautious of over-taxation and driving businesses to the black market.
3. “Ways & Means” efforts to bring more community members to be involved in BLCC – Update: Jodi Riddell – any ideas? Terry Gorlick: When do we expect Jay Nolfi park improvements to be completed? Jodi Riddell: We have plans for community event and activities to celebrate the opening of the park when improvements are complete.

## **12.) Persons to be Heard (3 Minute Maximum time per person)      No sign-ups**

**13.) Announcements**

Bill Haller: Summer activities on M/W/F: pickleball, miniature golf, indoor games, etc. for groups at the Big Lions Club. Punch cards: \$10 all-day for kids.

Community cleanup is in progress. Volunteers welcome, needed, and appreciated. Supplies provided by Big Lions Club. This is for road trash only.

Mud volleyball coming up June 15.

Terry Gorlick: Request clarification/information about MSB assuming management of Big Lake Lions facility. Bill Haller: Process is underway. MSB is looking into condition of the facility, feasibility, etc. Lions Club will have continued use of the facility if MSB assumes ownership and responsibility. Other users will need to work with MSB and develop agreements for use. No firm timetable in place. Looking like July 2025. No firm answers but moving in this direction. MSB Assembly is in the process of considering and weighing costs.

**14.) Board Member Closing Comments**

Jodi Riddell:

Margaret Billinger: Big Lake Chamber of Commerce needs people

Lisa Behrens:

Irene Crowley:

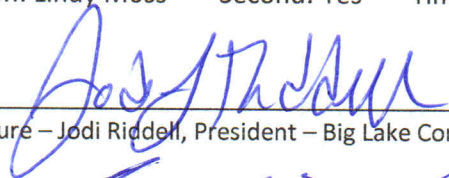
Dave Haggard:

Ben Tew:

Lindy Moss: There will be an event this Thursday at Houston High to recruit for and re-establish the Houston Hawks shotgun sports team. First competition will be the first week in June

**15.) Adjournment**

Motion: Lindy Moss      Second: Yes      Time: 8:08pm

  
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Signature – Jodi Riddell, President – Big Lake Community Council

  
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Date

  
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Attestation – Lisa Behrens, Secretary – Big Lake Community Council

  
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Date