



**WACO General/Board Meeting Agenda Draft  
Meeting scheduled for August 7, 2019 at 7 PM**

- A. CALL TO ORDER**
- B. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**
- C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PAST MEETING**
- E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- F. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**
  - 1. Board Officers' Reports - Attached**
    - a. Secretary, Teri Petram
    - b. Vice-Chair, John Spitzberg
    - c. Chair, Linda Oxley
    - d. At-Large Representative 1, Wes McClure
    - e. At-Large Representative 2, Chris Stitt
    - f. At-Large Representative 3, Barbara Ensley
    - g. At-Large Representative 4, Lisa Schooler
  
  - 2. Committee Reports - Attached**
    - a. Carnival
    - b. Trails
    - c. Youth Forum (40-acre park)
    - d. CERT
    - e. Recycling
- G. BOROUGH ASSEMBLY REPORT**
- H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
  - 1. Revenue Share Grants
  - 2. Lion's Club Calendar Dates
- J. NEW BUSINESS**
  - 1.
  - 2.
- K. COMMUNITY GROUPS/CLUBS**

Fire Service Area, Chamber of Commerce, Community Enrichment, WDMA, Lion's Club, PTA, WHO, WHWF, Garden Club
- L. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PERSONS TO BE HEARD**
- M. ADJOURN**

*Please submit reports or motions to be made in writing to Teri Petram, WACO Secretary by email:  
[waco\\_secretary@waco-ak.org](mailto:waco_secretary@waco-ak.org)*

## BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

**Secretary Report:** See the attached Applications for Marijuana Establishment Licenses for Kenneth Champ, DBA ARCTIC HYDROPONICS LLC and Dotty Hammack, DBA Johnny Dae Farms, LLC.

View details of the MSB Planning Commission meetings and agenda items here: <https://www.matsugov.us/boards/planningcommission>

Working with Vince to document Treasurer and WACO financial details. WACO General and Gaming account balances as of July 31st are:

<b>General Account Balance Overview</b>	
Money Market	\$123,805.71
Share Draft	\$13,110.91
Primary Share	\$25.90

<b>Gaming Account Balance Overview</b>	
Money Market	\$5,830.94
Share Draft	\$4,552.72
Primary Share	\$0.44

Income and expenses from WACO General and Gaming accounts for May 1, 2019 through July 31, 2019 are:

<b>Income</b>	
Rental Income	6,450.00
MSB Janitorial	12,000.00
Dividends	2.65
Grants	7,996.00
Pull Tabs	2,371.00
Carnival Pins	168.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,988.15</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	
Community Center Expenses	(11,064.97)
Newman Park Expenses	(7,253.79)
4th of July	(888.46)
Payroll (April - June) & Taxes	(3,860.89)
Scholarships	(2,250.00)
Pull Tabs	(581.92)
Other	(\$797.02)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(26802.05)</b>

Rental income included \$6000 from Iditarod. MSB Janitorial is an annual amount for Library cleaning services. Grant is from Mat-Su Trails & Parks Foundation for the Shem Pete Trail at Newman Park.

The majority of Newman Park expenses are for construction of the Shem Pete trail. Large Community Center expenses include an annual bill from MSB for electric, snow plowing, fuel oil and trash, service for a deep cleaning, and costco supplies.

**Vice-Chair:** For a long time the coke machine next to the library wore a sign Rest in Peace (RIP). The machine refused to cooperate with thirsty customers and gave out. Today we have a new drink machine with multiple choices including bottled water. We also have a snack machine in the hallway with an assortment of goodies. In the first two weeks the machines have been replenished because Willowites and others are buying the drinks and snacks.

Thanks to many volunteers for making the 4th of July picnic a success. About 300 to 400 people enjoyed Jake and Teri's hotdogs, hamburgers and dishes brought by families to share. Thanks to those who set up the picnic tables and Jake for helping to take the tables down. Thanks to CERT members for making sure that everyone was safe during the parade.

Tom Wise has done a lot of work at the Community Center in beautifying the building on the outside. We, all, hope that he recuperates from his surgery and wish him well. Thanks to Wes for stepping in to help on projects which I could not do myself.

I received a couple of suggestions from a citizen which I wish to share with you. I will quote the suggestions which I hope WACO Board members will address. " We have a fundamental lack of signage for our community center. Some issues have come up for tourists and new members of the community.

First and foremost, is a need to identify our community center as the official start of the Iditarod conditions permitting. One that is especially needed is along the highway. This, of course, would have to be state highway sign possibly identifying where to turn. We could also use a sign on the building or a plaque near the lake for those tourists who wish to take a picture of the area where it starts. Perhaps a sign on the building identifying it as the community center would be helpful.

The library isn't always open when tourists stop by looking for information. These signs signs would answer tourists' questions. These recommendations would give Willow a tourist friendly reputation." Food for thought!

I am enjoying learning the job of the Vice Chair of WACO. Thanks to all those who have helped me and advised me. John Spitzberg, WACO Vice Chair.

**Chair Report:** It seems a long time since we got to meet – taking July off and meeting so late in August. I will be glad to see everyone on 8/7/19.

We had a wonderful 4th of July party... Many, Many thanks to many of you for helping make it a great day. I am afraid that I will forget someone so please know who you are and the important role that you played in the celebration. We will hope for cooler temps and no fires next year so the Fire Department and the live animals (horses & dogs) can join the parade again!! We are discarding the plastic and metal fold up picnic tables – at least one per year falls down... and will bring a proposal to the Community to purchase replacements over the next few months.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Carnival:** 1st meeting for the 2020 Willow State Winter Carnival is Monday Aug 19!! 6P at WCC. Please come with your energy and ideas.

**Trails:** No report.

**CERT:** July 4th Parade-CERT and 2 volunteer community members worked to promote safety at the Parade. Team members reviewed the WACO safety guidelines with each float/group prior to the start of the parade. The team then had three members at Long Lake Rd, two at each road crossing, two at the school parking lot and one roving team member on a bicycle.

July 16 - Seven Willow and Talkeetna CERT team members 3 family members participated in National Guard ORCA disaster training exercise at the fairgrounds . Borough EMS, National Guard from six states, as well as Army soldiers from Hawaii were involved in the training. It was a valuable experience for our team. See the Willow CERT Facebook page for photos.

July 18 - The Mat Su Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD)which normally meets in Wasilla, held their monthly meeting at the Willow Community Center. This was hosted by Willow CERT and was open to the public. 15 members of Willow CERT and one member of Talkeetna CERT attended. A representative from FEMA and the United Way were the presenters and they spoke primarily about the impact of the November 30 earthquake and the assistance provided. Willow CERT has been invited to be part of the COAD and our team plans to send a representative to future meetings in Wasilla.

August 23 - Willow CERT will have a booth at the Willow Farmer's Market. We plan to have information and activities about emergency preparedness. We also want to promote the November FEMA 20 hour CERT Basic training in Willow.

In August four members of Willow CERT are attending a 3 day course in Alaska Youth Preparedness Training hosted by UAA. The purpose of the course is to prepare to be readiness training instructors for a statewide program for up to 125 students age 13-19 . Our focus will be bringing this program to the Mat Su Borough teens. It is a CERT based program with additional components that is now available in 27 states.

Saturday May 2, 2020 - Willow CERT is planning the 3rd Su Valley Preparedness Fair at the Willow Community Center. We are pleased that we will be hosting it in cooperation with the newly formed Talkeetna CERT team.

CERT 20 Basic Course November 2019 in Willow (sign up has begun)

Willow CERT will be presenting a free FEMA 20 hour Basic CERT training for the community at the Willow Community Center November 9-10h and 16-17h 2019.

This training is available to those that may want to join Willow CERT, start a team in their area or just want to learn more about emergency preparedness for personal use.

CERT Basic Training includes classroom instruction and hands on practice in:

- Identifying hazards in our homes and community
- Fire Safety
- Disaster Medical Aid
- Light Search and Rescue
- Team Organization
- Disaster Psychology
- Terrorism and CERT
- Disaster simulation drill at conclusion of training

For more info or to register for the course contact: Brenda McCain 355-1418 [brendalmccain@gmail.com](mailto:brendalmccain@gmail.com)

Next CERT meeting: Thursday, August 22nd at 7 pm Contact Brenda McCain for location of meeting. All are welcome to attend

**Recycling:** We participated in the July 4th parade with a decorated truck, walkers, and the giving out of cloth grocery bags. We gave out all 166 bags and next year need to have at least 100 more so that we do not run out before we arrive at the Community Center.

Our transition to collecting on the last Friday instead of the last Tuesday starts in July. We know there will be some confusion, but hopefully get on the new schedule without too much trouble. We hit a new record with 80+ households on July 13.

We continue to wait on the Solid Waste Division to work with us to schedule a scrape metal event. And we have a tour of VCRS and the main land fill scheduled for Sept. 24. Our committee will attend and invite volunteers and others that recycle in Willow to join us. Watch for publicity.

**Youth Forum:** Youth Forum: good progress continues on the projects underway this year. We are in the final stages of developing a grant request to go to the MatSu Trails & Parks Foundation (MSTPF) for a matched grant to finish those projects partially completed in the park. We will have about \$40,000 left over in the rec bond monies that we will be able to use as matching funds in hopes of getting a bigger grant. Stay tuned.

1. *Shem Pete trail*, project lead: Steve Charles. Segments A&B were finished to (almost) ADA standards. These segments run from the Willow Creek Parkway trail to the Pavilion and then to the point at the end of the lake. If granted this trail would be fully finished and to ADA standards. In addition to the trail development itself we are excited to hopefully get kiosks built with neat information. These would primarily be spaced along the trail.
2. *Softball field*, project leads: Talon Boeve & Tam Boeve. Many thanks to John Butcher & CMM General Contractors LLC for the continued grounds clearing for the ball field. To date they have donated more than \$2500 worth of services to that end. We estimate \$50,000 to \$100,000 to fully build the ball field and gifts like these make it a more feasible hope that we will be successful. This item will hopefully be part of the MSTPF grant request, altho this may have to be left off and other funding found.
3. *Bat and Swallow houses for mosquito control*, project lead: Linda Oxley. Casey Sanford has milled us 5 20 foot posts for the boxes, Jake Schneider and I will get them ready for installation on Aug 2 and Jim Spain will help us get them installed. Alaska State Parks has some bats it needs to move out of one of their buildings so we are hoping those bats can be moved & invited to use the new houses that the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders built for them.
4. *Board walk*, project lead: Dana Hill. We expect the walkway from the back of the pavilion to the edge of the marsh and a 10X20 foot viewing platform to be let out for bid in the next week or so. These will be built to ADA standards. The style will match that of the pavilion. Rec bond money will be used to finish this last step of the pavilion build! Cost expected: about \$38,000. By Sept 1, you will see a cute little cabin built that will hold our outhouse! Ramey Smyth out bid the other construction companies to get the contract from the borough (rec bond monies). Its style will also match the pavilion.
5. *Dog Park*, project leads: Linda Oxley and Dana Hills. Thanks to Vic Fitzgerald for installing the poop bag dispenser and the list of dog park rules! And to John Spitzberg for weekly emptying both trash cans. Jake Schneider is donating a couple of benches for the park and they will go in next weekend. Many thanks to him also for adding some gravel to the entry way! The grant request will include mulching for all the trails in the dog park.

Two problems have occurred in our dear park.

1. The power does not seem to be working quite right yet and we have help from the borough to sort out the problem.
2. We also experienced a serious vandalism – almost 100 feet of top fence rail of the dog park fencing were cut away and stolen about 2 weeks ago. Information about a possible suspect has been given to the Troopers and we hope to have a resolution to the theft soon. Luckily we had enough top rail left over from construction, and thanks again to Vic for completely repairing the damage.

We are grateful to the Neighborhood Watch leaders in the Lion's Club for granting us \$400 to install motion activated camera's that will be installed in the park and for several Neighborhood Watch signs that will be installed soon. We have heard of many, many community members who drive by and/or regularly stop into the park to keep an eye on it – the essence of Neighborhood Watching.

Special thanks to all those folks who are helping to watch over and maintain the quality of our beautiful Newman's Memorial Park.

### OTHER

**Willow Library:** The summer Reading Program was a HUGE success! We had an average of 35 participants per week. The kids read over 52,400 minutes or almost 874 hours. The family that read the most got tickets to the Hurricane Train.

- Friday 8/2 – 1 pm Facebook Class
- Saturday 8/10- Felted Slipper Class (Full but if interested get on the waiting list so you will get first dibs next time)
- Wednesday 8/21 – 11am -1pm Fiber Arts Group
- Friday 8/30 - 1:30pm Writers Group

Passports are still available for the Willow Trails Challenge. Over 140 have been handed out.

Willow Reads is ongoing.

Coming soon: Movie nights, more computer classes, finance classes.... Have some suggestions? Let us know.