

Mayor's Report – December 5, 2017

Since our last Council meeting on November 21:

- I hope everyone had a very fun and restful Thanksgiving break. The time spent with loved ones in this great city with such spectacular views and outdoor opportunities was a very rejuvenating start to the holidays.
- The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony was Sunday, November 26th @ 6:30 P.M. and I got to read the proclamation, listen to and sing carols and enjoy the community members and children who attended. The library hosted a pre-lighting holiday craft workshop for the young ones which was VERY well attended, while the Museum hosted treats and warm drinks. Thank you to our city staff for your efforts to make this event a very special start to the Christmas season.
- WOW! Eagan Street will put you in the Holiday spirit by just driving down the road. Thank you Public Works and the Beautification Task Force for making Valdez a cheery place through our short day and long periods of dark. A question was asked at the Beautification Task Force meeting why we don't put Christmas lights on the other main streets, like Harbor Drive? That will be something the Task Force will discuss as a possibility in the future.
- The Beautification Task Force (BTF) met on Monday, November 27 at noon. We looked over the great report that Allie and Marjorie put together about the Matching Grant program and discussed the Pipeline Workers' statue and the future ECI work. The BTF has many future ideas that will continue to beautify our community, so we will wait and see what kind of budget the Council sets for 2018. Elke's admin., Marjorie, will be taking over the staff lead for the BTF since Allie is headed into maternity leave. I wish them both the best on these new endeavors.
- We had a very well attended Flood Mitigation Task Force (FMTF) meeting on Tuesday, the 28th. Four DNR staff, a DOT staff, Representative Rauscher and his aide, were all on the phone along with our contractor Brad from Dowl, and all of the seat at the table were full. We listened to DNR explain how and why Glacier Stream received the Navigable designation and then we discussed the future permitting procedures and timelines with them. After our phone guests signed off, the FMTF decided the suggested work to be completed on Glacier Stream in 2018. We now have suggestion on all three waterways to come before Council. The sooner we get the work prioritized and designated, the sooner we can put in for the permits. Hopefully we will have more continuity with the staff working on these very important projects this year. Because of the turn over last year in Capital Facilities and Community Development, permitting was a challenge. DNR was kind, but reminded us many times that they can only do things timely if they receive things from the City in a timely manner. We assured them that this will happen from now on, so hopefully we will have good working relationships at the local, state and federal levels.
- The Museum hosted a fantastic speaker on Tuesday evening at the Civic Center. The history talk was more of a science talk about earthquakes in Alaska and how the 1964 Quake helped further knowledge of earthquakes created by Mega-Thrust. Thank you Faith, Patty and your Board for bring the USGS to Valdez.
- On Thursday, I attended the PWEDD board teleconference. The major item of business was Membership Development Plan and Dues Structure.
- I was in Anchorage on Friday and Saturday for appointments and the RCAC Volunteer workshop and long-range planning meetings.
- Please enjoy our blanket of white, most of us are happy it has finally arrived.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruthie Knight, Mayor City of Valdez