

Our next meeting is Wednesday, December 13, 2023.

For more information, contact nscboard@googlegroups.com

Meeting Minutes
North Star Community Council
November 8th, 2023

Present:

Officers and Members	Other Folks:	Members Present:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Johnson, President and<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eiden Pospisil, Vice President<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jacob Powell, Secretary<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Susan Miller, Member at Large<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Penny Gage, FCC Delegate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dave Donley, ASD School Board<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dave Rittenberg, Catholic Social Services - Complex Care Facility<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Rep Zach Fields<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kayla E from Sen Tobin's Office<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assembly Rep Daniel Volland<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Garvey, ACLU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donovan C<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sharon S<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graham D<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kayla E<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gordan G

Introductions

- Round of Introductions
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes

Reports

- President
- Vice President
 - Come to in person meetings!
- Secretary
 - [Homelessness Resource Flyer](#) and other information on the winter shelter plan from Anchorage Coalition To End Homelessness
- Treasurer
- FCC Center Update
 - [Presentation](#) from Nolan Clouda on housing situation in Anchorage

- [Naloxone \(Narcan\) training presented](#) to FCC, and is available to interested organizations from Project Hope
 - projectHOPE@alaska.gov
 - [Link for upcoming FCC Center meetings](#). Funding is available for
- Member at Large, Susan Miller
 - Successful library book and media sale
- Legislative Update
 - Senator Löki Gale Tobin
 - Update attached to end of meeting
 - Rep Zach Fields
 - Cook Inlet gas shortage discussed, Hillcorp was previously under a contractual obligation to supply gas. Those are ending, and re-negotiation of contracts means they may stop providing gas as it becomes unprofitable, or increase prices. Imported LNG is likely 2x cost. Example that ASD pays \$9 million for gas.
 - Transmission and renewable energy installations needed to prevent cost increases. Serious action needed from legislature this year to accelerate an energy transition both in funding and legislature to incentivize additional renewable installation and development. [See here](#) for information on AEA infrastructure upgrades.
 - Vic Fisher celebration of life Sunday Nov 12th at 4pm at Hotel Captain Cook
 - Fish Creek Trail Connection: Railroad is likely to vote to [approve a modified lease](#) that would allow the trail connection to continue.
 - Update on Kroger/Albertsons Grocery Store Merger (Carrs and Fred Meyer) - [Alaska's Federal congressional delegation has come out in opposition of the merger](#), and consumer groups around the country are also in opposition.
- Assembly Update, Daniel Volland
 - Ordinance passed defining qualifications for chief medical officer in code and updating other aspects of the code impacting the position
 - Next goal of Volland would be for the Chief Medical Officer position to require assembly confirmation
 - Sullivan Arena Operating Agreement approved to allow hockey to continue for next 5 years
 - Housing Action week had great turnout! Recordings and Assembly's Draft Housing Strategic Plan [available here](#)
 - [Budget work sessions upcoming](#)
 - Notable amendments that Volland will make:
 - Anchorage is double the national average for pedestrian and cyclist collisions
 - Team to provide medical care

- Triplex and fourplex legislation coming up on December 19th, which would make it easier to build small-multifamily units. Planning and zoning meeting relevant to that legislation happening this week.
 - No plans that Daniel is aware of to increase shelter availability, Health Department is leading that and Assembly responds to funding requests.
 - Anchorage School District Update
 - Dave Donley, School Board
 - Projected \$95 million deficit to maintain current level of service. Nothing like he's ever seen.
 - Increasing classroom sizes by 10 for all classrooms from current, untenable levels, would only save \$56 million, and there are diminishing returns from classroom size increases.
 - Recent report from Mark Foster that Anchorage is significantly discriminated against in the base student allocation formula due to failure to update district cost differential used in the calculation.
 - Primary drivers of funding deficit:
 - Lack of increase in BSA to track inflation
 - Funding formula mentioned above
 - Overdue increase in wages for working class staff that are making retention and hiring more difficult and driving cost increase
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New Business:

1. Call To Action from District One Leadership
 - a. This call to action document was shared with Northstar Community Council by Fairview and Downtown Community Councils for our review and discussion during the November NSCC Meeting.
 - b. Some discussion on the context of the document and how it overlaps with ongoing work, and appreciation for the effort that the District One Leadership put into it.
 - c. Mark B moved to table the document, and Graham D seconded. Approved unanimously.
2. American Civil Liberties Union Letter to Bronson Administration Regarding Campsite Abatement
 - a. The ACLU submitted this letter (attached) to the Bronson Administration on October 24th expressing concern over the Municipality's approach to homelessness and the increasing numbers of outdoor deaths.
 - b. Letter was sent prior to the winter shelter plan coming online, but ACLU still feels that the letter is especially relevant, and is doing more outreach to connect with community groups like the NSCC.
 - c. Discussion
 - d. Proposal to pass a resolution in support of the ACLU letter and its sentiment as introduced in the November meeting, at the December meeting.

- e. Draft of that resolution will be sent ASAP via email.

Updates:

1. I/L Street Repaving Planning Process
 - a. DOT&PF has begun the planning process for repaving I/L street through South Addition as a "pavement preservation" project hiring Lounsbury & Associates as a consultant. This moment is an opportunity for public input on the process for any potential improvements beyond pavement preservation.
 - b. "pavement preservation" is a process where DOT shaves off the top layer of the road surface and re-paves and re-stripes the street. There is typically some funding flexibility to update sidewalks, and a percentage of sidewalks to be re-done, and there is often a need to remind project teams of that funding availability and areas that need to be updated.
 - c. Daniel Volland is going to reach out to Zach Fields (who introduced this update) on how to comment on the planning process. We will send an email update if there is an opportunity to comment.
2. Current Committees
 - a. Fireweed Lane Redevelopment
 - i.
 - b. Noise in Northstar
 - i. Mark B is going to share contact information of an advocate for noise ordinances and ways to improve the issue.
 - ii. APD's traffic unit has had a significant increase in loud noise enforcement in the last two years
 - iii. Daniel Volland also raised the need for changed road design to address car noise generally.
 - c. Constitution and Parliamentary Affairs
 - i. Interest from membership in updating the procedures of the meeting discussions to establish a consistent alternate way of running the meeting that doesn't rely on Roberts Rules, and adding that to NSCC documentation.
3. [Spenard Second Saturday](#) this weekend! Highlight is a free talk from David Reamer at Bear Tooth at 11:30am

Old Business

1. n/a

Senator Tobin November Legislative Update: Interim

Senator Tobin just got home from the Yukon-Kuskokwim area with the Alaska Mental Health Trust learning more about culturally responsive behavior health services and treatment. This past month she has been actively visiting with district homeless/houseless service providers, met with several district nonprofits like the Performing Arts Center and the Alaska Blood Bank,

participating in the Governor's Child Care Task Force meetings, which met last week to review draft recommendations, and recently attended the two day meeting for the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, which she sits on in her legislative capacity.

Our office has continued to meet with service providers in district and help prepare capital project applications for the upcoming budget cycle. Please reach out if you have any questions or need assistance regarding local issues. We will be hosting a constituent meeting on November 18th from 9:30-11am at New Sagayas Downtown.

On a very exciting note, Senator Tobin was recently recognized as one of the Top 20 Under 40 State Legislators by the Council of State Governments.

Our office will be remote for the week of November 20th, so [email or call our staff](#) if you need anything, but our LIO office will not be staffed.