

NECC

Northeast Community Council

Minutes – June 16, 2016

Call to Order: 7:06 PM

Introduction of the Board:

Board Members Present: Rick Wood, Selina Metoyer, Stu Grenier, David Ulmer, Kristi Wood, John Ziv, Carla McConnell, Kevin Smestad and John Laux

Board Members Not Present:

Approval of June Meeting Agenda: John Laux moved to approve of the agenda and seconded by John Ziv. It passed

Approval of May Meeting Minutes: Carla McConnell mentioned that she did not make the last meeting and to make that change. John Laux moved to approve the minutes and seconded by John Ziv. It Passed

Treasurer's Report: Stu Grenier reported that our current balance is \$1,787.55.

Executive Report: Selina Metoyer, Stu Grenier, David Ulmer, John Ziv and Kevin Smestad attended the Executive Board Meeting. We wanted to let everyone know that we have changed the Executive Board Meeting to the first Thursday of the Month at 6 pm at the Muldoon Boys and Girls Club. At the Executive Board Meeting we only had two agenda items based on Steve Rafuse with the Parks Department Presenting on the Parks this month. There were emails back and forth and we were able to add items to the agenda instead of cancelling the meeting.

Legislative Reports:

Senator Giessel: was not there

Senator Bill Wielechowski, he was in town, because the Senate Floor was cancelled for Friday, so he could stay a few extra days. The Senate passed a bill to restructure the permanent fund to lower the dividend from around \$2,000 to \$1,000. The bill is in the House and they are waiting to find out what they will do. The House is looking at other options like bringing the dividend down to \$1,500 for two years and then drop to \$800 to \$900 after that. If they don't have the votes in the House they might not vote on it. There are some tax bills for increasing Mining Taxes by 6 million dollars and to increase the Motor Fuel Tax to \$0.16 that will bring in around 45 million dollars. There is another bill to increase the alcohol tax by \$3.60 per bottle of hard liquor and about \$0.25 per bottle of beer. There is another bill to increase cigarette tax. Mr. Wielechowski said we will see if any of these will pass. Some local items that are happening, Mr. Wielechowski attended the ground breaking at Russian Jack Park for the Skate Park. There were questions on why NECC did not get the Skate Park, it was not in the Muldoon Town Square Park

Master Plan and other Parks wanted a Skate Park. Mr. Wielechowski said himself and Pete Petersen, when he was in the House, put money for a Skate Park in the Northeast area, with no end location designated. There was some serious talk in putting the Skate Park in Davis Park, but Mr. Wielechowski pushed to have it in Russian Jack as he felt this was a better location. Another issue that Gabrielle LeDoux, Pete Peterson and he have been working on the Median issue, where the Department of Transportation wants to use part of the grant from the Muldoon Park to build a median. Mr. Wielechowski said in his opinion that the grant does not cover to use the money on a median. Mr. Wielechowski said they sent a letter to DOT and they are getting a legal opinion. Ms. McConnell asked the Russian Jack Community Council to be good neighbors and let the NECC and other Community Councils know about the Skate Park and nothing came our way. Russian Jack is a regional Park and does not solely to RJCC and still did not get notice about the Skate Park, can you tell us why? Mr. Wielechowski said he does not know why we did not get notice, John Rodda is here, but he does not know what the process of notice is, but he wrote a letter in support of the Skate Park going into Russian Jack. Mr. Grenier mentioned that if we wanted to Skate Park in Muldoon Town Square Park and the people did not make it one of the items that did not make the list. Mr. Wielechowski said that one of the issues with putting the Skate Park in the Muldoon Town Square Park is that there is not enough room to put it right up front and that there was more room and good visibility at Russian Jack.

Representative Gabrielle LeDoux, there was problems with the phone and Calista; Ms. LeDoux's assistant gave a report for her. Mr. Wielechowski mentioned most everything. Ms. LeDoux is disappointed about the Oil Tax that passed the House; she did not feel it went far enough. Ms. LeDoux is unsupportive of SB120 the permanent restructuring bill. Rep LeDoux, Rep Spohnolz and Senator Wielechowski are doing a Constituent Picnic on Jun 29th from 6 to 7:30 at Russian Jack Park.

Representative Lance Pruitt, there was problems with the phone and Jeanna; Mr. Pruitt's assistant gave a report for him. Rep. Pruitt and Senator Giessel are having a constituent picnic at the Chester Park Cooperative on July 9th from 11:30 to 2:30. She mentioned that Mr. Pruitt apologizes for missing last month, but he had a family emergency. Mr. Pruitt is working on the same restructuring bill.

Representative Ivy Spohnolz, there was problems with the phone and Ted Matson; Ms. Spohnolz's assistant gave a report for her. Ms. Spohnolz she is down in Juneau following the discussion in the House Finance Committee regarding the restructuring of the permanent fund. Right not Ms. Spohnolz is not in favor of the restructuring. She is not a fan of doing on a permanent fund only bill. This will put the burden on a certain demographic people.

Representative Reports:

Assembly Person Amy Demboski was not there.

Assembly Person Forrest Dunbar, he had two meetings so far. One item is the Cell Phone Ordinance and he feels that they are spot where they will be able to pass it. Mr. Dunbar said

Pete Petersen will be late, he is coaching, but he plans to show up late. Mr. Dunbar said the Assembly is working with Air B&B where they can pay their room tax, they want to, but nothing is set up currently. They are going to create a regulatory summary for this. Mr. Dunbar said they had a ground breaking for a new trail, the Chugach Foothills connector. Phase I should be done this summer and Phase II will be next summer. APD keeps working on Homeless Camps and hiring more people. Plant 2A the new Power Plant being built and will be on time, they are asking for additional 2 Million Dollars, but they don't think they will need it. One of the good things of Plant 2A is that they will be able to heat AWWU's water line; it will be 60 degrees instead of 40 degrees.

Assembly Person Pete Petersen, see below.

Assembly Person Bill Starr was not there.

Special Assistant to the Mayor: was not there.

Community Concerns/Community Activities Report(s): Ms. McConnell said that the Muldoon Market will start next Saturday, June 25th at Begich Middle School from 9:30 to 2:30. Mr. Grenier mentioned the photos on the wall from the old Muldoon Town Square Park. Bob Reupke said the Federation of Community Councils did not meet this month. Mr. Reupke said that he attended the NUSA Conference in Memphis this year. Mr. Reupke said the center opened up in 1996. He is going to go over information about the center. In 1996 the place was basically empty, except the bowling alley. The idea was to move the Community Council to where Begich Middle School is, but that did not work out. The City decided to move the Community Council to the where the bowling alley was and over time they worked out a deal with the Boys and Girls Club to run the center. Mr. Reupke talked about the doors that are automatically locked at 7pm. Mr. Reupke said we pay \$27,000 a month for the Muldoon Boys and Girls Club area. Mr. Dunbar said that Reality Service said they are looking at moving the door to the back. Rick Irwin said that we need to create a committee to discuss what we need to do about the Northeast Community Council Meeting room. A gentleman mentioned that bolt cutters are being used to cut the locks on the gates at Muldoon Community Assembly. John Ziv said that on Duben no signs were put back up after they did the work.

Business:

1. Parks and Rec update on Pena Park Upgrades, Nunaka Valley Plat Vacates and Master Plan, and the latest on Muldoon Town Square Park presented by Steve Rafuse. Mr. Rafuse is giving us an update in the Northeast Area in regards to Parks. He gave a hand out with five projects on it. First, Muldoon Town Square Park, the Parks Committee worked on getting a Master Plan. A contractor has been chosen and work is set to begin tomorrow, which they will lay out the time line. The piles will be gone in the next week. Movement will start happening. About this time next year will be ribbon cutting. The Muldoon Town Square Park will house the Muldoon Farmers Market.

Pena Sports Field is part of Centennial Park and currently it has been a staging area for Price Gregory as the do the work at Plant 2A. There will be improvements and Price Gregory will pay for it. They will expand the parking lot and about 50 parking spaces. The field drainage problems will be fixed as well. There will be a brand new field. This will let the Farmers Market back. Mr. Grenier asked what the plan is for the parking lot. Mr. Rodda said that one will be open the other two will be closed. There will be a single gate access.

Nunaka Valley Park South, they will be working on a replat of the park. In 1953 the property line and the map was drawn and this became the legal document. The problem is the single housing and the roads that are drawn into the park need to be removed. The replat will essentially take the current boundaries and make them park only. This will help with future development of the park. This is the main goal. There will be an open house event on June 25th from 11am to 1pm. There will be a tent and some information.

2. Update on Projects for Russian Jack Park, Steve Rafuse presenting. They broke ground on a Skate Park today. They expect this to be completed by August 27th and will go along with a RJCC Picnic with a ribbon cutting. The play ground is the most successful play ground in Anchorage. This Skate Park will give a positive thing for the teenagers to do in Anchorage.

There was a challenge grant for \$20,000 that a teacher from Nunaka Valley Elementary got to help the kids make outside classrooms that is 20 x 20 feet. The design challenge is not letting people come and drink here. It is fixed into the ground and will not be able to move it. This will help engage kids in the parks and the outside.

Mr. Grenier said that he heard about this on Facebook and there were neighbors that were upset about this. This will open a can worms and it might be better to wait to build the others and let the community respond. Mr. Rafuse said they can do a better job in engaging between the Community Councils. Ms. Wood said that she has seen positive aspects with the kids on this project. Ms. Holubik said why do we always think everything will be defaced and destroyed...

3. Resolution in Support of Opposing the Road Extension through the U-Med District:

A Resolution: NECC June 16, 2016, Bragaw Extension Resolution

WHEREAS Alaska is in the midst of a fiscal crisis and cannot afford to invest in large capital projects such as the Northern Extension of Elmore Road at this time and

WHEREAS Anchorage cannot solve its transportation challenges by continuing to invest in expensive new roads, and must start examining alternatives such as shuttle buses and improvements to public transportation and

WHEREAS the University Community Council is the council most affected by this proposed road and has repeatedly passed resolutions opposing the Northern Extension of Elmore Road and

WHEREAS residents in the affected area have continued to express concerns over increasing vehicle congestion and

WHEREAS Anchorage's wetlands have decreased by 78% since the 1950s, and the proposed Northern Extension of Elmore Road would have significant negative impact for area wetlands and

WHEREAS the proposed Northern Extension of Elmore Road would bisect University Park

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED the Northeast Community Council opposes any further development on the proposed Northern Extension of Elmore Road.

Motion: Stu Grenier made the motion and it was seconded by Carla McConnell.

Discussion: A gentleman said he was against the proposal, because traffic in Anchorage we need all the access we can get. Mr. Grenier said as the City expands green space becomes more valuable and that is a large essential park. He will vote in favor of the resolution. Mr. Reupke said they keep building there. There were looking at putting a few roundabouts. Ms. Holubik said that it would only take a few seconds off getting to the hospital. It impacts more than that neighborhood. Mr. Ziv will vote against, because we need clear emergency access roads. It would cut traffic off of Muldoon and reduce the traffic. Mr. Wielechowski said that 9 Community Councils voted against this extension. When they lobbied for the Sports Center they said that they would not have to build any more roads. Russian Jack Community Council did not like the extension about increasing traffic through their roads, per Mr. Wielechowski. Mr. Wielechowski said this will be an expected 40 million dollars for this road and they will need more money. Mr. Dunbar said that University is against this road. By putting this road in and the roundabouts, they are making the argument that less people will use the North/South. The City asked for money for the Port and not for this road, and who will have to pay for this road, he believes that this will be a City road; these are some of the concerns. Ms. Wood said that in 2009 she studied roads in another area; you do not solve your problems by making new roads. Someone said this is not new money in the budget. Mr. Laux said he will vote against the proposal due to Providence and Alaska Native Hospitals will need to expand and need more roads. Ms. McConnell said this is in support of our neighbors. Mr. Grenier if you vote for it you oppose the road and if vote yes you support the road.

A vote of the motion of the Resolution: 8 in favor, 6 opposed, 2 abstained. The resolution passes.

Assembly Person Pete Petersen, he had a Finance Committee Meeting today we are right on target, so far so good. The Cell Phone Ordinance is on the agenda and Mr. Petersen believes they have their ducks in a row to get this passed. Mr. Petersen did the ground breaking at the Skate Park at Russian Jack today. Mr. Ulmer asked if Uber is dead. Mr. Petersen did not know. Mr. Dunbar said Uber is not dead; there will be an ordinance to deregulate the Taxi industry from one of the Assembly Person.

John Rodda with Parks Department, homeless parks have been mapped and when they come across the information and it is posted and it takes 15 days to respond. The snow dump site by Boniface has had a 5 camps and then another 5 camps and then more and then more. The problems are moved from place to place. There are 68 known places in all of Anchorage across the Chester area through the City. 24 tons of garbage has been removed. Ms. McConnell asked about enforcing the 11pm Park closure. Mr. Rodda said that the APD has not had the staff. They people can move out and then come back into the park afterwards.

4. Head Start Program and the Benefits for the Families to Participate in their Program presented by Ms. Miriam Vazquez Mateo. Ms. Mateo has three centers in our area and will discuss these three centers. There program will be longer from 9 am to 6 pm, to help the parents. They are looking for volunteers. They care for their health and go over basics ABC's with the kids.

Community Reports:

Alcohol Committee: Stu Grenier said he has liquor renewal license for 720 Muldoon. Alcohol historically brought this up in the general meeting, but after the Marijuana troubles they have not. Should the Alcohol committee bring up the liquor licenses at the general meeting? Ms. Metoyer said that we had the most liquor license and we brought them up each time, but she does not feel that we need to bring up the renewal. Mr. Ulmer said they are not adding a license, they are transferring the license. Mr. Smestad said when there was a new liquor license in the NECC area it was good to meet with the business at the Council Meeting, so that we can let them know how we feel about red stripe and other issues. Yes, renewals of the liquor license in general should go through, but the Alcohol Committee should be sorting through them to find out if they are good to keep serving the Community. Ms. Holubik said it was nice to have face with the business. There should be education about drunk driving as a role with the Alcohol Committee.

Bylaw Committee: Genevieve Holubik said that the Bylaws have been passed. Ms. Holubik thought we should look at guidelines for elections and how jobs on the Community Council. There is more focus on guidelines for the new board members.

CIP Committee: Kevin Smestad said the CIP List had to be May 31st and he couldn't be at the last meeting and the print out that he need to pass along was not printed properly. We had to do a special meeting to pass the CIP List and we were able to load our list by the date. There will be CIP List meeting called in August or September. Mr. Dunbar asked what our number one CIP List Item is. Mr. Smestad said the highest priority is the Muldoon Town Square Park, for the non Park, Mr. Smestad or Mr. Ulmer did not remember. Mr. Smestad said he will send Mr. Dunbar an email.

Parks Committee: Kristi Wood said we break ground soon and ribbon cutting in July of 2017. The name of the Park is one item that has come up and this will be done with discussion with

the public. Other items, Nickel is doing an Orchard and Steve Rafuse gave most of the updates. Mr. Dunbar asked about a shared parking lot. Ms. Wood said that the shared parking lot was in the down low and not supposed to be talked about, so it was nice they could talk about. The Parks Committee will meet in July, the third Thursday at 6 pm

Picnic Committee: Kevin Smestad said that he has not chosen a date yet. There will be a meeting to choose the location. With the Muldoon Park not completed we have to find another location and Mr. Smestad has spoken with the Parks Department and the Anchorage School District about other locations. Once we get the location and the date has been chosen then the rest will fall in place.

Trails Committee: David Ulmer said there only two trails we are working on currently. One is on Cheney Lake to the corner of Muldoon and other is down the Military Boundary.

Marijuana Committee: John Laux said that the plan is to make a proactive outreach. Mr. Laux said that he has not heard of a license that is being worked on in the NECC area. Mr. Petersen said he has not heard of any as well.

The meeting adjourned approved by someone and seconded by someone (I could not hear who they were) with a unanimous approval at 8:58 pm.