

NECC

Northeast Community Council

Minutes – August 18, 2016

Call to Order: 7:04 PM

Introduction of the Board:

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

Board Members Not Present: John Laux

Approval of August Meeting Agenda: John Ziv moved to approve of the agenda and seconded by Pete Peterson. It passed

Assembly Person Forrest Dunbar, the biggest item happening in the Assembly is the Marijuana licenses. They will start cultivation licenses. First, it goes to the State and then to the Assembly. Right now there are no licenses for the NECC boarders. There have been no licenses for retail that have come across the Assembly as of yet. Another item of interest is the homelessness. The Mayor Office and APD have been working to abate a number of the camps through the Public Works Department. As a result Brother Francis has seen more people and has turned away a number of people. There is a new line of housing vouchers, about 70 of them, that will have fewer people in camps. Sitka Place has 15 beds and they have been working with trying to match up with the correct people to get housing.

Gabrielle Ledoux asked about the Marijuana voting for Patrick Flynn, does everyone vote on liquor license? Mr. Dunbar said the Assembly has stronger rules. He said that the ethics committee will be meeting and it was a close vote for Mr. Dunbar.

Stu asked that if Mr. Dunbar knew if 2 of the people killed were Bartlett students. Mr. Dunbar does not know of the connection. Right now we are waiting to find out what happened.

Gabrielle Ledoux asked to have some beat cops around the neighborhood. Mr. Dunbar said that we were down to 330 police officers and the study said we need to be at 450 cops. Mr. Dunbar said that we need more cops than we currently have.

Selina Metoyer was asking about the police officers that were suppose to live in the area with cars, but officers are getting cars and don't live in the neighborhoods. Ted Madsen said that Mr. Gruenberg passed legislation that gave tax breaks to police officers that live in the area. Mr. Dunbar said he will look into this.

Approval of June Meeting Minutes: Carla McConnell moved to approve the minutes and seconded by John Ziv. It Passed

Treasurer's Report: Stu Grenier reported that our current balance is \$1,776.69.

Executive Report: Rick Irwin said we had an executive board report at our new time 6pm with everyone, but John Laux there. We made the agenda and Jim from the library showed up. He gave a nice report about the Muldoon Library and some new options like, new hours. Ms. McConnell said that the executive board meeting is open to anyone that wants to attend.

Legislative Reports:

Senator Giessel: was not there

Senator Bill Wielechowski, Krispy Kreme open house August 30th and Burger-Fi is August 29th. There was town hall meeting with Mr. Wielechowski, Ms. LeDoux and Ms. Spohnolz that had a good turnout. Mr. Wielechowski spoke about his book drive that he is involved with and in their 10th year their goal of 10,000 books was beat, as they got 11,000 books and they have been give out to kids. The Dept. of Transportation was giving problems about the medians and Mr. Wielechowski fought to get the \$100,000 the Dept of Transportation to find other funds to pay for the medians other than the Park money of 1.5 million dollars. It was a bad year for dip netters this year and this year the commercial fishermen had emergency openings on the weekend when they are not supposed to have them. The fish were not able to reach the dip netters and they had some bad time this year getting fish. Mr. Wielechowski said that the Cook Inlet management plan is when they will make the plan for fishing and he plans to pass along constituents concerns about not getting fish. Price gouging, Alaska has the highest prices in the nation. Tesoro has a monopoly on the refining, and has about 100% of the refining. Tesoro is buying Flint Hills here in Anchorage, so they were successful in getting the attorney general require an anti-trust provision so they lease out a portion of their facility. AKLNG hearings, there will be two hearings next week.

Representative Gabrielle LeDoux, Alaska Code of Justice worked as bipartisan. No one got credit for it. All sorts of people worked on it. It passed with all the help. It might not be perfect, but it will get the National Guard moving forward. Ms. LeDoux will be attending a seminar on sex trafficking. She will learn how bad it will be in Anchorage. Ms. LeDoux hopes that the Mayor will come and talk about some of the shootings.

Stu Grenier said we were successful with the red stripe law, but with the Hipa it has stopped getting the homelessness from purchasing alcohol. Ms. LeDoux said she does not mind looking into this, but Hipa law is a federal law. She will try.

Carla McConnell asked about the fiscal for the state and the money that was given to ASD, do you foresee any more cash flow for the ASD? Ms. LeDoux said that depends on where the legislature can come together and fix the fiscal mess. There will be a lot of new faces, which gives new opportunities and sometimes it is a learning process.

Representative Lance Pruitt, Dirk was there for Mr. Pruitt. 2 weeks ago they were at their constituent picnic, it was very successful. They will have a civic task for in the next few days.

Representative Ivy Spohnolz, Ted Matson was there for Ms. Spohnolz. There is a civic task force tomorrow and how to improve on the civic classes for the state. It will take bringing from the National level to the State Level. The biggest thing Ms. Spohnolz wanted Ted to talk about is the crime in the city. They are doing a piece to help people to do a newsletter regarding ways to get information to citizens about how to get a hold of the different constituents.

Representative Reports:

Assembly Person Amy Demboski was not there.

Assembly Person Forrest Dunbar, see above. Had to leave early.

Assembly Person Pete Petersen, he attended a budget meeting today and was informed that the APD will be about 3 million dollars short in collecting the fines due to the shortage from the PFD this year. Bed tax was down from projections so far. Marijuana tax is slow since the roll out has been slow. Because of layoffs from oil companies parking tickets are down. He will introduce a bill to give homeowners 120 days to pay their property tax; this will be for people who had an emergency or fire. Number of the people being taken to the sleep off center is greatly reduced. They are looking to add an hour to the bar for safety hours to sober up a little bit.

Ms. McConnell asked if they had considered asking for a higher price for taxi cab permits. Mr. Peterson said that Uber might come. Ms. McConnell asked about the property taxes exemptions for disabled Veterans. Ms. McConnell asked about if any place got a fire that they should get some type of tax even if it is small. Mr. Peterson said the budget commission is looking at closing loop holes.

Dave Ulmer is the homeless moving their piles of trash. Mr. Petersen said they are leaving their trash. August 31st homeless count; this is a late summer count of the homeless. #Anchorageworks, the new website.

Assembly Person Bill Starr was not there.

Special Assistant to the Mayor: Amy Coffman was there. She said they are aware of the crime situation. They are trying to do some proactive things with the communities. One of the things is having things for kids to do, like the boys and girls club. The Citizens Police Academy is something everyone should do. This is a civic engagement that needs to happen throughout the city. She went on a tour of the Community Center with a few people and they are looking at putting a door to the side. There is a committee that should be forming for what we want to do about the Community Center per Rick Irwin.

Community Concerns/Community Activities Report(s): Kevin Smestad said he has 4 items to go over. First item we meet to begin the process to begin a Community Patrol and we had our first meeting last week. One of the persons involved in the meeting, Connie was at the meeting. We have a lot of problems with crime and people's houses and vehicles being broken into and the police are coming hours later or not at all. Mr. Smestad was meeting with Aaron and Keith the next day to begin the process of the how to start a Community Patrol. Mr. Smestad will help get this started and stay involved until the process of getting someone else who wants to run it, but he will stay with the Patrol to keep continuity. The second item is about the Muldoon exchange, if anyone is looking for information in regards to updates, please let him or the council know and they can get them information. The third item is the Northeast Community Council Facebook page. The last item is the Spirit of the Muldoon Picnic is on September 17th from 11 am to 3 pm at Creekside Park and it is a free event. Stu Grenier wanted to thank Kevin, Bill and Gabrielle for getting the speed humps on his road off of Boundary, it took years and years. Mr. Smestad mentioned there will be a Picnic that her employer has cut 25% to their capital budget for next year, because the legislature had not passed a budget plan. Connie Luque wanted to explain a little about what Mr. Smestad was talking about. There were 4 robberies in a short period of time, in what Ms. Luque described as very quiet neighborhood. Her and her neighbors got with Mr. Smestad to discuss the process of beginning a Community Patrol. She was disappointed that her neighbors did not show up. The police take 2 to 3 hours to show up and take a report, she is not belittling the police, but we need to do something. That is the reason in joining the Community Patrol and we need as many people to join as possible. Ms. Wood said that Ms. Luque is part of the solution by being available for the Community Patrol and that Mr. Smestad is doing the right thing in helping starting the Patrol. Ms. Wood said Aaron and Keith have done a wonderful job with the Community Patrol, but as they get older we need to bring a younger crowd in. The Assembly thanked each of them for all the years of service and how great of a job they have done as many on the Assembly said they did not think this would work. Jerrienne Lowther said that Scenic Foothills will be doing the same in getting the Community Patrol on September 1st. She said pictures help and gave many examples to help. Ted Matson asked Mr. Smestad if he could include him in the email, so that we can touch more people. Selina Metoyer has Bartlett Cards again this year for sale. Tommy Baker works with the JBER and he spoke about the JBER F22 Public Meeting. He said that there was a public meeting about this and wanted to let everyone know about the next public meeting on February or March. There is a website to go to and discuss this at jberf22eis.com, JBER Facebook page or jber.af.mil. These are good places to find out what is happening at JBER. Bob Reupke there was no FCC meeting.

Business:

1. Muldoon Library – New Hours – Ways to Use it: Mr. Jim Curran presenting – he was not there. We moved on to the next item.
2. Discussion of forming a Muldoon Library Improvement Committee, Kristi Wood presenting. Jim Curran wanted to come and speak about the new hours. Ms. Wood believes that we need to protect our library. Ms. Wood found out that it might be in our best interest to keep the library in its current location, so we called this the improvement committee. Ms. Wood meet with the

Municipal Librarian and the Zonrangs to find out the best solution. If you would like to meet with them, please contact Ms. Wood for more details. The library has some issue with the current location, some are small such as there are not bathrooms in the library, and a person would have to go out in the hallway bathrooms that are normally locked. Currently the lease is up and has not been signed currently. There are some concerns.

3. Volunteer Organized 3 on 3 Basketball at Nunaka Valley Park, Kristi Wood presenting. There are some families that want to start a 3 on 3 basketball league every Saturday in September. This is at Nunaka Valley North Park in the tennis court, where there is half of a basketball court. If you have any questions or concerns to please contact Ms. Wood for further information.
4. NECC Parks Committee Fund Raising, Kristi Wood presenting. Ms. Wood said they are hitting the streets for fund raising on the playground for the Muldoon Town Square Park. This is a playground for all children, even those with disabilities or autism. If you know any business owners or anyone that would like to donate either have them get with Ms. Wood or with someone from the parks committee. It will be \$300,000 to build the playground and this is a focus to fund raise and that will free up monies for areas that are harder to fund raise for like a bridge.
5. Neighborhood Traffic Concerns presenting Rick Irwin. Mr. Irwin thought there would be more people to turn out for this. This is an extension of the Community Concerns. John Ziv has said that on Zappa has a lot more traffic, speeding, more accidents. Grand Larry and Zappa should be through trucks only, Mr. Ziv said. The Muni site is not reporting the thefts in vehicles and someone is embarrassed by how many thefts are happening. There is no way for the NECC/residents to track to find out statically data on what is truly happening.

Kevin Smestad is reading an email from Forrest Dunbar that was the reason for this item being on the agenda. From State Street to Valley Street off of Muldoon, they wanted to add speed humps because of speeding that is happening to get from one light to another. The question is will be there more funding to do speed humps since we probably have another 20 to 30 speed humps before this one was recognized. This is with city doing traffic studies on each of the roads. Mr. Smestad also received an email from someone that could not make the Council Meeting that lives on Cherry Street and want to let people know about speeding down her street and it is by Muldoon Elementary. This is dangerous for the children walking and playing near this area. The question we need to look at or figure out with putting the medians being put in on Muldoon it has changed the traffic patterns. He didn't know if this get better with the Muldoon Exchange, but people are not going 20 miles an hour down the side roads, they are going 50-60 miles per hour down these side roads. At some point we need to do a traffic study, as this is a problem throughout our city.

There is a gentlemen that spoke about going south on Oklahoma there is a hill that there is a bike path and the residents are parking in the bike path. If someone is coming north there is a hazardous situation. This is an enforcement problem that needs to be looked at on Oklahoma.

Carla McConnell said that on Creekside Park Drive behind Walmart, but they are drag racing. It is loud and makes a lot of noise, but it would be good to get a patrol coming down that street. Ms. McConnell mentioned the sidewalks down Patterson and they put the sidewalks on the side on the opposite side of the easement. Plus cars are flying down this road just like Turpin and others.

Gabrielle LeDoux asked Pete Petersen about Valley Street and it is going to be resurfaced for about 5 or 6 blocks Mr. Petersen said. Rick Irwin read a statement said that the DOT said our recommendation for a slower speed limit on Muldoon is denied. If you want more information ask Mr. Irwin.

Community Reports:

Alcohol Committee: Stu Grenier said the red light and hippa law that was brought up to Ms. LeDoux be on the record, see above. Mr. Grenier was saying we need to hear about problems for the alcohol as we don't otherwise hear about it.

Bylaw Committee: Carla McConnell said there is nothing.

CIP Committee: Kevin Smestad said there will be a meeting sometime after the Picnic is over.

Parks Committee: Kristi Wood said she already spoke

Picnic Committee: Kevin Smestad said that he wanted to mention it twice. The Spirit of the Muldoon Picnic is September 17th from 11 am to 3 pm at Creekside Park off of Oklahoma Street and 6th Avenue. Mr. Smestad plans to have fliers done tomorrow. Every Monday at Fred Myers at 6 pm to keep up where we are at. Ted Matson asked about getting a letter out to each of the legislature representatives.

Trails Committee: David Ulmer said nothing new. Mr. Ulmer said that Gabrielle was going to get him a funding name.

Marijuana Committee: John Laux was not there. Mr. Smestad said there was nothing in this area. Mr. Petersen said someone was looking into starting a business in the NECC boundaries, but nothing has appeared so far from that.

The meeting adjourned approved by someone and seconded by someone (I could not hear who they were) with a unanimous approval at 9:29 pm.