

# NECC

Northeast Community Council

Minutes – February 15, 2018

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Call to Order: 7:07 PM

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Introduction of the Board:**

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

**Board Members Not Present:** Rick Irwin, and John Laux

**Approval of November Meeting Agenda:** Item6 remove it and put it on next months agenda. Bob Ruepke moved to approve of the agenda and seconded by John Ziv. The Agenda was approved

**Treasure's Report:** Stu Grenier reported our current balance is 976.17 in our account.

**Executive Board Report:** We went over the agenda. There was 5 people that attend.

**School Board Report:** No one was there.

**Legislative Board Report:**

**Legislative Reports:**

**Senator Giessel:** was not there

**Senator Bill Wielechowski,** said things are going slow. On the Judiciary Committee there has been only 1 meeting so far. Through the Governor's office they have sent over some information about crime. Mr. Wielechowski said that APD came by his office and said that they would like 10 treatment beds, he said he will push that. Mr. Wielechowski said that he will push for more prosecutors. He believe we need to get to 16 total. They are looking at the Budget and they are looking at finding a way to pay the shortage of money. They are still looking at the PFD to pay the gap. He would like to create a constituent amendment. Mr. Grenier said he was watching the Assembly and the alcohol tax from the State cannot be put money into other areas instead of something like treatment beds. Mr.Ruepke noticed that oil is going down. Mr. Wielechowski said the oil market goes up and down.

**Representative Gabrielle LeDoux,** wanted to remind everyone that on March 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Anchorage Caucus. For our area on March 3<sup>rd</sup> they will have the constituent meeting. Ms. LeDoux wants to put on the ballot the PFD to put it in the Constitution. She believes this is big issue. She believe reducing the PFD is like a tax on the poor. She believe Crime is a big issue. The pretrial program in regards to bail seems to be causing problems for petty crime like theft.

Mr. Grenier asked California was going to expunge Marijuana records, in the lower 48 and they are coming up to Alaska. Is there any way we can check the expunge records. Ms. LeDoux will check into this. Ms. McConnell asked if expenditures have gone down. Ms. LeDoux said the budget has decreased and this includes the Capital Budget. Ms. McConnell believes we should live within our means. Ms. LeDoux said that Education and Social Services are eating up most of the budget. Mr. England do you know how much of the education money is being given to homeschoolers. Ms. LeDoux said she did not know, but she will check it out. Mr. Ulmer asked how we could save the PFD. Ms. LeDoux said we need to get it on the ballot and vote it in to the Constitution. Mr. Riepke is asking in regards to the LNG Line, will we use Chinese labor or steel? Ms. LeDoux thinks that the LNG Line is a pipe dream. We would have to work out a deal with the Chinese. Mr. Ziv asked how much of the budget is being spent to places where they do not pay. How to make it fair? Ms. LeDoux said very little areas in the small areas are hard to tax.

**Representative Ivy Spohnolz**, Ted from Ivy's office was there. March 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Anchorage Caucus. There has been a lot of work on the subcommittee of Health and Social Services. House bill 123 is going through some changes. Mr. Grenier asked what is the Anchorage Caucus. It is when all of the legislature gets with the public to talk with them. Mr. Smestad asked if there is anything else to do for the Community Patrol. Ted said that we need to get a resolution back to them.

**Representative Lance Pruitt**, answered Mr. Riepke question. Procurement does include Chinese Steel, priority will most likely will go to the Chinese not US. The Chinese will get  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the gas and we would get  $\frac{1}{4}$ , because the Chinese will put  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the price. They are going through subcommittee process for Finance. He and his colleagues are going through the budget and encourage as flat as possible for the budget this year. His town hall will be on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Pruitt spoke about crime and the failures of SB91. Keep pressure on your legislature. Mr. Smestad have you heard about a bill to pay off the tax credits. Mr. Pruitt said the cost of bond + interest, we would discount your payment to the cost. It would not cost the State additional money.

#### **Assembly Reports:**

**Assembly Person Amy Demboski** was not there.

**Assembly Person Forrest Dunbar**, was not there

**Assembly Person Pete Petersen**, said that Mr. Dunbar was at another meeting. The sale of ML&P to Chugach will be on the ballot. The alcohol tax did not make the ballot. Mr. Dunbar did have an ordinance for drones pass the Assembly. Ms. Metoyer asked if there is one electric company. Mr. Petersen said that the Regulation Commission will keep it in check. ML&P's plant is the most efficient plant in all of Alaska. Mr. Ziv instead of using the sale and put the money in our own PFD. Mr. Petersen said that is what will happen. Mr. Ziv asked about duplicate of people. Mr. Petersen said that there are positions that were hard to fill and also there are many

people that were going to retire any ways. Mr. Ziv wants the electric companies to go over their disaster plans. Mr. Scudder asked about drones, what are the requirements. Mr. Petersen said they were worried about privacy.

**Assembly Person Bill Starr** was not there.

**Special Assistant to the Mayor:** was not there.

**Community Concerns/Community Activities Report(s):** Ms. McConnell asked that Parks and Rec should notify all things that happen at Russian Jack. Mr. Ulmer asked Mr. Petersen if we could do this. Mr. Petersen said that we should just talk with Parks and Rec. Mr. Grenier spoke about using heat from ML&P, he spoke about the bike trail that would go along the gas easement. Mr. Grenier showed a map that went over the trails committee. Mr. Groeber said there is a survey being done by AMATS that does a survey and you could include it. Mr. Smestad wanted to introduce John Scudder as the contact for JBER and will be attending future meetings. Mr. Scudder will be updating us next month.

**Business:**

1. Election Committee: Ms. Carla McConnell presenting. Elections are in April and there are 3 seats open. You must attend 3 of the last 6 meetings and must be a resident, land owner or business owner. The terms are 3 years long. Kristi, John Ziv and Selina are the three that are up. If you have any questions please let any of the board members know.
2. Chugach Electric & ML&P Consolidation: They did not show up.
3. School Board – Bond Presentation: They did not show up
4. NECC Initiative: encouraging area minorities to participate in Community Council: Ms. Kristi Wood presenting. We would like to have more diversity in the NECC and possibly to get on the board. Ms. Wood discussed a letter that the Executive Board wrote to help to give encouragement to join the NECC or the board. If anyone has any ideas regarding outreach, please let us know. There are copies of the letters out on the table. Mr. Grenier said that in Centennial Park has a big Hmong presences and they don't come to the NECC. We had multiple people that gave us ideas of presenting a way of making an inviting way to invite people to the NECC. Ms. McConnell mentioned putting up a table at Fred Myers, they just had not had time.
5. Resolution in regards to Russian Jack Spring Park: Mr. Marc Grober presenting. Mr. Grober said he could spend a year discussing how Russian Jack Springs Park and Parks and Rec keeps NECC out of the discussion.

Whereas, the NECC has historically been very concerned that its rights and duties as a community council with respect to that regional park known as Russian Jack Spring Park have been undermined and may have been violated and obstructed by Parks and Recreation staff, and

Whereas, these concerns are heightened by the fact that Parks and Recreation staff have not presented to the NECC various plans for changes made to the park over the last five years, and

Whereas, NECC repeatedly opposed both the Plans promoted by the Municipality of

Anchorage (MOA) Parks and Recreation Department (P&R) for Russian Jack Springs Park (RJSP) and the planning process adopted by that agency, and

Whereas, the last MASTER PLAN for RJSP was adopted by the MOA in 1979 and a site plan was allegedly adopted in 1997 by the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&ZC) though the planning process for the latter specifically excluded NECC from notice contrary to the provisions of MOA ordinance, and

Whereas, the community at large during hours of public testimony before the Parks Commission made it clear that it wished to see a systemic plan addressing RJSP before any further planning or development was undertaken, and

Whereas various members of the Parks Commission have indicated that the Master Plan is "dated" and the Commission's most recent resolution on RJSP called for additional planning and review before any further development or construction, and

Whereas, P&R has continued to expend resources changing RJSP without public consultation, and

Whereas, the RJSP MASTER PLAN as well as the 1997 site plan appear to call for completion of the adopted trail plan including the creation of a second tunnel under RJSP and the completion of trail lighting, including the lighting of the paved trail in North RJSP, and

Whereas, NECC believes that Parks and Recreation plans to revisit the RJSP Master Plan in the Fall of 2018, and

Whereas, NECC believes that it has an obligation to provide community comment on changes made to the park of late, including but not limited to changes in trail lighting, changes in siting of garbage receptacles, changes in siting of amenities, changes in signing, and management of the golf course,

**NOW THEREFORE THE NECC HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

In as much as the only community group to have addressed lighting levels on RJSP trail (via VIP Committee on expenditure of funds on playground at NRJSP, said playground opposed by the NECC) recommended a test placement of lunar-resonant lighting or other low intensity LED lighting on the North side paved trail, which recommendation was ignored by P&R, and as the replacement of the lamps in RJSP negotiated between ML&P and P&R called for "like for like" which in fact resulted in brighter lights in the park, and as ML&P advise that said LED's intensity can be controlled remotely by ML&P, that P&R should immediately pursue a test regimen whereby various intensities on different segments of the park premiss can be tested, and that said tests be coordinate to the mutual satisfaction of representatives from the RJCC, the NECC, Skijax, Jr. Nordic, and other community organizations,

In as much as there has been a wide disagreement as to what can or cannot be set forth in a Master Plan, as well as to the degree to which Master Plans can be ignored when it comes to planning for development, P&R is encouraged to conduct public workshops BEFORE the Master Plan process so as to clarify the purpose and usage of Master Plans, practically, legally, and theoretically.

In as much as the attitude of P&R has apparently repeatedly changed as far as its duty to solicit comment from the NECC, P&R is encouraged to appear before the NECC to specifically address its position on what it will, may, and need not address to the NECC's attention, as well as an explanation for its failure to bring matters to the NECC's attention with respect to RJSP over the past 5 years.

In anticipation of the reopening of the RJSP Master Plan, NECC requests that P&R provide an historical analysis of the impact and efficacy of the Master Plans adopted for RJSP, including but not limited to the degree to which any and all development either was consistent with such plan, or involved an attempt to change the plan to suit the short term demands of the development proposed. Further, NECC expects a full and detailed explanation as to the motivation behind P&R's apparent sudden interest in "revisiting" the RJSP Master Plan

NECC applauds the efforts by P&R to use GIS applications to manage and share data regarding the use and maintenance of P&R resources, and encourages P&R and the MOA generally to involve the public to a greater degree in the planning and development of such applications, as the public promoted the use of such technology two decades ago.

At the present time the NECC opposes the building of new trails, or conversion of existing trails, to designed use mountain biking trails or single track trails in Russian Jack Springs Park (Reference RTP 2017 RJSP). NECC has not been consulted as to how the proposed trails will fall within the scope of the current Park Master Plan, those involved in the project have specifically not included NECC in planning or review of the project, despite municipal provision that mandate such participation, and the park is already heavily impacted such that its historic aesthetic is rapidly deteriorating. Bicycle traffic in the park is already moving too fast, and users at Kincaid have been cautioned about their speed, while others have written to the newspaper about issues with single track trails ( see e.g., <https://www.adn.com/opinions/2017/05/02/no-more-single-track-trails-please/> and <https://www.adn.com/opinions/2017/08/31/singletrack-trails-in-far-north-spell-high-speed-collisions-with-bears/> ). Publication of the plans was virtually non-existent as evidenced by the application itself, and the project is moving too fast without adequate public review.

Done this 15 day of February 2018.

Yes Votes: 10, No Votes: 0, Abstentions: 2

6. JBER Update: Cancelled until next meeting as stated when voting in the agenda
7. Individual Liquor License Up for Renewal: Mr. Stu Grenier presenting, 1. Lc. 5115 DBA Wild Wings'nThings, b. Lic. 1203 DBA VFW Post #9978. Is there anyone that thinks that liquor license of these two should not happen? Let us know.
8. Nunaka Valley & Northeast Community Patrol Funding Update: Mr. Kevin Smestad presenting. Mr. Smestad said that Public Safety is a line item that the Governor has listed and we spend around \$43,000 over the last few years. 580 Hours of active Community Patrols for the month of January. We are currently at 10 Community Patrol and another 7 Patrols are starting.

Resolution: Nunaka Valley & Northeast Community Patrol Cost:

Funds required to run a Community Patrol: \$20,000

Need: Funds would be used to support the activities of the patrol and could include the purchase of fuel cards for patrolling, the purchase of safety equipment and supplies, the purchase of communications equipment, the repair of fully marked patrol vehicles, and to educate the public about crime and crime prevention. FY19 SOA Governor's Public Safety Bill Request of \$20,000 / \$10,000 received FY19 SOA Governor's Public Safety Bill Request for Nunaka Valley Community Patrol / \$10,000 received FY19 SOA Governor's Public Safety Request for Northeast Community Patrol.

Project scope: Funds would be used to support the activities of the patrol and could include the purchase of fuel cards for patrolling, the purchase of safety equipment and supplies, the purchase of communications equipment, the repair of fully marked patrol vehicles, and to educate the public about crime.

Project Status: This project has been a priority of the Northeast Community Council for more than 20 years, and works in conjunction with local law enforcement to promote safe neighborhoods.

Yes Votes: 13, No Votes: 0, Abstentions: 1

9. Spirit of Muldoon Picnic Update and Announcement for 2018: Mr. Kevin Smestad presenting. June 16<sup>th</sup> is the day of the Spirit of Muldoon Picnic. Mr. Ulmer voted to invite the Rage City Rollers.

**Minutes:** None for this month

**Community Reports:**

**Alcohol Committee:** Stu Grenier said there is nothing.

**Bylaw Committee:** Someone said there is nothing.

**CIP Committee:** Kevin Smestad said there will be a meeting in the next couple of months

**Parks Committee:** Kristi Wood said there was some challenges and things like challenge grants that are being worked on.

**Picnic Committee:** Kevin Smestad said we will be doing weekly meetings.

**Trails Committee:** David Ulmer said there is nothing.

**Marijuana Committee:** John Laux said there is nothing.

**Federation of Community Councils:** Bob Ruepke said they meet next Wednesday. They will go over Vote by Mail and revamping of the Alcohol Laws. There are 36 Community Council and there are Council Sharing.

**Community Patrols:** Kevin Smestad said nothing to add.

The meeting adjourned motioned with a unanimous approval at 9:45pm.