

# NECC

Northeast Community Council

Minutes – January 18, 2018

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Call to Order: 7:04 PM

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Introduction of the Board:**

**Board Members Present:** Rick Irwin, Selina Metoyer, Stu Grenier, David Ulmer, Kristy Wood, John Laux and Kevin Smestad

**Board Members Not Present:** John Ziv and Carla McConnell

**Approval of Meeting Agenda:** Add Item 4, Vote by Mail presented by Clerk Office, decided to hold off adding the item. Bob Ruepke moved to approve of the agenda and seconded by Selina Metoyer. The Agenda was approved

**Executive Report:** We discussed the agenda and we discussed how to do resolutions for the future.

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

**School Board Report:** Tam was there and she discussed that there was a revised website to see kid's grades and charge accounts. It can be downloaded as an app. Next month is visit our school month. Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> of the month is date. You can visit any school you would like or one that you are curious about. The School Board has updated their legislative priorities. She went over some facts of number of kids, languages and diversity in Anchorage. Bob Ruepke asked if student enrollment is down. Tam said yes. Stu Grenier asked if doors at the schools are always locked. Tam said all Elementary schools are locked.

**Legislative Board Report:**

**Legislative Reports:**

**Senator Giessel:** was not there

**Senator Bill Wielechowski,** was not there

**Representative Gabrielle LeDoux,** Lisa Vaught for Gabrielle. The Governor is given the State of State Address. She mentioned that they gaveled in on Tuesday. Committees and Sub Committees are getting ramped up. Gabrielle serves on the Judiciary Committee and makes suggestions about the State department and let Gabrielle. This is the place to make changes to the budget. This should end around Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> and then it is passed to the Senate. They hopefully will be done in 90 Days. Gabrielle has prefilled HB226, if a person has an ethic charge it will be sent to the Ethics Committee and released from there, i.e. sexual harassment and such.

Dave Ulmer asked if Gabrielle was sitting behind Tammy Wilson. Lisa said it is exciting every day. Stu Grenier got a call from Gabrielle. Lisa said it is over, taken care of.

**Representative Ivy Spohnolz**, was not there.

**Representative Lance Pruitt**, Jeanna Crouse for Lance. Lance is at the State of State Address. Lance is on the Labor and Finance. Other that it is just starting and is getting busier. Lisa mentioned that there are 52 famous people that are released. Is there something that SB91 says that they can release people. They will have a pretrial system that just went in place in January. We will have to see who this phase will work for Alaskans. Lisa is wondering what they are doing about SB91? Jeanna said that her boss did not support SB91, but does not know if there will be enough to make changes this session or not. Stu Grenier said Lance gave us details in regards to the LNG and now the Russians are starting up. Jenna said that she would have to pass along to Lance. The Bus Barn came out of with alternative routes, we will see.

#### **Assembly Reports:**

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

**Assembly Person Forrest Dunbar**, he jumped ahead of the legislature. Mr. Dunbar said what a wonderful event for the ice skating. Mr. Dunbar mentioned they put the school bonds, road bonds, safety bond and others. Most of the investment for East Anchorage is in the road bond. There was a big chunk for traffic calming and Mr. Dunbar said that Pete and he will try to get as much to East Anchorage. They will put the sale of ML&P out for voting for the City. Chugach will be purchasing ML&P. It will be to pay off ML&P debt and then the rest put into a trust. The Assembly is working on an Alcohol Tax that Dick Traini is putting forward. Bob Ruepke asked about Drones. Mr. Dunbar is putting together a policy for drones by the APD. It is not supposed to be used for surveillance. He wants to protect people's privacy. It will be used for search and rescue. Stu Grenier asked about the 10 day homeless camp. Mr. Dunbar believes it passed unanimously, this is a new ordinance for less than 15 days, to now 10 days to clean up the homeless camps. There was additional funding to Parks & Rec to pay for the cleanup. Chester Creek/Downtown is the worst for homeless. Dave Ulmer asked if anyone claimed the items. Mr. Dunbar believes most of it has been thrown away. Dave Ulmer asked about the decision of who talks about ML&P and why it needs to be sold. Mr. Dunbar talked about how ML&P was over built and combining Chugach with ML&P would create a better system for Anchorage. There was a number of bids for ML&P, but there are non-disclosures, so Mr. Dunbar could not go over all the details. But, Mr. Dunbar said the Chugach should be lowering prices in the long run. Stu Grenier said that NECC had talked about a Greenhouse due to the ML&P heat being used for the Greenhouse. Mr. Dunbar said that it might be easier with Chugach to get the Greenhouse in Centennial Park. This trust fund earned 15%.

**Assembly Person Pete Petersen**, was not there

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

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

**Community Concerns/Community Activities Report(s):** Stu Grenier wanted to thank George Martinez in the Mayor's office to find the Dune Dancers, they were at the Bus Barn. There is a lady from a publication and she would like to find out more about what is happening in the area. She is passing out a paper with her contact information. We should put in her information on the NECC Website. Jerriane Lowther said that she would like to get a Muldoon Chamber of Commerce, she has laid the ground work. Lisa would like to know why there are a bunch of streets with no street lights. The name of the person who she needs to talk too? Krisiti Wood said that we should talk to Assembly people. Lisa said that she had talked to Assembly. Rick Irwin said you could do it through the CIP List. Liz Synder had a suggestion for a speed bump. Kevin Smestad said that on the back of the agenda is a list and the CIP List and email, in the case, Kevin, he will get it on the CIP List. Kevin Smestad listed all of the Committees that are on the back of the agenda and join a committee to get your voice to the city. Robin asked if we could take a moment of silence for Rod McCoy who passed away this last December. We took a moment of silence.

**Business:**

1. Trail Watch Introduction: Brad Muir Presenting. Brad is the Natural Resources person, and Kevin Smestad asked him to give an introduction. Brad asked if there are any Trail Watch people there were some that were and then asked if people had not heard about it Trail Watch and few people did raise their hand. Brad asked some questions about the size of parks and trails in Anchorage. The Trail Watch started about 14 years ago and it was to be like Neighborhood Watch. 2 to 3 years ago the program seemed to die out and then trail problems started to pop up and Trail Watch has restart itself. Trail Watch is an extra eyes and ears out on the trails. They are currently working on a new training video, hopefully by summer. To know how to report properly report crime. Through Anchorage Works is one of three ways to report a crime. The past Trail Watch used arm band, but they have new never been used vests. It is to be seen and be seen, to report correctly and take parks back and to be safer. Brad gave Kevin Smestad one of the new vest. Kevin Smestad mentioned being the eyes and ears to combat crime, but we need more people to join to make Muldoon a safe place.
2. Marijuana On-Site Consumption Resolution: Kristi Wood presenting. Kristi mentioned this came from the American Heart Association. Kristi read the resolution:

**Resolution Opposing Onsite Consumption of Marijuana**

Whereas allowing indoor consumption of marijuana is inconsistent with Anchorage's current smokefree indoor air ordinance and

Whereas there are studies demonstrating that tobacco and marijuana smoke have similar carcinogenic properties, which suggest that exposure to secondhand smoke from either product poses health risks to customers and

Whereas the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers has for several years stated that there is no acceptable level of environmental tobacco smoke to be considered having safe indoor air and has recently added marijuana smoke to this list and

Whereas the proposed regulations also allow for an outdoor onsite consumption area: While smoke would dissipate faster outdoors, it would still expose others to the odor and secondhand smoke in the surrounding area, and it is unclear how this could be adequately controlled while remaining an outdoor area. Allowing outdoor consumption on premises would also not be consistent with the intent of the Municipality's smokefree ordinance; and

Whereas, marijuana is an intoxicating substance. There is community concern about customers driving after consuming. The proposal allows for consumption of 1 gram of marijuana in one sitting, which is a significant amount for one person in the space of two hours and

Whereas, onsite consumption of marijuana poses a potential public safety concern via exposure to secondhand marijuana smoke for police, fire department, and EMS staff who may need to enter a marijuana establishment and

Whereas, Alaska's legalization of the commercial production and sales of marijuana did not include licenses for onsite consumption, there does not appear to be a legal basis for creating a new license where it is not supported in statute, and is also in conflict with the public consumption ban.

Therefore be it resolved that Northeast Community Council urges a no vote on the proposal to allow onsite consumption of marijuana.

John Laux makes a motion and Stu Grenier second it.

Discussion: Marc Grober said that we should not support this. Charles England says we should not get tied up in the language and we should support this. Bob Ruepke said the FCC discussed this and the harmful effects of inhaling the Marijuana. John Laux said this is advisory motion to pass along to the Marijuana board about 9 Councils have passed something like this.

Motion is voted on 9 were for and 1 against and 6 abstained. The motion passes.

3. Resolution in regards to Russian Jack Spring Parks: Marc Grober Presenting. Kevin Smestad never sent out the resolution. Marc thought it was supposed to be printed for everyone and be

on the table. It was 4 pages long and it would be easier for everyone to read it before it. John Laux motioned to table it and Stu Grenier seconded it. 10 For 0 Against 3 Abstaining.

4. We started to amend the agenda and we should have. Vote by Mail through the Chamber of Commerce. The MOA will be voting by Mail. Everyone should make sure that their address is current, so they can get a ballot or you have until March 4<sup>th</sup>. 21 Days prior to the election is when ballots will be mailed out. You will receive an envelope with a secrecy sleeve with your signature. To send back you can do it through some boxes that will be throughout the city, put a first class stamp and put it through the mail or at one of the voting areas. Then it will be run through the machine and count the votes.

Deena Mitchell Introduced herself as someone that is running for school board.

Tosha Hotch introduced herself as someone that is running for school board.

**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 nothing right now.

**Parks Committee:** Kristi Wood said Parks are great.

**Picnic Committee:** Kevin Smestad said there will be meeting sometime in February and he will be sending out an email

**Trails Committee:** David Ulmer said there is a good chance to put a trail by Burger Fi over to Creekside. Kevin Smestad got a letter from Alaska Trails and they are looking to do fundraising if you are interested let Kevin now.

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

**Federation of Community Councils:** Bob Riepke said Forrest covered most everything. The transportation fair will be happening soon. There are over 400 police officers now.

**Community Patrols:** Kevin Smestad said he is looking for volunteers.

The meeting adjourned motioned with a unanimous approval at 9:36pm.