

NECC

Northeast Community Council

Minutes - May 20, 2010

Call to Order: 7:02PM

Board Members Present: Kevin Smestad, Stuart Grenier, Bob Reupke, Carla Hadley, David Ulmer, James Starzec, Gabrielle Ledoux, Selina Metoyer

Board Members Absent: Genevieve Holubik

Introduction of the Board, including new officers.

Approval of May Meeting Agenda: A motion was made to move Business item 1-2 (Police Patrols at Centennial Park and Homeless Task Force) to beginning of meeting in order to accommodate Officer Lt. Gilliam who is on duty. Don Brooks of ASA was removed from agenda due to schedule conflict. The motion was made and seconded to change the order of business and approve the new agenda. **A vote on the motion: 33 for approval, 0 opposed, 1 abstained. The agenda was accepted.**

Approval of Previous Minutes: April minutes were put forth for approval. A motion was made and seconded for approval. **A vote on the motion: 32 for approval, 0 opposed, 3 abstained. The minutes were accepted.**

Treasurer's Report: The balance in the NECC checking account is \$629.44. There was one expenditure in May for \$24.99 for a new recorder and donations in the amount of \$40.00. We have \$203.11 remaining funds out of the \$1,200.00 donation by Municipal Light & Power. The NECC is a non-profit organization and receives no funds for the State of Alaska or Municipality of Anchorage. We therefore gladly accept donations of \$5.00 or more.

Executive Report: NECC approved agenda, moved business items 1 and 2.

Business Items 1 & 2:

1. Discussion of Police Patrols at Centennial Park and Homeless Task Force: Stuart Grenier and Officer Lt. Gary Gilliam reporting. Lt. Gilliam stated that homelessness and camping in the parks is not criminal and calls regarding the issue will be low priority with the APD. Lt. Gilliam contact: ggilliam@ci.anchorage.ak.us, 786-8647
2. Homeless Task Force: Lt. Gilliam introduced Mr. Darrel Hess (Department of Social Services) and Ms. Brittany Matera (Mayor's Homeless Task Force). Re-confirmed that public drunkenness is a civil violation and not a criminal violation. The Leadership Team has recommended to the Mayor that he adapt the HEART program (Homeless Action and Response Team). This program will assist homeless inebriants that are camping in the community. APD will use this model to identify and help the homeless. Homeless must

have due process. The assembly will be discussing this at the Assembly Meeting Tuesday night May 25 2010. People should try to attend or write a letter to their Assembly person. A resolution was put forth to say the following:

We the NECC resolve that Centennial Park is a very important part of this community and that it has been traditional for the Anchorage Police Department (APD) to work with members of the community by responding to phone calls about the homeless. In the last nine months, APD has not responded to phone calls regarding the homeless in the park even though the phone numbers of the objectors are provided to APD. The result has been that the homeless have become more transgressive than ever. Many people who love the park are now afraid to go into it for fear of being accosted by the homeless. We request that APD work with the community in the tradition that Officers Wulloms and Peck did in keeping Centennial Park free of the homeless and that a local group be formed to facilitate this end. We also request that the "11:00 pm to 6:00 am Closed" signs be replaced at the park."

An Amendment to the Resolution from the floor:

If the identity of the homeless is known and they are repeat offenders, then they should be subjected to financial penalty with regards to their Permanent Fund Dividend and Social Security Income.

A vote on the Amendment to the Resolution: 17 in favor, 12 opposed, 6 abstained. The Amendment to the resolution passes.

A vote of the motion of the Resolution: 26 in favor, 4 opposed, 6 abstained. The motion passes.

Darrel Hess asked that the council contact him regarding the missing signs in Centennial Park and he would personally guarantee that they would be replaced. His contact information is: HessDW@muni.org, 343-4698

Representative Reports: Debbie Ossiander and Mike Guterrez were both attending the emergency meeting regarding the Army Live Firing Range. Ms. Ossiander conveyed through Ainslie Phillips that she supports the NECC CIP list and allowed Ms. Phillips to read and comment on a resolution regarding the Army Live Firing Range.

Senator Bill Wielechowski reported that our Alaska State savings is larger than it has ever been and we should save that money for future lean times. The Capital budget was larger than the Senator would have liked. The Senator's office has requested the Department of Transportation stop the median work on Debarr Road. Funds were secured for the improvement of Muldoon Road. He reported that he discussed the Army Live Firing Range and how the Muldoon area is on the list but is, for now, not a desirable location. He also requested support from the community for an annual book drive. New and used books are greatly appreciated. The book

drive ends on June 30th. They made be dropped at the local Fred Meyer. Other bills passed were Senate Bill 220, Energy Omnibus Bill. This will take seed money to support fuel savings and create jobs around the state. House Bill 369 puts together a bullet line team for natural gas. House Bill 280 and Senate Bill 309 provide incentives for exploration of Cook Inlet and natural gas storage in Cook Inlet. Senator Wielechowski's office sent a letter to Enstar questioning the latest rate proposal which has set a floor of \$6.85 per thousand cubic foot on natural gas. He expects Enstar to answer sometime this summer.

Representative Pete Peterson added that he sponsored Bill HB 50 which protects patients' safety by not requiring nurses to work overtime. Nurses have often been required to work overtime even if they are mentally or physically fatigued. The University of Alaska expects to graduate over 200 nurses this year that will fill the gap. A loophole was closed in the law that allowed senior citizens to only receive a half pair of dentures in a year. They can now get a full set in a year. HB 334 was also passed which ensures that military cannot lose custody of children in child custody cases while they are deployed.

Representative Max Gruenberg's representative reported that this session, three bills that he sponsored were passed; HB 287 updated Alaska's trust in the State law, HB 335 increases criminal fines for organizations, and HB 10 allows the Municipality of Anchorage to gives tax exemptions for police who live in high crime neighborhoods and property tax breaks for widows of veterans. Representative Gruenberg is in New York City attending the Council of State Governments Conference. At the conference, he attended a meeting where another state passed a law that created a military liaison to work with the local city government in cases where what was happening on the base affected the city. Rep. Gruenberg felt this would be a good idea for Anchorage.

Community Activities Reports:

Nunaka Valley Community Patrol (NVCP) has been training a new group for the University/College Gate area. They also asked for volunteers for community patrols. Those interested can contact for NVCP at 726-7044 (Keith Ferris).

Federation of Community Councils, Bob Reupke, reports that ten members of the Federation will attend Neighborhoods USA in Little Rock, AR. Two members of the Fairview Community Council that attended the meeting stated their objection to the Red Roof Inn becoming a safe house for inebriates.

Business (continued):

3. Sean Holland and Kevin Jackson of the Department of Transportation (D.O.T.) reported on the Debarr and Edwards Safety Improvement Project. They brought in graphics to demonstrate the need for the new light and median that are being installed at that intersection. They stated that the improvements will reduce the number of accidents in that corridor (64 reported in the last two years). The corridor has the highest crash rate of any five lane road in town. The D.O.T. will upgrade the signal at Beaver and Debarr and will

install a new light at Edwards and Debarr. The lights will work in sync, so the public should be able to make both lights on a green. Edwards Street will be moved slightly to the west to get a bit more distance between the lights and they are changing the driveway to Russian Jack Plaza so that the main entrance will be off of Edwards. The public will be able to enter the plaza from Debarr, but will have to exit from Edwards. A center median will be put in at Beaver and will run up to Boniface. With the median, left hand turns will only be at Nunaka and Atkinson Drive. Contact is Sean.Holland@alaska.gov.

Resolution for Debarr Road safety improvement:

NECC supports the traffic calming efforts of the DOT but would appreciate an amendment of the Debarr Road plan to eliminate the medians from Nunaka Drive to past 6011 Debarr Road to continue access to residents. We ask that our State and Municipal representatives support us in this endeavor.

A vote of the motion of the Resolution: 12 in favor, 3 opposed, 9 abstained. The motion passes.

4. Cheney Lake Pike Awareness Kiosk presentation by Boy Scout Donovan Nordgarrd to earn his Eagle Scout. Donovan would like to build a permanent kiosk to provide information to the public about the dangers of putting pike in the lake. Discussion of size and location of the kiosk was a concern of the NECC members.

Resolution for Cheney Lake Kiosk:

The NECC supports Eagle Scout Candidate Donovan Nordgarrd and the Cheney Lake Pike Awareness Kiosk Proposal. The NECC supports this with a consideration of the people in the area of where it is located. The council would support smaller signage than proposed.

A vote of the motion of the Resolution: 12 in favor, 1 opposed, 6 abstained. The motion passes.

5. The Parks Report by Terry Cummings notes that there will be a Volunteer Day for each park for one day. Volunteers will be needed for these days. Municipality will provide a bar-b-que and all the equipment for the volunteers. Details are posted on the NECC website.
6. Paul Hatcher from AWWU stated that anodes will be installed on the copper water lines just East of Chester Valley School. AWWU is trying to fix the water line failure problem and has notified homeowners of the intent to fix the problem.
7. Discussion of EIS Study regarding the moving of Army's Howitzer Range to Muldoon area. Assemblyman Paul Honeman attended the Emergency meeting and reports that the Army has proposed three plans: 1) Winter time firing only at the Eagle River Flats, 2) Year around at Eagle River Flats with environmental monitoring and investigation, and 3) Reinstating

the range along the tank trail. Paul's take is that the Army is proposing all plans, but does not prefer plan 3. The public can write to carrie.mcenteer@us.army.mil regarding this by June 14. A resolution from the floor regarding this issue:

Hereby be it resolved that we the citizens of the NECC celebrate and support the military presence in our community. However, we do not support the proposed Army's Howitzer Range being relocated to Muldoon. This area is heavily utilized by civilians and we feel the likelihood of accidents is too great a risk to take. Furthermore the area is the headwaters for Chester Creek, a viable salmon spawning area, as well as wildlife corridor for moose, bear, wolves, etc. and should be kept a protected area against the pollution that this activity will create. Secondly the ground vibrations generated by this activity will further destabilize the already unstable soil from high ground water activity in this area potentially causing millions of dollars of damages to citizens and their homes. Therefore we ask the military to consider a different location.

A vote of the motion of the Resolution: 20 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained. The motion passes.

8. CIP List Review, Additions, and Placements: Report of the current list by Ainslie Phillips. She notes that the Municipality has changed how the CIP is reported.

Notes regarding the list:

- Prosperity Drive Trail Reconstruction – Not sure if this is done or not. Need to check.
- Adopt and Certify Russian Jack Master Plan – Will be incorporated into the Eastside district plan. Should be changed to rewrite, adopt and certify, with corrections, the Russian Jack Master Plan.
- Creekside Park completion – Should come out per Terry Cummings.

Additions to the list:

- Funding for upgrades of residential roads in East Muldoon.
- The gate in the alley between the houses on Old Harbor and Creekside Elementary be relocated to the entrance of the alley to impede illegal activity.
- Add bike trail connection south from Centennial Park between trail connections.

A vote of the motion to accept the CIP List: 19 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstained. The motion passes.

9. Resolution for approval in support of Capital Projects in NECC Council area:

A vote of the motion of the Resolution: 26 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained. The motion passes.

10. Eastside District Plan Citizen Advisory Committee. Kevin Smestad presented the following resolution:

The NECC supports the creation of the Eastside District Plan Citizen Advisory Committee to help in the creation of the Eastside District Plan.

A vote of the motion of the Resolution: 25 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained. The motion passes.

Motion was made from the President to extend meeting for 15 minutes, 24, 0, 2

A vote of the motion: 24 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained. The motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15.

NECC

Northeast Community Council

May 20, 2010

At the North East Community Council (NECC) Membership Meeting held on May 20, 2010, the following resolutions were presented from the floor and voted on:

1. A Resolution: NECC May 20, 2010, Concerning the Homeless Problem at Centennial Park.

We the NECC resolve that Centennial Park is a very important part of this community and that it has been traditional for the Anchorage Police Department (APD) to work with members of the community by responding to phone calls about the homeless. In the last nine months, APD has not responded to phone calls regarding the homeless in the park even though the phone numbers of the objectors are provided to APD. The result has been that the homeless have become more transgressive than ever. Many people who love the park are now afraid to go into it for fear of being accosted by the homeless. We request that APD work with the community in the tradition that officers Wulloms and Peck did in keeping Centennial Park free of the homeless and that a local group be formed to facilitate this end, and that the "11:00 pm to 6:00 am Closed" signs be replaced."

Amendment to the Resolution from the floor:

If the identity of the homeless is known and they are repeat offenders, then they should be subjected to financial penalty with regards to their Permanent Fund Dividend and Social Security Income.

A vote on the Amendment to the Resolution: 17 in favor, 12 opposed, 6 abstained. The Amendment to the resolution passes.

A vote of the motion of the Resolution: 26 in favor, 4 opposed, 6 abstained. The motion passes.

2. A Resolution: NECC May 20, 2010, Concerning Debarr Road safety improvement.

NECC supports the traffic calming efforts of the DOT but would appreciate an amendment of the Debarr Road plan to eliminate the medians from Nunaka Drive to past 6011 Debarr Road to continue access to residents. We ask that our State and Municipal representatives support us in this endeavor.

A vote of the motion of the Resolution: 12 in favor, 3 opposed, 9 abstained. The motion passes.

3. A Resolution: NECC May 20, 2010, Concerning Cheney Lake Kiosk.

The NECC supports Eagle Scout Candidate Donovan Nordgarrd and the Cheney Lake Pike Awareness Kiosk Proposal. The NECC supports this with a consideration of the people in the area of where it is located. The council would support smaller signage than proposed.

A vote of the motion of the Resolution: 12 in favor, 1 opposed, 6 abstained. The motion passes.

4. A Resolution: NECC May 20, 2010, Concerning the Army's Howitzer Range Proposal

Hereby be it resolved that we the citizens of the NECC celebrate and support the military presence in our community. However, we do not support the proposed Army's Howitzer Range being relocated to Muldoon. This area is heavily utilized by civilians and we feel the likelihood of accidents is too great a risk to take. Furthermore the area is the headwaters for Chester Creek, a viable salmon spawning area, as well as wildlife corridor for moose, bear, wolves, etc. and should be kept a protected area against the pollution that this activity will create. Secondly the ground vibrations generated by this activity will further destabilize the already unstable soil from high ground water activity in this area potentially causing millions of dollars of damages to citizens and their homes. Therefore we ask the military to consider a different location.

A vote of the motion of the Resolution: 20 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained. The motion passes.

5. A Resolution: NECC May 20, 2010, Concerning the Eastside District Plan Citizen Advisory Committee

The NECC supports the creation of the Eastside District Plan Citizen Advisory Committee to help in the creation of the Eastside District Plan.

A vote of the motion of the Resolution: 25 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained. The motion passes.