

# NECC

**Northeast Community Council**

**General Meeting Minutes August 16, 2018**

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Call to Order: 7:13 pm

**Approval of May 2018 Meeting Agenda:** Kevin Smestad made a motion to change the agenda to delete #6 (liquor license) and #1 (QR Codes), and add Discussion of Watershed Natural Resources Commission as #5. Kevin said it was not announced because the Watershed meeting is next Wednesday and would like to discuss what the NECC could look at in regards to WNRC and sending out notices of approval ahead of time to allow residents to look at developments and have input, it is a time sensitive issue. It was checked within the bylaws and approved. The motion was seconded and accepted by the Council. The amended Agenda was approved by the Council.

## **Introduction of the Board:**

**Board Members Present:** Selina Metoyer, Stuart Grenier, Kevin Smestad, David Ulmer, Kristi Wood, Rachel Boudreau, and Carla McConnell.

**Board Members Absent:** Rick Irwin and John Ziv.

**Treasurer's Report:** Stu Grenier reported \$410 in the account as of the end of July.

**Executive Report:** The Executive Board met to develop the August agenda.

**Federation of Community Councils:** Did not meet in July, will meet on the third Wednesday in August.

## **Representative Reports:**

**Special Assistant to the Mayor** The Central transfer station will be closing 8/14-9/3, Anchorage regional landfill will be open instead. On the Municipality homepage under the Homelessness section, there is a frequently asked questions about the strategic access plan. The zone abatement ordinance passed, clean-up is not site by site but instead done by zones with a 15-day warning. The homeless coordinator has launched a blog with real time updates. Finally, the Centennial invasive weed clean up went well.

**Assembly Person Pete Peterson** shared that the assembly is getting ready to talk about the budget; permitting was down but tourism was up and marijuana has become more competitive so pricing has dropped, overall the budget could end up pretty close to where it was projected. A ban on plastic bags was discussed in the assembly and there were testimonies from a number of people, many in favor of the ban.

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

**Senator Bill Wielechowski** reported with the LNG project that there is optimism and potential that could come from that. Mr. Wielechowski shared that Alaska is still a profitable place for oil

and a work group is looking for how they can fill the budget gap. There have also been two rounds of fixes on SB 91 and he believes they fixed a vast majority of the problems and many were satisfied in the changes of SB 91.

**Senator Kathy Geissel** was not there.

**Representative Ivy Spohnholz** stated she hears a lot about the traffic calming as she is going door to door with people. She is wondering what can be done to increase communication between the community council and Municipality and to increase funding about this issue.

Representative Spohnholz stated that the Healthcare Price Transparency was passed into law last Monday and now there will be a price list at the doctor's office for the most common procedures. This will help consumers to be more informed. Good faith estimates were through the Municipality and now expanded to the entire state of Alaska.

**Representative Gabrielle LeDoux** stated that she is hearing about three things from constituents as she is going door to door: roads, bears, crime. Representative LeDoux stated that the Municipality will probably not be giving speed humps, even though that is the request from constituents; other options include electronic radar, slow children at play. One suggestion is to bring it to the attention to the NECC, can get in a resolution and talk to Forrest and Pete about traffic calming methods. Representative LeDoux stated the best method against bears are the bear resistant garbage cans. She will also be attending the change of command on base next week.

**Representative Lance Pruitt** shared that this is a slower period in the legislature because it is a re-election year. Mr. Pruitt said that constituents had called him in regards to cleaning up Windsong Park due to low sightline, perhaps it was something which could go to the parks committee. Additionally, people have called him about the bridge on Creekside Drive which has a lot of graffiti on in and shady things are happening under it, however there is a disagreement on how to handle it. Thanked the NECC for the park and the chance to interact with and feed people.

### **Community Activities Reports:**

Mr. Jon Scudder, JBER Report: was not there.

Chugach Electric-update for substation, conditional use permit approved, received half of the equipment and the other half around September, anticipating completion around December.

Stu-Birch cherry tree and Centennial park is being overrun by the cherry, sign-up sheet passed around for volunteers in removing the tree.

Baltazar-NECC apologized to the fact that he was supposed to be on the agenda and he was not. Mr. Baltazar reported that rezoning proposal was approved, there would be no body work at all on the property. Mr. Baltazar also offered parking on his property during Saturday market and

also offered the north wall of the new building was open to whatever the council wanted to hang/paint/display on it.

Oliver Shiese is running for Senate seat G.

Liz Snyder is running for District 27.

Rick Phillip is running for District 15.

**Business:**

~~1. Quick Response (QR) Code for parks Kevin Smeasted presenting (5 min)~~

1. Centennial Park and use baseball fields- Stu shared that one possible use of the ball field is a dog park and/or a fenced in dog pat. Co-presenter Steve Schaber, baseball coach of Polar Little League, presented that historically PLL has had Pena field. However, the agreement ended when construction ended by Muni. It was anticipated that PLL would use again and wanted to enter an agreement to use them long term in return for maintaining fields, However the terms were redefined and PLL did not enter agreement with the Municipality. PLL is not out there because they are not authorized to be out there again. PLL does not have the financial means to "rent" the fields at this point in time, there is a need but not the means.

Stu handed out multiple resolutions as suggestions. Discussion against the dog park. Discussion included that Parks and Rec should also be included in the discussion as well and more time to adequately notify the public.

Stu started to make a motion. Point of order of was called as the business was not properly presented due to miswording on agenda, and Stu's motion was out of order. The resolution was introduced tonight and motion to table the order until next month, motion is seconded, no objections, motion is tabled until next month.

A statement for the record from PLL- "Polar Little League (PLL) requests the re-establishment of another 5 year 'Cooperative Use Agreement' with the MOAPRD to utilize Pena Baseball Field and onsite storage connex for youth baseball. With such an agreement PLL shall maintain field and make every reasonable effort to provide the general public with accessibility to the field for permitted use during non-hours.

2. Description of Opportunity Zones in Muldoon- Chris Schutte. Muldoon is one of the nominated by Governor Walker and approved census tracks by the federal government, NECC wrote a letter of support of nomination. Investors can put into an opportunity zone for investment money. Funds will be split up for the different tracks, it is uncertain how it will impact the neighborhood, however NECC could be a potential target.
  - a. Kristi supported a possible resolution for a permanent home for the Muldoon Library.
  - b. Cook Inlet is outside the boundary but could be a possible partner.
3. Habitat for Humanity-new building site with health and safety concerns- Not here

4. Northrim Bank Volunteer day on October 5: Suzanne Whittle shared there is a branch opening at Muldoon and Creekside Center Drive on October 19<sup>th</sup>, she also shared the bank provides teaching about financial literacy. Ms. Whittle presented about volunteer opportunities; suggestions included pulling trees, help with the farmer's market, and having a booth at the Spirit of Muldoon picnic.
5. **Discussion of Watershed and Natural Resource Advisory Commission-** Kevin presented that he would like the Watershed Natural Resources Commission to adopt a plan to present to NECC before they do any work to parks, land, or thereof. Mr. Smestead stated the meeting was on Wednesday and due to urgency he wanted to propose a resolution tonight. Mr. Smestad read a motion, motion was seconded. It was clarified that the NECC is trying to encourage a better communication flow between the Municipality and the community. Motion passed.

**A Resolution: NECC, August 16, 2018, WNRC advise NECC ahead of time on developments**

Whereas the Assembly ordained AO 2008-89 to provide in pertinent part a commission to:

Act in a technical advisory capacity to the Parks and Recreation Commission, Heritage Land Bank Advisory Commission, community councils and other municipal boards and commissions on matters related to creeks, watersheds, and natural resource lands.

Whereas the Assembly ordained AO 2005-122 adopting the *Anchorage Bowl Park, Natural Resource, and Recreation Facility Plan* which required in pertinent part that the MOA shall:

Prepare natural resource plans for large parks and greenbelts including Far North Bicentennial Park, Kincaid Park, Section 36 Park, Campbell Park, Russian Jack Springs Park and Ship, Rabbit, Little Rabbit, and Potter Creeks, to identify provisions for access, recreational development, and environmental protection.

Whereas the Parks and Recreation Commission by Resolution duly adopted March 12, 2009 mandated that:

There should be developed, before an update to the master plan, a Natural Resource Management Plan that shall include identification of both preservation and conservation natural resource lands within the park as identified in the *Anchorage Bowl Park, Natural Resource, and Recreation Facility Plan*, adopted in 2006;

And whereas to date there is still no natural resource plan for Russian Jack Springs Park,

The NECC hereby formally requests, as provided by ordinance, that the Watershed and Natural Resource Advisory Commission advise the Northeast Community Council on matters relating to the adoption of a natural resource management plan with respect to said park, and requires that this resolution be presented to the WNRC at its August meeting.

**A vote of the Resolution: 22 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstained. The Resolution passes.**

~~6. Liquor Licenses — Mr. Stu Grenier presenting (5 min)~~

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** Krisit Wood made a motion to approve the minutes for August 2018. Carla noted those were not the correct minutes. The minutes were not approved.

**Committee Reports:**

**Alcohol Committee-**Stu Grenier reported nothing.

**Bylaw Committee-**Carla McConnell reported nothing.

**CIP Committee-**Kevin Smestad shared that the approved list of items on the website for the Municipality. Mr. Smestad also reported hearing there are more places requiring speed bumps, as of July heard of 10 more streets.

**Parks Committee-** Kristi Wood reported they trying to keep things moving forward with Parks and Recreation in phase 2 of the Chantsnu Muldoon Park in the spring, however some of the funding is currently held up by the federal government. Ms. Wood also reported that Russian Jack Springs Park master plan to start up October/winter this year.

**Picnic Committee-** Kevin Smestad thanked those who came out, helped, attended, anyone who had a hand in the park. From now the picnic date will be in June.

**Trails Committee** –Dave Ulmer reported on getting a trail from Creekside bridge to Krispy Kreme to Muldoon, it is provided by Cook Inlet at no cost to the city, continuing to need to work with Parks and Recreation.

**Marijuana Committee** – Stu Grenier on an ordinance from the state to come out as to whether smoking inside the shop will be legal. Also a need to clarify who is on the marijuana committee

**Community Patrols-**Kevin Smestad will talk to anyone who has concerns of crime in the NECC area and to become proactive by joining community patrol, neighborhood watch, turning in video tapes to the police, and consistently calling in those who speed to the police. Needing more volunteers to do patrol around the community.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 pm.