

NECC

Northeast Community Council

Minutes – May 18, 2006

CALL TO ORDER: 7:04 pm.

Board Members Present: Dean Syta Peggy Robinson Bob Reupke
 Bobby Scott Troy Carlock Bill Wielechowski

Approval: Previous Minutes: Minutes approved unanimously.

Approval: Agenda: Agenda approved unanimously.

Treasurers Report: No report. Bob Reupke, the new treasurer does not have the books yet.

Executive Board Report:

- President Peggy Robinson introduced the current executive board and officers. Peggy Robinson, President; Troy Carlock, Vice President; Dean Syta and Steve Sommerfeld, Secretaries; Bob Reupke, Treasurer; Josh Green, Parliamentarian; Bobby Scott, Bill Wielechowski, John Floyd, board members.
- Outgoing members Bob Roses and Glenn Clary were presented with certificates of appreciation. Mary Pedlow was not in attendance to receive hers.
- President Robinson explained the election challenges and the resolution of these challenges that were addressed at the May 4th executive board meeting.
- It was determined that NECC election procedures need to be formalized. Bob Roses, Troy Carlock, and Peggy Robinson will prepare a set of procedures for the NECC to clarify future election proceedings.

Representatives Reports: (in no particular order)

- **Senator Bettye Davis**
 - No report. Not present.
- **Senator Gretchen Guess**
 - No report, Not Present
- **Representative Tom Anderson**
 - Expects current special session on oil and gas taxation to continue till June 8th. There will be an additional session after that on the proposed gas pipeline contract.
 - Discussed House Bill 240, the "Brewer's Bill", intended to increase the amount brew pubs can brew, and allow the commercial breweries to provide samples or sell small amounts (during tours, etc).
- **Representative Dalstrom**
 - No report. Not present.
- **Representative Max Gruenberg:**
 - Gave update on the current special session.
 - Reviewed the capital budget. Includes money for the community patrol, Duben Street, Creekside Park, and work at Bartlett High School.
- **Anchorage Assembly Member Paul Bauer:**
 - No report. Not Present
- **Anchorage Assembly Member Ken Stout:**
 - No Report. Not Present.

Community Activity Reports: (in no particular order)

- **Anchorage Fire Department – Patterson Station, 267-5006**
 - No Report. Not Present

- **Community Patrols** – Aaron explained that the community patrol was desperately in need of volunteers. Please contact the following individuals with questions, or to volunteer for the Community Patrols.
 - Aaron Pascar, Nunaka Valley Patrol, 223-4630
 - Michelle Daugherty, Northeast Patrol, 748-7800
 - Other phone numbers of interest:

Junk cars - 729-7878	Graffiti Busters - 343-4663
Streetlights - 263-5483	Potholes - 343-6363
 - Aaron reminded people to be persistent in report crime to APD. APD is busy, but the squeaky wheel does get greased.

- **Northeast Community Center** – Bob Reupke
 - Board elections May 24, at 7:00 pm at the community center.
 - The Community Center Proposal Review Committee will meet next Wednesday, May 24, to review the proposals for the new space. One of the bids is the space at the north end of the mall currently occupied by the bowling alley.
 - The community center is run by the Boys and Girls Club, is paid for by a MOA grant.

- **Weed and Seed-** Tim Sullivan
 - Federal Weed and Seed program is alive and well in the Russian Jack and Northeast Anchorage areas.
 - Has performed an analysis of crime patterns in the service area, and used Weed and Seed money to pay APD for additional patrols in some areas. Has seen some positive effects.
 - The NECC community center and Boniface Library are likely to move soon. The current solicitation for proposals for these facilities is due end of May / early June.
 - Weed and Seed has community center funding for this year, but none for next year. Hope to regain the community center funding the following year.

- **Road Construction Updates**
 - MOA Traffic calming study being conducted by DOWL Engineers is ongoing. Contact Mary Pedlow, 334-9882 to participate in next committee meeting.
 - Public Meeting for 6th Avenue was held May 17th. Anticipate some feedback from Lounsbury in the coming months.
 - Muldoon and 16th is under construction for traffic signals.

- **Federation of Community Councils** – Bob Reupke
 - Ken Stout will be replacing Janice Shamberg as the Assembly representative to the FCC.
 - Items on the current assembly report to the FCC include: sign ordinance revisions; noise ordinance revisions; vehicle impoundments for failure to possess valid license.
 - The Anchorage Handbook is due to be updated. Last update was in 1991.

- **Title 21 Committee** – Glenn Clary
 - Heard later in meeting as part of business agenda.

- **Greenhouse Property Update** – Don Smith
 - No report

- **Anchorage Police Department** – Sergeant Stanton
 - Email: cstanton@ci.anchorage.ak.us
 - Office hours are 12:00 noon – 10:00 pm at Muldoon Community Center.
 - Variety of criminal activity in NECC, including gunfire in recent weeks. MOA and APD are working to address this problem.
 - Next police academy begins in July; current class will be in field training this June.
 - Requests for radar Smart Carts should be referred to both Sgt Stanton, and the traffic division.
 - At any one time in Anchorage, there are approximately 22 officers on duty for the whole city, 3 of which are in Eagle River. These officers primarily respond to calls, and do not have much time for regular patrol. There are 2 officers in Muldoon area, but frequently both must respond to the same call, essentially tying up both officers at once.

There are an additional 15 to 20 traffic officers split between the various shifts (3 to 5 on duty at a time).

- **MOA Parks and Recreation – Terry Peters, Northeast Parks Manager**
 - Parks and Rec is attempting to organize “green and clean” programs at Creekside, Cheny Lake, possibly other parks in the NECC area. These are cleanup programs, include removal of brush and understory around trails and facilities. In need of volunteers to help, call Terry at 343-4297.
 - Some discussion of the First Tee program at Russian Jack Park. There is some concern that the golf organization will be clearing park land for the golf course. Terry indicated that while there may be a small amount of clearing, the intent is to largely work within the existing golf course space.
 - June 22, national organization known as “KaBoom” will be constructed a new 3000 ft² playground in Russian Jack, in a single day using volunteer effort.

BUSINESS:

(1) Military Munitions Response Program, Scott Blunt, Weston Solutions

- Elmendorf Air Force Base has initiated a program to address sites that may have left over munitions or related materials. Weston Solutions has contracted to run this program.
- The first phase is just a review and risk survey. Later phases will be sampling, and removal of any discovered materials.
- Presently performing community outreach to collect public knowledge about any possible suspect sites. People with information should fill out and return the public input sheets.
- Sites presently identified include a small arms range; a WWII bomber crash site; and a possible skeet range.
- Weston Solutions may be contacted via email with questions: Holly.Brook@westonsolutions.com, or by phone at 343-2730.

(2) Clark Middle School Planning, Mary Cary, ASD Facilities

- Mary Cary with the Anchorage School District, and Michael Carlson of McCool Carlson Green, Architects announced the start of planning for the Clark Middle School Renovations.
- The building is 50 years old, and has 123,000 ft². Will be expanded to 174,000 ft² after the remodel.
- The school will continue to operate throughout the renovations, which poses design challenges.
- ASD has prepared ed specs for the school, but the architects are interested in public input as to the building design, features, and content. Questionnaires were distributed for public input.
- Project is currently funded through the end of design. Actual construction will be dependant upon bond issues (including the ASD bonds which were defeated during the April election).
- Building design committee meets next Tuesday, the 23rd of May in the Clark Band room.

(3) Muldoon Area Middle School Update, Ray Amsden, Mike Price ASD

- The site for the Muldoon Area Middle School was supposed to include a vegetated buffer along Debarr Road. However, the clearing contractor for the project over cleared the site approximately three weeks ago. Over 100 older birch and spruce trees were cut down within the buffer that were not supposed to be cut. The general contractor did not ensure the clearing subcontractor was properly informed of the clearing limits. Likewise, the onsite ASD personnel failed to enforce the clearing limits, and as a result, much of the buffer has been clear cut.
- Will be costly to replace the trees, however the building contractor will replace the trees at their own cost. It will not cost ASD or the citizens anything. It will not be possible to replace full size trees, but ASD will make sure that the replacements are as large as possible.
- The cleared area can be graded and shaped if desired prior to replanting it. ASD will be developing a restoration plan over the next several weeks, and would be happy to come back in August to present the restoration plan.
- Ainslie Phillips volunteered to serve on the ASD restoration committee. Terry Cummings will also be contacted to serve on this committee.

(4) Northeast Traffic Calming Report Update, DOWL Engineers

- DOWL was not present for meeting.
- MOA Traffic calming study being conducted by DOWL Engineers is ongoing. Contact Mary Pedlow, NECC Chair at 334-9882 to participate in next committee meeting.

(5) Title 21 Review, Anchorage Citizens Coalition (Walt Parker, Kim Wetzel) and NECC Title 21 Committee

- The Anchorage Citizens Coalition functions as a community watchdog in Anchorage. Reviewed the ongoing MOA effort to revise Title 21 – the land use ordinances for the city, and reviewed the timeline for the revision efforts. Presented a series of photo handouts illustrating the types of land uses that are governed by Title 21, and asked people to consider how they wanted Anchorage developed and redeveloped over the next 20 years.
- There is concern that the Title 21 rewrite won't receive much public input, since the process is happening over the summer, when the vast majority of the community councils do not meet.
- Title 21 has considerable impact in the NECC, because of the push for higher housing density mandated in the 2020 Comprehensive plan.
- The NECC Title 21, and Land Use Planning Committee is Chaired by Glenn Clary 333-6535. The committee has held 4 meetings, is examining the chapters of the Title 21 rewrite. At present, is not planning on meeting until the third draft becomes available in late May / early June. The committee will then review the draft, and prepare to submit public comments. Glenn would like additional committee members so that the chapters could be divided up by individual interests. A worksession is planned for July 20 at 7:00 pm at the Community Center in place of the regular NECC meeting.

(6) Review of Standing NECC Committees, NECC Executive Board

- The current rosters for the various standing NECC committees were reviewed, and sign up lists circulated so that people could volunteer to join the committees. The committee chairs explained what the committee does, and gave a brief status report where applicable. Committees include:
 - Alcohol License Committee; Chair open
 - Neighborhood Planning Committee; Lori Johnston, Chair
 - Parks and Trails Committee; Terry Cummings, Chair
 - Towncenter Committee; Bill Wielechowski, Chair Bill indicated that he would like to hand the chair of this committee to someone else; Charlie Fahl was suggested, and accepted the position.
 - Capital Improvements Committee; Ainslie Phillips, Chair Ainslie requested some help with this committee, and reminded members that ideas for the CIP can be submitted throughout the year, whenever someone notices something the community needs.
 - Title 21 and Land Use Planning; Glenn Clary, Chair
 - Traffic Calming; Mary Pedlow, Chair
 - Spirit of Muldoon; Chair open
 - Wal-Mart Development; Bob Roses, Chair Committee hasn't met since Wal-mart's defeat at the May Planning and Zoning Commission. General consensus is that Wal-mart will apply to the MOA Assembly at some point. Wal-mart has fired their lobbyist, Bill Bobrick and replaced him with Frank Bickford. However, in the meantime, Wal-mart has postponed their store plans at Dowling Road due to extremely high bid costs for that store, and the Muldoon site is on hold until Wal-mart addresses the economics of building these stores in the current construction market.
 - Muldoon Beautification; Chair open. Ainslie Phillips volunteered.
- Rosters of the committee volunteers will be prepared and provided to the committee chairs, who will contact the members to inform them of the committee activities.

(7) Neighborhood Watch Program Presentation, Kris Spencer, APD Crime Watch

- APD would like to increase the number of neighborhoods in the NECC participating in the CrimeWatch Program.
- Program requirements have been simplified and now only require 50% neighborhood participation, and “operation identification” – a home inventory of valuables. APD does not get a copy of this inventory, it is for you use in recovering stolen property.
- Program no longer requires a home security survey, and APD does not visit any properties as a condition of the program.
- For more information, contact Neighborhood Watch, 786-8585

(8) Muldoon Beautification, Replacement Plantings, Ainslie Phillips, 5 minutes.

- A variety of the vegetation planted in the Muldoon Pedestrian Improvements / Beautification project has died. The plants are under warranty, and are supposed to be replaced if they die. They have died because they either weren't planted properly, or weren't adequate carried for, watered, etc after they were planted.
- The following motion was made:

NECC May 18, 2006 Motion (1):

The North East Community Council requests that the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities enforce the warranty provisions of the Muldoon Pedestrian Improvements construction contract, by requiring the replacement of all plant materials in this project that have died or are presently dying.

Motion passed: 28 in favor; 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS:

- Vanessa Salinas reported unusual numbers of abandoned cars appearing along Muldoon Road, on private property. Concerned members need to report abandoned vehicles to MOA when they see them. See phone numbers earlier in these minutes.
- June 2nd and 3rd, Governor's gas line project fair at the Egan Center.
- Ainslie Phillips: Bill before the State Senate to place restrictions on mortgage lenders and lending practices has been killed. Bill was basically for consumer protection, representatives should be questioned as to why it was killed.
- Reminder – Water main construction at the Sullivan arena will be disrupting traffic in the area.
- There will be no regular July NECC Board or Membership meeting. The next Board meeting will be August 3. The next NECC Membership meeting will be August 17. There will be a Title 21 work session on July 20 in place of the regular membership meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:55 PM

Other Important Notes and Announcements:

1. Presentations and subjects are timed. Brevity is important. Please wait to be recognized by the Chair.
2. Please sign in when attending meetings. If possible, choose to be notified by E-mail. Send E-mail to councils@ak.net if you'd like to receive Council information by E-mail.
3. The NECC now has a web page maintained by the Federation of Community Councils. Minutes for the meetings, other NECC documents, and NECC contact information are online on this site at www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/23.html.
4. We are a non-profit organization and receive no funds from the State or Municipality. Our treasurer would be happy to receive your donation.
5. Revised bylaws as approved by the members at the September 15th Meeting are available at the NECC website listed above, and at the meeting.