

NECC

Northeast Community Council

General Meeting Minutes February 21, 2019

Call to Order: 7:07 pm

Pledge of Allegiance:

Introduction of the Board:

Board Members Present: Selina Metoyer, Kevin Smestad, Rachel Boudreau, Charles England, Marc Grober, Dave Ulmer, Carla McConnell, and Stu Grenier

Board Members Absent: None.

Approval of January Meeting Agenda:

Ms. Carla McConnell asked about item 2 under old business, as to why it was on there. Mr. Marc Grober clarified it was in case the NECC wanted to follow up on the plan. Ms. Carla also asked for Demboski to be corrected with Whemhoff instead.

Mr. Kevin Smestad moved to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Mr. Stu Grenier.

Treasurer's Report: \$ 2648.69 reported as of January 31st, 2019 reported by Mr. Stu Grenier.

Executive Report: Meets the first Thursday of the month at 6pm.

Met to create the agenda. Discussed challenge grants coming available and questions about moving to a 501C3. Added a couple of items afterwards about the bonds.

Representative Reports:

Senator Bill Wielechowski: Spent the last couple of weeks on the governor's budget. Large cuts in K-12 budget, senior benefits program, Pioneers' program, public safety, marine highway, UAA, Best Beginnings, Medicaid, public broadcasting, dental benefits for low income, Head Start and Parents as Teachers. Clarified why education costs are higher in Alaska, cost of living here, fewer contributions from local community, younger population, etc. Question was asked if this would lead into a recession, Senator Wielechowski reported that according to reports it would not. Reported about the budget and the aggressive predator patrol program regarding wolves.

Senator Kathy Geissel: Not present.

Representative Gabrielle LeDoux: The house has finally organized, now a true bi-partisan party. Still chair of the commerce, and military committee. Shared about the how to pick judges whether appointed or voted in, if it isn't broken, don't fix it. Fish and Game will be more active in reliving the neighborhoods of bears. Wuestion asked about the budget cuts, Representative LeDoux reported that it could be hard to cut \$300 million from it (Tammy Wilson on the Finance Committee). Question asked about marijuana and alcohol board.

Representative Lance Pruitt: Has taken over the Republican leader role and stepped down from the finance committee. Reported it is good to ask questions about the budget such as the cost of education per student. Also wondering what is going to be done about crime, that is still the

number one complaint from his constituents, he will still continue to advocate for that. Choose not to join the majority coalition. Question about income tax being introduced, there have been “side” conversations about how to generate revenue, shared that from a poll there seems to be more an “appetite” for a sales tax than income tax.

Representative Ivy Spohnholz: One of her biggest concerns about the budget is that if it is a policy document, the governor who campaigned on safety, the budget doesn’t really reflect that our concerns are where the cuts are. Expecting the final product to look for like that which is reflective of Alaskans. She also has concerns that the budget would cut a lot of jobs in the private sector. Co-Chair of health and social services committee again, will continue to work on that for the next two years, will also join the resources committee and look for revenue drivers for the state. API is looking to contract out the work to a for profit agency, she has deep concerns about this move. Cutting Medicaid has the potential to impact the amount of federal funding the state receives. Has concerns about prisoners being sent to other states. Anchorage caucus is February 23rd, ASD building at 10 am and the second one is March 2nd at East High School.

Assembly Person Pete Peterson: Not present.

Assembly Person Forrest Dunbar: Next meeting will be this Tuesday the 26th. Passed an ordinance regarding vacant nuisance properties, created a rotating fund to support in cleaning up properties, and to put more pressure on the bank in cleaning up the properties. Had a long conversation about chemicals put into furniture and clothing and creating an ordinance in banning the chemicals. There will be an accessible vote center in east Anchorage for the next vote at the Muldoon Mall. Also discussed the direct impact the governor’s budget will have on Anchorage, cuts will more than likely need to be made in Anchorage and may need to consider things like increasing property taxes, some of the most impact could be the school district. The student transportation facility moving to Site 27 will be discussed on Tuesday.

Assembly Person Gretchen Wehmhoff: The transportation committee wants to hear from the public, the last meeting will be in Fairview. If people find more earthquake damage as spring arrives, people can still go to the assessor’s office to let them know. Eagle River Caucus will be from 2-4.

Assembly Person Fred Dyson: Not present.

Special Assistant to the Mayor: Local alcohol sales tax ballot initiative, handed out information. Also handed out information regarding resolution language. Answered a question regarding vote by mail and who made the decision to do it again. Revenue from the tax will go directly into the dedicated fund, not the general fund. Wanted this to be “consistent, reoccurring, and transparent”. Shared resolution copy and will bring forward to the meeting.

School Board Report: Not present.

JBER Community Planning: Not present.

Muldoon Library: Not present.

Federation of Community Councils: Mr. Reupeke shared about the FCC meeting the previous day.

- Vote by mail information available, accessible vote center in east Anchorage now.
- CIP list will be put out March 1st.

- Challenge grants-APF is encouraging those to apply by April 14th.
- Alcohol tax
- CHARR information shared
- Bonds were discussed, 3.9 million for PnR.
- Anchorage 2040 plan shared

Community Activities Reports:

- Ms. Donna Mears inviting people to the Cheney Lake Facebook page.
- Bartlett football players have the highest GPA thus far.

Business:

Old Business

1. Chantsnu Muldoon Park regarding Food Garden/Fruit Trees; Voting on what will happen – N/A presenting (5 min)
 - a. The NECC has not come to a conclusion on what to do. The grant money supports the food garden, if it is not completed the money will be lost. The community stated they wanted a food garden, but there are concerns of the area being a wildlife corridor.
 - b. Mr. Steve Rafuse and Mr. Mark Kimmer brought two proposals on what phase 2 might look like, a committee member suggested a third option of a formal garden instead.
 - c. Ms. Liz Snyder shared that she and Ms. Kristi Wood reached out to about eight orchard growers and have not had any problems thus far.
 - d. Ms. Val shared that bear resistant containers are one of the most effective ways to deter bears, such as people leaving their trash out in the summer.
 - e. Mr. Stu Grenier shared that it is about a trash problem, not a bear problem.
 - f. Mr. Gary said that he has about 20 apple trees and has never had a bear problem.
 - g. Ms. Kristi Wood reiterated what Fish and Game recommended (Mr. Dave Battle) at the last meeting. Also shared that the NECC voted unanimously for this park master plan.
 - h. Ms. Carla McConnel shared that the plan was created and voted on with imperfect knowledge, now that there is awareness of the problem, what to do next.
 - i. Mr. Kevin Smestad shared is it about safety for kids and community garden.
 - j. Mr. Dave Ulmer shared that a few years ago there was a discussion regarding the salmon run and the creek would not be large enough to sustain a significant salmon run.
 - k. Money from the grant can be used for a fence
 - l. **Ms. Kristi Wood made a motion to “Move to support the Chantsnu Muldoon Park community garden and community food forest”, seconded by Ms. Val.**
 - i. **In favor-12, opposed-3, abstain-6 motion passes**
 - m. Ms. Carla McConnel shared that she would like to see more options from the PnR.
 - n. Mr. Marc Grober move to amend to that any fencing be electrified and fence be dug down into the earth. Seconded by Mr. Kevin Smestad.
 - o. Several cited concerns about the electric fencing.
 - p. Mr. Kevin Smestad stated he would not support any resolution that does not include recommendations from Fish and Game.

- q. Mr. Steve Rafuse refuted that that was one of the recommendations, but it was further down on the list and PnR would not support it.
 - r. Mr. Forrest Dunbar said that this would probably not be supported by the municipality and he would not be in support of that.
 - s. Ms. Selina Metoyer said that she would not be in support of this.
 - t. Mr. Gary clarified that these are DC fences and will not kill you but electrocute you.
 - u. Mr. Rick Phillips shared that it would give an animal to scare
 - i. Vote on second motion: Favor-3, Opposed-18, Abstain-2
 - ii. Vote on first motion:
2. Cheney Lake Master Plan Follow up - Ms. Carla McConnell presenting (5 min)
- a. It will cost PnR \$5400 to submit the plan to PnZ.
 - b. Need to decide whether or not to pay that or leave it as is.
 - c. Mr. Stu Grenier would like to see something about invasive on the master plan.
 - d. Mr. Steve Rafuse shared that that money could be used for other things around the park too such as resurfacing with gravel. He also shared that plan is about 15 years old and typically a plan lasts about 20 years, it is likely that PnZ would reject the plan.
 - e. Ms. Carla McConnel is wondering if PnR would agree to a MOU to protect the park until the next master plan.
 - f. Mr. Marc Grober clarified that in the process of this the \$5400 was not shared immediately and wondering if this money could be used for a connector between the park and middle fork trail.
 - g. Mr. Marc Grober move to resolve to request that PnR investigate the commitment of the \$5400 to a potential challenge grant implement connector the easement that is behind the houses on Colgate.
 - i. Mr. Steve Rafuse clarified that you cannot match grant money with Municipality money.
 - ii. Mr. Stu Grenier shared that the public needs more information and awareness of this motion.
 - iii. Ms. Lisa wondering if the money could be used for playground equipment or taking the trees down.
 - iv. Ms. Donna Mears shared that this could probably go back to committee to get more information.
 - v. Mr. Marc Grober stated that the original connector was in the master plan and that is part of the reason why NECC wanted to see the plan and emphasized that the potential money could be used for the connector.
 - vi. **Objections-2, Favor-8, Abstentions-6, motion carries**
 - vii. Ms. Carla McConnell will follow up with Forrest and look into it.
3. Open Seat/Committees chair on the NECC Board- Mr. Kevin Smestad presenting (5 min)
4. Business between NECC board members and Municipality
- a. Mr. Marc Grober-documents regarding PnZ documents, RJSP CAP, Sandy Hockman about horticulture, Law regarding making race available, PnR regarding the race
 - b. Mr. Stu Grenier and Ms. Selina Metoyer spoke to Mr. George Martinez about the meeting.
 - c. Ms. Rachel Boudreau emailed Mr. Forrest Dunbarr regarding the CMP grant.

New Business

1. Transportation Fair, Items happening in our area – Mr. Ron Searcy (DOT) presenting (10 min)

- a. Earthquake repairs are needed at about 60 different sites and will see what the spring brings.
 - b. Tudor overpass work will begin on Monday.
 - c. Projects in Anchorage on the map handout, but list will probably not be out until April.
 - d. North runway will be closed in April for repairs.
 - e. Southbound Eagle River bridge will be starting in the fall.
 - f. List of potential projects available.
 - g. Muldoon bridge overpass will be complete as soon as the contractor can come back in and clean up.
2. Vote by Mail Reminder for the Municipal Election – TBD presenting (5 min)
 - a. Ms. Christy Meyn, ballots will be mailed out March 12th.
 - b. Have until March 3rd to register to vote or change your address.
 - c. 4 Seasons Mobile home park (prop 4) drainage improvement area.
 3. Bond Package for the Municipal Election – TBD presenting (10 min)
 - a. 7 Bonds total, information is available.
 - b. Concerns are being heard about white ballot boxes.
 4. Watershed issues, Rational Review of Natural Resource Issues Inherent in Planning for RJSP – Mr. Marc Grober presenting (10 min)
 - a. Meeting on the 27th about the invasives, Mr. Marc Grober wanting more information about the European Bird Cherry.
 - b. Mr. Marc Grober shared that this is a very complex issue and there isn't enough data to make a decision.
 5. Election Committee (Kevin, Charles, Stu) – Election in April, who wants to run – Mr. Kevin Smestad presenting (5 min)
 - a. Anyone interested in running should get in touch with any board member.
 6. Earthquake Disaster Relief extended until February 28th, 2019. – TBD presenting (5 min)
 7. Alcohol License Renewal-Oaken Keg (Carr's) – Ms. Rachel Boudreau presenting (5 min)
 - a. Received notice this week that there is a marijuana retail store interested in opening a store in this area. Application is incomplete.

Approval of Previous Minutes: January-April 2018, September-November 2018, and January 2019

Objection to the January 2019 meeting minutes by Ms Kristi Wood. Community member brought up and asked concern about PnR representation 2x and no one brought it up, was not noted in the January minutes. Will be corrected by the secretary.

Favor-7, Object-2, Abstentions-5

Committee Reports:

Alcohol and Marijuana Committee- see above

Bylaw Committee- Met and made some amendments, have not been sent out for approval yet.

CIP Committee-

Parks Committee- See above.

Fat Bike Committee-

Picnic Committee-

Trails Committee –

Community Patrols-

Dog Park Committee-Mr. Stu Grenier is heading it up and looking for members.

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 pm