

Joint Meeting NORTH STAR & MIDTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

7:00 to 9:00 p.m. | North Star Elementary School (Library) - 605 West Fireweed Lane

Federation of Community Councils <http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/24.html>

Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/groups/northstarcommunitycouncil/>

November 13, 2013 - Minutes

Call to order Time: 7:00 pm

Introductions – Name, Community Council & Street -

Move to adopt the North Star October minutes Sam; 2nd – Susan; Motion passed unanimously.

Changes or additions to agenda –

Visitors from Dowl HKM (Midtown)

North Star Elementary Stairs (Northstar)

North Star Reports

President Report: Andre Camara

Summary: Thank you to Ernie, Tim, and Ira for getting the gate erected at the corner of 21st Avenue and Aurora restricting access to the city property south of the C Street Community Garden.

Vice President & FCC Delegate Report: Gordon Glaser

Summary: The next FCC meeting is next Wednesday. The State of Our City Forum which includes 8 speakers on a variety of issues at Wendler School on November 18. The ice vs tennis court issue continues. There is an archive system at the University for our council's records. He is beginning to work on the Spenard Road reconstruction advisory board.

Treasurer's Report: Not present.

Summary:

Members at Large: Susan Miller and Matt Johnson

Summary: Nothing to report.

Midtown Reports

President Report: Chris Bond

Summary: They have gotten a number of requests from business owners regarding the homeless inebriation and panhandling issue in Midtown. Fairview is facing similar issues and have some resolutions regarding it. They are wanting stronger sanctions and punishments for public inebriation and trespassing.

Legislative Reports

Representative Chris Tuck

Represented By: Himself

They are still looking at redistricting. There will be a decision coming soon.

Ethics Committee: Distribution of newsletters – New USPS process “Every Door Direct” is a cost savings, but the zip codes don't exactly match the districts. They are trying to make it clearer for legislators.

Facebook: What are they going to do with it? Is there a legislative purpose for it? They are trying to decide if staff can have access to Facebook.

Gas Taxes – Resources committees in the House and Senate are working together. The new gasline route may go to Nikiski. Tim: Will Anchorage get land on the McKenzie side of the Arm to offset the cost and issues with the bridge? He believes that the future of development is at Point McKenzie and that Anchorage and the Mat-Su needs to have a Joint Authority to work out issues.

Representative Harriet Drummond (HD-16)

Represented By: Herself

Harriet was glad that Chris brought up the idea of a Joint Authority. Before she heads back to Juneau, she's been touring many state agencies and non-profits that use state funds. Some offices she toured are RuralCAP, the Seward AvTec training facility, the Mat-Su coal mines near Sutton, the Anchorage School District, Clare House, and Covenant House.

Education – She's looking at state budgets and facilities issues all over the state. They are looking at residential facilities. There are facilities in Nome, Galena, and Anchorage. She toured North Star Elementary. It received a 4 star rating under the new state guidelines.

Point Thompson – She visited there yesterday. There is a camp that can house 400 people at this location. They will start drilling in 2015.

Medicaid Expansion – We need to put pressure on the Governor to get the state to expand Medicaid.

Ferry – She does hope that there will be some kind of solution. David: Sometimes we need to cut our losses. It's not designed to move people and is therefore not usable for what it was intended.

Senator Berta Gardner (SD-H)

Represented By: TJ

Berta is out of town. She also did a Pt. Thompson site visit. She is now doing school visits. She will come here to North Star next week with Harriet Drummond. He is meeting with the Senator about the capitol budget, so he needs to see our list. He gets his lists from the muni website.

Represented By:

Assembly Reports

Ernie Hall: Halle@muni.org **Tim Steele:** SteeleT@muni.org Represented By: Them together.

AU 37 – The repeal did not go through. The election was going to be in April, but the mayor vetoed it. His veto ability is under discussion and will go to court. We hope to have a decision from the court by January.

Budget – Two public hearing have happened. The assembly is trying to get all the amendments in by Friday.

Taxi Ordinance – This has been long coming. There will be a rewrite of the ordinance and several changes will be coming. This is coming up on Tuesday night. On Tuesday, they will work on the budget first.

Tennis Courts – There have been many proposals put forward on this issue. They are in agreement that they will support the Tennis Courts. They want to see that facility become an education center. The post office is going to move when their land lease is up and they could purchase several other parcels to make the education center. They are supporting the tennis court because they don't want the money to move to another part of town or to go back to Juneau. The project is funded at \$7.7 million.

Ice Rinks – Looking for real funds for the ice rinks to fix the locker rooms and upgrade the ice.

Community Council Code – Changes include prohibiting mandatory dues, lowering the age of membership to 16. There will be a retreat on January 25 for community council members to learn how to run a council.

Bonnie: Will there be merging? Only if councils want to do it. It's not part of the new code.

Public Testimony – We don't know if there will be a new code or a resolution. Ernie feels that he followed legal direction and wants to have some kind of protocol for how we do it to make it consistent from meeting to meeting and assembly chair to assembly chair. Tim – They need to do some electronic upgrades to make the assembly meetings more user-friendly.

Tennis courts and ice rinks – We need to put real money into fixing the ice rinks and the library (Project 80s). There are a lot more issues on the books including increased fees for buses.

Dick Traini: TrainiD@muni.org Represented By: Alisa – Nothing additional to report.

New Business:

Dowl HKM – (Rachel & Alex) Arctic Improvement – 36th to Tudor

Finish changing Arctic from a 4 lane to a 3 lane road. They will also making it all ADA compliant by widening sidewalks to 5 feet. They will be adding a south bound right turn lane at Tudor Road. They will have another open house in January. They are looking at a construction time of 75 days during the summer of 2014. This is a city project. There will not be bike lanes at the intersections. Gordon: There is a real concern that we could lose our north - south bike corridor. There are no other north –south bike routes at this time. It looks as though they are solely focusing on moving cars, not people or bikes. They want us to give them our comments and concerns, since they are still in the planning stage. They have already received comments about going back to review the Bike Plan before finishing the designs.

Old Business:

Resolution on ML&P Undergrounding – Jake Moe and Marty Smith from ML&P. In 2005, the assembly passed an ordinance that lines need to go underground. Industrial and transmission lines will not be undergrounded. The project is paid for with the 2% surcharge on our electric bills. Chugach is doing the same thing. It will take 180-200 years at this rate to complete the whole project. Issues they look at are safety, age, visibility, assembly designated target areas, and customer requests.

Who is on the list currently? There is a 5 year plan on the ML&P website that is set by ML&P staff.

What does the project look like? They showed pictures of the project on 18th Avenue.

What about Arctic to Aurora 18th to 22nd Avenues? It does rank high due to the age and public support of the project. In 2018 they will underground the lines by North Star School.

How does the project step down? It takes about 7 months to do the design. In the winter, the contractor does the inside work and then the outside work is done on the outside.

David: It should be noted that not all the signatures may have been landowners because several of the house inhabitants are renters. There are concerns that not everyone in the neighborhood knows about the project. He requests that the use of directional drilling be added to the resolution.

A better resolution would be to be specific about which streets we are concerned about and not focus on the whole neighborhood.

Bonnie: She moves to table the resolution until the next meeting. Passes unanimously.

NeighborWorks Anchorage Letter of Support – They are asking for our support of their senior housing project through a letter. This letter will be added to their proposal for funding. Sharon: Her property is due south of this project. This project will be within 20’ of her building and the buildings will be 36’ tall. She has continuing concerns about the re-platting of this property from 4 lots into 1 lot. The municipality is not allowing comments on the re-platting. If this project fails and they sell the property it could be developed into a much larger project.

Gordon: Moves to extend the meeting 10 minutes in order to discuss this issue. Passes unanimously.

Discussion continues:

Gordon: Gordon has moved to support the letter with changes making it restrictive to 60 units and only for senior housing. Bonnie: 2nd Support: 8 votes Opposed: 2 votes Abstentions: 3 votes
The motion passes.

Announcements and Other Comments: Nothing to report.

Move to Adjourn: Unanimous consensus.

Adjourn 9:10 p.m.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by the secretary, Tracy Fischbach.