

NORTH STAR 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/>

March 12, 2014 - Minutes

Call to order Time: 7:02 pm

Introductions – After introductions of those present, there was a general discussion about the whereabouts and relative health of Bonnie Jack. The council wishes her well.

Move to adopt the North Star February minutes as edited - Sam; 2nd – Mark; Motion passed unanimously. In the February minutes please note that Mark is a member of the Spenard Chamber of Commerce, not the chair.

Changes to Agenda

-Add candidate introductions

-Add Valley of the Moon advisory committee update

School Report: Marcus Wilson, School Principal

Summary: Nothing to report.

President Report: Andre Camara

Summary: Thanks Gordon from running an efficient meeting last month in his absence.

Vice President & FCC Delegate Report: Gordon Glaser

Summary: Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report: Melonie Rieck

Summary: \$594.54 in savings and \$106.46 in checking for a total of \$701.00

Sam: Could we spend some of this money to do outreach in the community? Mark: Yes, the FCC can make copies of flyers and can possibly do a mass mailing for our community council. Andre: We can form a small committee to talk about ways to get more people involved. Members include: Andre, Sam, Mark and Meredyth. Andre will send out an email to see if more people are interested.

Members at Large: Susan Miller and Sam Moore

Summary: Nothing to report.

Legislative Reports

Representative Harriet Drummond (HD-16)

Represented By: Herself.

Harriett chaired the Anchorage caucus hearing on February 26. The education bill moved out of committee last night. They hope to get it out of the house with a small increase to the base student allocation (BSA). There are changes to the way charter school students are funded. She will be going back to Juneau in a few weeks. The session is scheduled to end on April 20 and it may end earlier due to Easter celebrations. The senate withdrew the bill to change the constitution to allow funds for private and religious schools. HB 77, the bill on water rights, passed the senate committee with significant changes. It will have to go back to the house for approval. The PERS/TERS issue has not come up yet. The neonicotinoid pesticide bill has not moved. Gordon: There are concerns about the change that has happened to the health insurance of retired state employees and teachers.

Senator Berta Gardner (SD-H)

Represented By: Not present.

**Represented By:
Assembly Reports**

Ernie Hall: Halle@muni.org Not present.

Created a new park last night in Northeast Anchorage. Now that it is under the Parks & Rec, they will be required to cover the clean-up of the park lands. The school budget was introduced. Testimony will be allowed at the next meeting. Information about the bonds was available for the group.

Tim Steele: SteeleT@muni.org

Nothing additional to report.

Dick Traini: TrainiD@muni.org

Not present.

New Business:

Candidates: Phil Isley is the conservative candidate for West Anchorage. He has a website if we would like to find more information about him.

Tim Steele – He is running for re-election in April. He is really concerned about the lack of housing in the city. He is also concerned about the work at the port and feels that we need to follow it more closely.

Mark: Our highest priority for our council is flood control and Spenard road reconstruction. What are each of the candidate's thoughts on these issues?

Tim Steele – The Arctic flooding issue. We did get money into the city's request for both planning and construction. His biggest issue is the Spenard Road project. We are still hoping for state funds but if we do not get funds we will continue to seek funds in other ways.

Phil Isley- He feels that we should not build anything new, but focus on maintenance. He also feels that we could just do something simple like dredge the creek and build a bridge. He is also concerned about the housing. Twelve families a month move to Alaska because we have the best welfare system in the country. He feels that we should not rely as heavily as we do on federal funds because it artificially inflates our economy. He is opposed to the Spenard Road project and he feels that road projects need to be friendly for cars not bikes and pedestrians because cars are what is paying for the project. He feels that this cuts into small business.

There is not a Candidate's Forum planned for our section of the city.

National archives: (Susan) - She requested that the assembly pass a resolution telling the archives that they should not move to Seattle. Have they considered leaving some kind of presence through a partnership with the library or University? Some members have already contacted our Senators about this issue.

Gordon: Moves to pass a resolution stating as follows:

“The North Star Community Council voices our concern about the process through which the National Archives Regional Center is being relocated from Anchorage to Seattle.”

Mark-2nd We are addressing this to our Senators and the National Archives with copies to the Mayor and the Assembly.

Old Business:

Spenard Farmer's Market (Mark) – It starts on May 17. There will be jazz music for the first 4 weeks. They are looking for more board members.

Centennial – Tim: We should think of doing something for the Centennial in 2015. Ira: Maybe we should partner with Spenard CC to do something. Gordon: He does hear that there is grant money available and he will check with FCC. Ira: Atwood Foundation is taking proposals until May 15.

Valley of the Moon Advisory Meeting – Tuesday, April 15 and 29 are the upcoming meetings.

Chester Creek / Arctic – Debbie Hinchey, Jen Clark, Elvi Jackson, Ernie Hall, and Tim Steele went to Juneau to lobby for this project and others. Ernie: He was told several times that funding was scarce this year. He only feels that we may get funding for the library. The city will have to address the creek issue whether we get state funds or not. They may have to go to a bond next year if we don't get state funds. Tim: The city is concerned about what happens downstream if we just put a bridge in. They are hoping for a formal design that will cover A Street to Spenard. If we want to support this, we should contact the House finance committee.

Spenard Road – Gordon: At this community council, we support the Spenard Road. Tim and Ernie added the Spenard Road to the city bond for \$3 million and the assembly voted to put \$3 million into the city's bond proposal. They then took the \$3 million from the bond in order to get federal AMATS funds. Because these are federal funds, an Environmental Assessment will need to be done. This will cost \$800,000 and take a year or two. We expect that there may be some money in the state budget this year to help. The city has spent \$5 million on this project so far. This is now a project and design has begun. Mark passed out an example support letter for this project.

Announcements and Other Comments: Nothing to report.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Spenard Farmers Market – May 17

Valley of the Moon Advisory Committee – April 15 and 29

Move to Adjourn: Unanimous consensus.

Adjourn 8:45 p.m.

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