

NECC

Northeast Community Council

General Meeting Minutes May 16, 2019

Call to order: 7:07

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of the Board

Board members present: Selina Metoyer, Rachel Boudreau, Charles England, Carla McConnel, T'Shalla Baker, Donna Mears, Stu Grenier, Liz Snyder

Board Members Absent: None

Approval of Agenda: Donna moves to approve the agenda; Stu seconds; no objections, motion passes

Treasurer's Report: Bob is not present. No report.

Executive Report: Officers have been nominated and elected. This month's agenda was created. The insurance issue has been addressed, as has Cheney Lake trail. (No questions posed by attendees.)

Community Concerns/Activities Report:

- Dave and a committee have applied for a Challenge Grant (\$25,000) to fund a Cheney Lake connector, and will hear back in May on its status (update: grant not funded); There is a hill on the east end of the easement, granted years ago by owners; new owners came in and the lot was split into two, but easement remained; there's another 10ft easement for utilities (buried); not much else to report; not much of a study done so far; top of the hill will be cut out with a 200 ft track going through (this is all preliminary); if the connector is approved, a notice will go out to all neighbors affected
 - Ash doesn't think there is room for the connector, and is concerned about impacts to the wildlife; wants to know who to talk to about the challenge grant (answer: talk to the Anchorage Parks Foundation)
 - Glen/Nancy also lives along there; not in support of the connector; had been proposed in the past and doesn't think it can be done to be ADA compliant; argues that lots of trees will be lost and the cut will be exceptionally wide

- Another member is also concerned, as the connector would go straight through her backyard; she asked the Anchorage Parks Foundation about the plans and to remove the flags put out by Dave's committee; they indicated that there are no definitive plans to move forward; she wants to find other good works instead of this one
- This Sat. 1-3 there is another pick-up at Chanshtnu Muldoon; come out to pick up trash with orange bags; look for the bags hanging on cars; will be meeting by the Muldoon Mall; bring gloves (Stu)
- The Gold Nugget is this Sunday; come on out to cheer them on (Stu)
- June 15, 11-3, Chanshtnu Muldoon Park, Spirit of Muldoon Picnic; come on out
- Certificate of appreciation given to Kevin
- Last night at the library, there were four municipal reps there to hear input about the installation of new routes; but Selina was disappointed that nobody from our council area was there to provide input (Selina)

Legislative reports:

- Nate (Bill staffer for **Senator Bill Wielechowski**): Came to an agreement in conference committee on crime - SB91 will be repealed and replaced; dealing with drug addiction and possession (will change that any first time drug possession is a Class A misdemeanor, second one is a Class B felony); changed presumptive sentencing ranges (Class B can be sentence up to 90 days -- up from 30; along with other increases associated with other offenses); also changed laws about sex crimes (any solicitation online to a minor is a Class B felony); Senator Wielechowski got in some legislation as well (anyone who owes more than \$1000 in a moving violation, then they will have their license suspended until they make a good faith effort to reduce the amount; also added new penalties related to vehicle theft attempts; and penalties for spousal abuse; and penalties for driving with a cancelled or suspended license). The bill that has passed covers a wide range of topics
- **Representative Ledoux**: There was a pretrial assessment tool that took some discretion away from judges to deny bail -- but now the pretrial tool isn't mandatory, but can simply be consulted. Pleased with the repeal and replacement of SB91; they are now entering special session -- need to pass an operating and capital budget; elephant in the room is the size of the PFD; about \$200 million in cuts to operating budget; she is in support for the full PFD and left the house majority over this issue
- **Representative Sponholz**: Agree with the description of the crime bill as provided by Nate; gaveled into special session this morning; expected to pass the crime bill on Monday; there are some challenges: There will be \$60 million/year to implement the new crime bill; concerned that there are no funds allocated to address the drivers of crime (i.e., drug addiction; meth and opioids continue to be a huge issue); she will support funding of addiction centers as a method of addressing crime; hosting a

constituent coffee this weekend in Anchorage -- Emmanuel Presb. At 10am on Sat -- see FB page for details

- Donna M. thanked her for addressed drivers of crime

- **Representative Pruitt and Senator Geissel:** Not present

Assembly Report:

- **Assemblyman Pete Peterson:**

- Still working on an ordinance dealing with cellphone use in school zones -- intending it to be only hands-free in school zones, but been a few snags and some anticipated amendments on Tuesday; making slow speed in school zones a 24 hour rule is what is holding up the bill
- Trapping off of urban trails bill passed
- Homeless camp clean-up is happening throughout the muni; can report camps at muni.org
- The Anchorage Climate Action plan has been released and is on the agenda for Tuesday; can find the plan at muni.org

- **Assemblyman Forrest Dunbar:**

- Got an update on the ML&P sale today; Nov. 19 is the deadline for the decision (that's the earliest we'll get it -- but also have the option to extend by 90 days)
- There is an ordinance to establish a commission for a complete count (Federal census)
- Held a health policy meeting to discuss raising the age of purchasing tobacco cigarettes and e cigarettes/vapes to the age of 21
- On Tuesday night will also be discussing onsite marijuana consumption; doubt it will pass at this point; the focus is on edibles (as we already have an indoor smoking ban)
 - Comment from Lisa -- commending 311 (non-emergency number); a great resource
 - Charles: re: onsite consumption of marijuana: what is the status of intoxication and motor vehicle operation? Is there a test? Forrest: yes, there is a test for it being in your system
 - Stu talked to the police about the RV parked on Boundary Ave; talked to the police as he was worried that there were minors in a tent nearby; officers said they don't check tents, and that the community action patrol is responsible; Stu wants the police to have to check the tents (but CAP has special training)
 - Stu needs some help regarding AWWU and an easement issue; will address outside the meeting

- **Assemblypersons Wehmhoff and Dyson:** Not present

- **Special Assistant to the Mayor:** Not present
- **School Board:** Not present
- **Muldoon Library:** Not present
- **JBER:** Not present
- **Federation of Community Councils:** Carla M made a short presentation re: onsite consumption; would like the council to take up the issue and have a discussion at a future meeting (with pros and cons presenters); discussed the failed alcohol tax, as it looks like the assembly will be reworking it and putting it back to the voters

Business:

Presentations (5-minute limit)

- **Deputy Director of Community Relations, Dunleavy Administration (Ms. Marilyn Stewart):** Not present
- **Muldoon picnic:** T'Shalla B: looking for volunteers (sign up sheet at the back); June 15, 11am-3pm; food will be served from 12pm to 2pm; we want to engage our businesses in the community; looking for cash donations, in-kind, gift certificates; prizes, etc; want them to set up tables to promote their business at the event. At Chanshtnu Muldoon Park
 - Carla: Mountain View said they recently had a community event, and went to the liquor stores and MJ stores, and they were fantastic donors
- **2020 Census Jobs and Complete Count Committee: Ms. Charmaine Ramos:** grateful for time on agenda; census starts in Alaska in Jan. 2020 in Toksook, Alaska; results used for reapportionment to determine the number of seats in Congress; used by state officials to redraw boundaries as needed; and to distribute \$675 billion dollars to the states, boroughs, Tribes, and universities; it's against the law for the census to release your responses in a way that would identify you or your household; the census will be easier than ever; every household will receive an invitation by a postal or census worker; 95% of the nations in the households will receive their invitation by mail; online responses will open in mid-March; she will be working with the Anchorage Assembly to prepare for a complete count; recruiting census workers for pay, and will begin hiring in about a month

New Business

- **CIP list: Kevin:** shared a handout of CIP list; and added a change to page 4, item #5 (perimeter trail: change it to remove the word “perhaps”, add “including ship creek underpass.....”
 - Selina had a question including a gate behind Creekside Elementary + Creekside Park/Old Harbor; Kevin acknowledged that that needed to be added (this will now be #7, and shift everything down)
 - Selina also wants to add a “children playing sign” at Creekside
 - Attendee asked where these are posted; Kevin said it’s on the muni website and will find it for him
 - Attendee: what is the procedure to add something else to the list? Kevin: contact the chair of the CIP committee; she would like a gutter and sidewalk on Peck Avenue (west of Oklahoma). Will now be item #33 on the list
 - Attendee: will any of these projects be done this summer? Kevin: we won’t know the schedules for them until the city reviews and approves. Attendee: where is the list of stuff that has been approved? Kevin: on the muni website; aware that the Chanshtnu Muldoon Phase II park is happening. Selina: noted that it requires people to do some lobbying on the issues that are important to them. Kevin will find out what is happening this summer and update FB
 - Lisa: can we get our broken Muldoon wall fixed? Stu: It’s on private property
 - Kevin motioned to approve; Stu seconded: 20 in favor of passing; 0 opposed; 5 abstained: motion passes

- No July meeting

- Spirit of Muldoon: already covered earlier in the agenda

Old Business

- **Treehouse AK: Josh Boots:** His establishment is opening on Boniface this Fall; his goal is to earn the NECC support and enter an MOU. He and his partner are lifelong Alaskans; big families with kids; no outside partners or investment; asking for NECC support -- doesn’t mean that the council and the business have to agree on policy, but that we agree to communicate. They also have a cultivation operation in Palmer that is actively licensed. Floor open for suggestions:
 - Attendee: do you know how long it takes for marijuana smoke to clear from the air? Worried about the smell. Josh: will only sell to those who can purchase it; he does not have any impact on who smokes it where; landlords need to enforce it
 - Carla: worried about edibles that look like candy; what kind of products will you be selling? Josh: there are rules that nothing marketed can be attractive to children; they don’t make edibles themselves, and they purchase from licensed manufacturers in the state
 - Carla: will you support the Spirit of Muldoon Picnic? Josh: yes

- Selina: How far away are you from Wonder Park Elementary? Josh: over 1000 feet away
 - Carla: would like to adjust the spacing limit away from door to door; make it more like property line of school to door
 - Selina: any concerns about it being so close to JBER? Josh: no
 - Liz: What will the store look like? Will it look nice? Josh: going for a nice, clean look; no immediately identifiable signage that makes it obvious; will have id check at the door
 - Charles: Will you remain committed to engaging the community now that you have your license? Josh: They erroneously contacted the Russian Jack council before NECC as part of their application; hence the delay in contacting NECC; proposing the MOU to establish in writing how communication will continue
 - Attendee: Do you know of any other businesses that have applied in the NE community? Josh: not sure; there's not a lot of property that qualifies in East Anchorage. Rachel: Catalyst was exploring, but not sure of the status
 - Donna: There's a process for a special land use permit? What is it? Josh: We have to add 30+ parking spaces, so applying for a non-conforming exception
Donna: is there is process left to wrap up licensing? Josh: Yes, we're still responding to the Municipal process. Donna: What is the timeline for opening? And what is your ask of us tonight? Josh: opening September; and asking the NECC to agree to the MOU
 - Attendee: What is in your product? Josh: it is tested for mildew, pesticide, additives. Testing is required. Product must be approved by a third party
 - Lisa: will you be selling CBD oil? If so, will it be hemp based? Josh: He's learning about CBD. Does not know the answer yet, but he's learning
 - Donna: makes a motion to table until June, so we can review the MOU; Carla seconds; in discussion Radhika noted that it would be good form to make a note of non-objection; 10 in favor; 2 opposed; 12 abstained: motion passes; we'll take it up and June; we will add a vote on non-objection
- **Carla M.:** calling for volunteers at the farmers market; please join us; can volunteer for any amount of time -- set up (8am), break down (2:30-4), information table; at Chanshtnu Muldoon Park; Market hours are 9:30-2:30 on Saturdays; Opening day is June 22
 - **Business between NECC board members and Muni:** Rachel has been in touch with Steve Rafuse; Stu: been in touch with City Hall, about protocol to adjusting boundaries to community councils and name changes to community councils; No other board member reports

Approval of Previous Minutes: Needs to change the date on the minutes

Committee Reports:

- Alcohol/MJ: you can look up offenses to licenses online
- Bylaw: none
- CIP: addressed earlier in agenda
- Parks: none
- Picnic: addressed earlier in agenda; meetings on Tuesdays at Fred Meyers, 6:30pm; we can accept personal donations; Jereanne noted that the picnic will be advertised on social media and local websites (already posted); it will also be posted on NextDoor
- Trails: addressed earlier in the agenda
- Community patrols: Kevin: First Friday of every month, the city patrols meet with the police; police now have a specific patrol person in each council area; council contact person has contact info for the patrolperson; as the relationships mature, it will become more clear who should be in which areas; we've got a few folks on the patrol and keeping an eye out on our neighborhood; they don't intervene, but instead contact police if anything is found; hold patrols to high standards of conduct

- Last note: Selina: next farmers market meeting is May 20 at Fred Meyer at 6pm

Donna, motion to adjourn; Selina second

Meeting adjourned at 9:03pm