

# NECC

Northeast Community Council

Minutes June 20, 2019

**Board members present:** Selina Metoyer, Rachel Boudreau, Charles England, Carla McConnel, Donna Mears, Liz Snyder

**Board members absent:** T'Shalla Baker, Stu Grenier

**Approval of the Agenda; Motion passes:** Agenda approved

**Treasurer's report:** Not present

## **Community Concerns:**

- Mary: Frustrated and concerned with the Nunaka parking lot; there are powerlines overhead (several) and there are tall cottonwood trees that are higher than the powerlines; concerned that a windstorm will take out the powerlines. Advises that the trees be checked along Cheney Lake and through Nunaka valley
  - Assemblyman Peterson said to call Chugach Electric (762-7679)
- Selina: Thank you to the volunteers, supporters, donors, and attendees for a successful picnic
  - July 27: Friends of Pets jog is happening
  - You can still comment on proposed People Mover transit routes (can comment online)
- Bob: Thank you to Jerrienne L. for funneling traffic for the picnic
- Donna: On Tuesday the Assembly passed a bears/trash ordinance; it's an issue in our area; one of the provisions is for the creation of bear trash safety zones
- APD: Sergeant Brian Ranger and Officer Matt Kendell: they are working in our neighborhood now; area boundaries have been realigned to match community council boundaries; two permanent offers assigned for each shift
  - Information on some of the calls they've responded to: June 4-10 they responded to 200+ calls; top 5 locations for calls -- Boniface/Debarr, Glenn Highway, Debarr/Muldoon, Fred Meyers/Walmart; ranging from domestic disturbances, to traffic stops, welfare checks/911 hang-ups
  - Carla: How do the officer assignments work? Answer: Specific officers are assigned, and will be supported by some rotating supporting officers; allows them to get to know the area and community
    - Carla noted that our community council area is bigger than others
  - Jerrienne: What happened at the intersection of Muldoon and Debarr last weekend? Answer: Not sure
  - Dave U.: Is homelessness a big issue here? Answer: Comparable to elsewhere
  - Karen: What is 311? Answer: Non-emergency number to report issues

- Dave U.: Any calls to Chanshtnu Park? Answer: Not so far
  - Selina: There's a proposed cannabis shop on Boniface. Do you think it will cause any problems? Answer: Hard to say. Sometimes there can be robberies or public intoxication
  - Selina: Is there a test that the APD can do (like alcohol) for marijuana? Answer: You can test the blood. But there are no immediate tests. And a field sobriety test is the same
- **Legislative Reports:**
    - **Sen. Wielechowski** (staffer reporting): Crime bill was transmitted to the Governor (expected to sign within the next 20 days); focused on strengthening crime laws in a workable way. The budget is still a big issue up in the air. They did pass an operating budget that rejected most of the Governor's extreme cuts; he is really happy with that. Hopeful that the Governor will approve the budget without significant vetoes.
      - Bob R.: What about the capital budget? Answer: Still up in the air; still questions about the funding source for some of the items
      - Dave U.: Has asked Bill W. and Ivy S. about funds to connect the Chanshtnu Parks. Answer: Unknown
    - **Rep. LeDoux** (staffer reporting): She did not vote for the conference committee report because it didn't contain the PFD. It's been over 150 days and no PFD budget bill has come over to the House side. Representative leadership thinks it's above the law and they can choose which law to follow. Additionally, a working group has been created to examine the history and future of the PFD. She is in support of taking any decisions to the people. She expects the Governor to use his line item veto to ensure a full PFD. LeDoux co-sponsored an amendment that would have provided a full PFD; but it failed. LeDoux voted against the capital budget. The second special session is scheduled to begin July 8 in Wasilla; hoping that legislators will follow the law. Sorry to have missed the picnic last week.
    - **Rep. Pruitt** (in person): Starting with the crime bill: it was a unique group of people to get that moved through. He voted against SB91 to begin with; and is happy to have it reversed. Next, though, we need to have a conversation about treatment and opioid addiction. Noted the bill put forth by Spohnholz is important, but it's not yet funded. Expects this will be a big topic in the next session. In terms of the operating budget -- it's out there and waiting on the Governor. After the budget was voted on, there was movement regarding the funding sources (and there's no PFD in there). August 15 is the deadline for when the PF Corporation needs to know the amount of the PFD to distribute, as they need time to make those funds available. It will be tight, with the special session happening on July 8.
      - Rachel asked folks who have questions for Rep. Pruitt to go to the hallway, due to time

- **Rep. Spohnholz** (staffer reporting): Thank you for the great picnic. Sorry she (Ivy S.) can't be here tonight. Noting that Gavel to Gavel will likely not be at the special session. Yes, 10 million was put in from the general funds (not sure if CBR or general funds) for the addiction bill. June 28 meetings are available on Gavel to Gavel.
  - Judy: Can you let us know when the crime crackdown provisions take effect? If we aren't going to have real provisions for addressing drivers of crime, what do we expect once the crime crackdown goes into effect? Concerned about tossing people in jail who should be in treatment.  
Answer: I will get back to you

- **Assembly Reports**

- **Assemblyman Dunbarr:** Assembly just passed an ordinance focused on securing trash in Anchorage to reduce the number of bears that are attracted into town. Frequency of bear encounters in Muldoon is a problem. Officers can write tickets when they see bags outside the bin, or sticking out of the bin -- when there are attractants for bears. It will be complaint driven (e.g., when neighbors complain) -- this applies citywide. There is also the ability to create secured trash zones based on Fish and Game data -- zones created by resolution. The first secure trash resolution zone will be created in Girdwood, based upon community request. Next year we can start having the conversation about East Anchorage creating such zones.
  - Raised rates at Merrill Field
  - Currently debating an ordinance to raise the age to 21 for cigarettes and e cigarettes
  - The administration had a meeting with port user groups (2 days of meetings), to review decisions about the port. We haven't yet gotten enough information to pull the trigger; but looking like we'll rebuild the petroleum and cement terminal (this is a portion of what needs to be done; \$150-200 million; first phase ~\$40 million.) Looking possible to do the work without increasing the tariff.
- **Assemblyman Peterson:** You can put bear resistant trash cans out 12 hours ahead of time.
  - Did a recent tour of the port. Rust damage is extensive; damage from the earthquake is significant. Some parts of the port now have limits on the amount of weight that can be put on there.
- Questions:
  - Carla: What just happened with the onsite consumption decision?  
Answer: Only onsite consumption of edibles is permitted. This will allow some onsite education on consumption. Going to take it back to the people for a vote regarding allowing or not allowing onsite smoking (which would be an exception to the cigarette smoking ban). The trend in places that have legalized cannabis longer ago than us is edibles. Edibles seem

to be the preference. And for folks who don't own a home, there is no legal place to consume.

- Carla: Concerned that they went with industry over public safety

- **FCC Report**

- Did not meet this month; \$4,380 for Community Patrol
- Subdivision at Boundary & W of Bald Eagle Drive
  - Major site review at Urban Design Commission on July 10, 6:30 pm
- Hearing regarding 2040 Land Use Plan re: Residential streets & driveways on July 8th
- Contacted NE Community Center: will allow us to meet there if board chooses
- Neighborhoods USA (NUSA): A national non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening neighborhood groups
- Questions
  - David U.: They're working on connecting Centennial Park and JBER. We need to talk with Stu about it.

- **Business**

- Presentations

- Ken Fuller, re: rezoning at 6411 Debarr Road (roller rink; previously owned by ABT): Arcticorp acquired the property about a year ago; seeking a rezoning (currently zoned for high-density housing). Have done a mailing to the 500 ft radius of the property; held a community meeting. Reported that the community would rather have storage than high-density housing; due to high ownership of boats, motorhomes, etc. and need a place to store. Storage is less demand on public services and traffic, as compared to houses/apartments.
  - Carla: Concerned about the aesthetics; what will it look like? Not opposed to the business, but would like it to look nice
  - David U.: There's nothing attractive about an 8ft fence. Would like to see some landscaping. Answer: Yes, there will be bushes and trees. And some of the perimeter is surrounded by mature trees
  - Liz S.: What types of properties does Arcticorp typically develop? Answer: Storage and warehouses
  - Donna M.: Pretty sure the site plan doesn't represent the amount of landscaping that would be required. What is the timeline for development? Answer: Next meeting is with Planning and Zoning. And then to the Assembly. Donna: Do you have your P&Z meeting set yet? Answer: Had to wait for this meeting
  - Bob R.: What is your preference -- all storage, or storage and retail? Answer: Not clear that retail will be cost-effective

- Dunbar: To be clear, you're just looking for a rezoning. Once it's rezoned, you're not committed to developing a storage facility. Answer: That's correct. But we're not looking to change from storage. And you could put special limitations on the rezone. Dunbar: Yes, but this is rare and difficult. Is the plan large enough that will trigger a major site plan review?
    - Donna: Can you please provide draft language for a resolution for consideration at the August meeting? Answer: Yes
  - Muldoon Picnic (Selina reporting): It turned out great. (Many folks in the room attended.) Lots of leftover burgers, which were donated to AWAC. But disappointing that we had to pay \$200 to host the event; would like to see that fee eliminated
    - Dave U.: Thank you to Parks and Rec for cleaning up

### New Business

- No meeting in July.
- We are working on a new location to hold the August meeting
  - Cook Inlet Housing could host meetings (Liberty made the offer; board will follow up)

### Old Business

- Muldoon Market Update (Selina): Market opens 9:30-2:30 this Saturday (June 22)
  - Set up starts at 8am; clean up at 2:30
  - Note that you can park at the lot in front of the library
  - Farmers Market Committee meets
  - Anyone who wants to volunteer should come to committee meetings when the market closes
- Business between NECC board members and Muni
  - Rachel: Learned that we did not get the Challenge Grant
  - Selina: Was in touch with Steve Rafuse
- **Minutes Approval: Delayed until next meeting**
- **Committee Reports**
  - Alcohol/Marijuana: An alcohol license renewal came through on Friday for Yama(sp?) Sushi
  - Bylaws: no report
  - CIP: no report
  - Parks (Selina): Always looking for volunteers, and will need a new chair. Apple trees for the park are looking good. Cicily's Pizza is putting in a storefront called Fresh Cup. A draft park master plan will be put out in August

- Judy: Does Phase II include a dog park? Answer: Yes. Construction starts this summer, but finishes next year. The dog park will open Summer 2021
  - Trails (David U.): David talked with Steve Rafuse about the Challenge Grant with the Parks Foundation (for a trail from Cheney Lake to Chester Creek), then along Chester Creek to Patterson (in an effort to get a continuous trail to JBER). Did not win the Challenge Grant. Maybe other ways to propose it -- but probably 10 years out from finding money and personnel for it. David would like to get a bond issue on the ballot for it; and wants Dunbar and Peterson to help.
    - Dunbar: Says to chat with him, as there may be other options
    - Selina: Wasn't there a plan for a trail to go from here to Westchester Lagoon? Answer: Yes, but hasn't been successful. The master plan for Cheney Lake is coming up, and it feels like a good time to achieve a trail
  - Community patrols: no report
- Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm