

**Call to Order:** 7:05

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Board Members Present:** Rachel Boudreau, Donna Mears, Selina Metoyer, Carla McConnell, Stu Grenier, Charles England, Liz Snyder, Bob Reupke (FCC delegate)

**Board Members Absent:** T'Shalla Baker

**Approval of August Meeting Agenda:** Approved

**Treasurer's Report:** \$3,161.80 in the bank account (shared by Bob). We got \$650 from contributors for the picnic. Selina was reimbursed for insurance charges. A check was written to the Muni for use of the park.

**Executive Report:**

- Rachel: we've approved a new board member (Radhika Krishna)
- Carla: Meant to bring up a resolution regarding a change in the marijuana law, but wants to flag it; also there's been a discussion regarding parks being rezoned as PLI -- are we doing a resolution supporting it? (Donna said that resolution has not been drafted).  
Conclusion: put resolutions for both of these items on the agenda for next time

**Community Concerns:**

- Rick Philips: He's a voter registrar; invites people to register with him here; also has the Recall Dunleavy petition if folks want to sign
  - Also asking where the money for the variety of no-bid contracts coming out of the Governor's office is coming from? (Directed to the legislators who are present.)
- Paul R. (from Community Patrol)
  - New patrol member: Susan
  - Problem properties: wooded area between Walmart and Fred Meyer
    - Stu asked where they are going to go. The owner of the property used to be engaged with the NECC. When that area is cleared out, they end up at Chanshtnu Muldoon Park
  - The patrol calls the police when they find problem areas or issues
  - Paul is looking for folks willing to make calls to 311 about problem properties
  - LeDeux noted that the Muni often cites a 9th Circuit Decision as justification for not being able to move folks camped in parks, but some other people do not interpret the decision in this way
  - Carla noted that it's best to call the land owner; that is private property, so law enforcement can indeed move them
- Dawn (from the Census effort)

- She is recruiting census workers; hiring hundreds throughout Anchorage and Alaska. We'll likely need dozens of folks from the NECC community
- \$28-\$31/hour; training is quick; don't need a resume, experience, or drug testing; veterans get preference; requires fingerprints and background checks
- Applicants are randomly called to begin working
- \$25/hour during training time
- The Census is important -- it influences our representation, and influences how much Federal money our state receives for the next 10 years (in the last decade it was \$3000+/person in Federal funding)
- Community question: Is responding to the census mandatory? Answer: legally, everyone is obliged to take the census; the census takers will just keep coming back
- Community question: How many people are being hired for this area? Answer: it is a function of how many people take the census on their own, versus how many need a census taker to come ask them to do it
- Rick Philips: He's been hired as a census taker. Noted that getting started once hired takes little extra time
- Community member: concerned about vehicles racing up and down 6th avenue; she's called the police about it, but hasn't gotten a response. Paul encouraged her just to keep calling the police. Donna is checking to see if speed bumps or some other solution can get on the CIP list.

NOTE: Welcome to Radhika, who arrived a bit late

### Legislative Reports:

- **Senator Bill Wielechowski:** Attended Birch's funeral today; they are quickly looking to fill his seat. The legislature cut \$380 million from the budget this year; the capital budget is \$84 million, which leverages Federal matches; they may review vetoes to rehabilitation beds, community patrol funds, homeless funds. Regarding the operating budget: we're still waiting to hear what else the Governor is going to restore from previous cuts; waiting to hear about the fate of Medicaid
  - Question by Dave: If Dunleavy gets hired by Trump, who would replace him?  
Answer: Kevin Meyer
  - Answer to Rick's previous question about Governor's consultants: the Governor's office has money appropriated to him
  - Question by Bob: What is your current stance regarding the \$3,000 PFD?  
Answer: Bill W. doesn't think it should be a fight between the PFD and services. We need an oil tax. Noted that when the new tax law went into place, we lost \$1.6 billion dollars
- **Senator Kathy Geissel:** She thinks we've been given a false choice between draconian cuts and a full PFD. She supports oil tax reform. Even without that reform, economists are projecting a 6.5 return for the next 10 years, which will cover robust public services

and a full dividend. She is also in support of following the statutory law for calculating the PFD

- Question by Bob: Do you have any details regarding the ferry system strike resolution? Are there going to be cuts to the ferry system? Answer: There already have been some cuts made by the legislature, and worse cuts were negotiated out. The legislature restored in the operating budget \$5 million more to support winter service
- **Representative Spohnholz:** Echoed much of what Bill said. Noting that we are in a battle over the size of government and the balance of power. Noted that the legislature's budget was significantly reduced even before the Governor's vetoes. Legislature restored about 85% of the cuts following his vetoes. Anticipates that tomorrow the Governor will again veto school bond forgiveness. For every \$100 million in cuts, we lose 1200 jobs -- public and private sector. So, we're talking about losing 5000 Alaskan jobs. Notes that Alaska has the highest threshold for overriding vetoes. House joint resolution 15 (JKT introduced; Spohnholz cosponsors), puts the veto override at 40/60 rather than 45/60. The Anchorage Caucus is having a meeting about homelessness tomorrow; talking about cutting funds to address homelessness and substance abuse
  - Question by Carla: Even though people say people are going to die over these cuts, why didn't she go to Wasilla? Answer: The presiding officers of the House and the Senate said to go to Juneau, and that was their duty
  - Question by Ken Fuller: How much are the senior benefits? How does that compare to the \$3000? Answer: They should get both

### **Assembly Report:**

**Assemblyman Dunbar** (also representing Pete): Re: raising the age to buy tobacco to 21 -- this passed in the Assembly. Re: the port -- Pacific Highland Marine out of Washington State will begin the construction of the petroleum terminal, as a first step in rebuilding and repairing the port. They've applied for some FEMA resiliency funds

- On Monday, the grand opening of the new APD headquarters is happening. The size of the sworn force has increased by 100. Still have the facility on Elmore, which is going to be used for centralized evidence storage
- Dunbar is now co-chair of the public safety committee and budget committee. The police department collected ~\$463,000 more in revenues this year; due partially to increased traffic enforcement
- We have a ~\$1.6 million deficit, but we are actually in the black except for our reserve funds, which can be attributed primarily to the earthquake and the cuts to revenue sharing. Expect to be paid back by FEMA. If FEMA doesn't pay it, then it will be added to the property tax goals
- We got \$419,000 more in room tax this year (money primarily from tourists)
- Question: Can people who aren't 21 sell cigarettes? Answer: Yes
- Rick P.: Thanks for your help with lighting in a local community park

- Question: Any updates regarding the lawsuit over the port? Answer: They are seeking about \$300 million in damages
- Question by Carla: The Muni has an attachment to the PFD, so when it's reduced, the Muni loses money. Do you think the 12 year exemption for construction in downtown played into the current deficit? Answer: No. There has been no new construction that has taken this exemption
- Question by Carla: Do we know what's going to happen with the Nordstrom space? Answer: No, not yet. (Think the Muni owns it.)
- Comment by Ken Fuller: There were uniforms at Minnesota and Northern Lights recently, and there were no panhandlers

**Assemblywoman Crystal Kennedy:** She's happy to come at any time, but she does have one other community council that meets on the same evenings.

- Noted that they passed an ordinance to enhance fire mitigation efforts. Gives the chief the authority to look at our higher risk areas and confiscate things from homeless camps that could be a fire hazard
- Keep an eye out for stormwater drainage utility. Gave the Muni authority to start a new utility, in order to address stormwater drainage issues
- Donna: noted that Crystal can always submit a written update report

**No one from the Mayor's office, school board, or library**

**FCC Report (Bob R.):** No report, as there was no meeting this month. Russian Jack has a memorandum of understanding with Uncle Herb's marijuana shop; there will be a meeting on Tues. Oct. 8

**Business:**

- John Redden (Great Northern Cannabis): He is looking for a shop location (retail) on Muldoon. Introducing himself, and looking forward to returning to the NECC when a site has been located
  - Forrest: Where do you currently operate your facility? Answer: 4th Ave and 1901 West Dimond. Also have a couple cultivation facilities around the city. All of their locations are in Anchorage
  - Stu: Will you advocate for onsite consumption? Answer: That's not what we're looking for at a shop on Muldoon
  - Carla: Thank you for being here. We're experiencing a real influx of cannabis owners, and appreciate meeting you
- Josh Boots: Not present
- Ken Fuller (Arcticorp): Presenting on plans for a storage facility at 6411 Debarr Road (roller rink)

- Carla: Last time you had two potential design options (one with retail space and one without). Have you gotten any closer? Answer: We don't know yet. We're still waiting on zoning decision
- Bill: You're asking for a B3 zoning -- what else could you do with B3 zoning? Answer: Housing, gas station, but warehouse space is about 50% of our business. Office space is the other 50%
- Donna: Made specific recommendations regarding buffers and fencing. Answer: Ken agreed with the recs
- Stu: Asked if anyone who lives near the site was here at the meeting. (No one answered.) Ken: We've collected signatures, and held a community event in June
- Community member: You administered a survey to neighbors asking about site design and other options? Answer: Yes. No one indicated interest in multi-family housing
- Donna made a motion to vote on the resolution; Charles seconded. Discussion: Donna -- noted that the area has long been zoned residential without much development; and once we go to commercial zoning, then we're making a big change that's difficult to change back
- Carla: Do you know what the need is for residential on the East side? (directed to Forrest) Forrest: We generally know that we have a housing shortage in Anchorage. And that we're seeing people move to the Valley because we aren't building affordable housing in Anchorage
- Selina: Will the units be accessible 24/7? Answer: That's not a typical demand, but it can be met
- Paul: What will the units look like? Answer: Flat, 20,000 heated. Yard space for vehicles as well
- Dave: Are you renovating the roller rink? Answer: No
- Vote: Motion passes (In favor of the resolution)

#### **Business Between NECC Board Members and Muni:**

- Liz received updates from Steve Rafuse about Phase II at Chanshtnu Muldoon Park
- Carla noted Kristi Wood's berry grant -- we'll ask her to present at a subsequent meeting
- Stu testified at the platting board meeting on behalf of the Trails Committee; only 5 members of the board were present;

**Approval of Previous Minutes (May-June):** Liz brought printed copies of minutes for review and approval; but online submission also required. Will send to FCC.

- Donna (motion to approve); Carla seconded
- Discussion: Selina: Selina's name needs to be spelled right. Correct Rob to Bob in June. Correct Selina's email address (replace with whatever I have in email chains)
- Motion passes.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Alcohol and Marijuana: Tues., Sep 10 meeting at the library -- special land use permit hearing for Treehouse
- Bylaws: No update
- CIP: No updates. Carla encouraged people to submit CIP requests to Donna as they arise
- Parks: Got a Mayor's Local Food Minigrant for plants. Classes at Barlett will make interpretive signs for the food forest. She will be meeting with the teacher this Saturday at 11am
- Picnic: Update given at beginning of agenda
- Trails: No update

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30pm