

NECC

Northeast Community Council General Meeting Minutes November 21, 2019

Call to order: 7:05

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of the Board

- **Board members present:** T'Shalla Baker, Rachel Boudreau, Charles England, Stu Grenier, Donna Mears, Selina Metoyer, Bob Reupke (FCC delegate), Liz Snyder
- **Board members absent:** Carla McConnell, Radhika Krishna

Fire Department Presentation (moved immediately to beginning of agenda at their request, to improve odds of a complete conversation before any emergency calls came in):

- Comment: I volunteer with Red Cross, and in Dec. they are starting a program to put in free smoke alarms. Great program.
- Question: Do you do car seat checks at Station 6? Answer: Yes, if the trained firefighters happen to be on duty when you come by. Also have a carseat hotline: 2675045
- Comment: Thank you for coming in the past and giving advice on testing fire extinguishers and choosing gloves. Also, there are camouflaged homeless camps in our neighborhoods. Can we contact you? Answer: We probably already know where they are. It's typically a police matter; but if they're burning something, we should also be involved. Firefighters don't have a legal authority to move camps.
- Comment: There was a possible murder in Muldoon a few months ago. Do you know about this? Answer: They would have called us only if there was a medical emergency.
- Question: What do you consider a fire problem at a homeless camp? Answer: If they are burning an open fire; if smoke is bothering people. Fires in the woods in town are never legal.
- Question: We heard that 67% of your calls are EMS. Is that true? Answer: That sounds low. We think closer to 75%.
- Question: Are you affected by budget cuts? Answer: We are doing rolling closings. Alternating fire stations will close. Big tenders carry water and keep the water flowing at a fire location. They will now come in from other stations that are operating at a given time.

- Question: How long is a shift? Answer: 24 hours. If they don't have enough people for a shift, then they will close that station as part of the rolling closures.
- Comment: The Assembly is not happy with the rolling closures, and is working on finding the money to stop the closures. Be sure to send your comments to the Assembly and Administration if you have thoughts.

Approval of the November meeting agenda:

- Motion to modify the agenda to move the traffic calming resolution (6th Avenue) to between line item 3 and 4; motion seconded; motion passes.
- Question: When was the resolution first presented? Answer: This is the first time; so we are not voting on it tonight.
- Donna moved to approve agenda; member seconded; agenda approved.

Treasurer's report (T'Shalla Baker):

- Current account balance is \$1,841.04.
- Stu comment: He found our cash jar at our previous facility and has brought here. A board member should collect tonight's donations to give to T'Shalla.

Executive Board report:

- In January there will be a potluck for the general meeting.
- Last board meeting did not have quorum, so just set the November general agenda

Community concerns:

- Carolyn Cliftt (aka Care Cliftt): Running for Senate District N. Anyone who lives south of Debarr and north of Northern Lights would be in District 27 and District 28. She is running on a petition; not a party primary. She has to collect 200 signatures to be able to run. If you give your signature, you don't have to vote for her. It would just get her on the ballot.
 - She was a teacher at Chester Valley Elementary for 10 years. It's an important district to her.
 - She brought index cards, and folks can leave any questions they might have for her.

Legislative reports:

- **Representative Pruitt:** Might be the last time we see him before the session starts. 1.9 billion dollars is expected revenue; budget was 1.4 billion dollars. We are facing the possibility of a fiscal challenge that still remains; we have not found a full solution to our budget problems. What he would love to see this year is more of a deliberative process that brings in multiple perspectives, and that it is done in a shorter time next year as

compared to last year. We need to address the enactment of HB 47. SB91 was a “piece of garbage”; it shouldn’t have been passed. It didn’t address recidivism or the driving causes -- mental health and drug crisis. This also parallels what we need to do with Corrections. We could open up the Palmer facility, but that will take time. And the Palmer location is more of a temporary fix.

- A friend of his that he went to school with was sent to prison out of state. It wasn’t done on a whim. There were things to take into account -- did he have people to visit with him? Recidivism is reduced by family visits. He didn’t have many family visits, so they decided to send him out.
- Comment: I think it’s terrible that Cordova doesn’t have a ferry service. Is there anything you can do about that? Answer: It is very costly to maintain a fleet -- and only four have been built in my (Pruitt’s) lifetime. The question is what do we do with the ferry system going forward? How do we fund this need? Some have proposed turning to a joint venture corporation. We could turn the southeast into a system that pays for itself. The western ferry system is different. One example that I’ve been supportive of is a north channel access, which would save about \$10 million in the first year of coming online.
- **Representative Spohnholz** (Ted rep): The Governor’s proposed FY 20-21 budget is coming out no later than Dec. 15. It will be interesting to see what he proposes, based on recent comments. Spohnholz is working with Von Imhof on a healthcare bill pertaining to the use of health data and shared quality metrics.:
- **Representative LeDoux**: The last time she was here, the community council talked about problems at East 6th. And there was a desire for a resolution to be placed on the NECC agenda. Also concerns near Ptarmigan Elementary. This has now been added to the resolution as well. After reviewing the resolution, she realizes that the Fire Department needs to be consulted about the installation of speed bumps or speed humps. The latter could be acceptable.
 - She just got back from Legislative Legal regarding a bill she will be introducing. The Attorney General (AG) would like to represent the Governor in any ethics complaints, and she does not think that is appropriate or a good way to spend tax dollars. Her bill would prevent the AG from being able to get involved in such complaints.
- **Senator Wielechowski**:
 - Local hire: He’s sent letters to legislators in support of local hire; a law that’s been on the books for 30 years with no problem.
 - Oil tax bill: He agrees with Rep. LeDoux that it is a critical thing to pass in the Legislature. He voted against SB 21, and since it passed we have not seen the revenue that was promised.
 - If you’re an S Corporation here in Alaska, you don’t pay any corporate income taxes. Hilcorp is such a corporation; and when they begin work in Alaska, they wouldn’t be paying a corporate tax. That’s not fair, and he’s introducing a bill to fix this.

- Question: Does it look like oil will be ~\$55-75/barrel for a while? Answer: Yes. This price is profitable in the Lower 48 with fracking.
- Question: Did the state ever consider buying BP, instead of Hilcorp? Answer: We have someone else here who can answer that better when it's their turn on the agenda.
- Question: What are the details associated with your S corp bill? Answer: \$500,000-\$1mil should be the limit, without adversely impacting our small businesses.
- **Senator Kathy Geissel:** Not present

Assembly Report (Peterson and Dunbar)

- Got good news last week: Got a \$25 million grant for the Port of Anchorage. The contract for next year is \$42 million. Still need to find funding for the 3rd phase of the work.
- The effort to overturn the plastic bag ban failed. But plastic bags can now be used at carryout restaurants.
- Confirmed a new Parks and Rec Director. Rand is the new Director. Born and raised here in Anchorage. A challenging department with over 300 employees.
- Passed the 2020 budget, with 20+ amendments. There is an increase in the budget, but it is balanced.
- Considering shortening the amount of time that people can have studded tires on their vehicles. Now you can install tires as early as the 15th of Sep., but we now have snow coming much later and damaging roads. Proposing moving the date to Oct. 1.
- Added 4 additional police officer positions. They are Park Ranger positions -- you can call the non-emergency number to contact the Park Rangers.
 - Question: The Fire Department talked about the rolling closures. Can you talk about the work you're doing to end that? Answer: We tried earlier in the year, but it got postponed because we couldn't find the money. Suggested looking at the marijuana taxes. The Fire Department is currently \$4 million over budget due to overtime -- much of this due to the MLK fire several months ago.
 - Question: Did we get any state or federal reimbursement? Answer: No. The fire didn't jump into those lands.
 - Question: There was an article in the paper about the Spenard marijuana owner who wants to loosen up the marijuana laws. Did that go anywhere? Answer: This owner is looking to limit competition, and wants to spread out the marijuana shops, and a way to do that is to loosen up the distance to schools and churches rule.
 - Question: Is the port lawsuit still in limbo? Answer: We're seeking \$300 million dollars from the Federal government. They were administering the

rebuild of the port. They should take some responsibility. We expect it to go to court within the first half of next year.

- Question: What is the status of the potential stormwater utility? What is the model going forward? Answer: We are assessing this right now; a study is being conducted. At least a year to a year and a half before any decisions are made.

Not Present: Mayor's Office, School Board, JBER, Muldoon Public Library

FCC Report (Bob Reupke)

- If a fire is put out at your home, it won't cost you anything, unless you live out of the coverage area.
- The FCC is looking to purchase insurance to cover all of the community councils. \$11,000 or more.
- The FCC is looking to do a training for community council leaders in Fall 2020.
- Budget of FCC is \$85,000.
- Felix Rivera gave an update at FCC meeting; much of which was covered by our Assembly reports earlier on the agenda.
- You can have property tax reductions if you are a senior or have a disability. If you feel you're paying too much in taxes, you can file an appeal. Bob brought information and left it on the table in the back
 - Question: We need a new council map, correct? Can the FCC provide us with a new one? Answer: Yes. Comment: Stu will follow up.

Presentations:

- **Fair Share Act (Brenna and Rick):**
 - Brenna is an oil and gas attorney. He was the transition chairman for the Walker team and he has been litigating oil and gas issues for decades. He says the most important fiscal thing in Alaska's modern history is that Alaska gets its fair share for the oil from our land. It's what has built modern Alaska and funded our schools, police departments, fire departments, etc. It's why we have a Permanent Fund (PF) and Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD). It's why in the past we've had meaningful capital budgets. We don't get our fair share anymore. We don't get close to our fair share. Our constitution says we should get maximum benefit. Hammond said we should get 33%. The last few fiscal years, we've gotten 16%. At \$60/barrel, we should be booming. In the past, the modern day equivalent of \$27/barrel built Alaska. We should be doing great at current prices.
 - He brought a handout.
 - There are 4 ways we get our fair share:
 - Royalties (12%). Not a tax. It's like a lease payment.
 - Production tax. This is the one that makes or breaks Alaska. They have paid -\$154 million/year. They have been awarded \$2

billion in credits -- Which is greater than the amount Alaska has collected under the production tax, property tax, and the corporate tax combined.

- Property tax
- Corporate income tax
 - SB21 is costing Alaska 1-1.5 billion per year
 - The Fair Share Act will raise \$1 billion, and still keep Alaska more than competitive
 - The Fair Share Act applies only to the major fields; not the smaller fields
 - Please contact NECC for copy of handout.

- **Muldoon Wall and Upkeep (Stu)**
 - The Muldoon wall is in bad shape and needs to be repaired. Damage from vehicles backing into it. Important to get the Muldoon Chamber of Commerce going so local businesses can get on board to fix it. Muldoon is a state road.
 - Comment: Judy wants to help, and will reach out to Stu.

- **Doon Danglers (Stu)**
 - Need help hanging the 40+ danglers; contact Stu to help or sign up. Stu's info is on agenda.

- **Tract 7 Development (Tamas)**
 - Presenting on plans to develop the lot next to Krispy Kreme
 - The project is ready to move forward, and we be put forward to the Planning and Zoning Corporation
 - A national corporation is looking to develop the site with drive thru restaurants; can't disclose
 - The plan has been idling since 2014
 - All of the related surrounding development is done, e.g., trails, bus stops
 - Question: What is the timeline? Answer: If everything goes as planned with approvals from the muni, it will go in front of Planning and Zoning by March 2020. Construction some time in 2020.

- **Chanshtnu Park Mural (James Temte and Liz Snyder)**
 - Murals are great for community engagement -- in the creation, in viewing, in spurring conversation
 - Recommends a painted mural; wheat paste can also be considered
 - He is happy to help us, and can also help us in connecting with the Alaska Mural Project.
 - Let Liz know if you want to join an ad hoc planning committee (contact info on agenda)

- **Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) (Donna)**
 - Donna makes a motion that her listed priorities are supported by the NECC
 - Motion for a friendly amendment so we can address old business; seconded, two abstentions
 - Question: Do we have a copy of our CIP list on our website? Answer: Believe so; and Donna has paper copies here tonight.

New Business

- **NECC committee organization**
 - Parks and Trails Committee is now combined
 - We now have a mural ad hoc committee
- **Liquor license renewals**
 - Target (store) sent some information about liquor sales at Target, as they want to put a package store at their Muldoon location.
 - There is a liquor license transfer from Yama Sushi -- they want to put a bar in the restaurant.
- **Resolution Opposing Onsite Smoking of Marijuana (Rachel Boudreau)**
 - Forrest: Do you want to discuss an error in the resolution; do you want to discuss now? Answer: Yes. Follow up: SB 63 says you can have onsite marijuana smoking. Rachel: Will revisit.
- **Introduction of resolution regarding traffic calming on East 6th Avenue (Kyle)**
 - Contact NECC board for copy of resolution
 - Donna: The speed signs are battery operated, and are not always charged. There are plans to improve the area this summer. Fliers were distributed this morning to let the community know (by HDL, a contractor hired by the Muni). HDL will join our February meeting to gather our input.
- **Stay tuned for a January potluck announcement**

Old Business

- **Business between NECC board and Municipality**
 - Stu talked with Muni about connecting homeless to shelter
 - Donna talked with Muni about traffic calming

Minutes approval:

- April (with suggested editing revisions), Sep., Oct. approved

Committee Reports:

- Bylaws: no update

- Parks and Trails: 5 member meeting today (6pm third Thursday)
 - Will ask the Muni for permanent gates at the baseball field/dog park.
 - Scenic Foothills Community Council passed a resolution regarding access to the base (which has been limited).
 - Drawing up a map for a trail connecting Glenn trail and Chester Creek (?)
- Community Patrol
 - Be careful on the roads; don't rubberneck
 - There has been an increase in thefts, motor thefts.

Move to adjourn. Meeting dismissed at 9:05