

**Northeast Community Council  
General Meeting, June 17, 2004  
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting was called to order by NECC President Josh Green at 7 p.m.

Minor corrections were made to the previous minutes and they were approved.

NECC recognized Sherry Spink for her past contributions as school representative and three former NECC board members: Rod McCoy, Terry Cummings and Bob Reupke.

Treasure Report: John Floyd reported that the NECC account balance stood at \$440.00 and reminded members present that a suggested donation of \$5.00 a year would be appreciated. Peggy Robinson informed the council that a previous account designated for Windsong Park improvements which contained approximately \$240.00 was closed and picnic tables were purchased.

Representative reports were given:

Anchorage Assembly member, Ken Stout, gave a summary of legislation in work to restrict the commercial use of pesticide spray. He stated that a vote on this issue was expected during the Anchorage Assembly meeting on Tuesday, June 22, 2004. Ken also spoke of legislation that would extend bar hours by half an hour to allow taxi's sufficient time to clear customers from drinking establishment without them having to wait in the parking area of bars. He stated that the legislation would forbid alcohol being served during this time period while customers were awaiting transportation.

Senator Guess spoke of the special session called by Governor Murkowski to consider legislation that helps close the gap between annual state spending and recurring revenue. Senator Guess stated that the following issues are planned for this session:

1. Market value spending limit on AK Permanent Dividend Fund
2. Tobacco Tax
3. A workers' compensation bill
4. Bond packages for needed transportation infrastructure

Senator Dyson greeted the council and expressed his support for the community

Senator Davis greeted the council and reminded members that her number is in the phone book and she was ready to support the concerns of the residents of Northeast Anchorage.

Representative Tom Anderson introduced his staff and provided a copy of his most recent newsletter that details his efforts to encourage a fix to the delays in the Turpin road project, and the need for traffic safety carts and speed bumps.

Representative Max Gruenberg also presented a news letter to the council and expressed his support to the community

**Community Reports:**

A representative from the Nunaka Valley Community Patrol spoke to the council about the increased need for community patrol participants due to increase in community park use by youth during the summer months. Tim Sullivan, Muldoon Community Center President, explained the changes to the Community Center taking place

and gave the monthly report on Weed & Seed. President Green asked that we postpone discussion on road construction updates since a major part of the night's agenda was dedicated to road issues. Some present asked to speak to specific road issue, however, so discussion on road status followed with an update on the Boundary Road street light being approved given by Ainslie Phillips. A council member (Don Barnhart) then expressed his displeasure with the continued lack of progress and handling of the Turpin Road project.

### **Business:**

#### Item (1) Speed bumps and smart carts:

An update on speed bumps and smart carts was given by President Green and Ron Slepecki and members of the community were asked to submit requests for placement of these safety devices to Board member Ainslie Phillips so they could be prioritized by the board and submitted to the city. Representative Anderson suggested the board forward these requests to him so he could help get a quicker from the city.

#### Item (2) Town Center Briefing:

Discussion related to the next step in the Town Center Project. Assembly has hired several consulting groups to study the feasibility of the plan which is presently seen as a viable plan. The contractor has been funded for \$800,000 to develop roads which should begin in late summer. A key house bill related to additional funds is stalled but may be approved during the special session called by the Governor. Additional funds have been allocated in the form of three grants totaling \$400,000 to restore the creek to support habitat. Other sources of funds are being sought through tax increment financing – which seeks to get a commitment from the city government to target expected tax revenue generated by development on the site to be dedicated to the Town Center project apart from any increase in tax burden to the existing community property owners. The potential expected revenue from such a program is in the 5 to 7 million dollar range.

The second DOWL Engineer firm then provided a briefing on the nature of proposed road construction and gave the Fairview section of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue as an example of the type of Town Center road design where landscaping plays a much larger part than in typical road construction.

#### Item (3) Proposed new Muldoon Middle School:

Carol Comeau, Superintendent of Anchorage School District then outlined the dire need for an additional school in the Northeast side of Anchorage to support the growing Muldoon area community. Following the presentation, Troy Karlock of the NECC board made a motion that the NECC support a request for a special election to be held NLT the general election on November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2004 for the purpose of seeking a ballot measure to fund the proposed new Muldoon Area Middle School (on the 30.49 acre site acquired by the Municipality of Anchorage in January 2003, located on Debarr near Muldoon Road designated the Town Center) in order to take advantage of the legislative program that reimburses 60 to 70 percent of the total cost of school construction projects that ends on December 31, 2004. The motion was seconded by Bob Roses.

The NECC Motion reads:

The NECC requests and strongly supports a special election to be held NLT November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2004 for the purpose of seeking a ballot measure to fund the construction of a new Muldoon Area Middle School in order to take advantage of the legislative program that reimburses 60 to 70 percent of the total cost of school construction projects that ends on December 31, 2004.

NECC Vote was as follows:

41 Supporting

0 Opposing

2 Abstained

#### Item (4) Chugach Electric locates and related rate changes:

President Green briefed the council of these changes which involve a significant drop in the number of free locates provided as a service to commercial contractors. He stated that the changes only apply to businesses and are not a change to utility locates available to private homeowners.

Item (5) Enstar Gas proposed rate changes:

President Green briefed the council of these changes based on communications he made with the utility.

Item (6) Long Range Transportation Plan:

No one was available to speak to this item.

Item (7) Whaler Bar noise from adjacent parking lot following closure of drinking establishment:

Carmel Nelson a resident petitioned the NECC to look into the continued noise problem following the closing of the Whaler Bar each night. She stated that there have been a number of fights in the adjacent parking lot over the last few weeks. Residents in this area have signed a petition presented to the NECC asking for help. President Green asked that the NECC be given time to contact the Whaler management and Police Department and seek representatives to speak to the nature and number of incidents and what actions are being taken to curve the noise and argumentive behavior by Whaler customers. NECC board member asked to table the discussion until representatives from these organizations were present. NECC vote was taken on motion.

NECC Vote to table item was as follows:

20 Supporting

11 Opposing

0 Abstained

Item (8) Status of dirt/peat pile located at the intersection of Haligan and Ptarmigan:

NECC Vice President stated that Mr. Baker the owner of the property was not interested in attending the NECC meeting. Representative Tom Anderson suggested that a work group be formed headed by NECC board member John Floyd to monitor status of this pile of dirt and compliance with regulations and report back to the NECC during the August meeting. Representative Anderson made the motion to form this work group to investigate this issue and report back to the NECC. The motion was seconded by Rick Reinhart.

NECC Vote was as follows:

33 Supporting

3 Opposing

1 Abstained

Item (9) Cellular Tower Issue:

Discussion was lead by President Green who informed the council that he had made an effort to contact ACS to get a company representative to speak to the council with no success. Senator Guess, who has a business affiliation with the firm stated that she would work to get a representative to brief the NECC on intent of the new proposed cellular installation at the existing tower site. NECC Secretary Ron Slepecki made a motion to postpone discussion on this issue until an ACS representative is present. Don Barnhart seconded the motion. Rod McCoy made an additional motion that the NECC oppose tower project until ACS representative speaks to the NECC. Ainslie Phillips seconded the motion.

NECC Vote on Rod McCoy's motion was as follows:

35 Supporting

4 Opposing

0 Abstained

NECC Vote on Ron Slepecki's motion was as follows:

32 Supporting

2 Opposing

4 Abstained

An NECC report on the Fort Rich fence issue was then presented by NECC Vice President Bill Wielechowski during which he made a motion that the NECC support a north – south corridor connecting the Fort Rich trail system to the Bicentennial trail system for public use. The motion was seconded by Stu Grenier.

NECC Vote was as follows:

32 Supporting  
0 Opposing  
1 Abstained

An additional motion was made by NECC Vice President Bill Wielechowski that the NECC support the incorporation of Anchorage trails section 12A west of the tank trail into section 14A. Motion was seconded by Ainslie Phillips.

NECC Vote was as follows:

22 Supporting  
12 Opposing  
3 Abstained

Ainslie Phillips then made a motion to thank Stu Grenier for his work on behalf of the community's parks. Motion was seconded by Rod McCoy. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion then ensued about a community concern by NECC member Fay Michael. The NECC member stated that there is a problem in the community with trash and she would like the NECC to look into the matter.

Motion was made by Shila Howe to extend meeting past 10 p.m. deadline in NECC by-laws to continue discussion on this issue. Motion was seconded by Rebecca Kasten.

NECC Vote was as follows:

17 Supporting  
15 Opposing

Discussion on the matter was terminated without any conclusions shortly after 10 p.m. for Community Center lock up as the community center manager asked members to vacate.