

NECC

Northeast Community Council General Meeting Minutes January 18, 2021

Call to order: 703

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of the Board

- **Board members present:** Donna, Rick, Rachel, Kyle
- **Board members absent:**
- Motion to approve agenda by Bob, second by Sandra; approved

Board Update

- **Treasurer's Report: \$3279.46**
- Open board seat available. Would like to appoint some at the February meeting. IF interested let the president or board members know, seat available until 5/22.
- Northeast Community Center donated \$1,500 to the NECC when they closed (not municipal fund, \$2000 went to Chansthsu Muldoon Park and about \$1500 to Muldoon library).
- February will be a candidate forum for the school board and mayoral race. Donna also mentioned sharing this with Government Hill CC so they can join.

FCC Update-Missed due to late recording

- Open seat on the assembly
- APD camera update
- Municipal Assessor spoke and Bob has more information if anyone would like about assessing.
- Al Mispugh is going to give a Zoom training for CC if anyone is interested.
- Margo Bellamy gave an update that K-6 grades will be opening. She also updated about the Covid vaccine that has been distributed through the ASD site.
- 26/34 delegates attended the meeting.
- FCC will renew liability insurance.

Community Concerns

- Karin Woofter brought up sidewalk concerns that she would like to see in their neighborhood west of Oklahoma.
 - Donna asked for further clarification and confirmed that it is on the CIP list.

Legislative Reports

- **Senator Wielechowski:**
 - Session started yesterday. Strict covid procedures in the building, testing every 3 days, daily questionnaires to ensure that people are not feeling sick or exposed. Heavy security around the building so far.

- Senate just organized yesterday, this is highly unusual, normally it happens quite quickly. People working across both party lines. Senate is 65% Republican organized.
 - Serving on the senate finance committee this year, meeting daily, has been on this the past 2 years. The biggest issue will be the budget issue and how to solve the dividend issue. Hearings will start on Wednesday with overviews of the budget of the state. Oil is about \$50 per barrel, that is up, also means paying about 60 million in tax credits to the oil companies. With new projects and ballot measure voted down, will need to figure out out.
 - Questions
 - Giving out two dividends-haven't seen the bill yet, expecting to see it tomorrow or day after. Permanent Fund is up to 72 or 73 billion, 7% rate of return for the next decade or so, about 5 billion in each year. The PFDs would come from the earnings reserve.
 - ANWR has a temporary halt on the leasing activities. Many of the big banks have said they will not loan to the big companies. Development of ANWR was expected to take about 13 years and cost the state about \$13 billion, and when it was started, there would be little kicked back to Alaska.
 - Overriding the veto, changing to $\frac{2}{3}$, what would it take (currently $\frac{3}{4}$). Would need an amendment to change the constitution. Would have to be passed by the legislature with a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote and then out to the people to pass with a simple majority vote.
 - How much money would we get with Biden's green plan, not sure but would expect to get several million.
 - SB 21-Tried a couple of times to repeal it, the hope is the legislature will fix it.
- **Representative Nelson:**
 - Vote for speaker pro temp and it failed (20-20) for Fairbanks rep. Having conversations with different individuals to figure this out.
 - **Representative Spohnholz:**
 - Capitol is closed to the public but is still open via call, email, livestream, testify telephonically. You can find it at AKLeg.gov.
 - Still not organized at a 20/20 standstill, this is the second time this has happened (2018, unorganized for a full month). Hoping to put together a coalition majority.
 - \$2 million fiscal gap, about 43% has been cut out of the unrestricted fund. Will need to pass a fiscal plan soon otherwise will run into some problems, using earning reserve to pay for the state budget (about 73% of the unrestricted). Bringing in a lot less revenue and less oil than previous years, PF is being spent down and would like to prevent that. Can protect the PF with a simple majority vote. Also thinks there needs to be a revenue measure passed.
 - Questions:

- Any more conversation about sales or income tax? Two income tax bills have been introduced. An analysis has been done and results indicated that 95% of people in Alaska would be better off with an income tax than a PFD reduction. State sales tax bill has not been introduced yet, many communities are hesitant as many have a local tax. A sales tax would allow Alaska to tax tourists, and an income tax could tax out of state workers (20% of the workforce). Neither type of tax would bring in more than the other, it would be about the rate of the sales tax, administrative fees would need to be taken into consideration. Won't be able to balance budget with taxes alone as the population is not that big, would need other measures.
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- **Representative Snyder:**
 - Aligned with several of the items that Wielechowski shared, let her know if you'd like to know more.
 - Staffers. Ari Wiggin and Aliana Sanget (chief of staff).
 - Because they are still getting organized, this is a great time to get in touch with her and talk about concerns.
 - Several pre-filed bills on AKLeg.
 - Issues around the Wal-Mart dumping and recycle bin, please let her know the update and she can make some calls.
 - Opportunity Zone grant, this could facilitate economic development. Not open at the moment nor in the future, but looking for other ways to facilitate economic development.
 - Microgrants have been released for food insecurity for individuals and organizations (Alaska/ns qualify). Need to submit a scoping application.

Assembly Report:

- **Assemblypersons Petersen and Dunbar:**
 - Kennedy:
 - 2021 Appraisal report is a wealth of information, if you want to know how your property is appraised this is where to learn more.
 - \$20-22 million shortfall in revenue this year (room tax, car rental tax, gas tax). Increase. But there was funding through the CARES act that help to supplement and shift items. Were able to pay the emergency responders that way. Increases in investment. Made about \$1 million more marijuana sales tax this year. Rental relief and utility relief coming through other funding.
 - APD Camera funding work session, Muni is looking at putting a new tax levy on the ballot this year to help pay for the cameras but really it's an IT infrastructure upgrade package (and car and body cameras). About a \$1.8 million funding need for this, work with Assemblywoman Allard and Black Caucus to find a way to fund this faster, reallocate other funds or move things around.

- Two pieces of legislation presented. The “open” seat in the assembly is not vacant, it is just that the area Davidson represents is not currently being served. Working on some things to try and address that.
 - Dunbar:
 - \$36 million is coming directly to the muni instead of through the state due to funding changes on the federal end. This will go towards rent and utility relief.
 - Clarified marijuana went up a couple hundred thousand, PFD garnishments also went up. If APD tech is upgraded, then it will be cut to early childhood. The process with the APD IT upgrade, it is similar to what the fire department did last year. It is similar to leasing the technology.
 - Voting on the bonds on Tuesday. APD did not want a bond, instead a tax levy, then they did request a bond for police card. Bond 2- has money for Chantshnu Muldoon Park, Russian Jack Springs Park, and the Northeast connector trail (if passed there will be a federal match for the connector trail). No significant road bonds for the NECC area, other than resurface boundary ave.
 - Board of equalization is looking for board members, **link** in chat.

Community Leadership Updates

- School board:
 - Working on new board goals for the school district after having 4 different community meetings and talking (improving reading for 3rd graders, increase math scores, make sure HS graduates are college, career and life ready). Also working within the guardrails of the planning. Committed to student wellness and wellbeing. Schools are back in session and for the most part going well, some staffing issues just due to Covid exposure or contact.
 - Lottery applications are open through March 18th if families are interested in doing so. There are virtual visitation sessions if families are interested.
 - Vaccinated over 6,000 people in 6 days at the ASD building site. Pop up rapid testing sites are available throughout the district.
- Library:
 - Community resource staff have been able to help individuals with higher needs to fill out PFDs. Muldoon Library will soon receive their own Community Resource staff in the fall time to help connect people to resources.
 - Front entrance has been redone, a permanent rug is now in place, lights are currently being replaced with LED's, new paint, lounge chairs, chair rails.
 - Starting to meet and plan a re-open at some point, no timeline at this point. Curbside pick up is still available.
 - Northeast Community Center donated about \$1,500 and it will be used toward purchasing new art for the library.

Presentations:

- Covid Vaccine
 - Access to the vaccine for individuals, especially those who may be harder to reach in our community (transportation, English language learners, technology barriers). There are several pools of vaccine available
 - Those distributed to the health department in the state
 - Tribal Health System-open to anyone 18+ with a “file” available at Southcentral Foundation
 - Veterans' Administration
 - Finding ways to reach deeper into the communities to neighbors and those around, there is likely more information coming from the Muni about vaccine updates.
 - A mailer should be sent out by the Muni to residents in multiple languages. The Muni site also has vaccine available in multiple languages for individuals
- Open board seat.
 - An appointment to be made in February, let a member know if you are interested. Need to have attended 3/6 meetings and a member of the area (business or resident).
- CIP List
 - State of Alaska list is submitted in January, at the moment there is not a lot of money available for projects (there has been more in the past for projects outside of basic upkeep/needs).
 - Senator Wielechowski shared that usually 90-125 million dollars have been set aside for projects that have been matched with federal grants. There has been a lot of talk about a general obligation bond (statewide bond for infrastructure needs at a low rate), usually good to take advantage of that. There might be a federal infrastructure package and if that is the case it is helpful to have a list of projects available to pull from. Representative Sphonholz also agreed.
 - Dave Ulmer asked about a land swap with JBER to have more trail access along the east side of Muldoon fence. Donna shared that you can also comment on the Anchorage Non-Motorized plan right now regarding the trails and CIP list.
- Traffic Calming Information
 - Updated list of projects on Beaver, Boston, Cherry, Debarr, E 6th, E 20th, Edward, Fredricks, Oklahoma. Cull list-Bolin, E 3rd, E 11th, Howard, Lori, Marge, Trafford, Yorkshire, Zappa.
 - List is attached to the agenda.
 - Donna compared the list to the CIP list, nothing on the cull list was on the CIP list.

New Business:

- On the agenda (Sam's Club, Samurai Sushi, Ding How, Carpentier's Cocktail Lounge, Cabin Tavern, Texas Roadhouse, Northern China, To Go Mark #55, Thai Village, Brown

Jug Whaler). Sam's Club is on there, oftentimes corporations will hold onto the license to keep renewing it.

- Hold Alcohol committee meeting about Sam's Club discussion.
- Carla McConnell brought up in the past that Carpentier's has had past complaints and wondering if there are any currently. There is a conditional protest for their license renewal, action has been taken already by building safety. Otherwise nothing noted.

Old Business:

Committees:

- Alcohol and Marijuana: Transfer of AK Treehouse Marijuana license solely to Josh Boots.
- Picnic: Likely will not have Spirit of Muldoon picnic, but some sort of spirit week.
- Parks and trails: Non-motorized plan is open and we need input from the community there. Bike lane project that has funds in it for something along Patterson. Donna and Stu working with PME on this.

Business conducted between NECC members and Muni:

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Motion to adjourn at 9:12 pm