

NECC

Northeast Community Council General Meeting Minutes April 15, 2021

Call to order: 706

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of the Board

- **Board members present:** Rachel, Donna Mears, Stu Grenier, Rick Phillips, Charles England, Selina Metoyer
- **Board members absent:**
- Motion to approve agenda; approved
- 30 participants at 7:56

Board Update

- **Treasurer's Report: \$3279.46**

FCC Update-

- Meet next week the third Wednesday of the month.
- Muni update, Chugach eclectic, school board, planning department, west anchorage disposal facility will give updates next week.
- Susan Klein will be retiring next month.
- Planning and Zoning May 3rd will be meeting

Community Concerns

- Carla McConnell-What does the old Baltazar Resolution.
- Rick Phillips-Is there an open comment period for the chancellor position? Lyn Franks said she would share more information

Legislative Reports

- **Senator Wielechowski:**
 - Finance committee taking a pause, first house, then senate does capital budget then back to house. Waiting for the house to send it back over.
 - HB 76 passed, caught up at the moment.
 - Waiting on federal infrastructure and recovery act monies are coming, not here yet. There is a debate on how to spend that
 - Middle College provisions-allows high school students to take college classes at no cost to be used in college, passed the senate.
 - Gary Stevens bill-Passed a bill requiring UA to share accreditation information.
 - Bill working on to have an online checkbook for online transparency, worst state in the nation in regard to transparency. A lot of bipartisan support.

- SR 1-put the PFD in the constitution. Allow for withdrawal of funds and dividend.
 - Stu Grenier asked about funds coming to condo homeowners as there are a number of condo homeowners in Muldoon, said he was taking notes and believes some funds should go directly to the people and would look into it.
 - Rick Phillips asked about an extended session and appropriating money. Not sure they have the votes to bring them back into special session.
 - Dave Ulmer asked about an \$81,000 moving bill, Senator said he was not sure what the state was going to do to recoup the money and that an individual has to work for the state for 2 years for moving expense.
 - SB 21-Pfast bill, just filed a lawsuit over as a state, cosigned on the bill and supports it.
- **Senator Holland**
 - A lot of difficulties over the disaster declaration bill in the senate.
 - SB 111-Read by 9/virtual learning/early learning hoping to have out of committee by tomorrow.
 - Will be at Steam Dot on Saturday 4-6 La Mex and then Krispy Kreme in the evening.
 - Contact him at 907-351-8277
- **Representative Nelson:**
 - Items passed out of the house. SJR 9 Jones Act-give a federal exemption to Alaska for cruise ships. Signed by Dunleavy a couple of weeks ago. SB70-Opioid overdose prevention, allows a standing order for the prescription drug naloxone. The Military Affairs Committee is meeting and looking at ways to bring more military families up here. HB 125-his bill will be heard in labor and commerce for preference military spouses. HJ16-honoring veterans in Alaska will be heard next week.
 - He also has more information for reporting spam/fraud to the federal government.
- **Representative Spohnholz:**
 - Budget should be back up in house finance this week. Looking at ways to get the funds appropriated from the American Rescue act.
 - Chairing the house Ways and Means, 3 purposes. Will meet during the session and then off session at least 1x a month.
 - Permanent fund is about 65% and oil is currently 23% of the budget.
 - HJR1-constitutionalize the POMV, heard about the impacts of economics on Alaska. AK Budget is available for the public to use and it seems people lean towards a sales or income tax. We have some of the lowest tax burden in the nation.
 - Shortage of infrastructure in Alaska, high energy costs here, the Biden bill presents a lot of opportunity for Alaska. Hearing about how to spend the money.
 - Rick Phillips shared that he feels the sales tax will impact the lower income bracket more than others. And asked about sales tax for those that already have

in a city. Rep Spohnholz shared that the sales tax would be layered in on top of that. An income tax “taxes” all, including those who are nonresidents working in Alaska, and a state sales tax would be added on top of a local sales tax.

- Bob Reupke asked about the budget deficit. \$700 million is the deficit at the moment, can use American Rescue Funds for this year and maybe next year.
- Jeff Garness asked to please consider small businesses when it comes to taxing.

- **Representative Snyder:**

- No one tax will fill the budget gap. Working across the aisle to work on the budget and address a number of issues (OCS, etc). Co-chair of Health and Social services committee.
- SB70-introduced and moved out of committee in a single day.
- First Responders-removed some redundancy.
- Heard about governors bill 105-waived minors
- HB 145-she introduced and has bipartisan support, updating statutes for pharmacists.
- HB 168-Providing the backing for an online submission option for various public assistance programs.
- Donna has been working with the office in regard to CIP list and projects.
- Jess Garness encouraged and asked about creating long term revenue.

Assembly Report:

- **Assemblypersons Petersen and Dunbar:**

- Public Safety committee meeting last week, wait times for 911 were up to 20 seconds, the average around the nation is 10 seconds, the most current time is about 8 seconds.
- Voted last night on a series of ordinances for solid waste services. \$26 million more than they think they need in the closure funds, it will remain in SWS and go towards construction projects. Leachate Evaporator will be built, currently the liquid (toxic) is dumped into pipes off Turpin. If a new one is built and it works, that will no longer happen nor will the trucks need to transport the liquid.
- Working on how to allocate the funding that is coming. \$50 million coming in and then the second amount will be similar next year. Supposed to get them by May 10th. That is the main thing the assembly has been working on the past few weekends.
- Started collecting Alcohol tax money recently, about 2.7 million, close to what the estimate was. Several other taxes were short (mainly tourist taxes).
- Emergency Declaration is extended until June 11th, this is not the EO. It gives the mayor power to give EO, but does not mandate it. There are a number of different metrics used to determine whether or not to lift orders (including vaccination rates or infection rates). Over 50% vaccinated with first shot, 16+ in Anchorage.

Community Leadership Updates

- JBER

- Looking to fill non appropriated jobs on base in various areas both part and full time and some with benefits. Call 907-552-4563.
 - Honorary Commander program and JBER is moving forward on base and is an opportunity to connect with the community on base. jber.pa@us.af.gov To find out non-appropriated fund jobs on JBER, contact NAF Human Resources at (907) 552-4563 or <https://jberlife.com/jobs>
 - For iSportsman support, call the JBER Conservation Law Enforcement Office at 552-8609.
 - For any beneficiaries that use JBER medical facilities, you can order/re-new prescriptions by texting "Get in line" to 1-855-856-5501; also there is a new JBER Pharmacy Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/JBERPharmacy/> with a QR code for prescription service and other information
 - Exercise Northern Edge, April 29 - May 14, large exercise with air, land and sea operations from north of Fairbanks to Gulf of Alaska to Cold Bay, expect increased aircraft traffic/noise, approximately 2,500 additional people on-base/in town for this event
 - Post Rd gate will be closed May 1 to June 30
 - Boniface gate will be closed July 1 to mid-August
 - Check out the JBER Facebook page for additional information <https://m.facebook.com/JBERAK/>
 - Any questions or concerns, contact me at joy.boston.2@us.af.mil, Joy Boston, Community Partnerships at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
 - 9th Army Band upcoming performances
 - May 14 -Voice of the Last Frontier Chorus spring session (virtual)
 - May 22 -Alaska VA ceremony to honor Women Veterans at the VA Hospital on N. Muldoon Rd
 - May 29 -City of Valdez Military Appreciation Weekend
 - May 31 -Municipality's Memorial Day Ceremony, 0930-1030 at Delaney Park Strip, between 9th Ave and 10th Ave and I St and L St
 - More info at their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/9thArmyBand>
- Library-It is open!
 - Anchorage School District
 - Budget is slow and steady at the moment. Have lost about 4,000 students this year, not sure what to expect in the coming year (some have stayed online, some moved to state programs, some to homeschooling). Will have a very robust school program this summer.
 - Board will vote on anti-racism policy on Tuesday night, different than non discrimination policy. Not so much about the curriculum but more so the policies and adults.
 - SB 111, this will help to level the playing field for students who are behind.

Presentations: None

New Business:

- NECC Board Seats
 - No nominations from the floor.
 - Current candidates are:
 - T'Shalla Baker-passed
 - Selina Metoyer-passed
 - Lyn Franks-passed
- Liquor License renewals: El Rodeo, no objections or questions noted.
- CIP list-meeting will be held on the 22nd on this Zoom link at 7 pm.
 - Rep Spohnholz shared that they put in a request for money for community patrol, lights, and other items for the areas.
 - Carla McConnell and Selina Metoyer requested a gate for the park.

Old Business:

- Roller Rink Rezone
 - Motion read and put forth by Donna
 - Second by Bob
 - Resolution as is.
 - In Favor-11
 - Opposed-0
 - Abstain -3

Committees:

- Parks and Trails
 - Discussed locations for places to remove the invasive species. Get it formally stated and send it along.
 - Need a place to store the Doon Dangers
 - Carla McConnell suggested talking to the Farmer's market.
 - Ken Fuller offered storage, 229-1178
- Picnic
 - Tentative reservation for June 12th, need a specific time to report.

Business conducted between NECC members and Muni: none to report

Motion to adjourn at 9:04 pm