

# Minutes\*

Northeast Community Council (NECC)

August 18, 2022 | 7pm

**Centennial Village- Multipurpose Room**

9131 Centennial Circle, Anchorage, AK 99504

\*NECC minutes are always taken by a volunteer board member

## **Board Members Present:**

**George Martinez**, President | **Lyn Franks**, Treasurer | **Ron Meehan**, Secretary | **Stu Grenier**, Member |  
**Selina Metoyer**, Member | **Bob Reupke**, FCC Delegate

## **George Martinez Calls Meeting to Order at 7:08PM**

32 people were present

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

## **Introduction of the Board**

## **Agenda Approval**

Donna Mears moves to approve the agenda through committee updates, Selina Metoyer seconds.

## **Treasurers Update**

Lyn Franks reports that we currently have \$2,057.68 in the bank account.

## **FCC Report**

Bob Reupke reports that the FCC didn't meet this month but that they will meet the third Wednesday of next month.

## **Community Concerns and Activities (opportunity for community members to share concerns, requests for the council, and upcoming needs/activities, 2 min each)**

**Stephen D. Ward:** I'm the acting president of the Alpine Condo Association, I'd like to say that we've actually mitigated some of the homeless that have been moving around our communities. I personally have been staying up until 3am almost every other night, personally overseeing this. Sometimes I'm a one man show. The Board and I have also been looking at ways to talk to other government agencies and trying to find a way to act on it instead of just talk. Talk is sometimes paperthin where action is marginally better. Other than that, it's just an action of where we go and also I believe Stu may have ideas of having a dog park in the area as well plus adding lighting and more security for the area. As well as getting more police assigned to the area until they are moved into more appropriate housing.

**Butch Sims:** I have been here about 30 years, and I am going to speak a little bit about the homeless, not a whole lot but a little bit. We're all aware that at the end of September they are going to be out of a place to go, the park is gonna close. Now we did get some good news yesterday from the assembly, they are in the process of finding someplace for these people to go. We cannot kick these people out in the cold, we can't, it's just..it's wrong. I mean the Mayor, he doesn't even come to meetings that he's been invited to. He was invited to the special meeting the Assembly had yesterday; nobody showed up from his office. He don't care. He's the one that put them where they're at to start with. In my opinion, he needs to be recalled, whether he likes it or not. He's not doing his job for the people, he has turned his back on them and he's turning his back on us if he kicks those people out in the cold. Now people can take it one way or the other, that's the way I feel about it. Thank you.

**Stu Grenier:** I just want to mention that Steve here, the first guy to come up, is an extraordinary individual. I saw him pushing the shopping carts back to Walmart and Fred Meyer back from Boundary Ave. I have a photo of him pushing three shopping carts on Muldoon Road that had been left along Centennial up by Boundary Ave. I just want to thank him for that, I saw it and I said my gosh. People like him encouraged us

to stay in the community in these very hard times. I did have to call the cops again a week ago- I'm a taker of a property on Boundary Avenue and I drove by and there is a guy in front of it trespassing and he's got a wheelbarrow and I came out and the first thing I knew to do was to start taking pictures. I said "you're on private property" and he started to argue, he had a grinder with him. It's clear in the photos, and he started to get out of the area quickly. I just kept snapping photos and then my other neighbor goes on Boundary Avenue, we caught him in the road and he got in a shouting match and then snuck back into the park. I called the police and they said, "well if he didn't break into the house we don't really have anything interesting to do," so there we are. We got people with grinders coming right onto our properties and looking for a place to plug them in. Anyhow, there was no police report filed but this is kind of the things that are happening with folks not respecting private property and walking right across our properties over and over again. I saw the same individual again, he changed his clothes and he was coming out of the park. They're very good at not getting caught.

**Carla McConnell:** I did bring up our agreement with Balthazar. I know it's on the agenda but it is different. One of the promises from Balthazar for years was that he would not sell cars on that lot nor park cars overnight. It was one of our big concerns when we were putting that park together- that we weren't going to have a huge car lot next door. I've noticed that's all gone out the window. I realize it is a general disagreement but I would like everybody to keep that in mind as we continue negotiating with Balthazar.

**George Martinez:** I do want to highlight the Spirit of Muldoon Picnic. I invited the folks from the American Legion to be here today so we can honor them and celebrate them and really just pause and clap for them for supporting the picnic and bringing that barbeque out and for always contributing in our community and being ready to stand up for the interest of our community. They couldn't be here today but I hope they can make it to our September meeting. I want to start us talking about our picnic earlier. We had a great picnic. I do want to shout them out and all of our other sponsors for our picnic. Just another announcement, we will continue to be here in September for next month.

#### **Legislative Reports (limit 3 min. each, including questions)**

**Rep Snyder:** During the interim there is a lot of work going on depending on what committees you are serving on and if you are running again. For me however, I did want to highlight that I am one of several individuals serving on the Governor's advisory council for opioid remediation. The short of it is that this is a council put together by the Governor where we are tasked with making recommendations to the administration on how opioid remediation funds that have come through national level lawsuits, how they can best be directed to meet Alaska's needs. So we are working on those recommendations, our next meeting is tomorrow where we'll go through the recommendations, we have some fine tuning to do, and I will report back at the next meeting on what those recommendations are. I will say if you are involved in any way in opioid remediation and you have ideas please do let me know and I will connect with you. Similarly, we have the Governor's task force on improving food security in the state, that's running through early fall and then HB298, which was my bill, will pick up where that leaves off in the Fall. I am chairing two committees on the Governor's task force- one focused on identifying research needs and data gaps that would help us make informed decisions on how we can grow more food here in the state. The other committee that I'll be chairing is focused on statutory regulations and limitations that have to do with food security- again if you have ideas on that I would love to hear from you. Lastly, I wanted to echo some of the sentiment we heard earlier about the houseless issue that we are facing here in the community. I would encourage everyone, this is primarily at the city level, the main decisions that are being made. If you have concerns please go beyond voicing them here in this community council, it's a great start but I encourage you to contact the Mayor's office and make sure they understand exactly your sentiments on the issue. I do have a lot of concerns about what's coming down the line as the weather turns cold. Last thing I want to say since I am not running again but I do have campaign funds leftover, one of the things that I can do with it is send them to community councils in my district. So that's exactly what I've done. I would like you to know that the Northeast Community Council and the other two community councils in my district will be receiving about \$5,000-\$6,000 here and we distribute them through FCC. It is entirely up to the council what you would like to do those funds but I do know that the houselessness issue is on the top of mind for many and just wanted to plant that little seed that that might be one avenue that you could direct those funds. Thank you.

**George Martinez:** I do want to say thank you Rep Snyder, for supporting the Federation of Community Councils and Northeast Community Council, we appreciate that. Thank you. Seeing that the other legislators are not here yet we will give them an opportunity if they pop in. We do know that there are conflicting community council meetings tonight so that may be the case there.

### Assembly Reports (limit 3 min. each, including questions)

**Pete Petersen:** At our meeting on the 9th we passed ARPA funding- 51.68 million dollars. The Mayor vetoed 17.5 million of that and that included the purchase, potential purchase of a hotel for 11.9 million. He actually vetoed that twice. That hotel, the reason we were buying that is that we are trying to find locations for the homeless to stay, winter is just around the corner. This property became potentially available and we have the funding available to do it.

**Forrest Dunbar:** Ya I'll just add a little bit and I'll say also that there are a couple community councils happening right now and that might be what held up the other members and actually we might have to step out at some point or at least I might have to. On the ARPA funds, the Assembly made a point to highlight four particular topics. This is a result of about 20 hours of meetings going back to May and the four primary topics were homelessness, affordable housing, child care, and economic development. Homelessness ended up getting the largest chunk of money- \$3.4 million for something called the guest house which is a hotel we are working with other organizations to purchase. So that an additional 130 homeless people aren't put out on the street, because that's where they currently are. We approved that a couple weeks ago and we are hoping that that gets done, it has to close by the end of this month. And then the \$12 million that Pete highlighted, it's not specified for any one hotel but we do know that the organizations we are working with- the Rasmussen Foundation and other organizations- they are particularly looking at the Aptel Hotel which is the hotel near the Northway Mall. It's actually a pretty new hotel but it just didn't really work economically, but they are quite nice units so that's one that people had their eye on. If that doesn't work out they can go and find another facility. The idea is that we are trying to find housing units so that people can leave Centennial Park and have a place to go. There's also an additional 200 people experiencing homelessness at the Aviator hotel and we have funding for the next two months there. We were worried that the Aviator was going to be completely unavailable to us. We found out at the homelessness meeting yesterday that there might be an opportunity to extend the Aviator- they want to remodel but they can do it in stages so they'll close 20-40 beds basically and leave the 160-180 beds and sort of do that in stages which is good because that could cause a crisis as well. On child care, that was our second largest appropriation, we dedicated \$8 million to be managed by an organization called Thread. Basically these are direct subsidies for child care providers. I think a lot of people don't realize, that was our second and third largest expense with the Cares Act as well, and we found out later from a number of these private healthcare providers, they were getting basically grants. They told us afterwards during the COVID, a number of child cares were to close had we not directly subsidized them. For those of you that maybe have young kids or know people that do, childcare is incredibly expensive in this city. It's also a workforce issue in addition to be a hardship on the parents. If parents can't find good affordable childcare they can't go back to work. So we've heard from businesses and the Chamber of Commerce that one of the main things driving our workforce shortage right now is a lack of childcare. So childcare was the second largest bucket that we put the money into. There were a bunch of other projects too, so if you have a specific project you want to ask about, happy to answer questions at the end.

**Pete Petersen:** We also passed an ordinance to support the charter that provides reasons to remove a Mayor for violating the public trust. There was a list of reasons. This was something that was sort of found out about accidentally upon reviewing minutes to previous meetings from a couple decades ago and found that they had created a way to remove school board members and assembly members but the charter commission also intended that there would be ways to remove a mayor as well. We followed up on that and passed that two meetings ago.

**Forrest Dunbar:** To be clear, it doesn't mean that anybody made a motion to remove the mayor, that didn't happen. Now there is a legal process to do so should he break the law or otherwise violate the public trust. It's a very intricate process that involves a hearing and a bunch of other things. It's not even as simple as impeachment proceedings for example. Today we had a budget committee meeting and had an update on the alcohol tax and a variety of other things but the good news is that we are about \$11 million in the black- we have a certain budget with certain revenue projections. Our revenues came in about \$11 million higher than we were expecting. The largest drivers of that were community assistance, which is a program from the state government, the legislature passed a larger community assistance grant for the whole state and we got a larger portion than we were expecting. The other big one that was surprising is rental car tax. Our rental car tax came out almost \$9 million dollars, almost twice as high as we were expecting. That's because, I don't know if any of you have tried to rent a car this summer but it is out of control to the point where people are using a service called Turo. Fortunately, about a year ago we passed a process to make sure that Turo folks also pay the rental car tax and because of that, we have gotten a lot of revenue. It's not just the quantity, there's actually sort of a shortage of vehicles. The price is just outrageous. Now fortunately most of us won't have to rent a car too often because we live here but visitors are apparently willing to pay

some astounding numbers and we get a percentage of it. With those funds, the flipside, probably know that fuel costs have gone up and our agencies, particularly the police department and public transit, and street maintenance, they require more money for fuel. They are asking for about \$3 million dollars in additional funding for fuel. The good thing is that we have more than enough. There are other things that we could probably use this funding for one is perhaps repairing the Sullivan Arena, has been discussed. The towing contract- so we heard from the chief of police last week that they have exhausted their towing contract. The towing contract is, when you see a derelict vehicle on the side of the road, the APD pays to have that removed if you report it. We have towed so many cars this year that we are out of money- but that is another I think useful way to spend this additional revenue.

**Pete Petersen:** I just have one more quick update. We had the homelessness committee meeting yesterday and we were informed that the navigation center is now estimated to be finished in mid-February. They said it might possibly be available for partial occupancy by around Thanksgiving but obviously by then we're going to be well into winter so that's why we feel it's important if we can possibly acquire hotels to find a place for the homeless to stay and get them out of the cold.

**Stu Grenier:** Thanks for your hard work guys, I understand this is a difficult time. Butch said in his commentary and questions, guys the Mayor said they would all be out July 31, now people are talking September 31 about the homeless in Centennial Park. Guys are we going to be looking at a bunch of people just shoved into the woods? And then the volunteers who live in the neighborhood are going to be going on Anchorage #works and reporting 15 or 50 homeless camps. We don't have high expectations, but please don't allow that to happen. Please find a place, even if it's Northway Mall, my gosh you could put thousands of people in there. So thank you, please make sure we don't have a situation where I have to let people sit on my couch.

**Pete Petersen:** We're doing what we can, when you provide funding that's usually a good start.

**Selina Metoyer:** I have a question about the towing. When a derelict car is towed the city pays for it. Do they attempt to get the owner of the car to pay for that tow?

**Forrest Dunbar:** You know Selina, that's an interesting question. I think the answer is yes but I'm not sure. I'll try to talk to the police department about that. I would assume that they can look them up based on their title and reach out to them because we also don't want to store the car. The car is impounded but we want the person to come retrieve it. I'll say there are two ways that cars get towed as well: there are the derelict vehicles that we tow that are like the junk vehicles. There are also vehicles that are towed for evidence. So the police department will tow a car for evidence and we have that evidence lot that is down Tudor and Elmore. In that case, they have enough for the evidence cars but they've run out of money for the derelict vehicles and that's what we hope to restore but you're specific question about sort of efforts they take to get ahold of the owner I'm not sure. I think they do because we are not interested in storing those vehicles.

**Selina Metoyer:** Stu brings up the Northway Mall which reminds me that the old market over there across from.. Sam's Club. That's vacant, is there any possibility of trying to work with that? That's a big facility.

**Forrest Dunbar:** Before they decided to start building at Tudor and Elmore, they explored a lot of different properties around the city and I believe that was one of the ones they investigated. I'm not sure why they concluded that it wasn't appropriate. It might've been too big, it might've been too expensive. I know the case with Northway Mall- it's both. Northway Mall is both too big and too expensive for us to purchase in that way. So we sort of focused on things we already owned. I don't know why they decided not to pursue Sam's Club but I know they at least looked at it.

**Butch Sims:** Do either one of you or does the council know what percentage the plans are today on the new building they are going to build?

**Forrest Dunbar:** They're at 95% but the project is already a couple million dollars over budget. You know, I didn't vote for that project and I won't vote for additional funding for that project. I do not think it is a well designed or well conceived project.

**Butch Sims:** Have they put it out the bid?

**Forrest Dunbar:** Ya, they've already bought the tent. The tent is on its way but they've got a lot more work to do to run utilities and prepare the land and do everything else. As Pete said, they are now saying mid to late February but they are hoping to open it to partial occupancy in November.

**Dave Ulmer:** I think the Sam's Club is a food bank, I don't know if it's still in there or not but food bank was there. The mayor said he has some secret plan and I think it's something to do with Bronsonville, but I'm not sure. Have you guys heard anything about a secret plan? How can he accuse the assembly of not working with him when he has all these secret plans and springs them on the Assembly without consulting you guys?

**George Martinez:** We're going to move forward. I do want to just get a point of clarification. Can you confirm that it was reported to you all during the Assembly meeting that a child was born in the park?

**Forrest Dunbar:** I have heard that but I don't remember if it was at the meeting.

**Pete Petersen:** I have heard it too, I don't know if it's been confirmed or not.

**Doug Tollerud:** A woman was pregnant, we called the emergency ambulance, came and picked her up, took her to the hospital, and she delivered at the hospital. The Salvation Army has been in there a month now but when we first went there the first thing that we did was remove families. So the reality is that we found a place for families. There were two families there with two week old children in there. We pretty much let everyone know that that was not acceptable, we moved them to McKinnell House which is downtown and we have put them in the program. So the reality of it is, there are lots of stories but what you are hearing is most of the time only half truths. She was born in a hospital, she was put in an ambulance, and she actually came back a few days later to just say hello to her family before received her home. McKinnell House processes all the families in the city, along with Claire House. So that gives you an idea. Lots of stories, I'm here to help.

**Community Leadership Updates as available (3 min each)** [JBER](#), [Mayor's Office](#), [Police Department](#), [Fire Department](#), [Parks & Recreation](#), [Muldoon Public Library](#), [School Board](#), [Community Patrol](#), other.

**Joy Boston, JBER:** I'm Community Partnerships, also the liaison at the base. I really just want to recap we had a terrific event with the Arctic Thunder open house at the end of July. Thank you for participating and seeing all the great shows. I know the weather was not what we asked for but that's how it goes sometimes, it's Alaska in the summertime. The one thing I do want to let folks know- and this is uper short notice because it's happening tomorrow. There is a hiring event that's tomorrow and I know that everybody's hiring but we do have a few special incentives on base. The hiring event is tomorrow from 10AM to 2PM at the Alaska Jobs Center on Eagle Street. That's Seward Highway and just south of Tudor, I think if I have that right. Anyway, the key is we would love to have folks come out and interview, folks that are qualified. They will be interviewed tomorrow. This can be a fast process for folks if they're looking for employment. One thing you mentioned about the childcare, I know Forrest did and I know that's an issue across town, but for folks who work on base they do get a priority childcare placement with a 15% discount on base. So that's hopefully a big incentive. If you know folks looking for work who have children, this could be a good fit for them. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have but that's really the only update I want to give at this time.

**Stu Grenier:** Thank you for getting that letter back to the council a few months ago for the request for the bike trail along the boundary connecting the Ship Creek Bridge with the Campbell Creek belt. That's given us a lot to work with and we will be working on a response and maybe we can find a way to make everybody happy. Thank you.

**Bob Reupke:** Ya I just want to thank the military for a great air show. It was terrific, and it didn't rain!

**Kelly Lessens, School Board:** Today was the first day of school for all of our kiddos except for kindergarten and pre-k, they start next week. It was a day of lots of excitement and I'll be frank, a lot of traffic. I saw it here in Anchorage, I know it exists elsewhere. The word of the week has been busing, I know that Dr. Bryantt has been very proactive and so have Assembly members and the mayor in trying to partner and try to come up with new drivers to help meet our needs to get our students where they need to be. We had a meeting Tuesday night in which Dr Bryantt shared that somewhere around 55 new drivers are coming online by the end of September. I know that he has had conversations with the Governor. I don't know much beyond that at this point. We have financial incentives to try to bring more bus drivers on board and then there's training that is involved. We can't just instantly push a switch and have them ready to go but I am kind of thinking by the end of September we are looking at a shift in our bus driver availability. The other big topic of conversation has been budget development for next school year. The Anchorage School District fiscal year starts at the beginning of July and ends at the beginning of June. We know that these federal relief dollars are going to expire and we are trying to work through now, way in advance of when we need to pass a budget in February, different solutions. I will be sharing my notes with Mr Martinez here after this via email- there's a great slideshow that was part of Tuesday afternoon's work session with a timeline. What I anticipate, the folks in the administration doing finance are going to be presenting the board with a series of options to help close a 60 something million dollar gap that we will be confronting next year. We are fine this year, we have federal dollars to help close the gap but it really is a structural deficit that goes back to fiscal year 18 when the legislature did not chose to inflation-proof what we call the base student allocation. We have had this ongoing structural deficit of \$10-12 million a year that has been masked really by one time funds. We've made some efficiencies and found some new revenues but really we've got a big hole and we

are going to be working in a very public way- not unlike the Superintendent search. There were surveys that went out and that input helped shape the board's priorities for the Superintendent. I will be eager to share opportunities to fill out those surveys and participate in those town halls when they come up- think about September-October for some of those events. Student nutrition, that's another area where we really if folks are wanting a way to participate and improve their community, we need cafeteria managers so that students won't have to rely on shelf stable meals. We need people to be able to serve and heat and prepare those foods. So there are financial incentives for school nutrition as well. Personally, I'm really excited looking forward to this wellness advisory committee. The committee has selected about five parents/guardians to participate in that process. I'm hopeful that by this December there will be something for the board to vote on and this is with respect to the policy that governs school nutrition and physical activity across the entire district. So things like recess and lunch and the availability of water, and things to really set our kids on a good path. Last night I couldn't make it, but there was a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Dr Etheldra Davis Fairview Elementary School. If you want to provide public comments and sign up ahead of time, our meetings are often on Tuesday, please do so by midnight the day before. That allows our secretary ample time to make sure everything is arranged. You can always come in and sign in, but if you want to sign up ahead of time that allows us to read anything before the meeting.

**Selina Metoyer:** The youth in Anchorage can ride the bus with their student IDs, right? Okay, and there is not people mover service to all schools? So, why can't the school board use people mover for the kids where bus service goes to the school and use the school buses for schools that don't have a people mover service? Seems like that would solve a problem, and I've never understood why in this city there is no bus service to all the schools. It just doesn't make sense to me. The buses are underutilized so there's plenty of space for kids to be on the bus.

**Kelly Lessens:** I think there were a lot of layers in that question. I know that the new Superintendent is interested in rethinking and better understanding the partnership with the municipality. My general understanding is that the district cannot rely on people mover for all the transportation needs, or even a lot of their transportation needs. We have 43,000 students who need transportation at peak times in the day and I don't think there is enough capacity if you were to reassign all those buses to meet those student needs in addition to the community needs. Maybe that's not answering your question directly but I know that that partnership for secondary students, for high school students, exists where areas that transit does reach communities, I think that there was some talk about maybe allowing middle school students to have access to if they don't currently. So I'm not an expert on the people mover partnership, but I can relay that question. There is a frequently asked question on the district busing page but I will get back to President Martinez with more information.

**Donna Mears, on behalf of Parks and Rec:** Our bridge at Chanshtnu Muldoon Park, there's movement on that if I got that timeline right. Also at Chanshtnu Muldoon Park we are getting ready for a ribbon cutting for the track with a tentative date set for August 30th. Once we get an invitation ready I will share that out on Facebook for folks to attend. Exciting new feature for our really amazing park that has so many great features in it. We were mostly talking about capital improvement projects, when I was speaking with her and there are two things at top of list for us- one of them is kind of new. The last phase of Chanshtnu Muldoon Park has been fulfilled by the state in the capital budget, so that funding is secure so we're going to move ahead and start evaluating neighborhood parks and seeing what opportunities there are, maybe focus on three parks or so. Maybe not huge upgrades but some stuff we can do to give those a little attention. There are some other mechanisms that might be more appropriate rather than a capital improvement. The trail connectivity, some of it is through municipal parks, but a lot of it is on our roadways. Those are two of our really big capital items and I got some feedback from that conversation.

**Dave Ulmer:** The bridge, that's the small bridge they're going to build to the middle? I think it's the small bridge but I'm not sure. Hopefully it'll be the big one but I doubt it.

**Donna Mears:** Well whichever one it is, there's funding for the other one coming.

**George Martinez:** I did get a text from Representative Spohnholz that said that they weren't feeling well so they're going to pass on the meeting so I sent them best wishes in the hope that they feel better. I have not seen Rep. Nelson on the line yet.

**Doug Tollerud, Salvation Army:** I think I shared with the city council a lot more than two minutes, I'll try to keep it short. I want you to know that the Salvation Army is in the park navigating people to services, that's what our responsibility is- it's not security, it's not the actual management of the park. Parks and Recreation is doing that and they're really doing a phenomenal job when you think of the cleanliness of the park, keeping the bathrooms working and everything else. I reported that as of yesterday, we had navigated more than 68 individuals into more permanent housing and into care facilities, the hotels. It seems like when we started with 38 and it went to 100, it bloomed to over 200 and that's when they abate other areas of the city they send them there so we can navigate them to services and that's what our role is and what we will

continue to do. We have talked to the mayor's office, even though it's exhausting to my staff, we don't have any additional staff and we are not on contract or receiving any money. We are doing this because we have a lot of programs in town including a treatment center and McKinnell which is a 16 unit family shelter. Last year we navigated over 400 families into permanent housing through McKinnell with our partner agencies. So, the work is being done but I'll tell you that they're coming out of the woods, that's the reality of it, and of course some are going back in because they feel comfortable there. I lived in the corner of Muldoon and the Glenn highway in that trailer park there, that was my first home. I was serving in the United States Military and my wife and I got married in 1978. So I lived right over here in the corner for a couple of years before I got out and went to school and then I went seminary. So the reality of it is I came back to Anchorage, I was the one who basically spearheaded McKinnell Hall, the children's program, and the new facilities there. I want you to know that we are going to continue to build and expand new facilities- I got a couple years before I retire. I'm retiring in Wasilla. I love Alaska. I love Anchorage. I love the life, and in that I want everybody to enjoy- even our folks who are having trouble right now. The key is that we can't blame anybody. The reality is that we have to do something for them to help them succeed and I think if we all work together- again, not blame each other. The reality of it is that we have to move people forward into wholeness, health, and hopefully happiness- I'm happy, hopefully you are. Because we are blessed, we got a roof over our heads, we've got plenty of food to eat, we've got plenty to drink- sometimes the wrong stuff. As our brothers and sisters know, but we have work to do and that's what the Salvation Army is doing- transitioning people out. Hopefully we will not move them out into more appropriate housing. So that's where we're at.

**Selina Metoyer:** If you want to donate clothes or whatever, is there a list of things you need?

**Doug Tollerud:** Ya if you go online you can find a list of things we need. Remember when we first started, we were removing mattresses and box springs and that stuff from the park and Parks and Recreation was doing that. So we have a list- sleeping bags, we just got a contribution of 100 sleeping bags. We occasionally quite often get tents. We have a connex there, it's open from 10AM to 5PM in the evening and we distribute sleeping bags, tents, and hygiene products from there. So we do it there but we ask people to bring it to A street where McKinnell House is because we have to triage a lot of the stuff. Microwaves, small refrigerators, and that stuff we don't need.

**George Martinez:** I have a question, the question is has there been an accurate census and how many folks are still in the park/

**Doug Tollerud:** Every morning we do a census and it's fluid- we had 185 this morning. We go around to every tent, we have volunteers by the way. If you want to volunteer to be a census taker, we have 16 volunteers that have volunteered 104 hours. We have nine of our staff that have done 675 hours and eight officers that have done 537 as of yesterday. So we put in well over a thousand hours of work there but every morning we take a census. We check in the tent, we check to make sure they are healthy and doing well. You'd be surprised that I would say 30% of the folks in there have motor homes. I mean these are people who are well connected and live in their motorhomes as well. So the reality is that the free park kind of backlashed on us too because people moved in- it's free! Bean's is doing an incredible job as they're feeding three meals a da, so that's the reality there right now.

**Stu Grenier:** This discussion came up on the Northeast Community Council Facebook page: are they allowed to keep firearms in their tents?

**Doug Tollerud:** That's not my area. We are not law enforcement. Remember that there's more to the stories than you hear. I couldn't tell you if they have guns. We have confiscated, the police department has confiscated a few. When we actually put the folks into the system sometimes warrants come up. It's hard to enforce, but everybody is doing their part with the census and the names. As we put them in the system, sometimes we get hits and we have a responsibility and an obligation to let the APD know. There's a lot of interesting folk that are there and so we help to navigate the homeless.

**Kristin Nielson:** Are folks checking for children every day?

**Doug Tollerud:** Every day, we go through every day with volunteers. We can share with you that there are no children in the camp. They go in McKinnell House immediately and they go in either Claire House. Those are the two big programs that work with families, families with children.

## **Committee Updates**

**Donna Mears, CIP:** Well a couple of big things are a half million dollars to finish Chanshtnu Muldoon Park. We also have another half million dollars for traffic calming and road improvements. Now this is a big deal, I know not everybody is used to numbers but that is the amount of money there is annually municipality wide in bonds just focused on our Northeast Community Council area. Pete and Forrest and I were working on things last winter again, some stuff up here on 11th and 12th court and they were like it's gotta be an



emergency to move stuff up the list and I was like ya but it's in year 6 that it's been in the CIP plan. It should keep moving up. This little bit of extra money here coming from the state is huge. This work we do on the capital improvement and projects list matters. It's going to matter even more because of federal infrastructure money. We're not going to be able to do projects that we can't say we need and that we don't plan for. So getting stuff in these transportation plans and whatever kind of plans is work that we need to be doing, identifying our parks and transportation projects. Anybody else have slow internet? It's the number one complaint of my 18 year old. I know there are a lot of problems in rural Alaska too but some of our infrastructure here too is aging, storm water issues, all sorts of things. This is the time of year to be looking at that. Our formal CIP process through the municipality is May-June but we need to be thinking about these things year round as we're driving around the community. Let me know, [mears@alaska.net](mailto:mears@alaska.net). We usually meet once or twice in the Spring to identify and refine those projects. When the legislature is in session usually January or so, legislators check in and say hey what's on your list. It's sort of a rolling process and we do all of the prioritization only once a year.

**George Martinez:** The role of community council in terms of advice, advising and creating priorities for our communities. This committee is critical so capital improvements and projects committee is the name. We will try to create a list of folks interested for Donna.

**Stu Grenier, Parks and Trails:** There were the big two meetings we had in Centennial Park over the homeless issue. That was a big one and we needed all hands on deck, thank you Mr. President for handling that. We're planning on having a meeting next Monday in Chanshtnu Muldoon Park at 7pm at the pavilion and we'll be talking. We'll have a copy of a letter we got from JBER about our request for a bike trail along the boundary from Ship Creek Bridge and would connect with the greenhouse to Campbell Creek. The letter says that the live fire range is just too close to our community to have that trail. Well we all know there's lots of money and we know they put a new road up to snow hawk valley which this council supported. The potential for putting a road from Ship Creek to Snow Hawk, we'll be talking about whether this council should support relocating the live fire zone so Anchorage can have a little motion. That's Monday at 7PM at the Chanshtnu Muldoon Park at the pavilion. Also, there is a weed warrior event on Saturday from 10AM to 2PM. We've had a lot of success from that group. Centennial Park has a few invasive trees, but only about 5% of what was originally there and they're spread out mostly over to the west of the campground. We need to help these guys all across Anchorage, a lot of people have neglected their parks. They haven't put their time into them. Also President Steve here from Alpine Village did mention that we are talking about suggesting that we have a dog park in Centennial park along Boundary. That's something that's been talked about.

**Selina Metoyer:** Is there an alternate location if there is pouring rain?

**Stu Grenier:** The weather lady says it should be good, Jackie is not perfect. I will post the meeting date in the Facebook Page and will post if there is a change. For me who lives next to Centennial Park, these are some of the darkest days we have ever seen-shootings, cutting across our properties, breaking into our homes.

**George Martinez, Community Art and Placemaking:** Beautification, community art projects, and also thinking of how we create a more vibrant neighborhood. The Anchorage Economic Development Corporation recently held their three year forecast and they focused on tourism, destination Anchorage, and trying to identify these really important resources all across town that can help amplify all we have to offer. Our farmer's markets was on the top of their list in terms of cool neighborhood attractions. They also highlighted the market at Peña, we affectionately call that the Hmong market. They highlighted the recreational facilities and resources like our campground. We do recognize that that campground is a really important recreational resource and has been for a long time. That was highlighted by these experts who came to tell us how great our city is and all the things we can work together on. East Anchorage is on the map and we hope that we are able to work through all the difficult things so we can continue to raise our community up for better things.

**Stu Grenier:** You might want to mention the decorative wall along Muldoon road. We keep bringing it up and it keeps slipping through. We've got people that can't control their vehicles.

**George Martinez:** That would fall to this committee, I will send a message for a coffee committee meeting. I would love to do that and chat about those types of projects. This is the wall that says Muldoonm that is constantly hit by vehicles and other things. It looks a little shabby but it could be a priority, there have been concerns about ownership and maintenance. So it is something that I do want to highlight and focus on. Another area of this committee I would like to focus on is transformational graffiti removal in our community. Something I have worked on in the downtown area and with some other communities on how to transform ugly and defaced walls into community engagement projects, working with our schools and being able to reclaim those spaces. I have one wall specifically in my mind- the Boundary wall just outside of the trailer



park where you grew up is constantly bombarded and is actually a lot of the dangerous symbols that often go on the wall outside including gang signs. I will share when that next meeting will happen as well

**Selina Metoyer:** Also the walls down both sides of Muldoon road from Debarr. The one outside of Ronnie 2, there is no wall there anymore at all. Lots of parts of those walls have been damaged but the one outside of Ronnie 2 is just completely gone. I think we had an agreement with the Muni or the state to maintain those walls.

**George Martinez:** We'll review all those and we'll also think about potential strategies to work with Muldoon businesses. I think there's some opportunities to work with the business communities to raise resources for beautifying our area.

### **Presentations (limit 3 min. each, unless otherwise note)**

#### **New Business**

**Marijuana Licenses:** No licenses were submitted to review this meeting.

**Liquor Licenses:** No licenses were submitted to review this meeting.

#### **Old Business (Limit 10 min/item including discussion)**

##### **[Baltazar replatting resolution](#)**

**George Martinez:** We heard earlier in our concerns just some comments about Balthazar that we should recall.

**Donna Mears:** You never know what projects are going to come up and what fits but if you don't talk about it you won't know. Transportation project there was a grant award we supported about a year ago- could be a good location for a local library. You never know what is going to click in the right place. Keep bringing up these projects

**Donna Mears motions to approve the resolution, Lyn Franks seconds.**

**Carla McConnell:** I love the way that this library thing is thrown in just to make it sound viable. The truth is that once again Balthazar has never come through on anything he has promised to do for us. In fact, even buildings he has, he did going around everything. If you all remember when he built it he didn't go through... I can tell you that if... throwing in the library is a pipe dream that is never going to happen. It's never going to happen. Whatever he is rezoning this for it is something completely for him, not for this community and we would be fools to support it. I really think so. The man has never come through on a single promise that he has made for this community council.

**Stu Grenier:** Balthazar has donated over \$500 to this council for our funds, not recently.

**Selina Metoyer:** We approved Balthazar having the tire place there, and he has just added on and on and on. He hasn't conformed to code or regulations, he was not supposed to have oil changes there and he did that so I for one am not willing to support it for those reasons. The \$500 was like 20 years ago when we first had the first picnic.

**Stephen D. Ward:** Who actually owns the lots?

**Donna Mears:** He owns all the lots and he is replotting them to make them more useful and to remove an easement.

**Carla McConnell:** I need to ask one more question. Donna, we should be able to answer this. If we were to accept this resolution, what are the chances that he could put a marijuana shop in that space?

**Donna Mears:** It depends on the zoning and I don't know what the parameters are there. I haven't looked at the distances to things and zoning, I haven't looked.

**Carla McConnell:** Would this make it easier?

**Donna Mears:** No idea.

**George Martinez:** Someone did post the question, it's close to the middle school with respect to marijuana. There are obviously concerns. Thank you for the question. Let's reread the resolution and then we'll call the question.

**The resolution passes with 8 yeas, 5 nays, and 6 abstentions.**

#### **Community Announcements**

**Selina Metoyer:** The Muldoon Farmers Market is open every Saturday through September and there is also live entertainment. Come out and get your fresh veggies.

### **Minutes Approval**

**Selina motions to approve May meeting minutes, Bill Oakes seconds.**

### **Public Notices**

**Donna Mears:** Starting a couple years ago the Royal Roller Rink property on Debarr was looking for a rezone. Where they're at now, all the rezoning is complete and they've got a major site plan review so we got that notice for PNZ commission. That is September 12 at 6:30PM for the PNZ. This does have an application that comes with it and I was able to find that online.

**Stu Grenier:** Chanshtnu still has spots available to get a plot for things like radishes. If you want to have a garden spot in Chanshtnu Muldoon Park make sure to sign up.

**George Martinez adjourns meeting at 8:58PM**

**Respectively submitted by,**

**Ron Meehan, Northeast Community Council Secretary**