

Minutes

Northeast Community Council (NECC)

September 15, 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 | **Judy Jessen**, Vice President | **Lyn Franks**, Treasurer | **Ron Meehan**, Secretary | **T'Shalla Baker**, Parliamentarian | **Donna Mears**, Member | **Stu Grenier**, Member | **Selina Metoyer**, Member | **Bob Reupke**, FCC Delegate | **Rick Phillips**, Member |

George Martinez Calls Meeting to Order at 7:01PM

38 people were present

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Roll Call

Minutes Approval: [August](#)

Selina Metoyer motions, **Donna Mears** seconds.

Treasurers Update

Lyn Franks reports 2,057.68 in the bank account.

FCC Report

Bob Reupke reports that the next FCC meeting will be held next Wednesday but that George will need to appoint someone to take over as he is going out of town for a week.

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

Stu Grenier: I hope this will be less than two minutes. This video from the Muldoon Library was brought to my attention, it's called the public. It's about a very cold night in Cincinnati when the homeless took over the public library and they just decided not to leave the library when it was 20 below and all the homeless shelters were full. I'm taking this back to the library tomorrow and hopefully we all get a chance at it before we have a possible similar situation. It's a very powerful movie. Also I did see the Tuesday Daily News front page about us having a problem with maybe not meeting the September 31 deadline in Centennial Park for having our homeless neighbors find a house, a shelter, or somewhere else to go. I'm very concerned about that. Myself and most of my neighbors have not been back in the park since it was repurposed so maybe we'll talk about that at a later point. I'm hoping that everyone can find shelter and we can get our park back. At least before winter and have a chance to clean it, because if they wait until snow falls then we're just going to have to look at a terrible terrible mess until May and that can be a problem too. This is a hard time in this needed area, my lifestyle has totally changed. I live here because of the park and now we can't use the park. I mentioned before that we have people in our front yard with things they have to remove locks, trespassing, things like that. Anyhow, hopefully a return to normalcy eventually.

Selina Metoyer: What's the name of the movie?

Stu Grenier: It's called public. I learned I shouldn't hand things around because if I lose it I buy it.

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

Forrest Dunbar: Because of reapportionment we now have the Airport Heights community council as well and their meeting is at the exact same day and the exact same time so I'm going to have to step out after this for that and give a report there.

Pete Petersen: Our meeting on August 23rd, the Assembly voted not to put the Mayor's idea of electing the City Clerk on the ballot. Myself, I voted against that. We have a professional clerk and if you elected someone you wouldn't know if they actually had the experience to do the job or not. The clerk does a lot of things besides running elections so I think having a professional person in there is the best way to go.

Forrest Dunbar: Speaking of things we did put on the ballot, the state passed a law that allowed us to raise the residential property tax exemption from \$50,000 to \$75,000. That passed just a few weeks ago. Myself, Ms. Quinn-Davidson, and Mr. Constant put forward an ordinance to effectuate that in Anchorage and that passed on Wednesday night 11-1. Two more important points: it will go to a vote to the people in April so it doesn't just become law, you have to vote for it to become law. You also have the 20% cap, we had our lawyers look into that. It turns out that's not a state law, that's a creation of the Anchorage code. So we are also increasing that to 40%. We kind of wanted to target that in such a way that the benefit went to a large number of households but also was concentrated in the households less than the median. If you have a home for up to \$800,000 you will get a tax cut but most of the tax benefit will be the people whose homes are below \$400,000. If someone has a \$100,000 condo for example, it will be about a 20% reduction in property tax exemption.

Pete Petersen: At our meeting earlier this week we postponed the funding for the Mayor's navigation center- had it actually come to vote on Tuesday it would have been voted down. The Mayor is actually fortunate that it was postponed. We are trying to give the administration some time to figure out something to do other than to use the Fairview and Spenard recreation centers as homeless shelters. He's already announced that he's not going to do that but we still have to figure out where we are actually going to house the people when Centennial Park closes. They've talked about using relocatables from the school district and we don't know where those relocatables would be located so that's another question we have received no answers for. This is an ongoing situation, it's fluid. We are checking our mail daily, email daily, to see if there are other updates coming out or not.

Forrest Dunbar: Today we had a budget finance committee hearing, we had another last week. The underlying point is that we have a revenue surplus in Anchorage. It's about \$8 million, \$7.9 million. It was slightly higher last month but because of the change in the stock market the cash pool dipped down a little bit. We have a surplus because the bed tax came in very strong and the rental car tax came in absurdly strong- more than twice what we were expecting, millions of dollars more than we were expecting. If you tried to rent a car in Anchorage over the summer then you know why- the prices were outrageous but apparently people were willing to pay it. We get a small percentage of that so the city is in good financial health. There were several requests made of the Assembly by the administration and constituents for additional spending they would like to see. Myself and Ms. Quinn-Davison put forward a resolution and discussed a day- the 27th or the 11th- that we use some of those surplus funds on certain priorities. The Mayor's office has said they need additional funds for fuel because of the high costs of gas this summer, particularly for the Anchorage police department and the transit department. As gas has come down in price, that need has also fallen but we still think the need is in the \$1-2 million range. Second, there might be some repairs for Sullivan Arena. But apparently, and we just learned this today, they are planning to open up the Sullivan Arena for ice hockey by the end of October even without funds for additional repairs. We need to get more details from the administration as to whether or not the Sullivan Arena actually needs repairs or just needs a deep clean and a fresh coat of paint. Another major request from the Anchorage Police Department was towing. They have spent their entire towing budget. So if you request a junk vehicle in your neighborhood to be towed, right now they cannot do it unless it's a piece of evidence. If it's just a nuisance then they can't do it. So we have dedicated \$300,000 to get them through the rest of the winter for towing.

Pete Petersen: Today we got an email this afternoon from the traffic department with a list of streets that are on the list for speed jumps. I didn't print that out but I just wanted to let everyone in the Northeast Community Council know that there were more streets in the Northeast Community Council area than anywhere else on the list. Streets will probably be getting some speed jumps if not by the end of the construction season then by some next year.

Forrest Dunbar: Last thing, we confirmed the new Budget Director Courtney Peterson who's been with the administration for a long time, for multiple administrations. We also confirmed our Park Director Michael Braniff. If any of you know Mike, he's a great guy. He's the guy that comes at the Farmer's Market if anybody accidentally leaves the gate unlocked- he was the guy that would come and unlock the gate for us and now he's the Director of Parks because he was actually doing very high level jobs he's just the kind of guy that gets his hands dirty and would come down on a Saturday morning and help us. I enthusiastically cast a vote for Michael Braniff as the new Park Director.

Barbara Bachmeir: I have a question for Pete, since you brought up the homeless shelter. So I've been following this situation involving the homeless matter. I have kind of stayed up to date with what information

had been put out. I will tell you that I favor the navigation center for a couple of reasons. One of them is that it's a one stop shop- people can be housed there, get services there, I frankly volunteered to come over and teach high school completion classes there. I just thought it was a really good way to solve a lot of the problem. Through the two year period, I know a mediator was brought in to bring resolution to some of the continuing problems that seem difficult to resolve. So then I read a quote in the paper from your colleague Felix Rivera who said that basically the Mayor's office had provided diddly squat as to the process and where we are. I just think that can't be right because I have been following, I have been watching from a distance and so I would like to know why did you vote to postpone the funding that was requested at the meeting on Tuesday?

Pete Petersen: The reason I voted to postpone was because the initial one year funding package was approved-and I voted against it back then and so did Forrest- but it passed by one vote. The only reason it passed at that meeting was because we put a clause in there that the Mayor had to use the Golden Lion hotel and develop it as a rehab center which was the reason that we purchased it almost a year and half ago and he's refused to do that. If you are going to have a navigation center, it would be nice to have a place to navigate them too and many of them need rehabilitation. So it makes perfect sense that if they would actually do that it would help a good number of people.

Selina Metoyer: The Mike you're speaking about for the new director- he provided his son and a couple of his friends to help at the Muldoon farmers market a few times.

Forrest Dunbar: He lives in East Anchorage in the Muldoon area.

Carla McConnell: Two things really quick: one of the things you might consider using the surplus on is preventative maintenance. It's something that is really lacking in the mini- i learned this on the budget advisory commission. Especially the planning and zoning commission has nothing for preventative maintenance so they are constantly fixing stuff rather than maintaining it, so think about that. Secondly, the tax break you voted in, how will you make up- is that one year or is that forever and how will you make up the revenue?

Forrest Dunbar: So there's no loss in revenue. Think about how the tax cap works in the residential tax exemption- there's one set amount of money and it's divided between parcels that are residential and commercial. So what happened was there was a large rise in the evaluation for homes, particularly in East Anchorage. Because the evaluations rose, the mill rate fell. For a lot of people, particularly seniors who owned homes in the \$200-300k range they saw their property taxes go up- pretty significantly. People that benefited from that were predominantly commercial properties. Commercial property evaluations went down while residential properties went up. So basically we are rebalancing- the property taxes shifted a percentage from commercial properties onto residents and we are shifting them from residents back to commercial properties. It is the same amount of tax to be collected.

Stu Grenier: Is there anything we can do to keep the relocatables from popping up in Centennial Park like homeless camps? I think we kind of bit the bullet for the neighborhood like big time like no one ever before. That's something if you can advise, I'm sure we can float a motion to the council or whatever. It's not just the park, it's all along the Muldoon downtown strip.

Forrest Dunbar: We have not received any information on where those will go. I would be very opposed to putting them in Centennial Park considering everything that just happened so I would agree with you. Kelly Lessens, who is a school board member, was speaking at a community council meeting last night and I heard her talk and she spoke with me directly about this- the Mayor's office has not gotten permission from the school district to use those. They sort of portrayed it as ya the school district is going to give those to us but it has to go through the school board- the school board hasn't had it come forward yet. So they have to vote on that first before we can think about using them and then we can think about where they can go. I'll say we got quite a few emails too where people are a little bit concerned about those facilities being safe. They lack certain things and I think it's far from settled that we will end up using them.

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

Bill Wielechowski: Bill Wielechowski, State Senator. The big issue in recent days is the budget, of course the budget was passed back in May. However, we are just getting a finalized budget back from the Governor with his vetoes. As far as this community goes we managed to get \$500k for Chanshtnu Muldoon Park, \$500k for Russian Jack pedestrian safety. It's not right in this district but right outside. \$50k for our community controls, there was some other funding for the Muldoon Library \$1.3 million and \$1.7 million for the Muldoon Curve which is actually one of the most dangerous stretches of road in Alaska. That was vetoed by the Governor. I did just receive that email that Forrest and Pete mentioned about traffic calming in the area and we had the municipality reach out to us and ask us for input and where we would like to see traffic calming and other projects, state and local projects- if you have ideas or things you would like to see

please contact me or any of your state legislators. Other things that are going on, I had a couple pieces of personal legislation, one that I had been working on for several years. An online checkbook- Alaska has been rated for the last several years as the worst state in the country for government transparency. Every other state has an online checkbook where you can go in and easily search and find out where state funds are being used. Alaska was actually the only state a couple years ago in the country that did not have one. That bill became law last week, it will take several weeks before it's actually up and running and usable to the public. That's one I am pretty proud of. Another small bill, a constituent asked me- a member of the libertarian party- we have this unusual way of how we recognize political parties in the state and what was happening was there were certain parties ping ponging around getting recognized and libertarian party was one. So that legislation just got passed today. As was mentioned earlier, Senate Bill 172 was a bill I filed to increase the property tax exemption and I filed that after the property tax appraisals came out. The research that we did found that the highest increases in property values occurred in East Anchorage- much higher than South Anchorage, Eagle River, and anywhere else in Anchorage. At the same time, you had commercial property values decrease so what was happening was that it was pushing a huge amount of property taxes onto East Anchorage residents. It will be voted on by voters in April in an attempt to try to balance. There was an audit that just came out around Cares Act funding, the state received over a billion dollars from the federal government in the Cares Act to spend as we wish. The Governor decided about \$290 million for grants to people. There was an audit on how that money was spent and what they found was that there were tens of millions of dollars that were inappropriately granted to people. About 6% of the funds went to commercial fishermen who didn't live in the State of Alaska, didn't have a physical address here, didn't have a mailing address here. There was a huge percentage that went to paying expenses that they were completely ineligible for. So it ended up being tens of millions of dollars of those funds that were inappropriately granted out. So the legislature is looking at how we can possibly recoup that or look at actions we can take to get that funding back. There was some federal legislation passed called the Inflation Reduction Act, I'm not sure it actually reduces inflation but some things it does is that it has a lot of rebates in there for things like dryers, things like solar panels, electric pumps. If you're looking to do renovations you might want to wait a little bit or at least look into it because you might be eligible for hundreds if not thousands of dollars in a rebate.

Stu Grenier: I heard from some of my neighbors that people's properties are being purchased by people who aren't actually going to live in them from way far away. It's looking like Anchorage is becoming a place to put your money in at a time when maybe banking isn't the safest thing from places like South America. I was just wondering if anyone has heard anything about this?

Bill Wielechowski: So this is actually a problem that you're seeing all over the country and it started about 10 or 15 years ago, the housing market crashed in 2008 or 2009. What happened was, a company called Blackrock, a multi-trillion dollar company, went in and started scooping up single family homes all across the country. It started flipping them and making huge profits. Real estate as you know has gone up enormously in recent years. Airbnb is another one. This is a fight that we are seeing playing out in many communities all across the country- people are being crowded out in cities because so many people are going in and buying Airbnbs and it's causing the rent and property values to go up for everybody else. People can't afford those houses. It's a debate that's happening all over the country, it's not just in Alaska. I suspect you're going to start seeing the discussion more. It's something we could talk about at the state level but it's probably more of a municipal level problem.

David Nelson: I'm the State Representative for House District 15 which is this side, East Anchorage and the air force side of JBER. A couple of points that I want to hit on- the PFD was just announced, it's 3284 that includes a PFD of 2634 and then a 650 energy rebate. That will be heading out on September 20 if you applied online or if you have a direct deposit. If you applied to receive a check in the mail or other ways that will be October 6. Another big piece that was just signed into law was Senate Bill 185 which is the minimum wage exemption act- currently under state law someone with special needs they were previously allowed to be paid under minimum wage which was ripe for abuse. Senator Micciche and Representative Tarr put out a bill to eliminate that exemption as well as to help lower some of the costs for residential summer camps and that was just recently signed into state law by the Governor.

Maya Narang, Rep Spohnholz Office: I'm Maya, I'm Representative Spohnholz's newest staff member. Initially it required equal pay for equal care in medicare reimbursement. The bill allowed for prescribing prescriptions in telehealth- which is a huge deal for rural Alaska. In August, the Governor signed into law the bill which deals with some licensing that allows for more flexibility for dental care in our state which is fantastic. The legislative budget and audit committee has met three different times since session- in their last meeting they released their single state end of the year state audit and we're seeing an increase in audit findings and the auditor believes this is mostly related to staff turnover and people retiring in government. So having open positions in government is going to be one of the biggest causes for having these up.

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](#), others.

Jim Curran, public library: I just want to go over some of the things that are happening at Muldoon Library. Some of you may remember senior Saturdays from last year, it was on hiatus this summer and they are returning Saturdays 11-1 through next summer most likely. This is for seniors to answer their immediate questions about community resources and traditional library services. We will sit down with them as long as it takes until 1- that's when folks have to go to lunch. So that's returning, we also have access to a new online learning platform, Northstar digital, it is a set of subdirected courses to teach digital literacy. Everything from basic computer skills to basic apps like word and excel, and also how to be safe online. This is not for people who are using zoom right now folks- it's for your very basic learners and we're focusing on seniors. We have a lot of people coming over who don't know the first thing about email so we're working with them. Community resources at Muldoon- we only have Ziona Brownlow here now as the only service provider and she's working with us only two days a week Wednesdays and Fridays in the afternoon providing services for our residents in need. She is also doing a once monthly event called Connect Muldoon to connect people with other service providers- Bean's Cafe was here yesterday to assist folks. We are also doing a very special by-monthly event for children and their adults. It's called good morning story time- all you parents and grandparents here that are in charge of the kids on Saturday mornings you can just sneak into the library an hour early at 10, this is open for people coming to story time though. They can come in to enjoy the program, stay to play. Our next one is on the 24th. Finally, staffing at Muldoon we are down one person- long time staff member Kyle Travis has gotten a promotion and he is now in Eagle River. I was very hopeful but we didn't get it with this hiring pool so we had to reopen just today. If you see us running around like chickens with our heads cut off that's why. Any questions, I will put our contact information in the chat. You know where to find us right behind Taco Bell on Muldoon Road.

Joy, JBER: It is September, welcome to September. For us at the air force it means it is our 75 birthday coming up on the 18th, so happy birthday to the United States Air Force. As always, we are hiring and there is going to be a rapid hiring event at JBER on Saturday, September 30 10AM-2PM. That's going to be on base. They're hiring mostly in areas of childcare, outdoor rec, they listed the golf course which I think may be a joke. Also information technology and lodging. If anybody needs a job or knows somebody that is looking, please come on out. It's at the Gold Rush Inn which is one of our lodging facilities at Building 655. Next up, folks may remember last year we talked about the air force recruiting service that offers a flight academy. This is a 3 week program in the summer of 2023, generally it is held in Florida. This is a completely free opportunity for high school students aged 16-18. They go down there and learn about aviation and they also get 15 hours of flight instruction. So, really great opportunity. There is no military commitment so please don't be afraid that this is air force recruiting service- they are trying to get folks interested but there's no commitment to the air force or the military in any way and it's completely free. That application is going to open up in October and it will be open for about two months. It's kind of a short window so if you know folks who are interested in that kind of thing, interested in aviation, need something to do for three weeks to do next summer- this is a good opportunity for them. The last thing I want to mention is the ASD challenges specifically with busing- this week an agreement that the base made with ASD to provide bus drivers went into effect. That's in effect for up to 90 days. These are military folks who have CDLs and are completely qualified to drive these buses. They are ASD buses but we are providing manpower and just trying to do what we can to help out, get kids to school, and keep the community running.

Roger Branson: I'm a long time advocate for consumers of mental health services. Three years ago, I went into full time advocacy for the folks I represent who are overly represented in homelessness and corrections. My attempts to get into corrections and do anything effective there have not been successful so far. About years ago I went full time into the homeless community, spending time with them. My specialty is to take coffee in the morning and just sit adjacent to the camp with empty cups. At the end of June when the Mayor opened the camp I stayed there mostly to provide a resource center for when emergencies happened and we have no shortage of those. Mr. Martinez was there when the police shooting broke out- it was mayhem. Right now the folks in camp, like most Alaskans, are getting ready for winter. This is a very seasonal, very topical thing. They do all the normal things like the rest of us. They are gathering up in groups, in units. They really need to have groups of 4-6 people just to hold their own campsites secure. Right now my personal estimate, I have been sharing this with policymakers is that there are 40-60 of them who would go into substance misuse treatment right now if it was a clear and viable path for them. The reason they don't do that, and we all make our own choices for our own reasons, the ones who are active addiction have a very complex and rich social network that allows them to survive on the streets and protect not just from who we perceive as the good guys but the bad guys as well. They will not go into treatment

individually, they will go in as groups. I would say there will be groups of 5 to 6 at a time going in as a quantum unit, coming out as a quantum unit. They are their own best supports. That's my thing right now other than that we have had a cold going through the camp- everybody is very sick and recovering. It appears to be nothing more than a common cold. There are folks in there who sincerely want to be decent citizens and they get tarnished by the few who are not at that point yet.

Stephen D. Ward: The September 30 date, I know that park gets awfully cold and I don't want to be picking people out of the ice. Is there a plan for them to move into safer enclosures whether it be legal or not?

Roger Branson: The whole planning process- my gosh we have covered this ground over and over and over again. We are doing it again in the emergency task force. It's the same buildings, the same options. What I'm frustrated about is that we are not addressing the needs of the individuals themselves. Like I said, they will make their own choices for their own reasons. If this winter is like the ones before, there is going to be at least 100-200 folks who are going to decide to camp outside all winter because that is the best choice they can make for themselves that they perceive- to winter outside as long as they can anyway. Trying to keep those folks together so no one falls through the cracks and try to keep them accountable and responsible for their actions has been my focus and will continue to be my focus.

Stephen D. Ward: There is a park trail that leads to the camp via basically here's boundary, here's the path, and here's the park. Has anyone else been trying to keep an eye on that? I've had reports of people placing rocks and other obstacles in that parkway at night and I have people that have been getting hurt. Is that being cleared up?

Roger Branson: The parks department has been placing some of those obstacles to keep vehicles and vehicular traffic from coming via alternate routes. Those trails have been problematic. I personally have advocated for an authorized or designated camp where they could coalesce into an intentional community which is a whole different critter because the accountability comes with it. The way that camp was set up was just a nightmare- we had talked and looked at- we would want a hard wall on the backside of it just to cut all that traffic off and have a safe spot where we can- where the campers can meet their needs and be safe and responsible at the same time.

Committee Updates (limit 2 min. each)

Donna Mears, CIP: Traffic calming is the number one thing people come to the community council with as far as projects is traffic calming. We've got state money coming to do that. That'll get affected through the municipality. Just this afternoon we got an update from the muni with a list of roads for traffic calming. There was also a list of roads that have been pulled because they did not meet the standards. We got the most on that list but there are still more the community has identified and it will take another step with the muni to make sure they get on the list. We have to do more follow up on that with CIP. Stu and I went around to our NECC parks with Nicolette from Parks and Recreation. Since we have the last bit of funding necessary for Chanshtsu we are turning the last little bit to some of our local parks. One of the streets we identified was Valley St and it was finished and we didn't even know it. It was a mess last spring and now it's fresh pavement so that was really good to see. Another project by Chester Valley Elementary that was supposed to happen at the intersection that was supposed to provide more safety and that didn't happen so more follow up is needed. As always, bring me capital improvement projects- anything that needs to get built or repaired is work that can be done through the CIP committee. We'll use May's list that the council approved when asked by the legislature unless something changes significantly and then we'll bring it back to the council. Please as we are thinking about building our community, we need to get those things on the list so they can happen. We have had some great successes in the last couple of years and we want to continue to build on that.

Stu Grenier, Parks and Trails: Donna and Nicolette and myself spent probably 3 hours walking and driving to all the parks in the Northeast Community Council area. I learned about the North Nanaca Park, which is a very nice big park that you often see south of Debarr by the church. We also stopped at Valley St Park, Windsong Park which is next to Chanshtshu Muldoon Park and looked at how overgrown things have got. Valley St Park which is between Muldoon Elementary and range trailer park- kids who went to Muldoon Elementary will remember that park- it's a beautiful park but no one is taking care of it, community needs to be reminded. We used to be able to call Greg Jacobson with community services and he would take care of it but he retired. This council should note that he was a wonderful person working with the community work services to help pick up trash in the parks. Now we have new people to work with. We also did go down Boundary Avenue on the southside of Centennial Park and looked at all the places where all the vehicles are driving in- probably 30 or 40 feet and we talked about putting boulders in there so that the vehicles can't hide which is where they like to do things at night. We went to South Nanaca Park and looked at all the wonderful things there- some wonderful parks. Donna and I had quite the list of possible fixes. What we need to do as a council and local people involved to help with the parks. They are not all in centennial park

and how we are going to keep a handle on these guys and keep these people from freezing to death, who knows. The next meeting will be posted on Facebook. The next meeting is not planned right now. They did have a special meeting at the Pavillion and had seven people show up and talked about the boundary trail effort- that was a big issue at the last meeting we had which we shared with the scenic foothills. That Community council was very involved with the ship creek trail with the Campbell creek rainbelt.

George Martinez: We are moving well with our time today so I'm going to take a little privilege to go back to someone that is on the line. I see Kelly Lessens is joining us but I also saw Kelli Toth is on the line from Solid Waste Services. Kelli is going to introduce herself and hopefully talk about some ways to interact with Solid Waste Services to start some initiatives in East Anchorage.

Kelli Toth: Good evening to everyone. I am the Recycling Coordinator for Solid Waste Services. I want to start off by acknowledging my predecessor who was the trailblazer for recycling in our community and that's Donna Mears. I had to acknowledge you- you have done so much for our city and you needed the recognition. I'm a lifelong Alaskan, born and raised here but I have been in this position for about a month and there is a lot I did not know about recycling and composting in our communities. So, I am by no means a subject expert and am thankful for Donna's guidance and support. There are three things I wanted to talk about. One is curbside recycling in the solid waste service area continues. You can reduce your garbage bill if you put more in your recycle bin. Then you have the opportunity to have a smaller can so that's one thing. The other is that the curbside composting program is continuing and if you are in our service area you can sign up for curbside composting which you can do until September 30. We will continue collecting curbside organics until the end of October when things freeze and then it's difficult to empty the carts. Thirdly is public recycling- bringing recycling to public areas- I like to work with people, I like to collaborate and learn and brainstorm ways we can do some recycling. I learned last week that cardboard is taking up a lot of the airspace in our landfill- we have about 50 years left of life in our landfill and it is getting filled with cardboard. By separating cardboard it can go straight to a paper mill. Two items that are really big hot ticket items that we should be concentrating on for recycling are cardboard and aluminum cans because if we separate those, those items can go straight to the smelter or the paper mill. I was at a utility meeting I believe the second day I was there with some of the Assembly members and I was asked about the recycling center at East High School. Unfortunately, that area became a de facto transfer station where folks were bringing unwanted basic trash instead of recycling and so we were asked to remove the entire station. I'm thinking, it's not that there isn't demand for it, it just needs to be managed differently. I had the pleasure of meeting George at the Chanshtnu opening park ribbon cutting ceremony and we started talking about perhaps doing an event together- what are your thoughts, what are your concerns, I want to hear from you. I have recycling trailers and we can bring them to a location if folks are interested in helping.

George Martinez: I think we have a critical mass of a core group of people that are interested in forming an ad hoc committee so we will follow up on that. There was a question about plastic trays from fast food restaurants. We will try to get good information offline, what's possible, and how we can better inform ourselves.

Kelly Toth: If folks are interested in a presentation I am up for that too.

Kelly Lessens: I guess I will continue with being the bearer of bad news. Maybe there is a silver lining, as you may have heard, the district has already started to plan for the budget for the 2023-2024 school year. We are responsible for passing a balanced budget around the end of February and then it will go before the Assembly. To get to that balanced budget we need to confront a reality that is really 6 or 7 years in the making and that is that we have flat funding in what's called the base student allocation or BSA since the 2016-2017 school year. That number hasn't changed even as costs for paper, for heat, for glass, for diesel, for all the things that make our schools run have all increased. We've also lost almost 5,000 students for nearly a decade, really the decline started in 2013 and then. We had lost about 2,000 students before the COVID disruption and about 3,000 students after- about 5,000 total. Flat funding, fewer students, inflationary drivers have amounted to a substantial ongoing deficit and that exists right now. The district has that deficit this year. However, that has been masked by one time federal funding. I know we are back filling more than 50 million dollars from federal funds to pay for teachers this year for example. That fiscal cliff is already here, it's just that federal funds will expire. So that is what the district is preparing for right now. You are probably starting to see headlines about some of the difficult conversations we have started to have. We aren't going to be making any decisions this fall but we are getting information. The size and the scope of the deficit, we are going to be presented with more than 68 million dollars in options and then it will be our fairly terrible job to listen to community members and heed the advice of thoughtful administrators and listen to our students and figure out how we are going to make ends meet. Here's the silver lining: we received an email from a parent last week- the district sent out a survey and it's on this website. It's on asdk12.org/fy24. That's like a budget homepage as we are grappling with this situation. There should be a survey up at the top. Anyway, this disgruntled parent who was keen to support particular programs said "well I'll take your survey but what else can I do right now." I really thought about that, what else can community members do

at this moment. I think the answer lies in the fact that the elections are coming up statewide this November. I encourage you, if you care about education and funding, the services and support and programming that we offer- vote for the candidates that you think will serve that need the best. That was my best answer to that individual. I think there's really an opportunity to raise awareness, we have 59 out of 60 seats in the legislature that are up for election. The gubernatorial race is open. I think it matters if community members say education matters, the BSA matters, adjusting the state formula also matters. We are going to be talking about closing schools and nobody wants that school to be in their backyard. That's my terrible update. There is a silver lining because I do think that we as a community can take action so I encourage you to find what's important to you. I think there will be additional townhalls the board meets every two weeks. We have a work session at 4PM on those Tuesdays. Our next one is next week is Tuesday the 20th.

Stu Grenier: About four years ago they were talking about Central Middle School and that might get closer. Now we've lost 5,000 more students and we're looking for a place to house homeless people in the winter. Could that discussion please happen somewhere?

George Martinez: It's not a question, more of a statement and recommendation that the school board members consider those buildings as part of the alternative to homeless response. The signal is terrible but you should put your response in the chat. I did want to acknowledge that the President of the Scenic Foothills Community Council is with us today, Daniel Cliff, the Executive Board of our Community Council went to their last Community Council meeting in solidarity. We continue to have a strong East Anchorage alignment of the values that are important to us and so we thank Daniel for being with us today as well. Placemaking committee- I have a question for Stu. When do we start getting creative with the dangle hangers? That is the placemaking opportunity for people to get involved in making Muldoon look really cool and beautiful during the winter.

Stu Grenier: I'll start this conversation with a couple statements about the Muldoon wall. That's the decorative wall on Muldoon Road that looks like a scene from Kelly's heroes. It has been knocked over many times- thanks to Senator Wielechowski. He put me in contact with one of his aides who put me in contact with someone with the state. It's a state thing, it's not a municipal thing. So it has taken us this long to get anything on that. The guy made the statement that they had never once fixed the wall since they put it up. Who's been fixing the wall? Somebody's been putting something together. We have some people who are responsible for it now. We probably need to have a whole new committee just for that. As for the danglers, thanks to the folks who lend us the storage space at the Park Lane storage in Mountain View- we have about 42 danglers of the white balls and we hang them from the green lampposts in downtown Muldoon from Debarr to Kavas restaurant on Boundary on both sides. We usually get them up before Thanksgiving. If you want to get involved let me know and watch the Facebook page.

George Martinez: I do have an update from Jenny Lang who chairs the Alcohol and Marijuana committee and the message is simple: We received a letter from the municipality sorted by community councils that highlight the businesses that will be renewing their liquor licenses this year. The clerk's office is required to notify all community councils which businesses will be renewing liquor licenses in their boundaries. To comply with the code the clerk's office has attached the spreadsheet of 2023-2024 liquor licenses which are anticipated to submit renewals sorted by community councils. I will read the names of the ones just for the sake of the public record. We will also post this along with the minutes for this meeting so folks can take a look at this as well. If any of these businesses rings a bell or raises concerns please let us know.

State House & Senate Candidate Introductions -limit 2 min. each

Löki Gale Tobin: My name is Löki Gale Tobin. I am running for the Senate District I, which now includes a part of northeast Muldoon, so coming down to Duben St. I am very proud to say I lived on Duben during my years attending the University of Alaska, Anchorage. I also lifeguarded at Bartlett, at 6AM. So for all of those that tried to get there to do morning laps and I wasn't there I am very sorry- I am not a morning person. I am very proud to be running in this seat- I worked for Senator Begich- so for the last three years, before that I worked in fundraising for the Anchorage Museum and the Alaska Community Foundation. I'm originally from Nome, Alaska where I was born and raised. I'm very proud to say that I'm not only a UAA graduate but I'm also a UAF graduate and I'm also pursuing a PHD at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks in indigenous studies. So I'm very excited to meet all of you, please come talk to me, I love to meet new neighbors. I will share my website. It is lokitobinforalaska.com

Cliff Grog: I'm Cliff Grog, I'm a lifelong Alaskan, I'm a former prosecutor, I'm a co-creator of the permanent fund dividend, I'm a performer with results, and I'm a champion of small business. I am running in a district that runs across north Anchorage all the way from Cook Inlet to the landfill and as Löki mentioned, has a portion of north Muldoon down to Duben Avenue. I want to help fight crime and use my background as a prosecutor to do that. By that I mean not only property crime like theft and burglary, but also some crimes against the person that Alaska has terribly high rates of. I want to put Alaska's fiscal house in order. There's

been some good work done on that over the years, there's more work that needs to be done to protect the permanent fund, grow the permanent fund dividend, and also make sure that we continue to have good schools, good roads, and good public safety. I want to create jobs, help get some state money here to help fight homelessness. There are four ways to learn more about me: talk to me here, would love to talk to you. I'm also doing an event with Löki Tobin to honor POW, MIA, and the air force birthday at Kavas from 11 to 1PM on Sunday. You can also talk to me at a small business council meeting my campaign is doing on Saturday, September 26th. My website is cliffgroh4alaska.com.

Bill Wielechowski: I think I know many of you in this room. I have a degree in Finance, I have a degree in law. I've been an attorney for about 30 years. I got my start with this Community Council, I never had any desire to run for office, I just started attending community councils because there were things happening in the neighborhood that I wasn't real happy with and I was just amazed that you could simply come in and raise your hand and have a voice in direct democracy. That started a long journey, they asked me to be on the board, they asked me to be president, they asked me to be on the town center committee. Conventionally, I saw this community wasn't getting fairly represented. Then I got the Anchorage Planning and Zoning Commission and tried to steer some more responsible development in this area and stop the creation of huge overcrowding and less services in this district. Just trying to get the things that we deserve. In the Senate, I served this community for 16 years. Currently I'm on the Finance Committee and I've worked with many of you to get I think some good things done for the community. The fire station, Begich Middle School, Centennial Park, Muldoon Park, helped to start the Muldoon Farmers Market, lots of new roads, Anchorage Port- we got a couple hundred million dollars for this last year. Some things I'm proud of and I would be honored to continue to serve the community.

Andrew Gray: I'm Andrew Gray, I'm running for Alaska House District 20 which is the UMed district. So I just have the southwest portion of the Northeast Community Council. I too, like Senator Wielechowski, am a community council person. I've been on the board of the Campbell Park Community Council for a number of years. Due to some issues with housing and homelessness I started advocating for that community council, going to lots of Assembly meetings. What I learned is that the solution for homelessness is housing, and we don't have enough of it. We don't have enough in Fairbanks, we don't have enough in Juneau, we don't have enough in Nome, we don't have enough in rural Alaska, and we don't have enough in Anchorage. The housing we do have in Anchorage is aging. 70% of our homes were built prior to 1990, in the 1970s we built over 32,000 new homes, in the last decade we built less than 5,000. That's a huge problem. If you want to buy one of those new homes, the average cost is over \$421,000. That's more than my family can afford and it's more than a lot in my district can afford. Over the last 20 years the state has pretty much flat funded our critical housing organizations, in spite of the increased cost of transporting materials, the increased cost of materials, and inflation. We must fund our housing organizations. We must incentivize affordable home construction and that's my priority. A little bit about my bio- I'm a dad of a 9 year old in the Anchorage School District, I'm a veteran, I'm a healthcare provider for the last 5 years at the Alaska VA, and you can find out more about me at andrewgrayak.com.

Geran Tarr: Good evening everyone, I am Geran Tarr. Nice to see everyone. I have been serving in the State House for five terms, I'm coming into the end of my 10th year. Very passionate about public service. Like the prior to individuals, I got my start at the community council level. The district I've been representing has been Airport Heights, Russian Jack, and Mountain View. I started at the Airport Heights Community Council at that neighborhood level involvement that all of you are clearly involved in too which is awesome. I love to come to the community council meetings so thank you for giving us the opportunity to come in person and see you. Some of my priorities have been public safety- we've done a lot in public safety that I've been very proud of. Addressing issues like domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual assault/ you may have seen we passed an update this year to our consent statute this was called a gargantuan step forward in our public safety laws. It is a broken law that had been on the books for more than 40 years. I was the Co-Chair of the House Resource Committee, I'm currently the Chair of the Fisheries Committee. I actually have a science background, professionally I teach at the University, I've been teaching there since 1999 in the biology department. I've worked a lot with our students trying to get them into the healthcare workforce which is in huge demand right now. I'm very excited about the opportunity for this new Senate district to be more involved in what's happening at the university and making sure we are taking advantage of those opportunities and stop the brain drain that's happening right now so that young people don't want to leave right now thinking we're not giving them opportunities for the future. So public safety, education, and fighting for the working class. It's very much a working class district- it's been the lowest income district in the state and I'm interested in opportunities for all working families and making sure that we provide those for all of you so that again your kids will want to stay here. I think I've been kind of joking but really my legislative specialty is legislative bipartisanship- in the time that I've been in the legislature I've been able to pass more than 25 bills- which is quite a lot but it's because of working in a bipartisan way. I'm so happy to share with all of you and would love the chance to talk to you if you have the time tonight.

Forrest Wolfe: My name is Forrest Wolfe, I'm running for State House District 21. Like some other folks here I'm also a lifelong Alaskan, I grew up in Juneau. I've spent the last ten years working as a staffer for the state legislature for various Representatives and Senators, I've actually served in both the Senate and the House. I've been part of a minority caucus and a majority caucus and I've also worked for both Republicans and Democrats. I think what I can bring to the table is true bipartisanship- I've got great relationships with basically everyone down there on both sides of the aisle. I would like to put that to work for my district and the state. A little bit of background about me as well: I spent the last ten years working as a commercial fisherman also, and I've also waited a lot of tables in my life. I bring a little more of a blue collar background and a lot of public service and I'd like to take that to the next level and put that to work for our district and our state. Thank you very much.

David Nelson: My name is David Nelson, I'm running for State House out here in District 18. This story really started about two years ago when I was living and still living out on Boundary and had graduated from the University of Alaska, Anchorage and was doing my time in the Alaska Army National Guard and still am and I was also working on base as a military contractor. My girlfriend who lives on Boundary as well was jogging down Boundary Avenue one evening and a homeless individual proceeded to chase her down the street. Luckily a taxi cab was driving nearby and let her jump in and protect her awhile. I was so shaken by that so I said okay what can I do and what can I change. I decided to put my name in the hat for running for State House and I won in 2020. I still carry that initial motivation with me today. That's at the root of why I'm running for State House. I carry three things as well that I go door to door and talk to people about. I want to constitutionalize the PFD to stop having it used as a political football, I want to reject reckless new tax schemes that are just going to increase the cost of gas or food across the State of Alaska, and I want to put a tough new spending cap on state spending so that we can have a quality debate about where the fiscal future of Alaska lies. I'm David Nelson and I can be reached a couple different ways: right here talking to me, my website Nelsonforalaska.com, or on my Facebook page. I will most likely be knocking on your door if you live in district 18.

Donna Mears: Good evening my name is Donna Mears. As you can see, I'm very involved in the community as I was up here earlier this evening. As Kelli mentioned, I've been very involved in the recycling industry in Alaska. That actually started some of my advocacy work. I followed love up here after school and I wanted to work in an industry that didn't exist. Because of my advocacy and the advocacy of others, I now work for an industry that I helped advocate for. My husband and I bought our house in Muldoon when we were newlyweds and next month we celebrate 22 years married. We have children, we've got big kids now. We've got a recent high school graduate from Bettye East Anchorage High School and a sophomore. Last week I was head chef for the retreat for SWS. I also helped build my children's new school which is Winterbury across the street from East Anchorage High School. Building that school is helping keep kids here on the East side. We're not losing them to the brain drain to West or Service or other schools. East Anchorage is awesome and our kids need to stay here and we need to build that future. A big reason why I am running for office- a year ago we were putting in a resolution about redistricting as a community council because we need to stay together. We're the largest community council here- all these candidates coming up here are letting you know that. We've got four house districts, three senate districts. The redistricting board paired us with Eagle River. I got a little mad because things in Eagle River are very different from here. We were gerrymandered and I want to keep working for united Muldoon. Thank you all. My website is mearsforalaska.com

Ted Eischeid: Thank you George and community council members. My name is Ted Eischeid, I am running in House District 22. If you go to my webpage you can see where that is. Essentially it is part of Ivy Spohnholz's old district and David Nelson's current district. That's the district I'm running for. A little bit about me, I grew up in farm country and was able to get a good science education. I then took that and became a science teacher for 25 years, I taught middle school science and survived it and enjoyed it. Then I retired and that lasted for less than a year and then I became a planner. So right now I am a planner in the Mat-Su Borough. I've also served a couple terms in a nonpartisan elected office and I guess really the reason I'm running is I have had a life in public service. I remember the reason I ran for nonpartisan elected office was because a politician at the time had talked about a strategy of divide and conquer. I don't think that's the best strategy. I think the best strategy is really trying to help solve problems. Obviously I'm a teacher, so I care about kids and education. I'm a planner right now, I care about infrastructure and then something I try to do in my classroom and something I try to do as I am out knocking doors- I appreciate a safe community. Those are some of my priorities, you can learn more at my webpage. My last name is Eischeid so I didn't use Eischeid in my website because no one knows how to spell it. So it's very simple TedforAlaska.com. You can also follow me on social media, tedforalaska is the tag on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Forrest Dunbar: I'm Forrest Dunbar. I think we've all heard from enough politicians tonight. I've been coming to this community council for seven years and I got my start at the Scenic Foothills Community

Council which in a lot ways acts as a sister council to this one. We work together on things like the Chanshtnu Muldoon Park, on the Muldoon Farmers Market. There's been a lot of resolutions passed going both directions trying to support each other. Northeast Community Council supported them when the Berkowitz administration tried to put the bus barn by the Totem Theater, The Scenic Foothills Community Council has stepped up, passed resolutions in solidarity, on things like Centennial Park. So it really is like a one Muldoon as Donna stated. I'm running for State Senate District J, only a small portion of which is in the Northeast Community Council; it's sort of the southwestern edge of my eastern district plus Campbell Park, Airport Heights, and Mountain View. I've been serving on the Anchorage Assembly for seven years. I care a lot about public safety, about affordable housing, and about building a bipartisan coalition in the State Senate. So I would appreciate your support and of course I would love to speak with you afterwards.

Lyn Franks: I'm Lyn Franks and I'm running for House District 18 and Ted took a big chunk of where I ran in 2020. People are always like, "What do you mean I can't vote for you?" Well you can't but Ted's a great guy so I'm plugging away on the new candidates that are good. I moved to Muldoon in 1988 and I've raised three kids here which now have produced 5 grandkids and another one on the way which will make six in January. I'm in education. I teach history at UAA when there is funding for it. I really relate to the problems that Kelly Lessens was saying. I was talking to Pat Higgins about that earlier and that is a priority for me with this district and the state. I also know that there are other ways that we can bring revenue and good jobs into this state and that's something I'm really interested in. Food sovereignty and sustainable energy, we have funding for that in the private sector and we also have that at the federal level. It's just a matter of getting that money in. How many people have quilted in here? If you've ever quilted a patchwork quilt. There's all these little patches everywhere and you sew them together and you've got something. You know what, that's the way we deal with sustainable energy. I was talking with oil and gas people the other day and they are looking for ways to mitigate climate change and there's some really exciting things that they can do right now. Geothermal and boartide coming out of the inlet with these pipelines they aren't using anymore. There's a whole lot of things and that's my heart in this state is to step us into a more prosperous future with jobs and infrastructure in these areas. We can do it- and I really think it's time now to bring more women into Juneau. We need that perspective. Find out more about me at lynfranksforstatehouse.com I want to protect our families and our privacy.

George Martinez: This is the most dense community council area in the city in terms of population and cuts across many of the other political units and it's great to see them here and showing up.

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

No presentations have been put forward for tonight's meeting.

Old Business (Limit 10 min/item including discussion)

There is no old business tonight that we are pursuing.

New Business

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

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

Community Announcements

Carla McConnell: This is actually just a little bit of help we need from the community. Some of you know that I own a coffee shop and local roaster. I really want to get a new space to lease, our coffee shop got shut down- if anybody knows of anything in the area- a vacant space or building that is available please let me know. We are really trying to stay and keep our local roasting here.

Selina Metoyer: Muldoon Farmers Market Saturday 9:00AM-2:30PM next to the last one for the season. Two more weekends left of the year. There is live entertainment from wonderful local artists including Pete Petersen.

George Martinez: I have another announcement. It's happening at Begich Middle School this Saturday. It's a community event that a particular group is putting on but it's an opportunity to meet people. The Omega Si Phi frat is having a district walk- it's a synchronized walk. They do a couple laps around the track and do it with people in other cities as well. This Saturday at 9AM, 8AM for us. There is also an invitation for October 1. Habitat for Humanity is doing a new dedication for a home in our community between 12PM-1PM at 365 Neighbor Drive. The recycling event- I want to make sure before we leave everyone who

raised their hand can put their names together and get it to Kelli so we can pull off a cool recycling event for the community.

Upcoming meeting on Oct 20 at Centennial Village beginning at 7PM. Physical doors will over at 6:30

Vacancies opening up on the Board- President's have the opportunity to make appointments prior to elections on the community council. You are also invited to join our committees.

The next assembly homeless housing meeting will be held next Wednesday at 11AM.

George Martinez adjourns meeting at 8:57PM

Respectively submitted by,

Ron Meehan, Northeast Community Council Secretary