

Minutes

Northeast Community Council (NECC)

January 19, 2023, | 7pm

Centennial Village- Multipurpose Room

9131 Centennial Circle, Anchorage, AK 99504

*NECC minutes are always taken by a volunteer board member

Board Members

George Martinez, President | **Lyn Franks**, Treasurer | **Ron Meehan**, Secretary | **Bob Reupke**, FCC Delegate | **T'Shalla Baker**, Parliamentarian | **Selina Metoyer**, Member | **Stu Grenier**, Member | **Murray Crookes**, Member | **Marc Grober**, Member

Ron Meehan Calls Meeting to Order at 7:00 PM

34 people were present virtually or in the room.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Roll Call

Minutes Approval: [November](#)

Bob Reupke motions, **Murray Crookes** seconds.

[Special December](#)

Bob Reupke motions, **T'Shalla Baker** seconds.

Treasurer's Update

Lyn Franks reports \$1919.68 in the bank account.

FCC Report

Bob Reupke: FCC met last night and had several presentations including one from the Anchorage Affordable Land Trust. New nonprofit supporting housing funded by the Rasmuson Foundation and Presbyterian Trust. They also got an update on the new parking ordinance from Assembly Member Volland. Assembly Member LaFrance says green cards that assess your property will be going out and you will have 30 days to appeal that.

Marc Grober: Point of Order, does the Secretary have the authority to preside over the meeting?

T'Shalla Baker: Yes

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

No Community Concerns or Activities.

[Legislative Reports \(limit 3 min. each, including questions\)](#)

David Dunsmore, Sen. Wielechowski: The legislature gavelled into session on Tuesday and Senator Wielechowski will serve as Chair of the Rules Committee. This committee is in charge of managing the administrative side of the Senate and in charge of scheduling the order bills are sent to the floor to be voted on. He will also serve on Resources, State Affairs, and Legislative Audit and Budget.

Trevor Baily, Sen. Tobin: Senator Tobin will Chair the Senate Education Committee, and also be on Health and Social Services, Transportation, and the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics. The Senate Education Committee will start meeting on Monday and plan to hold hearings on education funding and increasing the BSA. She introduced SJR 6 honoring the Alaska-Korea relationship and in the coming weeks is looking to introduce bills, capping the price of insulin, and a 12 month prescription for contraceptives and marijuana expunction for low level crimes.

Representative Groh: I will be in a large House Minority and serve on four committees: Judiciary, Ways and Means, Military and Veterans Affairs, and the Joint Committee on Armed Services. Cameron Ebershold and Cillian McDonough are going to be my aides this session. We have a Twitter and Facebook page and will also be sending out newsletters. A priority will be better and safer traffic patterns for Muldoon.

Representative Wright: I am working on a couple committees including Labor and Commerce, Resources, Joint Armed Services Committee, will be Chair of Veterans Affairs, and Vice Chair of State Affairs.

Representative Mears: My district along with Representative Wright's are the two districts that make up Senator Wielechowski's district. It's been a full and busy week. My legislative email is rep.donna.mears@akleg.gov and I would like to introduce Corey Alt who is working for me in the capitol. I would like to extend my support to the CIP Committee, I will be working on the Transportation Committee and a lot of the concerns that came through CIP were on transportation and road projects. I will be on Natural Resources as well.

Ron Meehan: We got notice that our Assembly Members were in a meeting that has been held late. We will move on to Community Leadership Updates and the rest of the agenda and come back to the Assembly reports when they get here.

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](#).

Joy, JBER: I sportsman passes are available. They are \$10 and good for the calendar year and \$5 for the calendar year for veterans. The purpose is to know what training areas are active so you can stay safe when you're recreating on military lands. The ranges have been pretty active this month and will continue to be very active through February.

Kelly Lessens: Five school days have to be made up as a result of the 7 snow day cancellations. Much of it will be turned into instructional 30 minute blocks at the end of each day between January 30 and March 9. Schools can decide how to use those 30 minutes at their school level. New afternoon bus times are viewable in Parent Connect. The School Board is going to be balancing a \$48 million shortfall using their savings account, they are having unexpected savings from positions that they are not able to fill. The administration is preparing a budget and the Board will take a look at that budget in the first week of February and vote on it in the second week of February. Possibly looking at restructuring the school schedule in future years outside of the changes in response to the snow days. The Anchorage School District Board has led the charge in getting the Alaska Association of School Boards an \$860 per student ask for an increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA). We have some very large class sizes and the BSA increase is important for legislators to support. Other major changes are on the way from the passage of the Alaska Reads Act last year. There will be a new lottery program for parents in ASD with a clean and easy interface that will be available as usual around February 1st.

Pamela Raygor: Is it possible to have virtual distance learning days for making up the snow days? Winter is not over and more snow is on the way.

Kelly Lessens: Previously during school closures devices were available for all of our students, many of these have since been returned. For that reason, it was not possible for ASD to turn to remote learning during those days but they do have a days worth of paper instruction and we are ready for remote learning should that be necessary. The State of Alaska requires 170 days of instruction and our school calendar has 172 so we need to make up 5 out of the 7 instructional days.

Maureen-Rotary: You said the savings used to alleviate the budget deficit are from unfilled positions?

Kelly Lessens: Much of the savings are from unfilled positions. Retention and recruitment problems, the upshot is that we can use what we had saved for this year for next year but we are still balancing the budget on our students and teachers.

Maureen-Rotary: Will those positions continue to exist if that is how the savings will be used?

Kelly Lessens: Most of the positions I believe will need to continue to exist.

Committee Updates (limit 2 min. each)

Lyn Franks CIP: Donna has passed the Capital Improvement Project committee to me. I will get together with her to talk more about this and will have reports moving forward.

Ron Meehan: Please reach out to us if you have an interest in participating in CIP or any of these committees and we can get you involved in the process.

Stu Grenier, Parks and Trails: We had a meeting at the Russian Jack Chalet with five people in attendance and floated ideas for the four page resolution. We hope to work and improve this resolution and will possibly have something ready to vote on by next month.

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

Girdwood against the public lands disposal of Holton Hills - Matthew Schecter (4 mins)

Old Business (Limit 10 min/item including discussion)

NACTO Resolution

NACTO - To amplify support for NACTO plan/concepts/policy

Marc Grober: I put together a resolution that seeks the council's request to the Assembly that the Assembly adopt the NACTO guidelines resolution presented a year ago. It has been on the agenda for the last two months for the council.

Marc Grober motions to adopt a resolution from the Northeast Community Council to encourage the municipality to adopt NACTO policy and guidelines, Murray Crookes seconds.

Motion to adopt the resolution passes with 14 ayes, 0 nays, and 2 abstentions.

10 yr Community Council Boundaries Review

Lyn Franks: I have expressed a desire to the FCC to help with the redistricting of the boundaries. I am looking at combining House districts 17 and 18 together. In this district we currently have a large number of state legislators, school board members, and elected officials. As I find out more information I will keep everyone updated.

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

Pete Peterson: Over a year and a half since people voted to approve body cams and officers are still not wearing them, this is an ongoing negotiation between the police union and the muni and this is going to arbitration. It could be until next fall that the cameras are actually on officers. The Sullivan is currently averaging between 350-360 people staying there a night. We have a new Assembly Member for East Anchorage after Forrest Dunbar was elected to the State Senate. Joey Sweet is the new member. The Mayor played hardball in the negotiations of raising wages for muni employees so they got between a 1-2% raise, well inflation was 8% this year. The State bumped the salaries of grater operators by 30% and the muni only increased their salaries by 1%. Once you get behind, it's really hard to get caught up. We've also hired private contractors to help remove snow from subdivisions.

Joey Sweet: I was appointed on January 6th. I have a Masters in Public Administration and a Bachelors in Political Science from UAA. In the 100 or so days I have in my term I would like to work on the policies around facial recognition, guidelines for its use. That is one specific issue I would like to champion in that timeframe in addition to the other initiatives already underway. In my interview, I said my two priorities were that, and poverty and homelessness.

Pete Peterson: Municipal Manager Amy Demboski was fired and she hired an attorney and is now demanding a settlement. I would imagine she has a lot of information she has provided to her attorney and this wrongful termination situation is probably going to cost the muni some money.

Joey Sweet: Three emergency ordinances were introduced by the Assembly at the meeting we were just at. One updates the code as it relates to the Office of the Ombudsman and the actions they can take with regards to things like whistleblower protections. Robin Dern was also appointed to the Eagle River/Chugiak seat newly vacated by Jamie Allard.

Pamela Raygor: Are the EOs you mentioned posted anywhere and do any of the newly appointed members plan to run for full terms?

Joey Sweet: Robin said that she will not and she is in the same position as I am in which is holding the term from today until the 24th of April. The EOs are not online when I checked before I headed over but I

am sure they must be now given the quick announcement of Robin Dern. If not then by the morning for sure.

New Business (Limit 3 min/ item including discussion unless otherwise noted)

Centennial Park 2023 usage plan resolution

Stu Grenier: We're trying to avoid the situation we had last summer, Fish and Game was very interested when I sent them this motion. I'm looking for ideas, if we end up with a mess next month we will push it until March.

If you are interested in getting more involved please reach out to Stu at stugrenier@gmail.com.

Community Announcements

Lyn Franks: Lisa passed away and there is a memorial service for her at the MCA church off Debarr. The service starts at 1PM. We thank her for service to our council and I think we should take a moment of silence.

Ron Meehan: Yes we should, we are going to take a moment of silence for Lisa.

Bob Reupke: The movie theater at Tikahtnu Commons is closing next month.

George Martinez: Thank you Ron and Board Members for running this meeting. This will be the last meeting I will be presiding as the President of the Northeast Community Council. I am stepping into a different role and want to be very clear about the distinction between the two.

Ron Meehan: Thank you George, and thank you for your commitment to this community and the Northeast Community Council.

Ron Meehan adjourns meeting at 8:53PM

Upcoming NECC meetings: Feb 16, 2023

Respectively submitted by,

Ron Meehan, Northeast Community Council Secretary