

Minutes

Northeast Community Council (NECC)

March 16, 2023, | 7pm

Centennial Village- Multipurpose Room

9131 Centennial Circle, Anchorage, AK 99504

*NECC minutes are always taken by a volunteer board member

Board Members Present

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

Ron Meehan Calls Meeting to Order at 7:00PM

34 people were present virtually or in the room.

Pledge of Allegiance: Bob Ruepke

Board Roll Call

Minutes Approval: [February](#)

Bob Reupke motions to approve February minutes, T'Shalla Baker seconds.

Treasurer's Update

Lyn Franks reports \$1919.68 in the bank account. Ron and Lyn have gotten our bank account updated with both of their names on the account and now have a debit card for the community council in the case that we need to make purchases.

FCC Report

Bob Reupke: Met yesterday, 6-8:30. Alaska free clinics (RAM) need volunteers - Free clinic with vision, dental and medical on April 15-16 6AM - 5PM. Went over 15 propositions on April 4 municipal ballot - there is a brochure with information. New Patricia Espy - community engagement officer in Mayor's office. Assembly member Constant - by end of year, online open checkbook for municipality. ASD presentation asked to increase BSA - may increase by \$1,000 - no word on reducing administration. Survey of 420 people to examine community council boundaries. Baltazar Holding LLC (public notice) applied for marijuana license. You can watch FCC online and download copies of report from above.

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

Ron Meehan - food bank of Alaska - statewide food security crisis (7 month backlog of SNAP benefits and decline in donations like TFAP) Administration acquired funding for food commodities, but food doesn't come quickly into state. People are going hungry in the mean time - 3 people known to be hospitalized for malnutrition.

Murray Crookes - concerned about Baltazar Tire shop selling cars online and on their property.

Stu Grenier - reported gentlemen's agreement at platting board with long-term concern of history of agreements and plans that haven't gone as planned. Baltazar has donated hundreds of dollars to council.

Bob Ruepke - food with Lutheran Social Services - giving boxes with only 4 cans of food.

Day Homer - Baltazar declared to NECC that they would never sell cars on their lot.

Ron Meehan - Food Bank of Alaska has 4 million lbs of food less, TFAP has seen 2.1 million less; medicaid renewal is coming up next month using same system that is already backlogged.

Billy Stapleton - SNAP crisis - works for public assistance - injured in 9-person fight in his lobby - injured arm on workmans comp for 6 weeks - 60,000 people need to be recertified and backlog is 5-months.

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

Rep. Donna Mears: Update from Representative Donna Mears – HD21, South Muldoon

Energy is shifting again in the House as budget sub-committees have wrapped up, and bills are getting heard at a rapid rate in committees. Resources passed out of committee the Governor's Carbon bill relating to underground storage of carbon dioxide. I felt the bill needed more time, and my amendments to address conflicts one which would allow oil companies to write off the costs of developing the carbon storage infrastructure were voted down. The bill now goes to House Finance, and will also be heard separately in the Senate. It's very frustrating seeing bills and appropriation items from so-called fiscal conservatives that continue to give away money to industry while we're looking at declining oil prices and cutting the PFD and services. This is hardly the only place where this is happening.

If there is legislation you are interested in, I suggest you check committee calendars on Fridays for the week ahead. You can also submit written testimony.

House Education Committee coming up with public testimony for BSA next Tuesday from 5-7.
907-632-6382

Rachel Skywalker Gunn, Rep Wright: Rep. Wright's first bill HB 51 - modernization of refrigerants was first bill to pass house floor, HB 28 - concealment of old low-level marijuana convictions to be hidden from court view trying to make its way out of committee and working on common sense legislation. 907-465-2095 or rep.stanley.wright for any questions.

Mackenzie Pope, Sen. Tobin: Second constituent coffee will be on March 18th with Rep. Groh and Chris Constant, at Pioneer School House. In Juneau, office introduced the renewable energy portfolio standards: Senate bill 101 with goal for rail belt utilities to invest in renewable energy with schedule: 25% by 2027, with 80% by 2040. Joint house and senate education committee meeting state board of education - fiscal year 2023 annual report. SB 46 - traumatic brain injury awareness bill - designate March as TBI awareness month permanently. Introduced companion bill - exclusion of low-level marijuana crimes in court view. To reach out to our office: please email me at Mackenzie.pope@akleg.gov or sen.loki.tobin@akleg.gov or call 907-465-3704! Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns -- thank you all for your time!

Rep. Cliff Groh: 2 matters: 1 - support increased k-12 educational funding, pleased to report there will be a hearing on March 21 at 5:15 pm that will potentially raise BSA. You can call in. 2 - efforts to resolve state's structural deficit (\$102 million, increase above \$1 billion), "Alaska's biggest problem" - threatens roads, public health, and opportunities - HJR 9 - protect permanent fund to prevent overdraw and spending and is recommended by Permanent fund board of trustees and Fiscal policy working group. Support increasing oil taxes to protect structural deficit.

(907) 465-4998 / rep.cliff.groh@akleg.gov / Please call or e-mail me any time.

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

Chris Constant: Adoption of school district budget - 3 options, increase or decrease, approve it or reject it (goes back to preliminary bill) or do nothing - adopted automatically on March 31. Celebrate ordinance that creates online open check book for municipality spending of tax revenues and opens contracts as well. Created 2 new municipal holidays: Juneteenth and Indigenous People's Day. Municipal election (mail) until April 4th. <https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Clerk/Elections/Pages/default.aspx>, AnchorageVotes.com to track your ballot. Details on the ballot questions. <https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Clerk/Elections/Pages/default.aspx>

Joey Sweet: Passed Paid Parental Leave policy - 1 month for anyone that becomes a new parent - even with adoption, passed unanimously. Set to allocate another \$200,000 for snow removal. Controversy about Arctic rec center - it's up in the air. Mayor will have meeting there this Saturday. Closing current shelters. Today at community and economic development committee meeting - discussed series of buildings in town and valley with collapsed roofs - what is assembly's role: Big public awareness campaign (\$15-20,000). Didn't discuss shoveling roofs in school libraries that are closed from snow weight. Prop 14 - will help early childhood development efforts (marijuana tax), \$6.5 million this year (Chris Constant reporting). Lyn Franks

asked about Mayor move to end community councils - in Girdwood, staff member of federation took position in partisan race/enjoying potential kickbacks - Assembly will address next month with Federation (not reactionary like Mayor proposed).

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](#).

Fire Dept: Pulse Point app provides rapid response to people in cardiac crisis through 911

Kelly Lessens: New English language arts curriculum - CKLA with intent to align READS act and give teachers and students tools for core reading skills. \$3.8 million from federal funding to support this.

Finance meeting from a week ½ ago - teacher retention studies - focus on workplace conditions - invited to finance committee in May. Met with Assembly in support of HB 65 to increase BSA and local contributions. House Education committee meeting next Tuesday, share 5:15-7:15 call or e-mail to share thoughts on HB 65. Senate education committee meeting adopted committee substitute for the bill to increase BSA \$1,000 this year, \$348 next year, then with inflation with accountability measures FY 26 and after. 5 schools identified from snowfall assessment, 2 had damage, 3 closed out of caution. Shoveling isn't cheap. Consider supporting bond for safety upgrades and building maintenance.

Key items from ASD: Online Lottery Application Window Feb 15-April 6

Preschool info/applications: www.asdk12.org/preschool/gened

Community School Start time meetings:

- Tuesday, March 21st, 6:00pm at Bettye Davis East HS
- Wednesday, March 22nd 6:00pm at South HS
- Friday, March 24th 6:00pm at Mirror Lake Middle School.

Kindergarten Round Up

- Friday, April 14, 2023, 6:00-7:30pm at Wendler Middle School
- Friday, April 28, 2023, 6:00-7:30pm at Hanshew Middle School

Committee Updates (limit 2 min. each)

Lyn Frank, CIP: ½ million dollars will receive. Board meeting in April with Jaimie Acton to discuss how to spend it (Northeast transit center). Another ½ million to improve roads and public safety.

Stu Grenier, Parks and Trails: 2 meetings - repurposing of centennial park - met at Russian Jack Chalet to discuss council's statement against mega homeless shelter. Another meeting about boundary trail along gas line to connect Campbell Creek Green Belt and Tudor Trail to Bridge on Ship Creek on Glenn Highway trail along boundary. Met with home owner that requested increase of easement to 400 feet (from 300 feet).

Ron Meehan: Jaimie Lang - update - Baltazar petitioned cannabis business on their property - not sure if current building or new building. We need to weigh in on it. Texas Roadhouse is renewing Alcohol license. American Legion agreed to grill for Spirit of Muldoon Picnic.

Selina Metoyer: June 10th date for Spirit of Muldoon Picnic.

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

Taryn Oleson-Yelle: R & M Consultants - Patterson Street corridor improvement project research. Joined by Brooke Blessing - Project management consultant. Looking at potential improvements for Patterson Street from Chester Creek trail to Debarr Road. Looking to increase access of sidewalks and wants community input about desired improvements.

MOA PM&E Patterson St. Improvements Website: <https://www.pattersonstimprovements.com/>

Survey to help us decide what should happen to improve the non-motorized experience on Patterson St. : <https://arccg.is/11S1u1>

Old Business (Limit 10 min/item including discussion)

[Centennial Park 2023 Usage Plan Resolution](#)

Ron Meehan: reported Resolution 2023-03: NECC opposes using municipal parks to relocate people experiencing homelessness in light of tragedies that occurred in Centennial Park. **Stu Grenier:** reported concerns of fire dangers, camp near wooded lot (private or public) that is hard to police. "Put them somewhere not close to the woods."

Motion to consider discussion: Tim. Second: David, none opposed

Discussion: If fires, call fire department and they will put it out immediately (source not named). Stu confirmed fire concerns. Mayor said he didn't plan on putting camps there, and we are making sure that our intent is clear to keep camps out of public parks.

Motion to vote on passage of 2023-03 - Murray Crookes - close discussion and vote, Lyn seconds, no oppose. Aye: 17, Nay: 0, Abstain: 2. Passes.

[JBER Muldoon Boundary Realignment Resolution](#) 2023-04

Stu Grenier: Proactive resolution - city has connector trail already to what this trail will be called. Chugach Foothills Connector Trail (add a whereas 14). This is 4th draft. Homeowners requested 100 extra feet (400 feet), plus a green belt (50 ft).

Motion to consider discussion: Ken motions, Joey seconds.

Lyn: proposed tabling and rewriting because it will have to go to congress due to federal land.

Ron added: make clear what we're asking for by making proposal more clear (make edits).

Dave: clarified proposed land swap for state park. Still in works?

Stu responded: military stated they can't move boundary due to live fire ranges, which is addressed in proposal with cost (\$34 million).

Dave: ½ mile exchange not in the deal? No - but Military is at the table for discussion.

Stu: Comfortable going with this as written, with simple, clear language.

Lyn moves to close discussion, Murray seconds.

Lyn moves to table discussion to iron out issues, Unsure who seconded,

Stu pleaded to pass motion with imperfections.

Vote: Yay: 4, Nay: 11, Abstain: 3

Stu Grenier makes motion to approve as written in vernacular (not legalese): Second unclear.

Dave asked about input from Marc Grober, who didn't contribute to resolution.

Ron suggests making minor changes if it passes.

Vote: Yay: 8, Nay: 4, Abstain: 4. Resolution is approved.

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

New business coming up about Boundary Trail - JBER Muldoon Boundary realignment resolution.

[Sunny Acre Subdivision Plat](#)

Glen Gellard - Tony Hoffman - Proposed plat, development - Zone R2M - create 1 track of land, eliminate lot lines and vacate alleyway that runs through the middle. Signs with Plat case number and phone number to call people in the planning department. Dirk Schumaker with Kids Corp is a Head Start program, been in Muldoon for 30 years. Space that they have is not adequate to need, this location will serve about 100 children, to expand services and provide need to children. Roy Roundtrim - presented slides with design features with aim to preserve vegetation and upgrade of State Street (to widen road/right of way), adding street lighting. Meeting title 21 standards.

Stu Grenier asked about zoning and the history of a red herring bait and switch, clarifying intent.

Community members shared how this work will benefit the community.

Nominations for 3 seats G, H, and I

Nominations: Stu nominates Billy Stapleton, Ron Seconds

Stu Grenier nominates himself, Tshalla Seconds

Stu nominates Marc Grober, Tshalla Seconds

Selina nominates George Martinez, Murray Seconds

Community Announcements

Stu called to pull down Doon Dangers 907-337-5127 leave a voicemail.

Ron Meehan adjourns meeting at 8:55PM

Upcoming NECC meeting: April 20, 2023

Respectively submitted by,

Murray Crookes, Northeast Community Council Secretary