

# Meeting Minutes

## North Star Community Council

April 12, 2023  
(online via Zoom)

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### PRESENT

#### NSCC Officers & Members:

- Matt Johnson, President
- Mark Butler, Vice President
- Mike Hondel, Secretary
- Susan Miller, Member at Large

30 North Star members present

#### State Legislative:

- Kayla Epstein, for State Senator Loki Tobin
- Evan Anderson, for State Representative Zach Fields

#### Assembly:

- Daniel Volland

#### Other Entities:

- Brad Coy  
*MOA Traffic*
  - Lindsey Hajduk  
*NeighborWorks Anchorage*
  - Andy Harvey  
*AFD*
  - Pat Higgins  
*ASD School Board*
  - Abby O'Neil  
*Principal, North Star Elementary*
  - Emily Weiser & Donovan  
Camp  
*Bike Anchorage*
  - Dave Rittenberg  
*Catholic Social Services,  
Complex Care Facility*
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## REPORTS

### I. COUNCIL

1. Matt Johnson: safety concerns about Fireweed Lane (as it exists).
2. Mark Butler: free walk-up clinic event this coming weekend.

### II. LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES

1. Kayla Epstein, for State Senator Loki Tobin: Finance committee, budget status. Senate bill activity.
2. Evan Anderson, for State Representative Zach Fields: Earmarks. Budget status & challenges. Budget proposals from minority caucus (most failed). Budget amendments. Q&A: pre-school, Head Start, child care, Healthy Families initiative; state tax (sales, oil, income).

### III. ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES

1. Daniel Volland:  
Homelessness: demobilization of winter shelter; long-term tactics (low barrier shelters, pallet shelters); shelter best practices; public engagement timeline; considerations for changes to Title 21 & Title 23 of Muni code; short-term shelter at Alaska Charter School site; sanctioned camps. Future decline in LNG availability, renewable energy. Use of alcohol tax funds. Built-environment design standards. Budget process & amendments: improve mobile crisis response. Suspend relationship w/ sister city in Russia. Assembly approval for any Muni department to utilize facial recognition technology. Q&A.

### IV. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

1. Pat Higgins – ASD School Board  
Board members re-elected. School bonds. Moving 6th grade from elementary to middle school. School start times likely changing. Charter school violations. Service High principal. Challenges w/ interplay of limited budget, competitive educator salaries (staff retention), & class sizes. Q&A: charter schools, considerations for teacher-student ratio.
2. Abby O'Neil – Principal, North Star Elementary  
SCF staff on site (weekly) to help families access resources. Upcoming events. Perspective on 6th grade move to middle school.
3. Andy Harvey – Captain, AFD Station 5  
Fire safety & protection bonds. Pulse point app. AFD preparations for wildfire season.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. “Paint the Town” 2023 Project  
– *Lindsey Hajduk, NeighborWorks Anchorage*  
NeighborWorks overview. Paint The Town project: minor repairs & painting. Seeking home nominations (prioritizes senior citizens & disabled property owners). Q&A: nominations timeline.
2. Memorandum of Understanding between the Catholic Social Services Complex Care Facility and the North Star Community Council  
– *David Rittenberg, Facility Director, Catholic Social Services Complex Care Facility*  
Program overview. Share draft of memorandum. Council discussion: NSCC committee formed to review memorandum. Q&A.
3. Presentation Advocating for Protected Bike Lanes on Fireweed Lane  
– *Emily Weiser & Donovan Camp, Chair of Bike Anchorage*  
Protected bike lanes: overview, why needed, benefits. Pilot project, potential temporary projects. Resolution history (introduced in February?); resolution introduced, scheduled for additional discussion and vote at May NSCC mtg. Discussion: concerns (business access, traffic load); community support (bike awareness, Anchorage is not commuter-friendly, opportunity for pilot project to demonstrate purpose & value). Input from Brad Coy (Muni traffic engineer).
4. Nominations for NSCC Officers  
Nominations are open for the NSCC Chair, NSCC Vice-Chair, NSCC Treasurer, NSCC Secretary,

and NSCC FCC delegate positions. Nominations will remain open until the officer elections at the May 10, 2023 NSCC meeting. Nominations for chair (Matt Johnson), secretary (Jacob Powell), and FCC delegate (Harriet Drummond).

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## **NORTH STAR CC MEMBERS PRESENT**

### RESIDENTS

1. Matt Johnson, President
2. Mark Butler, Vice President
3. Mike Hondel, Secretary
4. Susan Miller, member at large
5. Brandy
6. Steven Bridwell
7. Donovan Camp
8. Katie DeMichele
9. Graham Downey & Annaliese
10. Harriet Drummond
11. Kayla Epstein
12. Raine Fryberger
13. Olivia Garrett
14. Gordon Glaser
15. Justin Green
16. Mike Hannam
17. Andy Harvey
18. Josh Ingram
19. Christy Newell
20. Jacob Powell
21. Melonie Rieck
22. Sharon Schlicht
23. Amy Seifert
24. Julie Stutzer
25. Taylor Thompson
26. Paxson Woelber

### BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS

1. Abby O'Neil – *Principal, North Star Elementary*
2. Dave Ritterberg – *Catholic Social Services, Complex Care Facility*