

Minutes

Northeast Community Council (NECC)

April 20, 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 | **Bob Reupke**, FCC Delegate | **George Martinez**, Member | **Selina Metoyer**, Member | **Stu Grenier**, Member | **Marc Grober**, Member

Ron Meehan Calls Meeting to Order at 7:03 PM

47 people were present virtually or in the room.

Pledge of Allegiance Bob Reupke

Board Roll Call

Minutes Approval: [March](#) - Selina Metoyer motions, Lyn Franks seconds.

Treasurer's Update - Lyn Franks reports \$1,919.68

FCC Report

Bob Reupke: 6-8:30 meeting on 4/19/2023, Mr. Whitekeys would like to give away 10,000 white spruce trees at farmers markets, and we will need a list of people that want them as of May 23rd. CIP survey should come out this week for community councils. AWWU presented plan to update and maintain water in Anchorage. May - August they will develop master plan, September - November, they will hold public input locally and online, by December will summarize comments and finalize plan by January. Anchorage Coalition to end homelessness didn't show up but Felix Rivera reported that Sullivan Arena stay would probably be extended another month or so for people with extra needs and conditions (we would need 2,400 homes to accommodate people). Suzanne Lefranc said Election would be certified by April 26th. The city will not use facial recognition software except in special circumstances. Margo Bellamy of the school district reported that Abbot Loop Elementary building will be used by ANCCS starting next school year. She reported concern about current Base Student Allocation. There will be an AMETS meeting April 26th at the UMED district. Bob shared about OWL technology for future FCC meetings. A new marijuana store will open on 149 Muldoon Road. Baltazzar will also open a retail marijuana store. In May and June, paint the town will need volunteers to paint houses.

Scott Paschall, Fire Station 6: Gave introduction and then thanked those present for voting to approve bonds that support them (2 new fire engines and ambulances) and upgrades. Anchorage selected for medication trial for myocardial infarctions. Basic life support skills in Anchorage is very important, which contributes to high rate of heart incident survivals. Pulse Point app is available for CPR trained civilians. Graduated 21 cadets from fire academy. Looking to have another academy for 2nd half of this year. Currently recruiting. Wildland urban interface is a concern for increased fire risk in the area. Fire breaks team has been prepared to institute fire prevention protocols. Discussed entering protocols for people to set up with fire dept. (key code, key options) - call dispatch center to give that information, including Knox Box.

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

Selina recommended Fire Department report before Community Concerns.

Floor was opened for new nominations for NECC Board member election. Lyn offered invitation to serve. Selina shared criteria to run. Jamie Lang was nominated by Ron, Lyn seconded.

Marc Grober shared Marijuana and Alcohol map information, offered to help use Facebook.

Stu talked about Arctic Recreation center public gathering where Stu shared experience of housing people in our neighborhood. Thanked Ken for helping tear down the Doon Dangers.

Selina shared walk-in day, walk-in groups, and advocacy options for walking (copies on table of entrance). Also, Alaska Marine Highway is hiring: ferry.alaska.com/employment.

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

Representative Groh: Passed operating budget in the house, which Groh voted against (due to deficit and lack of common sense tax practices like oil industry taxes and conditional nature of increased student funding). Been working to fix the deficit that is projected to be \$1.5 billion per year if not addressed. HB 153 to raise oil taxes has been scheduled Thursday morning 8 am. Does not support spending all of State savings before addressing structural deficit or cutting PFDs to make the budget work.

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

Representative Mears: Things are heating up in Juneau. We've got spring weather and on Monday the Operating budget passed out of the House to the Senate. Representative Groh already updated us on that and fiscal plan status. I wanted to bring up a couple of property tax bills we're hearing in Community and Regional Affairs. We passed out Senator Dunbar's bill that would allow municipalities to adjust property taxes up or down for blighted properties as a tool for encouraging redevelopment. The final choice on implementing a local ordinance, and how it is applied is all up to local control. This had broad based support from the Alaska Municipal League, Mike Robbins, the Director for the Anchorage Community Development Authority, and I supported this bill as well. There's another bill that would add some required property tax exemptions on a state-wide level, but the bill sponsor hasn't yet talked to Anchorage. I'll be contacting the muni, and hope to amend the bill so this is an optional exemption.

Representative Wright: HB 28 - Marijuana conviction records made it out of judiciary with first hearing at finance on Wednesday. Senator Loki Tobin has been running companion bill in the senate. Things are looking good. HB 51 - use of designated refrigerants passed house working through Senate; presenting on Monday. HB 57 - emergency and medical services review: 1 more hearing in labor and commerce, waiting on public testimony. HB 126 - associate and professional counselors: for people with professional licenses with master's degree to work in field while working toward licenses to help folks get to work. HB 137 - physical therapy licensure bill: HB 138 - audio and speech language interstate compact bill: giving alaskans ability to get services sooner. Payday lending bill: hearing in labor and commerce, public testimony, then bill will go to finance. HB 157 - Juneteenth holiday bill.

Senator Wielechowski: House budget passed on Monday, now in senate. Underfunded by \$600 million (plus capital budget of at least \$200 million). 2 areas to pay is constitutional budget reserve, which failed, then budget reserve of permanent fund, which is limited. Filed bills through rules committee, 1 to close loophole (S corporation) that costs state \$120 million this year, 2: to reduce oil tax credits for \$1 billion per year, as the oil companies are not honoring their investment agreements. Another bill to (Gov. Dunleavy) to change corporate taxes for highly digitized businesses to raise \$25-65 million. Governor's carbon sequestration bills are moving. Hoping to raise \$300 million to \$1.2 billion to close budget deficit. Kieth Ferris passed away (Nunaka community patrol).

Please call anytime at 907-465-2435 or email at sen.bill.wielechowski@akleg.gov

Mackenzie Pope (Office of Senator Tobin): SB 52 to increase BSA: presented to finance and heard public testimony for 2 days, 99% supportive - hearing public testimony on budget bills by tomorrow at 1:00. To read Senator Tobin's newsletter, head to lgobin.substack.com. If you'd like to get in contact with our office, please call 907-465-3704. If you'd like to give testimony to Senate Finance on the budget tomorrow at 1pm, please call in to 907-563-9085!

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

Pete Peterson: Passed school district operation budget with no public testimony (noone testified). Buying school busses as planned replacement plan (15 year plan). Maintenance is higher than payment. Property

taxes due June 30th, delinquent on July 3rd. Second part, August 15th, delinquent in September. Updated conflict of interest code, which was updated with board of ethics. This is his last meeting as assembly man.

Joey Sweet: Assembly Youth representative had been vacant (age 16-19): voice but no vote. We have 2 in this role: applicants, then chair picks from them. 1 primary and 1 alternate, working as a team. Appointed 'at large.' they are invited to meet with community councils. Body cams: Alaska Black caucus sued the city for delays in body cam use. Today APD announced that they would be moving ahead with using body cams. Policy discrepancies are the excuse used to not use the body cams, but they will use them and figure out policy later. Assembly passed restrictions on use of facial recognition software. They have to proactively seek approval of assembly to use that software moving forward.

<https://www.alaskasnewsresource.com/2023/04/19/anchorage-assembly-bans-city-use-facial-recognition-technology-with-limited-exceptions/>

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, Muldoon Public Library: after a year and a half, we now have beautiful mural in entry way made by 300 artists. Unveiling in the next 3 weeks. School will be out soon. Come by, look at the library, get a library card. Hiring after a year plus, we'll be fully staffed. April 29: we will have 'bear aware' program with Fish and Game. April 29, Director Virginia McClure will be there from 2:30-3:30. No bear spray.

Kelly Lessens: ASD bond package passes. Thank you, voters. Fentanyl is in our schools, there are kits in every school. Talk to kids about the risks of Fentanyl and any pills/powders. School start time recommendations will be voted on May 9th. Elementary 8:00-2:30, High school: 8:45 - 3:15, Middle school: 9:30-4:00. This works with bussing restraints. 'PLCs' Professional Learning communities would require an hour later start time one morning a week to support ongoing professional development for teachers, doubling their current amount. Reviewed budget forecasts. With no BSA change, \$91 million deficit for 2025. Senate bill 52 would 'get us there.' Testimony tomorrow at Senate Finance meeting. Reviewed chronic absenteeism. More than 1/3 of students are chronically absent. Board approved ANCCS move to Abbot Loop for 5 years. Also preschool program from Mountainview into the same hub. May 9th will vote on start time change and PLCs.

lessens_kelly@asdk12.org is my contact. To phone in to Senate Finance FRIDAY 1:30 pm on the Operating Budget, ie to speak about education, Anchorage residents can call (907) 563-9085.

Moment of Silence - Lyn Franks - Kieth Ferris passing (community patrol time).

Committee Updates (limit 2 min. each)

Lyn Franks CIP: no updates, hearing next month from people in the municipality and transit. Working on safety issues with pedestrians.

Stu Grenier, Parks and Trails: JBER Muldoon Boundary work included map that has resolution numbers that align with places on the map.

George Martinez, Picnic: Spirit of Muldoon picnic June 10 12:00-2:00. Zoom meeting last night. American Legion bringing a grill. We will need another. Any volunteers? Let us know. Next meeting will be May 10. Lyn is procuring musical groups, looking for more performers. If there's a local organization or business that wants to contribute to picnic, please let George know. Selina updated she's secured the permit, asked FCC for insurance waiver, which went to parks and rec. Secured handwashing station. Performers will not be given any stipends. Looking to extend the day before and after official hours of picnic for tour of trails, mural tour at library and music.

Jamie Lang, Alcohol and Marijuana Committee: Protest on renewal of Texas Roadhouse liquor license due to \$200 back log.

Elections Seats G, H, and I... 4 candidates, highest 3 will get the seats. Ballots passed out.

Candidates and speeches: Billy Stapleton, Marc Grober, Stuart Grenier, Jamie Lang

Ballots collected, then counted as the meeting went on.

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

No Presentations

Old Business (Limit 10 min/item including discussion)

Board members reported contacts: Ron reported Muni engineering department that came to board meeting and will be reporting tonight.

Marc met with traffic and PM & E which led to delaying contract we didn't review, thanks to involvement of traffic and PM & E for radar on Edwards.

Stu presented at Arctic Rec center discussion.

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

Muni Traffic Engineering Dept. Randy Ribble and Brad Coy:

Brad introduced, invited people to apply to work with muni for traffic calming efforts. Randy presented with extra duty of traffic calming. \$500,000 Legislative Grant given (NECC), seeking guidance from NECC for places of need, with prioritization listed in PowerPoint. Must be used by FY 25. Sought direction and insight from existing traffic calming initiatives. Chester Valley Elementary (Potomac and 16th) project was highlighted. Ptarmigan Elementary project (E. 6th Ave and Newell) highlighted. Edwards Street Radar Project highlighted. Nunaka Project traffic circle project design (Buckner and Perry Drive) highlighted. Permanent Radar Sign Evaluation (Beaver and E 6th) highlighted.

Community Discussion: Edwards street project is the most time critical (know tonight, ready to bid).

Question taken from Maureen from chat about 25/20 mph signs on 6th street at Muldoon elementary.

Marc stressed importance to address Mr. Coy's concern and not engage with new business from agenda.

Marc asked about efficacy of radar signs, requesting data that they are doing what is intended before moving forward.

Funding expiration question asked, with assurance of \$500,000 investment, with option of Edwards street project funding placed in question.

A question was asked about investment in bike trails.

Clarification for Edwards street project asked with concern about putting off the project. If not radar, then what? Since it was recently upgraded, radar was recommended. Marc shared history of traffic calming efforts.

Quick vote taken: Marc moved to hold funding until Radar sign data is given in the next few months. A concern about funding brought up (If placed on hold, bid would be canceled and moved to 2024 construction season). Stu reminded need for map.

Voting results: Yay: 8, Nay: 18

Question was asked about speed humps on East Debarr, from previous community concern.

Board Election Results: 3 top winners: Stu, Billy, and Jamie

Community Announcements

Selina Metoyer: Muldoon Farmers market starts June 24th 9:30 - 2:30 till September 30th. Looking for volunteers and young folks.

Susanne Fleek-Green: Running for Chugach Electric Board of Directors. Running with Jim Nordland and Shanna Killcoin.

George Martinez announced new assembly role, recognized Marc's service and Pete Peterson's service.

Selina Metoyer: shared municipal contacts with Benjamin Ralph, Parks and Rec Permit and camper administrator, Steve Rayfuse, Superintendent of P&R about picnic.

Ron Meehan adjourns meeting at 9:16PM

Upcoming NECC meetings: May 18, 2023

Respectively submitted by,

Murray Crookes, Northeast Community Council Secretary