

CALL TO ORDER: 7:03 pm.

Board Members Present: Peggy Robinson, Bob Reupke, Clinton J. Hodges II, Charlie Fahl, Dean Syta, Troy Carlock

Board Members Absent: Steve Sommerfeld, Mary Pedlow, Ron Rivas

Approval: Previous Minutes: Minutes of November 15, 2007 **approved unanimously without objection.**

Approval: Agenda: The object of Business Item #1, The Summit Senior Condo Development, has been put on hold; therefore a presentation on it has been indefinitely postponed. A presentation by the Chester Valley Elementary School PTA on the Chester Elementary School related to the upcoming school bond election was added to the agenda. With those two changes the agenda was **approved unanimously without objection.**

Treasurers Report: The checking account balance remains at \$483.61. Christmas Lights were bought for \$59.40. Brown Jug donated all of \$5.00 to NECC, as they have to all the councils.

Representatives' Reports:

- **Senator Bill Wielechowski**

Reported from Juneau on a recent crime summit held in the Senate Judiciary Committee. He said that the committee was impressed by the testimony they heard, including that about Washington State's "Evidence-Based Programs". Sen. Wielechowski reported that he and others in the majority favored reviewing all the gasoline bids, not just the TransCanada bid accepted by the administration. Besides the gasoline, the other very important issue this session is the budget surplus brought about by the high price of oil. Bill included himself with those in the legislature who favored putting a significant portion of the \$4B+/- in the CBR, with other significant proportions going to education, revenue sharing, and state employee retirement account. He reported that Gov. Palin is agreeable to paying for transportation projects with cash, rather than bonds, but has not decided on that yet. Senator Wielechowski agreed with board member Syta that a state transportation annuity funded with an initial deposit of only a few hundred million dollars was rather modest.

- **Senator Davis**

Tom Obermeyer, Senator Davis' aide also reported from Juneau. Sen. Davis is working again on SCHIP, trying to get a higher family income threshold level for eligibility.

- **Anchorage Assembly Member Selkregg**

Rod McCoy, aide to Sheila Selkregg, gave a brief report: Selkregg continues to work on getting money for east Anchorage for planning purposes. He also reminded us of the importance of Title 21; members are encouraged to attend hearings and Title 21 committee meetings.

- **All of the NECC State Representatives, plus Anchorage Assembly Members Bauer, Ossiander, and Starr were absent.**

Executive Board Report: Peggy Robinson reported that the board had an extensive discussion about the ML&P donation of \$1200 with some members concerned about the ethical ramifications as reported in the press. A majority was in favor of accepting the donation and applying it to our meeting room. Another problem was that the check arrived so late as to no longer be cashable. A replacement check is being prepared.

Community Activity Reports: (in no particular order)

Northeast Community Center – Bob Reupke, President of the board of the NE Community Center, reported that noise and commotion was still a problem, especially as it affected the library. The manager of the center was in the audience and shared with us the hours when the general public could visit the center and avail themselves of the various opportunities. The hours are 9am to 9pm, with the intervening hours of 2pm-7pm being reserved for youth.

Federation of Community Councils —Bob Reupke reported that the school district has bonds totaling \$43M. Sue Fison spoke at the recent federation meeting. She said the web site needs to be more user friendly and she and/or others are working on that. Currently the Federation is searching for a manager; an offer has been made to one individual.

NECC Parks Committee—Chair Terry Cummings reported on the Russian Jack Springs Park First Tee Improvements project. Park Planner Brad Dunker led an open house on this project on January 9th at the Russian Jack Chalet. Earlier P&R met with the P&R Commission (Nov 8) and the Russian Jack CC (Nov 14). A preliminary hearing before the Urban Design Commission has been rescheduled from Feb 13th to Feb 27th. The reschedule was necessitated insofar as many community members are concerned about the project and believe that the project has evolved to a more significant project than that presented in support of the subsequently approved 2007 General Obligation Bond. In particular many community members feel that clearing approximately 23 acres is excessive. Terry convened a meeting of the Parks committee on Monday 14th with 8-10 people in attendance. President Robinson reported that we would consider this item at our February 21st meeting, when members of P&R staff as well as the First Tee's design consultant would be in attendance. In the meantime, Robinson said that Cummings could forward the Parks' Committee comments directly to P&R as that would not carry with it an implicit endorsement of NECC.

BUSINESS:

1) **Alaska DOT&PF's Project Debarr Road: Boniface Parkway to Beaver Place Channelization Improvements.** This project plans to utilize federal funds from the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). A team from DOT&PF described the project, which received its impetus from the fact that an excessive number of accidents occurred on this stretch of Debarr from 1999 to 2005. They intend to begin engineering and conduct environmental studies and were interested in our feedback. As well, they answered a number of questions and/or responded to several comments from the council. Among the comments were the impacts of the project on access to Russian Jack Plaza; access to the Admiralty Cove apartments/condos for eastbound traffic and Nunaka Valley for westbound traffic; and the need to update the 10 yr old traffic speed study insofar as unsafe speed was inadequately addressed in the project. A number of people volunteered themselves or names of others to be on a committee to work as an advisory group with the contractors. Peggy will forward the names to Brooks and Associates.

2) **Alaska CANWIN (Citizens Against Noxious Weeds Invading the North).** Lori & Troy Zaumseil presented a slide show of noxious weeds invading Anchorage. The worst appeared to be Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), which is so noxious as to significantly lower home values if one is so unlucky as to be invaded. Lori and Troy left us with information brochures to help us identify *Cirsium arvense* and others of their ilk, urging us to eradicate them from our yards if discovered.

3) **Chester Valley PTA.** Jane Davis & Marie Smith from the Chester Valley PTA made a pitch for us to support the inclusion of Chester Valley Elementary School on the upcoming ASD bond initiative. They explained the many shortcomings of Chester Valley School, one of the most needful schools statewide for repairs and upgrades. While attendance is down this year with 6th

graders now at Begich Middle School, attendance is expected to climb back up next year as school age children in the Grass Creek project currently under construction are slated to attend Chester Valley. Since the remodel and expansion of Chester Valley School was NECC's first priority on our CIP request for schools that was completed last June, it was felt that no additional action needed to be taken by the membership. Peggy Robinson will forward a copy of the CIP with a note to the Assembly members. Individually contacting our Assembly representatives was also encouraged.

4) **Greenhouse Property Update.** Peggy Robinson reported on the status of this issue, road access, creek alignment, etc. Some people from the Muni and the consultant will attend our February meeting when a full-scale presentation/discussion will be held. The layout of the 29 acres comprising the "Greenhouse" property is 3 parcels: the east parcel is a 12 acre park; the west parcel along Muldoon Road is to be developed in a town center style; and in between affordable housing is planned to be built. From the floor, Ainslie Phillips suggested a resolution to the city regarding questions of possible inflated value when the Municipality bought the 29 acres from the Federal government, among other things. She agreed with Peggy that the February meeting would be the best time to bring forward a written resolution.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS:

a. Board Member Clinton Hodges brought up the Russian Jack Golf Course upgrade project, discussed earlier under committee reports. His concern was that he thought we should revisit the issue of tree removal impacts and that a resolution from the council might be appropriate. President Robinson pointed out a possible problem with that, insofar as we might engender less support for whatever our view might be if we passed a resolution on the project before NECC received a full presentation on the project.

The Next meeting of the NECC will be February 21st, which is tentatively scheduled to be at Cook Inlet Housing Authority's senior housing in extreme northeast Anchorage. There were questions as to whether this would be a good time to move the location of the meeting, given that we have scheduled two major discussion issues on the agenda. The Board will discuss and determine the location – watch for the announcement.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:25 PM

Respectfully submitted: Charlie Fahl, Asst. Secretary

Other Important Notes and Announcements:

Elections for 3 Board positions will be held at the April 17th meeting. We encourage NECC members to consider running. In order to be listed on the agenda as a candidate, you must notify the board president or another board member by the April 3rd Board meeting. It is not known at this time if the board members holding those seats, Dean Syta, Peggy Robinson, and Charlie Fahl, will run again.

1. Agenda items are timed. Brevity is important. Please wait to be recognized by the Chair.
2. Please sign in when attending meetings. If possible, choose to be notified by E-mail. Send E-mail to info@communitycouncils.org if you'd like to receive Council information by E-mail.
3. The NECC has a web page maintained by the Federation of Community Councils. We have been unable to update this currently, but hope to again soon. www.communitycouncils.org.
4. We are a non-profit organization and receive no funds from the State or Municipality. Our treasurer would be happy to receive your donation.
5. Revised bylaws as approved by the members at the September 15th 2006 Meeting are available at the NECC website listed above.