

NECC

Northeast Community Council

Minutes –February 21, 2008

CALL TO ORDER: 7:06 pm.

Board Members Present: Peggy Robinson, Bob Reupke, Clinton J. Hodges II, Charlie Fahl, Dean Syta, Mary Pedlow, Ron Rivas

Board Members Absent: Steve Sommerfeld, Troy Carlock

Approval: Previous Minutes: Minutes of January 17, 2008 **approved unanimously without objection.**

Approval: Agenda: Business item # 4: “Russian Jack Springs Park Improvements” was postponed, due to a large number of public critical comments that were necessitating a redesign of the golf course upgrades on the part of Parks and Rec., First Tee, and Land Design North. In its place a general discussion of the project was added to the agenda. With those changes, the agenda was **approved unanimously without objection.**

Treasurers Report: The checking account balance \$493.61, reflecting an increase of \$10.00 since the last council meeting due to a donation of that amount.

Representatives’ Reports:

- **Senator Bill Wielechowski** Senator Wielechowski reported that the Education Bill Foundation Formula was close to being finalized and that passage of the bill could be expected soon. He was also hopeful that revenue sharing would be approved, resulting in property tax relief in Anchorage. PERS/TRS was being addressed and he was hopeful for positive action. Regarding the Natural Gas Pipeline, the legislatures were awaiting the Governor’s report on the public hearing process. He also reported that he had submitted a bill that called for sharing with the feds of the revenues from the Chukchi Sea Continental Shelf leases. In the Q & A, Bill reported that he did not expect SB 242 to get out of committee. On the issue of energy costs rebates he reported that there was a lot of discussion taking place. He said he had not made up his mind on this issue and welcomed input from Council members.

There were no other Legislative or Assembly reports with the exception of a brief comment from Rod McCoy on behalf of Sheila Selkregg regarding the ongoing Title 21 rewrite project and the need for the Council to keep tabs on the process.

Executive Board Report: Peggy Robinson reported that the ML&P donation of \$1200 was still in limbo; the second, “corrected” check has not yet arrived. She explained what was scheduled for the next two meetings: the March meeting would feature candidates for the Assembly and the School Board with statements and Q and A; the April meeting would feature candidates for the NECC executive board with their statements. She was planning to contact the candidates for the Eagle River district that included a small portion of North East Anchorage to make sure they made every effort to come to our meeting. Also in April we will have a presentation on the Greenhouse property development and an update on the Grass Creek development and the latest report. The Grime Fighters car wash was not approved at the Planning and Zoning meeting. Five “yes” votes were need - 4 voted “yes”, 2 “no”, and 3 members were absent. It is not known whether Mr. Bomhoff will request this to go before the Assembly.

Community Activity Reports:

Nunaka Valley Community Patrol — Aaron Pascal reported that he was back from a sojourn in the south. He said that winter is a relatively quiet time. He expects “activity” to pick up as spring approaches. He is now driving a white car.

Northeast Community Center – Bob Reupke, President of the board of the NE Community Center, did not report that noise and commotion were problems. He introduced Randi Binion-Olson, the manager of the Boys and Girls Club. She told us about several upcoming activities, including a special dance group next week. Bob also introduced Stetson Momosor, the Muldoon Library Librarian. She told us about several upcoming events, including “Read Across America”.

Federation of Community Councils — NECC’s delegate, Bob Reupke, reported that the Federation had met on the 20th. Mark Butler had been hired as the manager. The Federation financial reports had been brought up to date. NUSA may hold another conference in Anchorage in 2011.

Road Construction Update—Muldoon Road is scheduled to be resurfaced from 36th Ave to the Glenn Highway and the Town Center south loop connection is scheduled to be completed this coming summer.

NECC Parks & Beautification Committee—Chair Terry Cummings deferred the report on the Russian Jack Springs Park First Tee Improvements project to later in the agenda. She reported that the committee had met on the 19th. While there was some grant money available [to pursue beautification, e.g.] there was insufficient time to pursue it. She reported on the ski trail damage occurring in Centennial Park due to the snow plowers plowing in some areas that held ski trails, which also created unauthorized parking places for vehicles. She was hoping the Council could add their clout to an effort to amend this winter’s plowing “program” in Centennial Park.

BUSINESS:

1) **Election review.** President Robinson explained in detail how the executive board elections would be conducted in April: which seats were up for filling (hers, Dean Syta’s, and Charlie Fahl’s – they had not decided yet whether to run again, but would announce their intentions at the March meeting), when nominations could be made (starting now and continuing until the Election; although nominations made later than at the Board meeting 2 weeks before the election would not be printed on the ballots nor listed on the agenda), and who was eligible to vote (residents and business owners of the council area and official representatives of companies and non-profits located in the council area). She also described the Election Committee, which serves as a nominating committee and also runs the election. Ron Rivas has volunteered to chair, but four volunteers from the council are needed to complete the committee. Please contact Ron or her to volunteer.

2) **Northeast Traffic Calming, Patterson Street.** Dennis from HDL Alaska reported on the project’s planned sidewalk and choke areas along Patterson. He said there would be a project walkthrough from Chester Valley School at 2pm on Saturday February 23d, and a public involvement meeting at 7pm Tuesday February 26th at Chester Valley School.

3) **Alaska Native Cultural Charter School site approval.** A team led by consultant Virginia Juettner presented this item. Their plan involves utilizing the Ashley Home Furnishings building at Muldoon and Boundary. They gave a comprehensive report that was well received. However, there was considerable discussion on the traffic flow issue and possible congestion at the Muldoon and Boundary lighted intersection. The team was advised to give this issue more research along with consultation with the municipal traffic office.

Motion: NECC supports the location of the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School at the Ashley Home Furnishings Building. [Original motion by Rod McCoy; substitute motion by Dale Syta accepted]

Approved: 15 in favor, 2 opposed, 3 abstaining

4) **Russian Jack Springs Park Golf Course Upgrade** — Peggy reported that Parks and Recreation Planner Bradley Dunker was planning on having revised plans available later this spring for comment, and she would schedule a presentation for the May NECC meeting. The planned presentation of the original plans at the UDC meeting next week has been cancelled.

Terry Cummings reported on this issue as discussed at the Parks and Beautification Committee meeting on the 19th. An organization titled “Friends of Russian Jack Springs Park” has been formed. Interested joiners can contact the chair of this group, Annette Cartier at 272-1933. The next meeting will be sometime in early March. Terry reported that the Russian Jack Springs Community Council had taken this project off their CIP list. Comment was made that many of the junior golfers that participated in the First Tee program last summer had come from South Anchorage.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS:

There was a brief discussion on the Wal-Mart project and the recent court ruling. The judge struck the rezone due to improper handling of Dan Coffey’s “conflict of interest” by the Assembly, as well as the Assembly’s failure to follow their own rules regarding the substantial modifications made to the plan after the Planning and Zoning hearing. The Assembly has 30 days to appeal the judge’s ruling, according to the Municipal clerk. No one knew what either neither they nor Wal-Mart would do.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Charlie Fahl, Asst. Secretary

Other Important Notes and Announcements:

1. Presentations and subjects 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 now has a web page maintained by the Federation of Community Councils. Minutes for the meetings, other NECC documents, and NECC contact information are online on this site at www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/23.html.
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, and at the meeting.