

NECC Meeting

Minutes, August 29, 2008

Call to order: 7:06pm

Board members present: Mary Pedlow, Bob Reupke, Clinton Hodges, Peggy Robinson, Bill Cox, Stuart Grenier

Approval: Previous Minutes: Approval of June minutes at September meeting

Approval of the Agenda: yes

Treasurers Report: account currently stands at 709.73

Representative Reports:

Tom Obermeyer, staff for Senator Betty Davis: present but no report.

Sen. Bill Wielechowski: Voted for AGIA. Must-haves included in-state gas and low tariffs, which results in more revenue for the state. Oil companies were against it. Spoke to energy assistance for low-income residents of the state as well as energy rebates for all residents. Indicated that a long-term energy plan for the state is needed as well. Concerned regarding Alaska's highest gasoline prices in the nation and asked the AG for an investigation into the high prices while price of oil is going down.

Rep. Bob Roses: Sept 1st state residents should see the .08/gal state tax removed from the price of a gallon of gas. Indicated concerns over what the federal government might perceive of the plan. Tax holiday will last one year and the resource rebate will be added to this year PFD. Voted against AGIA and did not state why.

Jennifer, staff for Mike Gutierrez said that Mike plans to start an email newsletter for East Anchorage and what is affecting us.

Executive Board Report: The agenda for the meeting was set and the white boards were installed.

Community Activity Reports:

Federation of Community Councils: Bob Reupke reported that the Federation did not meet in July. Community patrols, Aaron reports that more volunteers are needed, vehicles speeding through neighborhoods are still an issue; GCI is doing away with communication equipment.

Boy's n' Girls Club: Betty, program coordinator, reports that 68-95 kids/day attended the center. Hot meals and snacks were provided for all of the children. The National Guard put on a two-week program emphasizing character and leadership. Activities also included a beekeeper, basketball and movies.

Ainslie Phillip reports that the design for Debarr Road is ongoing and the concrete Muldoon sign will be repaired eventually. Pedestrian projects are on hold due to a lack of finances. Small projects may take place but nothing large.

Tim Sullivan, Weed N Seed, reports a budget 150k with 50k coming from the legislature.

Business:

1. Rain Gardens. HDR's Dawn Lobaugh introduced this program, through the MOA-Project Management and Engineering Office 343-8084. With a grant from Fish and Wildlife, Anchorage residents can apply for reimbursements of up to ½ of approved costs to design and install gardens, up to 750.00, that are designed to capture rain run-off from home roofs and driveways so that the water doesn't enter storm drains. Additional information can be found at anchorageaingardens.com.

2. Booster Station and Tank removal on Jordt Circle, Loren Leman, Michael L. Foster & Associates, said that the 500 thousand gallon tank will be removed and the land restored to its natural state; the property belongs to St. Patrick's Parrish. The church intends to develop the property. The tank has a history of lead based paint and the MOA has been leasing the land for 40 years.

3. Safe Harbor acquisition of Ramada Inn / Information / Discussion with Tom Newin, a board member of the Safe Harbor board of directors. Safe Harbor is transitional housing for families. It is more of a motel and not a halfway house. A non-profit that is successful more than 70% of the time moving families into permanent housing. APD reports that Safe Harbor is a good neighbor. The Ramada Inn presented itself as a safe controlled environment. Tenants are referred to SH through various social service agencies. Residents close to the inn voiced concerns ranging from not being informed of the purchase by Safe Harbor, crime and negative impacts on local property values. Several residents voiced concerns regarding the lack of notification of the sale and the use of tax dollars for the purchase. Rep. Bob Roses was aware of two previous offers to purchase the property fell through. He went on to say that he was not aware of the SH purchase until Palin released her budget. There were concerns that problems from Mountain View and Fairview are being forced to the east side of town and that crime and other societal ills are becoming more apparent.

Max Gruenberg arrives late and says that now that he is out of session he is here to help. Just contact him.

4. Nunaka Valley Little League reconsideration on the 2009 CIP List. Marie Smith, league board member, presented their concerns for being higher up on the CIP list. Nunaka Valley Park is a neighborhood park with ball fields, soccer fields and general use. Approximately 800 kids participate in the program and the facilities are deteriorating rapidly and need updating. Various out building are burglarized regularly and numerous conflicts with neighbors across the street from the fields. Parking issues are a major problem and no solutions were voiced during the discussion. The league would like to add another field that could result in the removal of a treed buffer and the adjacent neighborhood to be impacted by the removal of the buffer has not been notified. Four right-of-ways and multiple house lots need to be vacated. A motion was made **in support of vacating the four streets ROW's that extend through Nunaka Valley Park south through the ball fields, along with the house lots contained within. It passed 20 yea 1 nea and 1 abstain.**

The next thing to be discussed was the movement of Item #18, "Nunaka Valley Park South, ball fields, buildings, maintenance and improvements," on the 2009 CIP List to #8. The chair of the NECC CIP list objected to the change, as it would disenfranchise residents from participating in future CIP lists. Generally the comments supported the move but there were also concerns regarding the lack of preparation and details with respect to costs for the numerous upgrades and changes. Marie said that she had not consulted with the other park users regarding the changes. Time was running short so a motioned was made and passed to extend the meeting an additional 15 minutes. The question was called, and passed, which left several residents unable to express them on the issue. A motion was made to move #18 to # 8 on the CIP List. The question was voted on twice due to ineligible voters. The second vote it passed, **15 yea 5 nea 2 abstain.**

Adjournment: 9:58pm respectfully submitted by Clinton Hodges, Secretary

Other Important Notes and Announcements:

Presentations and subjects are timed. Please wait to be recognized by the chair.
Please sign in when attending meetings. If possible choose to be notified by e-mail by e-mailing info@communitycouncil.org

The NECC has a web page maintained by the Federation of Community Councils. Minutes for the meetings and other NECC documents and NECC contact information are available on-line at www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/23.html

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