

NECC

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 pm.

Board Members present: Peggy Robinson, Bob Reupke, Ron Rivas, Bill Cox, Stuart Grenier, Pete Peterson and Ainslie Phillips.

Board Members Absent: Marry Pedlow

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes approved unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Agenda: Agenda approved unanimously.

Treasurers report : Balance in our checking account is \$704.83. There was a reported expenditure of \$24.90 for light bulb replacement on the light balls hanging from light polls in front of the Muldoon Mall and Fred Meyers.

Executive Report:

There will be no December membership meeting or executive board meeting. Mary Pedlow was unable to attend the member ship meeting due to illness.

Legislative Report:

- **Senator Bill Wielechowski.**
 - All legislators are busy getting ready for the next legislative session which starts in early January. He discussed ENSTARs desire to increase the rates they charge to their customers and the work he is doing to insure farness in this matter.
 - Work is still moving ahead on the AGEA project. Some of the issues were construction of a gas line to Valdez and its marketability and Environmental analyses etc.
 - Also at the AGEA hearing Senator Wielechowski worked hard to get a occupational training center on the east side to help those who can't afford or wish not to attend collage. By having a training center on the east side it will make it more accessible for residence in this area. The location of the Alaska Works training center will be in the old Sadlers Building. A lease is expected to be signed on Nov. 21.
- **Senator Bettye Davis.**
 - Tom Obermyer, staff member for Senator Davis, He reported that Senator Davis is working on the legislation that was passed during the last legislative session. He also said how much Senator Davis wanted to thank everyone who voted in the election. For those who wish to read about the different bills can do so on line.
- **Senator Fred Dyson.**
 - A representative from Senator Dyson's office was present but didn't have any updates. Senator Dyson was traveling and could not be present.

Our newly elected **State House Representative Pete Petersen** was in attendance. He wanted to thank everyone for voting. He spoke about how close the race was and the importance of every vote and as the saying goes if you don't think your vote counts....He won by just 221 votes!

- **Anchorage Assembly Member Sheila Selkregg:**
 - Heather Ireland, staff member for Assembly Member Selkregg: ..Heather presented a short report on the Nunaka Valley meeting held in October. Some items of discussion were: water issues, traffic, housing and neighborhood issues. Also lightly covered was the complex topic concerning the Parks and Rec. Dept with regards to park users and the local community. After hearing local concerns Shelia commented it was up to Parks and Rec. to coordinate a good plan that would address both needs and concerns of neighborhood residence and park users. It was felt by all that the meeting was a good place to start.
 - Chester Creek realignment - the assembly approved the contract with HDR for the realignment of Chester Creek. Shelia walked the creek to get a better understanding of the issues with the moving of the creek Shelia also talked with staff to get a better understanding of the research and the biology which helped in her decision in moving forward with this project. The contract that was approved is not connected with the Debarr extension. In approving the contract she is on record for advocating more public involvement from the whole area concerning the relocation of Chester Creek. In the past decisions made by Fish and Wild Life did not have a lot of input from the local community. She hopes in the future to see more involvement between the community and Fish and Wild Life in the decision making process.
 - A meeting is scheduled for Dec. 1st at Begich Middle school @ 6:30PM The topic of discussion will be Russian Jack Park. Parks Dept will be presenting several scenarios which the public will have input on and which ones they like best. Those suggestions will go to the Parks and Rec. Commission. Also on December 11th there will be public testimony on that topic at the Parks and Rec. Commission from 6PM to 8PM.

Federation Report:

North East community center report:

- Randy, manager from the boys and girls club, reported that they have exceeded the membership of 515 for the entire year and she was happy to report that they had exceeded that goal by 108%...she also spoke about budget cuts and the need for more volunteers.

Federation of Community Councils Report - Bob Reupke

At the board meeting several questions regarding bear proof trash cans were brought up and discussed. BP supplied a good number of these free trash containers to the community. MOA is trying to get new funding that will enable them to give out more of these free to residence

Others in attendance at this meeting were:
Assemblymen Mike Gutierrez

School Board: Carol Comeau, Pat Higgins
James Lamson Public Works Department.... Spoke about the need for the council start working on their CIP list which will be due in April 2009.

Also discussed was the NUSA (Neighborhoods USA) conference which will be held in Anchorage in 2011.

Road construction and beautification updates: Ainslie Phillips.

Ainslie expressed her feelings and objections with the decision of the Assembly to grant HDR the contract for Chester Creek re-alignment and that this decision is in direct conflict with recommendations put forth by the NECC membership. She also is willing to take anyone who wishes to go on a creek walk to see for them selves what is involved in this project and hear alternatives that maybe a better fit for our community. She would also like to have more people involved with the town center committee which will hopefully evolve into a town center plan. Peggy Robinson clarified that the district plan that we are working on and that Sheila Selkregg is working on to get financing for is a East Side District Plan which includes more than just the North East Anchorage area.

Fransis Mclaughlin – Planning Department: Spoke on the meeting held at Nunaka Valley. He and members of the Anchorage Assembly, Sheila Selkregg, Mike Gutierrez along with different heads of department and agencies from within the Municipality. The group discussed upcoming projects and plans for the Nunaka Valley area. Fransis expressed that it was a good meeting and well attended.

Anne Brooks, Public involvement Coordinator – Brooks and Associates: Talked about the 6th avenue upgrade between Muldoon Road and Paterson Street which dead ends beside Creek Side Park. The construction of a cul-de-sac would allow turn around capability for snow removal, emergency vehicles and residence. Added to the project are road improvements at the intersection of 4th avenue and Oklahoma. This work is slated to begin in the summer of 09.

Anne also discussed the Edwards Street improvement project which runs from Debarr Road north to 6th avenue. The design phase is nearing completion and on November 11th received approved from the Urban Design Commission. Also discussed was the re-alignment of Edwards Street at Debarr Road and the resurfacing of Muldoon Road between 36 avenue and the Glenn Highway.

Also discussed were the studies and planning that were involved in the traffic lights, medians and turn lanes in the area of Begich Middle School. There were several questions brought up concerning student safety when crossing Debarr Rd. The time duration of the crossing signals of traffic lights does not allow students enough time to cross there.

Scott Thomas from DOT gave a presentation on the Muldoon Rd. and Glenn Highway interchange. It is understood by all involved with this project for the need of a plan to resolve the traffic congestion issue. He presented several ideas some expensive and some that could be more cost effective in the short term to help with the traffic congestion until more funding is approved.

Sheryl Richardson from the Anchorage Citizen Coalition, gave a presentation on the 20/20 plan for the City of Anchorage. Topics of discussion were: traffic calming, pedestrian safety, street design, need for increased public transportation and the need for more public parks.

Stuart Grenier gave a short talk on the need for better snow removal and traffic control for Centennial Park during the winter months. This was an action item with three motions being set forth.

A MOTION: NECC November 20, 2008 Motion 1:

When there is enough snow for winter activity the use of temporary barricades and or gates be used to block the main road just south of the main sledding hill parking area. Also the need to block the area west of the cabin and all other access points to the road system and sledding hill. Plow out parking spots on the west side of the main sledding hill parking to allow recreational parking for this area.

The Vote: 17 in favor, opposing none, with 2 abstaining. **Passed**

A MOTION: NECC November 20, 2008 Motion 2:

On trail grooming: Allow snow machine access by permit for trail grooming after heavy snow falls.

The Vote: 18 in favor, opposing none, 1 abstaining. **Passed**

A MOTION: NECC November 20, 2008 Motion 3:

Request that Parks and Rec. give 6 months notice to the NECC before any thing is developed in Centennial Park.

The Vote: 18 in favor, opposing none, 1 abstaining. **Passed**

A MOTION: NECC November 20, 2008 Motion :

Ainslie Phillips moved a motion to allow snow machine grooming in Wind Song Park

The Vote: 17 in favor, opposing none, 2 abstaining. **Passed**

ADJOURNMENT: 9:45PM

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 an 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.