

# NECC

Northeast Community Council

Minutes-January 15, 2008

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## **CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 pm.**

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

**Board Members Absent:** Mary Pedlow, Steve Sommerfeld

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** Minutes approved unanimously.

**Approval of Meeting Agenda:** Some guests under the business section of the agenda were not available for the meeting so the order of presenters was changed. The Agenda as changed was unanimously approved.

**Treasurers report:** Balance in our checking account is \$668.51. There were two expenditures in December 2008 and January 2009 in the amount of \$24.90 for lights and one donation. We have \$203.11 remaining funds out of the \$1,200 donation by ML&P.

## **Executive Report:**

The Executive Board did not have a January meeting because the meeting date fell on New Years day but we did have a short meeting in December mainly planning for this meeting.

## **Legislative Report:**

- **Representative Max Gruenberg.**
  - There will be a number of difficult issues facing the legislature this session. One of the biggest challenges will be the budget. With oil being down to \$32 a barrel from its high of \$140 we are facing a 3 billion dollar deficit that will be a major problem facing us.
  - We are holding hearing in the House Judiciary committee is looking at possible price gouging legislation due to the high price of gasoline. Here it is some where above 70 cents a gallon more than in the lower 48. With the possible closure of the North Pole Flint Hills Refinery which will have major ramifications on fuel supplies to our state.
- **Senator Bill Wielechowski.**
  - Spoke on several issues facing the state this year and on into the future some are potential base realignments, moving some bases or adding some to the North Slope due to melting sea ice and the potential of more ship traffic. Also an increase in off shore oil and gas exploration.
  - He also spoke on the gas line issue continuing on this session and the important 2010 bidding by Trans Canada and others in essence to see who will be putting gas into the pipe line. Along with the potential of Flint Hills closing these are all huge economic issues facing us this session.
  - Senator French and I have sent a letter to President Obama suggesting that part of the 7 to 800 billion dollar economic stimulus package be sent

to us for infrastructure development and upgrades to our roads, bridges, and railroads needed for the development of the gas pipeline.

- Concerning the CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) this year with the price of oil the way it is it might be difficult to get some of the projects that are being requested by the different communities for funding. That being said we do need your CIP lists so we can work on funding for those improvements. But keep in mind that line items you may feel is important on your CIP list might not be as important to the governor and thus has more potential for a veto on those items.
- **Anchorage Assembly Member Sheila Selkregg:**
  - Heather Ireland, staff member for Assembly Member Selkregg: ..The Municipality is looking at budget shortfalls resulting from a decrease in revenues this will impact the projected biannual budget for 2009 and 2010.
  - Period for public comment on RJSP is extended until February due to community council meetings not being held in December. Sheila recognizes that it is not as long as was hoped for by the affected councils but it is better than it was. A request was made by the membership to have Sheila attend a meeting for comment by the membership if possible concerning RJSP prior to the closing of public comment. Heather will pass that onto Sheila.

#### **Community Activities Report:**

- **Aaron Pascas, Nunaka Valley Community Patrol, due to the cold weather we did not have as much going on but expect things to pick up as this cold snap comes to an end.** There is still a need for volunteers to help with the patrols. The patrol has been working with the Down Town Partnership in helping close off the streets for the New Years Eve party that the city held also for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party that was held. The patrol also assist APD with traffic control where needed. We are also in the process of acquiring new radios to enable us to be in contact with APD.

#### **Federation Report:**

North East community center report:

- Bob Reupke spoke on the successful operation of the community center by the Boys and Girls Club since its move in 2007. Bob also was happy to report that the grant for continued operation of the community center was not cut this year and that he just finished signing a new grant for \$181,430.00 so we are in good shape.

#### **Federation of Community Councils Report - Bob Reupke**

The federation meets next Wednesday at its regularly scheduled meeting. For those who aren't aware the FCC meets on the third Wednesday of the month.

#### **Business:**

**Patterson Traffic Calming Design, presented by Trevor Strait of Hattenburg Dilley & Linnell.**

Trevor gave an updated report on the final design for Patterson Street this would include street modifications and new sidewalk being constructed along with installation of lighted bollards going north from Chester Valley School to Chester Court. There was much discussion on the sidewalk design and bollard locations. This included the need for a separation from the sidewalk and the street. It was felt by some in attendance that there was a need for this separation for snow plows not blocking the sidewalk with snow after plowing so pedestrians could still have use of the sidewalks. Trevor explained that the design was used in other parts of the city and it is more cost effective constructing it in this manner. The explanation was not accepted very well and a motion was moved to require further study and design changes. The motion follows.

**A MOTION: NECC January 15, 2009 Motion**

NECC objects to the current design criteria for sidewalk location and a concern for bollard locations with respect to snow removal. Sidewalks to be constructed with a separation between sidewalks and street with a minimum of 8 feet as per Northern City Standards. This would allow for safe pedestrian use of the sidewalks after the streets have been plowed and the snow pushed to the side of the road. New design criteria is to be brought back to this body for approval prior to construction.

**The Vote:** 4 in favor, opposing 7, abstaining 9. **Failed**

Anchorage Ski Club: Lynne Lloyd, executive director and general manager. Own and operate the Arctic Valley ski area, not a part of this council or any community council. In the process of applying for a liquor license we are speaking at the different community councils as a courtesy to let them know what we are doing up there. When we took over the operation of the ski area it was in very poor condition. Since then we have been making improvements to the ski lifts and lodge. Lynne presented a five year plan to include not just winter operations but also summer activities. Part of our whole process is making a functional business we have applied for a recreational site liquor license which would allow us to serve beer and wine within one hour of recreational programs. Our hours of operation 10:30 am to 3:30 pm as the daylight gets longer we will extend ski operations until 6 pm. We would like to offer an adult environment where we can serve beer and wine. We also offer the kids a place to play down stairs in the lodge. A question was raised about what will they be serving the beverages in and will kids be allowed up stairs. The answers were the plan is to serve alcohol in cups and yes the kids will be able to come up stairs in a separate area away from the bar. Food will also be served all be it with limited menu. A question was raised that if in the future there is a increase in accidents on the road way up there. We will reconsider the serving of Alcoholic beverages. There was lots of concerned comments on serving alcohol at Arctic Valley.

**A MOTION: NECC January 15, 2009 Motion**

**All in favor to accept the proposal for beer and wine license and to be only served without glass bottles.**

**The Vote:** 6 in favor, opposing 5, abstaining 4. **Passed**

**Russian Jack Springs Park, Terry Cummings & Marc Grober:** Spoke on the upgrades planned for RJSP specifically 4 proposals presented by the Parks and Rec. Department.

1. Leave the park the way it is with no changes.
2. Upgrade existing T boxes and greens with the addition of picnic shelters and a play ground. This would require not cutting down any trees.
3. Course reroute with new pitch and putt area, new T boxes and greens, upgrade parking area, new snowboard area. This would require the removal of 1.6 acres of trees.
4. New driving range etc. this plan requires the most tree removal. Also there was no clear idea of the impact this would have on the wild life and birds with the installation of netting for the driving range.

The last opportunity for public testimony is on February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6PM. Parks Division offices. The location is the School District Office located at Boniface and Northern Lights Blvd.

After a lot of discussion on this issue, 2 Resolutions were moved from the floor with respect to these to these four proposals.

**A Resolution:** NECC January 15, 2009 Motion 1

**Whereas**, the NECC is very concerned that its rights and duties as a community council have been undermined and may have been violated and obstructed by Parks and Recreation staff under the direction of Jeff Dillon, and

**Whereas**, these concerns are heightened by the fact that Parks and Recreation staff refused to appear before the Council to present the current plan as required by law by which conduct the NECC has been essentially barred from any further comment on the RJSP project in violation of municipal ordinance, and

**Whereas**, NECC has been apprised of the action of the RJCC, which has voted to request that all further action by the PRC be delayed until the concerns of the councils can be fully addressed and at least procedurally wishes to join with its sister council, as councils within 1000 feet of the Park, in rejecting all substantive PRC action on this matter this winter intended to in any way alter the existing Park footprint, and

**Whereas** the NECC is concerned that the planning and design reflected in the project is severely lacking inasmuch as the input of the MOA Recreation Division and the ADF&G were not solicited, a variety of additional options which could render moot current options were not considered, and data supporting claims and conclusions was not published for public review if such data exists, and

**Whereas** NECC believes it important to attempt to redress and re mediate staff failures as well as act to avoid the development of further friction between Parks and Recreation staff and community councils,

Now therefore the NECC resolves that the PRC should cease and desist from any and all consideration of any plans with respect to RJSP for at least 90 days from the completion of the following:

- 1) Publication of a Parks and Rec. final analyses that includes responses to all points raised by councils and discussion presented by the public:

- 2) Publication of an actual plan (not options or alternatives) fully supported through footnotes to published materials that includes a detailed narrative that specifically sets out the details of the plan:
- 3) Publication of an itemized analysis of how every detail in the proposed plan complies with the Park Master Plan and the Comprehensive Plan:
- 4) Publication of an explanation of why any proposal does not include details addressing elements of the Master Plan that have yet to be implemented:
- 5) Publication of an affidavit indicating that Parks and Rec. appeared before all councils located within 1000 feet of RJSP, presented the materials above, received comment thereon, and provided comprehensive responses thereto, which affidavit shall include the comments of the councils and P&R responses.

**The Vote:** in favor 12, opposing 2, abstaining 2. **Passed**

**Resolution 2:**

**A Motion:** NECC January 15,2009 Motion 2

**Whereas**, the natural setting and quiet value of RJSP is of paramount importance to current park users, and

**Whereas**, citizens overwhelmingly have objected to tree clearing for a driving range, and

**Whereas**, the 2020 Comp Plan calls for preservation of RJSP, and

**Whereas**, the written deadline of Jan. 15 does not allow NECC members to comment, and

**Whereas**, several of the new alternatives violate the Master Plan for RJSP,  
**Be it resolved** the NECC would support Alternative #2, with no new picnic shelter, no new playground, and no new access road from Pine Street. Further, we would support relocating the sledding area to one of the two already cleared, and safer, sledding areas.

**The Vote:** in favor 11, opposing 2, abstaining 1. **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](mailto: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](http://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.