

NECC

Northeast Community Council

Minutes – April 16, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: 7:07PM

Board Members present: Mary Pedlow, Peggy Robinson, Bob Reupke, Ron Rivas, Stuart Grenier, Genevieve Holubik, Steve Summerfeld and Ainslie Phillips.

Baird Members Absent: All Present.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes approved unanimously.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Agenda approved unanimously.

Treasurers report: The balance in our checking account is \$737.51. There were no expenditures in March 2009 and one donation in March in the amount of \$20.00. We have \$203.11 remaining funds out of the \$1,200 donation by ML&P.

The Northeast Community Council is a non-profit organization and receives no funds from State or the Municipality of Anchorage. We therefore would gladly accept your donation of \$5.00 or more.

Executive Report:

The Executive Board met on April 2nd to work on the agenda for this meeting. Items discussed were planning for board elections – Standing committees need of more involvement by the membership – Some committees that need participation help are the CIP process, Parks, Liquor (needs people to participate), Roads and Title 21 (needs a chair and participants) – We also discussed our web site do over.

Legislative Report:

Representative Max Gruenberg.

- Max spoke on the confirmation hearings for Attorney General (Wayne Anthony Ross) and Board of Fisheries (Brent Johnson) this was the first time that a commissioner appointee has not been confirmed.
- Some of the bills that passed the House were HB44 which provides a mechanism for the financing of a "Bullet Line" (natural gas) to South Central Alaska from the North Slope. HB24 Veterans Preference Bill which would help veterans, HB19 Daylight Savings Time. He also commented on how slow and quite this session has been.
- A question was asked on the Stimulus Bill – this bill has passed the senate but the house has not seen it as yet. It is our goal to try and get as much money as we can for education etc. if the governor vetoes it then we will look into overriding that veto.

Senator Bill Wielechowski.

- In the confirmation hearings we rejected the nominations of Wayne Anthony Ross as State Attorney General and State Board of Fisheries Brent Johnson.
- Bill commented on how difficult this year is going to be for budgeting capital projects because we are running about a one billion dollar deficit. The ones that are selected will have a pretty significant match in federal funds.
- Bill spoke on his minimum wage bill it has passed the senate and house finance committee and is expected to pass the full legislature in the next day or two. Just passed – the OCS (Outer Continental Shelf) Resolution urging the federal government to support and continue to allow us to drill responsibly on our outer continental shelf and it is on the U.S. House floor tomorrow and is expected to pass. Also the price gouging bill has been moving along but is not expected to pass this year. The same thing applies to the Daylight Savings Bill which would put an end to it here in Alaska. Bill will continue to work on this in the next session.

- A question was asked concerning PersTers bill – it is gaining support but it is not likely that it will pass this session and it has a ways to go.

Community Activities Report:

- Representatives from Fire Station 6 spoke on the new CPR equipment testing and are also involved in a double blind study where the EMTs are giving a new cardiac drug in certain instances that will improve the cardiac save rate and lessen the recovery time. They also stressed the importance of people to get involved in the new CPR training classes as a first responder. These 45 minute classes are being offered at many of the area community councils. Also discussed were the city budget cuts which will impact different fire stations around the city.

Anchorage Assembly Member Sheila Selkregg:

- Heather Ireland (staffer for Sheila Selkregg) presented the report for Sheila. The Assembly is addressing the budget shortfall and the administration has submitted the first quarter budget revision. Some members of the assembly have put together an alternative budget. Sheila is coming at it with the perspective of what's best for saving money and maintaining our quality of life.
- The topic of bears was discussed – a resolution was passed that Bill Starr brought forward and was amended. However some critical information is still needed so there will be further discussion on this in the future. Sheila feels that there are wild life issues that needed to be discussed but public safety is also a very important part of any discussion on this topic in the future.
- There was a meeting last fall with local residence and park users to address Nunaka Valley park issues. The intent of this meeting was to address the issues and not solve any problems and to inspire the park department to look at a solution that would work for everyone since then no solutions have been forth coming from that department. Sheila would like to know if people would like to get together for more informal meetings at problem solving.
- The assembly had a rezone issue for a property on Muldoon by east 10th and 12th (car wash) it was postponed and there will be public testimony on this issue during the assembly meeting on June 9th.
- There was a question raised concerning the CIP list which has the Chester Creek realignment back on it when the council has so strongly opposed this.

Business:

Elections of four (4) NECC Board members:

Candidates for these positions were Genevieve Holubik, James LaBelle and Bob Reupke. There also were two (2) nominations from the floor Barbara Gazaway and Selina Metoyer. Those who were voted to the board were as follows – Three year seats Genevieve Holubik, James LaBelle, Bob Reupke and the two year seat is Selina Metoyer.

Northeast Community Center Report: By Bob Reupke

The Northeast Community Center started in 1996 in the south end of the Muldoon Mall. The Center is managed by the Boys and Girls Club and funded by a grant from the municipality, for 2009 that amount is \$181,400. We have about 65 teens and younger kids who come in every day and in the summer that attendance increases to 80 to 90. AARP just finished up with their income Tax Prep effort here at the Boys and Girls Club. Last year they helped prepare about 1500 tax forms as for this year the number of forms has not been calculated.

Federation of Community Councils: By Bob Reupke

The Federation met on March 15th at the Federation Office located at 1057 West Fireweed Lane. The Federation operates under a grant by the municipality, for this year that grant was for \$102,600.00. Lt Gilliam from the APD spoke on how important it is for anyone in the community who has a problem to call the police. Even if an officer is not going to be responding right away still make that call to report it. Jim Lamson gave presentation on the CIP list and Beth Nordlund from th parks dept. gave a presentation on the “Park Fix – Its” program. There is also a “Summer Park & Play Program running from June 8th through July 31st where parents can drop their kids off at area wide parks where there will be activities for them to be involved in for free.

CIP List presentation was presented by Steve Summerfeld

Steve gave a brief presentation of the CIP list, a more in-depth report will be given at the Mays general meeting. One area of concern was why the new list that the municipality put out included and or excluded a number of projects that we had submitted on our final CIP submittal last year. The committee spoke to Jim Lamson and got some things resolved but we are still in the process of going through the list. One important note is that a number of the parks and rec. projects were not on the list this year in fact only one of the items appeared on this list and that was the Muldoon Community Park so we are in the process of talking to parks and rec. to find out what happened to the rest of the projects and why the only one that made it on the list was one that had a very low priority. If anyone wants a park project put on the list you can contact one of the CIP committee members or anyone one the NECC board member.

Mary Pedlow spoke on the different committees that are in need of participants and they are as follows: Title 21 committee needs someone to head that committee. There are several documents that need review and those are – Landscape plan review for public roadway for “WalMart” - the Urban Design public hearing date is May 13th our comments are due May 3rd – Site plan review for large development for WalMart hearing date is May 4th and our comments are due May 25th. We use to have a town center committee and a WalMart committee. Genevieve Holubik will be reviewing these documents. If anyone is interested in volunteering on one of these committees again please talk to her.

Parks and Rec. committee: Presented by Terry Cummings.

Terry spoke on the Far North Bicentennial Park Trails improvement plan that is out for review. The trails were evaluated to determine their condition and current use in FNBP. This plan addresses missing tailings and trail amenities – identifies things they wanted to do to the trails – put trail heads in and parking upgrades for trails – the outcome will be a comprehensive and strategic trail project list endorsed by the committee. This will go before Parks and Rec. committee meeting on May 14th at 6PM at the Spenard Rec. Center as an action item where they will approve it or not. Also public testimony will be taken at that time and written comment will be accepted until May 29th. More information is available on the MUNI website.

Shelly Wade (Agnuebeck consulting) presented a report on the Strategic Park Plan - This is a 5 year plan for our public parks. Since October of last year there have been several presentations at different council meetings to hear what are some of the issues with the Parks and Rec. Dept. and its' programs. Public concerns and recommendations were heard from local area residence ranging from keeping wild places wild, safety, illegal campers and better trail connectivity. Most voiced concerns that the Parks Dept. Is not listening to or acting on comments suggested by area residence. “Our task is to work on the Strategic Plan update, second is to help the Parks Dept. do a better job at communicating and listening to what park users have to say. Hopefully around the end of June a draft of the Strategic Plan will be available”.

It was also stressed how important it is for the community to be involved in this process.

Russian Jack Springs Park- presented by Marc Grober.

Marc presented a resolution for Russian Jack Springs Park – He discussed several major problems with the RJSP project. Some of these problems are as follows – Sledding Hill change which was designed originally as a ski hill, snowboard hill terrain park - lack of a safety analyses report being accomplished on this – tree removal such as alders etc. lack of documentation or reports from professional arborists or urban forester nor were the natural resource issues addressed for this project. There was also some discussion on the city arborist ability to make the most desirable decision of which trees to be removed. It was also recommended that we have representatives from our parks committee be involved with any tree removal plans by the parks dept. A motion was moved and seconded to adopt this resolution as presented - There was a lot of discussion on the resolution as presented both in favor and opposing it as written. An amendment to the resolution is as follows “that it be reworded in such a way that it does not encourage the PRC to become defensive and not work with the council. The resolution is written as to how we feel but if we want them to work with us we do have to have the “velvet glove” on the iron fist approach”.

A vote on the resolution amendment: In favor 14, Opposed 4, Abstained 5 – **Motion Passed.**

A vote on the main motion as amended: In favor 8, Opposed 7, Abstained 0 – **Motion Passed.**

A motion was moved to extend the meeting by 10 minutes (must meet the two thirds rule)

The Vote: In favor 10, Opposed 5, Abstained 1 – **Motion Failed**

After some discussion and suggestions by the membership that further discussion and word smithing on the resolution occur by e-mail and presented by the parks committee at the councils next board meeting on May 7th then at that time have a vote on the resolution as changed then if it passes a vote then the board will pass it on.

Meeting adjourned at 10:09 PM

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 on line on this site at www.communitycouncils.org/sevelet/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.