

# NECC

Northeast Community Council

Minutes – May 19, 2005 .

**CALL TO ORDER: 7:05 pm.**

**Approval: Previous Minutes**

Minutes Approved Unanimously.

**Approval: Agenda**

Agenda approved unanimously.

**Treasurers Report:**

\$475.75 in the NECC Accounts after paying the balance due to Bob Roses. Written report was provided.

**Representatives Reports: (in no particular order)**

**Senator Bettye Davis:**

- ? Vanessa Salinas, staff for the Senator was present and took notes. No report.

**Senator Gretchen Guess:**

- ? Three items left in the special session: Workers Comp Bill; PERS / TERS System; capital budget
- ? Worked with Tom Anderson to get CIP projects for Edwards Street, lights for Muldoon at Bartlett, and school monies and community patrol monies into the budget.

**Representative Tom Anderson:**

- ? Not available, at work on the special session.

**Representative Max Gruenberg:**

- ? House to hear the capital budget tomorrow. Hopes to extend the 60-70% school construction reimbursement program to October 31 of 2006.
- ? Working on compromises for the workers comp and PERS / TERS bills.
- ? Discussion of PERS / TERS bills. The state and teachers pensions systems are underfunded by about \$5-\$6 billion. This is due in part to rising medical cost, low stock market, increase in cost of living and increase in life span. Max: The deficit is not been addressed. The current legislation only limits the growth of the debt by ending new enrollments in the current program.
- ? Discussion of workers comp bill. Bill Wielechowski: How much will the bill cut employers rates? Max: Don't know, but the insurers were actually recently given permissions to raise rates. They has asked for 9%, but were given approval to increase rates up to 12%.

**Anchorage Assembly Member Paul Bauer:**

- ? Ryan Kennedy, staff for the assemblymen was present. Paul Bauer was preparing for assembly retreat. Ryan requested three top priorities for the NECC to carry to Paul Bauer: Bob Roses previously sent in list of seven items to Paul Bauer. The following three items headed the list:
  - o Quality Development in the NECC
  - o Infrastructure for the Development
  - o Parks and Trails Connectivity

**Anchorage Assembly Member Ken Stout:**

- ? Jean Hellenthal, Staff for the assemblymen was present. No report.
- ? Took question regarding using smaller "No Parking" signs on Turpin Road back to Ken Stout.

**Community Activity Reports: (in no particular order)**

- ? **Anchorage Fire Department – Patterson Station, 267-5006**
  - o Not present.

- ? **Community Patrols** – Not present. Please contact the following individuals with questions, or to volunteer for the Community Patrols.
  - o Aaron Pascas, Nunaka Valley Patrol, 223-4630
  - o Michelle Daugherty, Northeast Patrol, 748-7800
  - o Bob Roses discussed the fact that a legislative grant for the community patrols made to the NECC was finally released to the NECC, who promptly turned it over to the community patrols.
- ? **Northeast Community Center** – Bob Rupke Center is doing well. Board elections are Wed May 25<sup>th</sup>. The center was closed today as punishment for graffiti in one of the restrooms. Josh Green – could the Boys and Girls club open a satellite sign up office at the NE Community Center, rather than make everyone head to midtown? Bob indicated he would check on this.
- ? **Road Construction Updates** – Various people.
  - o General discussion of Turpin road completion. Landscaping, utility repairs remain. Possibly work to address the broken (heaved) bike trail.
  - o Bob Roses – update on MOA chip seal program. The MOA has revised the size of the stone chips that are using for chip sealing streets to reduce fly rock on the sealed streets.
  - o Construction work for 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue is being bid soon. Expect construction later this summer.
- ? **Federation of Community Councils**– Bob Roses
  - o Primary focus of last meeting was revision of the FCC bylaws. There were no major changes, but language defining who was eligible to be delegate was cleaned up, and were rules regarding the election of FCC officers.
- ? **Spirit of Muldoon Community Picnic**
  - o No report. Peggy Robinson indicated that last years chair may or may not be able to lead this effort. In any case, work need to begin ASAP
- ? **Green House Property Update**
  - o Don Smith was not present.
  - o Bill Wielechowski had contacted Mark Peffer (Venture) and urged him to get in touch with Don Smith. Also contacted Robin Ward (Heritage Land Bank) to check on status of the green house land for park purchase.
- ? **Anchorage Police Department** – Sergeant Stanton
  - o email: [cstanton@ci.anchorage.ak.us](mailto:cstanton@ci.anchorage.ak.us)
  - o Office hours are 1200 noon – 10:00 pm at Muldoon Community Center.
  - o Discussion of gang activity throughout the city. There does seem to be some escalation in under-18 violence. APD may be forming a gang task force this summer.
  - o Discussion of vagrants living in the wooded portions of the Miller property. Police can be called, but the vagrants are frequently gone when the police arrive. Citing the homeless doesn't do much good, they generally just move elsewhere. If fires are being set, the fire department should be called.
  - o Responded to a members question about activities at a neighborhood house.

## **BUSINESS:**

### **(1) Presentation – Anchorage Animal Control, Beth Wallan**

- ? Short public relations presentation by Anchorage Animal Control.
- ? Animal control took in 8410 animals last year. About half of these were brought in at the public counter, the other half were brought in by animal control officers.
- ? Be sure to come to animal control to look for your missing animal; do not call expecting animal control to be able to identify your animal (they may have a dozen or more black labs, etc at any time). Always be sure your dog has a license and an ID tag or microchip. Cats must have ID tag or microchip. Cats do not adopt out well, so be sure your cat can be identified.
- ? Animal control has a volunteer program for people who are interested in walking, and socializing animals to improve their chances of being adopted out.
- ? Current cost to adopt an animal is \$120. Animal control gets the animal spayed or neutered prior to releasing it to the adopter.
- ? Animal Control dispatch may be reached at 343-8119.

**(2) Discussion NECC Bylaw Revisions and Updates, NECC Executive Board / Bob Roses**

- ? The NECC bylaws which govern how the NECC does business need to be updated for a variety of reasons:
- ? Bylaws date to 1999 and contain items that no longer apply to how NECC does business.
- ? MOA Ordinance 2005-1(s-1) recently passed by the MOA changed some of the requirements for community council bylaws that we need to comply with.
- ? The Federation of Community Councils has recently updated their bylaws, and we need to ensure we are in compliance.
- ? Updated / revisions were not discussed at this meeting. Rather, a committee was formed to recommend revisions to the bylaws. The committee will meet May 26, 2005, and other dates as decided by the committee at the May 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. The intent is to have bylaw revisions recommendations prior to the Executive Board meeting to be held June 2, 2005, and ready for the council membership to review and vote on at the June 16<sup>th</sup> general membership meeting.
- ? The bylaws must be voted on at the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting to meet the timeline set in the MOA ordinance for compliance. Changes are expected to be relatively minor, but they do need to be made to ensure we remain a recognized community council.
- ? At the meeting, the following individuals volunteered for the Bylaws Committee:

Bob Roses	Josh Green
Troy Carlock	Terry Cummings
Peggy Robinson	Dean Syta
- ? Committee membership is open, and other members who are interested are encouraged to volunteer for this committee.
- ? Copies of the bylaws were distributed at the meeting. Members are encouraged to submit their proposed revisions or updates in person at the Bylaw Committee meeting, or in writing to any committee member.

**(3) Discussion – NECC Committee Activities and Membership, NECC Executive Board / Bob Roses**

- ? The NECC maintains a variety of committees to address issues pertinent to our committee. We need to update, reorganize, and revitalize the membership and activities of these committees. Much of what the NECC does in our community takes place through these committees.
- ? The committees include the following:
  1. Parks and Trails Committee – keeps tabs on MOA Parks and Recreation Department, works to keep this MOA department working for parks in the NECC. Chaired by Terry Cummings. Meets as parks activity warrants. Josh Green: This committee needs to start meeting again, as the city is currently doing parks and trails planning citywide.
  2. Neighborhood Planning Committee – works to develop neighborhood plans governing local development as mandated by the Anchorage 20/20 comprehensive plan. Chaired by Lori Johnston. Meet 8 times last year.
  3. Alcohol Licensing Committee – monitors issues pertaining to alcohol sales in the NECC and makes recommendations to the NECC regarding liquor license renewals, etc. Previously chaired by Sheila Howe, chair currently open.
  4. Spirit of Muldoon Committee – plans and organizes the annual NECC community picnic (currently scheduled for early September). Bob Roses: this committee needs to organize as soon as possible to begin planning the picnic.
  5. Communications Committee -- a new committee, intended to address communications between the NECC and the rest of the community that is not otherwise aware of our activities. Chaired by Dean Syta.
  6. Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Committee – works to maintain and prioritize a list of needed community infrastructure improvements, such as roads, pedestrian amenities, parks, etc. Chaired by Ainslie Phillips (need to verify).
  7. Bylaws Committee – temporary committee formed as required to revise and update the NECC bylaws. See Agenda Item #2.
  8. The NECC has had other committees at various times. This list may not be complete.
- ? The NECC currently needs volunteers for all committees. Committee membership is open, and all members who are interested are encouraged to volunteer. Sign up lists were made available at the meeting. Anyone interested in joining a committee may contact the chair, the president, or another of the executive members. This is a good way for interested persons to participate in community affairs.

**(4) Presentation – Town Center Development Proposals, Lori Johnston**

- ? During the planning process for the Northeast Town Center, a variety of developments for the town center were proposed. The commercial and residential proposals by Venture Inc. and Cook Inlet Housing Authority are most widely known, however, other proposals were forward to the Department of Community and Economic development, which included a Neighborhood Public Health Clinic (similar to the one in Fairview), and a Technology Center, which would provide office space, education and other information-technology related infrastructure and business support. These ideas were forward to the various Muldoon property owners, however they have showed no interest.
- ? Literature describing the developments was distributed. There was a general discussion of the developments, the history of the town center planning / public process:
  - o There was some disagreement as to the public involvement process during the town center planning. Many members indicated that they had participated in the process, while others indicated the process had not allowed open participation.
  - o There was apparent agreement by the members present that the Health Clinic and Technology Center were worthwhile developments, and would be good additions to be incorporated into the town center development as anchors. However, there was also concern as to who would be willing to finance or fund these developments, and as to whether or not public health could operate another clinic.
  - o The developments need to be profitable (probably at least as profitable as other commercial or residential construction) in order for the property owners (Peffer, Miller, Smith) to consider them.
  - o In order for the Health Clinic and Technology center to move forward, the NECC will need to get the mayor and assembly to support and promote the proposals. Lori did not ask for a motion in support of these developments at this meeting, but would like the opportunity to do so in the future after the members have reviewed the proposals.
  - o Bruce Geraghty w/ Cook Inlet Housing Authority: 1) Will need tenants who are willing to pay long term to finance the cost of the development; and 2) Need to identify space requirements, square footage, etc these developments will require.
- ? The current plan by Venture to ask the MOA to provide tax abatement for the town center development was discussed to some extent:
  - o Essentially, tax abatement would provide a means to finance the town center development, but effectively subsidizes the developer and businesses in the town center, which some members view as inappropriate and unfair.
  - o There was general concern by the membership that anything done by the NECC or others that frustrated the town center progress, or which impacted the developers costs or financing the construction to town center standards would result in the land reverting to high density residential development (i.e. site condos). The property owners cannot sit on the land forever, and will eventually need to make use of it to recover their costs.
- ? Lori made the following motion:

NECC May 19, 2005 Motion (1):

*Whereas a civil balance of power is attained when taxpayers are able to vote on projects that rely on public funds and public resources;*

*Whereas the town center project as described in Anchorage's 2020 Comprehensive Plan must serve the public good;*

*Whereas the public best determines the public good;*

*The Northeast Community Council hereby resolves that municipal subsidies, tax abatements, tax increment finance bonds, or any other program, plan, or scheme that removes money from the MOA budget for a town center be voted on by the affected taxpayers.*

The Motion failed for lack of a second.

- ? As part of this agenda item, a member (Elaine Dahlgren, Executive Director of Volunteers of America) indicated that she was looking for property on which to build a 16 bed residential treatment facility. There was a short discussion as to the possibility of this facility being located and / or accepted within the NECC.

**(5) Presentation – Parks and Trail Plan Update, Josh Green**

- ? Short presentation by Josh Green on pending parks and trail plan update underway by MOA Parks and Recreation. A number of members have participated to some minor degree in the public process for the plan update, but a variety of items NECC has requested in the past are missing. The Parks Committee needs to examine and address the proposed plan. Next public hearing on this plan expected in June or July.

**(6) Presentation – Cellular Antennas for Norman Street**

- ? This item was introduced at the April meeting, but tabled for lack of information.
- ? Bob Roses was able to eventually obtain some information on this item as follows:
- ? This week a location on Norman Street is being tested by Alaska Digital to determine if the site would be suitable for a cell phone antenna tower.
- ? If the location is suitable, Alaska Digital then needs to submit a use plan to planning and zoning for their review and public hearing.
- ? There were concerns from adjacent property owners that the tower could be up to 80 feet tall immediately adjacent to an R1 / R2 zoned area.
- ? There were other concerns that comments from NECC were due before planning and zoning on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Bill Wielechowski indicated that this was not correct, and that the cell tower proposal was not yet scheduled for a planning and zoning hearing.
- ? Bob Roses reported that Lanmark Engineers was also researching locations for internet wireless antennas for Clearwire LLC.

**(7) Added Item – Discussion of Pending Subdivision of Miller Property**

- ? The Miller Property west of Fred Meyers is undergoing a subdivision request before the platting board to divide the property into two parcels. Comments are due before the Platting Board on June 13<sup>th</sup>.
- ? None of the development plans previously discussed or agreed upon by the NECC required subdivision of the property. What this means for development in the NECC is unknown.
- ? Peggy Robinson – the NECC needs to invite Jack Miller to the June executive board meeting so he can explain what is going on before the NECC takes a position on this. Since we don't have a general meeting before the comment deadline, the executive board will have to act upon this.
- ? Bill Wielechowski made the following motion:

NECC May 19, 2005 Motion (2):

*Concerning the issue of the pending Miller Subdivision, be it moved that the executive board be empowered to act upon this issue for the benefit of the community.*

Motion Passed; 13 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining

**NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS:**

- (1) Military Fence Project** A member inquired as to the status of the Ft. Richardson fence project, and whether or not the military still intended to clear a 200 foot swath along the fence line. Debbie Ossiander with the Anchorage Assembly is reportedly trying to get an update on this issue.
- (2) Landscaping on Muldoon** A member inquired as to who was responsible for watering the new landscaping within the Muldoon beatification / pedestrian improvements project. Dean Syta indicated that the project was not yet complete, and as such, the project contractor was responsible for the landscape maintenance. DOT Construction should be contacted to request that maintenance watering be performed.
- (3) North Muldoon (towards Bartlett)** Peggy Robinson reported that this segment of Muldoon and the Bartlett driveways is currently being examined for reconfiguration and new traffic lights.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT:**

Bob Roses reported that executive board activities at the May executive board meeting were limited to election of officers as announced earlier in the meeting, and setting the current agenda.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

None.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT: Approximately 9:35 pm.**