

**Board Members present:** Ron Rivas, Stuart Grenier, Bob Reupke, Ainslie Phillips, Genevieve Holubik and Selina Metoyer.

**Board Members Absent:** James LaBelle, Barbara Gazaway and Mary Pedlow.

**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 April 2009 and no donations. 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 May 7th to work on the agenda for this meeting. The board elected new officers at this meeting they are as follows: Ron Rivas - President, Stuart Grenier - Vice President, Bob Reupke - Treasurer, James LaBelle - Secretary and Barbara Gazaway - Parliamentarian. Other items discussed were re-instating standing committees and the need for more community volunteers to help with these. The resolution for RJSP was read and followed by discussion and a vote to accept it as written was taken this passed unanimously.

### **Legislative Report:**

#### **Representative Pete Peterson.**

- o It was a challenging and fruitful time in Juneau for his first session. He has been busy setting up his office down at the legislative office downtown (his office number is 380).
- o He was on the Energy Com. on the house side as well as the State Affairs Com. The house energy committee has been and will continue holding public hearing throughout Alaska discussing energy issues. Using this information the house will try and come up with a long term energy plan for the state.
- o Pete and Bill are working on price gouging legislation and are receiving very strong public support on this.
- o Pete is also sponsoring legislation to require insurance companies to insure children with Autism. As it stands now many insurance companies do not insure children with Autism so it is difficult for these kids to receive care.

#### **Senator Bill Wielechowski.**

- o Bill made available survey results from a questionnaire that is handed out every year.
- o A couple of other things he is working on since the end of session. One is a book drive for kids that was done two years ago and with over two thousand books collected was very successful. We are doing the same thing this year anyone who wishes to donate kid's books used or new can be dropped off at Fred Myers near the customer counter area thru June 8th.
- o Bill spoke on the condition of Debarr Road. He has sent several letters commissioner of transportation and to AMATS to request to add it to the priority list for road repairs. Also another letter was sent to AMATS to at least repair some of the pot holes in the interim.
- o Chugach Electric has been in contract negotiations with Conoco Phillips and Marathon oil for Cook Inlet Gas to run their generators. After a lengthy negotiation Chugach received a contract thru 2011 at a very good

rate. RCA is requesting that Conoco give the same good rate on natural gas to ENSTAR however they are refusing to do this. Both Sen. Wielechowski and Rep. Peterson are working on this issue.

- o Bill spoke on the governor's decision not to accept 28.6 million dollars for energy etc. from the Stimulus Fund. It is his belief that this is a big mistake and now that money will go to other states when we could use those energy dollars for our own needs.

#### Senator Betty Davis. presented Tom Obermyer

- o The main purpose this year was with health and education. We had education bills for homeless students particularly with foster care of kids. In August there will be hearings on high school graduation qualifying exams. There is some controversy over whether it should be continued or not and if a child should be denied a diploma as a result of failing that test.
- o There was a number of bills that reached the finance committee - limitations on nurses overtime, motor fuel suspension tax, commission on the status of women, compulsory school age to 18, issue that came up in some of the health committees was the mental health insurance parity, mental health patience grievance and trauma centers appropriations.
- o One of the biggest disappointments was the failure of Denali Kid Care bill which would increase the eligibility level to 200% of the federal poverty guide line. We are one of the last four states in the country that has at least gone to that level to increase coverage for children and pregnant woman.

#### Anchorage Assembly Member Sheila Selkregg:

- o Heather Ireland (staffer for Sheila Selkregg) presented the report for Sheila. Last time she was here there were questions regarding the Debarr Road extension specifically how it fits into the CIP list. She spoke with Jim Lamson's about this and his reply was once a project gets on the list it stays there which is better than if it were to be taken off because it gives the public a chance to continue rejecting these projects, thus supplying a history of rejection. Rather than having to start the rejection process all over again. Due to the economic climate and the reduced funding for road projects this particular project has no funding attached to it. If in the future funding was to become available this project would likely be very low on the priority list, because there is not public support for this project.
- o U-Med access - There was a public meeting last Tuesday on this study/analyses regarding road traffic in that area. The project has some pretty big implications for those who use Northern Lights and access to U-Med campus. Those who are involved with this project are state engineers and Dowl/KHM are involved with this project. There will be public comment thru mid June.

#### Community Activities Report:

##### Northeast Community Center Report: By Bob Reupke

The Northeast Community Center is managed by the Boys and Girls Club. The Boys and Girls Club had some problems with kids congregating at the outside door in front of the library so the owners of the mall "Noodlum - Terry Parks and Dan Coffee" has decided to hire somebody so if anyone is interested they can apply. They are looking for a retired person it would be 35 hours a week. The job entails security type work and a little maintenance and some cleanup work. It pays between \$10.00 and \$13.00 an hour.

##### Federation of Community Councils: By Bob Reupke

Brief report: FCC met this month, 3 members attended the NUSA (Neighborhoods USA) in Spokane. Anchorage will host in May 2011.

#### Road Construction Update:

Edwards Street went out to bid, there is a low bidder. Post-bid conference on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Construction to begin after July 4<sup>th</sup>. Coordinating with DOT Highway Safety Project, DOT plans for construction on Debarr. Impact to mall access at Edwards, reconstruct access to driveway on Debarr. Move fire hydrant. Plans to leave mall existing access to Debarr the way it is, leaving foot access, as they reconstruct Edwards. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue bid opening up a couple of days ago, construction happening later this summer. Debarr near Costco will take roughly 45 days. Re-paving of curve to the swerve, Muldoon is under bid, and may or may not happen this

year. Questions still need to be answered regarding that project. Turn lanes on Debarr that will impact Nunaka Valley are online. Duben road project unfinished, Boundary east of Muldoon still on the list for completion. Boniface connecting to Elmore, overpass for bikes, will curve onto Elmore.

### Weed and Seed:

Tim Sullivan, program coordinator said their grant was to expire at the end of May but the program received a 3 month extension and will actually end in August. He doesn't know what will happen to the grants for 10<sup>th</sup> and final year. Budgets have been cut in half nationally the last two years. The program did receive \$50k from the legislature thanks to Sen. Wielechowski and \$15k went to the Boys & Girls Club, \$7500 gas, \$7500 defrays cost of dues for children who participate at B&G Club.

We are seeing more mouthwash bottles in homeless camps now and it seems retailers are doing little or nothing to curb sales. The city needs to deal with inebriates in a different way. Seattle and other cities have good examples in the way handle their inebriate problems which results in less use of emergency services and are more humane than throwing them in jail or letting them live in the woods.

### Executive Committee Report:

Reinstating standing committees, asking for volunteers to sign up. Need public participation. Title 21 land rules and regulations are being re-written, Genevieve working on committee. Learn how it's impacting our area. Zoning changes may happen that leaves the northeast parts of Anchorage to take on the kind of zoning laws they don't want in their areas.

Committee's needing assistance: CIP, Liquor, Parks, Roads and Projects.

### Chester Valley Elementary Renewal: Yuki Janson

Project Mgr., starting construction this year completed August 2010. Playground closed for safety reasons (fenced off) during construction. Architect present color schemes; bldg. design committee presented 4 different color schemes, Building will have new administrative, food service and gym area. Completely new on inside; plumbing, electrical, data, lighting, better storm drain system, etc. Meet current energy code, low-sloped roof, overflow drains. Keeping original crab designs. Re-Landscaped to meet title 21, trees on backside, maintain size of playground and hockey rink, will expand drop-off and parking area to increase safety. Project is \$12 million, new building would have been \$15 million - operating expenses would be similar. Some asbestos will be abated.

### Area Park Projects scheduled for this summer: Terry Peters - Northeast Park District Mgr.

Terry Peters, northeast district park manager, Chris Conlon. 18 parks in northeast needed significant improvement. Standish Park, near Muldoon Elementary, received an "F" grade. 15 extreme park makeovers in northeast. 60 volunteers from Princess Tours helped with this project. Items that the Parks Dept. are including in the park makeovers are new park benches, fencing, new toys, remove dead trees/vegetation, remove graffiti, replace sign.

Re-opened on May 28<sup>th</sup>, Mao Tosi group bbq, music, celebrate, etc. Begich Middle School, Youth Employment Program for summer school program, \$30 or request scholarship; teaching environmental stewardship. Cheney Lake re-stocked, no pike. Continued reports of illegal camps, citizens give locations to APD, community work program cleans up areas. Illegal activity get's priority attention. Original CIP list had 15 parks identified, when sent back it had one. Parks and rec. will have part-time rangers this summer to address safety and public outreach. Huge ruts and potholes along bike path near tennis court, refrigerators being dumped along Boundary.

### Russian Jack Springs Park- presented by Terry Cummings

Urban Design Commission passed plan, land design committee brought to NECC. UDC didn't receive public comment, opportunity to comment only online. Resolution drafted. Commissioner Joyner expressed concern no one had been provided a copy of the Master Plan. 1979 Master Plan, 1997 Master Plan have been requested and have not been provided with copies. Draft Resolution, cannot be voted upon until next regular meeting after mailed notice of action to be taken. 27 acres originally proposed, will be much less than original, fewer trees removed, will reconfigure sledding hill, put

in snowboarding hill. Site Plan presented to UDC did not consider alternative sighting or other options and inconsistent with Russian Jack Master Plan with respect to land usage (1979 Master Plan and cannot find 1997 Plan). Recommended buffers to protect water quality inconsistent with sight plan presented to UDC, public was advised the UDC would take public testimony, but changed their minds and did not take public testimony; "hands were tied." Inconsistent with public interest, inconsistent with the parks and rec., and inconsistent with Master Plan. Resolution asks for no further development/construction until a new master plan is complete/adopted.

Deferred the resolution to the next executive board/or next membership meeting.

**Car wash rezone at 11th and Muldoon - Case Number MOA 2009-003.** Though this resolution was not brought forward in advance because it is a time sensitive item. It was decided to vote on the resolution so it could be brought to the Assembly at the time the case was to be heard.

**A resolution was moved and seconded concerning this item. The resolution is as follows:**

**WHEREAS**, there are over one hundred acres of vacant and re-developable business zoned properties available for purchase within one mile of this property.

**WHEREAS**, this rezone does not contain the guarantees expressed during a presentation to NECC in the fall of 2008 for a previous failed rezone of this area.

**WHEREAS**, the NECC has an over ten year position in opposition to further strip zoning along Muldoon Road.

**WHEREAS**, a 24 hour car wash is particularly incompatible in a zone almost completely surrounded by residential use, and;

**WHEREAS**, this incompatibly with surrounding properties is only one of many violations of the 2020 plan, and;

**WEREAS**, this rezone was denied by the staff of the planning department, the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Housing and Neighborhood Development Commission, the Old Harbor Homeowners Association, and Mrs. Wai Fong Sun whose property would be rezoned against her will, and (partial take of her property).

**Now, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, we, the Northeast Community Council, respectfully request the Assembly to deny this rezone.

**A vote on the resolution: In favor 11, Opposed 0, Abstained 0. The motion passes, a motion was moved to state that this was passed by unanimous consent. No objections to the vote being recorded as unanimous consent. Passed by unanimous vote at the Northeast Community Councils regular meeting, Thursday May 21, 2009.**

#### **Chester Creek Project: Bill Spencer, Megan Wright - HDR Inc. and Russ Oswald Muni. PM&E**

Russ Oswald. gave a brief history of the Chester Creek realignment project to bring the member ship up to date. He outlined some of the issues that are problems with the creek they are as follows: creek crossing under Muldoon Rd., upstream gradient issue, fish passage, treatment issues with the old separator that treats outfall water from the north fork, and a very long term plan is the potential of the road extension of Debarr Rd. The plan was to get the area of the creek cleaned out for when and if this does happen. So the decision was made to purchase this property and re-plat it with park land on the back, a housing parcel and a commercial parcel, move the creek out of the right of way. That would allow them in the distant future to extend Debarr Rd. to the military reservation. Key issues to remember are the right of way, creek relocation, the park in the back, water quality issues. Those were the reasons for the municipality to purchase this property. When this was given to me I was tasked with opening up that right of way which would necessitate moving that creek out of the right of way to allow at some future date the expansion of Debarr Rd. My direction was that if we could not get this right of way open then they (the Muni) didn't have a project sort of speak and they would have to put it back up for sale to dispose of it.

Bill Spencer: This is really a creek project and not a road job. He spoke at length on the routing of the north branch under Muldoon Rd., the condition of the separator's condition, and the deep ditch that runs along the west side of Muldoon Rd. which sets the grade for that portion of the creek which causes a problem for fish movement up and down stream. Some of the things we would like to fix is the fish passage, the storm water out fall which brings road pollutants especially in the winter such as road salt, deicers, untreated storm water, install another water separator somewhere further down the road.

What we are not going to do; the proposed project would re-plat the parcel with commercial, residential, and a park area. The re-platting would be done but there would be no money for infrastructure for the park at this point. We're not here to build a park, or a extension of Debarr Rd.. We are here to reroute the creek.

Last fall the community council came out against the project and against moving the creek and passed a resolution opposing the moving Chester Creek. With that resolution the Anchorage water way council came out in support of that resolution also.

Following this introduction there was a long discussion on this topic mostly opposing the current and past plans for the moving Chester Creek out of the right of way. There were other suggestions brought forth by the body such as making another access road off of Muldoon at 14th and tying it into Debarr Rd. east of Muldoon thus leaving the trees and stream as is. Or moving Chester Creek so that it follows Muldoon on the roads east side down and installing a separator in that area as it crosses Muldoon Rd. Making the whole area a park strip for the residence of the area to enjoy rather than open it up to housing development and a commercial sight.

**A motion was moved and seconded: The Northeast Community Council is particularly opposed to extending Debarr Road. and the motion is as follows:**

**WHERE AS:**

We, the citizens of Northeast community Council, hereby resolve, that the Municipality of Anchorage's current plans to A. Realign Chester Creek and B. Extend Debarr Road from Muldoon to Boston Street, as noted on the 2010 Capital Projects Needs List from MOA, are in direct opposition with the wishes of the citizenry and any action, construction, studies, etc. immediately cease and desist.

Furthermore, no realignment of the creek, or construction of roadway shall take place, until the concerns, conditions, and requirements of the community are addressed and met.

**CONCERNS:**

Extension of Debarr Road from Muldoon to Boston to increase traffic flow will exacerbate current dangerous pedestrian/homeowners situations.

Example: Homeowners whose property fronts Debarr currently have difficulty with speeding traffic turning to and from their property.

Homeowners whose property fronts Debarr road will most likely lose some of their land for purposes of increasing shoulder area for curb and gutter. How will they be compensated and by whom?

Currently, drainage is an issue with underground braided streams and surface water on the roadway which causes icing conditions and other unsafe traffic and pedestrian issues. How will that be addressed? Will new water lines, sewer and drainage systems be installed?

Currently the street lighting on Debarr does not meet standard MOA/DOT criteria for lights per square footage of area. Will new lights be installed? What type? How will the down lighting be addressed to prevent additional light into homes on the street?

Currently, speeding is a huge problem. Will traffic calming methods be installed to prevent/curtail/and discourage this current problem from getting worse when the road is extended thus giving more running distance for speeders?

Who is the group of citizens expected to benefit from opening up Debarr access? Since the property formerly known as the "Greenhouse" property is unbuildable land?

Are you constructing a roadway for future development that cannot physically happen due to the soil conditions and destroying years of volunteer efforts to produce an area for people to interact with the stream and the natural habitat, not to mention the historic significance this land holds.

**REQUIREMENTS and CONDITIONS:**

Reserve space in the new project to replace, restore and enhance the public's interaction with the creek, nature trails, flora, fauna, and history and that it be replaced appropriately so. And it may not require square foot for square foot area but even three times the area to honor the work, pride and purpose that the years of the volunteer effort created.

Recognize the previous volunteer efforts, community dedication and contributions it took to make the area something to be proud of and not wasted the personal, community and federal money used in a manner that will not diminish future volunteer efforts on projects if people get the impression "why bother" their efforts aren't appreciated anyway.

Interact closely with the community members who have worked on this project in the past and have not only a vested interest in the project but a personal commitment to make something of lasting value for all members of the community.

Follow the design and intent of the Town Center Committee Plan and the Comp 20/20 ideals to make this area a pedestrian friendly, "green" ecosystem that celebrates what Alaska and this community represents. Multicultural, one with nature, minimal infrastructure that blends with the environment.

Honor the history of the area both in design and esthetics.

Meet with the community members who have worked on the projects and really LISTEN to their ideas. Incorporate their ideas where possible.

Review the alternative plans for traffic access to the area and strongly consider them in your plans. They may be less costly as they could incorporate existing features you may have not noticed.

Review the communities long term goals for the area as they have additional and/or alternative ideas that may better meet the needs of the entire community you would have no way of knowing about. For instance, HLB sent a bridge to Fairbanks last year that could have worked well on this project and it was free.

Be open and forthcoming with all information.

We reserve the right to add to these terms, conditions and requirements as necessary.

**The Vote: In favor 10, Opposed 0, Abstained 1. Motions passes.**

**Motion to extend meeting 15 minutes: in favor 8, opposed 0, abstained 1. Motion passed.**

**CIP list Review: Ainslie Phillips**

CIP list that the NECC passed last year. The Municipality sent out an updated version of the CIP list that has everything we had, but changed priority order with additions that the CIP committee did not agree with. Since we do not have time to cover the CIP list this evening the CIP committee would like to put forth a motion that we resubmit as ranked in the previous year's CIP list eliminating and making comments on the municipalities CIP list those items that this council is either not in favor of and needs more investigative work on or is flat out against or ie. opening up Debarr Road and some of the other road projects that were on there. The CIP committee will recumbent both copies on the one the municipality sent us we are going to strike through the item we find not acceptable with comments "unacceptable, needs more

information. Need to resubmit, eliminate items and comment on items this body does not agree with. Deadline to submit next week. Will resubmit both to include comments:

**Motion was moved and seconded to pass a resolution resubmitting CIP list with recommendations: in favor 10, opposed 0, abstained 1. Motion passed.**

**A Motion to reconsider the NECC 2009 CIP list was moved and seconded. This required a two thirds vote receiving that. in favor 10, opposed 0, abstained 1. Motion passed.**

**Motion was moved to make the following changes to the CIP list and seconded.**

Nunaka Valley traffic calming has been a four year plan from Nunaka Valley and currently is item number 17 rating of MOA ROADS list under Nunaka Valley traffic calming would like to move it up to number 4. And move Cherry Street from 4 to 17 on the ranking. No objections were raised on this part of the motion.

Add a line item to establish a Nunaka Valley park plan insert it as line item 4 moving all other sequential items down. Then we will make a line item note on 18 stating it must meet approval of Nunaka Valley park plan.

**The Vote: In favor 10, Opposed 0, Abstained 1. Motion Passes.**

Meeting adjourned at 10: 16 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](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 on line on this site at [www.communitycouncils.org/sevelet/content/23.html](http://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.