

# NECC

Northeast Community Council

Minutes – June 18th, 2009

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CALL TO ORDER: 7:00PM

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

**Board Members Absent:** Mary Pedlow.

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

**Approval of Agenda:** Agenda approved unanimously.

**Treasurers report:** The balance in our checking account is \$737.51. There were no expenditures in May 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 June 4th to work on the agenda for this meeting. We did discuss the plans for WalMart's projected work on 10th. We will not have a meeting in July for our summer break. We will have our regular meeting starting back in August. At which meeting we will vote on making changes to our by-laws under the meeting section "F" stating that in order to be eligible to vote you must have attended at least two meetings ect.

## **Legislative Report:**

### **Senator Bill Wielechowski.**

- Bill discussed the energy strategy that he and his staff is working on how we are going to move Alaska forward in terms of the energy issue. Looks like we are going to have to break the state down into three parts: Rail Belt, South East and the Bush each having their own sets of issues that will need to be addressed in any workable energy plan. Other groups are working on projects that have the potential of supplying energy to the state.
- The legislature is still working on the governor's veto of parts of the stimulus package.
- A question was asked concerning the Kinik Arm Bridge. "It is really fall under AMATS that being said there are those who live in the valley who want the project and those who live on the Anchorage side have concerns on the project. He feels that the money could be better spent on improving our existing roads."

### **Representative Pete Peterson.**

- Staffer Dave Dunsmore represented Rep Peterson is working with the energy committee and conducting meetings all over the state to better understand what the energy issues are. Pete is very concerned that we have a comprehensive state energy plan and making sure that the needs of urban Alaskans are met also.
- Pete is also looking closely at Enstars latest request to raise what it charges its customers for natural gas another 5%.
- Another issue that Pete has heard a lot about is the condition of Debarr Road he is working with Sen. Wielechowski and Rep. Gruenberg to secure funding through the AMATS process for the road repair.

## **Representative Max Gruenberg: Presented by Lisa Valenta-staffer.**

- Max attended two conferences in the last month. One was on the Nation conference to address the census in 2010. We encourage everyone to fill it out because a lot of federal dollars are tied to population. It will also determine where we draw the line in terms of redistricting and where the political boundaries are going to be drawn.
- Max also attended the council on state government, the purpose of this conference was to look at the best proposed state legislation across the country. Then take those ideas and see if they are applicable to Alaska.
- The Booster seat bill was passed and signed by the governor. That will make about 200,000.00 in federal highway funds available with about half going to low income families to buy booster seats for their children.

## **Community Activities Report:**

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

The Northeast Community Center is managed by the Boys and Girls Club, The club is opened from 11 AM to 6 PM they do have a early bird program where they are open at 7 AM. The Club operates on a grant of 181,400.00 from the MOA and is managed by the Boys and Girls Club.

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

The Federation met on March 15<sup>th</sup> at Valley of the Moon Park for a Bar B Q and meeting. We discussed the NUSA (Neighborhoods USA) conference held in Spokane where we had four or five members who attended that. Anchorage is going to host it in 2011 which should be an exciting event.

### **Safe Harbor: presented by Shanees Jackson.**

We are located in what was the old Ramada Inn we have 50 open rooms at which we have between 150 to 175 guests at this time which consists of adults and children. More than 85% of the guests are homeless families. More than 70% of our guests make it into permanent housing and leave homelessness behind and our satisfaction rating when guest exit the residency is 98%. Currently on the waiting list is between 250 and 300 people. There are currently 50 social service agencies that refer clients to Safe Harbor. The length of stay is a 100 days. There has been a good deal of renovations completed including a play area for the kids.

### **Fire Station 6: Presented by Tom Westcott.**

Cautioned everyone to be vigilant because we are in wild land season. When you do see smoke don't be hesitant to call it in. Everyone has heard of the rig closures and there are certain days that engine will be unavailable the Medic wagon will still be on ready.

## **Business:**

### **Centennial Park: Teri Peters-North East Park District Mgr. and Chris Conlon**

Teri discussed the budget short fall resulting in cuts to the Parks and Rec. Dpt. which impacted the times that some of the parks would be open. Centennial Park being one of those impacted. The department look long and hard at where we were going to spend those recourses. It was a difficult decision to have to reduce the hours of operation at Centennial Park from 7 days to 4 days a week. The decision was based on occupancy for that park which is around 50% so the Dept. felt that the money that was available could be better utilized funding summer kids programs around the area.

There were 4 questions raised at the meeting and they are as follows: (This was addressed to Mr. Conlon.)

1. When you came to the last NECC meeting and gave your report you did not mention the planned closure of Centennial Park.
2. When asked why you have not returned any of our emails to you? Your reply was that it was felt that we were being rude and unprofessional.
3. Why isn't FEC working in the neighborhood-what happened?

4. We would like you to explain to the council the plans that have been on the books for 5 years to let Centennial Park get run down so it can be used as an excuse to close Centennial Park for the expansion of ML&P.

I felt that there was a lot of emotion in those emails and unfortunately I don't think a lot of the folks who sent those emails are here tonight. There was a comment made in jest. Our job is to provide parks and recreation to the city we are not the police department, were not the fire department, we have a certain mission and goal. We are not ML&P we have a certain mission and mandate from you folks. Our goal and job is to partner with community organizations, community groups, residents to determine the needs of the community as it relates to recreation. At the last meeting we were scheduled late in the meeting and did not have a lot of time. So we covered topics that were currently being worked on in the community. I am not aware of any plan or position of ML&P. It was felt by all the need for a better working relationship between the council, residence of the community and the Parks and Rec.

**A motion was moved from the floor and seconded:**

**The Northeast Community Council recognizes that Centennial Park can to be better managed by a non-profit or private partnership with the goal of maintaining the park hours of operation at 7 days a week. Or alternatively that the municipality should consider amending the municipal code to allow for more flexibility with respect to staffing and camp host with camp hosts taking more responsibility.**

**The Vote: In favor 11, Opposed 2, Abstaining 2: Motion Passes.**

**2nd. Motion was moved from the floor and seconded:**

**We the people of the Northeast Community Council request an immediate taskforce be formed with Parks and Recreation and other appropriate MOA departments to discuss, analyze and create a viable workable solution in the best interest of Centennial Park and its viability and future. And be immediately addressed in the five year strategic park plan. Additionally we recommend first hire of laid off MOA park employees in positions that this may create.**

**The Vote: In favor 17, Opposed 0, Abstained 2: Motion Passes.**

**People Mover Busses: Presented by Jodi Carrs.**

Jodi representing people mover came to answer questions on planed reductions in service to some areas. She was asked about the hub being moved from Muldoon center to Target? Her response was no that is wrong the plan has always been to have the hub here at the Muldoon Mall. She also stated that people mover got the biggest funding cut in the city. People Mover did a lot of things to reduce costs before cutting service. Some things that were done to reduce costs was the purchase of 18 new busses that are under warranty allowing large reductions in the parts budget. Having drivers turn off their busses if they are going to be stopped for more than 4 minutes and eliminating 4 holidays..... . A question was asked about going to smaller busses. " P.M. did purchase some of the smaller busses but they are not working out at all, drivers and the riders do not like them and there is not that much is savings."

**Creek Side Town Center Plat: Ainslie Phillips.**

When this all started out it was a change in the zoning of the property Alaska Village Trailer Park. From these changes a document known as AO 2001- 24S was voted on and approved by the NECC and the Assembly and all other appropriate MOA departments.

"An improved master plan shall have a provision that individual lots or parcels shall have vehicular access onto an interior road. Direct access onto Muldoon Road and Debarr Road shall be prohibited."

There is currently two new drive ways going onto Debarr and plans to have one exiting onto Muldoon in what appears to be a violation on this AO. Ainslie further explained that from the AO then gets carried by law then gets carried over by law to create a plat. The "SL" then are written on the plat as items of law to be followed for future development purposes. It was then explained from that point where additional plat notes were added that appeared to be in contradiction and violation of the AO. We are still uncertain who added these notes. Tim Potter who represents the developer expressed that there were further resolution submitted by his group and passed that supported these additional notes. However an extensive research done separately by Ainslie and the administrative department heads of the MOA and then later again by Marry Pedlow it has been determined by these parties that these resolutions were never adopted and the AO should stand alone as written law. Thus a "suspected illegal plat is being used" copy of the AO and plat were provided for review and after much general discussion a resolution was passed.

**A motion for a resolution was moved from the floor and seconded.**

**We the people of the Northeast Community Council having deep concerns that the AO2001-24S that developed the town center is not being adhered to in its original purpose and intent including but not limited the roads and access to Debarr and Muldoon and other areas that have started causing concern to the community. And we ask that Municipality cease and assist further road construction.**

**The Vote: In favor 13, Opposed 0, Abstained 2: The Resolution Passes**

**Site Plan review for WalMart in regards to 10th and 11th street: By Ainslie Phillips.**

There was a discussion concerning WalMarts intent to open up E. 10th and E. 11th which was not supposed to happen under the plan. These two streets were not suppose to connect to WalMart property. Those in attendance were very concerned with this new development by WalMart so a resolution was put forth. Also there was a discussion on reenergizing and reenact immediately what use to be the town center and beautification communities and name it the Northeast Community futures plan or some other title to be decided on at a later date if needed. And if we are to be successful in the committees we need help.

**A resolution was moved from the floor and seconded:**

**We the North East Community Council express immediate and great concern regarding the site plan, the transportation plan, building locations and traffic patterns of egress and ingress onto Paterson, East10th and East 11th. Landscaping and obvious lack of pedestrian amenities were also areas of great concern.**

**The Vote: In favor 14, Opposed 0, Abstained 2. Resolution Passes.**

**There was a motion to extend the meeting until 10:15 PM.  
the vote: in favor 12, Opposed 0, Abstained 4, motion passes.**

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.