

NECC

Northeast Community Council

Minutes – September 17th, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00PM

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

Board Members Absent: Mary Pedlow, Genevieve Holubik, James LaBelle

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes approved unanimously.

Approval of Agenda: Due to the agendas late distribution a motion was moved to postpone the action items on the agenda until Octobers membership meeting. So items 1 through 10 be tabled until then. Items 1 through 10 can still be open for discussion at this current meeting. the vote: In favor 14, Opposed 1, Abstained 1. Motion Passed

Treasurers report: The balance in our checking account is \$726.71. There was one expenditure in September for \$10.80 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 September 3rd. to work on the agenda for this meeting. We still have some vacancy that need to be filled possibly another one.

Legislative Report:

Senator Betty Davis, presented by Tom Obermeyer staffer.

- Senator Davis is very involved with the senate education committee and will have a meeting with the senate education committee on October 23rd on senate bill 109 on the high school graduation and qualifying exam which has been a major issue since they started it and will also have discussion on Work Key which is another type of testing. It is felt that this will not replace the high school graduation exam. It suppose to be a certification that young people can get toward finding work after they leave high school.
- Senator Davis and her staff have had meetings with to discuss Medicaid and Denali Kid Care in separate meetings to get the background on what the updates are.

Senator Bill Wielechowski, presented by George Efcott, staffer.

- George spoke briefly saying that the Senator has been traveling around the state with the joint senate and resources committee. He is Co-Chair of the Senate Resources Committee to look at ways to find new and more efficient sources of energy around the state.

Representative Pete Peterson:

- Had a meeting to discuss the gas supply and there is enough gas to supply South Central now but there could be a disruption if there was an equipment failure. If we were to get into a prolonged cold spell which can be very hard on equipment i.e. compressor etc. that's when there could be some equipment failures. The Utilities have contingency plans in place should such a thing occur. The Municipality is also working on contingency plans should such a thing occur.
- The Governor may put forth legislation to suspend the gas tax for two more years so we will be subject to discussion when we get back to Juneau in January.

Representative Max Gruenberg.

- Tomorrow he will be driving around his district with Jim Lamson, Capital Project Manager Muni, we have at least two parts of my district that we will be looking at among others. One is the intersection of Duben and Paterson where there has been two instances where cars have not been able to stop due to excessive speed in the winter and have run into a house at the bottom of the hill. The other one is Trafford street where the residence there would like to have some speed bumps so slow cars there.
- Early next month the House Transportation Committee is going to have three days of hearings the first day is on rural airports. The second day is dealing with things and the problem between here and MatSu. The third day will be dealing with issues in Anchorage, federal funding and that sort of thing.
- Max also spoke on the poll that has been completed by legislators on their feelings about the 90 day session verses having it back to a 120 day session. The response was overwhelmingly in favor of going back to 120 days. He would like to see the community councils draft resolutions in favor of returning to a 120 day session in Juneau next year.

Anchorage Assembly Member Sheila Selkregg:

Heather Ireland (staffer for Sheila Selkregg) presented the report for Sheila. Title 21 is wrapping up and will come before the assembly shortly. In October Sheila will be working on some affordable housing issues. Sheila will be driving around with others to look at some of the items on the CIP list and also looking at items her constituents have been emailing or writing her about. On October 1st the Mayor is releasing the 2010 budget. In municipal code it states that the administration needs to submit in addition to submitting the budget 90 days before the end of the fiscal year they need to submit a six year fiscal plan. They do so for capital projects but they do not do it for general fiscal issues. It is something historically that has not been done but it is in code and so Sheila introduced an resolution Tuesday saying this needs to happen we need to be following code on this. The reason to do that is in times when we aren't coming up short fiscally we can say these are our community priorities - this is where we want our money directed. So the intent of the six year plan with public input the administration will have better guidance on how they formulate their budget. There was a question raised about Title 21 addressed to Sheila because of her planning background being sure that Title 21 as adopted is in fact Title 21 is as executed by some agencies. Heather will make Sheila aware of that concern.

Community Activities Report:

Northeast Community Center Report: By Bob Reupke

The Northeast Community Center is managed by the Boys and Girls Club we have 600 members with between 30 to 40 who show up on a regular bases. It is used quite a bit now with the community council, Cheer leaders, Lions club, Volunteers of America, Assets Hope, Denali Family Services so this facility is being used on a regular basis.

Federation of Community Councils: By Bob Reupke

The Federation of Community Councils met on March 16th we had 16 in attendance. Jeff Freedman from the school board was present he didn't really have a report but answered some questions. One was asked about the new computer program called "Zangle" was going not sure how successful it is going to be. A question was asked about the resource officer (police officers) who come into the schools to help with gang activity and it is felt that the program is going well. The FCC would like to cut back on snail mail that they send out every month with over 400 mailings that they have to send out every month. The FCC is expecting to get a budget cut in the coming months and would like to cut that back to 30 or 40 mailings. The address for the FCC is 1051 Fireweed Lane. NUSA (Neighborhoods USA) was discussed we are due to hold the conference here in 2011 where all these representatives come together to discuss community activities and have meetings. A lot of people will be coming to this event and is expected to bring about a million dollars into the city from this convention. The dates for the convention is May 25 thru. May 28th 2011.

Community Activities Report:

Chip Serns from Fire Station 6 he was here to supply facts and answer any questions you might have. In response to budget pressure the fire department has been instructed to eliminate overtime. The method that has been done is rolling rig closures. These rolling rig closures take the form of apparatuses not being staffed that day if it would require over time. The following figures are approximat and should not be used as gospel. Engine 6 at Debarr and Paterson have been closed 3 times for 24 hour shifts since February. Tender 14 has been closed 30 time since February, what is a tender truck it is a water truck that supplies water to none hydranted areas which includes all trailer parks in the area. Engine 14 which responds to this area has been closed 5 times since February, and the list goes on. This results in longer response

time and so the longer it takes for a fire truck to respond to a fire the higher the likely hood for greater property damage and this could also increase the chance of people getting hurt.

Business:

A motion was moved by the board to move up item 7 Chester Creek presentation to number 1 because they are present and ready to give their presentation. The motion was seconded and the vote was in favor 14, those opposed 0. Motion passed.

Chester Creek Project: Presented by Bill Spencer, Megan Wright - HDR, Russ Oswald- Muni.

Russ spoke on the relocation of Chester Creek - We have been working with HDR since the last time we met here and we actually have a plan we are starting to move forward on. We are here to give you a update of where we are at on this. Bill Spencer from HDR passed out a map describing what changes they have come up with. Heritage Land Bank has agreed to leave the upper section of the creek in place. The creek will make a turn to the south approximately 200 feet east of where Chester Creek goes under Muldoon. Bill discussed the problems with the north branch of the creek. The north branch enters a storm drain and travels down the center of Muldoon and because it is lower (by 5 feet) than the existing creek along the green house property this resulted in the deep trench along the west side of Muldoon. By rerouting the stream as represented in the hand out the grade problem could be take care of. There was a recommendation by the body to make that whole area a park strip like the one down town. Where people could come and enjoy their time in a park setting with a beautiful stream flowing through the park. It would be much better use of the land that turning it into a business and residential area. There was lots of discussion from the grade problems making it difficult for smaller salmon to make it up that section of the creek, problems with the old oil and gas separator etc. Again it was felt by several people in attendance that this whole project is designed to allow development along Muldoon Rd. and at some point in the future allowing the construction of the extension of Debarr Road. Russ O. stated that this is a kick off of the project and will be having an open house for this project within the next month or so. There will also be a citizens advisory group we are putting together. We are going to ask for 2 to 3 representatives from the community councils to be on it as well and we will have time for input and nothing is cut in stone.

Items 1 thru. 6 and items 8 thru. 9 will be discussed at our meeting in October.

Update on the need for a traffic signal at Boundary and Boniface. Max Gruenberg.

Max has heard from many of his constituents over the years about the danger of kids and cars trying to cross Boniface. He has spoke to Scott Thomas from the state DOT and will hopefully be at the next community council meeting in October to discuss what should be done about this traffic problem area. Scott suggested what he would like to see is that the two councils NECC and Russian Jack come up with a two or three member committee that would work together to address this problem.

Neighborhood Concerns:

A concern from a resident of Nunaka Valley had a question as to why the ball fields we locked. David Dunsmore and Heather Ireland spoke on this topic. The little league managers sprayed some kind of herbicide on the ball fields and then locked the gates to keep the kids out until the fields were safe to use again. This was evidently done without the consent of the city or the parks department. An investigation is ongoing into this issue. When asked if the gates were still locked it was not known at that time.

Other important Notes and Announcements:

Meeting was adjourned at 10PM

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.