

# NECC-DRAFT

Northeast Community Council

Minutes – October 15, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: 7:02PM

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

**Board Members Absent:** None

Item 1:

A motion was made to have the executive committee approve the appointments by the president to the NECC that were made at the last executive meeting by Ron Rivas. The first appointee, James Starzec, was introduced by Ron, and a motion to vote on his appointment was made and seconded.

**A vote on the motion: In favor-5, opposed-0, abstains-0, the motion passed.**

Stu Grenier introduced the second appointee, Kevin Smestad. Ron then made a motion to vote on his appointment was made and seconded.

**A vote on the motion: In favor-5, opposed-0, abstains-0, the motion passed.**

Item 2:

Minutes from May, June, and August were presented and approved unanimously.

**Approval of Previous Minutes:**

Minutes from September meeting were presented and approved unanimously.

**Business:**

Motion was made by Bob Reupke to move item #11 up to item #3. Seconded by Mary Pedlow.

**A vote on the motion: In favor-20, opposed-0, abstains-2, the motion passed.**

Item 3:

Highway to Highway presentation given by Jim Childers, DOT, Public Facilities project manager for H2H connection project. Also present was Leslie Robins, HGR Alaska, the consultant company that the state has contracted with for environmental engineering services and public involvement. A sign in sheet for the H2H e-newsletter was circulated. Jim stated that their goal was for an improved connection between the Glenn and Seward Highways that would improve the mobility and access for transportation. To achieve this, they are focusing on five areas: congestion, travel efficiency, neighborhood connectivity, safety and multimodal connections. After an explanation of these issues, he explained the process for exploring alternatives, beginning with A Full Range of Alternatives, then Screening (where we are today), Reasonable Alternatives, and the Selected Alternative. He then explained the screening criteria for the five focus areas. They expect to have an alternatives list in early 2010. The next step is feasibility consideration. Finally, economic considerations. H2H is expected to be at that point by late 2010. The alternatives that have survived these tests would become the Reasonable Alternatives list. This is taken into the draft EIS process, which includes 33 environmental factors considered. After the Draft EIS is created, it is released for public comment, which is expected in early 2011. There is then a lengthy public process, with multiple hearings. He goes on to describe the close involvement of the municipality with the project and some of the funding involved. He presented an alternatives map, which was included in his handouts, and described its purpose. He then opened the floor for questions.

The first issue discussed was the East City bypass route. Jim stated that the road parallel to Muldoon would have to be on military land, and the road running East/West is Public Lands for Institutional Purposes. He emphasized that this route may not be feasible or a good idea, but since the idea was raised, his agency is compelled to consider them. Many questions were raised about the placement of the route on military land. He doesn't know the specifics because they haven't gotten that far yet. Jim also stated that the military has not directly contacted his office about the project, and there has been no coordination yet. He doubts there will be any unless this route passes screening, and this one is not showing very well in congestion modeling.

Jim answered some questions regarding the Boniface route, and confirmed that it was testing better than the East City route for congestion. He mentioned some interest in this route in order to improve the road's efficiency, but not widening. He also spoke on the idea of placing the road below grade through downtown in order to maintain neighborhood connectivity. He said there is a good amount of support for this route. In regards to the route bisecting Russian Jack Park, he again stated that since someone mentioned it, it had to be considered, but it looks highly unlikely. He was then asked to explain how this project was going to be funded. He stated he can't tell today, but he does have another team that will analyze the Reasonable Alternative list to determine the costs of each route. Many financing options will be available. The funding procedures will be documented in the environmental plan. No build is also an alternative.

The next area discussed was the timetable of construction. If construction was chosen, it would probably begin 2015, and designed for 2035. The specific design and placement would be determined through extensive transit and driving behavior models. These models would take into account future growth.

Jim was asked how information was being disseminated. He stated that it has been difficult to get mailers out, but they will be expanding their informational techniques.

Another question raised was how this project will interact with KABATA. Since it is in the long range transportation plan, it was added to the model, along with other items in the plan. If the bridge is constructed, it will be initially connected via C St, then a new bridge from there to the Ingra/Gambell area.

His final comments were that the first screening criteria is congestion, and he is doubtful that the East City route will pass that screening. Public opinion has shown that most community councils and government representatives oppose the Easy City route. These opinions do influence the process.

**A resolution was presented by Reinhold Trager that we as a community council oppose the East City route. The resolution was seconded by Kristina Johnson. James Starzec asked to add as a friendly amendment that we also are opposed to the Northern Lights route. Trager agreed. Kristina seconded it.**

**A vote on the resolution: In favor-24, opposed-0, abstains-3, Resolution passed.**

**A motion was made by Stu Grenier to switch item # 5 to 4, and #4 to 5. Seconded by Bob. No objections noted. Changes made. Motion was then struck after realizing the wrong agenda was being referenced.**

**Treasurer's report:** The balance in our checking account is \$676.13. We have \$203.11 remaining funds out of the \$1,200 donation by ML&P.

#### **Legislative reports:**

**Senator Betty Davis:** Richard Benivedis, staffer, presenting. In regards to the September 17 minutes, the meeting by the Senate Education Committee on school exit exams that was to take place Oct. 26 was moved to Nov. 3 at 1:00, at the Legislative Information Office.

**Senator Bill Wielechowski:** On October 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM at the Begich Middle school, there will be a gas line update. Also, there is an Energy Policy draft document being released next week by the Senate Resource Committee.

**Representative Pete Petersen:** Dave Dunsmore, staffer, presenting. 1. Discussed Rep. Peterson's letter of opposition to the Easy City route proposed by the H2H project. 2. Enstar has had several hearings before the Regulatory Commission in regards to their request to bill consumers for its error on Fort Richardson. Pete opposed that and has sent a letter saying such. 3. Enstar has entered into a supply agreement with an independent producer, Armstrong, which will be producing gas in the Anchor Point area. This may allow more competition in the Cook Inlet gas prices and bring down prices. Pete is reviewing this issue and will release his opinion later in his newsletter. 4. The RCA did vote in principle to approve metering for private alternative energy projects. More details will be forthcoming.

**Anchorage Assembly Member Sheila Selkregg:** Presented by Heather Ireland. Sheila believes the rezoning for the car wash at 11<sup>th</sup> and Muldoon is unlikely to occur. The public comment period for the upcoming budget is Oct. 27. This will be for both the mayor's 6 year program and the 2010 budget. A second public comment hearing for the budget will be on Nov. 3.

**Representative Max Gruenburg:** There is a piece of legislation in both the House and the Senate that would mandate the use of headlights while driving at all times. I am a co-sponsor, and would be interested in hearing anybody's views on this issue.

**Executive Report:** At our last executive meeting, Ron moved the two nominations for new members to the board replacing the resignations of James LaBelle and Barbara Gazaway and those were voted on tonight. We set the agenda for this meeting.

Item 4:

Right now, we have nothing in our bylaws that stipulate how many meeting a prospective candidate should attend prior to their nomination. There was something to that effect earlier, in 2000. There was a rewrite of the bylaws at some point and that part was left out. This is the attempt to get that back into Section 3, voting, under letter F. The wording is, "In order to be nominated for office, vote for election of officers or bylaw amendments, the member, as defined in Article five, membership, must have attended two meeting in the six months prior to that vote." Discussion commenced over the wording of the amendment. The final wording became, "**In order to be nominated for office, the candidate, must have attended three of the previous six general meetings.**"

**A motion was made and seconded to amend Section 3, Letter F to read "In order to be nominated for office, the candidate must have attended three of the previous six general meetings."**

**A vote on the motion: In favor-19, Opposed-0, Abstains-1, motion passed.**

Item 5:

Centennial Park: Stu Greneir: With the recent murder in the park, it has become clear that the inebriates living in the area have become sources of alcohol for teens. In the past, we have called APD to deal with people in camps. What we would like to do is have a patrol established under the umbrella of the council for the Centennial Park area, helping APD to locate camping inebriates, identify them and connect them with services.

Stu made a motion to start a Centennial Park Patrol to identify inebriates and other problems that might exist. Seconded by Kevin Smestad. Opened for questions.

The questions began with why Centennial Park area and what training will be available. Stu believes this would be a good first step in organizing an area-wide program and that the training would likely be coordinated with other community patrols. He emphasized the fact that this patrol would not talk to the people, just point them out to APD. His interest in having this motion passed is to be sanctioned by the council, raise awareness and gain volunteers.

Max Gruenburg mentioned one of the line items that were vetoed from the state budget was a \$2500 grant per community patrols. He asked that the council consider making a resolution to urge the Legislature to reinstate those grants.

Genevieve added that any northeast community patrol should work in conjunction with the municipal homeless office.

Stu then withdrew his original motion.

Item 6:

Stu put forth a resolution to require ID card to purchase liquor from cash and carry stores in our area and was seconded.

As it stands, only one such store on Muldoon (Holiday) has a policy to ID every customer. It is not required by law.

Fairview community council has convinced Gambell Oaken Keg to require ID for all sales, and it has helped them in their area. The final wording for the resolution is as follows:

**Resolved: The Northeast Community Council requests that cash and carry liquor stores institute a policy where they check IDs for every alcohol purchase by an individual.**

**A vote on the resolution: In favor-19, Opposed-0, Abstains-3, resolution passed.**

Item 7:

Brown Jug liquor license for Tikahtnu Commons retail store.

Bob Kline, Director of Sales for Brown Jug speaking. Company is aware of the significant problem of street inebriates in the area. If a person looks under thirty, or is a known street person, we will not sell to them. Our clerks are charged with paying attention to activities around stores.

Stu stated that he would be more inclined to vote in the affirmative if B.J. instituted a policy to check IDs for every sale.

Bobs response was they find they card the people that really need carding. B.J. has high standards for their clerks to perform sales. If the policy was to focus on IDs, that might be all the clerk would be concerned about. A person might have an ID, but they shouldn't be sold to for other reasons. He stated that the focus of their carding efforts is to stop underage purchasing. Bob was asked by Kevin Smestad if his company's standards should include checking IDs for the alcohol sales restriction sticker that some people have. He replied that it is something that will be discussed by his company, along with the rest of the community councils concerns.

Bob was asked about whether the Muldoon store would stay open if the Commons store is opened. He stated that the customer base for each store is separate and they will not be closing the Muldoon store.

Both Ron and Bob voiced their support of Brown Jug's business practices and indicated their support of this store. Stu added that if it is not passed, there may be room for Bob to compromise over ID checking when the issue goes before the Anchorage Assembly.

**Call to question: Will the NECC move in the affirmative to grant Brown Jug a liquor store and license in the Tikahtnu Commons?**

**A vote on the motion: In favor-9, Opposed-10, Abstains-2, motion failed.**

Item 8:

Local business liquor license renewals. Stu presenting. If anyone has any comments about liquor licenses coming up for renewal, this is the time to bring them up. The council will formally present to the ABC board any concerns.

Item 9:

STIP. Ainslie discussing funding for roads. Once a year, the state has to submit a State Transportation Improvement Plan to the federal government to receive its share of federal dollars for road projects. It starts at a local level, AMATS, which rates projects in order of importance. This gets put into the state transportation plan. The KABATA plan was placed at the top of the AMATS list, which moved other projects down. Consequentially, the Glenn Highway/Muldoon

interchange was dropped from the list. We need a resolution stating the Northeast Community Council supports placing the interchange back on the priority lists of both STIP and AMATS.

**Resolution put forth and seconded: The NECC supports and requests the positioning and placement of the reconstruction of the interchange at Glenn Highway and Muldoon as a priority item on the AMATS and STIP. A vote on the resolution: In favor-17, Opposed-0, Abstains-4, resolution passed.**

Item 10:

Muldoon Park Strip Concept: Stu presenting. The resolution would request that the Municipality purchase all the land from Muldoon Road to the moose fence, Debarr Road to 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and use this land as a park strip. In light of the increased population density brought on by the Anchorage 2020 plan, this would be a valuable resource for the community. Ainslie asked to add a friendly amendment to ask the municipality to purchase the additional land along Muldoon that they do not currently own and immediate cease and desist with the plans to realign Chester Creek and extend Debarr Road. Stu accepts the amendment.

**Resolution: The NECC requests that the Municipality purchase all the land from Muldoon Road to the moose fence, Debarr Road to 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and use this land as the "Muldoon Park Strip". We also ask that the municipality to purchase the additional land along Muldoon that they do not currently own.**

**A vote on the resolution: In favor-18, Opposed-0, Abstains-1, resolution passed.**

**A motion was made by Ainslie to extend the time of the meeting to 10:20 to allow for the hearing of the remaining agenda items and was seconded.**

**A vote on the motion: In favor-11, Opposed-4, Abstains-2.**

**As the motion requires 2/3 of the eligible votes to be in favor to pass, the motion failed.**

Item 11:

Consolidation of committees under on heading. Ainslie speaking. Please sign up for committees and bring any ideas for a name with an interesting acronym.

The discussion on the NECC resolution in the affirmative for the return to a 120 day session for the Legislature and the resolution for the signal at Frontage Road and Boniface was held over until the next meeting.

**Adjournment- 10:00 PM**