

NECC

Northeast Community Council

Minutes – February 18, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00PM

Board Members present: Ron Rivas, Stuart Grenier, Bob Reupke, Ainslie Phillips, Genevieve Holubik, Kevin Smestad, Selina Metoyer & James Starzec.

Board Members Absent: Mary Pedlow.

Approval of February Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to change the order of the business items. **A vote on the motion: 16 approved. 0 opposed. 1 abstained. Motion approved.**

Approval of Previous Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 19th meeting minutes. No objections were raised, and the minutes were accepted. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the January 21 meeting. No objections were raised, and the minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's report: The balance in our checking account is \$604.43. There were no expenditures in February and no donations. The NECC is a non-profit organization and receives no funds from the State of the Municipality of Anchorage. We therefore would gladly accept your donation of \$5.00 or more.

Executive report: At our last meeting, we had a lot of discussion on items from the planning department, the resolution for Russian Jack, and planning for this meeting.

Community Activities Report:

Fire Department: Captain Steve Barenburg from Station 6, Shift A presenting. There have been numerous calls responding to fireplace chimney fires. We would like there to be more awareness of mitigation strategies such as using quality wood and regular cleaning of chimneys. If you see creosote, drippings, or bulging in your chimney, you should have it cleaned. We do not recommend any method of cleaning outside of brushes or by a professional. CO detectors are also a good idea. If you have a five star energy home, it is important to open your window to allow for fresh air to come in and CO to get out.

Barbeque fires from decks or balconies are an issue and people need to be aware of the dangers. Please check for leaks in your propane or natural gas systems. It is illegal to use barbeques on decks connected to multi family dwellings.

Another issue we are promoting is safe driving techniques in poor weather conditions. Safe driving decreases accidents and frees up the fire department to respond to more serious incidents.

Call 267-4900 for the fire prevention hotline with any other questions.

The community activities reports were put on hold in order to speak with a number of legislators attending the meeting via teleconference.

Legislative reports:

Sen. Bill Wielechowski: Surveys have been sent out to the community and we are awaiting the results. I will be back in Anchorage for a town hall meeting next weekend. On February 27th from 12:30-2 PM at the Muldoon Boys & Girls Club there will be a town hall meeting. On March 13th from 12:30-2 PM there will be one at the Mt. View Boys & Girls Club. There will also be a meeting on the 13th at Creekside Elementary from 2:30-4 PM. One of the bills that I am working on right now is SB #215 to fix an error that was preventing Pioneer Home residents from receiving their prescriptions. The bill has move out of the house committee onto the finance committee. Also, on the issue of Enstar overcharging Ft. Richardson for natural gas, Pete and I both have bills denying utilities the right to bill consumers for losses due to negligent or reckless actions. Another bill I am excited about is SB #228, provides for incentives for a gas to liquids plant in Alaska. It is a way to monetize our natural gas. The construction of such a plant would provide 10,000-15,000 jobs and create a new industry in Alaska. 650 full time jobs could be created. I have a bill being considered that would change the way PFDs are paid. There is a glitch in the law that may reduce the size of the payments this year. This bill would fix that. We expect this year we will have about 2.2 billion dollars in savings and we are hoping that we can pay off the Constitutional Budget Reserve. Since we've passed ACES, we have gone from a very small rainy day saving account to having about ten billion dollars. We are in great financial shape. We are hoping to put in 1.1 billion dollars in forward funding for education and pay of the CBR debt, about 400 million dollars. We will still have about 700-800 million dollars left and we are hoping to use it towards some capital projects around the state,

create new jobs, finish some much needed repairs and add to our infrastructure. Max, Pete and I will be working together to write a capital budget. Some of the things we're pushing for is updating Fire Station 6 and repairing DeBarr Road. We are also trying to get some money for the Muldoon Park Strip. Sen. Wielechowski then answered a number of individual's questions regarding PERS/TERS, the senior property tax exemption, the energy plan, and the inclusion of NE CIP items to the capital budget.

Rep Pete Petersen: The energy committee is meeting this Saturday to discuss the Chukachamna and Susitna hydro projects. We are still working on the final energy bill and are making good progress. It should be finished in the next few weeks. I have introduced a bill regarding identity theft. It would make it illegal for someone to install a keystroke logger on your computer. Another bill I have filled would provide unpaid leave for military spouses when their other spouse returns from a deployment. I am on the transportation committee now and will be trying to improve the funding for East Anchorage's streets. Rep. Petersen then answered a number of questions regarding funding for the People Mover system.

Rep Max Gruenberg: I am working with the director of public transportation for Anchorage to allocate capital budget funds for the People Mover system. There is a bill in the transportation committee that would ban the use of cel phones while driving. I don't believe there is support for a full ban, but there might be for a ban on hand held cel phones and an amendment on this has been proposed. Issues regarding ratification of the Law of the Sea treaty are being discussed amongst the Senators. I am also working on issues regarding the disbursement of unclaimed WW II bonds to the states. I am supporting the animal cruelty bill and the cops in the neighborhoods bill. Regarding the 120 day legislative session, there will be a bill entered next session to address this issue. When we have our meeting at Creekside Park, some of the things we'll be discussing are the need for traffic calming devices and the recent attempted kidnappings.

At this point, the teleconference ended, and the council then resumed the community activity reports.

Community Patrol: Aaron Pascar of the Nunaka Valley Community Patrol presenting. There have been numerous reports of attempted kidnappings in the area and we have been working with APD on the issue. The first Friday of each month we have our coalition meeting. We have reinstated the NE Community Patrol. We will be receiving radios from APD soon. We are hoping to get more money from the state for fuel. In regards to the recent attempted kidnappings, the suspect is described as a light skinned black male between 18 and 22 years old, 5'8" to 5'10", wearing glasses. He was driving an SUV with tinted windows.

Federation of Community Councils: Bob Reupke presenting. The federation met yesterday. Anchorage Tomorrow gave a talk on their support for all of the municipal bonds. There is \$500,000 dollars for East Anchorage projects. NUSA will be here next year, and we are working on getting hotel deals for the delegates.

Northeast Community Center: Bob Reupke presenting. We have been operation here since 1997. We are funded by a grant from the municipality in the amount of \$181,430.

Weed & Seed: Tim Sullivan presenting. There is one year left in our grant. We are sponsoring the voluntary tax assistance center here at the community center. The housing and neighborhood development commission is working on the homelessness task force and are coming up with plans to work with the chronic inebriates. The public transit advisory board is working to get money from the state for public transit in Anchorage. The AWWU board is working on the issues regarding beluga whales in Cook Inlet and their sewage treatment waiver.

Assembly Reports:

Debbie Ossiander: The last assembly meeting was focused on new conditional use standards for intensive housing for chronic inebriates. We got a lot of input and discussion was held over to our next meeting. On the approval of the Anchorage Bike Plan, there is discussion of adding bike paths down Grand Larry, Valley and Boston Streets. If approved, these projects would be added to the city's transportation plan. Title 21 is looking at residential and commercial standards. Snow storage issues have become very controversial. Also, the city has begun a process of reviewing the official streets and highways plan. If there is a road that you think its status should be upgraded or downgraded, this would be a good time to get that into the transportation department. This will go on for a few months. The contact person is Vivian Underwood in the traffic department.

Issues regarding the ID requirement for alcohol purchases were discussed. Debbie feels that the assembly is generally in favor of it, but more work needs to be done to iron out the details.

Legislative Reports:

Sen. Bettye Davis: Richard Bienewides presenting. Regarding SB#109, to repeal the exit exams for high school graduation, there was a community and regional affairs committee meeting on the issue. It is now going to the finance committee. In regards to the budget surplus, many legislatures would like a set disbursement to each

senate district for capital projects. There has not been an agreement made, but one should be forthcoming. If you have any other issues or concerns, please call me in my Anchorage office at 269-0247, or call the senator in Juneau at 1-800-770-3822.

Business:

Item #1: A resolution in support of a 120 day Legislative Session. Ainslie Phillips made the motion, **Be it hereby resolved, the Northeast Community Council requests and supports a 120 day legislative session to allow more time for the general public to weigh in on issues and also give our legislators adequate time to work through these issues in a calm and deliberate manner.** The motion was seconded. One of the reasons this is a germane issue is that our area of town will be greatly impacted over the next ten years, and 90 days doesn't seem to be giving the general public enough time to give input. Concerns over the costs of extending the session were brought up. It was pointed out that the legislature has gone back and forth between 90 and 120 days, and no consensus has been reached. **A vote on the motion: 7 in favor, 11 opposed, 4 abstained. The motion failed.**

Item #2: Report and discussion on the February 8th informational meeting at Begich Middle School. Ainslie Phillips presenting. This involves the ongoing discussions with the MOA about the replatting of Chester Creek and the community's desire for a Muldoon Park Strip. Also of concern was the closing of Centennial Park for Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays over the summer and the proposed land swap with ML&P. This meeting was an opportunity for the municipality to explain their plans for Centennial Park and the Heritage Land Bank property South of the Muldoon Community Center. What is being proposed is that the city takes 20 acres out of Centennial Park, swap it for the HLB land, pay off the 3.8 million dollar loan to ML&P, and use the remaining 3.5 million dollars from this transaction for maintaining Centennial Park and developing the Muldoon Park Strip. One other idea is to move the municipal greenhouses to Centennial Park to utilize the steam from the power plant to heat the greenhouses. This may be paid for from the moneys gained from the transaction. It was proposed that the land currently being used by the greenhouses could be used to replace the campground lost in Centennial Park.

John Rodda from the Parks and Recreation Department then presented. It is possible for this exchange to occur under certain conditions. One of the major issues is how the cash is used and disbursed. If the deal is going to be done, I will work to bring the most positive and the fewest negative outcomes for the Eastside and make the trade as equitable as possible. I am concerned by the lack of upkeep in Centennial Park and how it can be brought up to grade. The community should consider all options and decide where the greatest returns lie. The LWC issues must be dealt with or this deal cannot go through.

Concerns about the loss of visual barriers associated with the ML&P land were brought up. John feels that vegetative screening would be absolutely required. He reiterated that his goal is to get all the information together before any decisions are made. The details regarding the money and acreage amounts are still to be determined.

Stuart Grenier made the motion, **the NECC requests that our representatives in Juneau find the 3.8 million dollars to purchase the land known as the Muldoon Park Strip so that Muldoon can retain Centennial Park as is and gain the land for the land known as the old greenhouse property.** The motion was seconded.

During discussion, a Todd Carrol, a representative from AWWU spoke about a heat exchanger project that may be impacted by this resolution. Further discussion on the impact of the land swap continued. The amount to be requested was also debated. Issues involving the maintenance of the facilities and the cost related to it was discussed.

A vote on the motion: 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 4 abstained. Motion passed.

Stuart Grenier made the motion, **NECC requests \$500,000 from the state to make Centennial Campground more operative.** The motion was seconded.

There was discussion on where the money would come from. It became apparent that the funding thought to be available may or may not be due to how it was originally disbursed. Ainslie Phillips made a friendly amendment stating, **The NECC requests a minimum of \$500,000 from the State of Alaska to renovate and upgrade the facility known as Centennial Park Campground in order to bring it up to code and public standards for current and future anticipated increases in use.** The amendment was seconded.

A vote on the motion: 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 5 abstained. Motion passed.

Item #3: Update on issues regarding the water pipes at Patterson St. and 20th Ave. Jonathan Limb of USKH presenting. The issue we were studying was the cause of water pipe corrosion in the area. We are finalizing our report, but do not have a definitive cause. What we believe is happening is that homes with their electrical systems grounded to the water mains are causing currents that erode the pipes. We are at a 35% design stage for a solution to mitigate the corrosion issues on these water services. We are looking at installing galvanic anodes on

each of the services. These anodes are made of magnesium and are 6 feet long. We will also be making repairs to services along the way. We have tested this process in the field and it has shown great results. Discussion on the matter ensued, and was centered on the grandfathering of code compliance that allowed this issue to occur, as well as the soil types involved. It was noted that the lifespan of the anodes is expected to be around 20 years.

Item #4: Liquor ID issue update including discussion of issue at the upcoming Assembly meeting. Stu Grenier presenting. There will be another discussion on this issue at the March 2nd assembly meeting. The idea is to require ID for everyone purchasing liquor. The liquor industry is opposed to this, but the assembly is leaning towards approving this measure. To show our support, we need to have representation at the upcoming assembly meeting.

Ron Rivas made the motion: **To extend the meeting by twenty minutes.** The motion was seconded. **A vote on the motion: 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstaining. Motion passed.**

Item #5: Vacation of (elimination) and relocation of the existing 8 foot wide visual enhancement easement located north of Whisperwood Park Drive and west of Turpin Street Case number S11791-1. Ric Davidge, CY Investments Project Manager presenting. This project was originally designed with 24 units, not all with garages. In light of community concerns regarding esthetics, it was redesigned into 21 units, all 3 bedrooms, all with garages. This reduced asphalt by 13% and increased the amount of landscaping. This issue before Planning and Zoning is a vacation of a landscaping easement. Currently, there are two easements, utility and landscaping. Under the new Title One, you can now landscape on utility easements after the utilities don't object. The two utilities involved are Chugach Electric and GCI, and they both have no objections. We are asking for your approval or comments on this matter.

Discussion focused on who would be responsible to maintain the landscaping, the impact of the vacation on the pathway and road, other projects in our area that have had similar vacations.

A motion was made: **On the matter of MOA Case S11791-1: We hereby resolve the proposed vacation and/or relocation of the existing eight foot side visual enhancement easement located North of Whisperwood Park Drive and West of Turpin Street shall be approved.** The motion was seconded. **A vote on the motion: 12 in favor, 2 opposed, 4 abstaining. Motion passed.**

Item #6: Formal name acceptance of the Northeast Development Plan (NEDP). Ainslie Philips presenting. There will be an Eastside District Plan. The municipality has decided that the boundaries will be from Baxter Community Council to Bartlett High. East/West boundaries are still to be determined.

Item #7: Wal-Mart application for an 18 month extension Case Number S11694-2. Ainslie Philips presenting. Wal-Mart is asking for an 18 month extension to delay recording of the plat of the Wal-Mart property in East Anchorage. It is just a formality and we do not need to take any action on this item at this time.

Item #8: Right of way Acquisition Plat, 6th Avenue at Muldoon Road. Case Number S11560-1. Ainslie Philips presenting. The city would like to purchase land to construct right turn lanes off of Muldoon. This would improve safety on Muldoon Road and should be an overall improvement to the area. Ainslie made the motion: **In regards to MOA Case S11560-1: Be it hereby resolved, the Northeast Community Council supports the acquisition of additional right of way to establish turn lanes for traffic safety purposes.** The motion was seconded. **A vote on the motion: 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 4 abstained. Motion passed.**

Item #9: Discussion on the ASD CIP List. Ainslie Philips presenting. This is a list of all capital improvements. The board reviewed it and it all looked reasonable. It is our recommendation that we approve it.

Item #10: Discussion on the renewal of Fred Meyers Muldoon store liquor license. Comments were made on their ID policy, regarding that some people are carded while others are not. Another concern mentioned was that there are often empty liquor bottles in and around the entryways. This led to a discussion on the mess in the woods behind the store. Panhandlers were also discussed. It was also mentioned that there have been a number of instances in which inebriates have been found passed out on the handicapped-accessible shopping carts in the entryway of the store.

Item # 11: Discussion on the upcoming board elections and recruitment for candidates. Ron Rivas presenting. There will be elections at our April meeting. If you want to run for a position, we'd be glad to have you. There are three positions opening.

Adjournment at 10:20.