

NECC

Northeast Community Council

Minutes – March 18, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00PM

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

Board Members Absent: Mary Pedlow & Ainslie Phillips.

Approval of Previous Minutes: February minutes were not approved due to them not being available to the public the mandatory seven days in advance.

Approval of March Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to change the order of the business items and approve the new agenda. **A vote on the motion: 10 approved. 0 opposed. 1 abstained. Motion approved.**

Treasurer's report: The balance in our checking account is \$614.43. There were no expenditures in March and ten dollars in donations. We still have \$203.11 from the \$1200 donation from ML&P. 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.

Legislative reports:

Sen. Bill Wielechowski: We are working on the capital budget and are trying to get as many of the projects the Eastside is requesting into it as we can. This week, we are also working on legislation regarding the instate gas bullet line and gas to liquids plant. I would like to see this facility built somewhere in the Southcentral region, perhaps at Pt. Mackenzie. There is a bill in the senate finance committee involving the decoupling of oil and gas taxes. My concern is that if gas prices rise above a certain level, the state stands to lose around 3 billion year in tax revenue. I am not in support of this bill.

Rep Pete Petersen: In regards to the tax decoupling bill, I am concerned that there may be a push to lower production taxes on oil, costing the state even more in revenue loss. The house has recently passed its long range energy plan. It sets out the energy policy goals for Alaska but is not a specific plan. Another bill in session covers the plans that would meet these goals.

Rep Max Gruenberg: The bill regarding cel phone use in vehicles has left the transportation committee and is now being considered in the judiciary committee. It would only ban hand held phones, not headsets or hands free phones. There will also be a provision to prevent the offence to be a primary offence. A number of ethics bills are being considered, including one regarding donor registration issues. There is another bill I'm working on to make absentee voting easier. Other bills I'm involved with deal with strengthening the executive ethics laws, anti-trust issues, and increasing criminal penalties for business crimes.

Assembly Reports:

Sheila Selkregg: Heather Ireland reporting. On March 20th from 1-3 PM at Central Middle School, there will be a forum titled "How Other Cities Tax Themselves to Pay for the Services They Want."

Community Reports:

FCC: Bob Reupke reporting. The federation is encouraging everyone to switch their contact information from postal addresses to email addresses in order to reduce waste and get information out faster.

Business:

Item #1: Candidate Forum for the Assembly Election: Debbie Ossiander, Paul Honeman and Adam Trombley introduced themselves and took questions submitted by the community members present.

Item #2: Candidate Forum for the School Board Election: James LaBelle, Tommy O'Malley, Don Smith and Bob Griffin introduced themselves and took questions submitted by the community members present.

Item #3: NECC Board Elections: Ron Rivas presenting. There are three seats opening up, all are three year terms. The seats are currently held by Ron Rivas, Mary Pedlow and Ainslie Phillips. Only Ainslie is running for re-election. The election will be at the April council meeting. To be a candidate, you must have attended three of the previous six council meetings and live within the NECC district. Are there any nominations from the floor? Carla Hadley and David Ulmer were nominated.

Item #4: Anchorage Tomorrow, Inc. discussion on the Municipal Bond Propositions: John Mouracade presenting. This year, there's a 39.1 million dollar bond package being presented to the voters. At the same time, 28.4 million in bonds are being retired this year. If all of this year's bonds are passed, there will be an increase in property taxes amounting \$1.04 per \$100,000 of assessment per month. Each dollar in the bonds is worth 3 to 5 dollars in matching grant money. Anchorage Tomorrow supports bond propositions 1, 4 and 5. #1 is a road and drainage bond funding projects from the Muni CIP list. #4 is to support public transportation. #5 is a no cost land exchange in the Spenard area. A question and answer session followed that focused mainly on Bond #4 and the type of busses to be purchased.

Neighborhood Concerns: A question was raised as to what could be done to have the old Ashley Furnishing sign removed. It was suggested that the best way to handle this would be to contact the owner of the building. There was discussion regarding an upcoming rally for Centennial Park and more information will be forthcoming.

Adjournment at 9:10.