

# NECC

Call to Order: 7:04 PM

## Introduction of the Board:

**Board Members Present:** Kevin Smestad, Stuart Grenier, Bob Reupke, Carla Hadley, David Ulmer, Ainslie Phillips, Selina Metoyer, Gabrielle LeDoux

**Board Members Absent:** Genevieve Holubik

**Approval of August Meeting Agenda:** Kevin announced that he will make the Lt Governor candidate forum top priority for new business as soon as the candidates show up to the meeting. Creekside Town Center Update will move to the bottom of the agenda, Russian Jack Springs Park Resolution will be presented by Marc Grober instead of Terry Cummings, and the Fire Station #6 presentation will be co-presented by Blase Burkhart. The motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The agenda was accepted.

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** August 2010 minutes were put forth for approval. A motion was made that approval of the minutes happen around 9:00 pm between items 3 and 4 to allow time for the attendees to read them since they were sent out late. (Secretary note: the approval of the August minutes were not voted on at the September meeting due to lack of time)

**Treasurer's Report:** The balance in the NECC checking account is \$707.44. Donations of \$40.00 were received in August. There are \$203.11 in remaining funds out of the \$1,200.00 donation by Municipal Light & Power (ML&P). The NECC is a non-profit organization and receives no funds from the State of Alaska or Municipality of Anchorage. NECC has provided a donation jar at the meeting and gladly accepts and appreciates all donations.

**Executive Report:** The President introduced Ms. Jerrienne Lowther from Scenic Foothills Community Council (SFCC). She gave a short presentation on the Spruce Up Muldoon gathering that will be on Saturday, September 25th.

The President stated that the Executive Board developed the agenda for tonight's meeting. NECC is looking to combine next month's meeting with SFCC to host a candidates' forum at Begich Middle School.

## Representative Reports:

**Assembly Person Mike Gutierrez** talked about the results of the public budget meetings. The consensus was that Municipality citizens want the budget cut but do not want to lose services. Mike encouraged everyone to attend a public hearing. There will be two public hearings each before the Assembly and Budget Advisory Committee.

Mike revisited the topic of the conditions for all liquor stores in the community council area. More than half of the licenses are up at the end of this year. He is suggesting that a representative group develop conditions for our community using Assembly Person Patrick Flynn's ordinance as a boilerplate. Some conditions that have been suggested are banned selling of single serving liquor and a 100% ID check.

Ainsley asked Mike if he had a copy of Municipal Light and Power's (ML&P) demographic study of the NECC council area. Mike stated that he did not have a copy, but would get one and send it to the council before the next meeting.

The Assembly passed an ordinance that the City must give 5 working days for homeless to remove their belongings from public areas before it can be cleared. The ACLU has filed a suit regarding this ordinance.

**Assembly Person Paul Honeman** talked about the Fiscal Financial Audit, the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), and the Viewpoint Budget Report. He felt that the only report worth the money was the Viewpoint Budget Building Report since it asked the views of the public. He is looking forward to participating in this year's budget development as a new Assembly member.

**Representative Pete Peterson** reported that there was a natural gas hearing with regards to storage for a future shortage.

Pete will be doing a drive-around with the Mayor's office and the Department of Transportation (DoT). If citizens have concerns in their neighborhood that they would like him to check out during this drive-around, he can be reached by email or phone. His number is 269-0265.

**Representative Max Gruenberg** reported that the Park Foundation wants to do improvements in the North West corner of Russian Jack Springs Park (RJSP). Max reported that there will be some short term improvements to the Duben Street Hill and the city will be looking for a long term solution. He would like to see Fire Stations 3 and 6 start their renovations, and is also working to get some speed humps put in school zones. Max talked about an improved voter's pamphlet so that voters are more informed on the candidates and issues.

A representative from **Senator Betty Davis'** office reported that she is working on bills for next session. There will be a legislative task force on school district cost factors and a Medicaid task force. Betty's office will be working on improved health care in conjunction with the Governor's office.

**Senator Fred Dyson** is on the Rural Suicide Prevention council and the Obesity council. He requested that anyone with suggestions for these councils please contact him.

Stuart Grenier made Senator Dyson aware of the NECC's suggestion that our elected officials pursue having the military donate land for the ML&P expansion. Senator Dyson told the NECC that he would look into that for us.

**Senator Bill Wielechowski** told the NECC that his office would contact the City regarding the speed hump issues. He updated the council on the Muldoon Road and Debarr Road improvements. Bill will also be going on a ride-around with the Mayor's office and the DoT and will be looking at items on the CIP list.

Bill reported that there are two open seasons going on with the Natural Gas Pipeline. Open season is like an auction for companies to put gas in the pipeline. He also reported that the Senate Resources Committee will be having a meeting on oil spill preparedness. They want to make sure that what happened in the Gulf of Mexico will not happen here in Alaska.

**Community Activities Reports:**

Mr. Tim Sullivan updated the council on the Weed & Seed Program. With the help of our local Senators and the Municipality, there is money to continue the program through the next fiscal year. The Weed & Seed program supports our local Community Patrols and other programs for the community.

Ainslie Phillips updated the NECC on the Wal-Mart project. They anticipate construction in spring of 2011.

Bob Reupke briefed the council in regards to the following issues of the Federation of Community Councils. They are trying to cut down on snail mail in our community. The Community Patrol has about \$2,450 that needs to be expended by June 30, 2011. The Neighborhood USA (NUSA) conference will be held in Anchorage on May 23-26, 2011. Volunteers are needed for the conference. Please see their website or contact Bob Reupke.

**Business:**

1. Mr. Mead Treadwell, candidate for Lt. Governor, addressed the council and provided a small presentation and then took questions from the council. Ms. Diane Benson was stuck in Fairbanks due to bad weather and could not make the meeting.
2. An update was provided for Fire Station #6. The City has settled on building on the property where the current Fire Station is now located. Mr. Blasé Burkhart gave a PowerPoint presentation on the design of the building and stated that there will be numerous future meetings to continually update the community on the progress of the design and construction. A notice will be sent out for the next meeting.
3. Mr. Scott McKim, a teacher at Begich Middle School, made a presentation for the community's support in his effort to put up a wind turbine at the school. He has been awarded a grant for the project and will use the wind turbine to educate students about renewable energy sources. He will get the approval of the neighbors and put out information to the community regarding the project. He would like to have it erected by May of 2011.

4. Stuart Grenier proposed that the NECC request that the military donate 28 acres for the ML&P expansion so that Centennial Park stays intact and is not consumed by the expansion.

**A Resolution: NECC September 16, 2010, Concerning Acquiring Military Land for the ML&P Expansion.**

We, the Northeast Community Council, request all our elected representatives to actively and respectively pursue acquiring 28 acres from the military in the vicinity of the Municipal Light and Power (ML&P) near Centennial Park for power plant expansion in order to save Centennial Park from being turned into a power plant.

**A vote of the motion of the Resolution: 12 in favor, 1 opposed, 3 abstained. The motion passes.**

5. Kevin Smestad and Mr. Marc Grober updated the council on the evolving Russian Jack Springs Park plan. The NECC believes that the current actions by the city may not be beneficial to a well developed park. The city does not want to do a new master plan for the park because they believe that it would waste money that may be used to develop the park. The NECC opposed development of the land until a go-forward is decided. Current development is slated for the North West corner of the park. The Board met on September 11<sup>th</sup> and, with a quorum, passed the following resolution:

**A Resolution: NECC September 11, 2010, Concerning the Plan to Develop the North West Corner of Russian Jack Springs Park.**

We, the Northeast Community Council, respectfully ask that the Anchorage Park Foundation, Corvus Design, and Brooks and Associates cease any development of Russian Jacks Spring Park until discussions regarding a new Master Plan are coordinated with all communities in the region and proper notice can be sent out to residents within a one mile distance of the entire outer boundary of Russian Jack Springs Park.

**A vote of the motion of the Resolution by the Board. The Resolution passed.**

Kevin called the question of whether the NECC should take the resolution to Parks and Recreation.

**A vote of the motion: 10 in favor, 2 opposed, 6 abstained. The motion passes.**

6. A motion was made to extend the meeting an extra 30 minutes to complete the agenda.

**A vote of the motion: 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstained. The motion passes.**

7. Tim Potter presented an update and the issues regarding the Creekside Town Center. He showed pictures of successful mixed developments that could be models for how the Town Center may be developed.
8. A motion was made to extend the meeting an extra 15 minutes past the already extended time to complete the agenda.

**A vote of the motion: 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained. The motion passes.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 pm.