

NECC

Northeast Community Council

Minutes – August 19, 2010

Call to Order: 7:02 PM

A moment of silence was observed in memoriam of the passing of Senator Ted Stevens.

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: The motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The agenda was accepted.

Approval of Previous Minutes: July 2010 minutes were put forth for approval. A motion was made and seconded for approval of the minutes which was accepted.

Treasurer's Report: The balance in the NECC checking account is \$667.44. Donations of \$29.00 were received in July. A purchase was made in July for \$9 to buy flags for the Rotary sign at Debarr and Muldoon. 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.

A grant for \$2,500 from the State was provided for the Northeast Community Patrol.

Executive Report: The President stated that the Executive Board developed the agenda for tonight's meeting.

Representative Reports:

Assembly Person Mike Gutierrez talked about the assembly's decision to remove the 100% ID check at the Brown Jug at Tikahtnu Commons. The requirement was overturned by a narrow margin of 6 to 5. Mr. Gutierrez and Ms. Ossiander suggested that we, as a community, get together to come up with 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 two or three people from the council meet with our Assembly members to come up with the conditions. Some conditions that have been suggested are banned selling of single serving liquor and a 100% ID check.

Assembly Person Paul Honeman talked about the assembly's vote on the 100% ID checks for Brown Jug Tikahtnu store. He was disappointed by the loss but hopeful of new guidelines for

package liquor stores in the future. Our assembly members will need community support for this.

Mr. Honeman recapped the budget meetings. He stated that residents were generally satisfied with city services, but would like more revenue generation and reduced waste. His concern is that there may be a budget cut of 7.5% across the board for city services.

The Assembly is meeting to go over the recent audit report regarding the previous administration.

A representative from **Senator Betty Davis'** office reported that the Cancer Trials and Nurse's Overtime Bills were passed the last session. They are also working on a compromise regarding the Denali Kid Care funding veto that the Governor penned last session.

Senator Bill Wielechowski met with the Mayor's office to discuss traffic calming. He deferred to a report that will be given later in the Business section of the council meeting. Senator Wielechowski talked about the re-dedication of Chester Valley Elementary School and his book drive. Over 6,000 books were collected and distributed and a book party was held in Mt. View Park.

Senator Wielechowski is the co-chair on the Joint Arms Services Committee and he reported that Ft. Rich, Kulis, and Elmendorf will be merging into one joint base. He feels it is a positive step for the community since Kulis personnel will now frequent the Muldoon area.

Regarding the LNG gas extension, Conoco Phillips has applied for an export license to ship their gas to Japan. Some Legislators have requested that Alaska's needs be met first before exporting. The comment period ended on August 2nd. It is now in the hands of the Federal Government. The Trans-Canada open season closed. Denali open season will close next month.

Ainslie Phillips asked if Senator Wielechowski could request Bear Trash Cans on the Capital Improvement List to be provided for everyone east of the Seward Highway. Assembly Person Gutierrez stated that the Assembly had checked into providing bear resistant containers for Anchorage residents, but it was too cost prohibitive.

Representative Max Gruenberg reported that where Duben meets Patterson, there is a family that has had trouble with cars crashing into their house due to bad road engineering. Legislators are working to solve the problem before the city is sued by the homeowner.

Representative Pete Peterson cautioned residents to keep an eye out for school children now that school is back in session. Rep. Peterson also attended the Chester Valley School re-dedication and worked to get new computers for the school after hearing that the teachers there were using their personal computers.

Rep. Peterson stated that there is a projected shortage of gas in the near future so work is being done to provide storage under the project "Cook Inlet Natural Gas Storage Alaska", with hopes

that it will be functional by 2012. Also, Enstar announced that they have signed a contract with Conoco-Phillips, although details of the contract are not yet known. Armstrong, an independent oil company, announced that they will once again be exploring for oil and natural gas in the "North Fork" area. Another independent oil company, Cook Inlet Energy, will begin opening up abandoned wells in search of natural gas. Rep. Peterson sees all this interest as a good sign to help out the possible shortage.

Community Activities Reports:

A Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) notice was sent to the NECC to report that they are fragmenting some lots for possible easier zone and resale.

A suggestion was made to our City and State Representatives that developers should be required to build infrastructure, namely schools, to accommodate the influx of population that their development brings to the community.

Bob Reupke briefed the council in regards to the Federation of Community Councils. Kathy Plunkett from the School Board let them know that school bonds will be on the April ballot. They also received a presentation on crimes against children. Ann Brooks, a representative from Anchorage Parks and Recreation, also gave a presentation which will be covered later in New Business. Dale Hall with the University of Fairbanks, Alaska Cooperative Extension Service gave a presentation on Civil Discourse. Neighborhood USA (NUSA) will be in Anchorage next year and will need volunteers. The Federation is in the process of putting together a list of volunteer jobs that need to be filled.

Business:

1. Trygve Erickson, the Acting Director of the Municipal Traffic Department, reported that the previous administration cut the traffic calming budget, and with it the position of a full time traffic calming director. But the current administration is addressing problems in the community and those brought forward by the community councils. Debarr Road was at the top of the list for traffic calming. MOA has identified solutions for Debarr traffic calming and will be contacting local residents in regards to the plan for traffic calming. He stated that even though traffic calming is not in full swing yet, it is being resurrected. Mr. Erickson brought petitions to pass out regarding the Debarr traffic calming. He stated that either the petitions or a resolution would be needed by the city to move forward on Debarr. The council president stated that he would email the resolution the next day.
2. Ann Brooks of Brooks and Associates and Corvus Design provided an update on the Northwest Russian Jack Springs Park planning. Several Tuesday night sessions were held for a go forward on what to do with a \$750,000 appropriation. They also held a party in the park and asked users of the park what they would like to see in the way of development. They asked residents how they use the park now, and how they would like to use the park in the future. The most popular input for future development was for a destination playground. The other top vote getters were

a climbing wall, relaxation area, skate park, and cooking facility (picnic shelter). Other suggestions included improvement to access of the park, improvement of the tennis courts, and signage regarding the dog park. Details can be found on the blog www.northrjisp.blogspot.com.

3. Eleanor Andrews of the Anchorage Urban League petitioned for support of the organization's venture of building a greenhouse near the Municipal Light and Power (ML&P) plant that will use the "mist" from the plant as heating power for the greenhouse. The greenhouse project will provide a place for transitioning young adults in foster care to work and develop skills for independent living. The Urban League has already received a blessing from the Assembly and would now like NECC support. The League must first select a location before they can move forward with plans to build. The closer they are to ML&P, the cheaper it will be to heat. Anchorage Neighborhood Housing is developing housing for these young adults on Duben Street to be close to the greenhouse.

A Resolution: NECC August 19, 2010, Concerning the Development of a Greenhouse on ML&P Property.

Hereby be it resolved, we the citizens of the Northeast Community Council, feel the project known as "Alaska Seeds of Change" is a stellar idea. We strongly object to using ML&P property for its location. Doing so will reduce the availability of land to increase and upgrade the current plant as was so stated was needed by Municipality of Anchorage to this community council. In good faith we suggest using MOA land located on the north east corner of Boundary and Muldoon currently used for storage.

A motion was brought forward to table the vote on the resolution till further discussions with regarding the project could take place.

A vote of the motion to table: 10 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstained. The table passes.

Ms. Andrews stated that she is going to the Denali Commission the following week to give them a plan. She would like to have a work session before the meeting.

A Resolution: NECC August 19, 2010, Concerning the Development of a Greenhouse on ML&P Property.

The NECC would like the development of Alaska Seeds of Change greenhouse project to wait until after the MOA's decision regarding the expansion of ML&P.

A vote of the motion of the Resolution: 5 in favor, 4 opposed, 5 abstained. The motion failed.

A meeting with Ms. Andrews was planned for Thursday, August 26, 2010 at 7:00 pm at the NECC meeting room. Kevin will send out a notice to NECC members.

4. Mr. John Rodda. Parks and Recreation Director (MOA), was not at hand for the presentation of the Muldoon Park Strip and Centennial Park updates.

5. Scenic Foothills Community Council update was tabled in the interest of time. The President will move it to the next month's agenda.
6. NECC would like to amend the Fire Station #6 Appropriation Proposal language to add the words "to include a ladder truck and expanded EMS". Representative Gruenberg suggested the amended language to match the grant language.

A Resolution: NECC August 19, 2010, Concerning the Legislative Appropriation for Fire Station #6.

The NECC requests that the \$6,000,000 Legislative appropriation for Fire Station #6 shall include expanded Emergency Medical Services, a ladder truck, other necessary apparatuses, and include additional needed personnel and services.

A vote of the motion of the Resolution: 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained. The motion passes.

7. The Federation of Community Councils is trying to decrease snail mail to reduce costs. Bob Reupke requested that the Board and other volunteers start calling snail mail recipients to get emails and ask members if they would still like to receive mailings.

Community Concerns:

None.

The meeting adjourned at 9:59 pm.