

North Star Community Council  
November 10, 2010  
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Time: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Location: North Star Elementary School Library, 605 West Fireweed Lane

1. **Call to Order and Approval of Minutes and Agenda.** The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. by President Matt Johnson. A sign-in sheet was distributed. The minutes of the council's last meeting (October 13, 2010) were approved (moved by Mary Jo Robinson and seconded by Gordon Glaser). The proposed agenda was also approved.
  
2. **Officer Reports.**
  - a. Matt Johnson, President, made three announcements:
    - (1) Bonnie Harris, President of the South Addition Community Council, has invited all members of the North Star Community Council to attend their November 17 meeting at which they will have a presentation on a proposed project to improve the safety of the woods along Chester Creek east of Valley of the Moon Park. (Bonnie wrote: "As I understand it, the project would involve ARBRA working with Municipal Parks Department to make the woods safer by cleaning out low brush and fallen trees while retaining the forest aspect.") They meet at 7 p.m. on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Pioneer Home. Bonnie's phone number is 274-3455.
    - (2) The Neighborhood USA Project is beginning to gear up. The conference will be held in Anchorage next year (May 2011). Contact Mark Butler at the community council office about it. Website: nusa2011.org
    - (3) Loussac Manor low-income housing east of C Street (across from the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue gardens) has been pretty much leveled.
  
  - b. Andre Camara, Vice President, reported that Monday, November 15 is America Recycles Day and Anchorage Recycles Day. Total Reclaim in the Huffman Business Park will have discounted rates for electronics recycling on Saturday.
  
  - c. Barbara Pepek, Treasurer, was absent, so Matt gave the Treasurer's Report. He reported that our savings account earned a 17-cent dividend, so our current savings total is \$446.21. We continue to have \$102.25 in our checking account. No checks were issued in the past month. Grand total in both accounts is \$548.46. No encumbrances.
  
  - d. Susan Miller, Secretary, said she had copies of the council's bylaws available if anyone wanted one and mentioned that the university's (UAF) Cooperative Extension Service has moved its office from Northern Lights and Lake Otis to 16<sup>th</sup> and C in our neighborhood. This is good news because Coop Extension offers great classes on gardening and other subjects. They will have an open house on Monday, November 29 from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. Address: 1675 C Street.

**3. Legislative Reports**

- a. Rose Foley, Legislative Aide, spoke on behalf of Representative Les Gara. She said the House has organized and Les retained his seat on the Finance committee (with Mike Doogan). She invited suggestions for legislation.
- b. Charles Boyle, Legislative Aide for Representative Mike Doogan, asked us to let him know if we have any suggested legislation or capital project requests.

**4. Assembly Reports.**

- a. Ira Perman, who assisted Assembly members Harriet Drummond and Ernie Hall with the discussion of the municipal budget at last month's meeting, reported that, compared with other community councils, ours was more willing to preserve service levels than other councils. Sand Lake was the least willing to pay more to preserve services. He also said that when members of the various community councils recommended new revenue sources, the number one suggestion was to tax church property.

Ira also reported on the Spenard Road Project. He said that after some public meetings on the project, a series of technical questions was sent to the PM&E (Project Management & Engineering) Office. The organizers of the meetings (Ira, Harriet and Ernie) just received the final answers from PM&E. They plan to hold another community meeting in early December to present those answers.

- b. Harriet Drummond first discussed the Assembly's October 26 meeting. The Assembly passed a resolution setting guidelines for the school district budget. The school district has scheduled several public meetings on their budget. The Parks and Recreation Department presented proposed fee schedule increases, which will be considered with the municipal budget. The Campbell Creek Estuary has been accepted by the municipality as a conservation easement. It will have basic trails, a couple overlooks and a parking lot. In compliance with a requirement of the two families who previously owned it, the property will never be developed. Great Land Trust raised money from several sources to buy the land. The Assembly also passed a resolution requesting retailers to voluntarily remove from sale a new street drug called Spice or Spike which is supposedly stronger than marijuana.

At the November 9 meeting, the Assembly held its second public meeting on the budget. There was lots of testimony on the transit cuts. Concerning the mayor's proposal to close the library's Samson Dimond branch, last month a business owner said the closure would harm businesses at the Dimond Mall. The owner talked to 150 library visitors about why they came to the library and learned that many came to shop and visit friends at the mall as well as to visit the library. The Assembly passed a 75 cent per pack increase in the cigarette excise tax, which will raise an estimated \$5.2 to \$6.2 million. Concerning the mayor's proposed cuts in the fire department, there was testimony that this could cause homeowners insurance rates to increase all over Anchorage and Eagle River by \$10 million. In

response to a question about raising the alcohol tax, Harriet stated that the Assembly cannot do that on its own. There needs to be a vote of the people, and there may be one. Harriet also reported that the Assembly approved a liquor license for Kriner's Dinner on C Street north of Fireweed..

5. Old and New Business.

- a. C Street Community Garden. Susan reported that the committee working on this project is waiting for city approval of the plan to replace the current low fence around the gardens with an 8-foot tall chain link fence to protect garden produce from theft and moose damage.
- b. NSCC Bylaws Revision. As requested at our September meeting, Andre presented draft amendments to our bylaws to clarify who can vote in the election of officers. Andre also asked if we want to consider using a membership application form to help confirm who is qualified to vote. He handed out a draft of such a form. Several suggestions for changes in the draft bylaws were made, including a suggestion (by Eric Croft) that the changes apply to all votes, not just votes for officers. We also tried to come up with language more precisely defining the period of time within which council meetings must be attended in order to qualify to vote – in order to avoid the debate on this that occurred the last time officers were elected. A helpful suggestion (by Harriet) was to require that the meeting or meetings must have been attended “within the x months previous to the month in which the vote occurs.” No exact language for the amendments was agreed upon. Andre agreed to prepare another draft based on the group's discussion and distribute it prior to our December meeting. Matt will notify the membership of the proposal at least 14 days before the next meeting in order to comply with the bylaws requirement that such notice must be given before amendments can be adopted.
- c. Homeless Task Force Update. Matt reported that he has not worked on this yet.
- d. Neighborhood Preparedness Update. Matt reported that he will be attending a class on Saturday, November 13 at the Office of Emergency Management (1305 E Street) about creating neighborhood emergency watch programs.
- e. Nominations for NSCC Delegate to Federation of Community Councils (FCC). Matt Johnson reported that North Star's FCC delegate Kim Wetzel needs to bow out because of a conflict with the FCC's meeting times. So we need a new delegate. The FCC meets 8 or 9 times a year on the third Wednesday of the month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Gordon Glaser agreed to be the new FCC delegate for the NSCC.
- f. Neighborhoods USA Conference. The Federation of Community Councils is currently working on planning for the Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) Conference which will be held in Anchorage May 25-28, 2011 and which is expected to bring 400 to 1,000 people to Anchorage. Mark announced that in the afternoon of May

26, 2011, as part of the NUSA Conference, one of the tours offered to conference attendees will be a North Star tour, and we need to host a dinner for the 20 or 30 people expected to sign up for that tour.

- g. Resolution Supporting Public Safety Funding. Mark stated that he had just attended a meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Commission at which the commission adopted a resolution essentially asking the Mayor and Assembly to keep the police and fire department budgets at 09 levels rather than adopting the mayor's proposed cuts. It was moved and seconded that we support this resolution. Gordon Glaser asked for unanimous consent. There was no objection.