

North Star Community Council
May 11, 2011
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Time: 7:05 to 9:10 p.m.

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

Present: Matt Johnson, Andre Camara, Susan Miller, Barbara (Xefirah) Pepek, Durelle Smith, David C. Wirls, Vera Crews, Mark Butler, Bonnie Jack, Harriet Drummond, Ira Perman, Kim Wetzell, Barbara Bachmeir, Shirley Nelson, Tracy Fischbach, Sharon Schlicht, Della Barry

1. **Call to Order and Approval of Minutes and Agenda.** President Matt Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Mark Butler prepared and handed around a sign-in sheet. The minutes of the council's last meeting (April 13, 2011) were approved with no objection (moved by Andre Camara, seconded by Mark Butler). The only proposed change in the agenda was Matt's request to add to Old and New Business an item 6(g) on Fireweed Theater lot inebriates (if the person who requested that topic arrives to discuss it). Agenda approval was moved by Mark and seconded by Andre.
2. **Officer Reports**
 - a. Matt Johnson, President, said that, after three years in that office, this will be his last meeting as president. He thanked several people for their work and expressed his pleasure at the accomplishments of the council.
 - b. Andre Camara, Vice President, said this Saturday is Creek Clean Up Day. People interested in volunteering can just show up at Valley of the Moon Park at 9:00 a.m. or go online to volunteer to work at any of the creeks in the city. Harriet Drummond mentioned the trees that beavers have taken down on Spenard Hill.
 - c. Barbara Pepek, Treasurer, reported that we have \$446.83 in savings and \$207.25 in checking, for a total of \$654.08.
 - d. Susan Miller, Secretary, had no report.
 - e. Gordon Glaser, Federation of Community Council Representative, was absent (allegedly being in Paris at the time).
3. **Legislative Reports**

None. The Legislature was still in Juneau in special session.
4. **Assembly Reports.**

- a. **Harriet Drummond** said that at the April 19 assembly meeting, one new member and five returning members were sworn in. The assembly also unanimously passed a resolution encouraging negotiations between utilities and Cook Inlet Region Inc. to buy electricity from the wind turbine farm to be built on Fire Island.

At the April 26 meeting, the assembly's new chair Debbie Ossiander appointed committees on redistricting and the possible purchase of wind-farm electricity by ML & P. The assembly also passed budget revisions, a property tax increase (\$13 per \$100, 000 property value), and new rules for cleaning up the illegal camp sites in parks. The assembly approved using \$250, 000 to fix up an unused warehouse to store property seized from the illegal camps when storage is necessary. The assembly also passed the "chicken" ordinance. A single family home or duplex with a fenced backyard can have one chicken or rabbit per 1000 square feet. The coop must be at least 10 feet from the property line. No roosters, peacocks, game hens, geese or turkeys are allowed.

On May 10, the assembly approved a new liquor license (beer and wine) for a new German restaurant, voted down a water line on 40th near Providence Hospital, and discussed the possibility of 100% ID checks for liquor purchases. Harriet said the April ballot measure that voters approved referred only to ID checks at package liquor stores. However, some members of the assembly want to add bars and restaurants. The assembly has not made a decision on this yet. Also, the city attorney has just brought up a possible jurisdictional issue (the municipal law which the city prosecutes under does not include the red-striped-license requirement for defendants ordered by the court not to consume alcohol). Those present at the meeting indicated their preferences as follows: six prefer that the ID requirement apply only to package stores, 10 would apply it to all three types of businesses, and zero voted for "package stores now and bars in 2013."

The May 24 agenda will include a proposal to rename some of the "Hillcrest" streets. Hillcrest Place and Hillcrest Circle intersect with Hillcrest Drive and, therefore, need to be renamed. The residents oppose the change because they do not like the proposed new name.

Harriet also reported that the city has \$1.7 million for speed humps and other traffic calming measures. To get speed humps installed, a neighborhood will have to get a resolution from their community council. There is a brochure about it on the Transportation Department's website. The city has a new traffic engineer and a new person is being hired to do nothing but speed humps.

- b. **Ernie Hall** was not present (because he is getting married on Saturday). Ira Perman reported that the Spenard Road Redesign Task Force has been meeting every other week, hearing from experts from municipal departments. The redesign has to make the road fit within the 60-foot right of way. The challenge is to do this and still provide better space for pedestrians and bike riders.

5. **Presentations.**

Spenard Farmers Market. Kim Wetzel described the plans for this year's Spenard Farmers Market. The market was created last year through the work of North Star Community Council members and members of the Spenard and Turnagain councils. Kim is currently the secretary for the market's board of directors and Mark Butler is president of the board. Susan Miller and Sharon Schlicht are part of the market's steering group and were among the original volunteers. This year's market will begin on May 21, at the same location as last year (the Chilkoot Charlie's parking lot). Kim said the market needs more volunteers. Anyone interested in helping can contact Kim or email spenardfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

6. **Old and New Business.**

- a. C Street Community Garden Project. Tracy Fischbach reported that last Saturday (May 7), volunteers removed the old wood fence (except for the vertical posts) in about 1 ½ hours and then put down 4000 square feet of cardboard over the unused, weed-infested section of the garden and covered it with 105 yards of topsoil (creating 23 new plots). There is currently a long waiting list for plots. The new plots will not be available for gardening until next year. Volunteers still need to pull the vertical fence posts and cover and apply wood chips to the paths within the garden. Then a fencing company will build the new 8-foot chain link fence around the garden. Andre said he saw a black bear coming out of the garden recently.
- b. Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) Conference. Mark Butler reported that the dinner for NUSA visitors touring our neighborhood will be at Ira Perman's house at 1041 West 23rd. Mark said 21 people from around the country have signed up for the North Star tour. On the tour, Lannie Fleisher will talk about the creation of our bike trails and the disk golf guy will talk about our disk golf courses. The dinner will be at 6 p.m. Mark requested that people bring food and or something to drink.
- c. Valley of the Moon Park Advisory Group. Mark reported briefly on the May 10 meeting of the group at the park and the group's walk through the woods during which the municipal forester pointed out the Mayday trees (aka European Bird Cherry) an invasive species that needs to be removed from the park and replaced with native species.
- d. 2012 Capital Projects NSCC Priority List. Matt handed out a list of three categories of projects which our council is supposed to prioritize: (1) Project Management and Engineering (i.e., city) Projects, (2) State Road Projects, and (3) Parks and Recreation Projects. He also described how the council voted on most of the same projects last year. Last year's list of priorities was also included in the notice of this meeting distributed by the Community

Councils Center. Each person present filled out his/her priority list individually, and Matt collected them and will compile the results.

- e. Election of Officers. Nominations made at the March and April meetings were:

President	Andre Camara
Vice-President	Gordon Glazer
Treasurer	Barbara Pepek

At the May meeting, the following nominations were added:

Secretary	Barbara Pepek, who volunteered and was nominated
FCC Delegate	Gordon Glaser with Matt Johnson as the alternate (nominated by Mark Butler)
At Large Member	Matt Johnson (nominated by Mark Butler)
At Large Member	Sharon Schlicht (nominated by Della Barry)

Bonnie Jack asked for unanimous consent to elect all nominees. There was no objection.

7. Neighborhood Issues/Concerns.

Shirley Nelson said she has lived in the neighborhood (on West 23rd between A and C Streets) for 16 years. Some homeless individuals moved into a vacant neighboring lot. Northrim Bank repossessed the property and posted it with no trespassing signs after she complained about the noise from the homeless individuals. After a while, the noise started again. When she contacted Northrim, they said they had sold the property to Anchorage NeighborWorks (a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting affordable housing options). Mark suggested that Shirley contact NeighborWorks and also suggested that Andre call NeighborWorks and invite them to our next meeting (in September) to discuss their plans for that lot.

8. Next Meeting: probably September 14, 2011

Minutes Written By: Susan Miller