

NECC

Northeast Community Council

Minutes –

November 17, 2011

Call to Order: 7:04 PM

President's Introduction:

Board Members Present: Kevin Smestad, Carla Hadley McConnell, Genevieve Holubik, Selina Metoyer, David Ulmer, Stuart Grenier, Ainslie Phillips,

Board Members Absent: Bob Reupke, Gabrielle LeDoux

Approval of November Meeting Agenda: Mr. Kevin Smestad requested that we move item #6, Power Plant Expansion, up to #3 and that all other business items will follow. He also announced that we would be adding a business item to the agenda at #9 to accommodate a presentation by AHFC requesting a resolution for support of a fourplex on Boston Street. A motion and second was made for the approval of the November agenda. The agenda was accepted.

Approval of Previous Minutes: The October 2011 Meeting Minutes were put forth for approval. A motion was made and seconded for approval. The minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Bob Reupke was on vacation, so no Treasurer's Report was given.

Executive Report: The President reported that the Board worked on the agenda for this meeting. He announced a change in the way we will be conducting business to try to reduce the meeting time. Ms. Carla Hadley McConnell announced that the FCC will be changing their website and would like community input.

Business:

1. The NECC held a drawing for a one month membership to the Alaska Club. The membership was donated by the Alaska Club.
2. Mr. Sherman Ernouf from the Olive Garden restaurant requested a resolution from the NECC for support of a full dispensary liquor license.

A Resolution: NECC November 17, 2011, Concerning Full Liquor License at Olive Garden Restaurant at Tikahtnu Commons.

We, the Northeast Community Council, support a full liquor license (beverage dispensary license) for the Olive Garden Restaurant.

A vote of the Resolution: 14 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstained. The Resolution passes.

3. Ms. Wendy Wilbur with CRW Engineering announced that MLP will no longer look to expand into Centennial Park and will now expand into a site that is in the middle of two facilities that already exist. Wendy also showed a conceptional drawing of the new power plant.

The Keep Out sign that has been placed on the Frontage Road just after the Centennial Park turnoff was brought up. Eugene Ori said that there was "quite a lot of police callouts" and that "the Military and other agencies were quite happy to have us propose this". It was pointed out that many people use the road for bicycling and jogging and sometimes folks run their dogs along side their cars there. Mr. Ori said they were considering putting a gate up and would consult the council before this happened. He also said he could consider leaving a pedestrian space to pass through the gate. It was also pointed out that the strip of land south of the ML&P facility has a trail that connects Centennial Park with the proposed military Civilian Boundary Bike Trail and has been on the NECC CIP List for incorporation into Centennial Park for years.

A Resolution: NECC November 17, 2011, Concerning Municipal Light & Power Plant 2 Expansion

We, the Northeast Community Council, support ML&P's Plant 2 expansion as presented to the council.

A vote of the Resolution: 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstained. The Resolution passes.

4. Mr. John Rodda discussed improvements to Centennial Park. He would like input from the community on how approximately \$490K should be spent on the improvements. Improvements were previously on hold until the ML&P expansion was resolved. Mr. Rodda would like a couple of names of participants in the improvement process within the next couple of days.
5. Mr. Rodda clarified the intention of the land parcels at the proposed Muldoon Park Strip. He stated that parcel A and B will remain commercial and that parcels C and D are designated for park. He suggested that we tap our elected officials to support us in making the entire strip of land a dedicated park.

6. Mr. Rodda distributed a drawing of the Russian Jack Springs Park proposed improvements. A new bathroom facility, trail lighting, and a new playground will be going in. Parking will also be expanded. He announced that the lighting should be completed by January 2012.
7. Mr. Rodda did not have information regarding the community gardens.
8. Ms. Elise Huggins with the Department of Transportation updated the council on the Muldoon beautification. Flyers were sent out and residents and businesses were contacted regarding the improvements that will be made to Muldoon Road in the next year. There will be no lane closures during improvements. Sidewalks will be constructed on both sides of Muldoon and landscaping will be a natural divider between parking and the sidewalks. Two new bus stops will be installed.
9. AHFC appeared before the council as a follow-up to last month's meeting requesting a resolution for support for a fourplex at 1021 Boston Street. The lot is currently zoned for a triplex, but AHFC would like to build a fourplex instead to accommodate more housing needs.

A Resolution: NECC November 17, 2011, Regarding Support for a Variance Request from Alaska Housing Finance Corporation.

We, the Northeast Community Council, support AHFC's request for a zoning variance to build a fourplex at 1021 Boston Street.

A vote of the Resolution: 11 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstained. The Resolution passes.

10. Kevin reported on the VIP meetings for Windsong and Nunaka Valley Parks. At the meetings, members worked to prioritize a needs list for the parks. The next meeting will be Saturday, the 19th at 10:00 am for Nunaka Valley at the Carr's at Eastside (Boniface and Debarr) and Monday, the 19th at 7:00 pm at the Kaladi Brothers at the corner of Muldoon and Tudor for Windsong Park. Please contact Kevin for more information.

11. Kevin distributed the CIP list for our Community Council. The list was vetted by the council and the attending lawmakers. A final list will be presented at the next meeting in January.

Representative Reports:

Representative Lance Pruitt attended a state gas caucus. At the caucus he heard testimony from vested parties as to their gas needs and viewpoints. Representative Pruitt also announced that the next session starts in January.

Representative Pete Petersen attended the AMATS Anchorage caucus. He also attended a meeting to discuss whether we, as a state, should invest in foreign countries that we are in conflict with. Representative Petersen is investigating into student loan interest rates and increased real estate license fees to see if more reasonable rates should be implemented.

Senator Bill Wielechowski went to Kenai to talk about the future for gas to south central Alaska. There is an explosion of exploration in Kenai. Senator Wielechowski is working to enforce development of oil leases. He doesn't believe the State should give tax breaks to lease holders that won't develop.

Senator Bettye Davis' representative reported that the Senator has about 20 bills going forward for the next session. The bills include pro-education and Denali Kid Care.

Representative Max Gruenberg's representative reported that the Representative is visiting local schools and is also working on numerous bills for the upcoming session to include a bill that will allow the heirs of deceased soldiers to receive a death certification so that they may make funeral arrangements and take care of estates.

Assembly Person Paul Honeman requested that we get our budget and CIP requests in as soon as possible. There will be a slight amendment to the new fireworks ordinance to curb possible public nuisance. He is also working on a bill for non-consent towing so that rates are reasonable.

A motion was made and seconded to extend the meeting 15 minutes. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 pm.