

NORTH STAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

7:00 to 9:00 p.m. | North Star Elementary School (Library) - 605 West Fireweed Lane

NSCC ONLINE

- Federation of Community Councils - <http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/24.html>
- Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/groups/northstarcommunitycouncil/>

September 12, 2012 - Minutes

Call to order Time: 7:00 pm (with applause)

- Round of introductions

Introductions with personal summer excitement and issues of concern:

- Safer streets for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Traffic noise
- Drug issues

- Vote to approve minutes

Comments: Move to have minutes discussed at the next meeting.

Move: Gordon

Second: Ira

Passed by unanimous concensus.

- Changes or additions to agenda

Comments: Add North Star Elementary Librarian, Neva Reese

Reports

- **President's** Report: Andre Camara

Summary: Thank you to the past officers for their service an introduction of the current officers. He reminded us that the wood lot is open until the end of the month.

- **Vice President's** Report: Gordon Glaser

Summary: Thank you to Andre for hosting the BBQ at Valley of the Moon. Gordon would like to continue to do the annual walk around to each of the bars over the year in order to keep an eye out on liquor license issues. A speaker will come next meeting from the muni to discuss emergency awareness, especially in light of the past storm.

- **Treasurer's** Report: Sharon Schlicht

Summary: As of August 31, there is \$633.44 in savings; \$127.32 in checking for a total of \$760.76. Voluntary dues are \$5 per year and can be paid at any time. The hat was passed.

- **FCC Delegate's** Report: Gordon Glaser

Summary: Nothing to report.

Members at Large: Susan Miller and Matt Johnson

Summary: Nothing to report.

Legislative Reports

- **Rep. Mike Doogan:** Representative_Mike_Doogan@legis.state.ak.us

Represented By: Not present.

Summary:

- **Rep. Les Gara:** Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us

Represented By: Not present.

Summary:

- **Sen. Johnny Ellis:** Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us

Represented By: Not present.

Summary:

· **Sen. Hollis French:** Senator_Hollis_French@legis.state.ak.us

Represented By: Not present.

Summary:

Berta Gardner – Candidate for State Senate

Renewed focus on exporting LNG.

Capitol budget process update: The city sends around a list of what they know about. We should feel free to add to that list. The legislature does not know about what funds they will have for capitol improvement projects (CIPs). For projects, we go to the school and community council CIP lists first. These CIP lists provide backup to justify the earmarks.

Mark – Would like to see some funds come in to fix up some of our street and flooding issues. This is an older neighborhood and we are not looking for glitzy upgrades, but for safety needs.

Assembly Reports

· **Harriet Drummond:** harrietdrummond@alaska.com

Represented By: Herself

Summary: Barbara Jones is the new city clerk, spent 1 ½ years as the ombudsman. She has hired new people and is working on a massive reorganization.

The assembly has declared itself mal-apportioned. Each district should be around 53,000. West has shrunk while the east side has grown. The district lines will be redrawn. A contractor has been hired to do this. The realignment will not be a huge change. One of the goals is to have no split precincts. Public testimony will be taken.

Audit committee looked into the Baptist Temple housing property tax assessments and their tax exemptions. They did find some issues and the church was charged \$60,000 in back taxes.

September Meeting – Approved the purchase of 33 tasers for APD to give them other options than lethal weapons. Ms. Ossiander and Mr. Traini are looking to rescind the codes on sidewalk sitting. The new ombudsman Daryl Hess, the municipal clerk, Harriet and Bonnie are working on issues with public notices. The notices have not been going out and at time multiple notices have gone out giving misinformation or conflicting information. The code says that notices are almost only done on-line, except in a few cases. The muni is in the process of instituting a new computer system and notices are not getting out as part of the transition.

· **Ernie Hall:** Halle@muni.org

Represented By: Himself

Summary: Kudos to Harriet for their work together and is concerned about what will happen if she is elected to State House.

West Anchorage Plan - The West Anchorage Plan did get approved this summer. It was extended for 8 months. When it was approved the addendums were also approved and added to the plan. Issues: Pt. Woronzof Park: The administration cannot trade the park and it takes a vote of the people to remove it from the park system. Tony Knowles Coastal Trail: The trail is listed as being protected in perpetuity. If for some reason the airport needs to cross it, then they must pay to create a new trail and provide buffers. The issue of the north/south runway is not necessarily a big issue because it is not feasible for many reasons. Romig and West High were kept in the plan in order to keep the issue in view.

Election - The election was botched badly. The precinct workers were the ones who kept it together. They need to rework Title 28. Much was learned from this election and the next election will go much better.

Budget – Anchorage is facing a \$30 million deficit. The assembly needs to hear from the citizens on this. They can cut costs or raise taxes. Bonnie: Are we letting police go? Laying off police is a last resort. The assembly does not know what the mayor is going to suggest on October 1. There will be work sessions

throughout October and the budget will be passed on November 13. Gordon: How many vacancies have not been filled at APD? How is the city working with the state to have officers working under the grant programs of Click It/Tick It, DUI, and others? They will look into this. Della: The garden community is concerned about the urban forester and whether that position will be refilled? We don't know exactly which positions are being refilled or not. Mark: Is there really a \$30 million deficit or is this a political statement? There is no new chief of OMB for the city since July. We will all get the information on Oct. 1.

Title 21 – Ms. Ossiander and that committee is supposed to be done with review by the end of October. She wants to do one big work session on this. Title 21 should come to the assembly on November 27. All the parts will come together on that date for testimony.

Spennard Road – The mayor is ready to have a decision made. He is optimistic that we will be happy with the outcome. We may have an answer by the October meeting.

Sunrise Bakery – It's time to finish this, but it's now all in legal status since they are in bankruptcy. The city has other issues with them besides the parking. June 4 was the date that they were supposed to have the trucks removed. The trucks have not been removed.

· **Dick Traini:** TrainiD@muni.org

Represented By: Not present.

Summary:

· **Elvi Gray** □ **Jackson:** gray-jackson@muni.org

Represented By: Not present.

Summary:

New Business

North Star Elementary Librarian – Neva Reese

Concerns are: New children coming from Loussac Place may be coming after the school population/funding is set. Suggested that we talk with the principal about ways to support the school if many children arrive this winter. They have a great need for volunteers. In the library they need help processing and shelving books.

Old Business *(there may be no updates on items below)*

· NeighborWorks Project (Brian Kelley, Jack McKeever,)

Summary: This project is on W 24th Place. They are relooking at the market demands and the funding and are reworking it into a senior housing development. There would be 60 units. There would be more units, but smaller units than originally planned. A handout was provided with maps and details. They would like to have feedback over the next few months. They are going to be applying for financing through Alaska Housing in November.

Discussion:

Melonie: Are these accessible? Yes, these will have roll in showers and other amenities for people with many levels of mobility. Della: Are there going to be community rooms? There will not be a stand alone building, but there will be lounges and other multi-use rooms. They are also considering some community gardens. Matt: How many stories? They will be 2 to 3 stories, and built into the hill. They are trying to pull the buildings back into the lot and making it into 3 smaller buildings than originally planned to help with shading issues in the winter. Susan: Are these condos or apartments? These are rental apartments. Bonnie: Would there be children here? They could have a small family there, but we do not anticipate a lot given the size of the units. Gordon: Will there be a resident manager? Yes. It is unclear whether they will live there or be a full time employee. Ira: What would the rent be? This will be partly subsidized. The one units will be \$430 – 845/ month and the 2 bedroom will be \$515-1000/month. The highest income allowed would be around \$36,000 / year. Mark: Is Miller Place a road? Yes. The muni is requiring that they resurface this road, but it can't be enlarged. Gordon: Is this restricted to seniors? Yes.

Brian requested to be added to the October agenda to continue the discussion.

Action: None requested.

Andre requested a motion to extend the meeting 15 minutes.

Bonnie – So move

Gordon – 2nd

Passed by verbal consensus.

· Westchester Lagoon Disc Golf closure update (Mike Huelsman)

Summary: Just interested in the issue and so started asking the muni about it. He got a map from the muni of current disc golf courses. The issue seems to be that we have too many people using too few courses and the midtown course is most heavily used because it is nearest to where people work and live. Additionally, the sport has changed. The original discs were small and soft. Now they are hard and thrown much farther. It has outgrown the site. Other problems stemming from the high use are trash, trampling, lack of parking, and loud voices late at night. The good news is that young people like to use it. The bad news is that there are alcohol issues and little enforcement.

Recommendations:

They need extra holes to switch out with trampled areas to allow for regrowth.

Pull baskets that are near residences in June and July to allow area to regrow and give some quiet.

Ask those who have trash thrown out to help in the pickup. If the trash came from McDonalds, then they may help with trash collection.

They need some new courses to give some relief to the overused midtown course. Another site may be north side of Chester Creek by the sport complex. This could help with the public inebriate issues in that area.

Discussion:

Melonie: Are they closing down the Chester Creek course? Yes. It will be opened this winter after the ground freezes. Dennis?: It seemed that the park was just loved to death and is in favor of creating additional courses. He would be willing to help. He wished there had been more of an effort to find people to self-police. Bonnie: Are you going to try to get a disc golf group together to start self-police the area? Mike is willing to do that, but he will be gone this winter and won't be back until March. Ira: It seems that the disc golf community needs to organize something similar to the Nordic Ski Association to work on these kinds of issues.

· Title 21

Summary: See comments by Ernie Hall.

· Spenard Rd

Summary: See comments by Ernie Hall.

· Sunrise Bakery

Summary: See comments by Ernie Hall.

· Spenard Farmers Market

Summary: The market will be open for 3 more weekends. There has been lots of veggies for sale.

Reminder: Everyone should take some community council flyers to give to neighbors.

Adjourn 9:15 p.m.