

NORTH STAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

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November 14, 2012 - Minutes

Call to order Time: 7:03 pm

Introductions

Changes or additions to agenda

Comments: Ernie Hall will give his presentation early.

Reports

President's Report: Andre Camara

Summary: No report given.

Vice President's Report: Gordon Glaser

Summary: No report given.

Treasurer's Report: Sharon Schlicht

Summary: As of October 31, there is \$578.60 in savings; \$106.46 in checking for a total of \$685.06. Voluntary dues are \$5 per year and can be paid at any time.

FCC Delegate's Report: Gordon Glaser

Summary: See above.

Members at Large: Susan Miller and Matt Johnson

Summary: Nothing to report.

Legislative Reports

Senator Elect - Berta Gardner

Represented By: Kevin Harun

Summary: He passed out a handout from Berta for us to review. Email them if you want to be on their information list. \$16 million is in the state capital improvement list for the city. The city is not making it known whether they are supporting a 3 or 4 lane project for Spenard Road.

Mark: This community council, Spenard and Turnagain community councils and the Spenard Chamber of Commerce have all voted to support the 3 lane option. This is a big issue for us, but our number one priority is \$1 million to study the flooding issue along Chester Creek.

Assembly Reports

Ernie Hall: Halle@muni.org

Represented By: Himself

Summary: Assembly Meeting 11/13/2012

Budget - Passed \$475 million for this year's budget. It will reflect a property tax increase of \$49 per \$100,000 of home value. The city will be able to deliver the same services as last year.

There will be vacant positions, but very few layoffs. The biggest problem is that wages have increased considerably over time the past 10 years. Therefore, it takes more money to get the

same services. Assemblyman Starr is trying to return tax money, but because of the stock market decline recently, we have lost some of the revenue that the city needs. Senate bill 182 made the school district return funds to the city that the state is now providing. The city is using the funds to help cover budget shortages. They do not believe that the mayor will do any veto on the budget. Most changes passed by a significant margin of the assembly members.

Redistricting- Many in the community felt that they wanted more input into the process. There was not a 30 day review period because the city ran out of time to complete the process because the state's process was delayed and the election debacle last spring ate up significant funds that would have been used to start the process earlier. There were some ground rules laid which included that current assembly members must remain in their districts and no precincts are to be split. The contractor got all the districts relatively close, but Flynn requested to move Airport Heights to midtown. The federal Dept of Justice has 60 days to approve the new map. We may not know the new districts until January 15.

He would like to see more discussion about how we look at our districts. Perhaps they should all be smaller one representative districts. Flynn and Hall want to put a question on the spring ballot for the citizenry to decide if they want to do something different. There would be 9 years to determine what the community wants to do.

Xefirah – Youth court funding? Ernie - Yes. It was funded. The libraries got an additional \$200K, as well.

Gordon – Kudos for doing a good job with the budget. John Thomas building? Ernie talked with many of the leading non-profit leads in town. They all determined that the building needs to be sold. Several of the non-profits in the building were not operating in a fiscally responsible way. There are no funds to maintain the building. United Way won't buy it because it's an unstable structure located on a fault line. Rasmussen and Foraker will be helping the organizations to transition to different office space. Meredyth – Thank you for voting to sell the building. How will the building be sold? The city will be looking for the best offer that they can get. The building will probably have to be leveled.

Mark – A note to everyone that our assembly districts have changed.

Spennard Road – No new information.

Sunrise Bakery – No new information.

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

Represented By: Herself

Summary: Melonie – Can you talk more about the redistricting? Harriet has a map that we can review. In the spring, residents west of C Street will be in the West Anchorage Assembly seat. Those in this area will vote on vice-Harriet for assembly.

Meredyth – What was cut? There will be tax increases. No cuts to buses or increase in bus fares. They voted on the budget first and then did not vote on the omnibus bill to raise fees and fines. The mayor convinced them to vote on the omnibus, but they plan on rescinding the changes before they take affect on January 1. What about the one-time school funds? School

funds and municipal funds are under the same tax cap. Since the school district can only take a lower amount, then the municipality can take a larger portion of the tax cap funds.

New Business

Anchorage Emergency Disaster Preparedness - Dawn Brantley brantleyd@muni.org

The city has a program similar to Neighborhood Watch for emergencies. During the last storm and power outage, it was clear that the neighborhood should be connecting with each other immediately after an event. The police and fire departments are busy responding to major emergencies and won't have time to do house by house checks. The Emergency Watch Neighborhood Program helps neighbors organize themselves so that they are more prepared in the event of an emergency to help themselves and their neighbors. If you set up an Emergency Watch program, her office will do community preparedness drills to help you neighborhood prepare. Gordon: How did the Zombie month go? It was a wonderful success to get the word out. They will do it again next year. In the city, there are 12 active Emergency Watch groups. Discussion of ham radios. Harriet: She used her iPhone to get information. Are ham radios going out of date? The ham radios are still going to be important because they do not take bandwidth and you can talk directly to emergency personnel. They also do not need generators to keep repeaters working. Meredyth: Where does the funding for this office come? Funds are from federal and state emergency grants. This weekend there will be an orientation to the Emergency Watch program. Training program – Thursday 6-8:30 pm or Saturday 9-11:30a. They are located at 1305 E Street.

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

Westchester Lagoon Disc Golf Closure Update (David Wigglesworth)

Summary: He is an avid user of the trail system. He recognizes that people feel in different ways about the closure of the course. The course began in the mid-1980's but was only used by a few people. In 2009 and 2010 the popularity of the sport increased significantly. In 2010, the parks and rec committee worked on this issue and determined three main concerns: safety to non-golfers, environmental issues, and unwanted behaviors particularly drug and alcohol use. In 2011, the parks department reported that they continued to have issues despite measures taken to try and stop some of the behaviors. Since there were still issues, the committee decided to create an ad hoc working group to try and find solutions. The parks department and commission worked hard on this issue in several public meetings. They worked with the disc golf association and tried to broadcast the issue through Facebook, twitter and other venues. There was even a 2011 commentary by Julia O'Malley on this issue. Additional issues are that this course overlaps with 4 major trail junctions and several already undersized culverts.

The current plan is to have it open only in the winter except for special tournaments or events in the summer. The issues have been building for some time and now we need to figure out a new solution. The current plan was suggested by the disc golf association. 1,100 people signed a petition to reopen the course, but it does not work to solve the problems the course continues to have. The ad hoc group is now working on creating better sighting criteria, management standards and user agreement templates. The Muni wants to work more with the disc golf association to create user agreements similar to how they work with Little League, Nordic Ski Association, etc.

Xefirah: She hopes to see the disc golf group bring in young people to teach them how to use the course. Bonnie: What's your role? He's part of the ad hoc disc golf advisory group to the Parks & Rec committee. Mike (from Collaborative Minds) How many people responded before the course was closed? He had heard that the survey response was extremely limited. Melonie – What about the parking lot on 19th? The parking lot on 19th is closed due to repair issues.

Recommendations: We will discuss it at a future meeting.

Tesoro Liquor License

Summary: The resolution is to thank Tesoro and Mr. Sturley for withdrawing their liquor license application.

Action: Request action on the resolution.

Move: Bonnie 2nd: Gordon

Vote: Passed unanimously.

NeighborWorks Project

Summary: A representative was not in attendance, but members requested to discuss the issue. Community members have recently found out that NeighborWorks is not going to have a public review on their re-platting plan. They want to re-plat now, even though they do not have federal funding yet. The neighborhood has real concern that they could default on the project and then the property could be developed in any number of ways. Harriet: They may not be able to get funding until the property is re-platted. A request was made to have someone from the platting commission come and speak with us. Can we do some kind of covenant on this property?

Action: We will follow up with the platting board to determine our options.

Announcements: State of Our City Forum - Nov 19 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm @ Romig

Be there if you want to be heard later in the year. It's this coming Monday.

Vote to approve minutes from September & October

Comments:

Move: Mark Second: Gordon

Passed by unanimous consensus.

Move to Adjourn: Mark 2nd: Meredyth

Passed by unanimous concensus.

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

Adjourn 9:00p.m.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by the secretary, Tracy Fischbach.