

NORTH STAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

NSSC ONLINE

Federation of Community Councils -

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December 12, 2012 - Minutes

Call to order Time: 7:05 pm

Introductions

Changes or additions to agenda - None requested.

Move to adopt the November minutes – Gordon

2nd – Meredyth

Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

President's Report: Andre Camara

Summary: Chester Creek continues to be a concern. Water is backing up into our neighbors' yards and is now freezing.

Vice President's Report: Gordon Glaser

Summary: The FCC has not been meeting. We are still waiting on the results of the Spenard Road redesign. No new news on the fate of the Sunrise Bakery building, either.

Treasurer's Report: Sharon Schlicht

Summary: As of November 30, there is \$588.67 in savings; \$106.46 in checking for a total of \$695.13. Voluntary dues are \$5 per year and can be paid at any time. There was a question as to what "a year" meant? Was that January through December or the meeting year of September through May? It was determined that it doesn't matter since it is voluntary.

Meredyth: What is the money used for? Refreshments for a community picnic. Donations have been made to the North Star library and to buy paint for the Duck Walk. It is up to the will of the membership. Uses are voted upon.

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: Herself

Summary: We gavel in January 15. They are looking at the flooding issue and the concern is being voiced all along the Chester Creek valley. We need to continue to get the city to make it a priority for funding. The governor's budget will be released tomorrow. There is a big push to change oil and gas taxes. There has been no complete audit since the beginning of ACES in 2007. The governor wants to give a 5 year limit on when the state can go back and get unpaid taxes. Without audit results, it's unclear what the record is and if this is an issue or not. It's hard to find qualified oil & gas tax auditors. The ones out there are being used for forecasting, not

auditing. The Department of Revenue and its commissioner do not seem to be able to answer the legislators' questions.

She is hoping to be on the Education committee. It's her priority. She does email newsletters. Please let her know if we want to be on the list. She does them topically during the session. Her number is 269-0174 and her email is senator.bertha.gardner@akleg.org. You can sign up on-line, as well. Susan: Do senators get more than one committee? It depends on the number of seats that are on each committee. Since this is her first term in the Senate, she's not sure how this will turn out. There are a bunch of new budget subcommittees and other committees.

Assembly Reports

Ernie Hall: Halle@muni.org
Represented By: Not present.
Summary:

Harriet Drummond: harrietdrummond@alaska.com
Represented By: Herself

Summary: This was her last NSCC meeting as an assembly member. She spent yesterday on oil and gas issues. She is also concerned that there hasn't been an audit of ACES. The assembly will be looking at the capital improvement project list from the city. She reviewed the list of the projects. Discussion was had regarding the level of current flooding along Chester Creek. David W.: They need to really be looking at sediment transfer along the creek. They need to be working with the University and their SNAP program to understand what might be the upcoming climate and how it will affect this area. Harriet- Can you send me that information so I can include it in the description of this project? David will do that. Harriet will send our president a copy of the project list after the assembly meeting on Tuesday. The federal archive building lot is being considered for a midtown transit center. A light rail project is being considered again. Berta: Does the city still assess the streets? Yes. Susan: Parks department is requesting \$250K for disc golf development city wide.

Spenard Road – The mayor is supposed to be meeting with the major players to let them know his view of the project. She is not at liberty to discuss his decision. There is some work that may happen to do some little repairs before the \$16 million reconstruction project happens.

Assembly Report:

Traini did not bring up the fireworks ordinance. They are looking at putting on the ballot a proposal to move to 11 assembly districts. There is also a proposal to change the school board seats to be representative of an area and not city-wide. Her opinion is that school board members need to be focused on the district as a whole, not as a district by district representative. In rural area it may make more sense, since they are more spread out. In Anchorage, board members can drive to each school. Also, running in a district is much more expensive because you have to go door by door. .

Harriet talked to Larry Brant from Sunrise Bakery last week. They are not baking anymore, but it will take months to get it all cleared up.

Next week is her last meeting. The assembly is planning to appoint someone on their January 15 meeting. A number of people have requested to seek appointment. You just need to live in the district, and be a registered voter. Requests are due by December 31. She hopes someone will be appointed who does not want to run in April. What is the process? It's described in code. The 10 assembly members will vote. It's an up and down vote. The person has to do the full financial disclosure even though it would be just a 90 day appointment.

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

Westchester Lagoon Disc Golf Closure Update (Darren from Collaborative Minds)

Summary: He's been playing disc golf since 2007. He once played 100 games / year and now because of the closure has only played 5 games. He is part of the group Collaborative Minds. This group is made of individuals that want to do more for the community. They sponsor the 12 Days of Christmas Pub Crawl to raise funds for youth within the Foster Care System. They also did a fall Frisbee golf course clean-up in partnership with Downtown Partnership. They had hoped to do a spring clean-up, but found out that the course would be closed for the summer. He and the Collaborative Minds group did an on-line petition drive and got 1700 signatures. He is now part of the Disc Golf Assessment group. There are two objectives: management and development. Their plan is similar to the plan developed by Collaborative Minds. Development guidelines were based on the pros and cons of the Westchester course. The final assessment is being presented to Parks & Rec tomorrow evening.

He is hoping to get support on their management plan. Development issues included: parking, trash, and erosion. They propose to have a rotation of holes to give overused holes a break. They plan to have biweekly trash pickups. They are still working on the parking issue.

Management issues: They plan on doing biweekly trash clean-ups. They will be partnering with businesses to get supplies. Collaborative Minds wants to become the sponsoring organization that will continue to work on parking issues, educate users, and teach classes. They will create t-shirts to give to volunteers and get the word out.

Questions: Does Collaborative Minds have a membership base? You can join the group at collaborative.m@gmail.com.

He would like a resolution of support from the community council.

Gordon: He would like to hear what the Parks & Rec board is thinking? Josh from Parks & Rec is hoping that some of these events will happen. Gordon would like Darren to draft the letter that he wants us to support. It can be circulated before our next meeting and have us vote on the issue at our January meeting.

Meredyth: What is management of the course? Is it only clean-up? They are patterning themselves after the Nordic Ski Association. What will they do about the drug issues? They are hoping that through having more people joining an organization that they could become a symbol to stand behind.

David W: Tomorrow night Parks & Rec will accept the report. That report will include sighting criteria. We should ask to have Parks & Rec come and give us an overview of their findings. This plan still does not address the problem with the course's proximity to the trail system. It's not just trash issues.

Barbara: She has noticed more vagrants since the disc golfers have been gone.

Bonnie: She has a lot of concern about the public inebriates using the area now that the disc golfers are gone.

Andre: I've heard about special events? Josh: Yes, they could apply for permit. That permit would force them to deal with parking issues, trash and those other issues. Sometimes there is no fee associated with the use, especially if it's being used as a fund raiser for charitable organizations..

Susan: She would like to see the parks commission to be open to looking at the Westchester course and see if they can get something to work.

Josh: Parks and Rec wants to see a user group created. It would be similar to the single track user group that is being formed now.

Nick: We need to get out the word that disc golfers provide a safe feel to the area. That's not making it out.

David W: He thinks that there may have been other positive uses that happened with the disc golfers gone. Some people like having the golfers gone because it frees up the area.

Recommendations: Andre will send out a link to the report. Darren will provide a draft letter before the next meeting. We will discuss the letter and report and vote on whether to sign the letter in January.

NeighborWorks Project

Summary: Andre talked with Shirley Nelson about this issue. The funding has fallen through for this project.

Action: It will be on the agenda for next meeting.

Announcements: Nick: The airport is going through their master planning effort right now. If you have comments think about it.

David W: ADF&G, Fish & Wildlife Service, and Park Foundation are looking at doing some revegetation work along Chester Creek.

Move to Adjourn: Gordon 2nd: Barbara
Motion passed by unanimous consensus.

Adjourn 8:55 p.m.

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