

NORTH STAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Federation of Community Councils <http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/24.html>

Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/groups/northstarcommunitycouncil/>

September 11, 2013 - Minutes

Call to order Time: 7:05 pm

Introductions – What fun thing did you do this summer?

Notes from the members:

Harriet - Romig Park has a community well and a fire hydrant that they are responsible for. The hydrant cracked this summer and they are finding all kinds of other maintenance issues with the water lines. As a result, they are starting a water service maintenance and upgrade project within their neighborhood.

Sharon - The bike tunnel under Arctic has 1' of water in it. The bottom step of the rock steps has eroded and fallen in.

Move to adopt the May minutes – Gordon; 2nd – Meredyth; Motion passed unanimously.

Changes or additions to agenda –

Add Kelly Hurd - ML&P Electric line undergrounding project

Add Harriet Drummond - Legislative citation to read

Reports

☐ **President** Report: Andre Camara

Summary: Nothing to report.

☐ **Vice President & FCC Delegate** Report: Gordon Glaser

Summary: The FCC had a picnic and will start up soon. He's hearing that several community councils are concerned about the addition of playing fields at high schools. It's not the artificial turf that is in question, but the addition of sport bleachers and the consequent overhead bright lights, games, and loudspeakers.

☐ **Treasurer's** Report: Melonie Rieck, via Tracy Fischbach

Summary: As of August 30, there is \$609.19 in savings; \$106.46 in checking for a total of \$715.65. Voluntary dues are \$5 per year and can be paid at any time.

David: How did we earn this money? It's by donation. Tracy: Have we checked with the librarian about some resource need that we could help with. Andre: He did check with the principal and the librarian about our upcoming meetings and needs. Neva Reese, the school librarian, will talk with us later. Harriet: The balance has always been around \$600 to \$700 as long as she has been a member of the council.

Members at Large: Susan Miller and Matt Johnson

Summary: Nothing to report.

Legislative Reports

Representative Harriet Drummond (HD-16)

Represented By: Herself

Harriet has been traveling a lot with her work on education. Anchorage has adopted the Alaska standard which is similar to the core standards of No Child Left Behind (NCLB). As part of this, the state has developed a new school assessment method. North Star School has received a 4 star rating. Harriet would like to have school staff to come and talk about their efforts.

She has learned a lot about liquid natural gas (LNG). This is a complex issue that will be part of the next session. She has been told that the oil pipeline is like speed dating where you can have many customers. LNG is a long term relationship with one customer. She is not supportive of an Alaska only pipeline because the LNG will be too expensive for us. We have to have an exportable product that requires the cost of the line to be shared.

Finance committee – They toured the Atwood building. They are replacing 100s of cubicles, reducing the size of offices and consolidating a lot of departments. The State has a new financial system as well.

Susan: Are Alaska schools still under NCLB? No, the new system is to replace NCLB. The new ranking system was published one month ago. As part of the waiver, the state had to develop its own standards. Susan: Did she know that there is a jury exemption for teachers at failing schools under NCLB. If there is no NCLB, the exemption goes away. There should be a legislative fix for this.

Senator Berta Gardner (SD-H)

Represented By: Herself

Berta has now become a member of the community council meeting by purchasing a residence in the community. She is working to find funds for the Spenard Road Project. She knows it's a priority for us.

Assembly Reports

☐ **Ernie Hall:** HalleE@muni.org Represented By: Himself

Campbell Creek estuary – There will a ribbon cutting in mid-October. It's a beautiful area.

Spenard Road – Tim and Ernie are working on creating a seven member committee on this project. Their first member is Gordon Glaser. The Project Manager will be working with this group to make sure that things go well. They want this to be a poster child for how a road project can happen. They are trying to get the road into the bond package this year. We need the citizens to pass the word and get the vote out.

Community Service Patrol - Dick and Ernie got funding for another community service van and they met with the city manager to develop a plan for better coverage of the community. The bigger problem now is that there are not enough facilities for the people being picked up. They are creating a task force to look into this issue. Gordon: We have to have state support for funding treatment centers.

Budget – It's coming on October 1st.

☐ **Tim Steele:** SteeleT@muni.org Represented By: Himself

In and Out Liquor - The store had some violations this summer and was highlighted by Julia O'Malley in the paper. The owners of In and Out Liquor did talk to the Spenard Community Council. They changed their name, want to change their business and are adopting a voluntary conditional use permit. The assembly is looking at having liquor stores stamp their products with their name so when we see bottles at camps it will be easy to identify where the bottles are coming from. Gordon: Was a minimum price set for specific products? No. It wasn't included in the permit. Gordon: If they keep cheap liquor, then they are still focusing on a different clientele. Gordon: If you try to get everyone to mark their bottles, then it won't happen. Stores having issues should be required to do something like this.

Loussac Library Upgrades - Tim and Ernie are working together with the Library Foundation and the Library to get funding for upgrades. They want to make it a community meeting place, something like the BP Center. The library has some pretty major maintenance issues as well.

Loop Trail - They are working with Parks and Rec and the Park Foundation to fix the loop trail that is just west of the bridge connecting Bunker Street to the Chester Creek Trail.

Spenard Road - They went to a kick off meeting for the project. Public Works is starting to do some real design work. They are waiting on funds and having been talking with the chair of the Senate finance committee. They are also talking to the State to see what funds they may be able to divert to the project. The mayor has been working with the State to get funds. The state expects the city to pay for part of the project.

☐ **Dick Traini:** TrainiD@muni.org Represented By: Himself

Summary: Bar Closing – This ordinance has been rewritten. Bars can stay open until 4am, with the last hour being alcohol free.

Community Council Ordinance – They will give it to the FCC next week for review. Some of the changes include ending the practice of only letting paying members vote; requiring council officers to attend at least one meeting prior to being elected; merging a few councils; providing example by-laws for us to use; being the holder of our by-laws; and, dropping the age of those that can be members to 16. We can take lots of time with this. Review of this ordinance is required every 10 years.

Taxi Ordinance – On the 18th it goes to the Public Safety committee. They will be requiring nation-wide background checks before you can get a chauffeur’s license, and will require video cameras in the front and back of the taxi. The fleet has been expanded by 15 and there is a process to expand it even more. They also are looking at having taxi stands. They are requiring that cabs will be either front wheel or all-wheel drive as they are replaced. Also, no vehicles with reconstructed titles can be used. It will be in front of the assembly on September 24. Meredyth: Why can’t there be more taxis? Gordon: What about Eagle River? No one has requested a cab license for Eagle River. There is a mechanism for complaints. Gordon: Our senior population relies on taxis. Can we get a lower rate?

Towing Ordinance – This ordinance focuses on non-consensual towing. Some tow operators have a gate fee. They will require one vehicle access for free. They will also limit the towing fee to \$235. Ernie: They have been working on the towing ordinance for years.

New Business:

ML&P Undergrounding Project – Kelly Hurd – Long-time resident of the community. We are currently paying for this process and 1-2% of the lines have to be undergrounded each year per assembly ordinance. She would like to have the community council sign a resolution to have our community in the 5 year plan. David: He has concerns that ML&P may clear cut people’s backyards. Andre: They tunneled under the trees in his yard and didn’t cut anything down. Gordon: We should add this topic to next month’s agenda and see if you can get an ML&P representative to come to the meeting.

Legislative Citation – The legislature honors the North Star Community for our work.

Old Business:

Spenard Rd – Matt: What affect do we really have? Ernie: Community councils are so important. Tim and Ernie will be working in Juneau this fall. Mark: We do feel that we have wide support for this project. Mark requested that the Council sign a letter requesting the State to remove their old DOT building at the corner of Benson Blvd and Spenard Road at 2902 Spenard Rd. Removal of this property will allow for the needed Right of Way space for the Spenard Project.

Move: Gordon 2nd: Ira Passes unanimously.

Ernie: The community council can add this building removal to their legislative list.

Gordon: I move that we add the removal of the DOT building to our legislative list. 2nd: Ira Passes unanimously.

Franz Bakery – No commercial vehicles may be parked across the street from the bakery. The lack of landscaping is grandfathered in. They can still park commercial vehicles on this property, but they must move each day. When they park on the sidewalk this is a police issue.

New Development - The property across from the bakery where the car wash was is going to be rebuilt into a nice retail space. They are also going to paint in the back-in parking that we discussed several months ago. They now have 117 people who are showing the Safe Streets in Spenard sign.

Mark: Move to extend the meeting for 10 minutes. Gordon: 2nd Passes unanimously.

Announcements and Other Comments:

Spenard Market – Goes through the end of September

Move to Adjourn: Unanimous consensus.

Adjourn 9:20 p.m.

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