

NORTH STAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

7:00-9:00pm – North Star Elementary School (Library) – 605 West Fireweed Lane
Federation of Community Councils

April 9, 2014 – Minutes

Call to order:

Made by abruptly by Andre at 7:05pm, sensing that not even the proceedings of this illustrious council could compete with the distraction posed by the evening's lovely sunny, clear skies; promises were made to great fanfare to "keep things brief;" disappointment was soon after expressed by some at the lack of candy at the check in table

Secretary's side note:

After prolonged absence, Bonnie Jack is back with us tonight; she is alive and well and as enthusiastic and awesome as ever; secretary is especially happy about this exciting development as Bonnie is a personal inspiration and source of joy



Together Again: Mark the Council Historian and Spenard Bike Nation organizer, yours truly, and the Prodigal Bonnie

Introductions –

Made by the usual folks, plus Bonnie (!)

Special guests –

- Three young men from the North Star Elementary-based "The Boys Group" (financially supported by this council); during the Council's introductions to these boys, a bit of a competition over who has lived in North Star the longest ensued; Bonnie won, naturally, although Rep. Steele put up a fight
- Marcus Wilson, North Star Elementary Principal, and "captain" of "The Boys Group"

Move to adopt the March minutes –

Some minor amendments made that tonight's secretary did not catch; hopefully her co-secretary will make all appropriate corrections

Unanimous consent to accept the amended minutes

Anecdote: As an avid minutes-reader, Bonnie explained to The Boys Group the importance of minutes; she also admitted to missing a lot of meetings recently

Reports

President: Andre Camara

Summary:

NSCC officials and upcoming elections – nominations are open

- Andre is eligible to serve another year (his fourth and last because of term limitations)
- Gordon nominated Andre to continue his reign; Andre was “honored” and enthused and seeks to continue as president
- Mark Butler nominated all other current officers to continue on as well; most of these individuals were less enthusiastic about this prospect than Andre but obliging nonetheless

Vice President and FCC Delegate: Gordon Glaser

Summary:

He had to leave the FCC meeting early, but the group discussed the upcoming changes to all community council bylaws and how NSCC will need to participate in this process; more on this later from Mark who truly does know everything about everything

Treasurer: Melonie Rieck

Summary:

\$594.54 savings starting
\$0 deposit
\$0.05 dividend credit (yeehaw!)
\$0 checking transfer
\$594.59 savings ending
\$106.46 checking starting
\$0 in donations
\$106.46 checking ending
TOTAL: \$701.05

Treasurer’s report passes unanimously

Members at Large: Sam Moore

Summary: Sam is running late, blame Anchorage “traffic”; his belated update purely added to the informal celebration surrounding Prodigal Bonnie’s return home

Susan’s update:

- Book sale the first weekend in May at Loussac – “best book sale in the state,” although yet to receive an award for this accomplishment from the Anchorage Press, much unlike the Spenard Farmers’ Market which, as Mark touted earlier in the evening while flashing a shiny plaque, was the “Anchorage Press Pick” for “Best Farmers Market in Anchorage” (...on Spenard Road...just kidding, Mark)
- Thanked Ernie Hall for the making possible the parking meter enforcement amendment that was recently on the ballot (and passed)

Legislative Reports

Rep. Ernie Hall

- Elections went well, mechanically; he's not thrilled about the pending outcome of the Loussac Library improvements bond (failing; update on 4/13: this attempt at further bonded indebtedness failed)
- About the ASD budget: Assembly pushed to extend public hearing period about the Anchorage School District budget; public hearing period extended...but not really; various confusing procedural issues evolved surrounding when the budget must be passed and ultimately led to the original school budget being enacted "by default" without approval from the Assembly
- More about the ASD budget: School budget only seems massive at \$470 million; when its individual components are broken out, purportedly the budget isn't that big; secretary is confused by this argument/defense
- Absentee ballot information release compromise – in the next election a system will be in place for these addresses to *not* be released into the public domain/campaigns if voters want to keep their absentee address information private; absentee voter will have the option to make address confidential or not
- Not sure what is in the state budget; Spenard Road not in there at the moment but the process is iterative and deals are still being made
- Ernie's anecdote about the movie "Noah" – look for Bonnie Jack's initials somewhere in the arc; Bonnie retorts "I am not that old!"

Rep. Tim Steele

- Began his term as a re-elected public servant with pith: "I think Ernie said enough."

Rep. Dick Traini

- Similarly, Mssr. Traini declined to elaborate further on Assembly happenings in light of Rep. Hall's thorough update

Presentations/New Business

Mark Butler, Council Historian

- In order for NSCC to be in keeping with the Assembly's mandated requirements regarding community councils, our bylaws need to be revisited and revised according to the "Default Bylaws" provided by the Assembly; we have 7 months to make these changes to avoid being scoff(by)laws
- Mark recommends a committee form to handle this project; motions to form a committee; Sam seconds; thusly a committee was formed

Andre, Our Fearless and Organized Leader

- "'tis time again for CIP (I believe this stands for "Community Investment Priorities"?) rankings for North Star
- Bonnie motions to move CIP review and vote to next meeting to members can familiarize themselves with the projects and North Star priorities; Mark seconds; motion passes

- Some changes to the process this year: projects can be deleted and projects can also be added, not just ranked as high and low priorities; there is also a push to make this process “electronic,” which really just seems to mean a fax machine isn’t involved; such incredible progress!

Old Business

Susan on VOTM Committee Meeting

- Happened at the Spenard Rec Center; pizza and sodas were served, perhaps as bribes, it’s unclear
- Park is much bigger than it appears since it actually extends into forested areas where “urban camping” is prevalent
- Parking is a major issue the park planners are looking to resolve
- Much discussion at the committee meeting ensued about the ball field/dog park; the “dog people” at these planning meetings are vehement; concerns stated within NSCC about drainage issues from the de facto dog park into Chester Creek; in sum, “it is the wrong dog park in the wrong place” because the VOTM park ball field is the “place that’s always been,” unless you’re a “dog person” and disagree
- Additional meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 6-8pm, 107 W Fireweed and again on April 29; at these times Parks and Rec will present its proposal for the VOTM redesign based on Committee feedback but probably more a product of its own earlier ideas; the people have been heard (and fed); LuvDemocracy

Jen (resident with chronic basement flooding) and Chester Creek Flooding

- Went to Juneau with help from Traini and Elvi Gray Jackson to advocate for funding from the legislature to fix the flooding
- Was told there will be less money to address this next year so now is the time
- \$400,000 “to study” this issue (more) is in the first draft of the Senate budget; we need “studies not solutions;” what will ultimately happen to this line item in the final version of the legislature’s budget is anyone’s guess but we’re told Harriet is advocating for it

Mark Butler on Spenard Road (as usual)

- Attended Spenard Road Advisory Committee meeting where the idea of federalizing the Spenard Road project entirely was raised; this would push back the project start to 2019
- Any further work is on hold until funding issues fall into place; Mssrs. Steele and Hall have been working hard in Juneau for this; Mayor Sullivan has meanwhile been working to have the feds cover the expense

Meeting adjourned: 8:26pm (Admirable and efficient performance, Andre)