

NECC

Northeast Community Council

Minutes – November 17, 2005

CALL TO ORDER: 7:07 pm.

Approval: Previous Minutes: Minutes approved unanimously.

Approval: Agenda: Agenda approved unanimously.

Treasurers Report: Not available.

Executive Board Report: November 3rd executive board meeting minutes available on FCC website.

Representatives Reports: (in no particular order)

Senator Bettye Davis:

- No report.

Senator Gretchen Guess:

- No report.

Representative Tom Anderson:

- Congratulations to Bill Wielechowski, Top 40 under 40 award.
- Anchorage Caucus with Mayor Mark Begich and the Long Ranch Transportation Plan.
- At the State level plenty of discussion on the Gas line / Jim Clark and the Governor.
- Normal session begins January 9, 2006.

Representative Max Gruenberg:

- Wants advice on how to spend the ½ billion dollars of "Bridge Money".
- Legislator ethics - need training and forum on subject
- Gaming Commission Task Force-final report- should we have?

Anchorage Assembly Member Paul Bauer:

- No report.

Anchorage Assembly Member Ken Stout:

- Sunday Market- received many complaints.
- Budget- 200 items discussed, Unfunded projects- tax deductions, state street lights funded instead of City; Emanate domain- dead in the water; Coastal trail- Leave in but not at the 24 million expense.

Community Activity Reports: (in no particular order)

- **Anchorage Fire Department – Patterson Station, 267-5006**
 - Not present.
- **Community Patrols** – Not present. Please contact the following individuals with questions, or to volunteer for the Community Patrols.
 - Aaron Pascal, Nunaka Valley Patrol, 223-4630
 - Michelle Daugherty, Northeast Patrol, 748-7800
 - Other phone numbers of interest:
 - Junk cars - 729-7878
 - Streetlights - 263-5483
 - Graffiti Busters - 343-4663
 - Potholes - 343-6363
- **Northeast Community Center – Bob Rupke**
 - Purchased a new stove, microwave and refrigerator.
 - Still looking at carpet replacement.

- **Weed and Seed-** No report
- **Road Construction Updates** – Ideas? Or if your interested in the CIP list contact Ainslie: ains@ak.net
- **Federation of Community Councils** – Bob Rupke
 - Officer Cindy Stanton- January 2006- Community Relations Officer
 - Assisted living- new regulations discussed.
 - Large animals ordinance before the Assembly in 2 weeks.
 - Long Range Transportation Plan - No cuts for the transportation.
- **Spirit of Muldoon Community Picnic**
 - No report.
- **Greenhouse Property Update – Don Smith**
 - Don Smith present but nothing new to report.
- **Anchorage Police Department – Sergeant Stanton**
 - Email: cstanton@ci.anchorage.ak.us
 - Office hours are 12:00 noon – 10:00 pm at Muldoon Community Center.
 - Sergeant Stanton received some of the following neighborhood concerns: Centennial Park power poles guide cables were cut; Snow machines behind the bowling alley; DeBarr Road / Valley are not stopping at the stop sign; Jaywalking at East High is a major concern. How can this be addressed?
- **Town Center Committee Report –Bill Wielechowski**
 - No meeting in the last year and a half.
 - Working on the chronological order of the past meetings.
 - Meeting in December or January 2006- no date as of yet.
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS: -Bob Roses**
 - The Billik Inn 6241 DeBarr Road - has sold their package and liquor licenses.

BUSINESS:

(1) Eastview Estates Development. Harvey Prickett w/ Dean Architects

- Not present.

(2) Senator Gretchen Guess, Introduction of Draft Legislation

- Not Present.

(3) Wal-Mart Development – Topics to be Discussed

(3.1) Reconsideration of August 2005 Package Store on Miller Property License Motion

- At the August 18, 2005 general membership meeting of the NECC, package liquor sales at the proposed Wal-Mart development and on the Miller Property in general were discussed as part of the NECC business agenda. The following motion was made in the positive, seconded, discussed, and voted upon:

NECC August 18, 2005 Motion (2):

[The North East Community Council] supports a conditional liquor license on the [Miller] property.

- The motion was voted upon, and failed: 1 in favor, 24 opposed, abstentions not recorded. *Note that this motion was made in the positive for purposes of clarity only.* As the vote shows, the NECC membership is opposed to issuance of a conditional liquor license on the subject property.
- A motion to reconsider this issue passed at the August meeting. This reconsideration was delayed until the November meeting by other business. However, at the November 17, 2005 general membership meeting of the NECC, the motion was reconsidered. After discussion, the motion was voted upon for a second time, and failed: 5 in favor, 27 opposed, 4 abstaining. This vote reaffirms the NECC's position opposing the issuance of a conditional liquor license on the subject property.

(3.2) Community and Social Impacts

- The following prepared motion was made by Vanessa Salinas, and seconded:

NECC November 17, 2005 Motion (2 – as original proposed):

The North East Community Council opposes the efforts of Wal-Mart to build a Superstore and Sam's Club on the north side of Debarr Road Between Creekside and Patterson streets [a.k.a. the Miller Property] for the following reasons:

- 1. This property is part of the Creekside Town Center Plan as listed in the most current version of MOA Title 21 and as listed in the proposed 2020 Comprehensive Plan. Construction of these two "box stores" violates the policies, spirit and intent of the 2020 Plan for a Town Center. Town centers are meant to include a mixture of residential housing, small shops, restaurants, schools, etc., and are not meant to be regional shopping centers. Locating these Wal-Mart stores here creates a regional shopping center drawing customers from a large geographic area.*
 - 2. The Traffic Impact Analysis recently conducted estimates up to 15,000 new vehicle trips daily to the Wal-Mart and Sam's Club during peak times. Even with [proposed] stoplights at Patterson and Creekside along Debarr, this traffic volume will overwhelm Debarr Road and the surrounding areas.*
 - 3. This area has a tendency to hold fog and air pollutants. The increased vehicle exhaust will decrease the air quality for those who live, go to school, and work in the area*
 - 4. Corporate policies have encouraged or required store managers to operation in ways that take financial advantage of their workers: by not paying for time worked, for paying too little that employees are encouraged to apply for government subsidies, and for having a health insurance plan that is either not available or not affordable to over half of their employees*
 - 5. Discrimination in the hiring and promotion of women and minorities has been raised in multiple class-action lawsuits filed throughout the country.*
 - 6. Poor working conditions in supplier factories in Central America and Asia have been reported but ignored, covered up, or made worse by increasing pressure on the suppliers to lower their costs. The emphasis from "Buy America" to "always the lowest price" has also driven manufacturing jobs out of the country.*
 - 7. Corporate policy is to fight the efforts of employees to form unions, using whatever means necessary, legal and illegal.*
- General discussion of motion. Many members believe the Wal-Mart plans are not in the best interest of the community, and that the Wal-Mart is not in line with the concepts of the towncenter. Many believe that pro-community businesses would be a more appropriate choice. Others were concerned that the alternatives to Wal-Mart (i.e. site condos) would be worse.
 - A motion was made to amend the main motion by separating items #4,5,6 and 7 out, to be considered together as a separate motion. This was discussed, and this amendment passed 31 in favor of the split, 3 opposed, 3 abstaining. Old items #4,5,6 and 7 to be considered separately.
 - A motion was made to add a "New #4" (bearing in mind that the old #4,5,6 and 7 were split off): "The proposed development is inconsistent with the two existing adjacent schools. The increased traffic and pollution will only be part of the problem for our students." This motion was voted upon and passed 25 in favor, 4 opposed and 3 abstaining. Immediately, the maker of the motion asked for a reconsideration in order to revise part of the new #4, as parts of the new #4 were redundant with items #2 and #3. Reconsideration passed, 28 in favor, 3 opposed, 3 abstaining. After some discussion and procedural votes, the "New #4" was stated as such: "The proposed development will negatively impact the existing schools adjacent to the development." This was voted upon, and passed 30 in favor, 5 opposed and 2 abstaining. As such, the "New #4" was added to the main motion.
 - A motion was made to add a "New #5": The proposed development would place a commercial business next to single family residential housing in violation of Title 21. This item was discussed. There was general disagreement as to whether the development actually violated Title 21 in this regard. The bold text was stricken as a result. There was also some consensus that it was not unusual to have commercial developments next to single family. The motion was voted upon: 13 in favor, 13 opposed, 5 abstaining. The NECC president voted to break the tie, and the motion failed, 13 in favor, 14 opposed, 5 abstaining.

- The question was called on the main motion. This motion to end debate passed, 23 in favor, 10 opposed, 1 abstaining.
- The motion being voted on is as follows:

NECC November 17, 2005 Motion (2 – as was amended by actions above):

The North East Community Council opposes the efforts of Wal-Mart to build a Superstore and Sam's Club on the north side of Debarr Road Between Creekside and Patterson streets [a.k.a. the Miller Property] for the following reasons:

1. *This property is part of the Creekside Town Center Plan as listed in the most current version of MOA Title 21 and as listed in the proposed 2020 Comprehensive Plan. Construction of these two "box stores" violates the policies, spirit and intent of the 2020 Plan for a Town Center. Town centers are meant to include a mixture of residential housing, small shops, restaurants, schools, etc., and are not meant to be regional shopping centers. Locating these Wal-Mart stores here creates a regional shopping center drawing customers from a large geographic area.*
2. *The Traffic Impact Analysis recently conducted estimates up to 15,000 new vehicle trips daily to the Wal-Mart and Sam's Club during peak times. Even with [proposed] stoplights at Patterson and Creekside along Debarr, this traffic volume will overwhelm Debarr Road and the surrounding areas.*
3. *This area has a tendency to hold fog and air pollutants. The increased vehicle traffic will decrease the air quality for those who live, go to school, and work in the area.*
4. *The proposed development will negatively impact the existing schools adjacent to the development.*

The motion was voted upon, and passed: 25 in favor, 5 opposed, 4 abstaining.

- Glenn Clary pointed out that in fact there had not actually been any debate or discussion on the main motion. All of the discussion had been on the amendments. A motion of reconsideration was made, and passed 20 in favor, 5 opposed, 4 abstaining.
- General discussion of the motion. There was some concern that the motion wasn't very "polished", but it was generally agreed that it wasn't expected to be perfect, and that it was important that the NECC position was promptly stated.
- There was a motion to postpone action and form a committee to study and refine the motion further. President Bob Roses pointed out that forming committees was at the president's discretion, and that he saw no reason that the existing Walmart development committee could not be continued.
- 9:55 pm Motion to Extend the Meeting to 10:15 pm, passed 30 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstaining.
- Vote on the motion to postpone: failed, 6 in favor, 24 opposed, 3 abstaining.
- Vote on NECC November 17, 2005 Motion (2): as amended and stated above, motion passed (again) 27 in favor, 6 opposed, 3 abstaining.
- While this motion may appear to conflict with the earlier NECC position taken on the proposed site plans for this development (NECC October 20, 2005, Motion 2, distributed previously), this is not the case. The earlier NECC motion on the site plan only addressed NECC satisfaction with progress that had been made on interior elements of the proposed site plans. No position was taken at that time on the community and neighborhood impact of the development, or on Wal-Mart's plans as a whole.
- Motion to postpone discussion on old items #4,5,6,7 until the next meeting. Motion passed: 21 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 abstaining.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Request to have MOA Assisted Living Standards ordinance on January agenda, Ainslie Phillips
 Request to have Valley Street Park Plan on January Agenda, Lori Johnson
 Request for Community Planning Committee Report on January Agenda, Lori Johnson

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: 10:08