

Northeast Community Council General Meeting

Minutes Final Draft Oct. 16, 2014

Call to order: 7:02 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

President's Introductions and Committee Reports:

Lorne Bretz President reported the Bylaws Comm. did not meet this month and is waiting on proposed changes the Executive Board has made. We are using the default bylaws for now.

Wes Soper reported on the Picnic Comm. He said we had a good picnic even though it rained.

Rick Irwin said he hopes to see folks at the Bylaws Comm. and CIP Comm. Meetings

Kristi Wood talked about the Parks Comm. effort to get the assembly to pass the East Anchorage District Plan without any changes.

David Bretz Board Member

Dave Ulmer Parliamentarian. Bike Trail Comm. report coming up.

Stu Grenier Secretary. Parks Comm. Showed map of where Creek is being moved in Muldoon Town Square Park Proposed. Alcohol Comm. Meeting Wed., Trails Comm. Trail along military civilian boundary.

Genevieve Holubik Vice President. Parks Comm.

Bylaws Comm. CIP Comm.

Agenda Approved

Treasurer's Report: The VP reported that there has been no activity and an annual report is being put together. The President requested it include gift cards and the last three years if possible.

Executive Board Report: We set the agenda and had a discussion about ChokeCherry Trees and the bylaws. We will be meeting again about the bylaws.

Minutes Approval: The Fourth Draft of the Sept. 18, 2014 minutes was handed out but not deemed ready for approval.

Presentations:

1. Invasive Choke cherry / European Bird Cherry / Mayday Trees: Tim Stallard Anchorage Park Foundation presenting. Sue Salmons field Tech. Heather Stewart State of Alaska Invasive Plants Program Coordinator Ak. Div. of Agriculture. Geno Graziano Invasive plant Instructor UAF. Cooperative Extension Services. Stallard says and invasive species is one that causes some kind of harm and the public may not become aware of a problem before it is too. We are lucky in Alaska because the invasives usually are in urban areas only or along roads and that Alaskans like to hunt and recreate so are more in tune with the environment. The MOA and informed citizens no longer plant this tree. There are already a lot in peoples' yards. They spread by seeds eaten by birds

and by shoots and roots. They have white flowers in late May or early June. May Day Trees are invasive in Alaska and are ranked 76 on a scale of 0 to 100. They are one of the more invasive plants. They crowd out native plants and form dense single species monocultures. There are areas of Chester Creek that have almost nothing but May Day Trees. They are spreading to new areas. They effect moose and salmon as well because the insects eat the leaf litter. In rare situations they poison moose, often calves. Removal efforts with volunteers and herbicides were discussed. Herbicides are the most effective and cost effective. Glyphosate can be used near water. Garlon 4 ultra or Triclopyr can be used farther away from water. In 2010 UAA study recommended killing off mature fruit producing trees with a root herbicide to reverse rapid spread we are currently experiencing. Stallard recommended direct herbicide use on mature fruit producing trees and later volunteer event to remove smaller trees and plant seedlings with volunteers. There were questions about the herbicides and serious concerns. Niconoids and monsantoes was brought up. Safety of the water supply was discussed. The cyanide in the leaves was discussed because it gives the plant an advantage over others because the moose usually do not prefer it. Some people said they make jam out of the berries. Holubik said Jber has already banned its planting five years ago. One of the techs. said there are three varieties of species that are commonly planted in Anchorage. European Bird Cherry / Mayday is what we see most often in the forest, Canada Red is the on that

has the purple leaves that change purple around July, we are starting to see this in the forest, and then there is a third one that has a gold peeling bark that does not seem to be spreading yet. That is not to say that it wont. Grenier said that efforts at keeping a trail clear in the Muldoon Park Strip have shown this invasive plant to be faster growing than anything local and difficult to move through if allowed to grow unchecked. All other indigenous plants will disappear if this plant is allowed to continue expanding leading to a loss of natural food production such as berries and the native game not to mention fire wood or even the ability to access the forest. Grenier also pointed out that it makes no sense to pay money to clear areas of the plant now until after government has acted to get rid of all the plants or they will just recolonize what we are paying to and volunteering to remove.

Motion: The NECC request that Choke-Bird Cheery / May Day Trees be recognized as a restricted, noxious, invasive weed in public and private areas in the MOA. Stu Grenier. Seconded by Ainsly Phillips. Motion passes unanimously.

2. Safe Harbor Inn Remodel: Mr. Kenny Scollan (Karluk Manor) presenting. He works with Rural Cap and three years ago he started the program over at Karluk Manor. Most recently we were successful in our bid to take over the Safe Harbor Programs. A year ago Safe Harbor asked another non profit to take over their operations. They had issues with financing. A women named Lynn Blue had been

managing the Safe Harbors and living on site and not taking a salary. When she retired the program could not stay running. We have fixed the Safe Harbor on Peck up but the operating income is very low and we do not have the income to keep staff on site. To increase the operating income we decided to expand to permanent housing that might be on site and to bill Medicaid for supportive housing services. We went to the Mental Health Trust and got some funds. We are looking to take down the How How Restaurant part of the building and replace it with 20 permanent housing units and adding common space. We have many plans for the property including fencing it off with a single entry like Karluk Manor and removing the duplex behind it, putting in common use kitchen areas. The problem is Alaska Housing used to have preference for homeless families that no longer exist. Now a family in need may have to wait ten years or more before they get a voucher. In the 20 new units there will be no restrictions on alcohol. A heated discussion ensued about low income housing and alcohol and crime problems that resulted in many people not responding to the gavel. One individual said he had a gun at home and he taught his wife to use it. Someone thought he threatened somebody and that person was asked to leave after many people were not responding to the gavel and name calling. A questioner asked if it would be raced based and Scollan responded that it is 45% Native now. Scollan said they have asked Native Corporations for help. Over the past three years we have helped 150 children under the age of five. Scollan said if we do not do something with this project now families will go out on the street. Grenier said he does not support this project now because we have a camper park with tenters, lots of subsidized housing in the area, and no method of controlling

alcohol sales to public enibriates like a red strip law. Another questioner asked if this will eventually become like another Karluk Manor. Scollan responded that Karluk Manor is a success with very few problems with facts to back it up. Not one written complaint from the community in the last 18 months. Rep. Pruitt asked if they need to have it rezoned to have a Karluk Manor like facility and Scollan answered we do not.

Motion: The NECC does not support the expansion of the Safe Harbor at this time. Stu Grenier. Seconded by Greg Erickson

Discussion. Holubik said we need to treat people with respect. They are not just drunks. This project treats them with respect. Another speaker said he picks up trash around the area and has never seen anyone from that building helping. He went on to say that he did not want someone to put something in that will get run down. Scollan responded that Karluk Manor is way better now than when it was a hotel. It is cleaner and has way fewer police calls. More discussion. Scollan said he will bring more staff in and make it safer when it was questioned how a dry facility and a wet facility can coexist next to each other. Scollan invited a member of the council to be on the advisory board.

Yeas 15 Nays 15 Motion does not pass.

Old Business:

1. Proposed Drive-thru on South side of Debarr, West of

Muldoon Ingress/Egress Update: Kristi Wood presenting.

The old Ingress/Egress for the Alaska Village Trailer Court will be reopened and a number of us were concerned that the town center was supposed to be pedestrian friendly and this Ingress/Egress was a big disappointment. So we passed a resolution to have this changed to an Ingress only at the council but were not successful with that at the assembly. We also talked with the DOT about it.

2. Nunaka Valley Street Improvements: Genevieve Holubik presenting.

We have had many meetings on this over the years. There was \$800K allocated through the legislature. We had a September meeting and temporary traffic circles at Nunaka and Miley and one at Nunaka and Carry. Also a radar speed sign by the school. The neighborhood's perception seemed to be that it slowed the traffic down so the radar sign will be permanent (\$100k). The bike path by Kelley Cir. was cleaned up and is really nice now. A side walk will be put in on the school side on Sterling. The community was asked to prioritize projects and "that " was at the top of the list. They are talking about almost 200 street lights going in at a cost of something like \$3 million. Holubik thinks that is something that needs to be re looked at. Many more details were included about parking issues and fields.

New Business.

1. Bike Trail Connections and Extensions from Cheney Lake to Proposed Muldoon Park Strip: NECC Trails Comm. Chair Dave Ulmer presenting. Working on a bike trail connecting

West Chester Lagoon and Muldoon Rd. Dave gave details of the proposed trail route from behind the Baptist Temple and Cheney Lake area to Begich M.S. and on to Muldoon and Debarr and on to a proposed Muldoon Park Strip and the proposed trail along the military civilian boundary. The big hang up is the Parks Department using school trails at Begich M.S. as public trails.

Motion: The NECC requests that the Anchorage School District be contacted about using the school trail behind Begich M. S. as a public use trail. Stu Grenier. Seconded by Ainsly Philips.

Discussion. The question what keeps people from mixing with kids doing school activities was asked. Someone answered that they almost never use this area. Ulmer said he just wants some kind of agreement that A.S.D. will not shut down the trail for public use if they have something going on.

Motion Passed by Unanimous Consent.

2. Community Patrol Grant Transfer: Bob Reupke presenting. This involves a state grant for \$2,400 given to the NECC Community Patrol, which is no longer in existence, to the Nunaka Valley Community Patrol which is very active. Mark Butler from the FCC and Aron Pascas from the Nunaka Valley Community Patrol also presented. Butler said the grant is 11 DC

502 and expires on June 30 and if you do not use it you have to give it back. The FCC takes 2% for admin fee. The following year we have Grant 12 DM 203 that has \$8820 in it since the FCC took 2% from the \$9000 grant. Mr. Keith Ferris is also on the Nunaka Valley Patrol. Butler said the Nunaka Valley Patrol is the most active patrol in all of Anch. Butler suggested we have a safety fair like they did in Airport Heights to talk about emergency preparedness and to get a NECC Community Patrol going. Philips asked if they could resurrect the Muldoon Community Patrol with some folks in the military. Butler said the funding is there and radios are available if people get trained. Pascas feels comfortable with Nunaka Valley Patrol's funding. They get a separate grant even though they are in the NECC. Pascas wants more people to join community patrols. LeDoux said we could just reapply for the money so we do not have to feel the need to spend the money now or just extend the time period.

Motion: The NECC uses this money for a safety fair and what is left is used to reactivate the NECC Community Patrol. Wes Soper. Seconded Selina Metoyer.

Discussion. The President asked if anyone wants to join the patrol. Soper and one other person said they were interested. Senator Wielechowski suggested we

put funding on our CIP List.

Motion Passed by Unanimous Consent.

3. Proposal for a Muldoon Chamber of Commerce: Mark Butler presenting. Butler talked about the farmers' market in Spenard and the iconic wind mill. He wants to help Muldoon have our own farmers market and our own own Muldoon Chamber of Commerce. Road safety and road improvements were key to getting the 130 business Spenard Chamber of Commerce started. A chamber of commerce could be a valuable lobbying group for Muldoon. Butler encouraged anyone to ask him about how to start a chamber of commerce. Anslie Philips pointed out that people have been working on a Muldoon Chamber of Commerce for years but for many reasons it has not happened yet.

4. General Membership Discussion regarding Muldoon Rd. Safety; Causes, Cures, Observations. The President pointed out that many neighborhoods are requesting speed humps for neighborhood streets and some have started petitions and suggested higher medians between bus stops to force folks to cross at the intersections. Grenier pointed out the bike trail along the military civilian boundary would reroute some pedestrians and bicycles off the main road. Philips mentioned better lighting and reflective paint on the medians.

Legislative and Assembly Reports:

Senator Wielechowski: The Senator said he has been doing drive arounds looking at roads. He talked about how 90% of the folks in prison are there for drug and alcohol related crimes. We have gone from a system where a small percentage of the people in the prison system were non violent offenders to a system with over 60% are now non violent offenders. The rate of incarceration is skyrocketing and we just spent \$250 M on Goose Creek and it will be full in about two years. 67% three year recidivism rate. National Guard scandal has folks not talking due to fears of retaliation.

Representative Gruenberg: He has been going door to door. Looking at criminal law changes to deal with National Guard Scandal. If anyone has suggestions for legislation let him know. After a question he talked about the potential to bring back the open primary by public initiative. The idea seemed to have support in the room.

Representative LeDoux: Pot holes can be reported to her office or the muni. Also let her office know if your street looks really bad so we can get it on the CIP List. Someone with the Muni described a pothole as an inverted speed hump. She is going door to door now to reach her constituents. A questioner asked about ebola protocol.

Representative Pruitt reported that he agrees with what Senator Wielechowski said about the Judicial Meeting

they had about the expanding prison population. Road issues like the \$7 million project on State St. 16th St. and Early View were also mentioned. We started back of the Foot Hills East area and are working our way to Muldoon Rd. National Guard scandal solutions are being sought. Recidivism funding and details about the judicial bill discussed after a question. Current oil tax law is better for the state when the price drops than the previous tax law.

Assembly Person Peterson reported that Assembly Drug, Alcohol, and Homelessness ad hoc Comm. has heard the biggest problem for folks when they get out of jail is they do not have a drivers license and will not be able to get one. This prevents them from finding work. HB 64 allowed for them to get a permit so they can find work. Mayor's budget work sessions. Bonds for next spring's road projects. Let him or Honeman know if you have something for this process. We have postponed the vote on the Chugach State Park Access Plan. Uber is causing the taxi companies to complain. Public hearing Tuesday. Most public inebriates get alcohol bought by runners. They do not buy it themselves.

Community Concerns: Reupke for the FCC. reported a Chevron gas station and convenience store going in on the South side of Debarr Rd. across from the old roller rink. NECC Comments are due by Nov. 7. Hearing on Dec. 1. Also a request for a B1 at 5700 Boundary Ave. for a Uhaul rental store and storage unit. Nov. 7

for comments and Dec. 1 for hearing. FCC is getting it \$85,000 budget okayed. Title 21 delayed one more year. Assembly will address the towing companies fees. APD public crime mapping system. Nov. 10. is the State of Our City Forum.

Adjourned 10 PM.