

Northeast Community Council General Meeting Minutes June 19, 2014

Call to order: 7:07 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: Lorne Bretz, David Ulmer, Kristi Wood, Rick Irwin, Genevieve Holubik, Carla McConnell , Stu Grenier

President's introductions

Lack of a quorum noted by Vice President Holubik: At least nine eligible voters and non board members need to be present as well as one board member. Eventually enough showed up so motions could be made.

Approval of Agenda : Was never done.

Approval of Minutes: Many corrections and additions. May 15 minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: No activity in the last two months. In the process of transferring things.

Executive Board Report. There was no executive board meeting to report on but past board member, Selina Metoyer, did speak on record at this general meeting about the fact that her name was not on the ballot in the last board election even though she said she sent an email to the president informing him that she was running again and stated at the Feb. board

meeting that she was running and that she did not resign her seat. The president did not receive said email and this subject was discussed at a previous board meeting. None of the other board members knew of her desire to run another term. The president stated that he only became aware of her nomination email after the executive meeting regarding the election. It was sent to another board member. Selina was disappointed in how the election was handled but did not want to take further action.

Other Announcements : Rep. Pruitt will not attend the meeting since he is out of town but he is having his Annual Constituent Picnic July 12, 11AM-2PM at the Chester Park Cooperative 2020 Muldoon Road.

Legislative and Assembly Reports:

Sen. Wielechowski : Working on bills to do the following, to prohibit the state from spending money in support of federal NSA wire tapping unless there is a search warrant, a veterans memorial at the U.S. Capital for Native and Indian veterans, supporting federal legislation to change the way military sexual trauma assault cases are handled.

Assemblyperson Peterson: Managed to get a public hearing on the drive through restaurant by Walgreens, Repeal of AO 37 to keep it off the ballot to save money, resolution to postpone moving of Chester Creek in the proposed park until after the EADP comes out. Peterson and Honeman plan to introduce an amendment to the EADP to make the greenhouse property a park if it is not already clearly stated in the EADP.

Rep. LaDoux: Glad to have testified at the Anch. Parks Comm. and Planning and Zoning in favor of all 29 acres of the park. The park effort has gone a long way and is the number one issue that she hears about. There is still money for speed humps that can be accessed after the mayor leaves office. Speed humps are the most popular issue she hears about second only to the park. What happened to SB64.

Rep. Gruenberg: Thanked everyone for the Nunaka Valley Picnic. The effort for the Air Port Heights Fire Station funding and location and other details. Side walk on West side of Boniface. A bill to expand the distance new liquor licenses can be from a school or church for next session. Real property laws updates. Laws to make stealing children from school less likely.

Assemblyperson Honeman showed up late. He discussed the Assembly resolution on the realignment of the creek and pointed out that ordinances have the force of law but resolutions and memorandums are just notes for the record and urge support. The resolution was that we need to study the actual realignment of the creek and please bring us back to the table so we can talk about options. We need to be at the P and Z Meeting on the park. Please stay tuned to the assembly as well. Public Safety Comm. report. There was a question about a report of rising violent crime in Anchorage. He will look into it.

Old Business:

1. Transfer of Ownership/Location and a DBA Name Change of a Beverage Dispensary Liquor license for the following

establishment: Beverage Dispensary The Pizza Studio LL#2267 "This is the old Red Robin liquor license which they are trying to bring into the council area from the North Way Mall. They hope to open up The Pizza Studio in the building on the northwest corner of Muldoon and Debarr in the same building the GCI office is in. Grenier, "The council in the past has agreed that restaurants like Paris Cafe and El Rodeo could have liquor licenses." Metoyer, "How many liquor licenses are in our area now?" Ulmer, "Walmart got a liquor license without our approval and the liquor board said they will send the council notice to anything coming to our area and they have not been doing that." Wielechowski, "Past policy in the NECC back when we had weed and seed was to not allow new licenses into the council area." There was some question whether the previous restaurant at the location served alcohol or not. LeDoux "Is this a beer and wine license or a hard alcohol license?" Wood, "There are many public enibriates at the bus stops in that area. Do we need to be selling alcohol there?" President Bretz, "They estimated 4% of their sales would be alcohol related."

Motion made by Norman Schliterler and, Seconded by Selina Metoyer to approve the following resolution:

The NECC does not support the transfer of this liquor license to this area because we feel we have enough already.

Motion Passed Yeas: 13 Nays:0 Abstain:2

New Business:

1. Moving the Airport Heights Fire Station (#3). No presenter showed up. There is a public meeting, Monday June 23, at 7pm at the Dept. Training Station on Airport Heights.

2. Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP). Katie Marquette presenting. www.realaska.org 10th Annual Alaska Renewable Energy Fair Aug. 9th from 11 am to 9 pm on the downtown parkstrip. Non profit education and advocacy group representing over 80 private businesses and organizations across the state. Free event with something for everyone. Children's activities and a beer garden.

3. Creekside Holdings, LLC. , has made application for a retail structure with drive through, in the B-3 SL (general business) district with special limitations. The applicant is proposing to construct a 2,380 square foot drive through restaurant on the site. The two acre property is currently developed with a constructed 14,943 square foot retail building with Walgreens Drug Store as a tenant (corner of Creekside Center Drive. AO 2001-24(s) (AA) requires "the location of fast food and / or drive through style restaurants along Muldoon or Debarr Roads must be approved by the Assembly." A municipal Assembly Public Hearing will be held on July 8, 2014 meeting at the Loussac Assembly Chambers after 7 pm. President Bretz pointed out that Creekside Holdings has not been able to attend two previous council meetings and now we have a public hearing at the Assembly. The president and Kristi Wood discussed the different definitions of "town center" in the 2001 Anchorage 2020 Comprehensive Plan and the EADP. Wood pointed out that the reason for AO 2001-24 was to give the community a voice in the kind of development that happens in the town center. "this is right in front of a school. Do we want a Crispy Creme? Do we want hamburgers? Look at our childhood obesity. I see this as an opportunity to say we want something better." Senator

Wielechowski, " I was the chair of the town center comm. in 2001 and drafted this language to give future community councils a say... Our intent was to have a pedestrian friendly area." Wood, " A drive through violates that right away". Holubik, " A drive through will bring more traffic into the area...It is a small site and it will encourage people to go in and out of there more rapidly." President, "Kids are already going across Debarr to get unhealthy food... future residential developments in the area will increase traffic... restaurants are jobs." Assemblyperson Peterson, "Planning is arguing that when Walgreens was approved this restaurant was also approved...will have to work to make a public hearing happen." Others discussed "cars and kids mixing". Senator Wielechowski, "too many cars going in and out of there really hurts the town center concept." Assemblyperson Honeman, "there will be a public hearing on the 8th."

Motion made by Kristi Wood and seconded by Selina Metoyer to approve the following resolution:

The NECC does not support a drive through restaurant near Walgreens. We support town center development in this area and do not feel a drive through restaurant is appropriate here, as it encumbers pedestrian flow and adds motor traffic near the middle school.

Motion Passed Yeas: 13 Nays:1 Abstain:1

Other Business

Parks Comm. Chair Kristi Wood gave update on EADP. Thanked everyone that testified. There was a work session in May that the public advisory Comm. was not notified about.

Commissioner Furgerson requested info on park acreage per person in Anchorage to acreage per person in major metropolitan areas in L48. Chiar Wood is not hopeful that the park plan will pass the way we want it to through P and Z. They will vote on it in July. Also Wood reported that Tim Potter spoke in favor of widening the commercial strip along Muldoon. Maybe we can get more info on it for the August meeting from P and Z.

Grenier, "The wall along the Muldoon Business District is knocked down in a number of places. In Eagle River they have a curb to prevent cars from hitting their wall. In Muldoon we do not. We may not have enough room for a curb on the business side of the wall." Wielechowski, "put it on the CIP list."

Holubik had comments about the opening lines of EADP that states that East Anchorage is known for it's extensive park system. Not suitable if we want another park in her opinion.

Adjourned at 8:50 pm.