

# **Northeast Community Council General Meeting Minutes**

## **February 19, 2015**

**Call to order:** 7:01 PM 38 people present.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Board Member Introduction:** Dave Bretz, Lorne Bretz (President, CIP and Bylaws Comm. Chair), Kristi Wood (Parks Comm. Chair), Stu Grenier (Alcohol Comm. Chair and Secretary), Dave Ulmer (Parliamentarian, Trails Comm. Chair), Carla McConnell (Treasurer). Wes Soper (Picnic Comm. Chair).

**Agenda:** The President added the Muldoon Channelization Project #4 Old Business. Approved.

**January Meeting Minutes:** Not Approved

**Treasurer's Report:** McConnell reported that we have \$1,474.89 with no expenditures since last month. We have \$325 left in the picnic fund.

**Senator Wielechowski:** Reported on the effort to get the marijuana bill. After Feb 24 it will be legal to possess it but not buy or sell it. Working on this bill is more complex than most people expected. Big and small gas line details. DOD is looking to shut down 8 Army brigades. Two may be in AK. Please join the rally in favor of keeping troops on JBER. On Sat. 28 there is a Town Hall Meeting and an Anchorage Caucus Meeting at the Loussac Library.

**Senator Geissel:** Did not attend nor did a staffer but the President read from her news letter which was available. The senator sited many sources that expect the price of oil to be about \$40 a barrel for the foreseeable future. Some expect it to be \$20. You can sign up for her weekly newsletter.

**Representative LeDoux:** The marijuana bill has become very complex. The bill should be out by mid March. She is working on National Guard Legal codes and Alaskan Laws. She also reported that our neighbor Laura Hummel is now the Agitant general for the Ak National Guard and that she wishes her luck. Capital projects are looking really really bleak but if there is a small project let her know. See you at the rally for keeping the troops.

**Representative Pruitt:** The finance Comm. is currently working on our operating budget. In two weeks we will have public testimony. We are going to have to make cuts. We are having a constituent meeting this weekend. My focus is on the budget. He expects to fund some revenue sharing this year but not near what it was last year.

**Assembly Person Peterson:** The Assembly will be having a special meeting on Monday dealing with hash oils and the materials that can be used to make it. The bond package was approved two weeks ago. \$37.5 Million in bonds. An Alcohol tax on package stores is being considered. 8 votes were needed to get it on the ballot but we only got four. A public smoking ban for marijuana was approved.

**Assembly Person Paul Honeman:** We can probably expect some budget reserves due to the mild winter from saving in snow removal if we do not get hit by big snows later on in the year. APD is likely to be over budget due to the unusually high number of stand offs and crime scene investigations. We are looking at a homeless coordinator with the health department. The chronic enibriates and homeless problem is not being adequately addressed and is getting worse.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Executive Board Report:** The President presented. We discussed agenda items and how to have a better atmosphere for polite discourse at the meetings.

**Alcohol Comm:** Chair Grenier presenting. Muldoon seems to have been targeted for lots of "help" facilities. We have a new facility located in the old Native Charter School for Mental Health. We also know the Safe Harbor is trying to expand. We also talked about the homeless in the park. We passed four resolutions at the committee meeting.

1. "Runners" people that provide alcohol to restricted people should be treated under the law as if they were providing alcohol to the underaged.
2. People convicted of running shall also be given a restricted license (red stripe).
3. The Northeast / Muldoon Community Patrol should target the homeless in local parks and pan handling.
4. The NECC provides photos of public enibriates to

carry out stores for the purpose of black listing.

We are planning a meeting for next month if you want to get involved.

**Parks Comm:** Chair Wood Presenting. We did meet and Verna Pratt attended our meeting. The Parks Comm. Meetings are now standing meetings so anyone can attend them and we meet one hour before (at 6 PM) the general NECC Meeting every third Thursday of the month here in the Boys and Girls Club. The committee is now gathering ideas for the new Muldoon Town Square Park.

**Bylaws Comm:** Chair Lorne Bretz presenting. The revised bylaws have come before the floor twice and not passed. We have a list of items that need to be reviewed at the bylaws committee. One controversial issue is elections and how board vacancies are filled. Does the general body vote on it or does the board appoint someone? Should an appointee meet the same requirements as someone running for the board? The President will email folks to let them know when and where the next meeting will be.

**Elections:** President presenting. The NECC Board elections are coming up in April. You need to have attended three of the last six NECC General Meetings before the April Meeting to be able to run for a board seat. There are three seats with three year terms up for election. Rick Irwin and Stu Grenier are the nominating committee. Nominations will be accepted

from the floor at the March and April meetings.

## **Old Business**

**1. Duben Avenue Upgrades Project:** CRW Engineering Group. No Show.

**2. Safe Harbor Program:** Upgrade of the progress of the new 20 unit addition on Muldoon. Kenny Scollan, Division Manager Supportive Housing Division / Rural CAP presenting. Talking about the old How How Restaurant part of the Safe Harbor Building. The structure was built in 1983. It is cheaper to knock it down than rebuild and we are going to build 20 units of housing in its place. This is not a Karluk Manor or a home for alcoholics. It is a place where people will pay rent. It is affordable housing. It is a place for people that reach about 50% medium income. (Individual income up to \$24K a year or families of three or four up to \$50K a year). We are trying to make ten of the units handicapped accessible and the other ten could be converted later. The site is about two acres. It will be fenced in with the entrance on Peck Ave. We will try to have geothermal and photovoltaics. We will recycle a lot of the water. We want the place to be sustainable and to keep cost low so we do not have cost out pacing rental fees later down the road. Rents will be about \$850 for a one bedroom and \$900 for a two bedroom. These will be for working people. We hope to produce all our electric. Our goal is to produce 105% of the power we use on the building so utility cost should be zero. This will not be subsidized housing. This will not become a Karluk Manor.

### **3. Glenn Highway / Muldoon Road Interchange**

**Improvements:** Update by Steve Noble, DOWL HKM  
I was here about 9 months ago. I am the project manager with the consultant working on the Muldoon Interchange reconstruction with the State of Alaska DOT project. So far the work that we are doing is State funded but the project is being completed in accordance to Federal procedures because it looks like it will have Federal funds added to it. We are looking at bid ready plans by fall of this year so that construction can begin about a year from now. We had two public meetings at Bartlett and are planning on having another at the end of April. I will come next month and give you the details for the public meeting. The plan is for a diverging diamond. It will be much more free flowing than the current design for cars. The pedestrian trail will start on the West side of Muldoon and have controlled cross walks. The pedestrians going to Bartlett High every day is less than 150. There is space for bike lanes. Flyers were available.

**4. Muldoon Channelization Project:** Josh Cross presenting. We have been working on the project for two year. We had a presentation here last fall and an open house, we were at the Transportation Fair. We are entering our final design stage now and construction is anticipated to start this year. We have a web site for comments you can take a look at. Construction will go fast and we will work at night. Done by Sept. 1.

## **New Business**

**1. Northwest Auto Parts: Zoning map amendment for a parcel of vacant land off of Camelot Drive.** DOWL: Tim Potter presenting with Chuck Ossenkop and his son are the owners of Northwest Auto Parts which is one of the premier recycling companies in the state. In the area of Boniface and Camelot. Ossenkop has bought five acres that is zoned multi family residential (R3) and he would like to rezone it industrial (I1) so he can expand his company. We will be submitting the request to rezone the property. The EADP identified this five acres to be modified to industrial use.

There will be a fencing and vegetative buffering requirement near the residential area and the residents to the north were informed of this council meeting according to a second DOWL employee.

## **Motion**

**The NECC request that the property in question be rezoned from multi family residential (R3) to Industrial (I1). John Ziv, seconded by an unidentified person.**

**Yeas 15    Nays 0    Abstain 3    Motion Passes**

**2. Commercial Marijuana in East Anchorage:** Stu Grenier presenting. This is our chance to talk about it. I hope to float a motion that would state that we do not support commercial marijuana operations in our council area. The vote for legalization did not pass in our area. My experience is with the spice shops. We had the

Planet X spice shop near the Whaler, which is near where I live, and I am one of the people that picks up trash in the park, and I started finding all these strange wrappers that turned out to be Chinese produced spice wrappers. Spice became illegal and the shop closed and the problem seems to have been solved. I also live in a sixplex and have already had problems with marijuana smoke. Having a commercial sale location in this area would increase usage and problems. Wood pointed out that by passing a motion we can influence the debate on this issue since many of the laws have yet to be made. John Ziv pointed out that zoning as we do for liquor stores would be how we can control the shops. Grenier suggested that maybe a red light district for marijuana sales somewhere not in our council area may be the way to go. Wood suggested we watch the zoning debate to influence the process.

### **Motion**

**The NECC request that our council area not have any commercial marijuana shops since the council did not support legalization. Stu Grenier. Seconded by Kristi Wood.**

**Yeas 19 Nays 0 Abstain 0 Motion Passes**

**3. Muldoon Farmers' Market:** Carla McConnell presenting details and proposing NECC sponsorship and loan start up money for the market. At the last Muldoon Farmers' Market Board Meeting we discussed the possibility of RJCC, SFCC, and the NECC sponsoring the



market. We are modeling the market after the Spenard Farmers' Market and that council does sponsor their market. In that sponsorship we need capital start up funds. We discussed several different ways to get the funds. One way is to have each of the three community councils do a short term loan to the Muldoon Farmers' Market and then it would be paid back. Some people had questions about tax issues with a council loaning money. McConnell suggested it is the same as the Spirit of Muldoon Picnic. It was pointed out that the Picnic and a Market are not the same since people are running businesses in a market for profit. The question was also raised if you are using funds gathered for the picnic to fund this project it might be a conflict since the money was raised from local stores that may compete with the market. It was suggested that to prevent this conflict that the picnic funds and the General Fund be kept separate. Next Farmers meeting is March 9.

### **Motion**

**We the NECC support the Muldoon Farmers' Market (MFM) and are willing to provide a short term loan of no more than a thousand dollars to provide start up capital for the market. The funds will be repaid to the NECC within six weeks of the loan. Funding from the NECC will be contingent on the MFM registering as a not for profit business. Carla McConnell. Seconded by Bob Reupke.**

**Yeas 9      Nays 2      Abstain 5      Motion Passes**

**4. Violence in East Anchorage: APD Update. Officer**

Natasha Welch presenting. She said she is new to the force and went on to say there has been a task force created with Federal, State, and Local agencies in response to the recent violence. APD is running it. "We put some folks in jail for a couple of homicides. We are working on those diligently". She encouraged everyone to call in drug and gang related activity. To report you can use 911 but you can also use 786-8900 then press 0 and make your report for non emergency crimes. You can also report to CrimeStoppers 561-7867 and get paid for your tip. "We are looking for good solid information". Crime mapping in the area of your house is also available. Nixle can give up to date information from APD by email or text message. She brought handouts.

**5. Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Update:** 6. Chair Lorne Bretz had handouts of the 2015 CIP list and asked for folks to look at the list and re-prioritize it and to make comments on the web site. There will be a work session. Assembly Person Honeman said this is important and Pete and him will be going to Juneau to lobby for funding. Bretz said we will vote on the 2016 CIP List at the March Meeting.

**6. East 11th, East 12th and Ermine St. Speeding:** Terry Cummings presenting. There is a lot of cut through traffic going through the Muldoon Community Assembly (MCA) parking lot now that access to Paterson has opened up. The Church applied for a 24 ft. driveway on East 12th. I live on East 10th and the cut through

traffic has caused nightmares. They are going faster than 20 mph. It is dangerous for kids and the many walkers in the area. Cummings suggested putting gates on the two driveways on East 11th and on East 12th and keeping them closed until the church is in service. Currently the driveways are blocked by vans and the situation is much better. Bill Coxs, with the MCA, said they recognize the problem. He said they are planning on putting in barricades that can be opened. He also said that 4WDs have been driving over the rocks to cut through.

### **Community Activities Reports:**

**From the FCC.** Bob Reupke reported that the meeting is the forth Wednesday of the month. You do not get to vote though. We have a new website.

[WWW.communitycouncils.org](http://WWW.communitycouncils.org). We are going to have a Spring 2015 State of the Union Forum on March 17. He also mentioned that the state grant for \$2500 will expire in June. Emergency rooms are coming to Eagle River and South Anchorage. He had a lot of information about the school bonds.

Adjournment 10 pm.

