

# **Northeast Community Council General Meeting Minutes Final Draft. May 21, 2015**

**Call to order:** 7:05 PM. Fire Exit reminder. The Pledge of Allegiance. 43 in Attendance.

**Board Member Introduction:** Rick Irwin (President), Kristi Wood (Parks Comm. Chair), Stu Grenier (Alcohol Comm. Chair and Secretary), Dave Ulmer (Parliamentarian, Trails Comm. Chair), Carla McConnell, David Bretz (Vice President), John Ziv, Selina Metoyer, Wes Soper (Treasurer and Picnic Chair).

**Agenda:** Approved

**March and April 2015 Minutes:** Approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** McConnell reported that at our last meeting we had a balance of \$1995.89. We deposited \$21 in donations for a total of \$2016.89. We also have \$321.89 left in the picnic fund. We have two grants for the community patrol and we hope to use the grants towards the safety fair.

**Executive Board Report:** The Secretary presented. We decided to give attendance at the board meetings in the General Meeting Minutes. All board members showed up from the current and last board except ex-VP Holubik. Jean Pollard from Alcohol Comm., Tim Potter and Michelle Ritter from Dowl also attended. The agenda was set for today's meeting and new officer positions were decided.

**Alcohol Comm:** Chair Grenier presenting. Alcohol Comm. is on the agenda under Old Business. Comm. member Ulmer did some research on what kind of ID folks can use to purchase alcohol. He went to the Oaken Keg at the Muldoon Northern Lights CARRS. He found they could use state ID, a state drivers license, a passport, or Military ID. There were five things they could use. We did this to check and see how someone might try to get around the red stripe requirement for problem drinkers. We decided to get on today's agenda the idea that community patrols have the power to post notice on homeless camps since the CAP (Community Action Patrol) often doesn't get back to the person that calls on the camps for weeks. The idea was to have Community Patrol and other volunteers post the camps and send a GPS and digital photo to APD that they can respond to when the 15 day period is up. An update on the homeless camp in Centennial Park that has been the subject of at least the last two NECC Meetings was given. The camp has been removed after it had been there for over 8 months and when volunteers went to pick up the mess left by the camp stolen property was found confirming statements made at previous meetings. Other people in my neighborhood dug through the same pile looking for their stuff that had been stolen. Maybe Assembly Person Petersen can let the Safety Comm. on the Assembly know what we had to do to get this camp removed. Another illegal camp that was very noticeable was the large tent next to Samurai Sushi. It was cited

soon after it was set up and after 15 days it was moved to Centennial Park where we have called on it and it has yet to be cited. A clip board was passed around the room with all the standing committees on it for folks to sign up if they want to get involved.

**Parks Comm:** Chair Wood Presenting. On May 9 we had our clean up of the Muldoon Park Strip and Town Square Park. The Town Square part is a construction site now so we did the rest and found several homeless camps in there. One we found out has already been tagged by a cap team. I will get a call into ARBA which is a volunteer group with Brown Jug and they come into clean things out, maybe we can volunteer with them to get the job done. One camp called the "tree house camp" had way more trash than our small group of volunteers could handle. It will take a truck or two to get it all out. Two other camps were located and Wood hopes to show the CAP team exactly where they are since the cap team could not find them after they were reported. We have also been notified by the Alaska State Legislature that our funding for the park is in jeopardy. It is in jeopardy because it was allocated to us three years ago and all the delays in the EADP kept us from moving forward with the park. We have been unable to start planning the park yet. Any money we have not spent by the end of the fiscal year is probably going to go away. So we are desperately working with Parks and Rec. and the Parks Foundation to find out what we can do to protect our money. It is ironic that we had to delay the start of

the planning process in order to let the East Anchorage District Plan work its way through, and were told by Parks and Rec. and the Mayor's Office on more than one occasion that we had to wait for the full public process to complete before you start your planning process and now we are being told you guys did not start yet so you are going to loose your money. Tyler Robinson asked if we could try to encumber the money in contracts and wood said we are looking into it now.

**CIP and Bylaws Comm:** The president reported that nothing has happened with the CIP Comm. and Bylaws Comm. except that we did adopt the Bylaws put out by the Federation.

**Trails Comm.** Chair Ulmer reported nothing new.

## **Legislative Reports**

**Senator Giessel:** I represent Senate District N. The boundary runs down Debarr Rd. to Beaver and the area includes everything to the East to Stuck Again Hights and the Hillside, Indian Girdwood, on down to Portage. We are working hard on the budget right now. Sorry if you are a state employee and may receive a pink slip soon. I am also the chair of the Senate Resources Committee. Akis Gialopsos is my aid to the Senate Resources Comm. He will attend the council meeting when I cannot. We will be holding an update on the AK LNG Project next month. My Committees job is to grow revenue and the gas

pipeline is a part of that. We also deal with fisheries issues. The Federal Government has authorized gill nets on the Kenai River and this is not a good thing. We are pushing back on this authorization. We have an Email News Letter.

**Senator Wielechowski:** Reported that he is working on the Muldoon Farmers Market (MFM). June 20 is the big day for that. Education, medicaid expansion, public employee contracts, ferry service restoration amendments as well as \$760 million in cuts have been proposed. For example oil tax credits. We are paying out \$642 million more in oil tax credits than we are receiving in oil production taxes. No other place in the world does this. It is just insane. These are the stalemates. We are trying to avoid a government shut down. We have received \$1.5 million for the Muldoon Park Strip. For the most part they are not allowing legislatures to re-appropriate the money once it lapses this session. You just need to start spending it. Not spend it all at once. Many questions were asked and answered.

**Representative Gruenberg:** My wife Kaylin came tonight and we are a team. There are various ways to come up with a budget. We are looking into all of them. I want you to keep up the pressure so that we can resolve this. "People can accept a yes answer or a no answer but what they cannot accept is no answer at all." Ted Steven was quoted. We cannot let the government be shut down. Expanding medicaid and Erin's Law have had a number of

hearings. People seem to support them. The first special session was called by the Governor and was limited to certain things. The second special session was called by the legislature and can deal with anything but if a matter is taken up and goes to the floor and does not pass it cannot be revived without a concurrent resolution that will allow it to continue. The session is 30 days long. If the council came out one way or another on the main issues it would help.

**Representative Pruitt:** We ended one special session and are starting a second one now. The park money could be swept into the Alaska Housing Financial Capital Fund which is where they are sweeping unencumbered funds. I suggest you have that money encumbered by next June. I could attempt to get it extended but I do not know why they would let me do it when they are sweeping everyone else's. We are working on federalizing the Glenn Muldoon Overpass Project with the expectation 2016-17 construction. The money that started the project came from a \$15 million bond. The Governor has backed off on medicaid expansion and the stalemate is now over the budget. Many people feel the medicaid system in Alaska seems to be broken and bringing on another 20 or 40,000 people is really not a good idea. There are no experts on medicaid in the legislature. We have an RfP (Request for Proposal) out to get an expert. It is difficult to trust the Federal Government will continue to pay 90% in the future.

**Representative LeDoux:** Staffer Lisa Vaught presenting said the representative just had her first grand child born so could not be here and is working on the park money to see what can be done about that. She will be returning this week for meetings.

**Assembly Person Honeman and Petersen:** David Dunsmore presenting. Petersen has a Nunaka Valley Little League game to coach and Honeman has a Citizen Police Academy event. Peterson is on the Assembly Budget Comm. and has been working on the Muni Budget Fourth Quarter revisions. They came in under the tax cap. Honeman is Chair of the Public Safety Comm. They work on the alcohol issues. They are studying the idea of not selling to folks that get picked up more than three times in a year for being drunk. Both are monitoring the special sessions and what that will do to funding especially for education and the park money.

**Assembly Person Honeman:** He showed up later. Said the creek in the Muldoon Town Center Park will look better when they put the rocks in. He also talked about where we want the rocks and dirt and fill to be put. He suggested the City Manager thinks we could put the fill at the East end of the park and then readjust it as we need to. Members of the Parks Comm. talked about how the planning process needs to get started so we can have the public's input on what is going where. Honeman said he would get back to us with more info about how much fill they want to put in the park and how much the park can

expect to be credited with for accepting the fill and which fills, from road work or creek work we will be credited for accepting. He also talked about whether the school bonds that were just passed if they will be state funded or not. He says the governor says no. Uber and pot clubs were also mentioned.

## **Old Business**

### **1. Glenn Highway / Muldoon Rd. Interchange**

Improvements: Dowl's Rachel Steer presenting.

GlennMuldoon.com has a new updated animation of how the diverging diamond will work. The next public meeting is May 27 at Bartlett. Many questions were asked and answered.

### **2. Alcohol Comm: Stu Grenier presenting.**

Empowering Community Patrols and others individuals with authority to post notice on homeless camps. Moving the Alcohol beverage control Board back to Public Safety from Commerce. The idea behind allowing people other than the CAP teams to post homeless camps is based on the observation that the CAP Teams just do not have the ability to post the camps in a timely manner. Our experience has shown that the CAP Teams take weeks to respond and will not respond unless many people call the camps in at the non emergency number 786-8900 0.

With the example of the illegal camp in Centennial Park that has been the subject of the council on more than one occasion five calls were received by dispatch on the camp but the CAP Team did not respond. When they were



asked by the Mayors office to respond they requested us to call the non emergency number and report the camp. I called dispatch and got the number of calls that had reported the camp. The Cap Team seemed to be unaware of these calls.

## **Motion**

**We the NECC support allowing the Community Patrol and other individual with authority to post notice on homeless camps. John Laux seconded by Dave Ulmer.**

**Discussion.** Bill Coxe said with safety concerns and other legal questions he thought this motion will not fly and he would not support it. Carla McConnell had similar concerns. Grenier responded by saying that we talk with these folks regardless because we see them when we use the park and it is a simple thing to put a piece of paper on a tree by the tent. The main goal is to get this idea on the table at the Pubic Safety Comm. on the Assembly.

**Yeas 8      Nays 3      Abstain 5      Motion  
Passes**

## **Motion**

**We the NECC support moving the the Alcohol Beverage Control Board back to Public Safety from Commerce.**

**John Laux seconded by Janice Ziv.**

**Discussion.** Shirley Cote, the retrieving ABC Board Chair's ADN July 2, 2014 article was cited as pointing out that the emphasis with the move of the ABC Board to Commerce was to increase sales rather than enforcement of the statutes. Senator Wielechowski said when they moved it it was stuck in right at the last minute of the last night of the session.

**Yeas 24      Nays 0      Abstain 0      Motion  
Passes**

**3. Russian Jack Mountain Bike Trails:** Tyler Robinson presenting. He is working with an organization called Alaska Trails. They are interested in making mountain bike trails for novices in RJs with signage since other parts of town have more challenging trails. He thinks the park is not seeing the use it should relative to the population around it and more usage would make it a safer place. Alaska Trails proposed a \$15K matching grant from the Parks Foundation that we would be matched with labor from the Alaska Trails group. It was not granted. Alaska Trails would be responsible for keeping the trail clear not Parks and Rec. Most of the trail would be in the north half of the park .

**Motion**

**The NECC supports the Russian Jack Mountain Bike Trail Project.**

**Stu Grenier seconded by Kristi Wood.**

**Yeas 21      Nays 1      Abstain 1      Motion Passes**

**New Business**

**1. Creekside Subdivision Tract E Rezone (the land between Walmart and Fred Myers).** Dowl's Michelle Ritter presenting. It is the lot just behind Applebee's. It is currently zoned R3. mixed family residential. We are looking to rezone it B3 which is general business with special limitations. So it would be B3SL. This parcel is in the Town Center in the EADP. It is owned by Ed Zehrung. There has been discussion of this site being a transit center. An 8 page chart was handed out with a list of options and special limitations. The Walmart deed has some restrictions on this property. There is no plan at this time. We are asking for a rezone. McConnell pointed out that nobody asks for a rezone without a plan. Senator Wielechowski also pointed out that the council's maximum point of leverage that we have as a community is right now. If we vote yes on the rezone we loose any leverage we have. Bill Coxe asked for the project to be brought to us before asking for the rezone. It was suggested that a committee be formed to study the rezone.

**A motion to rezone the property was tabled. Yeas 19  
Nays 4    Abstain 0**

**Motion to Table Passed.**

**2. Chugach Electric: Communication upgrades at the Debarr Substation.** Phil Steyer and Paul Johnson presenting. We are adding a communication tower to facilitate communicating from the facility. It will be a 40 ft. tall lattice tower with a microwave dish about two feet in diameter and a small antenna. This tower height is allowed under permitting. As part of the application we have to come and notify the community council. There will be no interference with TV or radio.

**3. Cook Inlet Housing Authority Project at Tracts 8&9 (North of Creekside Center Drive).** Tyler Robinson presenting. Two buildings residential and commercial mixed use across Muldoon from the American Legion. One building will have about 6700 sqft. of retail on the ground floor, the other will be senior residential only. 49 units total. We have 401 units up at the end of Peck Ave. but there is still demand for senior housing in East Anchorage so we are doing these projects. In 13 months we hope to know who the retailer(s) will be. There have been some non compete clauses signed so there cannot be a donut or hamburger shop. No drive thru capabilities. There were many questions about access and exit and what DOT will decide. The bike trail and bridge were also discussed.

**4. 18 Liquor Licenses Renewal Applications for the NECC. Public comment welcomed.** Alcohol Comm. Chair Grenier presenting. Alcohol Comm. had gone over the list without comment. The list was sent to the NECC

Membership with the agenda for this meeting and a request for comments. McConnell asked Assembly Person Honeman about the Carpentier's Cocktail Lounge because remember they were having incident after incident. Honeman reported that since ABC has gone to Commerce from Public Safety "we" have not been getting the reporting that they had done. He also pointed out that at the Assembly level a protest did result in the Spirit of Alaska having their license revoked and three other beer and wine licenses were revoked because they did not pay their taxes. Shobu's request for a liquor license also came up.

### **Community Activities Reports:**

**Assembly Person Honeman** reported that there is a grant for \$2 million spread over three years for increased OUI DUI enforcement as well as other traffic enforcement.

**Muldoon Farmers' Market (MFM).** McConnell said we are rolling along and having a meeting next week the same time as the Muldoon Glenn Interchange Meeting. We will be sending out a notice and anyone that wants to get involved please let us know. It is going to be terrific.

May 27 at 7 at Wayland Baptist.

**Freezer Moved From Park.** Grenier reported that President Rick moved the half sized freezer off the top of the hill in the park behind where the green houses used to be with the help of his coworkers. We could not get to it with the volunteers on clean up day. About 8 of the usual volunteers including Assembly Person Pete Petersen got about two truck loads of trash. There were a few

homeless camps that did not get cleaned up still. Kristi used a bike with a trailer to move trash bags.

**Centennial Park Mattresses.** Grenier reported that Bob Reupke helped with his daughter and some neighbors and filled his truck with about six mattresses from Centennial Park and Boundary Ave. because that is where folks often dump their stuff because they do not always want to go to the dump.

**Conspicuous Homeless Camp.** Grenier reported that the large white tent with the red top that was by Samurai Sushi has now moved to the Southwest corner of Centennial Park after spending its legal 15 days by Samurai. Other tents have joined it. Folks are calling on it but the CAP Team seems to not be responding. Please call the non emergency number.

**FCC Meeting.** Metoyer filled in for Reupke since he was out of town. Beth Nordlum was there and she is doing something called neighborhoodizing neighborhood trails. She wants to put icons on trails to identify each neighborhood so neighborhoods are going to have to decide on icons. Challenge grants were also mentioned. They elected new FCC Officers. There were questions about council mailing list and they may change how they do it so you may need to talk to Butler about it.

Diane Homes was there with Title One Revisions about Multifamily housing. The Northern Light Inn is coming down. The owners did not want to make it homeless housing. They seemed in favor of red stripes for runners. The Mayor Elect would like to have a meeting of the FCC to find out what the issues are from the council areas.

Chester Creek Trail construction announcements.  
**NECC Safety Fair Saturday June 6. 10 to 2 at the Anchorage Christian School.** Free food and lots of safety stuff and info. Please come.

Adjournment 9:40 pm.