

# **Northeast Community Council General Meeting Minutes Second Draft.     October 15, 2015**

**Call to order:** 7:06 PM. Fire Exit reminder. The Pledge of Allegiance. 33 people present.

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

**Agenda:**     Approved after amendments.

**Executive Board Report:**     The Secretary reported that we set the agenda and all board members were in attendance except McConnell.     The Spirit of Muldoon Picnic was the main subject after the agenda.

**Community Concerns:** McConnell discussed the crosswalk that doesn't exist on 10th and Creekside Drive behind Walmart and Fred Meyer.     10th has become very busy and the kids going to Begich M.S. cross it so we need to do a letter of concern to get

the DOT to get a cross walk at 10th and Creek Side. She wrote a letter as requested for a flashing crosswalk and sent it to the council for consideration. Also McConnell and the President attended a homeless conference with the mayor. A person from Utah talked about how they handle the problem down there and how churches play a key roll. Folks talked about how it is more expensive to provide services for people on the street than to provide housing for them where they can drink. She thinks that housing for the homeless may be coming to Muldoon and that homes should be spread all over the city for them not just certain areas. Grenier reported about the Alcohol Comm. Meeting next Thursday and about the event in Centennial Park where a bear was killed with a spear by a homeless person. He also mentioned that there is evidence that Rural Cap has been facilitating people to camp illegally in the park. There has been a lot of stuff that appears to have been donated that people who care end up having to take to the dumpster. Also that when Centennial Park Closed this September about ten tents from the legal camp ground just moved into the forested area used by the locals for recreation. This created conflict. He said we need a system for closing the campground each fall that includes helping the legal

campers find new legal homes or tent sites not illegal ones in the park. He suggested a facility be built over by the Brother Francis Shelter where they could set up tents and have water and laundry facilities and the likes. Kevin McGee with the NAACP said we have to work together to find more ways all over town. John Ziv said Muldoon is already too crowded for a homeless resettlement plan.

Walt Barker talked about drug dealing at the East end of Duben and a shooting at a known crack house. Walt said he is a veteran and considers the situation in his neighborhood more dangerous than where he was deployed in Kosovo. He suggested the government start seizing houses like cars and boats used in drug crimes. Wood suggested getting license plates and reporting them to APD. The President asked Barker to email the board with this problem. Having a Cap team member come to the council meeting was suggested.

Dumped mattresses by dumpsters was also mentioned and getting the Doon Dangers up were mentioned.

## **Legislative Reports**

**Senator Giessel:** The Senator continued with the Community Concerns topic of homeless pedophiles camped in our communities and said other areas have this problem and that she works at the Brother Francis Shelter as a nurse practitioner. She went on to say that in ten days we will be meeting in Juneau for the special session. The two items are the gas reserve tax and termination of our partnership agreement with Trans Canada that builds gas pipelines. As the bill moves on through committees we will be hearing other topics as well. The fact that we are reviewing the state budget is great. She had to leave to attend the Huffman-OMalley C.C. Meeting that meets at the same time.

**Senator Wielechowski:** The Senator talked about the same gas line related 17.4 Billion dollars for the gas line and said he still has not made up his mind on the issue. He went on to say we have been waiting 40 years for this project but if we have a small ownership share can we really drive the project? We all want a gas pipeline but what is the best way to get us there? The partnership approach and begging have not worked in the past.

Taxing the reserves maybe the best way to insure participation in the line. It cost \$12 to get a unit of LNG to Japan but gas is selling there for \$7 a unit. What will happen in the future is the question. In the 2006 voter initiative folks voted no to get more production and to get a gas line and keep the dividend checks but now nine years later we have a worse situation and lost out on more than a billion dollars in tax revenue. Is it time to change the dynamic? The Exxon Valdez reopened worth \$127 Million is not going to happen for reasons unknown, the State is not moving forward on that. Species have not recovered and oil still exist in the Sound.

**Representative Gruenberg:** The Representative said we will likely talk about many issues during the special sessions. Last session the legislature only passed 32 Bills. Far lower than in the past. In the Judiciary Comm. we still have the marijuana and military justice bills. We are working on the Military and Veteran Affairs Comm. and had a tour of JBER.

**Representative LeDoux:** The Representative introduced her new staffer, Kalyssa Maile formally with Senator Wielechowski's office. The Rep. talked about the special sessions and the idea of using a reserved tax to tax the companies into

agreeing to go along with a gasoline. Due to the current price of gas this may not be economic and she has a problem with using taxes to leverage participation in a gasoline. But she is going into the session with an open mind. She went on to say the State Government just really isn't that great at doing business and that we are not business people, we are politicians. She went on to say that she is hesitant to spend more money on something that might not happen in the reasonably foreseeable future.

**Representative Pruitt:** A staffer said he is preparing for the special session. Money for State St. has been awarded and it was supposed to be done before it snows but things are slow for some reason on that project. Grenier reported that a resident on the street had been calling council members asking when something would be done.

**Assembly Person Petersen:** Petersen said next year's budget is the subject of a work session tomorrow. The budget the Mayor introduced has a cut from what was spent last year. Not a reduction of the percentage of increase but a cut, several million dollars. We are also looking at revenue shortages coming. Revenue from the state is going

to be \$4million less, ML&P dividends of about 8 million also are off the table so the Muni is short \$11million. So department heads are to cut 2% and there is a \$5Million increase in Public Safety. Three police academies next year and get patrol officers up to 400 is the goal. Petersen is leading a group on cell tower ordinances. There is a meeting on that. The SAP Software instillation will go forward. We already spent \$39million. We hope to sign a contract to decide how much more it will be.

**Assembly Person Honeman:** Honeman said from a public safety standpoint he is thrilled with this administrations dedication to public safety. Of the \$5million in the budget increase \$1.7million goes to fire and the remaining \$3.3million goes to police. That works out to about 33 more officers at \$100,000 per person. If you know someone interested in being a police officer please get them in the door testing. It is going to be really hard to find the additional officers. There are 24 known locations running massage parlors and those may not be licensed massage therapist. We are working on a law that will put the unlicensed folks out of business. We have a balanced budget requirement in the charter so you can expect that fees and fines will be increasing under the current economic environment.

After a question about the Bragaw Extension in the U Med District discussion ensued as to whether that project is going to happen. Honeman said he would rather have the money spent on the Muldoon Glenn Overpass. Rep. Gruenberg suggested that a resolution from this council to transfer the Bragaw Extension funds to a project in our area might be in order.

## **Old Business**

### **1. CIP List speed humps and traffic calming.**

CIP Chair Kevin Smestad presenting. The IP Comm. was required to have a specific list for locations that require traffic calming which usually means speed humps. We had gone through two different meeting while at the same time many flyers, emails, and phone calls. A packet was made available for anyone that wanted one. Dist. 19 NECC Traffic Calming Speed Humps. Some parts of Rep. Gruenberg's district were also added on. Many list were discussed and many specific streets mentioned. They will continue adding to the list as more info comes in. We have until Sept 30, 2016 to use the funds. About \$180,000 is in the fund.

### **Motion #1.**

**We the NECC move that the CIP Comm. / Speed Hump Comm. has taken the time to develop a list of speed humps in the NECC area through Committee Meetings. The spread sheet called Northeast Community Council Traffic Calming/Speed Hump (current addition dated Oct. 12th, 2015) has been ranked through a voting process.**

**Whereas we of the CIP Committee/Speed Hump Committee give the results of the spread sheet as the Northeast Community Council's ranked priorities for Speed Humps/Traffic Calming. We ask the City to use the Northeast Community Council's ranked priorities when developing the speed Humps/Traffic Calming areas required to be done first.**

**Chair Person Kevin Smedsted**

The President asked if we need a second when a motion comes from the a standing Comm. and Smestad answered no.

**Yeas 12    Nays 0    Abstain 6    Motion  
Passes**

**2. Community Citation.** Rep. Gruenberg presented a citation on behalf of the Legislature honoring the Northeast Community Council. We honor the Council for its tireless advocacy for its neighborhoods. And your dedication continues to benefit the citizens of Anchorage. And the Council has been the platform for vigorous debate for important issues facing NECC's neighborhoods and the broader Anchorage Community. We very much in the Legislature respect everything all of you have done. A large Certificate was given with many copies and photos were taken with past presidents. Senator Wielechowski said this is the most active community council in Anchorage and the most aggressive. You are doing a phenomenal job. Rep. LeDoux pointed out the Muldoon Town Square Park as an example of what we have done. It would not have happened if it were not for this council.

## **New Business**

**1. Title 21 building height restrictions.** Kristi Wood presenting. We are late on this since the Assembly passed it already. R4 is high density residential 21 to 35 people per one acre. In our

area it is basically along the highway. The limit was 60 ft. but the amendment was to go to 70 ft.

## **Motion #2.**

**We the NECC opposes allowing residential building heights beyond 60 ft. unless the development implements either mixed use, both retail and residential components, or mixed income.**

## **Wood, seconded Grenier**

In discussion Assembly Person Petersen said they were being lobbied to go to 120 ft.

**Yeas 17   Nays 1   Abstain 2   Motion Passes**

**2. Alaska Economic Forum Report.** Ian Sharrock presenting. He attended the Alaska Common Ground Fiscal Forum. He discussed using a flow chart the complexities, challenges, and urgencies the state is facing. To get to the \$5 billion dollars of spending last year we had to spend approximately \$3 Billion out of savings. In the future the budget will come from savings or we do major cuts or find other revenue. If we cut every State of Alaska employee we still would be a billion dollars short so

cutting cannot be the only solution. If we do not resolve the cuts vs. revenue issue we will continue bleeding the budget reserve account. At current rate of spending the account will be gone in two to three years. After that we have the earning reserves account. This account will also disappear in two or three years if we tap it at current rates of spending. When these two accounts are gone ...

**3. Mountain View Community Council Targeted Neighborhood Plan.** Radhika Krishna MVCC Secretary presenting. She came to share the plan that they just gave to the planning division of the city to perform the formal adoption process and to get the NECC's support as a neighboring community council. Improving Davis Park is one of our priorities. It should be a regional park used by both our councils.

**Motion #3.**

**We the NECC support the Mountain View Targeted Neighborhood Plan and support its full adoption by the Municipality and Assembly.**

**Kevin Smedstad, seconded by McConnell.**

**Yeas 15   Nays 0   Abstain 2   Motion Passes**

**Alcohol Comm:** Chair Grenier reported that they already talk about it in community Concerns.

**Parks Comm:** Chair Wood presenting. We are now in the planning stages of the Muldoon Town Square Park. If you would like to get involved or learn more please come to our committee meetings the third Thursday of every month an hour before this meeting. Nov. 4, Begich Middle School open house for the Muldoon Town Square Park.

**CIP Comm:** Chair Smestad said Nov. 5 we will have a meeting review what the City said and work on the General CIP List.

**Trails Comm.** Grenier reported that a trail had to be rerouted connecting Centennial Park and the moose fence due to ML&P work on power lines in the area. There is lots of work going on on trails this time of year especially if there is no snow for skiing.

**Picnic Comm:** no report.

**Bylaws:** no report.

**Treasurer's Report:** no report.

**FCC:** No report.

**Community Patrol Committee:** Assembly Person Honeman reported the Coalition of Community Patrols meets on the first Friday 6 pm at Dennys on Debarr. Please get involved.

**September NECC Meeting Minutes:** Approved.

**Community Activities Reports:** McConnell reported the Muldoon Farmers Market is done for the season. She thanked everyone. The Muldoon Chamber of Commerce is getting started. Talk to Jerrienne Lowther.

Adjournment 9:23 PM