

Northeast Community Council General Meeting Minutes. Dec. 17, 2015

Call to order: 7:06 PM. Fire Exit reminder. The Pledge of Allegiance. 38 people present.

Board Member Introduction: Rick Irwin (President), Dave Ulmer (Parliamentarian, Trails Comm. Chair), Selina Metoyer, Stu Grenier (Secretary, Alcohol Comm. Chair), Kristi Wood (Parks Comm. Chair), Carla McConnell, John Ziv

Agenda: Approved after amendments.

Executive Board Report: Present were Kevin Smestad. All of the board was present except for Soper and Bretz. Discussion points were; a new Committee Chair for Bylaws, a coat drive for Muldoon Elementary, Muldoon Library issues and the fight that occurred there, and the on going locked door issues we have at our General Meetings here at the Boys' and Girls' Club. The Dec. Meeting agenda was set.

Community Concerns: McConnell mentioned the coat drive and how it did not seem to get advertised. The President had boxes incase someone brought some and he can accept them at the Alaska Native Center.

Pat Higgins from the Anchorage School Board discussed the superintendent search, the new \$48M bond for this year which will be for building life extensions and bus purchases mostly. We had a \$50 increase in the BSA from last year but some legislatures are saying we have to cut education. The School Board is not sure what will happen and expects to have to do multiple budgets as the funding is debated. 1/3 of all high school students went to summer school mostly because they are interested in year round education not because they are behind. Summer school has helped many students but it has been eliminated this year due to funding problems. A question about why the current super did not work out was asked and Higgins said he could not answer that. He went on to say we have some classes where 80% of the students did not advance one years worth of study. The Aims test went down 2% this year. He said we need a bold leader to work on these problems. The public ASD budget meetings were mentioned by McConnell. She said the one she attended was about 75% ASD employees and the meeting was about how to reduce the budget and so cutting the budget was not an option. Higgins said he would have liked to have seen more public involvement and better advertising of the meetings but that a lot of good information was presented at the meetings. Also many of the same people went to every session. Amp testing and Common Core were also discussed. Higgins said we spent \$25M on the new test but academic scores have not gone up in ten years. He also said he will forward the test results to the community councils and that Muldoon did not do real good. Also judging by the free lunch program for students in poverty the levels of poverty are going up and that also makes a difference.

Shiloh Powell, the Disaster Program Manager for the Red Cross of Alaska South Central Dist. came to talk about the home fire campaign. We hope to reduce home fire

fatalities by 25% over the next five years. Everyone is invited to get involved. This national campaign has already saved 31 lives. We build teams to install free smoke alarms in peoples' homes and teach how to survive fires. shiloh.powell@redcross.org (907) 646-5407 Everything is volunteer lead and volunteer run. Lets get together and do this.

A home owner on Duben reported that the person involved in a drug related shooting on his street is back living in the residence and that drug dealing appears to be continuing. He commented on the last months minutes on seizing homes that are being used for dealing and that just one house to be seized in all of Anchorage for drug dealing speaks for itself.

Legislative Reports

Senator Giessel: Not present.

Senator Wielechowski: The Senator reported the Town Hall Meeting at Creek Side Park Elementary had a great turn out and the budget was discussed. Many people do not understand what we are up against still. The Governor had the flu so did not show. We have a \$3.4B deficit this year. We have about \$9B in the budget reserve so we have about 6B left. The Senator explained the Governor's plan with the PFD and said he is not endorsing it. He wanted peoples' feed back. Many new taxes where mentioned. A family that makes about \$50K would pay about 8.9% of their income to the state under the Governor's plan.

Representative Gruenberg: Staffer Ted reported that Representative Gruenberg is working on making it easier to transfer property after they die including on allowing folks to transfer vehicles. He is also working on a pet bill. If you have any question feel free to call the office at 269-0123.

Representative LeDoux: The Representative reported Senator Wielechowski covered the budget issue so she went into detail on the PFD. She pointed out that taking part of the PFD is a tax but has not been described as a tax. She is concerned about that and how important PFDs are to this area. She went on to discuss the Muldoon Rd. Channelization Project as it was discussed at the Town Hall Meeting. "They aren't getting it." she said. She would like the state to do it differently next time they have a project in this area with regards to informing people. Untimely deaths in the Dept. of Corrections was mentioned with 17 deaths since Governor Walker took over. People have been taken into protective custody but end up in jail because of over crowding and end up dead not at their own hand. We do not have capital punishment in this state.

Representative Pruitt: The Representative said he has seen ten different budget plans people came to him with, and they will have 60 different plans down in Juneau. He expects to be in Juneau along time again this session. We would like to have one or two hearing in Juneau. He would like to hear what people think.

Special Assistant to the Mayor Amy Coffman: Not present.

Assembly Person Petersen: He reported the contract to build the Muldoon Glenn Overpass has been signed. The construction will begin next Spring as soon as the snow melts. In less than two years maybe some of the traffic problems will disappear from Muldoon Rd. He went on to say that the assembly passed a resolution so that people can vote by mail. There will still be voting location for those that do not trust the mail and drop boxes so you can save on stamps. Next year's budget was passed and it is \$2M less than what was spent last year. Revenue collections are up \$5.4M over projections. \$47.8 M in bonds is going to the voters in the bond package. The Mayor let us know that the only capital request he is making this next year is for the Port of Anchorage.

Assembly Person Honeman: Was not present. It was mentioned that he is not seeking a third term.

Old Business

1. Vote on the Preferred Alternative Plan for the Muldoon Town Square Park. Kristi Wood NECC Parks Comm. Chair introducing and Steve Rafuse MOA Park Planner Presenting. Wood said after a years long process we have been collecting info from the community about what they want in the park. In the fall we began a formal process with Parks and Rec. with several open houses, surveys and meetings. We have a motion that we would like the council to support. Rafuse pointed out that it is an on going process and he hopes to work with the community as the plan continues to develop. To identify and prioritize improvements and make sure they are consistent with what people want has been the goal. We have \$1.5M in grants and one of the grants expires on June 30 so we have taken an aggressive schedule with the master plan to get a plan in place to to get that money under contract so it cannot be taken back by the state and used for other projects. We also wanted a cool looking master plan to help with future fund raising. It is a 20 year plan and things may change in the future.

Motion in Support of the Muldoon Town Square Park Master Plan. Grenier , seconded by Jay Mulesky.

Whereas, the Northeast Community Council provides a direct and continuing means of citizen participation in government and local affairs as designated by the Anchorage Assembly;

Whereas, Muldoon Town Square Park Master Plan fulfills the requirements for a small area plan as identified in the East Anchorage District Plan; and

Whereas, Muldoon Town Square Park Master Plan provides a 20-year vision that will

guide future development of the park; and

Whereas, The Muldoon Town Square Park Master Plan is the product of extensive public engagement and community participation including an online survey, input from students at Begich M.S. and Bartlett H.S., monthly meetings with the Parks Committee, two public workshops, and regular updates to the NECC; and

Whereas, the Parks Committee consists of members of the Northeast Community Council, and Scenic Foothills Community Council; and

Whereas, the Parks Committee served in an advisory role to the planning team and was responsible for ensuring that the master plan is consistent with the vision and desires of the community; and

Whereas, the master plan identifies the following improvements: community event space and pavilion, winter ice skating ribbon, destination playground, creek access, fenced off-leash dog park, a community garden, a boulder climbing area, bicycle pump park, open fields for recreation, a mix of paved and soft-surface trails, improved neighborhood access, space for public art, and parking.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northeast Community Council supports approval of the Muldoon Town Square Park Master Plan by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Northeast Community Council this 17th day of December, 2015, by a vote of

Discussion. McConnell asked if they will be able to change some things in the future and Wood said yes. Grenier pointed out we are trying to encumber funds. Another question was asked about a place for a future Muldoon Library in the 100 by 100 ft. lot at the corner of Muldoon and Debarr. It was pointed out that that lot is too small for a library and that the NECC is already on record to incorporate that lot into the park when it can be purchased. It was suggested the library could go on one of the larger lots to the south of the Muldoon Town Square Park. Ulmer suggested that those lots may be needed for parking. LeDoux voiced dismay at the parking lot at the East end of Debarr by the military reservation. There was heated debate about whether we should vote by unanimous consent or counted vote.

Yea 26 No 0 Abstain 1 Motion Passed

2. Logo for Trails in Muldoon. Anchorage Park Foundation. Anna Shaw Presenting. I am happy to be here to get feedback from this council about the logo. A small example of the logo was passed around the room with examples of logos from other parts of town. These icons are part of the trails initiative which is one of the seven areas of focus that the AEDC has adopted to make Anchorage the best place to

live work and play by 2025. The Anchorage Park Foundation and parks and Rec. are working towards a signage and a way finding plan for our parks and trail system. Earlier this year the Anchorage Park Foundation hired a group of local artist to make the logos. In May 2016 we hope to launch a pilot program to install signage in the Mountain View area to connect the Ship Creek Trail to the Glenn Hwy. Trail. We are just creating "this" brand for your community if you so choose. If you want to make one of your own that is good, too.

There were many comments about the icon and it was suggested that the two Muldoon Community Councils get together and get some students to get some ideas and that the process might be as important as the icon itself if we do it that way. Lowther said she was underwhelmed by the logo. Grenier pointed out that having a highway on the logo brought back memories of a statement from the last administration that Muldoon is a road not a community. McConnell suggested we replace the highway with a moose. The highway on the logo was said to encompass the swerve to the curve concept. trails@anchorageparkfoundation.org is where you can comment. Wood agreed to have it sent to Parks Comm. to start with.

New Business:

1. Muldoon Library Issues. Muldoon liberian Jim Curran (CurranJM@muni.org 343-4030) presenting. The Muldoon Library will have longer hours to serve the community better in the new year. The library is getting new tech and beefed up wireless. There will be more for you there. The library needs your comments on what kind of programming you want. CurranJM@muni.org 343-4030 The more folks we have in there the better the library we'll have. There is wifi if you get close to the building even when we are not open. The library is 8200 sqft. and it rents at \$1.65 per sqft. so \$13,530 a month. One person suggested, especially in summer, it is hard to use the library because it is so close to the Boys' and Girls' Club. There are just kids everywhere. Curran said they are planning on having the desk top area separated from the teen-kids area. Motoyer said that she is on the board for the community center and they are talking about having the computers in the community center on when the library is open to cut down on kids going to the library when the library is open. Reupke said the Boys' and Girls' Club used to be at the South end of the Mall and when they moved it to the North end by the library he told the MOA that there would be problems with kids running up the hall and the likes and that it is poorly designed. Grenier pointed out that in the Nov. NECC Meeting Minutes that there is more information about the problems the library is having with kids and security.

2. The Mayor's Homeless Initiative. Nancy Burke (BurkeNL@muni.org) 343-7119 the Housing and homelessness coordinator presenting. She plans to be brief and come back again later with more info about the initiative. We are calling it an action agenda because it is not ready to be called a plan yet. We have 7 plans in Anchorage dealing with housing and the homeless and we are trying to pull elements out of these plans to create an action agenda. We have folks going to Juneau and a one bedroom apartment rents for about \$1000. In January 2016 we go to the \$9.75 hourly minimum

wage. Before taxes the \$1000 a month takes a big chunk out of that. We know folks that are more economically stable are less likely to use social services. You need to make about \$60k a year to be able to buy a condo in Anch. We know budgets are going to be cut and folks are looking at lunch programs or food stamp programs as areas to cut but people need to recognize that these programs as well as the PFD are how families deal with the rents in the housing market. We have a goal of 300 units that we need for people we know are homeless in this community. Many have disabling conditions that prevent them from entering the housing market. We are fortunate that the Governor expanded medicaid because it gives us coverage for financial services for every person now. We are looking to get tax credits to get more units in at the lowest income levels to get housing. On January 27 and 28 we will need volunteers to grid the entire community and count how many folks are in camps or on the streets. We will meet at 3 am and go out at 4 am because folks that use camps will likely be in them then. We end the count around 6 or 7 am. We will need about 120 volunteers to help. Not all of them will be going to camps.

Grenier talked about the situation that occurred in Centennial Park when the camp ground closed in Sept. "About ten tents suddenly appeared in the wooded area next to the camper park when they closed the camp ground. They set their tents up right up on the trails the locals use and keep clean and there were many conflicts". Grenier also mentioned the murder that occurred in the park when some youths that had been accessing alcohol from the homeless killed one of the homeless after robbing him. He asked that a policy change take place to avoid these situations from happening again. Burke replied that the CAP teams were cut in the last administration and that she is going to try to match homeless with jobs like they did in other homeless initiatives. Burke is planning on doing a Winter and Summer count. She went on to say that many people camp in the summer to save money for Winter housing. Ziv asked about what to do about people who do not want to work or can't. Grenier asked about registered pedophiles and reminded Burke of the rape and death of a 14 year old girl in front of the Muldoon Road Baptist Church this summer purported to have been committed by a registered pedophile living in the Muldoon Town Square Park. He said that when these people are identified in our parks that letters need to be sent out to the community informing them like happens when a registered pedophile moves into your neighborhood. Grenier went on to say that these people need to be a priority because it will become dangerous for them to remain in the park once folks have been informed they are there.

Alcohol Comm: Chair Grenier reported that there has been no meeting and that we have a long list of things that were brought up at previous meetings and we will bring them up as we have time on the council. Much of the discussion about the homeless problem has come from the Alcohol Comm.

Parks Comm: Chair Wood reported it was already cover in old business.

CIP Comm: Chair Smestad said we need a completed CIP List by the end of January or the beginning of February. It is not due until April. He is working on it. We will

have a meeting the first thursday of the new year at 6 pm here.

Trails Comm. Grenier reported there is work going on on trails this time of year especially if there is no snow for skiing.

Picnic Comm: no report.

Bylaws: Grenier reported that Carla McConnell is the new Chair but McConnell said that Genevieve Holubik is the current chair. McConnell said that they will meet before the next meeting and hopefully have something in front of the council early in the Spring.

Treasurer's Report: no report

October and November NECC Meeting Minutes: Approved.

Community Activities Reports: Reupke mentioned the FCC Meeting and the Town Hall Meeting at Creekside Park Elementary. McConnell mentioned the Muldoon Chamber of Commerce is starting to role (contact info please here). Reupke mentioned that we are not allowed to tape the door anymore so folks can get in since there has been a vandalism problem in the center so we will have to have a door person to let folks in. He put a notice out there on the door to call if you need to be let in.

Adjournment 9:18 PM