

NECC

Northeast Community Council General Meeting Minutes February, 2020

Call to order: 7:05

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of the Board

- **Board members present:** T'Shalla Baker, Rachel Boudreau, Donna Mears, Stu Grenier, Charles England, Carla McConnell, Bob Reupke (FCC delegate), Rick Phillips, Liz Snyder
- **Board members absent:** Selina Metoyer

Approval of the February Meeting Agenda

FCC Update

- Storage facility going in where the skate rink adjacent to Debarr is
- Several propositions discussed at the Feb. 2020 FCC meeting; agenda and minutes can be found [here](#)
- One in particular is the [school district bond](#)

- Admin from FCC present to introduce himself and offer the support of the FCC to the community council
- NECC member question: What ever happened with the resolution that the FCC was working on -- to have the Muni notify the community councils of plans sooner than they do now? Answer: Resolution for the community councils to have at least 31 days lead time. Told by the Muni that it's not possible.

Community Concerns/Activities

- Carla concerned about the lack of community input on local community development; for example, the church that is being built after changing zoning from single family housing
- Carla highlighted that Uncle Leroy's Coffee is now open in the East side!

- Rick: We're giving away prizes for attending NECC meetings -- pizza, Red Robin

- Karen Wofter: She and her husband live on Peck Ave; there are no sidewalks or gutters; worried about kids' safety
 - Donna: The NECC has the CIP committee, and there is the opp to add this as a priority. The next process for the Muni is May.

- Glen: Would like to see more improvements on Muldoon through to the base. Worried about kid safety. Why a stall from Dubin to Ft. Rich in improvements? Dubin and Cranberry is extremely dangerous; he's had cars crash into his fence.

Legislative Report: (Summary of statements made)

- **Representative Spohnholz:** The budget is the current challenge. Governor proposed a \$1.5 billion deficit, which would require draining the CBR. If the Legislature reduced the PFD to \$500/person, it would fill the gap -- but this wouldn't pass. Alaskans can expect a flat budget with some scalpel cuts. Legislature is hoping for some movement on some modest revenue measures: oil and education head tax.

House Finance Subcommittee now hearing input and putting together recommendations to the Finance Committee. Opportunities for testifying.

There is a huge supplemental budget this year. (e.g., \$150 million for wildfires)

Concerned about the high costs of healthcare; she has submitted two bills to address this.

There is a new room in the capitol named after Betty Davis.

- **Representative LeDoux:** The administration has tried to gut apprenticeship programs; may be pulling back on this, though. LeDoux is the prime sponsor on a bill to keep the apprentice program alive.

Also sponsoring another bill to allow the Attorney General to represent the Governor and Lt. Governor when they need an attorney (right now they can hire private attorneys). Kawasaki may present a similar bill in the Senate.

Passed a bill on the military school residency issue. Right now, military parents have to wait until they've arrived in Alaska in order to register their kids for school. The bill would allow registration once they have their papers.

The Department of Corrections is no longer planning to send prisoners to the Lower 48.

March 14: Gabbing with Gabby opportunity at Flo's Diner, 10:30-11:30

NECC member comment: The narrowness needs to be widened from Muldoon to Zappa Street (with curbs and gutters).

- **Senator Wielechowski:** He is chairing a couple committees, and going through those agencies to trim their budgets.

He has an oil tax bill to raise \$850 million in revenues.

He has a bill for an online government budget search tool, so citizens can see where money is spent. (We are 49th in the US for transparency.)

With Hilcorp coming in, we will lose a few million in corporate taxes.

He has a bill to change revenue sharing in ANWR (it was cut to 50% recently).

NECC member question: How did Penny's grandson get a no-bid contract for \$440,000, but our PFDs are being cut. What are your thoughts? Answer: This is an important issue, and a symptom of a bigger problem. We're looking into these issue with procurement.

The PFD Corp. is requesting a complete exemption from contract oversight and the Senator is working on preventing this request from being granted.

- **Representative Pruitt:** Bills are going through the Finance Committee, and then things will get sent over to the Senate.

First dealing with the Supplemental Budget. Governor may be adding some things back in -- may hit about \$300 million. Optimistic for a smoother legislative session this year. It is off to a much better start than last year. Need to have difficult conversations about the oil tax and dividend.

He will be present at the upcoming Anchorage Caucus.

Assembly Report (Dunbar): (Summary of statements made.)

- Passed two resolutions related to Black History Month
- Established their ballot order -- 13 items will be on the ballot
 - The alcohol tax (one of them) will be on the ballot; the sales tax will not be
 - The alcohol tax will address public safety, domestic violence, child abuse (can't be spent on other things); passed a resolution regarding how the funds will be spent
 - Please support ballot measure 12 (Charter Amendment to Require 12 Assembly Members and 2 Members for Each Assembly District)
- Next up on the agenda -- debating the liquor license for Mom and Pops liquor store
- Also on the agenda proposed by LeFrance and Rivera -- ordinance that would tighten up regs on pawn shops to address theft and resale -- up for public testimony this Tuesday night
- NECC member question: Boundary Ave is getting \$500,000 for planning; Stu and folks worked really hard to get bumps put in to slow things down, but now there is a

proposition to punch a road through. Why didn't we get asked about this?? Answer: It's an area-wide bond aimed at the Hillside and Eagle River -- need at least two access roads to meet the fire code. He (Dunbar) asked why should Anchorage subsidize Eagle River if we don't get anything out of it? He (Dunbar) apologizes, thought we'd talked about this. We'll keep talking.

- NECC member question: Should high density places actually have three assembly members? Answer: Well, it's looking like the assembly district lines are going to be redrawn to even out population in each district. Going for six equal districts. It will be a charter change on the ballot.
- NECC member question: Pawn shop meeting is Tuesday the 25th? Answer: Yes
- NECC member comment: Everyone, please go to the meetings.

Community Leadership Updates

None

Guest Speaker: Judge George Miller

- Been a judge for 9 years; appointed by Parnell; was in private practice for 25 years; lived up here for 35 years; put himself through school by flying and fighting fires.
- 700 employees in the judicial branch (15,000 in executive branch) -- they get \$110 million, which is not enough
- Thousands of cases, of varying degrees, every year (700+ cases per judge); the Fed court system here is very small compared to the state court system
 - 30% are probate cases at the state -- i.e., guardianship cases
- They don't pass laws or regulate laws
- The courts are wide open to anybody who wants to file a case -- the doors are open to anyone, regardless of the quality of the case (this is state law); compare this the US Supreme Court -- they can pick choose which cases they want to take
- Every decision they make has to be out in the open, and they have to explain themselves
- Very proud of his judges in this state
- NECC member question: How do we find out what is happening with a particular case? Answer: Visit Court View online. You can also go down to the courthouse and ask to look at any file.
- NECC member question: With the Dunleavy Recall case....Answer: I can't answer any question about an active case. Sorry.
- NECC member question: What has been the most difficult thing you've ever been through with your job? Answer: There was a murder case in Dillingham, where a VPSO was shot and a person was convicted. He watched the shoulder cam video of the entire thing. The individual was sentenced to 99 years. The mother of the convicted met him after the sentencing, and she gave him a hug.
- NECC member question: Are the state courts still closing at noon on Fridays? Answer: Yes, and I don't see that changing. It's part of the budget cuts. Certain parts of the courthouse remains open - domestic violence and mental health activities.

- NECC member question: The crime rate where I come from (a village) is really bad. Would like to see the judicial system strengthened in rural communities. Answer: I agree. And we need to be sure that we have a judge ready and available to try cases whenever they are needed.

New Business

- **NECC Picnic:** Picnic is June 13. First meeting is at Uncle Leroy's on Debarr on March 17, 6-7, and then biweekly from then.

NECC member comment: We call it the Spirit of Muldoon picnic, historically.

NECC member comment: We are taking donations.

NECC member comment: If you don't have another use for it, the FCC can spend \$75 for picnic outreach.

NECC member comment: Papa Murphy's will probably contribute.

- **Catalyst:** 317 Muldoon is where a new retail store is going; two-tenant building -- one will be for the retail store; not sure who the second tenant will be. They purchased the property last year; their application complete with the state; they are in the middle of the application process with the Muni.

They are tasked with reaching out to the community; those within 500 feet of the proposed location received a mailer. His presentation tonight is the beginning of the communication process. He first introduced himself in Jan. 2019. Invited folks to an open house last March. Likely 2-3 more months to get through the Muni process; plus another 2-3 months with the state. Hoping to open mid-June. One of the tasks of community engagement is developing an MOU with the NECC -- to outline how to best communicate and be ready to address any potential conflicts, and address any community and/or business concerns. He is focused on safety and security -- aware that crime, drug use, and homelessness are big issues in the area.

He has a draft MOU for consideration, and NECC will be posting to the NECC website.

NECC member question: One of the big problems that we have with the community council, is the location of the facility and its closeness with the church. Have you received

any objections from the church? Answer: We have not heard anything from the church.

What is the specific concern? Reply: Is it too close to the church? Answer: It's measured

as the shortest practical pedestrian route that is safe. According to this, it is far enough.

NECC member question: Will you honor the red line on licenses as alcohol stores do?

Answer: He's not opposed, but has to see if that is legal.

NECC member comment: We learned about your process moving forward in the paper, not from you. We hope you will be a good neighbor. Why did we have to find out through the paper? Answer: We followed all of the regulations and communication rules. Thanks he's given fair notice.

NECC member question: When was the first time that you notified the area? And what's going in on the second floor? Are they going to grow it? Answer: People have to be 21 to enter. We first gave notice last year. The first one (notice) is put at a conspicuous location near the facility. Then at the location. Then you have to notify the Muni and the community council. There will be offices and storage on the second floor.

NECC member question: You'd be under the 500 foot limit if you hadn't put your store on the back of the property. Are you allowing onsite consumption at this location? Answer: It wouldn't have been 200 feet lot line to lot line if we hadn't set it back. No, we do not plan on having onsite consumption.

NECC member question: Are your products grown in Alaska? Secondly, if you look at Muldoon and you jump one block over, we have more burglaries in the surrounding area than many other places. Answer: Yes, agree that safety is of paramount concern. We have double ID checks, security shutters, tons of cameras, tons of lighting. Improving security in their direct surroundings. In terms of products, we can only sell what we procure in Alaska.

NECC member question: Will we be able to ask Will questions about the MOU before we vote? Rachel: Yes, if Will can come back in March. The Alcohol and MJ committee will work on the MOU, and then follow up with the council and Will.

- **Northeast Community Center Update:**

- The board is being dissolved after several years of challenges
- Selena would like to not dissolve the board
- The center is now occupied by the Boys and Girls Club, and it's not even recognized as the community center anymore; she would like to be able to still keep an eye on things
- NECC member question: What could we do to help you keep the board from dissolving? Answer: We need to ask Forrest. Forrest: People came to the Assembly a year ago and asked for the board to be dissolved.
- Selena: The managers there constantly change, and it would be helpful to have a board that is more constant. But, they are in need of some additional people who could take on board responsibilities.

- NECC member comment: If you dissolve the board, does the community center still exist? Answer: Yes. Reply: If the board is being dissolved, will it be replaced with anything else to handle overseeing the facility? Reply: If not, you will lose the funds that you have and are eligible for without a board. Perhaps there could be a new committee within the NECC?
- **NECC Elections:** Elections are in April. Please let us know if you are interested. You must live in the area, and have attended at least 3 meetings in the last 6 months.

Old Business

- Traffic Calming: Had a Muni representative present to share updates.

343-8470 -- you can call him with questions and comments. Here to speak specifically about the resolution that has been passed, and about the East 6th Ave issue. The temporary calming solutions have actually been out there for several years. These include battery powered signals and radar speed signs -- which work great as long as the batteries are live. Difficult to maintain them in the winter.

They sent out some fliers to the people in the area to indicate that they are moving forward with traffic calming measures -- including speed cushions. Unlikely that construction will happen this summer, but highly likely that it will happen next summer.

The other priority is Edwards Street. Been on the traffic calming list for a long time. The possible solutions there are limited -- a lot of money has already been spent in the area recently (public perception issue). One solution is permanent radar speed signs -- could do for under \$200,000. For anything more significant, we'd have to go through a capital improvement process.

NECC member question: What kind of experience do you have with a capital improvement list? Answer: I know that the council needs to make a list. Other councils have expensive/extensive lists.

NECC member question: Will there ever be a walkway put on Dubin? Or something to slow things down? Or a streetlight? Answer: It's still in the cue. Please call his office for the exact status. There is funding for design.

Donna makes a commitment to find out the status of these projects and report back.

Business Between NECC board and the Muni

No business to report.

Janurary Minutes Approval

Kyle moves to approve, Carla seconds. Minutes approved.

Committee Reports:

MJ committee meeting will be announced soon.

Mural meeting next Wednesday 6pm at Uncle Leroy's.

Adjourned at 9:50pm