

NECC

Northeast Community Council General Meeting Minutes November 19, 2020

Call to order: 7:02

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of the Board

- **Board members present:** Rachel Boudreau, Selina Metoyer, T'Shalla Baker, Donna Mears, Stu Grenier, Charles England, Rick, Liz Snyder, Bob Reupke (FCC delegate), Rick Liz Snyder
- **Board members absent:** None

Note: 29 people in attendance as of 7:02pm; 34 people in attendance as of 7:06pm; then grew to 36

- Motion to approve agenda; approved

FCC Update

- Dec. 7 site plan review
- Replatting property on the corner of Muldoon and Debarr – will be made into two tracts
- FCC met last night (11/18/20)
 - Still have \$75 NECC can use for communications or other needs
 - 240-3868 Mark – can call him in coming days if need to contact FCC
 - FCC still has many masks available for distribution
 - The Assembly passed a budget; looking at bonds and looking at police shoulder cams
 - Kids in ASD are not going back to school yet, as recently planned
 - There will be 4 seats up for the ASD Board in April
- Please contact Bob Reupke for additional information pertaining to the FCC (see contact information on agenda)
- No FCC meeting in December

Community Concerns

- Donna: There are new faces on the Zoom tonight, and glad to see it. Community councils are a great place to engage with elected officials and other community institution leaders. It's great to see so many people engaged. Thank you for being here!
- Rachel: Selena received a call from a community member who lives near the backside of Walmart. Concerned about some negative behaviors in that area. Asking if parking signs can be made to indicate only 2 hour parking permitted.

- Sandra: Requesting a “no dumping” sign as well
- Pete: he’s called Walmart, but they’ve denied anything bad is happening.
- Carla: She went in to talk with the manager. They removed stuff on their property, but they have no jurisdiction over the road. Many of the folks there are houseless, and sleep in their cars there. Walmart does need to clean up whatever gets left on their property.
- Sandra: What about community patrol? (Let’s bring this to community patrol.)
- Selena: The person who called her has called the police and code enforcement, the latter of whom referred her to NECC (not appropriate).
- Stu: The reason they are there, they use the restrooms at Walmart. When Walmart is closed, they use the restroom wherever they can. We have heated school buildings all over town. If we simply move them to a different outdoor location, we’re going to have the same problem. We should make a motion that suggests the city ensures they have a heated building with access to a restroom. We need a motion.
- Dave (with Muni Planning Department): Contact Johns Nelson in right of way enforcement. And John Crapps (municipal traffic engineer).
- Murray: Dumping is a very big problem. How can we address this issue as a community council?
- Carla: Encouraged everyone to go get tested.
 - Stu: It takes a long time to get your results back.
 - Selena: Got her results back immediately. Depends on where you go to get tested.

Legislative Reports

- **Senator Wielechowski:**
 - Organization in the Legislature hasn’t occurred yet. The budget deficit is going to be a major problem. Folks promised no cuts, no revenue, and full PFD, and that won’t be possible, especially since Ballot Measure 1 didn’t pass. It’s going to be a challenge.
 - A personal issue he’s been working on are therapeutic courts – a large portion of those tried and convicted are those with substance abuse and mental health issues. We need to fix this. Therapeutic courts are one way to do this. The recidivism rate is about 66%; but with therapeutic courts, it cuts it down to closer to 25-30%. With these types of courts we can disrupt the cycle.
 - Carla: The last administrations put in opportunity zones. Will those continue, and could all of Muldoon become an opportunity zone? Answer: There are a few different statutes that address this, and he believes the Governor selects the zones. He has asked the Governor in the past, and he can ask again.
- **Representative LeDoux:**
 - Ballot Measure 1 was what was going to help get us out of the budget mess. And folks say they want cuts, until they get specific. Unsure about the organization of the House. Currently looks like 20 Republicans who are organized together, and 19 Democrats + Independents, plus one seat out in Kotz or Barrow, which was won by an Independent. Unclear where he will go.
 - Ballot Measure 2 won, which institutes a jungle primary (advances the top 4 winners to the general election).

- Bob: In the news, it looks like the gas pipeline is back in the conversation. Answer: That pipeline is a pipe dream. It might be built at some point, but probably not in her or her kids' lifetimes.
- It has been an honor to serve everyone for the last 8 years. This is the last evening reporting as a Rep.

Representative Spohnholz (Ted, staff member, presenting):

- Things are not looking good with respect to COVID-19, statewide and in Anchorage. Our test positivity rate is 8%, when less than 3% is ideal. There are multiple COVID-19 testing sites around town. Find info at <https://anchoragecovidtest.org>
- The Governor issued a new disaster declaration that went into effect on Monday, which will last for the next 30 days. There is some legal language saying that the responsibility falls on the Legislature. Unclear whether the Legislature will have to extend, or if the Governor will try to continue extending himself.
- Question: What is the recovery rate? Answer: He will look it up and post in the chat. Liz was asked by Rachel. Liz noted that recovery rates depend on a given time and region, but they are typically high. The primary concern right now as cases rise is our ability to treat people in the hospital, and our ability to have open beds and enough healthcare workers.
- Question: Are we able to bring in additional healthcare workers? Answer: The demand is still very high everywhere, so this is difficult.
- Ted: Pasted the COVID-19 dashboard into the chat, as this provides information on bed availability, and other measures. <https://coronavirus-response-alaska-dhss.hub.arcgis.com>

Representative Pruitt (Dirk, staff member, in attendance):

- Unable to attend due to a family funeral. Dirk is available to answer any questions.

Assembly Report:

Assemblyperson Kennedy: Not present.

Assemblypersons Petersen and Dunbar:

- Passed a continuation budget on Wednesday. Very few new positions added.
- Did incorporate revenue from the interest payments from trust, which is where funding from the ML&P sale is. This will continue to generate revenue for the city.
- The ML&P sale was completed at the end of October.
- They also integrated revenues from the alcohol tax into the budget. Alcohol consumption appears to be up in this pandemic. The tax revenues are going to first responders, homelessness, and child abuse prevention. We will have a mental health first responders program.
- We got another several million dollars in federal COVID-19 funding. \$10 million was previously dedicated to childcare providers this summer.

- The Sullivan Arena has been at max capacity, and there is now a warming tent outside. Fairview Rec Center is now being turned into a homelessness facility, with a focus on serving elders.
- The Assembly decided not to hold a special Mayoral election. A lot of planning goes into holding a special election, and with so many candidates, there would be a runoff – so it would have led to essentially two special elections (which is costly).
- There is a plan to spend \$250,000 per year for the next four years to put in additional public restrooms. The first will go into downtown.
- The revenue shortfall is about \$23 million. Big reductions in various forms of revenue because of the pandemic.

Community Leadership Updates

- Denny (JBER): One of their priorities is to increase engagement with local community councils. Reminded folks of the availability of iSportsman.net to register recreation access on base property. It can tell you when specific areas are open and safe to use. If folks have any questions or ideas for signage, please contact Rachel, NECC Board President, and she can let Denny know.
- Mr. Robespierre Howard Robespierre.howard@alaska.gov (Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities): Provided an overview of their non-discrimination policy. Please contact Mr. Howard or NECC for a copy of the presentation. Presentation highlighted the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Business Development Office and Supportive Services Program – which is here to help disadvantaged businesses gain access to DoT contracts. There are a suite of supportive services, including reimbursement programs, technical training workshops, on-the-job training programs, lending programs, etc. The Alaska Unified Certification Program (AUCP) provides a one-stop certification so that an applicant is required to apply only once for a DBE certification which will be honored by participating recipients in Alaska.
- Mike Rayberg (Winter Trail maintenance): There has been a meeting with Parks to improve winter trail maintenance in East Anchorage. In these discussions, there have been some agreements: APU has some new trail maintenance equipment, and they are going to increase maintenance of their trails. Once the trails are groomed, they like to allow a couple days for the trails to “set up”. Further, they talked with the Muni about Russian Jack Park. They received assurances that maintenance there will be improved as well. Also noted that Junior Nordic still has some spots left.
- Pierce Schwalb (Muni): Talking about new recycling drop-off. Noted that our current landfill in Anchorage will be completely full in 36 years if we don’t continue recycling. It’s extended to 55 years with mandatory curbside recycling. We don’t really have a good place for a second landfill. There are new recycling sites at East High School. Takes aluminum, plastic bottles, cardboard, and glass bottles and jars. Requesting ideas for additional locations in our community, and assistance in getting the word out.
 - Comment: Place one near Walmart.
- R&M Consultants: Muldoon Road Pavement Preservation Project. Please contact NECC President for a copy of the presentation, or Rori at rori.vannortwick@alaska.gov or Van Le at vle@rmconsult.com. The project area includes Muldoon Road from Debarr Road to E 36th Avenue, to extend the roadway’s services life and improve safety. Activities will include

resurfacing pavement, repairing storm drains system, general roadway safety improvements, and construction of ADA compliant curb ramps.

- Julie Hasquet at Julie_hasquet@chugachelectric.com (Chugach Electric): Update on some of the highlights of what is happening right now. If you've called Chugach in the past two weeks, since the acquisition, she is sorry for your wait. Apparently, wait time has drastically increased for the moment. Once you have an account with Chugach, you will always have a single member number, which will never change regardless of whether you move. Sign up for My Account online to get your member number, track your usage, sign up for outage alerts, set up how you want to pay.
 - To run for the Chugach Board of Directors, you have to be a member for at least one year (or be a former ML&P customer). They are seeking members right now. The deadline is Dec. 3.
- Francis McLaughlin (Anchorage Planning Department): Speaking on Draft Assembly Homeless Shelter Ordinance. Please contact NECC President to obtain a copy of the presentation. Presentation addressed zoning issues relevant to homeless shelters. Seeking to allow homeless shelters in the B3 district (primarily for general commercial uses and areas exposed to heavy traffic).
 - Question: Are these changes needed to allow the Muni to use COVID funding to purchase the buildings for homeless shelters? Pete: No. But waiting for a report to confirm.
 - Question: Is there a movement to create small, temporary housing? Francis: Not that he's aware of.

New Business:

- Note the liquor license renewal notification on the agenda.

Old Business:

- Donna (CIP): Contact Donna if you are interested in working on this issue. See agenda for her contact information.
- No other committee updates.

Business conducted between NECC members and Muni: none

Motion to adjourn at 9pm