

# Minutes

Northeast Community Council (NECC)

March 21, 2024 | 7pm

Creekside Park Elementary- Gymnasium

7500 E 6th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99504

## Board Members Present

**Ron Meehan**, President | **Murray Crookes**, Vice President | **Lyn Franks**, Treasurer | **Dave Weber**, Secretary | **Selina Metoyer**, Member | **Stu Grenier**, Member | **Pamela Raygor**, Member | **Mary O'Loughlin**, Member

**Ron Meehan called the meeting to order at 7:02pm and provided a land acknowledgement.**

## Pledge of Allegiance – Murray Crookes

## Board Roll Call – Murray Crookes

## Minutes Approval: February

**Nate Martin:** Nate proposed corrections to the drafted February minutes, Muni Ranked Choice Voting Resolution section, to include David Ulmer's comments, correct spelling of Kyle Rehberg's name, and add comments that Marc Grober made.

**Amendments to include Nate Martin's edits passed unanimously. Ron Meehan made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Mary O' Loughlin. None opposed. February 15, 2024 general member council meeting minutes approved.**

## Treasurer's Update

**Lyn Franks:** Reported \$1,714.60 in the bank account.

## FCC Report

**Ron Meehan:** Pamela Raygor is temporarily fulfilling the FCC Delegate position. The position was held previously by Bob Reupke. We hope to find someone to fill that role shortly, the FCC Delegate does not need to be a board member.

**Pamela Raygor:** The mayor's office reported a veto on assembly's short term housing licensing moved forward.

Nominations for FCC officers are in April and elections are in May.

A Doctor of Economics from UAA presented a report on anchorage housing and focused on affordable and quality housing and the data showed that for the last 10 years anchorage did have affordable housing compared to other west coast cities of its size.

The school board reported the Ignite program has been revived in the Anchorage School District's budget and there is an internal audit being done on processes at the Anchorage School District.

Amanda Moser reported there is a new director, Ariana, for the FCC. The new director will be present at the April FCC meeting and FCC meetings are held at the BP building.

Notable reports from other community councils were about the impacts of homeless camps on parks throughout the city. The camp in Midtown is expected to be abated soon, and there are plans to sell the property. FCC council members also commented on the zoning plan that is to be presented on May 20<sup>th</sup>

For NECC, Pam shared with the FCC that NECC has board nominations tonight, March 21, 2024. NECC board members Dave Weber and Stu Grenier are working on a park grant, and that NECC is looking to update their website. The FCC mentioned they can help with the website update.

## Community Concerns and Activities (opportunity for community members to share concerns, requests for the council, and upcoming needs/activities, up to 2 min)

**Nathan Martin:** Would like to bring attention that the executive board should give enough notice to community members and about changes to meetings. Article VII, section B, of the NECC bylaws notes meetings shall be open to the public. Council members should at least know when the executive board is meeting and how that is happening. Nate wants the community to feel like they are heard. Nate appreciates the work the board does, and things happen, but also noted Article VII, Section E, 1, noted whenever possible agendas should be posted 7 days in advance instead of a couple days before.

**Ron Meehan:** The executive board and regular council meetings are scheduled out for the next year and Ron is glad to have someone on the board to share the executive board Zoom meeting link with Nate.

**Jeremy Henry:** Expressed concern over items noted in the Boundary Ave. Resolution and the wording in the resolution notes lack of accounting for funds.

**Stu Grenier:** The Muni didn't maintain electricity to the Doon Dangers and Stu is requesting the Muni to fix the electricity connection to Doon Dangers this summer so it is ready to go. Also, there are lots of people moving into Centennial Park right now.

**Charles England:** Is concerned about Brown Jug liquor moving in and people passing out at the bus stop. There are empty liquor bottles, and trash, and in the cul-de-sac right behind the location one family has moved out because of the issues.

**Selina Metoyer:** The Muldoon Farmers Market opens on June 29<sup>th</sup> at Chanshtnu Muldoon Park, it is from 9:30am to 2:30pm, we are looking for vendors and volunteers to help with it. Contact Selina ([selina4necc@gmail.com](mailto:selina4necc@gmail.com)) or David Ulmer.

### **Legislative Reports (limit 3 min. each, including questions)**

**Sen. Bill Wielechowski:** Bill sits on the senate finance budget subcommittee for Alaska DOT. At the finance committee meeting the committee and after the meeting they discussed snow plowing in Anchorage and specifically what DOT needed. DOT said they didn't need anything additional last year and the committee still gave them \$500K. This time the committee said to DOT: you have to give us a list of what is causing the problems in Anchorage. DOT did then provide a list, specifically for graters DOT has that can't go on hillside, which caused the Muni to pull graters out of the east side and they also need to upgrade snow storage sites and the committee wants to put them in the budget next year and not replicate the situation next year. The legislature passed an education compromise bill 56-3. The legislature negotiated a compromise bill agreeable to the Senate and House and the governor's staff. The governor and Bill sat down after a trip to DC and the governor wanted more. The override failed by one vote and now it is in the House's hand to pass what is needed. Things the House and governor are asking for are things they have been unable to pass out of the House, we are looking forward to the discussion.

The Senate has moved on energy related to cook inlet gas and that renewable energy large wind farms are going in. The entire Railbelt uses 700-800 megawatts of power and there are plans to put solar power in the Kenai. The price for these things is lower than that of natural gas. Some bills the Senate is working on are for storage. Hillcorp is sitting on 90% of the gas and refusing to drill. The Senate is looking at other alternatives to get the gas to market

**Matt Sims:** What happens when renewables don't work in down times? What about nuclear?

**Sen. Bill Wielechowski:** The Senate passed a bill last year to look at microgrid nuclear. It's not something that's been done on land to any large degree. It is definitely something we are looking into. However you do need a constant base load for renewables and if you put the renewables online they will lessen the amount of natural gas we use. If you have 500 megawatts of wind and solar that lessens the amount of water we use for our hydro and conserves gas for times it is not windy effectively acting as a battery. Battery technology has also exploded in recent years

CONTACT: Phone: 907-269-0120, Email: [Senator.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov)

**Rachel Gunn, Staff to Rep. Stanley Wright:** The governor did veto the omnibus spending bill, the largest increase in education spending in state history. Rep. Wright did vote to override the governor's veto, but the vote failed by one. Rep. Wright is back to work on it and is in caucus right now. Rachel listed numerous House bills and their status.

CONTACT: Phone: 907-269-0240, Email: [Representative.Stanley.Wright@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Stanley.Wright@akleg.gov)

**Rep. Donna Mears:** Spent the evening talking about Railbelt energy. Donna is looking at a changeup in energy within the Railbelt. Cook Inlet has been a mainstay and the easy sources are not so easy anymore. There are contracts with Enstar and Chugach and other local utilities that are not getting renewed in the next few years. Utilities are making decisions on whether imported natural gas will be part of the energy mix. We need to talk more about renewables and there has not been enough talk about conservation. There are some opportunities with federal money and infrastructure and jobs act and the inflation reduction act there are opportunities for homeowners and businesses to make investments and reduce costs. We have some opportunities and there is no silver bullet. Donna's next coffee chat isn't till April 14 and Donna would love to have conversations with anyone about energy or on anything else that is happening in Juneau.

CONTACT: Office: 907-465-3438, Cell 907-632-6382, Email: [Rep.Donna.Mears@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Donna.Mears@akleg.gov)

**Rep. Cliff Groh:** Expressed how disappointed Cliff was at the loss of override veto by one vote on the education bill. 17 legislatures' votes flip flopped and 14 of those were from the House majority. Cliff will continue to work on what we are going to do for elementary schools, families, and our economy. Like Sen. Wielechowski, Cliff is working on the bill to increase renewable energy, and state land for solar and biomass projects. Cliff is also pushing for legislation HB49 which will help military and veterans get a help desk. That legislation is making progress, working with Sen Scott Kawasaki. This will help our veterans connect better with employment opportunities in our state.

The decline in oil revenue has left us short of money that we need for schools, public safety, and other important public needs. The state has a budget deficit of \$10B for the next 10 years, averaging \$1B a year of deficit. We need money so we can improve the roads in North Muldoon and ensure we have good schools and important public services. Cliff encourages people to attend on Saturday March 30<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, pancakes with Cliff 5-7pm, first short stack on Cliff. And lunchtime, 12-2pm, downtown at the lucky wishbone Saturday March 30<sup>th</sup>, first milkshake is on Cliff. Cliff appreciates email, phone calls, and text messages from the community.

CONTACT: Phone: 907-952-3353, Email: [Representative.Cliff.Groh@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Cliff.Groh@akleg.gov)

**Sen Loki Tobin:** From the zoom chat: Please join the Office of Senator Tobin & AMATS on Saturday, March 30th at 10 am at the Fairview Recreation Center to hear about the Glenn Seward Connections Study and the proposed alternatives to connect the Glenn Seward highway (which impacts arterial roads) and learn how you can provide public comments. I promise, there will be dough nuts!

Also, this Sunday (at 6 am!) a new Empty Office Podcast drops - featuring Senator Kiehl and Senator Bjorkman discussing the failed veto override of SB 140. Shoutout to Sen Wielechowski on his awesome leadership in trying to find a pathway forward on increasing the desperately needed financial resources to our public schools.

CONTACT: Phone 907-465-3704, Email: [Sen.Loki.Tobin@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Loki.Tobin@akleg.gov)

### Assembly Reports (limit 3 min. each, including questions)

**Karen Bronga:** In regard to meeting attendance Karen stated: This is an amazing crowd. I don't think Scenic Foothills will believe this.

Karen had a lot of communication with NECC members on the leash law. The part that was confusing is that it looked like you could take your dog skiing if you had verbal control via E-Collar. Things got messier after that. Karen heard a lot of messages from people about the law. Karen suggested an amendment that the paved pathways, like Chester Creek and Ship Creek, that are busy in town be physical leash only. Karen did not get enough support for that amendment. The law is allowing for three animals at once to be controlled with an E-Collar and Karen feels like it is nearly impossible to keep track of three animals. However the leash law is now tabled and it's unfortunate because the animal control board has been working on it for a year.

In regard to short term rentals law. Daniel Volland was going to withdraw his vote and the mayor vetoed it before he could withdraw. Karen feels like people are supplementing their income with rentals and feels this law wasn't a necessary move.

The assembly is talking about selling the national archives site next to the Loussac Library. If sold it would be a perfect location for housing. The land is costing a pretty penny right now.

George Martinez is out on vacation. George has been working very hard on transit worker protection ordinance for serious consequences, including banning ridership, for those who threaten transit workers.

There is an ordinance coming forward that the mayor has put forward and is all about a partial abatement where the city is saying where there cannot be camps. More is spoken about this in the Homelessness in Anchorage section of the NECC Agenda.

If you have not gotten your ballot yet that is a problem. There is a number you can call with what has gone on with it. You can still vote at the Loussac Library or City Hall. Please drop your mail in ballots at Begich, Bartlett, and the Anchorage Education Center.

There is a big AMATS fair at Alaska Airlines center and you can go to it and ask the designers questions.

It is budget season. There is a fun event at King Street Brewery, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm. There is a "nerd night" and the title is "money money money". They have promised there is one section on "above the tax cap" and "below the tax cap" stuff. Karen thinks it will be enlightening.

**Selina Metoyer:** Where is the assembly on the change in zoning regulations?

**Karen Bronga:** It got bounced back to planning and zoning. It's going to come back to the assembly in June. Planning and Zoning has made a statement on it. For South Anchorage, it turns out there could be some effects if you're on a well. There still is an intent for 5 zones, plus and if you are R1, you can have a duplex plus an accessory dwelling unit. There are concerns with there being no height limitations on the accessory dwelling unit. That could make a big difference, especially if you built solar panels on top.

**Michael Patterson:** If you don't support regulating short term rentals, what is your proposal for the housing crisis, in regard that short term rentals do play into it?

**Karen Bronga:** The sponsors of the proposed regulation started saying they would do some sort of housing project, then it switched to being for research. Karen would be okay with the short term rental regulation if the money they were collecting was going to someone who enforced things that were going on in our city. Someone Karen was talking to was experiencing difficulties with people that rang the doorbells at the house all night and the police did not come. That person lost the short term rental money for that evening because someone rang the doorbell all night. So this person's point was to put someone enforcing things in the neighborhoods so there would be quiet enjoyment.

The other thing we need to be looking at is the number of vacant and abandoned properties. There is a four bedroom house that has no water and no heat and the property owner has done nothing with it. A lot of people are not renting apartments. Rather than have housing sit empty we have to motivate people like that to get into the rental market.

**Community Leadership Updates (3 min each)** [JBER](#), [Mayor's Office](#), [Police Department](#), [Fire Department](#), [Parks & Recreation](#), [Muldoon Public Library](#), [School Board](#), [Muldoon PTA](#), [Bartlett Area Principal Group](#), other

**Joy Boston, JBER:** Arctic Thunder open house is happening this summer. One aspect left to highlight is that during the AFN convention in the fall, Bill Hest, a great Alaska photographer had profiles of Alaska native veterans. Those

will be on display in a hanger in an open house. Joy hopes you come and honor them with JBER. Arctic Thunder Open House returns this summer July 20-21, more information at <https://www.arctictThunderopenhouse.com/>

JBER switched from iSportsman to the RecAccess platform last summer. The RecAccess Platform is web based and defines how you can get into and out of the training areas for recreation. There are now three recreation areas, up from two. The platform has geolocation capabilities so JBER will know where to find you if you need help. Joy is happy to answer any questions. <https://jber.recaccess.com/>

**Carl Jacobs, ASD Board:** On SB140, the failure of override of veto could affect ASD's budget. ASD did predict a \$100 base student allocation increase. The predicted increase is 1/3 of that publicly supported by the governor and is 1/6 of what is publicly supported, including 93% of the vote of the legislature. There are conversations ongoing from districts across the state to address funding with the legislature. The ASD budget adopted roughly \$6M in budget decrease related to reduced district administration. Roughly 94% of ASD budget goes to everything but administration. The budget that Carl sponsored added back funding for Ignite, language immersion programs, reduced class sizes, and added a couple school counselors for South and Eagle River High Schools. The board committed to revisit the budget with full insight of what the legislature does prior to them gaveling out later this year. The board will have another meeting on or before June 15 or so to potentially revise the ASD budget.

The board has been focused on student outcomes for reading proficiency and college and career life readiness. The board looked at in depth reading data obtained from local education and support staff professionals. While ASD students start roughly 10 points behind their national peers, growth between K-3 in reading is over two times the national average and makes a good case for extended pre-k and continuing to reduce class sizes and funnel resources into classrooms.

**David Christal, Barlett Area Principal Group:** Barlett girls basketball team made the state tournament but lost their first game. Target allowed our school to pick out clothing, about \$1,500 was donated and we'll be giving it out next year to students in need. Staffing is a big challenge and there are 58 openings for next school year. There are 128 current openings for paraprofessionals. Because it's a continuing matter on the NECC Agenda, it's important to point out we serve 260 kids that lost their housing or are homeless this year, so people are aware.

At Creekside Elementary there is a playground to be installed this summer. In doing so the cost is quite expensive. Ground material is \$5 per square foot. We have put forward grants to support it. There is a glider for kids with mobility issues, but the cost to buy it and ship it is \$40,000. We applied for a grant through the Anchorage Parks Foundation, however, Creekside Elementary did not get it because it is not a municipal park. Anchorage Parks Foundation did encourage the community to submit grants for it at Creekside Park next to the school. Creekside is also starting a preschool program, and this is being done through school, instead of through Head Start like in the past. Now school kids, aged 4-5, in the area will qualify for it. On April 11<sup>th</sup> families can come into the school at 2:30 and 5:30 and Creekside will have information on it.

**Maureen, Rotary Club of Anchorage Gateway:** Maureen is the former librarian at Muldoon Elementary and is now a member of Rotary Club of Anchorage Gateway and the club has been focusing the last 15 years on the school of Muldoon. With the 21<sup>st</sup> century after school program the rotary program reads with kids and the thrust is to have adult mentors work with students and see children blossom. The children's confidence is improving and we have a Denali reading challenge. The challenge is that they read to the top of Denali. They do it as a team. This encourages independent reading and teamwork. A 4-5 classroom has reached Denali 3 times. One cool thing is that if a team made it to the top, Rotary Club of Anchorage Gateway makes a donation to Children's Lunchbox. Therefore the children are reading for our community. Rotary Club is small but robust. Every other Friday at 1pm the Rotary Club meets at Kava's, there is fellowship and Maureen asked to please come and join the Rotary Club.

### Committee Updates – 2 min

**Lyn Franks, CIP Committee:** The legislature has the NECC CIP list and we don't really know yet what is going to be funded. We'll wait for the legislature to see what we have. After April the CIP Committee will meet as that is when the new CIP lists come out. Per Rep. Donna Mears, money is really tight right now.

**Stu Grenier, Parks and Trails committee:** Stu got a phone call and email from the Nature Conservancy. Stu gave a heads up to others and put out some suggestions on facebook for a trail at Chanshtnu Muldoon Park and there were some other suggestions. Someone suggested a bike ramp at Creekside and Stu suggested some things at Centennial Park. The idea that got traction is the trail on the north side of Chester Creek of Chanshtnu Muldoon Park and a trail along creek and the lip of the beaver pond. I want to thank Dave Weber for putting the paperwork together to submit the grant application. There is also a grant to remove chokecherry trees.

April 22<sup>nd</sup> we'll hear about the case on if people can camp on public property. Once they say they can't camp on public property Stu would like to find the homeless a place to be and have public parks back.

**Selina Metoyer, Picnic Committee:** For the June 8<sup>th</sup> Picnic Selina sent in the letter of intent. We should hear back and get the permit by the end of the week and plan on what else we want to do. You do not have to be a board member to chair or be part of a committee.

**Steve Johnson, Marijuana and Alcohol Committee Chair:** Thanked Pastor English for speaking to what is happening literally 3 blocks away from where the NECC meeting is. Brown Jug has a license renewal with several



stores and it will be a good opportunity to talk to them. It may be helpful for finding a workable solution for people living next to the building and people involved in the problem and what they can do.

We have another alcohol renewal and one with Samurai Sushi. They are changing the license from one to another person within their organization, so nothing is really changing with that.

We have had a Title 4 rewrite coming in. Apparently during COVID it was authorized to take alcohol to people's houses and that has ended. The House will have a bill to discuss that issue again. It will be another week or two till we find out more. Otherwise it is quiet on the Marijuana and Alcohol front.

**David Ulmer:** Has there been any updates on the planned Baltazar Marijuana shop?

**Steve Johnson:** Not that I have heard of, it has been going very slow.

### **Presentations: (5 mins)**

#### **Conditional Use Permit for a Permanent Snow Disposal Site**

**Craig Bennett, S4 Group, and Marc Cottini, Civil Engineer of Quest Engineering:** There is a conditional use permit being worked on for a snow disposal site that requires a community input process. The permit would allow a snow site permit granted for 5-10 years. We are looking at creating two different properties from the existing one and vacating a sewer easement in the middle of the property that doesn't have any sewer infrastructure in it. The location of the proposed snow site is just to the north of the intersection at Debarr and Boniface, behind the gas station.

Craig has to work out with traffic and the State on getting trucks in and out and he has to work out with the State since they are State roads. It would most likely be "right in, right out" for the trucks.

Marc noted the guys that drive the trucks usually start up after everyone gets home, the trucks work at night, and get off the road before everyone else gets on the road. The landowner of the coffee shop near the site has other lots he is looking to move the coffee shop to.

Craig noted the whole lot is about 6.5 acres.

**Brandon Nordy:** How much snow capacity do we need?

**Craig Bennett:** Every year is different. Right now there are trucks going all the way out to Eagle River to dump snow, so this will help address that. The legal description of the parcel is Tract A2, Addition #2 Subdivision.

**Charles England:** Do you know what drainage issues that will cause?

**Marc Cottini:** There will be an engineering firm that will design it. It will most likely drain to the storm drain near Boniface. The city looks at this and requires it. This landowner is also concerned about the homeless issue and there have been some crimes and the city will require a fence.

**David Ulmer:** On the east side of the parcel, how close does it come to the houses?

Marc and Craig answered David's question.

**Craig Bennet:** The Muni will send out flyers for a public meeting that will likely happen in July. The Muni has to schedule the meeting.

**Marc Cottini:** We will be in the back to answer questions. Marc left his contact information:

P.O. Box 210863 Anchorage, AK 99521

Phone: 907-561-6530

Fax: 866-267-7972

Cell: 907-727-9450

[MarcCottini@QuestEngineers.com](mailto:MarcCottini@QuestEngineers.com)

#### **Old Business (Limit 6 min/item including discussion)**

**Ron Meehan:** We will have two different resolutions on the table. Right now, we are not voting on any of these until the new voting procedures are finalized. How this will work: Members will check in at the sign in table by Pamela Raygor or another member of the board. We will vote by acclamation and if there is any opposition, we will go to a roll call vote. These are new procedures being finalized. There is no change to the bylaws.

**Nathan Martin:** Can you explain what you mean by a new voting procedure being finalized? Is there a change to the bylaws? I don't understand if there is an establishment of procedures, and if that is something where we could establish a special meeting to discuss it?

**Ron Meehan:** We are just making sure every single person voting is a resident, owning property, or part of a non-profit. There are no new voting procedures, it is simply putting a process in place and having the capacity to do that.

There was further discussion between Ron Meehan, Pamela Raygor, Nathan Martin, and Kyle Rehberg regarding the resolutions on the prior agenda as new business and that they are now old business, and voting procedure, and

Robert's Rules, and that there needs to be a motion to suspend a voting procedure by 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote. Ultimately it was determined there was nothing preventing the council from moving forward with voting at this time.

### [Opposition to Boundary Avenue East Extension Resolution](#)

**Stu Grenier:** Stated he can tell you about the process of the Fire Bond from what he observed and the Fire Department doesn't talk to neighborhoods. The fire department never came to the community and we ended up with Bonds on the ballot that have not been vetted by the community. The Fire Bond needed something in the bond and Boundary Avenue was put in it. Stu is asking just for the Muni to give us a plan and that's the problem. If a plan is not shown we should say no and remove it from the CIP list.

**Lyn Franks:** It's been very easy to take hands in the past for voting. Now because of an increase in attendance, which is great, we need to follow our own rules and do things according to what our regulations say for voting. There are certain criteria that need to be met and there are even people on Zoom we are trying to verify that we can't verify very well. We are going to have it where we are more organized for voting.

**Jeremy Henry:** I do believe these meetings are to better serve people in the community. We deserve to know the money supposed to be helping people. We should know who is taking our money and who is in charge of the remaining money. Jeremy is in favor of anything that will help the people.

**Nathan Martin:** Could there be something added to the resolution that requests accountability and that we don't know what happened to these funds and ask for the accountability. Is that something the sponsor would want to amend in writing?

**Stu Griener:** Will work with Nathan to figure out what is add. It would also be great to put the answer to the question. Stu believes the money for the Boundary Ave extension went into a slush fund and it then buys fire boots and fixes tires on firetrucks and funds cutting dead trees down. Std said that seems to be the way the Muni works.

Also we didn't have our board meeting until Saturday and that is another reason why Stu doesn't want to vote on this. The system is not ready. The NECC executive board looked at the records and people not in the area were voting. Stu feels comfortable with tabling the resolution and giving assembly members time to answer. It's very suspicious that we have not seen the plan. We are trying to make government work here and nobody at this council meeting is paid, it's all volunteer time, and we are the ones that are blowing the whistles.

### [Muldoon Perimeter Fire Safety Road Resolution](#)

**Stu Griener:** The resolution is to support a fire road like the road that is the Chugach foothills trail on the Tudor Muldoon curve. We need one of those protecting the East side of our neighborhood. We passed a resolution a few months ago adjusting the boundary between the civilian area and the base. We are just asking for a fire road and it will state that we, as a community, will go in this direction respectfully.

**Stephanie Taylor:** Part of the confusion here is that the board met late in the month and it might have been more prudent to put the resolutions as new business. The implication is that if it's old business then we are ready to deal with it.

**Ron Meehan:** Ron stated he had food poisoning and the NECC executive board could not get together and Ron is not sure what happened with the rest of the board. The rest of the board was not able to put together an agenda within the appropriate timeline. We were only four board members a few months ago. We understand council member concerns and we want to make it as transparent as possible.

**Stephanie Taylor:** What is frustrating is that several months ago the pot shop thing came up and several people were concerned that people voted that weren't qualified to vote and it's a different approach now.

**Ron Meehan:** The reason we are doing this is because of the concerns. Once this new voting process is in place that is what we will use for all future matters going forward so there are no resolutions that are treated differently than others.

**Lyn Franks:** We met late in the month as well because the FCC Zoom was an issue that our Vice President was working on. We apologize but there were circumstances that were beyond the board's control.

**Pamela:** I can understand people's concerns and I assure you that there is nothing behind the scenes. Pam came onto the board not too much earlier than the Baltazar issue and the board is trying to figure out how to validate people and make sure they are able to vote in this area. Pam takes voting integrity very seriously and when issues come up people have to deal with it as best they can. There is a transition at the FCC and they are having issues with their zoom and it is difficult to track these things and we are trying to figure out a way to vote that is clear and concise.

**David Ulmer motioned to table Opposition to Boundary Avenue East Extension Resolution and Muldoon Perimeter Fire Safety Road Resolution till next month. Selina Metoyer seconded. None opposed. Resolutions tabled till next month.**

**Nathan Martin:** Appreciates the board sharing reasons for not voting tonight because we don't know what is going on. In terms of new voting procedures and wanting them and wanting them for a while, it would be nice to be brought into that conversation. From a justice perspective, getting notified 1 ½ hr before a meeting that voting procedures would be changing put council members on guard. It feels abrupt and last minute. If there is a plan on changing then there would be a systematic way and timeline to do this, so there is an expectation by the members of the council.

**Fran Gregorian:** Last time Ran was here with Balthazar coming in Fran asked if Fran should show identification or write her name down. The answer from NECC was that we do the honor system. Fran is glad we are getting rid of the honor system to show that we are eligible to vote and we are doing it with the IDs and figuring out who is eligible to vote.

## **New Business**

### **April Board Elections**

**Ron Meehan:** Board elections are happening in April. Currently A, B, and C are up for vote. They are held by Selina Metoyer, Lyn Franks, and a vacancy. They will be up for vote again in 2028. They are 3 year terms and you must have attended 3 of the last 6 meetings. You must not be in the same household as another board member and at least 18 years old. It is a great way to get involved in the community and meet new people and discuss important issues.

**Pamela Raygor, Murray Crooks, Stu Grenier, Elections Committee:** We cannot do in person voting only. There are a lot of complex things with Zoom and we are working on how to vote on zoom. We are taking nominations at this time. If you would like to give your name to the board officers or submit a name, or volunteer, please send it to the NECC email ([northeastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:northeastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com)) and we will take the nominations to the April meeting and we will have a ballot vote at the April meeting

**Charles England:** Nominates Selina Metoyer

**Selina Metoyer:** Accepts

**Stephanie Taylor:** Nominates herself

**Stephanie Taylor:** Accepts

**Murray Crookes:** Nominates Nathan Martin

**Nathan Martin:** Accepts

**Ron Meehan:** Nominates Lyn Franks

**Lyn Franks:** Accepts

**Robert Tedrick:** Does "not being at the same household" mean the same address or that you cannot be a family member or another board member?

**Ron Meehan:** The bylaws say you cannot be in the same household.

**Selina Metoyer:** We had two family members on the board a few years ago and it wreaked havoc. There was a change to the bylaws after that.

**Ron Meehan:** We have four candidates right now and the top 3 vote getters would get one of the three seats (A,B,C)

### **Homelessness in East Anchorage**

**Karen Bronga:** The Mayor has proposed a new abatement policy for this coming summer. Shelters are extended to the end of May and there is no plan for organized camps, which Karen is disappointed to hear. The plan is to tighten up where people cannot go. AO24-2026 is the mayor's plan and he is focusing on downtown and making sure the downtown is attractive to tourists and residents. There is no camping within all of downtown. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue site is slated to be an exclusive RV park and won't get going this summer but the mayor is hoping that will discourage further camping. There will be no camping with 10 blocks of a homeless shelter. We are trying to keep drug activity down around them. There will be no camping within 100 feet from stream, trail, powerbox, and Karen asked to add 100 feet from a playground, a sports field, and a recreation center.

The mayor along with the homeless coordinator are looking at designating reserved spots for people to live in their car. Karen is frustrated because if we have that then we could have some organized sites with a dumpster and outhouse we would be a lot better off. Karen put in for amendments related to the camping sites but it's unlikely they will make it in.

Chanshtnu Park's hill will be within 100 feet of a stream. Of course, the issue is enforcement. The April 22<sup>nd</sup> decision that Stu Griener mentioned will influence a lot of what we can do for public spaces and camping. But it won't fix the homeless issue because where will they go?

They are talking about a pallet community at someone's private property and permitting for that. Central Lutheran is busily making designs for little shelters and are putting 5 showers in the parking lot with outhouses. St. John's United Methodist is working with them and there are other churches out there.

Karen is requesting next meeting the NECC council pass a resolution that it wants public spaces for the good of all. Karen is concerned that if we clear all homeless out of downtown then they will move to the NECC area.

**Ron Meehan:** We had a resolution a year ago that is very similar to what Karen is suggesting.

Karen is leaving what her draft document says for NECC. Karen did not know how powerful community council voices were until Karen was working on a parking project in Stuckagain Heights and the city wanted to know the community is behind it. There will be a 24hr abatement and it will be very important we have signs up before shelters set loose.

And it will be very important that we kindly make sure where they can't be and direct them to places that will be more suitable.

**Stephanie Taylor:** When is the assembly going to move forward with the navigation center? The navigation center is the best plan to move forward. The assembly refuses to move forward with it.

**Karen Bronga:** The issue is the price blossom, \$8M - \$25M is the price for it. On top of that 1,000 people put together is not a solution. 300 people at 3<sup>rd</sup> avenue was unmanageable. 1,000 in a dome tent is a nightmare. There is someone asking to get the tent out of storage and asking to make his own shelter and provide vocational training. On the North Slope they put one of these up for \$25,000 so Karen doesn't understand the cost of the dome shelter.

**Micheal Patterson:** The rhetoric and language used to describe people that are dealing with houselessness is dehumanizing. A disproportionate number of people houseless are Alaska Native. This is their homeland though. They are trying to clear people out. Abatements are not nice and Micheal was there with assembly member Martinez when a shootout happened. When Micheal was asking the unhoused about where they were staying they said they like centennial because "we get a minute to catch our breath". Michael is confused about Karen's desired amendments mentioned earlier. Micheal asked that people speak kindly about human beings and stated criminalizing homelessness does not work and it is disappointing to hear what is coming out of this council.

**Karen Bronga:** Thanked Micheal for the reminder and stated we do need a place where people can catch their breath.

**Cynthia Gachupin:** Recently purchased a home on the east side, last year. Cynthia stated with all these prohibitions where people can't stay and the signage, this is not going to change where people stay for the night. For what Karen was talking about earlier and solving the issue is opening up properties, this is part of solving the long-term homelessness issue. Cynthia works with the homeless often. Nobody prefers people camping, it's just the options they have. Cynthia encourages the assembly to make the changes long term wise.

**Karen:** We funded a program, Next Step. We have had 78 people go through this program and it is hugely successful. It is far cheaper than people being in a shelter. It gives people dignity and we need more of it.

#### **Community Announcements**

None.

**Ron Meehan adjourned the meeting at 9:19PM**

**Upcoming NECC meeting: April 18, 2024 next Executive Board meeting is April 4, 2024.**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Dave Weber, Secretary**