

# NECC

## Northeast Community Council      General Meeting Minutes August 19, 2021

Call to order: 703

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Introduction of the Board

- **Board members present:** T'Shalla Baker, Judy Jessen, Rachel Boudreau, Rick Phillips, Bob Reupke FCC, Donna Mears, Stu Grenier, Lyn Franks, Selina Metoyer
  - 24 participants at 805
- **Board members absent:**
- Motion to approve agenda:
  - Two items to change by Donna:
    - One change-Request the assembly updates prior to the state reps
    - One addition Traffic calming resolution requested to present
  - Seconded by Dave Ulmer
  - Agenda is approved as amended
  - (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd9dhfsk6m0DZ93-lz-7-UPdtwuA6CGuRiVpbkLDStBA28Dog/viewform>)

### Board Update

- **Treasurer's Report:** \$TBA

### FCC Update-

- No FCC this month.

### Community Concerns

- Narcan Training in Loussac Library on Friday, August 20th from 1-3.

### Legislative Reports

- **Senator Wielechowski via Nate Graham (aide)**
  - An appropriations bill was put forth today, looking for a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote for vetoes.
  - Working groups started on Monday. Was disappointed that there were no revenues mentioned.
  - Does not believe the senator would support a sales tax nor does he believe that it would be introduced. Holland clarified that there might be a 2-4% sales tax are on the table, not income tax though.
  
- **Senator Holland, District N**

- The working group has been positive and they have a rough framework together. The bill put out today, they can likely veto in regard to WWAMI, scholarships and a couple of other items. Unsure what will end up happening.
- [Sen.Roger.Holland@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Roger.Holland@akleg.gov) or 907-351-8277 Cell/text
- **Representative Nelson:**
  - Has been working all week, and there is a comprehensive working group plan right now.
  - New census data has been released recently, Anchorage has gone in population, possible talk of redistricting and/or losing a seat. They will find out next month.
- **Representative Snyder:**
  - Looking forward to working on the budget and wrapping it up.
  - Sent out paper newsletter for a survey and are waiting for more responses.
  - 907-903-5799, [rep.liz.snyder@akleg.gov](mailto:rep.liz.snyder@akleg.gov)
- **Representative Spohnholz:**
  - In the middle of the special session (this is the 3rd one this year). Called in to work on amending the constitution; spending cap and PFD dividend. Working to close the fiscal gap.
  - Dividends was added to the special session this afternoon and hoping to vote on that very quickly as well as WWAMI, and special scholarships within the next week.
  - Hoping for \$1100--\$1300 dividend this year that would be balanced.
  - [rep.ivy.spohnholz@akleg.gov](mailto:rep.ivy.spohnholz@akleg.gov) or 269-0123

### **Assembly Report:**

- **Assemblyperson Dunbar and Petersen:**
  - Finance committee met today. All taxes are ahead of projections (property is close to projection. Alcohol tax is projected to bring in \$1million more than expected.
  - Concerns regarding the PFD garnishments and the amount of money that comes in with that.
  - Muni budget is about where it is expected to be sans the health department per Covid this past year, however there are federal funds to cover that. Fire and police are projected to go over, which can be typical.
  - Ordinance to notify community council of changing street names.
  - Community enterprise meeting today (Colby Hickel). The mayor is opposed to does not intend to move forward with the stormwater utility. The mayor has also asked every department sans police and fire to find %5 to cut. Including the port, and enterprise utilities, where places actually generate their own funds.
  - Forrest has been fielding a number of calls regarding speed bumps, Tim Myland is no longer with the department in this work.
  - Over a dozen confirmation hearings for the new mayor and a couple more.
  - 343-6343 call for pothole repair.

- **Assemblyperson Allard: Not present**
- **Assemblyperson Kennedy: Not present**

### **Community Leadership Updates**

- Anchorage School Board
  - Dora Wilson
  - Worked through the summer to work on their Guardrails: reading and math proficiency, college and career readiness
  - Return to school guidelines.
    - [www.asdk12.org/schoolstart](http://www.asdk12.org/schoolstart)
    - [www.asdk12.org/Page/18195](http://www.asdk12.org/Page/18195)
  - wilson\_dora@asdk12.org / 907-742-1101 ext. 4
- JBER - Joy Boston via email
  - Reinstated mask wear on base; masks required indoors regardless of vaccination status
  - Boniface gate is open, Muldoon gate hours now M-F 6am-10pm, weekends 9am-10pm
  - August 12-27 - Red Flag-Alaska Exercise with 1,800 service members operating, maintaining and supporting over 80 aircraft from JBER and Eielson, including the Royal Australian Air Force and their F-35s
  - September 10, 11am-12pm - 9/11 20th anniversary remembrance ceremony at Arctic Warrior chapel; livestream at <https://m.facebook.com/JBERChaplain/>
  - September 19 - 9th Army Band performing at UAA Alaska Airlines Center grand re-opening
  - Arctic Studies will be coming to town, this is a first of its kind.
  - Lots of information on the JBER Connect app  
<http://apps.appmachine.com/jberconnect>
  - Any questions or concerns, contact me, Joy Boston - Community Partnerships at JBER at [joy.boston.2@us.af.mil](mailto:joy.boston.2@us.af.mil)
- Library Jim
  - The library is being used again.
  - There is going to be a library card drive in September and looking to add around 1,000 members.
  - APL is applying for grant for a mobile library, this will allow more access in other parts of town for youth and elderly.
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### **Presentations:**

### **New Business:**

- Chokecherry removal & replacement planting bounty
  - In an effort to control the spread of these species, the Alaska Division of Forestry Community Forestry Program and Forest Stewardship Program are offering

assistance to Municipality of Anchorage homeowners who choose to remove these trees from their property and replace them with a suitable alternative. Eligible landowners may apply for a \$100.00 voucher for the purchase of a replacement tree from a local nursery.

- This program is currently only available to residents of the Municipality of Anchorage.
- If you have a *Prunus* tree that you would like to remove and replace, complete the application at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JPKNZNZ>. Community Forestry staff will visit your property and determine that your tree is eligible.
- Motion for FTA Grant Application Letter of Support due August 30
  - Would like to do a study in the Muldoon/Debarr area and are looking to get input from the community for the design ideas. Already have some letters of support from others and are looking for a letter of support from the NECC.
  - Library Jim expressed support via Sami Graham (library director) for the transit hub in regard to the bringing patrons to the library and the future possibility of housing the library.
  - Selina also expressed safety concerns in the area and was wondering if a police substation would be placed there. There was no word yet, but they were still working on figuring out co-placement options.
  - Resolution: Motion by Donna, seconded by Dave.
    - **WHEREAS**, public transportation is vital to many northeast Anchorage community members;
    - **WHEREAS**, northeast Anchorage is positioned to be a hub for commuters coming into Anchorage from points North along the Glenn Highway;
    - **WHEREAS**, members of the community, through the NECC, are interested in being involved in the process for developing a public transportation facility;
    - **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**,
    - We, the Northeast Community Council, move to resolve to support the Municipality of Anchorage Public Transportation Department to apply for \$450,000 in FY 2021 Federal Transit Administration 5325(a) Areas of Persistent Poverty competitive grant funds for a planning study for a mixed use, transit oriented development.
    - Votes for: 11    Votes Against: 1    Abstain: 3
    - Motion passes
- **Boundary Trail Resolution**
  - Dave Ulmer shared some history and background regarding the intention of being able to get the bike trails connected.
  - Rep Nelson said he can bring it up to the commander and share that the community is behind it. He can get the meetings going. Pete Petersen also suggested forwarding to the mayor who is retired air force. Also send to the governor's office.
  - Motioned by Dave, Seconded by Selina.
  - Resolution
    - **WHEREAS**, a high priority for the NECC is trail connectivity, as documented in previous resolutions and comments as recent as the AMATS Non-Motorized Plan this year;

- **WHEREAS**, trail enthusiasts' and the NECC have been trying for years to get a trail through JBER that connects east Anchorage to the Glenn Hwy trail. Others have been trying to get a trail parallel and east of the JBER split rail fence. At the start of planning for the Chanshtnu Muldoon Park talk about the trails renewed and is continuing today;
- **WHEREAS**, NECC would like to see 300' of JBER property be utilized for this connector trail. The trail would be near the eastern edge of the 300' to be far enough away from home owners along the split rail fence. The land has plenty of trees to block the view between homeowners and trail users;
- **WHEREAS**, NECC would like the State of Alaska to consider trading ½ mile 2,640' of State park land and add that land onto the eastern edge of JBER. That is a 8.8 to 1 trade;
- **WHEREAS**, the NECC would like the State of Alaska to negotiate with JBER on behalf of this project;
- **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the NECC requests that the State of Alaska passes and presents to JBER a land swap between the State of Alaska & JBER. JBER would give Anchorage Alaska, from the split rail fence, their western border, and to the east 300' of land for the use of a paved trail/bike path only. From the southern end this 300' would start from the Tudor/Muldoon curve area and continue north to the Glenn Hwy, approximately 19,350 feet in length. At the Glenn Hwy the trail would continue east, close to the Glenn, for approximately 3,350' to Ship Creek where it would the pass under the Glenn Hwy and connect to the existing bike trail along the Glenn Hwy. In return the State of Alaska would give to JBER ½ mile, 2,640' of state land to add on to their eastern border. An 8.8 to 1 trade.
- Votes for: 11      Votes Against: 2      Abstain: 4
- Motion Passes

- **Identifying alleys for future paving project**

- It has been brought up that alley's will be paved in the northeast area, if there are any places that people would like paved to please share that input with the NECC or Donna.
- Possible North/South of Old Harbor and the school located there.

- **Traffic Calming Resolution**

- Donna shared the resolution on the screen and expressed that one of the biggest complaints that residents bring to the NECC is traffic calming. This is the first step, there will need to be more support moving forward, this will just get the ball rolling. Education, engineering, and enforcement.
- Donna made a motion, Melissa seconded
- Resolution:
  - **WHEREAS**, the number one item on the NECC Capital Improvement Project list is again traffic calming.
  - **WHEREAS**, the highest priority is roads around elementary schools, in our area several of the elementary schools have the majority of the children walking to school;
  - **WHEREAS**, the following roads have been identified by community members for traffic calming:

- Duben Avenue (Grand Larry), 6th Avenue - Cherry to Oklahoma (6th & Oklahoma intersection), 4th Avenue between Boniface & Newell Street, Patterson between DeBarr and Sherwood, State St. btw E 20th & E. 16th, Parkway Drive from Muldoon to E. 18th, Augustine Drive, Elmrich subdivision (Trafford Lane, Dickerson Drive, 2nd Avenue, and Fern Street), Staedem Drive, Whisperingwood Park Drive & MacArthur Place, Rebel Ridge Drive, and East 20th, east of Muldoon.
- **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the NECC recommends these roads to be evaluated, and traffic calming measures implemented for the above mentioned areas.
- Votes for: 16    Votes Against: 1    Abstain: 0
- Motion passes

- **Public Notices:**

**Old Business:**

- none

**Committees Updates:**

- Community garden going in in September

**Business conducted between NECC members and Muni:**

Minutes Approval: June

Donna made a motion, Selina Seconded

Motion to adjourn at 9:07 pm