

Minutes

Northeast Community Council (NECC)

May 16, 2024 | 7pm

Creekside Park Elementary- Gymnasium

7500 E 6th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99504

Board Members Present

Ron Meehan, President | **Murray Crookes**, Vice President | **Dave Weber**, Secretary | **John Cunningham**, Treasurer | **Nate Martin**, Parliamentarian | **Stephanie Taylor**, Member | **Pamela Raygor**, Member | **Stu Grenier**, Member

40~ people in the room and online

Ron Meehan called the meeting to order at 7:01PM and provided a land acknowledgement.

Pledge of Allegiance – Nate Martin

Board Roll Call – Murray Crookes

Minutes Approval: April

Stephanie Taylor moves to approve, Dave Ulmer seconds. None opposed. April General Meeting Minutes are approved.

Treasurer's Update

John Cunningham: Reported \$1,714.60 in the bank account as of May 15, 2024.

FCC Report

Pamela Raygor: Read the following report:

Anchorage Assembly: Upcoming Tuesday's Assembly meeting (1) liquor samplings – 16 liquor stores, (2) introduction of new proposed bonds, (3) authorization of bonds, (4) Agenda Item 14N abatement code – also spoke to the issue of enforcement teams, (5) runoff election – cured ballot deadline May 29, (6) proposed change of CIP timeline still a work in progress – deadline remains the same for now – the goal is to have reports provided at or near the beginning of legislative session verse the end.

Anchorage School Board: No member present – all involved in graduations. However, there is serious consideration by the School Board to discontinue the requirement to attend Community Council meetings due to the burden of time and commitment.

Anchorage Protected Bike Lane Pilot Study: Phase II, May – September through downtown 6th to A St. Townsquare kick-off event May 31st 4:45-5:30pm.

Anchorage Affordable Housing and Land Trust: The Trust focuses on removing barriers to accommodate a range of needs. Current properties managed are Guest House on 5th Avenue, Lakehouse and Barratt in Spenard, a total of 271 units. Property management, security 24/7, and client assistance is available. Approximately 10-15% failure rate.

FCC Elections: Amanda Moser (Airport Heights), President; Daniel George (Mt View CC), Vice President; Mike Edgington (Girdwood), Treasurer; Evan Leaf (Sand Lake), Secretary.

Treasurer Report: Noted that the accounts are stable. Budgeting considerations are new staffing, training, website update, and long overdue audit.

FCC discussion considering a June meeting and a July event/picnic. A June FCC Delegates meeting will be scheduled and noticed via email to councils as soon as possible.

Community Council Roundtable Northeast CC reported: Elections held, filled all NECC Board seats. June 8th NECC Community Picnic, May 17th NECC meeting, and next NECC meeting August 15th.

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

Anne Billman: Is a volunteer with Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District (ASWCD). Anne is here to enlist help to preserve natural resources that need to be cherished. ASWCD received a small forest grant from the Anchorage Parks Foundation to help people remove Chokecherry, Mayday, and Bird Cherry trees from their private properties. Anne is also looking for volunteers to remove these trees in parks.

CONTACT: Phone 907-903-4779 Email: ASLBILLMAN@gmail.com

Nate Martin: Pamela mentioned the School Board's proposed change in requirements to attend community council meetings during her FCC report. This afternoon we were able to draft a resolution for NECC regarding changes in the school board requirements. Nate can send the draft resolution via email for any feedback/amendments, etc and it will be available on the NECC website for viewing. Nate read the draft resolution. Nate stated there is a provision in the bylaws to vote on a pressing matter and asked the council how they would like to proceed with a vote.

Ron Meehan: Do we know when the School Board is planning to put the changes in effect?

Pamela Raygor: The School Board was not in attendance at the FCC meeting and therefore did not discuss the timing of the changing of the School Board bylaws. It does appear to be on a fast track to be approved. If we can hold on this until we see what it looks like the next School Board meeting agenda that would be best.

Ron Meehan: And in order to vote and ensure people have had time to see the resolution we would have to hold a separate meeting.

Miles Brodsky: Has been in Alaska the last 3 years with his wife, Mary McCulken, and loves living in the community. Miles works at JBER, Recuse at the Air National Guard and wife is a Nurse Practitioner at Southcentral Foundation. Miles and his wife love biking and biking 365 days a year. Miles thinks about the council everyday when he uses the Muldoon bike path over the highway and acknowledges the work the council did a long time ago to advocate for that. One thing the east side could use is more connectedness to the bike trails in the city. Miles supports the JBER Muldoon Perimeter Fire Safe Road resolution that is proposed on the agenda and thinks it will make a great trail. More importantly it will provide a fire break for a fire emergency so we are better prepared for a wildfire near the community, which hopefully never happens. Miles hopes a proposed bike trail along JBER moves forward.

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

Rachel Gunn, Staff to Rep. Stanley Wright: There were some incredible wins at the finish line of the legislative session and Rachel appreciates Ron Meehan for his help on food security. We passed HB 126, which is an associate counselor designation. We heard from therapists all over Alaska that they were having too many counseling interns that had completed post graduate work within their degree program but weren't able to bill medical services for it. There was a counselor in Rep. Wright's district that said passing the bill would allow 100 patients off the waitlist and allow associate counselors to achieve a license time that will allow them to bill for their work. With that we were able to pass HB 57 into the bill, and allow EMS workers to engage in frank discussions to approve future outcomes. We found that entire EMS departments across the state did not keep written records out of fear of litigation. So now in quality assurance meetings they can keep written records to improve patient outcomes.

Rep. Wright was able to secure over \$2M for key capital projects in the district such as Creekside Park pathway improvements, Turpin Park improvements, Russian Jack parks improvements.

Rep. Wright secured funding for schools for Alaska literacy programs, Shylo Community Development, Jack and Jill, Omega Psi Phi, and Bartlett High School Baseball scoreboard. The Bartlett High School scoreboard has been on the list for a long time.

It was a long hard battle but Rep. Wright's office is proud of this session and we hope you continue to reach out and engage on issues.

Rep. Wright is sorry he cannot be at this meeting, he is at his daughter's graduation.

CONTACT: Phone: 907-465-2095, Email: rep.stanleywright@akleg.gov

Ron Meehan: Thanks Rep. Cliff and Wright who helped pass broad based categorical eligibility to significantly improve SNAP administration which is a huge priority for the Alaska Food Coalition and Food Bank of Alaska. In essence it eliminates the asset testing which is notoriously error prone and time consuming and will save money verifying this information and allows working families to access that program.

Rep. Cliff Groh: The legislative session for the House ended at 1:22am. Cliff characterizes the legislative session as a mixed bag. We passed a balanced and fiscally responsible budget. It includes major allocations to education, energy, food security, childcare, and critical infrastructure. There was a surplus which will allow us to add up to \$180M savings depending on oil prices. There was a one time \$175M increase for K-12 schools. It's equivalent to a \$680 increase to the BSA student allocation. There was more than more than \$5M to help struggling readers in the school system. The dividend will be \$1,360, plus a \$295 energy relief payment. Eligible Alaskans will receive a \$1,655 dividend in total.

Some issues that were important. We got \$1M for statewide contracted snow removal. Additionally, we got money allocated to the Central Region of Alaska to hire snow plow mechanics and operators. We were able to get \$4M as a grant to anchorage to help continue operations of the homeless shelter on E 56th Ave. We also got a crime bill passed that will make it possible for crime survivors to not testify to a grand jury and only testify as needed at the trial.

We had missed opportunities though. The state has a mismatch between needs and revenues. The deficit is over \$1B a year and the projected deficit gets worse each year. Cliff tried to increase legislative oversight of the permanent fund. We also need to help public sector workers. It has enormous turnover, and we need a better compensation plan. We need more K-12 funding to stop a decline in our public schools. Cliff wants students to have the same

opportunities he had. Cliff will come back to his Anchorage office next week and it is on the corner of Minnesota and Benson and will be there till the next legislative session. Cliff will host "Pancakes with Cliff" on Saturday June 1 and June 8 from 5-7 PM at Kava's. First short stack is on Cliff. Cliff is happy to answer any questions from the Council.

CONTACT: Phone: 907-952-3353, Email: Representative.Cliff.Groh@akleg.gov

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

Karen Bronga: In 2020 there was a serious fire at the landfill, and we are needing to fix it quick. This summer they will be excavating cell 9. It has been compacting for years and they are digging it out. The old dump at Merrill Field is also leaking out this winter and they are seeing what they need to do about that. And Solid Waste Services has to replace the roof on the shelter on E 56th.

Karen has been digging into the problems in our parks. Karen has started a program called "kindness camps". For these camps nonprofits and church lots will be allowed 3 tents, and the shelter offered to handpicked clients that would do well on the church or nonprofit lots. However, we have yet to find anyone eligible. If it works, it could be an important step. Karen would love to see a different place for people to go. Housing is ultimately the answer, but right now we are not even close.

The 2nd thing we are going to do this summer is safe parking. The city's homeless coordinator had not been working on them yet because the coordinator was working on kindness camps and other things going on. There were supposed to be 4 sites that hold 25 cars, and there would be outhouses and dumpsters for those who are car camping.

At the next housing and homeless meeting, the abatement ordinance will roll back. Karen is disappointed the ordinance did not pass last meeting. The proposed ordinance has now been softened up a little bit. It previously said no one could camp downtown and that is a special area. But there was concern as to why downtown is more important vs Northeast and other areas. It still will have protected areas for 72 hour abatement of 100 feet of body of water, 100 from a trail, construction zone, daycares and private property.

Even Houston, which is the city leaders' favorite model, does not allow camping during the day. Houston has a dawn to dusk rule whereby tents must be taken down and moved at dawn.

The strategic plan committee has finalized the steps to disseminate the alcohol tax dollars. We have a plan that will allow some big, small, and multi-year grants using the money. We floated the plan we had to the assembly last week.

George Martinez: Is glad to see the community council vibrant.

There has been some concern about the speed of motorized bicycles on the two-way trails. Some of the bicycles are going extremely fast and we need a framework so we can all use our trails safely.

With transportation George appreciates the call for action around biking said earlier in the council meeting. Bicycles are an important part of transportation, but we are the most densely populated part of Anchorage and we have the majority of the working families in our community. Public transportation is critical to our community and People Mover told us there will be a transit hub in East Anchorage as part of an opportunity zone they will be advancing. People Mover is now talking to potential partners, such as the library, and development of a recreation center in East Anchorage. We are at the planning stages and we are considering the infrastructure needs and it is something that is really important to us.

Centennial Park is not 100% out of the woods in terms of being repurposed. George has seen across the assembly backchannels and other constituents have been promoting the same idea about using Centennial for a designated homeless camp. It wasn't right two years ago, and the community council needs to remain vigilant. George will continue to pay close attention to this.

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

Carl Jacobs, ASD Board: It is graduation season and Carl wants to congratulate every family that has a young person crossing for graduation. The legislative session has ended. There was a 1 time increase of \$100 base student allocation, however the legislature allowed for an amount about 6x times that at \$680. That should allow the district to reverse harmful cuts that would have had to occur. The board will be able to gather together after dust has settled and after the veto process in June and will evaluate options for allocating the additional funds this year and the next.

There have been significant developments in the primary initiatives at the district. There is a dedicated webpage set up, ASDK12.org/hottopics, to keep up with the latest on these initiatives.

There are two school board members that are interested in relaxing attendance requirements of community council meetings. The two board members are interested in removing the accountability measure whereby a school board member must attend a majority of assigned community council meetings or else cannot be an officer or committee chair the following year. The board members want to concentrate on attending council meetings at high activity times of the year. Carl Jacobs has reservations about that. Concerned persons can email the school board about that, schoolboard@asdk12.org.

Ron Meehan: We have a lot of concerns. We are looking to put forward a resolution that speaks to that. What is the timeline for that proposal?

Carl Jacobs: Has asked the sponsors of the proposal to table any action till August due to many councils taking a summer break. Carl hopes the school board will wait till August.

Ron Meehan: We can call an emergency meeting for our draft resolution against the change passed in a future June meeting..

Carl Jacobs: Carl does think if the council's resolution passes in August that would be timely still. If the council is willing to provide resolution sooner, that is better. Carl regrets that an emergency meeting would have to happen.

Selina Metoyer: Regarding the teacher shortage. Is ASD working with UAA to get more certifications in place so we can have more teachers coming out of UAA?

Carl Jacobs: There is a school board for each location in the state and then there is a state board. The state board decided to curtail UAA certifications due to problems identified at UAA. The state board recently allowed limited certification options for K-3. The UAA system certifies less than 100 teachers a year, which is a significant issue. The collaboration between the state board and the university system is above ASD. ASD has supported other pathways for staff to pursue certifications for staff that would otherwise not consider it.

CONTACT: Phone: 907-632-7285, Email: jacobs_carl@asdk12.org

David Christal, Creekside Elementary Principal, Bartlett Area Principal Group: Bartlett graduation was on Tuesday. There are a number of new principals for Bartlett, Begich, Ptarmigan, and Susitna. David doesn't have access to ASD data, but David does have access to Creekside Elementary. Creekside Kindergarteners started with 84% below the reading benchmark, they finished the year with 82% above the benchmark. We applied for a grant for summer school. Creekside summer school is May 28 to June 14 and will close the reading gap this year. Among other positive statistics from last year's summer school program 72% made a stretch reading goal. Creekside Elementary has partnered with the Chugach swim club and they are going to teach the kids to swim this summer as well. Muldoon is also running a summer program.

George Martinez: Will there be a breakfast and lunch program in the area schools?

David Christal: If a school is under the title 1 program breakfast and lunch are 100% free. For summer school we are funding it ourselves. All schools qualify in our area for this, and Susitna Elementary qualifies as well.

Aaron Pascas, Senior Patrol Member, Nunaka Valley Community Patrol: Nunaka Valley area is part of the NECC area. Aaron has been doing community patrol for 29 years and Aaron is asking for volunteers. If you want this community patrol to carry on we would love to have you and we need volunteers because it does make a difference. We are keeping an eye on things and we got a new treasurer and secretary and we all go out. However, Nunaka Valley Community Patrol definitely needs more people. Aaron asks that if you want to volunteer or know anyone that would, please reach out to him.

Ron Meehan: Could you explain community patrol to those who might not know what it does?

Aaron Pascas: Community patrol is the eyes and ears for the police department. If we see something wrong we will let them take care of it. The more people that are out there, the safer our community becomes. There are only three of us.

The NECC applauded Aaron Pascas for 29 years of service.

CONTACT: Phone: 907-726-7036

Committee Updates – 2 min

Stu Grenier, Parks and Trails Committee: We had a recent Parks and Trails committee meeting and had a full agenda. We had a property owner that had rental units and we got an earful at the meeting because they lost their rentals because of it. We got new tents in Centennial and discussed why some parks have homeless people and some of the parks do not. One thing is that the parks could be close to the liquor and marijuana stores and that's why it's advantageous for campers.

If the SCOTUS decides we can take our parks back with a ruling on Grants Pass what policies will this council suggest to take our parks back? Stu is hopeful snow dumps make sense for alternative housing for campers. We have tents popping up left and right and an army is prepared to take over the parks.

Stu stated we do not plan on having a parks and trails committee meeting till after the SCOTUS decision in June. Like someone said, we were looking for people who don't have drugs to live on church grounds, however we can't find anyone. We don't have a homeless problem; we have a drug problem.

Selina Metoyer, Picnic Committee: For the picnic I have the permit and the insurance waiver and Stephanie Taylor has a flyer. With no objections to the flyer the committee will send it out to the FCC for distribution. We need to decide if we want a handicap porta potty with a wash station. It's \$400 for ADA, \$250 for non-ADA. Last year we just ordered the sink which was \$125. Monday, Wednesday, Friday the Muni has the porta potties cleaned. There will usually be a cleanup right before the picnic happens. We also need a food and fire permit.

Ron Meehan: Next Thursday there will be a picnic committee meeting at 6-7pm on the Starbucks and Debarr and Muldoon. We may have a few more committee meetings to make sure everything is ready.

Dave Ulmer: Did you contact parks and rec that are in the pavilion? There are now just two tables under the pavilion now. There used to be 4 and now there are 2.

Selina Metoyer: I will follow up on that.

Ron Meehan, Marijuana and Alcohol Committee Chair: Steve Johnson, the chair of the committee, is not in attendance, but did give an update that Brown Jug is interested in giving out free samples. We have till May 21 to provide community concerns. If you have further questions for the committee contact Steve Johnson at thebeesknowthis@gmail.com.

Karen Bronga: The city won't take action on the free samples on May 21.

Presentations: (5 mins)

None

Old Business (Limit 6 min/item including discussion)

Opposition to Boundary Avenue East Extension Resolution

Stu Grenier: We are talking about Boundary Ave next to Centennial Park. This doesn't appear to be the best choice for this area and it is a bumpy road and has four speed humps.

The fire trucks now go down Peck Ave, now the problem is there is no turn South on Muldoon road. We tied in a solution to that issue to answer that situation as well. Grand Larry, Zapa, and others are narrow so we end up with People Mover buses and Fire Trucks and Ambulances turning 90 degrees twice to turn around and get on Muldoon. So we are suggesting the Municipality look into a 4-way light like they have on Duben and Boundary. If you look at the distance between streets, the distance between Peck and other streets with lights is wider than areas in Debarr Road where they have lights right next to each other.

Once an area gets a \$500,000 bond there is a possibility to use the money for something else if the council wishes.

Karen Bronga: Stu made it clear that Boundary is something the community did not want. The Project Management and Engineering (PM&E) department has said they do not plan on pushing Boundary Ave through and it's dead-on arrival. However, PM&E also said they will not put a light at Peck Ave, full stop. They channelized that lights half to be so far apart. So they are taking the money and they are using it elsewhere. The money can only be used for fire suppression activities.

Stu Grenier: I am going to advocate for this to be thrown off the CIP list. This resolution would just remove this from the CIP list when the Municipality keeps on putting it back on.

Ron Meehan: Is the four way light connected to the funding?

Stu Grenier: It only suggests they research the four-way light, so it is not connected to the funding.

Dave Ulmer: There could be a way for the fire department to open the gate to Centennial Village that leads to the water plant where the fire department can then get on Muldoon via Starview Drive.

George Martinez: Makes a recommendation that the Peck Ave Light and East Ave Extension be disconnected. Debarr is a state road so advocacy to the state is different from advocacy to the Municipality. Dollars allocated to our district for fire suppression are going to be removed without an alternative to this Boundary Extension Ave.

Karen Bronga: If a project was brought forward it could stay in this area. Right now PM&E is looking at moving the money to Basher road for an egress in that area. So if you came up with a worthy project for fire suppression in this area we will spearhead it.

Stu Grenier: Yes, we just had a project in the Muldoon Perimeter Fire Safety Road Resolution.

Ron Meehan: Would you be amenable to an amendment to the resolution? So we can keep the Peck Ave Light suggestion separate from the Boundary Ave Extension.

Stu Grenier: Yes

Noelle Holt: Suggests to remove the bottom 4 paragraphs above "let it hereby be resolved" of the drafted resolution.

Leola Montero: Seconds that amendment.

Stu Grenier: Accepts the amendment.

Ron Meehan: Is there any opposition to the amendment?

Selina motions to vote on the amended Resolution. Leola Montero seconds.

For: 27 Against: 1 Abstentions: 3. The Opposition to Boundary Avenue East Extension Resolution passes.

Muldoon Perimeter Fire Safety Road Resolution

Stu Grenier: Showed a picture of the Chugach Foothills Connector trail road to the council. The trail gives access to those on the south side of the east side of town to access the Campbell Creek trail.

Stu noted that instead of having just a fire safety road, the Muldoon Perimeter Fire Safety Road will double as a bike trail. I heard that some people prefer wide trails for open spaces. There is documentation online including discussion between Wielechowski and JBER for this. Stu talked to the fire department, but no one wants to talk about it formally.

Stu showed a picture of the proposed fire safety road that goes to Ship creek. Stu would like to ask the community to support. We previously asked this community for things that they said were impossible. We eventually got it. If you want anything you have to keep pecking until someone says, oh yeah we should do this.

Karen Bronga: Sen. Wilkowski was able to get \$80K for a design study of the JBER boundary trail. Karen is concerned about the parameters this resolution puts on a potential JBER boundary trail. The Anchorage Parks Foundation is excited for the boundary trail because it could be part of the Alaska Long Trail.

Dave Ulmer: I disagree with that because the trail is right in my backyard. I like that there is a fire break farther back because when fire starts spreading it goes fast.

Ron Meehan: Karen, Do you have any suggestions for any parameters on it?

Karen Bronga: My preference is just that you state you support a boundary trail. JBER property is 20 feet from the city fence. To give 300 yards is asking a lot.

Stu Grenier: I have to work with people and I don't move forward unless we have support. I think we should swing for the fences. I would ask people to okay this and there is plenty of money out there. And there is lots of acreage and all we are asking for is for 400 feet.

Nate Martin has called the question on the resolution, Murray Crookes seconded.

For: 32 Against: 4 Abstentions: 2 Muldoon Perimeter Fire Safety Road Resolution passes.

NECC Facebook Page and Social Media Policy

Ron Meehan: The Facebook page North East Community Council is the official page of the community council. Any other pages titled similar are not the official page. Any others have been a source of disinformation and not in line with the guidelines we want. We would like to reduce confusion and want to make sure we have a space we are all comfortable in.

Murray Crookes: When we were preparing to have our NECC election last month there was some activity where people were acting as a voice of the community council who were not representatives of the council. There was activity on a non-official Facebook page that had activity that was counterproductive.

George Martinez: You are an entity of the Federation of Community Councils (FCC) so I request you work through the FCC in this process.

Stu Grenier: What page are we talking about? Are any other pages that have Northeast Community Council in their name in some form the ones we want removed?

Murray Crookes: That is correct.

Murray Crookes makes a motion for us as a community council to affirm North East Community Council is the official page of the Northeast Community Council and request from Facebook all other organizations that claim to represent Northeast Community Council be removed from Facebook. Selina Metoyer seconds.

For: 31 Against: 0 Abstentions: 3

New Business

Branding Anchorage through District Naming Project

Tanisha Gleason, Cook Inlet Region, Inc.: Is Part of Leadership Anchorage with Alaska Humanities Forms. They called for projects that could be done in the community and Anchorage Economic Development Corporation responded with this marketing project. We would like to talk about Muldoon and all the great things it has. I want to highlight why locals stay here.

We hope for some marketing materials and an Anchorage Assembly resolution passed that recognizes some pilot districts. We hope to support brand kit development for pole banners and maps and incorporate district branding. Tanisha loves Tikahtnu Commons, Cook Inlet Tribal Council lab, the Cook Inlet Housing Authority and Southcentral Foundation.

We just want to come to you, and we would love to hear from you on gems in your area.

Ron Meehan: Is there any time limit?

Tanisha Gleason: We will hope to get the resolution by the end of the year.

CONTACT: Phone: 907-229-2865, Email: tgleason@ciri.com or ngomez@aedcweb.com

Homelessness in East Anchorage

Ron Meehan: Since we already had a lengthy report on homeless earlier let's open it up for questions.

Pamela Raygor: Can you explain item 14N of abatement coming up on your agenda on Tuesday?

Karen Bronga: Started explaining this earlier in the meeting. The agenda item is for a skinned down version of the prior abatement policy proposal. What it does is state what areas are clearly protected like any 100 feet from a body of water, private property, daycare centers and other protected areas listed. Instead of putting up a notice and giving campers 15 days, it's 10 days now, and you have 3 days if you are in a protected area. There is abatement that can happen, but all of us feel that this is worthless. Once you start moving people they go to another park.

The solution was to have designated camping spaces. We hope they don't get abated. The Coalition to End Homelessness is going to be attempting to abate entire camps and putting them into housing 50 at a time. Another part of the abatement is that we are trying to keep camps 25 or lower so we don't have another 3rd Avenue situation.

Pamela Raygor: When people in Midtown moved out there was no real plan there and now tents are all on the street close by. There were three tents on church property, was that part of the plan when the Midtown area was abated?

Karen Bronga: They are doing a pallet community at Central Lutheran. Our homeless coordinator had said we were going to have these safe parking spaces prior to the abatement with a restroom and dumpsters and that should have been established prior to abating Cuddy Park and Davis Park.

George Martinez: The abatement ordinance originally failed because it was targeted towards downtown. It failed because it didn't address the whole city with that enforcement tool, which is not acceptable. Additionally, there was no "next step". We introduced a framework last year when people come out of the winter shelters. Some folks would take a safe site and there would be parameters and a certain amount of people in an area. However, that plan has not been implemented by the city administration. Also, the amount of enforcement it takes to abate camps and enforce laws is not available. So the city does not have a plan or physical capacity to abate everywhere. However, I do want to be clear that abatement can happen faster if there is a health safety issue, but it will be more stressful on staff to keep up with abatement.

Stu Grenier: How do you define trails?

Karen Bronga: It's not defined very well in code, it's something like "major trail". There is a person who owns property next to Centennial looking for a potential lawsuit and Karen does applaud if the person goes forward with that.

Vicky Clay: What are you doing for us to prevent homeless camps from happening? Why isn't the rest of the assembly coming up with solutions?

Karen Bronga: It takes a body of twelve to pass the solutions and you have to compromise.

George Martinez: I feel your energy and concern. Member Bronga brought up something important earlier. She recently asked the director of the homeless coordinator what their response was "we had not been working on that". The implementation has to be from the administration's perspective. We are taking up the ordinance to abate camps and holding the line on funds and that they are where they need to be. I fundamentally believe that if we give up and have a disposition that we give up, then we will. There are people in the parks that don't want to be a nuisance to the community, but there are a lot of predators out there. Last year we organized clean ups and painted a mural after the park had been vandalized. The point is that if we show up, we are doing our job as assembly members, and then we show up as neighbors.

Community Announcements

Pete Peterson: A couple years ago I passed a safe trails ordinance. If you were going to be trapping you have to do it at least 50 yards of an established trail. It was taken to court and now the court upheld the law. So we won.

Selina Metoyer: Muldoon starts on June 29th from 2:30 to 3:30. Contact Selina or Dave Ulmer. We will be celebrating our 10th year.

Stu Grenier: For the doon dangles to continue someone is going to have to address how to get power to the polls. If we continue to get this type of snow people are going to walk away from this.

Karen Bronga: There is a bike to work day tomorrow, there are lots of celebrations on the Campbell and Chester Creek Trails.

Nate Martin: Just a reminder, everyone can submit a resolution. Anyone can try their hand at a resolution and reach out to a board member and if you have something on your mind you can get your thoughts down on a piece of paper. Between now and August I am hoping we can get a lot of resolutions.

George Martinez: Just so we know. For the 2024 season there were 229 permits issued to camp in centennial park. George is excited about that. The assembly passed a resolution to resolve the correspondence issue. George is a full time homeschooling dad himself and just wants to let people know about it.

Selina Metoyer: Why are we not meeting in June? We have only not ever met in June one time that Selina has been in the community council.

Ron Meehan: Because we need to focus on our committees. We will look for a potential meeting for the School Board attendance requirements resolution in June.

Ron Meehan adjourned the meeting at 8:59PM.

Upcoming NECC meeting: August 15, 2024

**Respectfully Submitted,
Dave Weber, Secretary**