

NORTH STAR COMMUNITY COUNCIL (NSCC)

7:00 to 9:00 p.m. 2nd Wednesday of each month September thru May
North Star Elementary School (Library) - 605 West Fireweed Lane

NSCC ONLINE

- Federation of Community Councils - <http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/24.html>
- Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/groups/northstarcommunitycouncil/>

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA

January 14, 2015

Call to order

- Round of introductions
- Vote to approve minutes
- Changes or additions to agenda

Reports

Council Officers

- **President** Andre Camara nssc.chair@gmail.com
- **Vice President** Marcus Wilson
- **Secretary** VACANT
- **Treasurer** Melonie Rieck
- **FCC Delegate** Sam Moore
- **Member at Large** Susan Miller
- **Member at Large** Sam Moore

Legislative Representatives

- **Sen.** Berta Gardner (SD-H) Senator.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov
- **Rep.** Harriet Drummond (HD-16) Representative.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov

Assembly Representatives

- **Ernie Hall** (District 3 W Anchorage) Halle@muni.org
- **Tim Steele** (District 3 W Anchorage) SteeleT@muni.org
- **Dick Traini** (District 4 Midtown) TrainiD@muni.org
- **Elvi Gray-Jackson** (District 3 Midtown) gray-jacksone@muni.org

New Business

Westchester Lagoon Nature Trail: Anchorage Park Foundation's Trails Initiative/Schools on Trails program presentation on improvements to the Westchester Lagoon Nature Trail at the corner of Spenard Rd. & 19th Avenue.

Old Business (there may be no updates on items below)

Adjourn 9 p.m.

NSCC general membership meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of each month (Sept – May) at 7pm at North Star Elementary School, 605 West Fireweed Lane, in the school Library. The Municipality of Anchorage complies with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Reasonable accommodations will be made available to qualified individuals upon request. Contact the Community Councils Center at (907) 277-1977 at least 10 days in advance of need.

NORTH STAR CC MINUTES

December 10, 2014

HOLIDAY POT LUCK – bring an appetizer or dessert to share

Call to order: 7:08

- Round of introductions – the council recognized the passing of Della Clover Barry
- Vote to approve minutes (Oct minutes below) Moved and approved – no discussion – motion passes unanimously
- Changes or additions to agenda
 - Jacques from HDR to discuss flooding
 - Wal Mart is here to continue discussion

Reports

Council Officers

- **President** Andre Camara nsc.chair@gmail.com - no report
- **Vice President** Marcus Wilson
- **Co-Secretaries** VACANT
- **Treasurer** Melonie Rieck - no treasurer report, is out sick
- **FCC Delegate** Sam Moore – Sam was elected secretary at the FCC meeting. Ed Graff gave presentation regarding projected surplus, wants to spend it on “classroom support” but wouldn’t go into detail. Surplus came from “unfilled positions.” Al Milsa from animal control advisory board requested input on how people would like to see dog parks for small and large dogs handled. Jeff Lanfield was elected to chair position of the FCC
- **Member at Large** Susan Miller – next loussac library book sale is in may
- **Member at Large** Sam Moore

Assembly Representatives

Elvi – on nov 26 had special meeting, highlights:

- senior center funding reinstated
- vacant community planner position was reinstated
- approved proposed amendments and mayor accepted 95% of those
- Total budget approved was 473.7 Million
- Chugagch access plan: ordinance provided for implementation of the plan through title 21. Ordinance forwarded to planning and zoning. Other ordinance regarding change to title 21 was put forward. 3rd ordinance – exemption of trailers from permanent registration requirement (see elvi’s notes for more details)

Tim –

- identified 8.5M of AMAT’s money to be spread between 2014 and 2019. Of the 18m provided for road construction most is in hillside, but will keep trying to find more funds for this area.

Dick

- taxation on people outside the borough that are using parks and rec but don’t pay for the use
- charter schools are taxed, but public schools are not, desire to remove tax from charter schools

Bonnie: If the charter schools are in a building that they own? Dick: Tax would only pertain to the area of the building that is being used.

Question: Ordinance to ban marijuana sales within anchorage – have started receiving form e-mails speaking against it

Sam: The mayor’s budget asks for \$2,000,000 for the transit center but when will we have an opportunity to speak about it? Unfortunately it is now a state matter.

There was some discussion regarding the reasons the transit center was necessary.

Old Business *(there may be no updates on items below)*

- Valley of the Moon: Parks and Rec Presentation on updated site plan (vote on support letter below)

Steve – Site plan update for VoM – working with advisory group regarding improvements to park over the next 10 years. Had 4 meetings, parking study discussing what was feasible/appropriate, discussed whether to formalize changing the ball park to a dog park. Throughout the process they heard about issues of camping in the woods nearby.

Addressing this issue – they are not interested in developing the treed area at this time in order to combat that. New area for adult fitness added near the playground. Continuation of fence along 17th avenue. Had an intern monitor the park for use and parking – some people will park on 17th avenue even if the parking lot is open. The fence will likely be chain link. Additional parking will be added – approx. 27 spaces. Some trees will be removed, some trees will be added elsewhere – per title 21. Dugouts will need to be removed – they are currently used for “camping,” drug, and alcohol use. Adding double gate to dog park area similar to arctic benson. Dog park will be roughly the same size as current ball field. Expansion of community garden – will work with community council to design once funding has been approved.

Question: permanent structure/restrooms, are they staying? A: Yes, there may be a use for the water connection, and current use is less expensive than a non-permanent facility.

Q: How often will parking be full given there are already 41 spaces? Discussion is that the parking area is full every weekend during the summer. Also rental of shelters has been increasing implying a need.

Q: re, not clearing out the trees, given that the tents move and police concerns, and that campers are walking a line to the restrooms – if trees are not to be removed could underbrush be removed and skirts of trees be raised for visibility? A: moving the visibility line back just moves the tents back to that line

Q: re: adult fitness area – construction in that area may have some effect on water flow issues. Where will it be diverted to? A: Engineers will look at waterflow when the time comes to design.

Q: Will there be a spot for ice cream trucks? Yes, and signage, but there are not a lot of resources to enforce it.

Q: re: dog park – if it is officially a dog park there will be more dogs. There are already people fishing the creek and there are pollution issues, what else will be done to curb that? Are there plans for a better disposal system. A: working with community groups for trash pickup. Post rules, provide tools for people to use (mitts, dumpsters, regular pickup)

Suggestion: have one random day a month where enforcement goes through and tickets at all the dog parks in order to create a culture of accountability.

Regarding a resolution brought by mark butler

Comment on resolution: second to last point does not accurately reflect the opinion of the advisory committee.

Gordon: Motion to accept the document as presented with the exception of the area written in bold

Modification: change the word softball to ballfield

Motion passes unanimously.

Brief presentation on upcoming improvements to Springer Park

Jacques from HDR

- re: 400,000 pre-solicitation from Municipality, unsure of what the money is going to go to, but that generally they are working on flooding along chester creek. Wants to discuss/identify problems before the project really exists. Primary response to 2009 and 2012 flooding issues. 18th an arctic is a major problem. Primarily discussion regarding water and ice getting too close to houses there. Questions/concerns about 18th and C: the water is definitely eating away the banks and intruding on the park/trails.

Discussion:

Representatives from walmart available tonight, continuation of discussion of inebriate issue that the areas have been dealing with.

Topics from last meeting – easy items to access that have high alcohol content compared to wines and beer

Drunk tank has a revolving door

HHS has an appropriation of 3.6 million to deal with mental health/addiction

Where camps are popping up

Assembly committee meeting to discuss issue

Peggy: As a review – there was some discussion of a need for low income housing and housing similar to karluk manor.

Chris Constant – appropriation is 3.95 million. Evaluation committee met today and we should know by the 1st as to how it has been assigned. As well as an additional 2.4 Million, and 450 housing vouchers. Very soon we hope to have an advisory organization to address some of the problems. One component will have to be enforcement – not to criminalize being drunk, but to enforce the other problems caused by drunk individuals.

Tsafira: Q: it sounds like existing infrastructure is not being effectively used. Do they need more teeth? Chris: There's no one holding their hand from point A to point B and people are getting lost before they can get to the next point of their treatment.

Susan: Who pays for the CSP services – are the people who get picked up paying for the services? No it's from the taxes. Could we assess the PFDs of those who use the service.

Bonnie: The alcohol aspect is not the only issue, but also the mouthwash and hand sanitizers – what is wal mart doing on a policy level to help the situation go away? A: That's a difficult question to answer, this would be an industry wide shift that would have to happen, clarification you mean only in midtown or anchorage area. They would address the issue at the package store, but taking away one thing leads people to move onto another source. Listerine is no longer hidden, but is on an endcap and cashiers are empowered to end the sale if they are suspicious of why someone is buying. They have found that as soon as one item becomes unavailable another item is moved on to. Store manager: Wants to make sure we are doing the right thing, knows from an individual standpoint that they are doing "positive things."

Q: Do you have much theft of mouthwash? A: Zach, asset protection: with the theft of mouthwash what we have seen is that they will sneak in through the door. They will wait until security is not there and then lock themselves in the bathroom. They are trying to curb this behavior. They have ramped up visible security. Corporate policies prevent them from putting hands on a person, and they have to wait for police to arrive. Because of how enforcement is happening these people are out before their paperwork is done processing. They are trying to make the store feel more secure, and reach out to community.

Q: What is the next step after being picked up by CSP A: They go to the sleep off center, or jail if there is room.

Wal mart – once we increase scrutiny we see theft drop in that area and move onto another product.

Gordon: What suggestions would you have to the community to deal with the problem?

Q: You are not allowed to touch people can they be photographed? A: Yes,
if they are cooperative

Adjourn 9 p.m.