

Minutes

Northeast Community Council (NECC)

March 20, 2025 | 7pm

Creekside Park Elementary-Gymnasium

7500 E 6th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99504

Board Members Present

Pamela Raygor, President | **Murray Crookes**, Vice President | **Dave Weber**, Secretary | **John Cunningham**, Treasurer | **Nate Martin**, Parliamentarian | **Stephanie Taylor**, Member | **Stu Grenier**, Member | **Mary O'Loughlin**, Member

95~ people in attendance in person and online.

Pamela Raygor called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance – Stuart Sims

2025 Candidates for Office Introductions

Yarrow Silvers, Assembly Candidate, introduced herself.

Margo Bellamy, ASD Board Candidate, introduced herself.

Max Anthony Cox, ASD Board Candidate, introduced himself.

Daniel George, Assembly Candidate, introduced himself.

Daniel Volland, Assembly Candidate, introduced himself.

Alex Rosales, ASD Board Candidate, introduced himself.

Board Roll Call – Murray Crookes

Minutes Approval: February Meeting

Dave Weber made a motion to approve the February 2025 general meeting minutes, Stephanie Taylor seconded. None opposed. February 2025 minutes approved.

Treasurer's Update

John Cunningham: \$2,226.62 in the bank as of March.

FCC Report

Pamela Raygor: Provided the following report from the Federation of Community Councils (FCC) Board of Delegates meeting on March 19, 2025:

1. Mt. Spur volcano may erupt – be prepared to meet remotely. FCC office will assist with notices, etc.
2. New FCC website will launch mid-April. Training before, during, after transition. One liaison/ Point of Contact per Council.
3. Future training.
4. Brief review of Vision thru Action 2025 summit held this last weekend.
 - a. Facilitator

- b. In-person networking and collaboration.
 - c. Common themes
 - d. Future training opportunities
 - e. Waiting on take aways from strategic plan discussion
 - f. Documents will be posted on website
5. Small budget for mailings, very small need to determine a fair process. Standard rotating requests and periods.
- Motion and 2nd to suspend current mailing policy to use this year's funds to notify residents' directly affected by the 10-year boundary review. We will wait on Assembly's action, do some homework, looking toward fall to act. Passed unanimously.
6. Bylaw update needed. Formed a bylaw ad hoc committee with a proposed deadline at the end of the year.

7:00 p.m. Part II

Council reports: Wildfire concerns. Mid-town District Plan. NECC – Action Item resolutions, April elections.

Mary from Mayor's office – reported on a meeting with District 1. Arts Grant – closes April 14th (\$100K). Closed Mayor's community grants – will announce results in May. "Name snow graders" contest. Reminder to get in CIP Surveys. Providing bonds and levies information link – vote April 1st. Requested that question be emailed to her and she will follow through. Continued focus on Mayor's priorities: public safety, homelessness, and preparedness.

Carl Jacobs, School Board report – ban on cell phones in classes, approved reuse plan AK Native at Lake Hood, Stream at Nunaka. Will reengage rightsizing– more to come. Reduction of services, programs, invest in tutoring. More resizing timeline – discussed in fall for next fiscal year.

APD Presentation – regarding Bonds on ballot to upgrade Elmore building heat and make ADA compliant and two other buildings. Police cars currently lasting 14 years, 100-200K miles, would like to retire cars before they are crushed to help pay for upgrades. For instance, ASD upgrades every 5 years.

Daniel McKenna-Foster & Melisa Babb, Muni Planning Department – The Worksheet, 10-year comprehensive plan, not named yet. Title 1 info is being updated regularly. Planning & Zoning Commission review. April 14th work session, May for the kick off, anticipate finalizing by the end of year. No concerted outreach effort planned, limiting public engagement to work accomplished through the Planning & Zoning Commission. New AO 2025-40 – changes made Muni led with PZC – need to have them come to council meetings. Discussion on zoning for parks, designated parks versus dedicated parks.

Melinda Grant, ACDA – Midtown Development Plan, April public hearings. Effort with Northstar, Spenard, Midtown Councils. Activating public spaces to reduce crime. New housing economic analysis report online also. Title 1 standards. Comment period is still open. Hope to complete it in June.

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

No concerns made.

Committee Updates – 2 minutes

Steve Johnson, Alcohol and Marijuana Committee: Yielded time for further discussion about the resolution later in the meeting.

Nate Martin, Bylaws Committee: Have the final draft of the bylaws prepared to present today. Yielded further time to discuss bylaws draft later in the meeting.

Pamela Raygor, CIP Committee: Kyle Rehberg, Chair, is currently travelling. He will be posting a [CIP survey](#) on Facebook where people can rank their top choices for the CIP list. There will also be CIP meetings at a later date. Kyle is looking for members to join the CIP Committee.

Stu Grenier, Parks & Trails Committee: There is a rumor that someone died at Centennial Park this winter. Stu called the Ombudsman and they said to call the APD Records department. APD Records won't give names or cause of death. Also on Channel 2 news the past week taking footage of a family and others moving furniture at Centennial Park and simultaneously there was a volunteer or Parks and Recreation employee cleaning the Park in the same area. Neighbors and Stu talked to the people moving into the park and the people left, there was no violence and no police.

Dave Weber: Added that he went to a Parks & Recreation Commission meeting last week to support Nunaka Valley North Park and support NECC suggested proposals for the park. The pickleball courts were moved west, but the other suggestions in the NECC resolution on Nunaka North Park that included extending accessible pay surface to the swings and adding a handicap chair were not implemented, so the Committee will need to follow up on that. Also, during the Commission meeting there was a presentation on the bicycle superhighway.

Stephanie Taylor, Picnic Committee: Saturday June 14 is the Spirit of Muldoon Block party. There is a donation jar back on the table for the picnic. The committee is looking for someone to be donating a grill to the picnic. The committee is trying to get people scheduled to do performance during the picnic committee meeting. The American Legion will be doing a flag ceremony and a flag retirement ceremony since the picnic is scheduled on Flag Day.

Pamela Raygor, Nunaka Valley Elementary Repurposing Ad Hoc Committee: Kristi Wood, Chair, is not in attendance. Steam is moving into Nunaka Valley. The committee is hoping to inspire the school board to move former Nunaka students to Baxter Elementary

Mary McQuilken, Art & Placemaking Committee: Introduced herself and played a youtube video for a proposal on a placemaking improvements. [Sign Art Idea Video](#)

Murray Crookes, Election Committee: Yielded time to talk about elections later on elections.

Community Leadership Updates (3 minutes each)

Jim Curran, Muldoon Library: Has one more bag to give out for the first person with their Library card. There is sad news, Destin Mimosier, long time librarian who helped establish the Muldoon Library in 2007 passed away. She was a friend to Jim and had a huge impact on Jim. Proposition 6 has new carpeting for Eagle River Library and new windows for Loussac Library. So, Jim encourages voting for it.

Muldoon Library will have Narcan training tomorrow. Jim has seen that Narcan save lives. On April 5th there will be a vaccine clinic at the Muldoon Library. Bear awareness is also coming back to the Muldoon Library.

David Crystal, Bartlett Area Principal Group: There are a few new principles in the areas. Kerry Anderson will be at Chester Valley. Karen Bjorkman will be at Wonder Park Elementary. Terry Galloway will be at Baxter Elementary. Bartlett High School Basketball won their conference and Kennedy Gaines was named player of the year. She averaged 27 points as a freshman. The big state test starts next week, it's a long test but the kids do well. The school climate and connectedness survey ends tomorrow. Also, ASD is preparing in case Mt. Spur erupts. So please update emergency contact information with ASD "Parent Connect".

Maureen Retzel, Rotary Club of Anchorage Gateway: Introduced Rose Headway. The Rotary has been in the community for 25 years doing service. At Muldoon Elementary there is a reading program. At Muldoon Elementary they lost one of our staff, but that lady had 3 years in a row encouraged her 2nd grade students to read to the "Top of Denali" many times. The Rotary is going to be at the Spirit of Muldoon Picnic as well supporting the community.

Rose Headway: From 3:30 – 4:40 every Tuesday there is the reading program at Muldoon Elementary. If people are interested in volunteering let her know. The Rotary Club has a park cleanup at the rest area around Chanshtnu Muldoon. The Rotary also donates meals around Thanksgiving meals and Christmas time.

School Board Member Report (limit 3 min. each, including questions)

Member Bellamy: Asks NECC members to approve Proposition 1. It includes security safety and upgrades district wide. Major renovation and replacement at certain schools, such as Bartlett High School, and upgrades for snow equipment. The bonds are \$68.3M, and is \$12.93 per 1,000 of assessed property value. Many schools were constructed in the 60s and 70s. They are exceeding the typical functional lifespan of 30-50 years. So this money is needed to make sure the Anchorage School District can maintain the schools.

Pete Peterson: How much debt is being retired?

Member Bellamy: Didn't have the information available, but I will get it back to the NECC. Member Bellamy informed NECC after the meeting that the bond debt that has been retired over the last two fiscal years is \$100M.

Pamela Raygor: Can you talk about the cell phones?

Member Bellamy: Yes, ASD passed a policy to restrict cell phone usage during the school day. The policy is flexible based on school situation, but it will be the same for each school that there is no cell phone usage during the day.

Assembly Member Report (3 minutes each, including questions)

Member George Martinez: Rotates attending NECC meetings with Assembly Member Karen Bronga. There are a couple items on the bond propositions that effect the community council area, specifically #3 and #9. The Centennial Improvements are on the bond, Nunaka Valley Parks, and Goose Lake Park. Chugach Parks Access in the Basher area is also on the bond. The proposed sales tax will not be proceeding at this time.

Member Martinez went to the national association of counties. The central theme was what was happening at the federal level and for Anchorage, what the FEMA response will be in event of a disaster, especially considering Mt. Spur. There are big concerns with wildfire in the South and East of town. Member Martinez is working on a food security ordinance. The Muldoon Farmers market is in jeopardy at the moment and if you are interested in helping out and keeping it going see Member Martinez. Member Martinez wants to see people celebrating the "Muldoon Moment".

State House & Senate Representatives Report (limit 3 min. each, including questions)

Rep. Donna Mears: The Anchorage Legislative Delegation throughout Anchorage will be at the town hall at UAA on April 5th. [Link to Meeting](#). Rep. Mears wants to thank those that came out to the town hall two weeks ago. It was a doorbuster. There is a lot of uncertainty about jobs from what is happening at the federal level. US Sen. Murkowski and US Sen. Sullivan addressed the Alaska State Legislature, and the Legislature got to talk to them about issues in the state that are coming to light as a result of federal cuts. For example, US Sen. Sullivan wasn't aware the weather balloon launches weren't happening because it was a probationary employee running who was let go.

It's really important to know what the budget is. It'll be through the house by the NECC April Meeting. It's important to hear what community needs are and the scope and scale of what is needed to build the State is important to have. One of Rep. Mears main priorities is working on energy. There's some bills in the Energy Committee and one of them are big and fancy. But there's lots of little tweaks to take a holistic approach to energy infrastructure.

CONTACT: Office: 907-465-3438, Cell 907-632-6382, Email: Rep.Donna.Mears@akleg.gov

Rep. Ted Eischeid: A big thing that happened in State House was passing House Bill 69, increasing the base student allocation by \$1000. The bill has been sent to the State Senate and the Senate Education Committee is taking testimony on it. Tomorrow afternoon you can make your testimony on it.

Federal Employees are important to the State of Alaska. Ted learned a lot more of that recently with Sen. Murkowski and Sullivan meeting with the legislature and that Medicaid effects 250,000 Alaskans, that's 1/3 of Alaskans. Ted hopes NECC members follow that closely. On the morning of April 5, Ted will have a constituent Coffee meeting at Kavas Pancake House on Muldoon and Boundary Ave. That will help people learn what Ted is doing and Ted will also learn what is important to people. Ted really enjoys when people come to his office, especially young people. Ted had three different groups of teenagers come to Juneau and tell Ted their hopes, dreams, and fears.

CONTACT: Office: 907-465-2095, Email Rep.Ted.Eischeid@akleg.gov

Sen. Bill Wielechowski: Thanks people who came out to the constituent meeting a week ago at Begich Middle School. There was much dialogue with US Senators Murkowski & Sullivan. Sen. Wielechowski applauded the opening up of ANWAR and NPRA but encouraged Sullivan to increase the % that Alaska gets in royalties from those lands. Under the Statehood Act Alaska is supposed to get 90% of oil royalties, but now it's 50%. However, in NPRA the state gets virtually nothing as the state royalties actually go to the North Slope Borough. The companies that work on those lands get to write them off in their state taxes. Conoco is able to write off their costs at a 35% rate. Alaska is thus losing \$500M per year where the Willow field is being developed. Through the Budget Reconciliation Act Sen. Wielechowski asked US Sen. Sullivan to have 40% of royalties of NPRA go to the state instead of the North Slope Borough.

Appointed by the Senate to negotiate with the Governor's office on Education. It's been more discussions than negotiations. Sen. Wielechowski had a bill to ban cell phones and that has went well. Sen. Wielechowski has been evaluating in the Resource Committee that there are about \$1B that have been paused and pausing has resulted in job loss across Alaska. The Committee urged the US Senators to keep those going.

CONTACT: Phone: 907-269-0120, Email: Senator.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov

Old Business

Baltazar Holdings, LLC Marijuana Establishment MOU – Action Item

Pamela Raygor: Normally the council is able to vote in a virtual Zoom room for those voting on Zoom, but there are technical difficulties so votes must be made publicly in the chat.

Jana Weltzin, Esq., JDW LLC: This is Baltazar's legal team's fifth meeting at NECC. The group from Fairbanks that was going to manage the shop backed out. This MOU is for Baltazar so now Baltazar will be managing the shop. The shop will be understated and it will have 24hr and 7 days a week cameras. It has a loitering policy. Baltazar staff will have to circle the shop and clear people out, that must happen by law. At Brown Jug close to this building, you see people hanging around, so you cannot do that at a marijuana store. You must be an Alaskan to have a marijuana business and there are marijuana excise taxes which goes to the State of Alaska and 5% retail tax which is supposed to go to early childhood education comes out to be about \$5M a year.

All marijuana owners and staff have to go through a vetting process. They have to go through a marijuana handlers permit course and sales tracking process. This shop has no intention of on-site consumption.

Baltazar Arias: Baltazar was here last time and the only thing Baltazar can do today is just let the NECC know that the people from Fairbanks are no longer involved. NECC already voted and approved a previous MOU with Baltazar.

Dave Ulmer: You saw the video shown before. How do more marijuana shops improve the areas in Anchorage?

Jenna Weltzin: Many places around town that were run down have turned into new looking buildings because they are fixed up because marijuana places is fixing up on it. Marijuana establishments can't get a bank note because of federal law so they have to move into really crappy buildings so they don't have debt. So there are former crack houses that have been turned into really beautiful buildings because of marijuana businesses.

Shelly: Does not like the explanation. There are children in this community and there are problems already in this community. Shelly is a concerned citizen and asks how many more marijuana business does NECC need? The tax is there, but the money doesn't cycle back to Muldoon. It might in a small way. Shelly would like to know more about that.

Jana Weltzin: The 5% that goes to the municipality goes to early childhood education. However, marijuana businesses also help capture crime. Cameras captured on the facility will help police in that investigation and have helped in investigations. You cannot step into the facility without being carded and being 21 so you cannot target kids and marijuana sold is supposed to be child resistant packaging and not branded/advertised to children.

Investing in the community means being able to buy from a diverse number of businesses in the community. Jana believes NECC does not need another liquor store and Walmart. Jana thinks there are three marijuana stores in the NECC area.

Pamela Raygor: There are ballots in front of NECC members to vote. Pamela also had dialogue with the audience about what is being voted on.

There was a mix-up and the ballot count was accidentally read backwards. There was a recount and the ballot count was restated.

For: 38 Against: 51 Abstain: 0 – MOU Does Not Pass

Someone made a point of order regarding the equal time for discussion to speak about the MOU. There was dialogue about Roberts Rules and that discussion is made within the time allotted on the agenda.

Marijuana Zoning Resolution 2025-03 – Action Item

Steve Johnson: Marijuana came to Anchorage in the 1970s and was accepted. There's been a change of heart that has expressed itself in many areas of the city. At NECC there is an opportunity to feel comfortable. Now that marijuana has come and there has been seen an outbreak of a number of stores. Can it just be accepted? The council discussed many of these issues and municipal code tells how a community council is supposed to communicate with a new business. It's similar to other code and types of discussion and is the same code the marijuana committee is supposed to be following. There is an extensive in code about how a council can communicate with a new marijuana business. But if a new business doesn't want to do that, and if you want to open up a marijuana store, you can just put an ad in a newspaper. The assembly should clarify as to how that works.

Because this is a legal business and a lot of money is on the table. If you have more businesses that sells the same thing you got then there will be a lot of competition. The council wants to help business neighbors thrive. In order to do that this resolution is asking to extend the zoning laws much like Eagle River. The council shouldn't want to have one store next to another. There are already pot stores in NECC. This resolution is to ask the assembly on how the council can help the assembly to change the laws to develop the community so that the assembly doesn't have to regulate themselves. So, this resolution is the best opportunity the council has.

Dave Ulmer: Did you say NECC wants to help marijuana businesses thrive?

Steve Johnson: No, this resolution would make it harder to establish a marijuana business here.

Someone asked about if 25% of profit from marijuana shops goes to maintenance of the roads.

Steve Johnson: Not sure what happens with the money that comes in from pot shops.

Someone asked if the resolution would limit like business next to each other.

Steve Johnson: No, it would limit the amount of space in where you can put in a marijuana business.

Someone asked about studies of other shops that are within the same distance of Begich Middle School.

Steve Johnson: Doesn't understand exactly all the parameters, but does know that Eagle River asked for the same distances and there is not one pot shop there.

Someone stated that they are not against marijuana and have lived in the neighborhood behind Baltazar's their whole life, but is concerned about the youth and what they will be exposed to.

Pamela Raygor: There were ballots for this but now vote will need to be taken by a show of voting cards. Pamela also had dialogue with the audience about what is being voted on.

For: 49 Against: 34 Abstain: 1 - Resolution Passes

NECC Bylaws – 2nd Draft

Nate Martin: Introduced the bylaws. There is a report of the bylaws online and how our community council operates and what the Bylaws Committee has been doing in the past year. In August and July the members met to establish a timeline for the Bylaws. As a result of a few months of work a draft was prepared by January. A second draft was made in February after initial feedback and lots of discussion. Tonight, there is a final draft presented. You can download the final draft online as well. In the April meeting NECC will vote on these Bylaws. The current Bylaws required a 30-day notice period to review Bylaws so no changes can be made now. A big thing that was talked about was the bylaws relating to finance, voting and attending and using technology in the council. When the President resigned the committee realized they needed to clarify the roles. There were also reformatting and other clarifications made. Instead of a 30-day notice requirement of amendments to the bylaws, the Bylaws Committee simply amended it so that notifications of amendments must be made at least one general meeting in advance of the April annual meeting for a vote.

Shelly: Wasn't clear to Shelly when one could request and make an amendment to the Bylaws. There is no clear way forward as she could come to the meeting and make an amendment.

Nate Martin: The amendment goes through the bylaws committee to the executive board and then is presented to the general council membership. There is also an online form created for this process and will be used for future requested amendments

Pamela Raygor: Submit a bylaw amendment to the bylaw committee and they will bring it forward and the council will vote on it. Most changes will be made at the annual meeting where the board pushes the process vs. a member pushing the process.

Presentations

State of Alaska DOT & Public Facilities - Pedestrian Safety

Not present

New Business (limit 3 min. each, including questions)

Resolution Requesting Code Changes to Restrict Illegal Camping on Streets in the Municipality of Anchorage (Resolution 25-04)

Jenny Kimbal: This resolution came about because of the parking of campers and other vehicles on E 6th. There was an RV that was allowed to stay there for 205 days. There are instances of violence, drug paraphernalia, the absence of youth in the park, and disposing of human excrement next to the porta potty. There were many hours for the police coming that had to monitor the situation with no actual resolution to the situation. This resolution is dear to Jenny and to children at this school and who play in the park. This resolution is to get the police department to act in code and react more promptly in more detail.

Gary Brant: Lives on Old Harbor. There is a sign with a 2-hour parking limit and the police or assembly are dropping the ball on that. One or Two people calling the assembly does not cut it. It should have been handled and Old Harbor neighbors got together so all people would call and get the job done.

Jenny Kimble: The biggest thing Jenny wants to change is the identification of something being a nuisance is that it's four citations as any period of time, and not just the four consecutive citations.

Michelle Shangin: Been a resident on 6th Ave across from Creekside Park for eighteen years and the RV/Camping has brought other criminal activity such a vehicle dumping, people renting out the RV, and for the 18 years she's lived here the elders have lived and walked around Creekside Park are now scared to walk down the street. It is so disheartening to see the community here that you have illegal camping, tents camping across the softball field, and now children have to take an alternate route. It really takes Michelle's heart.

Elections Ad Hoc Committee - Nomination open taken from the floor

Murray Crookes: The Elections Committee will take nominations from the floor for the NECC Board seats. You can email nominations to the Board till April 15. If there is anyone who would like to nominate someone, they can be nominated today. You can email northeastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com to submit your nomination.

Someone nominates David Weber

Stu Grenier: Nominates Mary McQuilken

Stu Grenier: Nominates Selina Metoyer

Community Announcements:

Murray Crookes: Made an announcement that he would like to thank the council for all the work over the years. Murray has been coming to meetings since 2018. Murray will be moving to Sitka and he will be here through the NECC Picnic, then will be packing up.

There was applause in respect for Murray's service to the NECC.

Selina Metoyer: The community is in danger of losing the Muldoon Farmers Market. Catholic Social Services was supposed to take it over. But due to happenings in DC there is a need for younger folks to step up and take care of this non-profit that has been taking care of the community for years.

Pamela Raygor: NECC will use the community council email to help with this.

Pamela Raygor adjourned the meeting for the good of the order at approximately 9:00 pm.

Upcoming NECC meeting: Thursday, April 17, 2025, at Creekside Park Elementary.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Dave Weber, Secretary**