

# Minutes

Northeast Community Council (NECC)

April 17, 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 | **Nate Marin**, Parliamentarian | **Stephanie Taylor**, Member | **Stu Grenier**, Member | **Mary O'Loughlin**, Member

49~ people in attendance in person and online.

**Pamela Raygor called the meeting to order at approximately 7:08pm.**

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Sierra

**Board Roll Call** – Murray Crookes

**Minutes Approval: March Meeting**

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

**Treasurer's Update**

**Stephanie Taylor speaking for John Cunningham, Treasurer: \$2,226.62 in the bank as of April.**

**FCC Report**

**Pamela Raygor:** Provided the following report from the Federation of Community Councils (FCC) Board of Delegates meeting on April 16, 2025:

Treasurer Patrick LaMay. FCC in the future will provide Quarterly reports coinciding with the Quarterly Reports to the Muni.

FCC President Mike Edgington is the FCC Bylaws Committee Chair. They held its first organizational meeting: reviewed purpose, timeline, bylaws vs policy vs procedures, what constitutes a 'member', defining delegate. Meetings are held via Zoom on the 2nd Tuesdays of the month.

Exec Director Arianna Bellizzi reported that the new website is live. Pre-live 'look' was held with council's reps participating. Future training opportunities to come, also offered that councils may ask for more individualized training. A few issues with moving documents over – please watch for breaks and report documents linking errors. Overall, the website looks great, has a new Community Councils calendar with links to council page/docs, public notice page, etc.

FCC Executive Board Nominations opened. Nomination taken now through the next meeting with election being held in May.

Ad Hoc committee formed to review Digital Outreach Policy, best practices for distribution of information. Pamela Raygor, chair.

Arianna gave an overview of the Core Purposes, Vision, and Next Steps of the Strategic Plan. More to come.

Council reports, common thread: CIP Committee engaged, ways to more effectively collaborate with Muni, Assembly and other Councils.

Mayor's Office – Maria Huser, reported that Mayor's Art Grants application closed Monday, 4/14. Twelve application for the Beyond the Grey Grant, \$1.1 Million to Terminal Port project.

Schedules but did not show: Assemblyman Constance, School Board member Andy Holleman, Mayor's Office representative Farina Brown who was scheduled to recap Coordinated Response to Homelessness Summit.

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

**Pamela Raygor:** Is excited for our guests tonight from Muldoon Elementary

Students from Muldoon Elementary read their essays on Standish Park that centered around the poor and unsafe state of the playground, graffiti, missing tire swing and unkempt appearance. The following essays were read at the meeting:

Read at the meeting and links to the essays thereto:

[Illias Dupes](#) 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Second letter read by Illias was by [Bella Robinson](#) 5<sup>th</sup> grade

[Jasmine Her](#) 5<sup>th</sup> grade

[Siara Leatigaga](#) 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Provided to NECC, and not read at the meeting:

[Rosemary](#) 5<sup>th</sup> grade

[Baylee](#) 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

[Leazeriah](#) 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Ben Schoffman:** Is pastor of the church across the street from Standish Park. Proud of the kids for coming and speaking up. Used to have a steward and then the phone calls stopped being returned. There are groups from the church. There are two-three dozen kids who will be there all somewhere. Standish is a pocket park and 60-100 people can be celebrating there at night.

**Aimee Sims:** Thanked Maureen Retzel for the invite to the reading club at Muldoon Elementary. It is so much fun. Aimee encouraged people to come out on Tuesday at Muldoon Elementary. Also, the NECC picnic committee is in need of performers for the Spirit of Muldoon Picnic.

**Committee Updates – 2 minutes**

**Pamela Raygor, Alcohol and Marijuana Committee:** Steve Johnson, Alcohol and Marijuana Committee Chair, is not able not here to give a report tonight.

**Stu Grenier:** The council's resolution related to marijuana was on the assembly agenda. Steve said come to the assembly meeting because it was on the agenda. However, it was not discussed. The idea is that now we need to take it to the other community councils.

**Pamela Raygor:** Just to clarify, it was an assembly memorandum.

**Aimee Sims:** Asked about the marijuana resolution and when people will get to speak to that resolution.

**Member George Martinez:** The assembly will not be speaking on that item because the Assembly received a resolution. Members are welcome to come at the end of the assembly meeting and give feedback.

**Pamela Raygor:** Everything NECC does is advisory and NECC hopes things don't get "eighty-sixed" and it actually gets read.

**Nate Martin, Bylaws Committee:** Yielded time for Bylaws resolution.

**Kyle Rehberg, CIP Committee:** Every year there is a survey sent out by the municipality to the community councils and asks the councils to make a priority list. Kyle talked to the Municipality and they recommended making a list of the top five. The survey list is a compilation from the city, state, and some directly from the CIP Committee Meeting. On May 16 the committee will close the survey and on May 19 the top five will be compiled and sent to the municipality.

**Stu Grenier:** Is the Muldoon Perimeter Trail on the CIP list? The CIP list is usually what the government thinks the council should have, but it should be a two-way street.

**Kyle Rehberg:** Believes it is on the list. Once the survey closes the committee will be scheduling committee meetings to tailor the list so it is well ready to go for next year.

**Pamela Raygor:** The CIP committee and the Arts & Placemaking Committee had some short windows recently to get things done and Pamela appreciates their effort.

**Stu Grenier, Parks & Trails Committee:** The Municipality is doing a big effort cleaning up trash over by the Alaska Native Heritage Center. Stu saw two big trucks full of trash and six people in yellow coats picking up trash.

**Dave Weber:** A month back a few neighbors and friends met up at Chanshtnu Muldoon Park and cleaned up in the area just beyond the playground. Recently a camper moved in there and it's heartbreaking to see I get full of trash again. But Dave does think the community needs to keep doing clear ups. There is one on April 22 being done by Bartlett High School students and there's also one at Valley Street Park on May 21. Dave will post the dates and times on the NECC facebook page.

**Stu Grenier:** There is a stack of ten pallets near Centennial Park and the organized groups are returning to Parks again.

**Stephanie Taylor, Picnic Committee:** Meeting coming on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm at Begich middle school. The committee needs more volunteers because the picnic is less than 2 months out. The committee does need people to volunteer to perform as well, please contact the committee.

**Laura McKnown, Nunaka Valley Elementary Repurposing Ad Hoc Committee:** The school board decided to rezone the school zone for Nunaka Valley/Baxter. So now all Nunaka Valley Elementary kids will move to Baxter Elementary. Stream Academy is also thinking about Headstart preschool moving into the school building.

**Pamela Raygor, Art & Placemaking Committee:** The committee submitted applications for two grants and worked very hard and submit them this week.

**Pamela Raygor:** Aaron Pascas from the Nunaka Valley Community Patrol is not here, but he has a personal matter and Pamela wishes him a good recovery and hopes to hear from him soon.

**Murray Crookes, Election Committee:** Yielded time for elections.

**Mary McQuilkin, Arts and Placemaking Committee:** Mary recorded a video for an update of the committee's activities, which went over potential ideas for signage and arts in the community as well as news of the committee's submission for a 'Beyond the Beige' grant. Link to the video here  
[https://youtu.be/ZF\\_xDZeSC7E?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/ZF_xDZeSC7E?feature=shared)

### **Community Leadership Updates (3 minutes each)**

**Matt, Anchorage Fire Department (AFD):** John Glover has revamped the wildland program. There was a tiny town mock situation run and how AFD, APD, and others would operate to mitigate a wildfire. There are a lot of programs at [wildfire.muni.org](http://wildfire.muni.org) and that there are steps to get into the ready component (dead trees, fuels, etc), the

other component is having a go bag to get ready to leave from a wildland fire, lastly there is a notification system and as smart 911. You can sign up on the Municipality website and that will notify you of an evaluation.

Firewise program will provide a professional opinion for the property to help mitigate fire on your property that you might not have noticed otherwise.

**Dave Ulmer:** A number of years ago Enstar cleared land on the NECC border and it made a nice fire break. No one came back to Dave Ulmer on if that was going to happen again.

**Matt:** AFD is developing firebreaks this summer and they are doing firebreaks to get Fireline breaks such as Campbell airstrip and Stuckagain Heights.

Also AFD got bike helmet program back that the fire department will give out for free. They are simple helmets, but better than nothing.

**Dave Ulmer:** There is a trail NECC has pushed for that can be a firebreak.

**Jim Curran, Muldoon Library:** Big news is that the library is getting a strategic plan together to get library goals through 2025. It is the best staff day Jim has ever seen. May 17 there is a reading rendezvous. Summer reading is not for just kids. Jim is hoping to see more people there. There is a super secret Saturday Storytime. If you are related to a kid there is Storytime at 10am on Saturdays and it is a favorite program of Muldoon

**David Crystal, Bartlett Area Principal Group:** Bartlett High School graduation is on May 14 at 2pm and you need a ticket to attend. There is not a lot of parking so be prepared for that. It was great to see the kids speak today and thanked Muldoon Elementary for facilitating that. David noted the Muldoon principal Mr. Kage noted math proficiency increased a huge %. Muldoon will host two summer programs. With the ASD bonds passing we'll be able to have our school cleared better in the morning.

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

**Member Bellamy:** The governor vetoed HB69 and he is going to substitute his own bill. Right now, the only thing people can do is prepare to override the veto of the governor. ASD is trying to understand what the governor wants. The governor wants a cell phone bill and ASD did pass that unanimously. The governor wants an increase in funding for homeschooling and making it harder for local school districts to revoke a charter school. ASD did revoke a charter, but made it into a correspondence school. The ASD placed an amendment on its budget that stated ASD would restore all its cuts if funding is achieved. If there is a \$560 BSA increase, ASD will have to cut \$30M. Member Bellamy asks people to talk to our representatives to override the veto.

CONTACT: Email: [bellamy\\_margo@asdk12.org](mailto:bellamy_margo@asdk12.org)

#### **Assembly Member Report (3 minutes each, including questions)**

**Member Elect Yarrow Silvers:** Gets sworn in on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Yarrow is looking forward to serving the community.

**Pamela Raygor:** NECC is happy to have Member Elect Silvers and sorry to not have Member Karen Bronga tonight. NECC appreciates what she has done and NECC looks forward to working with Member Elect Silvers.

**Member Daniel Volland:** Member Bronga sponsored two ordinances about gun safety in schools. One would make parents liable for their kid that took a gun to school. The other was that a stolen weapon needs to be reported within 48 hours of it missing. There was an Assembly worksession and it was clear the municipal department of law had concerns of whether they were allowed by state statute. Member Bronga instead called for things that were more centered around public safety and violence interruption at schools.

There was a long-range transportation plan that was adopted that will help prioritize transportation and infrastructure developments. For the upcoming Assembly meeting there are a number of land use issues like

property tax incentives, appeals fees and who is eligible, and the rezones are consistent with the 2040 land use plan. There will be budget revisions and swearing in of new members as well.

[Contact the Assembly](#)

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

**Rep. Donna Mears:** This last week was brutal working on the budget. There were amendments that were brought up from both sides and had to pull stuff back from what the governor gave us and other things. Rep. Mears is asking for feedback on what is acceptable revenue and acceptable services. There is a need to capital projects in the community and there needs to be a change in the conversation. There are a few LNG import projects and they are coming in on a short timeframe. Rep. Mears is grateful for the connection to the community and looking forward to getting home and there are a lot of things to do in the next few weeks.

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

**Rep. Ted Eischeid:** On April 5 there was a delegation town hall at UAA campus. It was an opportunity for people to show up and Ted heard a lot about education funding. At 10am that morning Ted had a "Ted Talk" at Kavas. Sign up for his newsletter to learn more. The last week ½ worked on passing an operation budget. There is over \$6B budget and the house passed what they thought was a good budget and sent it to the Senate. Ted also has a version of a financial literacy bill in the works. Rep. Wright had a bill he couldn't get across related to payday lending and Rep. Eischeid is picking that one up. Your emails do matter to Ted. There was an amendment in HB69 that Rep. Eischeid was going to vote on and the email changed his vote because of the email.

**Pamela Raygor:** Are there other topics coming out of the budget?

**Rep. Eischeid:** There are lots of needs but there is not much revenue and Rep. Eischeid. We are going to get a balanced budget. This is an austere time and we are not sure what is happening at the federal level and your ideas will guide us.

CONTACT: Office: 907-465-2095, Email [Rep.Ted.Eischeid@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Ted.Eischeid@akleg.gov)

**Sen. Bill Wielechowski:** The Senate is working on the capital budget. It was passed unanimously. There is no specific capital project to any house district. The capital projects are through the department of transportation. There has been a 7% increase in state general operating expenses, but the revenue is falling. It used to be 90% of revenue is oil and now its 30%. Under the tax structure the Willow project is able to write off all corporate taxes and the lost revenue from that is between \$500M - \$1B. There will also be zero royalties from Willow project.

There will be a veto override on Tuesday, April 22, at 3 o'clock. There is a financial literacy bill as well.

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

**Sen. Loki Tobin:** Folks are going to need to chime in and give their voice to their policy makers. The state is in a situation where there are not enough people to do the state's work as well. The state doesn't have enough people to get projects out to bid and get federal dollars. In Senate Finance, Sen. Tobin has a bill to provide full funding in pre-k. The return on investment is \$32 for every \$1 on that investment. Read Sen' Tobin's newsletters and Sen. Tobin does have a podcast.

**Matt Sims:** Has a few questions. As a father of 4 who graduated from ASD, if we are trying to raise money for our students, where is that money going to be utilized? Is there any effort coming from the state, like a DOGE like effort?

**Sen. Wielechowski:** When Sean Parnell was Governor, he brought in every department and his staff said there should be no cuts. That was ten years ago. Today Sen. Wielechowski has reached out to all the departments and the current Governor has also said there are no cuts.

**Sen. Tobin:** Have heard from the school districts across the state that they have cut very deeply. For example, Juneau only has three people in their business office. When administrators are cut the teachers have to fill in for the administration. Sen. Tobin encourages people to go to the State Public School Report card available online and it shows where school board dollars are going.

**Ben Schoffman:** For 32 years he worked in industry, before he was a pastor. There is a volume problem and not a tax problem. The volume gets lower and there is less tax. Using one lever in our tax structure. There is a far more complex problem than just raising taxes. Looking at one lever is far too simplistic. We need investment to get volume.

### **Old Business**

#### **Elections Ad Hoc Committee – Nominations and Elections - Action Item**

**Murray Crooks:** Explained who is eligible to vote according to NECC Bylaws and how to vote. **Pamela Raygor** also clarified the voting process in more detail.

**Selina Metoyer:** Introduced herself to the voters.

**David Weber:** Introduced himself to the voters.

**Matt Sims:** Introduced himself to the voters.

**Mary McQuilkin:** Introduced herself to the voters.

#### **Vote Count:**

David Weber: **29**

Mary McQuilkin: **27**

Matt Sims: **20**

Selina Metoyer: **19**

**David Weber, Mary McQuilkin, and Matt Sims are elected to the NECC Council Board.**

#### **Resolution Requesting Code Changes to Restrict Illegal Camping on Streets in the Municipality of Anchorage - 2025-04 – Action Item**

**Jenny Kimble:** This resolution is to help alleviate illegal camping on our street in a car, trailer, etc. There was a RV parked on Jenny's Street for about 250 days and this resolution is to help make removal of the camping can happen in a more expeditious manner so more campers don't gather. It is also requesting statistical analysis to monitor the area so people and the municipality can see the issue is compounding.

**Dave Weber:** Asked how came about with the language in this resolution?

**Jenny Kimble:** The police came out to the area several times and started talking to Jenny and others about certain codes and the current assembly/administration didn't have a lot of room to abate homeless on streets, even though there are so many codes about street maintenance. Jenny met with Rep. Ted Eischeid and he was helpful with what options residents have. It's weird that we have all these laws, but it's not enforced. The goal with their resolution is to find ways to enforce the code or make it easier for officers to take action in those scenarios.

**Jenny Kimble motioned to vote on the Resolution. Stu Grenier seconded.**

**For: 22 Against: 4 Abstain: 0 - The Resolution passed.**

#### **NECC Bylaws – Action Item**

**Nate Martin:** Gave an overview of the final resolution of the bylaws and the report. Nate thanked everyone for the suggestions and help with the process.

**Nate Martin motioned to vote on Bylaws as presented, Stephanie Taylor seconded  
For: 21 Against: 4 Abstain: 0 – The Bylaws passed.**

### **Presentations**

#### **Recognition of Service**

**Stephanie Taylor:** There are two different people that we want to recognize. Murray Crooks has served on the NECC board for several years and he's been our vice president, committee chair, and the tech guy for the council. He's going to Sitka and it will be a great loss for Anchorage.

Selina Metoyer has been with the NECC since 1993 and has worked in every role on the NECC board except parliamentarian. She is also one of the visionaries for Muldoon Farmers Market, Chanshtnu Muldoon Park, and has a huge role in the annual Spirit of Muldoon Picnic. NECC really appreciates Selina.

**Stephanie Taylor presented certificates for recognition of service to Murray Crookes and Selina Metoyer.**

**Selina Metoyer:** Is so happy to see more people taking an interest in coming out to meetings. There was once a year where it was hard to achieve a quorum. Selina thanks NECC for the recognition but thinks it isn't necessary because all she wants is to keep the community safe and is still interested in doing something for food security in the community.

#### **New Business Non-Action Items (limit 3 min. each, including questions)** **Annual Report**

**David Weber:** Gave an overview of the annual report of which the highlights are that there's been over 50 people at our meetings throughout the entire year. There are three different meeting times during the month now for executive meetings, general meetings, and committee meetings. Top three concerns the NECC hears relate to criminal activity, inadequate and unpaved roads and sidewalks, and homeless camping in parks and streets. Nunaka Valley school was closed and there was an ad hoc committee that stood up to support that process. Additionally, there were various documents signed with the FCC and Nunaka Valley Community Patrol.

**Pamela Raygor:** We are going to send our report to the Municipal Assembly and State Legislators just to bring them up to date on the things that NECC finds important.

#### **Community Announcements:**

**Ben Schoffman, Anchorage Gateway Rotary Club:** Ben is the former president of the Rotary club. The Rotary club is going to be very busy next month finishing up its reading program at Muldoon Elementary and selecting students who represent the values of the school and rewarding them. Ben invites people to come to their meeting and lunch will be on Rotary for your 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**Maureen Retzel:** Maureen gave an update on the specific activities happening in May, below.

#### **Denali Reading Challenge Celebration**

**Thursday May 8th:** 1-2:00 PM Muldoon Elementary School MPR

\*Special recognition of the three classroom teams plus 1 staff member solo team that met and exceeded the goal of reading 20310+ minutes to Denali's summit and also honorable mention of the other classroom teams that participated in the Denali Reading Challenge

#### **Gateway Rotary Bi-Monthly Meetings**

**Friday May 9th and May 23rd:** 1-2:00 PM Kava's Pancake House

#### **Gateway Rotary Readers End-of-Year Celebration**

**Tuesday May 13th:** 3:30-4:30 PM Muldoon Elementary School Library

\*Recognition of the 4th and 5th Grade students who have participated in the weekly reading and speaking activities of the after-school Rotary Readers program.

**Lasagna Dinners-To-Go Fundraiser**

**Friday May 16th:**

**Pick up dinners between 4:30-6:30 PM at 3C Church at 435 Standish Street**

\*Proceeds Support Gateway Rotary Youth Literacy Activities in the Northeast Anchorage Community

**Tickets: Adult Meal \$20.00 (2 for \$35); Kid's Meal \$15.00 for children 12 and under**

Each dinner is a hearty serving of beef lasagna plus salad with dressing, garlic toast and chocolate cake with vanilla frosting.

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

**Upcoming NECC meeting: Thursday, May 15, 2025, at Creekside Park Elementary.**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Dave Weber, Secretary**