



## Minutes

August 21, 2025 | 7pm  
Creekside Park Elementary-Gymnasium  
7500 E 6th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99504

### **Board Members Present**

**Pamela Raygor**, President | **Stephanie Taylor**, Vice President | **Dave Weber**, Secretary | **John Cunningham**, Treasurer | **Matt Sims**, Member | **Stu Grenier**, Member | **Mary McQuilkin**, Member

36~ people in attendance in person and online.

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

### **Board Roll Call**

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Tammalivis Salamon

### **Minutes Approval: May Meeting**

**Pamela Raygor has clerical and title edits to make to the minutes. Pamela made a motion to approve the May 2025 general meeting minutes by consent. None opposed. May 2025 minutes approved.**

### **FCC Report**

**Pamela Raygor** provided a report on highlights of the FCC August 20, 2025 meeting which included the bylaws work session, treasurer's report, Transit Supportive Development Overlay (TSDO), and Project Management & Engineering Design Criteria Manual Update, and Better Public Meetings Grant.

### **Treasurer's Update**

**John Cunningham** noted \$2,600.62 in the bank as of August.

**Motion made by Stephanie Taylor to accept the report. Seconded. Treasurer's report accepted.**

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

**Stephanie Taylor** wants to notify NECC that the proposed TSDO ordinance will change the regulations for distance between new buildings and other substantial changes to zoning. There is an upcoming meeting at Rogers Park Elementary on this.

### **Committee Updates – 2 minutes**

**Steve Johnson, Chair of Alcohol and Marijuana Committee**, mentioned there's not a whole lot to report. Costco is coming up from renewal. Otherwise, it's been fairly quiet. No moves to build up a new business noted. Marijuana sales generate about \$5M for the city and that may be as high as it gets. Steve noted the federal government may legalize marijuana commerce so product can move across state lines.

**Stu Grenier** asked if Steve could mention the new Catalyst cannabis store near Boniface and Northern Lights. Stu was impressed by the building. **Steve Johnson** said it's interesting they bought a bank building because they legally cannot use a bank account.

**Pamela Raygor, Bylaws Committee**, said the bylaws committee is going to put up a link on the NECC website so people can make suggestions to the bylaws. This committee will meet as those come in.

**Kyle Rehberg, Chair of CIP Committee**, provided a quick update on CIP. The committee is planning on having a meeting in September and inviting Chelsea Ward-Waller from the municipality to help with the list. It'll be a good time to go over the list and there are requests for some other projects. Kyle is hoping the committee can meet on Sept 16.

**Dave Weber, Parks & Trails Committee**, gave an update on the status of all the parks in NECC. Noted Standish Park finally got their tire swing replaced and that the park improvement meeting held at Creekside Park in late May went well. Nunaka Valley North Park playground construction has been delayed to next year and there were recent volunteer efforts to pull chokecherry at Valley Street Park.

**Stephanie Taylor, Picnic Committee**, gave an overview of the picnic that occurred in June and mentioned if anyone is interested in participating in next year's picnic there will be a meeting coming up.

**Mary McQuilkin, Chair of Ad Hoc Arts and Placemaking Committee**, gave an update on the Mayor's Beyond the Beige grant awarded to NECC, \$12K. There is currently a \$3K gap to complete the three bike racks. The hope is to start working on construction of that in Spring 2026. There will be a meeting time for the committee this quarter.

**Aimee Sims, Chair of Ad Hoc Homelessness Committee**: Looking for members and will be around in case anyone wants to sign up.

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

**APD Lieutenant Byran Fuchs** noted APD is seeing good movement across multiple fronts. APD has the highest recruiting classes in 5 years. APD has abated 29 camps this year. APD is looking at new ordinance AO 2025-74 (S-2) and worked with the administration on that. Community Service Officers (CSOs) are in the field training right now. CSOs are non-sworn officers. They are civilians to do a very specific function and the non-sworn are working on low priority calls. Non-sworn do things like traffic control, collisions, etc. The CSO count is 19 coming on in the next 6 months and it will streamline productivity on those fronts.

**Dan Hackman** completed the citizen police academy. Dan was impressed with the police. Dan noted there are numerous calls to dispatch and they are hurting for dispatchers. It's about \$37/hr to start. [JoinAPD.org](http://JoinAPD.org)

**Selina Metoyer** asked what happens when APD abates a camp? **Lt. Bryan Fuchs** responded that there is a long-range plan to outreach to the camps and listen to the needs. The impact team today housed 5 people who were in camps today. However, housing is not always available. For Davis Park, for 45 days they went to the park and did extensive outreach using the HOPE team. Social workers and police officers go into the camps. Not everyone wants to take services or get help they need, but they have to leave the area.

**Stu Grenier** mentioned when people are abated from parks they are setting things on fire. A lot of homeless are angry after being abated and Stu is concerned about that as a homeowner. **Lt. Bryan Fuchs** responded that at Davis Park specifically, AFD put out the fires after a couple minutes at Davis Park. Bryan Fuchs also commented on the environmental impact of fires and value of trees. APD works with Fish and Game as well and every single angle to keep the community safe.

**Terrel** mentioned Nunaka Valley Little League lost about \$9K in assets in a Park they use and asked if Lt. Fuchs could give an update on what the police presence is like in parks. **Lt. Bryan Fuchs** responded that there are several shifts. APD goes to areas like Parks during the evening time, and schools, and would like to do some more proactive policing. Based on the call stack APD can't do everything. It takes the whole community to be effective in public safety. If you feel like it's suspicious then call 311. If there is a suspicious activity in the park that is closed then it won't be a priority unless it's an assault or something like that. If you have a ring camera pointed towards the park then keep the footage and it can be used to establish leads.

**Matt Sims** asked what is the percentage approximately that normal citizens report on homeless people. **Lt. Bryan Fuchs** said the homeless calls on 311 are relatively low. Sometimes a person who looks homeless is walking through the area. Most reports for homeless type problems are through the Assembly to APD. Assembly members then turn around and send it to the APD office.

**Matt Sims** asked about carts being left around and how that can be enforced. **Lt. Bryan Fuchs** said the challenge on shopping carts is a lack of need or want to press charges. It's clear when APD finds someone pushing a cart but it's not a good use of the patrol officers time because the big box stores won't press charges. Retail crime is pretty high. If you have a fight in the store you need to press charges, if you have stolen things you need to press charges. APD has been working with big box stores to get the problems solved and the locking mechanisms to use on carts. It's expensive to install and they are concerned about the effectiveness in the winter. Carts are worth \$500-\$700.

**Pamela Raygor** asked what is best reported online? **Lt. Bryan Fuchs** gave an example of if you see a suspicious person regularly, low level theft, those can be reported online. If someone is actively stealing something, call that in, don't report online. Also you can go online to follow up on case numbers instead of calling in following up on it.

**Pamela Raygor** gave an update for Boys & Girls Club, they serve ages 6-18 and are open Monday through Friday. What they need from 2:30-6pm is an art teacher, music teacher, and some tutors. Members of the NECC were at the Northeast Community Center a few days ago taking a tour.

**Jim Curran, Muldoon Library** passed out September library calendars. Jim commented that he has waved at people who are trying to find the Library as it is hard to find. AARP will be giving workshops over the winter. There is a slow roll on a study going on establishing a new transit center in the Muldoon neighborhood. September people will be looking to come to the council to talk about the transit center/library. It will be a long time out.

**Fred Braden, Nunaka Valley Little League (NVLL)** stated over the last year NVLL has had \$9K worth of theft/vandalism. Fred noted there was a park bond passed in April for Nunaka Valley North/South/West Parks. Fred would like to see if there is something that can be done with that money for the Nunaka Valley softball fields. They have some ideas that would help with security and beautification.

**David Chrystal, Bartlett Area Principal Group**, commented on the trend that there is a decreasing number of kids in the school district. There are actually 340 less kids enrolled. Creekside Elementary is

now a tier II school which means that classes are mixed between grades. When David started, they were a Tier III and IV school. 25% of kids speak English as a second language. They have a 21<sup>st</sup> century program and have that funding for at least one more year. Muldoon Elementary also has that funding and it provides after school care. There is also a large teacher shortage. UAA, UAF, etc. produced 117 teachers a year from Alaska. However now there are no teachers from there and there are not enough teachers to fill that void.

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

No School Board Member report.

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

**Assembly Member Yarrow Silvers** has been busy learning the ropes and is chair of the public health and safety committee. The assembly has focused on housing and passing tax incentives to get it built and passed simplification of code to get more housing. With every abatement there are people that were previously refusing services and now some are accepting services. There are two new AOs for setting fires in parks and AO for penalties for camping near trails, playgrounds, waterways, and other spaces. At public health and safety committee they are trying to untangle drug use from homelessness. APD is working on a diversion program aimed at making public records more accessible to the public.

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

**Rep. Ted Eischeid** noted the governor did call a special session on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. There is a recess right now. The legislature overrode the governors' vetoes. It takes  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the legislature to override vetoes. Rep. Ted Eischeid has been going to a lot of community events and the Special Olympics that were out in Anchorage. Ted has been on tours and went to the Ft. Knox gold mine. It's \$118K average starting wage for new miners. Ted has been working on a lot of things like traffic calming, street maintenance, and other issues.

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

**Sen. Bill Wielechowski** noted at the override session on Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> the increase from last year's BSA was \$20, but it did make it permanent. Hopefully this will provide some stability for school districts going forward. The state auditor requested information regarding Oil & Gas settlements. There was a huge drop in the last decade and in the last year it dropped to \$250K. There were some concerns and the legislature is awaiting the results of information. Sen. Wielechowski's office also met on the Muldoon Road Wall and urged the DOT and staff to address it.

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

**Ariel Svetlik, Rep. Donna Mears Chief of Staff** noted Rep. Donna Mears is out of town. Her focus was on energy and is the energy co-chair. Energy imports are on the horizon. The reminder of the update from Ariel stopped as time expired.

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

#### **Old Business**

#### **Enforcement of Illegal Camping Laws Resolution 2025-05, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

**Pamela Raygor** noted the recent Assembly action on homeless camping has superseded some of the contents of the resolution so it will need to be modified.

**Pamela Raygor asked for consent to defer the resolution to the Ad Hoc Homeless Committee. None opposed. Resolution moved to the Ad Hoc Homeless Committee for further deliberation.**

#### **Presentations**

None

#### **New Business Non-Action Items**

#### **Pedestrian and Driver Safety Improvements Resolution 2025-06, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

**Dave Weber** gave an overview of the resolution and walked through the slide handouts. The resolution came about in response to the Vision Zero presentation given by the State of Alaska DOT and Municipality at the NECC May 2025 meeting. Dave noted the resolution is a modified version of the template given by the State of Alaska DOT. The modifications to the template added specific items about Muldoon Road improvements. Dave noted that lowering that going a 5mph slower over a mile would add 12 seconds of drive time and asked if the council should also specifically ask for a lower speed limit on Muldoon or any other improvements that people may want to see. **Stu Grenier** noted there was a previous resolution asking the speed limit to be reduced to 35mph and that should be included in the resolution. **John Cunningham** provided his experience as a truck driver to the council noting a reduction of 5mph results in a reduction of 6 1/2 feet travel when stopping. John doesn't think speed is the main issue, signage and warnings are better, and people will drive according to how fast they think they should. **Terrel** asked if the municipality doesn't have enough officers to enforce laws now how will there be enough officers to enforce roads with lower speed limits?

**Vote held to accept the resolution for a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. For: 8 Against: 8 Abstain: 1. Resolution does not pass for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.**

#### **Reinstate Jaywalking Laws & Fines Resolution 2025-07, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

**Pamela Raygor** introduced the resolution and gave an overview of its contents noting the Assembly previously voted, but did not pass reinstating jaywalking.

**Vote held to accept the resolution for a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. For: 18 Against: 0 Abstain: 2. Resolution passes for a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.**

#### **Community Announcements:**

**Jude Metoyer, President of Muldoon Farmers Market**, stated the Muldoon Farmers Market is undergoing changes and next week they are working on updating bylaws and opening up a meeting. Coming in September they plan to incorporate ideas into the market. Once the market closes, they will go to a strategy session in the fall.

**Pamela Raygor adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:46 pm.**

**Upcoming NECC meeting: Thursday, September 18, 2025, 7pm, at Creekside Park Elementary.**

**Dave Weber, Secretary**