

Minutes

Northeast Community Council (NECC)

February 16, 2023, | 7pm

Centennial Village- Multipurpose Room

9131 Centennial Circle, Anchorage, AK 99504

*NECC minutes are always taken by a volunteer board member

Board Members Present

Ron Meehan, President | **Lyn Franks**, Treasurer | **Murray Crookes**, Secretary | **T'Shalla Baker**, Parliamentarian | **Selina Metoyer**, Member | **Stu Grenier**, Member | **Marc Grober**, Member | **Bob Reupke**, FCC Delegate

Ron Meehan Calls Meeting to Order at 7:02 PM

32 people were present virtually or in the room.

Ron Meehan: Good evening everyone! As you know, George Martinez stepped down from his role as Community Council President at last month's meeting to focus on his Assembly race and ensure a smooth transition in council leadership. At our last Executive Board Meeting I was elected to serve as the next Community Council President and Murray was elected to serve as the next Community Council Secretary until we hold elections this spring. I want to thank George for being an outstanding NECC President and for leading the council through the last few turbulent months. He has very much been an inspiration to me. A reminder that all of our NECC Board Members are volunteers and we are thankful that they have stepped up to support our council and community. Murray and I are committed to making sure that the council has a smooth transition.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Roll Call

Minutes Approval: [January](#)

Marc Grober motions to approve amended January minutes with Board Communications, Stu Grenier seconds.

Treasurer's Update

Lyn Franks reports \$1919.68 in the bank account.

FCC Report

Bob Reupke: FCC met yesterday, 2 hours

Advisory committee will meet on March 8 with public testimony in April or May

April 10 - public testimony for title 21 updates

Beth Nordlund, Executive Director of Anchorage Park Foundation reported a parks bond of \$3.95 million, and reported on proposition 6, which would change the service area to include Chugach State Park, and proposed Ship Creek Trail to expand to the Coastal Trail

Suzanne LaFrance, Assembly shared next assembly meeting will be February 21 and should have all the bonds listed, suggested to sign up for tracking for ballots

Margo Bellamy, chair of Anchorage School Board - 30 minutes every day until March 3, with a plan for students to work from home on snow days. A group visited Juneau Legislators to raise BSA, if BSA is raised \$1,000, they still may have to close schools. Decrease of about 5,000 students.

All information on FCC website

Bob offered resolution to assembly to join National Association of City Transportation Officials

E-mail Bob for list of park bonds

There's a survey out to possibly change the size of community councils - Contact Bob

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

Stu Grenier: concern for 'red stripe' law that isn't followed with all identification methods. proposed adding red stripes to tribal (BIA) and military identifications.

Marc Grober: asked Tom Davis about selection of boundary advisory commission that doesn't have representatives from our area. We are intentionally being omitted and are likely the target of restructure.

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

Sen. Wielechowski: East Anchorage delegation sent letter to Mayor's office concerning homeless population urging to take a different route from Centennial park (see letter posted facebook.com/bill.wielechowski on 2-16-23). Education committee asked to increase BSA by \$1,000; there will be a debate. Resources Committee meeting to hear Governor's bills on carbon sequestration with complex proposals. Cook Inlet Gas presentations (running out?)... raised the price of Gas (highest in North America), nearly no taxes and 250 year supply (USGS). Hillcorp is refusing to drill on those leases and administration refuses to force drilling.

Sen. Tobin: concerned about people in crisis. See floor speech "Unpacking Accountability" in education: <https://substack.com/feed/post/102736959>

Senator Tobin Written Report

Rep. Wright: HB51 just went through committee (refrigerant bill, bi-partisan) going to rules chair

Stu asked about planning commission meeting (trailer court members not getting information) concerned about renters being discriminated against - stugrenier@gmail.com. David asked about legislation to remove marijuana legal activity from public record (court view). It's been cleared up, but legislation is being put forward to make that permanent.

Rep. Mears: Session is very much under way with committee meetings, digging into department finances, and the first votes will hit the floor next week, including the legislation Representative Wright was discussion that I'm a co-sponsor on. Tomorrow Representative Mary Peltola will address the House and Senate. Monday we'll take up a joint resolution on Willow. I worked with Representative Patkotak from Utqiagvik to insert language on stewardship and a broader energy picture including support for renewables. There's a lot of work in the Resources committee working through the Governor's carbon storage bills and considering the state taking over from the feds in multiple programs. I really don't see the carbon storage bills solving our revenue needs, but we're going to work to make sure it's a good deal for Alaskans.

Primacy (permitting from feds) programs are being considered. Co-chair of the Anchorage delegation. March 5th Anchorage Delegation town hall location from 2-4, location TBA.

Rep.Donna.Mears@akleg.gov
Alaska Capitol (Juneau) Room 112
www.facebook.com/Rep.Mears
Cell: (907) 632-6382

Rep. Groh: Worked with Dunbar, Mears and Gray to inquire 'why' of Centennial Park debacle in a public records request to Mayor's office and Health Department, Signed letter that Wielechowsky sent. Supported raising BSA, improve compensation system for public employees in Alaska. Worked with Sen. Wright's office to address sidewalk problems, particularly in Muldoon (and blind corners). Worked on State's structural deficit, looking to the future capacity to address deficits.

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

Pete Peterson: Sanctioned camping concept (less than 150 people) proposed. Non-profits buying hotels has worked, but not enough beds to house everyone yet. Passed emergency orders, extended terms of boards and commissions by 60 days due to resignation of an official. Contracts must be approved by Assembly (over \$10,000).

Joey Sweet: Issuing subpoenas to administration, not compliant, even today. Hope that document will make it to public eye (HR director resignation), but closed information due to executive session.

Daniel Volland: Doesn't support parks for sanctioned camps. Letter omitted that Sullivan Arena is also not appropriate for long-term shelter. "Housing is the solution." Executed Grant agreements, supporting Recover Alaska project w/UAA to train 30 additional social workers a year, VOA youth programming substance abuse prevention. Trauma prevention investments are important. Supports Juneteenth and Indigenous People's days as paid holidays. Municipal 'Open Check Book' supported with Chris Constant. Parental leave benefit, raised walks for kids proposal (safe routes for kids), better time signals for pedestrian crossing. Make easier outdoor dining.

Marc Grober question: Asked about \$187,000 grant that administration is using (grant from Alaska Trails and DNR).

Community Leadership Updates as available (3 min each) [JBER](#), [Mayor's Office](#), [Police Department](#), [Fire Department](#), [Parks & Recreation](#), [Muldoon Public Library](#), [School Board](#), [Community Patrol](#), [others](#).

Joy, JBER: Stu question: Housing rentals on JBER? No. Eligible renters include people associated with military only, not including retirees, but yes in the past for some civilian employees of Air Force.

Scott Paschall, Fire Department: Sr. Fire Captain, Station 6 facility manager and community liaison - introduced 'pulse point' app for CPR response collaboration with the community (national average 11% vs. 40+% Anchorage resuscitation rate) and addressed 20 foot road obstruction protocols.

Kelly Lessens: Board meeting on the 7th, Dr. Bryant plan to move all 6th graders to middle schools 24-25 school year with next year as a planning year. Policy revisions for academic honesty with regard to AI. Upcoming board meeting will discuss structural deficit of \$68 million that will be balanced.

Online Lottery Application Window Feb 15-April 6

Preschool info/applications: www.asdk12.org/preschool/gened

ASD Art reception Friday, March 3rd, 6:00-8:00pm at the Anchorage Museum (FREE!)

Community School Start time meetings:

- Tuesday, March 21st, 6:00pm at Bettye Davis East HS
- Wednesday, March 22nd 6:00pm at South HS
- Friday, March 24th 6:00pm at Mirror Lake Middle School.

Kindergarten Round Up

- Friday, April 14, 2023, 6:00-7:30pm at Wendler Middle School
- Friday, April 28, 2023, 6:00-7:30pm at Hanshew Middle School

Spirit of Tomorrow nominations for educators, businesses, organizations and students with outstanding involvement with schools through School Business Partnership available here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScFfzetPuX418gMCTfFyESCjU2IR_pc87MCLaCO9Ojp5DNE4Q/viewform

2023 School Climate and Connectedness Survey Window Open Feb 21 to Mar 24

for students, staff, and families. Links are here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bEKrJTavZsaFzqXh_3lebR9Dio6DscWdLP1e17E3jsg/edit

Committee Updates (limit 2 min. each)

Lyn Franks CIP: Committee is in process due to transitions

Ron Meehan: Please reach out to us if you have an interest in participating in CIP or any of these committees and we can get you involved in the process.

Stu Grenier, Parks and Trails: Asked People in parks and rec about Centennial Park's advertising, which would bring about 1/3 more business. Council has supported privatizing the park. Meeting at Russian Jack: discussed bike trail around Russian Jack, presented at parks commission (see old Business).

Presentations (limit 3 min. each, unless otherwise note)

Ivy Sponholz: Introduced Prop 14 "Care for Kids" initiative at municipal level to use Marijuana tax revenue to support early childhood funding for pre-k crisis. By dedicating 5-6 million dollars a year and dedicating it to early childhood education, amending municipal charter to permanently dedicate those funds and lower property taxes to offset funding. This will be in the April 4th ballot and passed 12-0 in the assembly.

careforkidsanchorage.com

Old Business (Limit 10 min/item including discussion)

Centennial Park 2023 usage plan resolution

Motion for discussion - Bob Reupke Moved, Lyn Franks Seconded, none opposed.

Stu Grenier presented, Ron raised questions about language, suggested clear and concise about what we're asking for, with less condemning language toward individuals and more of a focus on behaviors and actions. Bob recommended reducing size to page and a half. Lyn moved to table discussion, Murray Seconded.

If you are interested in getting more involved please reach out to Stu at stugrenier@gmail.com

Haltan Hills Resolution: **Matt Schecter:** presented proposal to support letter of objection from NECC.

Marc made point of order, then moved to open discussion to endorse and support resolution, Lyn Seconded.

Murray moved to close discussion and Called question to action/vote, Stu Seconded. 11 yea, 0 nay, 2 abstentions.

Marc Grober Communications Report

Raised fish and game concerns about single track project in Russian Jack, but didn't make it to staff report at parks and rec commission, also raised concern NECC not supporting project or master plan, reported history of lost grant (\$187,000), now it's known that noone from NECC is on Boundary Advisory Committee. Bridges (pedestrian timber) are not up to code. Marc cut off at 3 minutes, information in report listed above.

New Business (Limit 3 min/ item including discussion unless otherwise noted)

New business coming up about Boundary Trail - JBER Muldoon Boundary realignment resolution.

Stu reported adding a trail, moving boundary (Chugach solar park, or possible use for community gardens or green house), with Civil Defense implications, proposed moving live-fire range locations. More detailed proposal will be presented at a later meeting.

Community Announcements

Karen Bronga: District 5, seat H, Running for assembly

Leigh Sloan: District 5, seat H, Running for assembly

Ron Meehan adjourns meeting at 8:53PM

Upcoming NECC meeting: Mar 16, 2023

Respectively submitted by,

Murray Crookes, Northeast Community Council Secretary