

**North Lakes Community Council Minutes
Boys and Girls Club Wasilla
Meeting Minutes March 28, 2024**

A. CALL TO ORDER - Called to order at 7:00 pm by Rod Hanson, President.

B. WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS - Board members and attendees.

C. CONFIRM QUORUM

- i. Board Member Quorum: Board Member Quorum established with 4 members present. R. Greenberg was an approved absence.
- ii. Membership Quorum (minimum of 10% total membership) confirmed.

D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by F. Conaway

E. AGENDA DISCUSSION / APPROVAL

- i. No changes identified by Board members or attendees.
- ii. Approval: Motion: J. Coleman. Second: L. Calandri. Vote: Unanimous.

F. PRIOR MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

- i. No changes identified by Board members or attendees.
- ii. Approval: Motion: M. Schweigert. Second: J. Miller. Vote: Unanimous.
- iii. Approved Minutes will be posted to the website immediately.

G. CORRESPONDENCE

- i. Review & Discuss any recent Correspondence (Board & Committees)
 - a. Nothing incoming this month that involved our area.
 - b. Followup Action required: R. Hanson, President will take care of notifying service providers of new debit card numbers for billing us.

H. OFFICER / COMMITTEE REPORTS

- i. President's Report: Rod Hanson reported:
 1. Attended Fishhook Community Council meeting by Zoom. Informative.
 2. Purchased new computer for Secretary. Cost was a little over \$500, less than the \$1,000 approved. IT has helped set it up for our use. Leveraging Google Workplace.
 3. Continuing transition with IT and Past President, Theron Bair.
 4. Will reach out to Fire Service Area representatives this month.
 5. Will follow up with Career Tech High School to connect with students.
- ii. Treasurer's Report: J. Coleman, Treasurer reported:
 1. Bank account balance: Checking and Savings total \$52,087.84.
 2. Savings now includes a \$25,000 CD earning 4.75%.
 3. Treasurer reports were made available to members and will be posted to our website. J. Klapperich had several questions about income and expenses. Questions were addressed by the Treasurer and our accountant, R. Sayen. Our accounting methodology was explained.
- iii. Finance Committee: Louis Calandri, Chair reported:
 1. Committee met March 18 to set deadlines and process for 2024 grant applications. Minutes were provided and will be posted on the website.

- 2. Next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2024.
- iv. Bylaws Committee: No meeting in March.
- v. Road & Traffic Safety Committee: No meeting in March

I. PRESENTATIONS / SPEAKERS

i. Borough Comprehensive Plan Update / Q&A:

Alex Strawn introduced himself as the Planning Director for the Mat-Su Borough. The Planning Services Division has been working on the Comprehensive Plan. There has been a turnover in employees in leadership in this area and the plan is going to be slowed down for a bit. The Comprehensive Plan will go to the Assembly in early 2025.

J. Miller asked what the main concerns were from the Community? Mr. Strawn answered that economic development was a big concern, as well as transportation, child care, police power, energy, & food security.

J. Klapperich asked how Community Councils could become more influential in decision making? Mr. Strawn answered that the best way is through Resolutions approved by the Community Council sent to Assembly members or the Planning Director.

ii. Update on Waterbody Setback Advisory Board:

Alex Strawn explained recent efforts by Assembly Members to eliminate setback requirements. The Mayor formed the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board to consider code changes while protecting the environment. There are about 700 homes that have been built too close to lakes - less than the required 75-ft setback in current code. Violations make it difficult for homeowners to finance or sell these homes. Existing code is silent on commercial buildings. A draft ordinance is before the Advisory Board for consideration. The new draft maintains the 75-ft setback and offers a reduction to 45-ft if engineering evaluations are completed and risk reduction measures (run off control, etc.) implemented. In this case, the MSB would formally approve the setback and the approval would be recorded and stay with the property in perpetuity.

Rod Hanson asked how many of the 700 homes were less than 75 feet away from a lake, but more than 45 feet, and therefore provided an opportunity to become legal with engineering and mitigation. Alex indicated it was approximately 250 of the 700 homes. This means there will still be approximately 450 homes that will remain in non-compliance with setback requirements.

Alex explained changes are for lakefront properties only. There is no plan to reduce the 75 ft setback from any creeks, rivers, or streams. The Waterbody Setback Advisory Board work expects to deliver their recommendations to the Assembly in September of this year.

iii. Legislative Update / Q&A:

Senator David Wilson thanked those who attended or volunteered at the Arctic Winter Games and noted that it was a huge success. He is aware that education funding is a big concern and he assured members that the Legislature will be funding education. It is pothole season and reports can be made to the Borough. Information for reporting is available on the Borough website. State budget is

coming up and Community Assistance is not fully funded this year, but should be funded next year.

J. STATUS UPDATES / NLCC REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- i. "Welcome to North Lakes" signs: Rod Hanson provided a draft copy of what our 18x24 inch signs will look like. The plan is still to put 18 signs in our area. Two sign vendors have been contacted for quotes to create the signs. Quotes are being requested from three installation contractors to put up the signs. Permits will be obtained. Utilities will be located. The contractor will also place posts for deployment of the speed radar signs.
- ii. Road Service Area 25 Report: J. Miller is on the RSA Committee. A written report was provided and will be posted on the website.

K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- i. Approval of NLCC Bylaws: Changes were shared with residents / members last month. Rod Hanson reminded attendees of the prior summary report for justification ... to move the Annual meeting and Elections back to October each year; to enhance outreach to all residents and not just members; and to provide flexibility for more timely response to requests for NLCC input and comments. There were no further comments or questions from attendees. Approval: Motion: J. Klapperich. Second: M. Schweigert. Discussion ensued about the need to also align bylaws with requirements of Alaska Open Meetings Act (public notice and meeting minutes). Because it is a simple compliance issue, attendees agreed no need to send back out for another 30-day review. Klapperich amended his motion for compliance to the open meetings act. Second still stands. Vote: Unanimous approval.
- ii. IT Administrator Role Transition - Status Report : Richard Hanson reported the transition is working well. So far the laptops are both setup and further documentation and training will be taken care of in the future.
- iii. NLCC Activities / Calendar of Events for 2024 – Next Steps:
Rod Hanson led a discussion about several items that need to be added to our Google Drive planning calendar. These include, but not limited to:
 - Monthly Membership Meetings (Hanson / Purcell)
 - Annual Board Meeting (Hanson / Purcell)
 - Committee Meetings (Committee Chairs)
 - Annual NLCC BBQ Event (J. Coleman)
 - Grant Program Deadlines (Finance Committee Chair)
 - MSB and State of Alaska Non-profit reporting (J. Coleman)
 - Input Deadlines for Road & Traffic Safety plans (Committee Chair)Board members agreed to identify those dates and get them to Rod and Pat for upload into our planning calendar. Related discussions ensued:
 - Road & Traffic Safety Committee - Chris Schnipke is unable to continue as chair. Rod will discuss with Rachel Greenberg to see if she will take over as chair for that committee.

- Annual BBQ event - we agreed to hold it at the Boys & Girls Club and target the end of July before the kids go back to school. J. Coleman will set the date and take the lead. She will need support. Once the date is set, Rod Hanson will work with the MSB to develop and distribute our annual flyer / mailout. The MSB needs about 6-weeks notice.
- M. Schweigert asked about NLCC involvement in a community cleanup. L. Calandri explained we have done this in the past but recommended that we just promote the cleanup day, typically set by the Borough or cities and encourage individual neighborhoods to organize. Senator Wilson mentioned there is not a coupon being mailed out by the Borough for the dump fee this year, but it is available on the Borough website. Alex Strawn mentioned the Borough is setting up a program for non-violent criminals that can be used to assist with Borough cleanup. The Borough also provides financial assistance for junk vehicle removal.

L. NEW BUSINESS

i. 2024 Grant Applications

1. L. Calandri reported the deadline for Applications is 4/30/24. Details are posted on our website. Finance committee will review applications at their 5/13/24 meeting and provide recommendations for approval no later than the June Membership Meeting. Recommendation may be ready for the May Membership Meeting. L. Calandri took action to identify key dates for the 2025 Grant application process so we can get them on the calendar early.

ii. Action Planning - Next steps on our priorities: Rod Hanson indicated this will be a standing agenda item and we will review the next steps necessary to advance our priorities at each monthly meeting.

1. Membership Engagement – Increase awareness / participation:

- a. In April, we will prepare materials for a more robust outreach effort by the Board and other members in May. Materials will include:
 - i. One page flyer describing our mission and accomplishments.
 - ii. Contact cards - providing key information.
 - iii. Blank Membership forms.
 - iv. Other items as deemed appropriate.
- b. Materials will be provided to Board members and other Members at the April Meeting with a request for personal outreach in May.
- c. John Klapperich spoke about an opportunity to revisit the use of digital advertising as a form of effective outreach to our members. His initial proposal in fall of 2023 was declined by the NLCC Board at that time based on cost and perceived effectiveness. After further discussion, Rod Hanson indicated the existing Board may be open to reconsideration and requested that John provide an updated proposal to him in April. Rod will then share with other Board members and consider adding the subject to the agenda for our May meeting.

2. Bogard Corridor Road Safety – Influence Improvements:

- a. Rod Hanson will reach out to R. Greenberg and the Road and Traffic Safety Committee with a request they begin to outline a letter or resolution

expressing our specific concerns and ideas. The goal would be to review an outline at the end of April and finalize a resolution at the May Membership Meeting.

3. Waterbody Setbacks Initiative – Monitor & Input:
 - a. Following the briefing we received tonight, Rod will continue to monitor and participate in the Advisory Board meetings. Action in April will include sharing the latest information with our residents and members.
4. MSB Comprehensive Plan – Input from NLCC:
 - a. Alex Strawn asked that we need to be patient and they will get back into motion soon. No specific action planned in April.

M. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION - Members had an opportunity to speak.

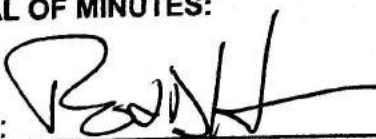
- i. J. Klapperoch reinforced desire to increasing participation of residents.
- ii. David Willequer suggested a form of outreach by providing mini library exchange boxes in neighborhoods. Richard Hanson agreed with the idea. They will get together to further the discussion.
- iii. L. Calandri suggested use of our QR code on materials to increase awareness.

N. ANY ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS? None

O. ADJOURNMENT:

- i. Initial motion (prior to 8:00 pm) to extend meeting from 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm: L. Calandri. Second: P. Purcell. Vote: Unanimous approval.
- ii. Final motion for adjournment: L. Calandri. Second: S. Johnson. Vote: Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Signed by: 

Date Signed: 4/25/24

Attested by: Patricia Purcell

Date Signed: 4/25/24