

North Lakes Community Council Membership Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2025 – 7 pm

Website: <https://www.nlakes.cc>

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Boys & Girls Club Bogard

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Rod Hanson. Rod Hanson welcomed everyone. Board members and others introduced themselves. Quorum verified as 5/5 board members and more than 10% of council members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Louis Calandri.
2. **AGENDA APPROVAL**
A motion to approve the agenda was made by John Miller and seconded by Rachel Greenberg. There were no recommended revisions and the agenda was therefore approved unanimously.
3. **PRIOR MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL**
A motion to approve meeting minutes from the January 30, 2024 Membership Meeting was made by John Miller and seconded by Franklin Conaway. There were no recommended revisions and the minutes were therefore approved unanimously.
4. **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION #1**
John Miller reported on meetings held in the area on elder fraud and he gave warnings and passed out leaflets with information.
5. **CORRESPONDENCE & ACTIVITY SUMMARY**
Rod Hanson reviewed again the purpose of the January 30, 2025 Correspondence & Activity Summary report and the importance of transparency to NLCC membership for incoming and outgoing written correspondence and other activities taken by the NLCC in the preceding month. The report is widely distributed to members and residents as part of the meeting packet. It is also posted on the NLCC website (nlakes.cc) each month.
Rod mentioned that our agenda touches on many of the subjects mentioned in the report, he then drew attention to a few items that were not covered elsewhere in our agenda:
 - Item 2. Williwaw property cleanup. Franklin Conaway will be taking the lead to see if the NLCC could help the local neighborhood work with the Borough, the property owner, and a local contractor who has offered to assist. Franklin will set up initial discussions. The point of contact at the Borough was identified as Jason Ortiz. Jolleen Coleman also offered to assist on this with Franklin.
 - Item 5. We received a request for public comments on the Statewide Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP). The road and traffic committee will work with the program to give them our response. Response is due before our next membership meeting. Response will be consistent with positions the NLCC has previously taken on Road and Traffic Safety.
 - Item 8. Radar Speed Signs. Josh Luetzinger has deployed two of our radar speed signs on Green Forest Drive. He will soon deploy the third radar speed sign on Charley Drive. We will gather a couple weeks of data in “stealth mode”

and then at least a couple weeks of data in display mode before working with the Borough and our Committee on the next locations.

- Item 19. Welcome to North Lakes Sign Project. Josh Leutzinger is taking the lead on this as well. He is working with the MSB and the State on permitting now. Implementation strategy has shifted away from hiring a contractor and toward a volunteer effort using equipment and labor of NLCC members. There may be a need for some rental equipment as well.

6. OFFICER / COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. President's Report - R. Hanson had no further report.
- b. Treasurer's Report - Jolleen Coleman summarized the balance sheet and budget report as of 1/31/25.
- c. Finance Committee - No meeting. No report.
- d. Bylaws Committee - No meeting. No report.
- e. Nomination Committee - No meeting. No report.
- f. Road & Traffic Safety Committee - R. Greenberg reviewed minutes of the February 16th committee meeting. A copy of the draft minutes is in the packet.
- g. North Lakes Comprehensive Plan Committee - C. Vague met with the borough to get copies of other comprehensive plans. Vague will email NLCC members to recruit committee members. A meeting date and time will be set and published on the Public Meetings Calendar by the MSB. The committee will be exploring options and pros and cons to recommend the best way forward, considering potentially significant costs if the Borough needs to bring on a consultant to assist. The meeting date and time will be broadly communicated to members to see who else might wish to get involved.

7. GUESTS PRESENTATIONS

Tom Adams, MSB Public Works Director, and Kelsey Means, HDL Public Involvement Coordinator, conducted a presentation on the Engstrom to Trunk Road Connector project. Key topics covered in the Q&A included:

- Clarification on route proposals.
- Questions were asked about timelines and project status.

At the end of the presentation, Rod Hanson shared NLCC perspectives and indicated that we will continue to push for transparency and involvement in the project scoping and decision making process. Some of the key points were:

- When the voters approved the TIP 21 ballot initiative, the ballot initiative described the Southern Route.
- Final decision criteria should include:
 - Overall improvements to current and forecast traffic congestion relief
 - Schedule: The timing of various alternatives
 - ROW Acquisition expectations and costs
 - Overall costs to Borough taxpayers (bang for the buck)
- Looking forward, both Northern and Southern options should be constructed.
- The Northern Route will require ROW acquisition through eminent domain.
- The Southern Route involves ROW that property owners are willing to sell.
- The Southern Route cuts through Central Gravel Products development. They have indicated a willingness to construct the road base at little to no cost to the Borough.

Rod thanked Tom Adams and Kelsey Means for their informative presentation and assured them that we intended to continue our professional engagement as the project is further defined and as a final decision is made on route selection. We encourage the Borough to engage with the property owners and with Central Gravel to confirm willingness and opportunity for significant cost savings.

8. STATE & BOROUGH OFFICIALS - UPDATES

Sharon Johnson provided an update from Representative Elexie Moore's Office. She will also send that information to the NLCC Board in an email.

Rod Hanson shared the essence of an earlier conversation with Senator Rob Yundt, who was unable to attend this evening. The Senator shared information on a school bus accident earlier in the day. The bus was enroute to Fairbanks with a Colony Middle School sports team. There was at least one injury requiring ambulance transportation. The troopers are investigating. Senator Yundt also provided a copy of a press release from his office today regarding SB 92. Copies of the press release were available as handouts.

9. ONGOING / UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Updates on Hot Topics: Rod Hanson provided updates on the following subjects. There are also written updates on these topics included in the Monthly Correspondence & Activity Summary report.
 - i. Waterbody Setback Code Revisions
 - ii. Safe Streets 4 All - Action Plan Feedback
 - iii. Central Gravel Products - Conditional Use Permit with updates on approval.
 - iv. CAMP / Bogard Road Projects (Coordination with AKDOT) were updated based on input from the community.
- b. 2025 Volunteer Opportunities. R. Hanson led a discussion to review current volunteer opportunities and identify any additional opportunities. A list of opportunities was included in the meeting packet. He will post it to the website and email it to NLCC members.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. 2024 Grant Recipient - Updates and Final Reports
 - i. Big Lake Trails completed their work today and emailed the board an update.
 - ii. Mat-Su Valley Rebuild sent us an update on their completed projects.
 - iii. Mat-Su Disc Golf Association is working to complete their project this summer.

- b. 2025 Grant Program - Next Steps. The published schedule was for applicants to have their information submitted by the end of February. We have not yet communicated this information to the community. Colleen Vague moved to extend the deadline for the grant applications to the end of March. Jolene Coleman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Rod Hanson will send out information via Mailchimp and Facebook tomorrow.
- c. Mat-Su Transit Resolution - to be decided in March. R. Greenberg discussed our intent to submit a resolution to the MSB in support of continued funding for transit services in the area. A presentation is scheduled for our March meeting. A resolution will be finalized after that presentation.
- d. NLCC Response to Final CAMP report. R. Greenberg reviewed a draft of a letter the NLCC plans to submit to see if there were any suggested changes. Sherry Fetzner had earlier mentioned specific concerns about the Caribou / Bogard intersection. Rod Hanson said he would update the letter report to include that intersection on the list of priority issues within the North Lakes area. The deadline for submission is tomorrow, February 28th.

11. ADDITIONAL AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Jade Laughlin from Central Gravel Products thanked the council for our support and for speaking up about our concerns. Rod Hanson thanked him for his willingness to meet with us throughout the process and his willingness to meet with the Borough as earlier discussed regarding the Southern route option for the Engstrom to Trunk Connector.

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

No board member comments.

13. ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Signed by: _____ Date Signed: _____

Attested by: _____ Date Signed: _____