

North Lakes Community Council Membership Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2025 – 7 pm

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

Boys & Girls Club Bogard

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 by Rod Hanson.

Rod Hanson welcomed everyone. Board members introduced themselves. Quorum verified as 5/5 board members and more than 10% of council members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by David Willicker.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

There were no recommended revisions and the agenda was approved unanimously.

3. PRIOR MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

There were no recommended revisions and the March 27th minutes were approved unanimously.

4. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION #1

Rod reminded everyone that this section was for individuals to bring forward any topics that are not already on tonight's agenda. Participants are limited to 3 minutes each. There will be another opportunity for audience participation near the end of the meeting. The following individuals spoke:

- Franklin Conoway reported a vacancy for the borough cleanup organizer.

5. CORRESPONDENCE & ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Rod Hanson reviewed the April 24, 2025 Correspondence & Activity Summary report. He drew specific attention to the following items in the report:

- Items #8. Planning Commission meeting on April 21st. Approved a land use designation for purposes of a new Fire Station on the south side of Bogard across from Tait. NLCC supports.
- Several other items on this report are incorporated into our agenda for this evening and will be further discussed at that time.

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 3/31/25.
- c. Finance Committee - L. Calandri reported that the committee met on 4/17 and developed recommendations for grant awards. Will be reviewed under item 9.a on tonight's agenda.
- d. Bylaws Committee - No meeting. No report.
- e. Nomination Committee - No meeting. No report.
- f. Road & Traffic Safety Committee - The meeting was cancelled because it fell on Easter Sunday.
- g. North Lakes Comprehensive Plan Committee - C. Vague reported there has been no further progress. She is scheduling a meeting of interested folks on April 15th at noon at Affordable Catering on Palmer Wasilla Highway.

7. GUEST PRESENTATIONS

- a. Wild Free Alaska OT - Jillian Blount presented information on her program. The location of her operation is located off of Seldon Road to the West of the NLCC area, but offers services to families and youth in our area. See the meeting packet for more details.

8. STATE & BOROUGH OFFICIALS - UPDATES

- A. A written report by Rep. Elexie Moore was received too late to be included in the hard-copy meeting packet. It is however included in the on-line agenda and packet on our website.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. 2025 Grant Awards. L. Calandri and the Finance Committee discussed their recommendation to award \$5,000 to the Wasilla Area Seniors Inc nutrition (food delivery) program.
 - i. A motion was made by F. Conoway to approve the recommended grant. A second was made by C. Vague.
 - ii. Discussion.
 - iii. There were no objections and the motion was approved unanimously.

- b. Shaw Elementary School Access Project. Andrew Strahler from the MSB presented information on the proposed work to improve access to Shaw Elementary and construct access to the new Birchtree Charter School. R. Hanson then facilitated Q&A and Public Comments. In summary, there was acknowledgement of the safety concerns at Wasilla Fishhook and Paradise given the high volume of school traffic and the inadequate intersection design. There was significant discussion about the future high volume of traffic for the new Birchtree Charter School being constructed next to Shaw Elementary. The school will have between 400 and 450 students attending and only a very small percentage are bused to the school. The vast majority of students will be driven to school by parents or other family members. About one-half of this traffic is expected to come from Wasilla Fishhook and the other one-half through the new Foxtrot connection. There were also many concerns raised by local residents about the negative impacts of increased traffic through the Shaw's Tri Lakes neighborhood and particularly along the Caribou / Charley / Mariah "short cut" between Bogard and Wasilla Fishhook. Residents along Foxtrot also expressed concern about the increase in traffic through their neighborhood. There were suggestions to add speed bumps and/or other traffic calming design measures to force traffic to move through the neighborhood slowly. There were also questions about pathways. The MSB indicated that a separated pathway was within the scope of the project for Paradise and Foxtrot. This led to questions about when improvements to Charley Drive (including pathways) were to be completed.

Rod Hanson suggested that the highest priority should be placed first on intersection improvements at Wasilla Fishhook and Paradise. This intersection should be designed for significant traffic levels with a focus on school traffic. A signalized intersection should be considered in lieu of a roundabout. This would provide for much more positive traffic control, particularly during the morning and afternoon school rush. The extension of Paradise should serve the Birchtree school and the school parking lots / traffic patterns should be designed to accommodate the high number of drop-off and pick-up vehicles. On-site traffic flow should accommodate the vehicle queues to avoid back-up of vehicles onto Paradise. The connection to Foxtrot should not happen at this time. It should be considered only after necessary improvements are made to the Caribou / Charley / Mariah corridor.

R. Hanson then described the next steps for the NLCC, which will include preparation of an NLCC resolution providing feedback to the MSB on this project. The resolution will capture the nature of tonight's concerns and recommendations. The resolution will likely be submitted to the MSB prior to the May 29th NLCC Membership meeting. This approach is allowed in our bylaws.

10. ONGOING / UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Waterbody Setbacks - Meeting will be May 1 at 4:00 at the Borough assembly.
- b. Wolf Lake State DNR Land Disposal - NLCC and FCC is advocating that the borough take ownership from the state to create a borough park.
- c. Engstrom to Trunk Connector Road - Some outreach from the Olsen family to the Kercher family that they would be willing to negotiate with the borough for the southern route. Louis Callandri, as president of Shorewood subdivision, indicated that they are not in favor of the southern route. Rod Hanson said he would be sure to include that information in future letters or resolutions, but that the previous position taken by the NLCC was unlikely to change; primarily because of safety concerns with truck traffic onto Bogard Road and because of the cost and schedule impacts of the northern versus southern route.
- d. MSB Transit Services - The resolution has been finalized. It was signed tonight and will be submitted asap to the Mat-Su Borough. A copy is in the meeting packet.
- e. Welcome Signs Project - Josh Leutzinger reported that an encroachment permit application was submitted to the Borough have signs to be installed between June and August of this year.
- f. Radar Speed Signs - J. Leutzinger states that signs were moved but they don't seem to be working well as a traffic calming measure. More enforcement is needed. The hope is that the data can be used to improve enforcement.

11. ADDITIONAL AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

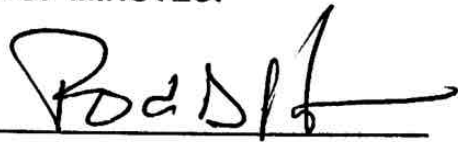
- R. Hanson reported that at the last assembly meeting they approved the pursuit of grant funds to replace the King's Lake culvert and the Charlie Rd. Culvert.
- J. Leutzinger reported that there are some more high yield savings accounts where we may be able to deposit our money that may allow us to earn more on our funds.

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- C. Vague asked if the community council had a scheduled clean up date (nothing has been organized). Also expressed a need to be vigilant about education for our children.
- J. Coleman commented that she hopes the borough chooses a stop light at the Paradise / Wasilla Fishhook intersection.
- F. Conaway reported that the problem property in Williwaw is not a law enforcement issue. He would like to see what enforcement can do to prevent further trashing of the area.
- N. Smith had no comments.
- R. Hanson expressed gratitude for Louis bringing up differing viewpoints.

13. ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Signed by: 

Date Signed: 5/29/25

Attested by: 

Date Signed: 5/29/25