

North Lakes Community Council Membership Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2025 – 7 pm

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

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Boys & Girls Club Bogard

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Colleen Vague, Vice President. Colleen welcomed everyone. Board members introduced themselves. Quorum verified as 4/5 board members (Hanson on Zoom; Vague, Coleman, and Conaway at Boys & Girls Club; Smith - excused absence) and more than 10% of council members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was taken by all.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

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

3. PRIOR MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

Minor changes were made to the draft minutes to accurately reflect presence and arrival times of Board Members. There were no further recommended revisions and the April 24th minutes were approved unanimously.

4. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION #1

Colleen 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:

- John Miller - expressed his advocacy and encouraged others to support the Southern Route option for the MSB Project to connect Engstrom to Trunk. He pointed out the significant safety benefit of providing better trucking access to the Central Gravel operations being developed in that area. He also pointed out the significant cost savings to taxpayers of this alternative versus any of the other Northern Route options.
- Rachel Sayen discussed ongoing park activities at Williwaw - 5 days a week.

5. CORRESPONDENCE & ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Rod Hanson reviewed the June 26, 2025 Correspondence & Activity Summary report. He drew specific attention to the following items in the report:

- Items #5 and #11 in the report relates to an ongoing review of the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board recommended code changes by various MSB Boards

and Commissions. The NLCC continues to participate in public meetings. Our position is that we support the code changes, but recommend reducing some of the requirements that are seen as unreasonable by the public and by members of the Assembly. We suggest the various Boards and Commissions prioritize those items and only recommend the highest priority items back to the Assembly.

- Item #19 relates to the lack of maintenance and care by the MSB at the Cottonwood Lake Park / Lake Access site. Rod reported an in-person meeting that Myron Schweigert, Bryan Gearry, and he had with Assemblyman Dimitri Fonov at the park on 5/31/25 to point out some of the issues. MSB Mayor Edna Devries was in the audience at this meeting and asked if this was a Borough managed park, we indicated that it was.

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. Rod Hanson mentioned that the Mat-Su Disc Golf Association has submitted receipts for their \$4,000 Grant Award from 2024. This will be reflected in next month's financials.
- 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 - Rachel Greenberg reviewed the minutes of the recent committee meeting (in the packet) and spoke to ongoing activities. Franklin Conaway raised concerns about the noise and vibration of the Bogard Road Paving project near Williwaw. (Rachel Greenberg later followed up with the State DOT and it was later confirmed that this was unrelated to the paving project.)
- g. North Lakes Comprehensive Plan Committee - C. Vague reported the resolution has been approved and is being submitted to the MSB. A copy is in the packet.

7. GUEST PRESENTATIONS

- a. Michael Bowles, candidate for Assembly District 1 provided a summary of his past experience and his conservative platform.
- b. Mayor Devries spoke about the upcoming Assembly meeting on July 15th, and specifically to the importance of public input on the proposed fuel excise tax. She also spoke about the ongoing CAMP amendment process underway at the Assembly.
- c. Mayor Devries was asked to speak about her plans to run for Alaska Governor. As this meeting was held after normal MSB employee work hours, she agreed there was not a conflict in the discussion. She acknowledged her intent. Audience members expressed support and appreciation for her work as MSB Mayor.

8. STATE & BOROUGH OFFICIALS - UPDATES

- a. There were no updates from State or Borough officials.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. NLCC Board Elections - Upcoming in October - Colleen Vague reminded everyone that there are three Board personnel (Hanson, Coleman, Conaway) whose terms expire in 2025. All three are eligible for an additional term. Per our Bylaws, a nominations committee will be formed in August to determine the willingness of existing Board Members to run for a second term and to determine if there are any other nominees.
- b. Annual NLCC BBQ Event Planning (Coleman): Date is July 26th, 2025. Timing will be from 11am to 2pm. Jolleen Coleman is working to obtain doorprizes, but finding less support than in recent years. Franklin Conaway moved that an additional \$500 be allocated in the budget to allow purchase of additional door prizes. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. We will also be getting support from Enstar; they will be loaning us their industrial grade grill trailer, but we will need to staff the operation. Franklin Conaway agreed to serve as "grill master". All board members and others were encouraged to attend and interact with members of the public who show up ... make sure they are aware of what it is that the NLCC does for the community and encourage them to get involved.

10. ONGOING / UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Bogard - Seldon Corridor Access Management Plan (CAMP) Update: Rod Hanson described in detail the ongoing process of review by the Assembly and the multiple amendments that are being considered. The NLCC continues to advocate for adherence to the principles outlined in CAMP and against exceptions to those principles.
- b. Wolf Lake State DNR Land Disposal/ Community Park Project: Rod Hanson referred everyone to the 2-page write-up in the meeting packet and the one-page concept sketch that provides background and current status. He shared that discussions ongoing with the Borough were all encouraging. The survey results indicate 93% of 433 respondents support the concept we have proposed. The MSB is in discussion with the State of Alaska. The MSB Parks, Recreation & Trails Advisory Board is preparing a resolution in support of the concept. Advocacy continues.
- c. NLCC Welcome Signs update- The NLCC is still working with the borough to get approval for sign installation. Central Gravel Projects will assist in installing

the signs. Rod explained that the Borough will only approve 6 locations at this time (only at the boundary where MSB roads enter the NLCC area). We also have permit applications submitted to the State of Alaska for an additional 7 locations. We expect approval soon on the MSB locations and will then be organizing work parties to do the installations.

11. ADDITIONAL AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

- a. John Miller spoke about the upcoming fuel excise tax debate.
- b. Barbara Doty encourage the MSB to get Community Councils more involved in the future when debating and deciding on Community Council Boundaries. She pointed out that her neighborhood (Wolf Lake) is split by the current council boundary.
- c. Franklin Conaway suggested that the MSB consider sunset clauses on the proposed fuel excise tax. He also suggested outreach to major local businesses as a source of revenue for road maintenance.
- d. Michael Bowles cautioned against the proposed fuel excise tax and pointed to Anchorage as an example. He also indicated he would rather see a sales tax considered as a way to raise additional funds.

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- None this evening

13. ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Signed by: _____ Date Signed: _____

Attested by: _____ Date Signed: _____