

Turnagain Arm Community Council

Meeting Minutes for

September 12, 2019

I. Call to Order: 7:08 p.m.

II. Introductions

A. Newly elected Community Council Officers and community members present

B. Local representatives from municipal assembly:

John Weddleton and Suzanne LaFrance

1. Recap of municipal ordinances recently passed
2. Plastic bag ban / Bring your own bag starts this weekend
3. Discussion of proposed new Storm Water Utility (SWU)
 - a. Working on securing funding to get "rate study" complete based on previous storm water report
 - b. Will separate funding by areas of Anchorage (ie. Eagle River / Birchwood, Anchorage bowl, Hillside, Turnagain Arm / Girdwood etc.)
 - c. Estimates there is upwards of \$1 Billion in backlogged repairs to be completed.
 - d. Would like community support / email to the municipality supporting funding for the "rate study".
4. Next Anchorage assembly meeting is September 24th.
5. Discussion of the Anchorage ordinance for waste management / wildlife.

C. Alisha Hilde from the Anchorage School Board

1. Working to revise strategic plan for 2020 and is looking for community input.
2. Looking for ways to save money.

3. General comments and discussion on quality of education, plans to address falling academic performance.
4. It was discussed that ASD facilities funding is through municipal bonds, which is separate from individual school operating budgets. Funding for school improvements cannot be used to fund teacher's salaries.
5. Alisha would like to see reduction in aggressive parents approaching the school administration/teachers, and reduction in use of alcohol/drugs on campus, which would save administration costs.
6. Please contact Alisha at <email> or 907-720-1060 if you have further comments or suggestions for the new board of education strategic plan.

III. Old Business

- A. Seward Highway MP 100-105 project construction: Waiting for funding from FHWA to advertise for bid. Anticipate Bidding this spring for construction in 2020.
- B. Windy Corner project: Open houses will be held in Girdwood and Anchorage for public comment. Go to <http://www.windycorner.info/> for more information.

IV. New Business

- A. Update on the Turnagain Arm Police Service Area (TAPSA).
 1. Billing received from 2017 through Current.
 - a. In general monthly callouts and cost for police response in the community has be increaseing (upwards of ~1,700/ month currently).
 - b. Two callouts for the "Bird Camp" occured in October 2018. TACC will request more info on these callouts/charges from APD. **(See Appendix notes)**.
 - c. Question if there is a clause/ordinate requiring repeat offenders for callouts to pay for the police response.
 2. General note that the total police costs to date are ~\$32,300 and the original \$50,000 funding pool established in 2017 will likely need to be replenished with the next tax cycle. The community should expect to see a small tax (less than 0.5 mill) in 2020 to re-fund the TAPSA.

- B.** Wendy Wolf noted that the TACC community potluck held at the ballfield has historically incurred a \$25 application fee. Next year this fee will go to \$50, and if the community wishes to continue to host this potluck at the park we will need to get funding from the community to pay for this application fee. Alternative TACC would also take suggestions for another location to hold the annual potluck.
- C.** No motion to vote was made on the renewal of the Froth and Forage or Indian House alcohol/beer and wine licenses. The owners of these businesses were not present to indicate if these licenses were desired to be retained or to request support from the community.
- D.** Concerns on the state of repair of the Indian Bridge:
- 1.** This concern was raised by a number of community members, and it is communities strong opinion that this bridge is a hazard to vehicles and a life safety concern with potential to cause serious accidents. This bridge is noted to have significant potholes/trenching mostly in the southbound lane which is causing vehicles to swerve into oncoming traffic to avoid damage. The repair of this bridge is slated for the Seward Highway MP 100-105 which is not currently funded and would be repaired in 2020 at the earliest. It is requested by the community that the ADOT take action to repair the surface of this bridge as a temporary means to reduce the trenching/potholes and increase highway safety.
 - 2.** It is requested that if this issue is not corrected in a timely fashion, that a member of the ADOT be present at the next meeting to discuss the plan of action for repair.
- E.** The next TACC meeting will be before the next state budget cycle occurs and will be a good time for community members to bring budget suggestions for their legislature.
- F.** Fish and Game Regulations for Bird Creek
- 1.** Residents of the "Bird Creek Hollow" noted that the Department of Fish and Game changed the fishing limit markers on Bird Creek this year removing the verbiage allowing for residents to fish a specific distance upstream of the signs. The new signs currently state that no fishing is allowed beyond the signs.
 - 2.** It is the community's recollection that the allowance for community members to fish upstream of the sign was negotiated with the ADF&G when the fish were originally stocked in the river.

3. It is requested that a representative from ADF&G be present at the next meeting to address this concern and provide clarification on the current regulations for local residents of the bird creek hollow area. (**See Appendix notes**).

V. Next Scheduled Turnagain Arm Community Council Meeting:

Next TACC meeting will be 7 p.m., Thursday, December 12, 2019.

VI. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m.

Appendix

Notes

IV. A. 1. b.

Two callouts for the "Bird Camp" occurred in October 2018. TACC requested more info on these callouts/charges from APD: **update: Deputy Chief Ken McCoy responded Sept 13th that those charges were in error and would be removed from the TAPSA account.**

V. F. 1 & 2.

The sign was removed but new signs were put up to more accurately reflect where public land ends and private land begins. Those signs are meant to delineate state land from private land because the regulations have reflected where salmon fishing could take place as anywhere downstream of the property line. **Fishing for salmon above that sign is and has been for many years against regulation.** That old sign came down because of our ability to utilize new technology to more accurately identify the property line. We used GPS and laser sighting (think surveyors gear) to identify where that line was actually supposed to be and replaced the old sign with new ones, about 50 feet down the creek from where the old sign was.

The private land owners have always been able to fish for other species besides salmon, think trout and dollys, on their property. Included is the portion of regulations for Bird Creek for your reference on how it references the private property.

Special Regulations - Anchorage Bowl

Bird Creek drainage:

- **January 1–July 13:** Closed to all fishing.
- **July 14–December 31:** Open to fishing for all species except king salmon.
- **From its mouth upstream approximately 500 yards to an ADF&G marker:**
 - **July 14–December 31:** Open to fishing all species except king salmon.
 - Salmon (except king salmon) limits:
 - 16 inches or longer: 3 per day, 3 in possession in combination.
 - Less than 16 inches: 10 per day, 10 in possession in combination.
- **Upstream from the ADF&G marker approximately 500 yards upstream of its mouth:**
 - **Open year-round to fishing for all species except salmon.**
 - In Bird Creek upstream of the marker placed upstream of the Seward Highway bridge, all land is privately owned. Obtain permission before fishing from private land.