

## **Turnagain Community Council Meeting Minutes April 4, 2024**

Cathy Gleason, TCC President, called the meeting to order over Zoom at 6:35 pm.

Zoom recording link: <https://www.youtube.com/@turnagaincommunitycouncil1438>

File: 20240405 TCC April Regular Meeting

Action items highlighted in yellow, time on Zoom clock (in parentheses).

### **(0:00) Call to Order/Introduction Zoom Meeting Guidelines + Etiquette Approve Agenda**

- Introduced board members: Cathy Gleason (President), Karen Pletnikoff (Vice President), John Issacs and Lamar Cotton (At Large), Vacant (Secretary and Treasurer)
  
- Agenda approval: John Issacs moved, Chris Habicht seconded
  - Cathy proposed following amendments:
    - Quarterly Northrim Bank report (before officer special elections)
    - Announcements (after officer special elections)
    - Romig Middle School Trojan Logo by Carrie Sumner (under Old and New Business)
  - No objections to the agenda as amended

### **(5:55) Approval Consideration TCC Officer Special Elections**

- Secretary Nominee: Chris Habicht (through Dec 2024)
  - 14 Yes, 0 No; elected
- Treasurer Nominee: Kathleen McCoy (through Dec. 2024)
  - 14 Yes, 0 No; elected
  - End of Feb statement: \$220.05 in Checking, \$1,617.16 in Savings at Northrim Bank

### **(16:30) 2024 Chugach Electric Association Board Election Candidate Introductions/Q&A Elections: April 17-May 17**

- Candidates Sam Cason, Dan Rogers, Todd Lindley, Mark Wiggin introduced themselves
- (28:30) All candidates answered 2 questions from TCC members:
  - Steve Montooth: What do you plan to do regarding potential Cook Inlet natural gas shortfalls?
  - Dan Gleason: Why didn't kilowatt-hour costs go down following the ML&P/Chugach merger?
- April 17 ballots go out, voting closes on May 17. Annual meeting at ChangePoint on May 17 6:00-7:30 pm

### **(42:19) Legislative Report (moved up due to availability of Matt Claman)**

- Budget process
  - Senate focusing on capital Budget; House focusing on operating budget
  - Top items include: Education, Public Safety, PFD, capital budget for lectrical

infrastructure along railbelt

- Will keep in mind TCC capital improvement list
- May 15 end of legislative session, unless extended

### **(46:30) Announcements**

- Open house for Downtown Transit Center Study;
  - 3 downtown sites possible
  - Online April 3 - May 3 ([www@ancransitcenter.com](http://www.ancransitcenter.com))
- Pothole hotline: 907-343-MEND
- NeighborWorks “Paint the Town” - accepting nominees. June 20 ([www.nwalaska.org](http://www.nwalaska.org))
- West High Exceptional Teacher Award accepting nominations until April 15

### **(50:10) Executive Board Report**

- Next TCC Board Meeting: Date TBD - any member can attend, let Cathy know if you want to
- Carolyn Hall posted all Zoom meetings on TCC YouTube; Chris Habicht will take over the posting duties once he learns the process
- Federation of Community Councils Delegate Report Update from March 20:
  - Mayor vetoed Short Term Rental ordinance
  - Sullivan Arena opened on March 9
  - Arctic Winter Games in Eagle Valley
  - Reviewed election
  - No Assembly report
  - UAA professor presented on Anchorage Housing Thoughts up to 2022; posted on FCC website
  - Pat Higgins provided a School Board report focusing on funding
  - Jessica Parks provided report on Next Step Initiative -Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness
  - Arianna Bellizzi is new FCC Executive Director; Acting Manager, Jean, will retire April 30
- Minnesota Dr. Fencing/Wall Barrier: AMATS Community Advisory Commission passed a resolution March 11 mtg to remove the fence/barrier. AMATS told them that there is funding for Minnesota sidewalk improvements, but out at least a couple of years.
- Lyn Ary Park Marston Ballfield: Committee Approval/Installation of 5 Diamond Name Signage has gone through formal naming process. Diamond name signs will go up after snow melts.
- Bike Alaska Proposal for Lyn Ary Park Marston Ballfields Turnagain Street. TCC found out about Anchorage Parks Foundation Challenge Grant for bike racks, and TCC Board wants to collaborate incorporating existing Master Plan
- Anchorage Transportation Fair on March 28
  - Possible Turnagain Street improvements by Muni
  - More covered in following agenda items

### **(1:01) Assembly Report**

- Anna Brawley provided written report:
  - Mayor's race will be a run-off: April 30 ballots go out; election May 14
  - Incumbents for School Board likely won
  - Most bond props are passing except Cemetery and Public Restroom bonds
  - House Finance Commission added \$4M for continuation of congregate shelter at old Solid Waste Services Building, otherwise would have closed May 31
  - HOME Initiative: and John testified for TCC, another comments meeting May 20, Work Session scheduled for May 6
  - Still waiting for audited Financial Statements for 2022, but plan to set property mil rates by end of April

### **(1:06:00) Mayor's Report**

Nobody from Mayor's office

### **(1:06:25) School Board Report**

Dave Donley not present

### **(1:06:35) Airport Report**

Eric Peterson provided the report:

- Anchorage Job Fair went well and well attended
- Anticipate 6% passenger growth this year
- South Terminal parking garage 4th floor will be under construction April 15 to July 31; if you have a car parked there it will be towed
- Current lease applications:
  - Alaska Cargo and Cold Storage: requested another year for construction: 2025 to 2026
  - Lake Hood Hangers Association: requesting 8-year extension to build up to 3 new hangers. Comments due April 25. Discussion followed regarding best use of this property. Current lease goes to 2053. Legal issues will need to be addressed with changes to current lease. Cathy said that TCC is unlikely to support this extension.
  - (1:17:00) Airplane Hangars Inc. Two adjacent leases and leasee would like to move the line between the two leases (one gets larger, one smaller) so that they can build a hangar on the current dividing line. One hanger and racks for floats exist now. Comments due April 28.
- Other updates
  - (1:21:15) Security fencing will be replaced this summer along the north end of airport property from UPS property to the north end of the N/S runway.
  - Gravel road will be added north of the E/W runway, west of the N/S runway to follow closer to the perimeter fence. Security fence not being moved.
  - K-Lot development: Lease was signed and development moving forward. TCC comments were incorporated into the lease and a treed buffer will extend 170'

from the eastern boundary. At this meeting, TCC requested evergreens as the trees of choice. Will be years before environmental review and design complete in preparation for development.

- (1:29:30) Airport Communications Plan
  - Comments due May 15: TCC plans to submit the same comments as submitted in 2020, if Plan has not changed. Cathy asked Eric to verify that Plan has not changed.

## **Update OLD & NEW BUSINESS**

### **(1:31:48) Proposed Airport Hardstand Development/Road Realignment in West Airpark**

- Jon Isaacs provided the overview:
  - West side perimeter fencing and access road will be moved westward to accommodate new cargo hardstands (airplane parking spots)
  - Existing hardstands are not adequate
  - Would like to know when the new hardstands are moving forward
- Eric:
  - Airport has been pursuing for a while - need new PUBLIC spaces
  - 2027 or 2028 earliest start date for this development
  - Leaseholder further south is preventing that space from being developed
  - Exact road alignment and timing not set yet
- Cathy
  - Getting mixed messages on the timing and extent of the project. This merritts a Land Use Committee meeting and meeting with the airport Director. Director slated to retire and end of this month

### **(1:48:45) Update: Fish Creek Trail Connection — Coastal Trail Realignment |**

- Jon Isaacs provided an overview:
  - Anchorage Transportation Fair had a station dedicated to this project
  - Federal matching funds tied to Parks and Recreation Bond - likely passed
  - Preferred alternative chosen:
    - West side of RR ROW from south end to north, just before Coastal Trail
    - Move Coastal trail northward into the mudflats to accommodate junction with Fish Creek Trail
    - South end: trail will be located at the toe of bluff with retaining wall, but full details unavailable
    - Community Council briefing now through August
    - May be doing with a “Categorical Exclusion”, which will require no more public comments
    - Construction starting in 2025
- Cathy Gleason
  - Have not heard anything for a year
  - Big surprise about moving the Coastal Trail out into mudflats
  - Concerns with removal of trees along the RR ROW

- John Haxby (TCC member and property owner near the proposed south end of the trail)
  - Proposed: In the bank up the slope to the west of the existing pipeline
  - RR ROW is an easement over other people's land - not owned by the RR
  - Stated purpose of the easement is "RR, telegraph, and telephone"
  - Not clear that they can put in this trail using this easement
  - Maybe better conversation for the TCC Land Use Committee meeting - need to schedule before the end of June - John will take the lead on scheduling meeting

**(2:04:00) Romig Middle School Trojan Logo**

Carrie Sumner provided an update

- 30' Trojan logo on the front of Romig Middle School is 50 years old and in need of renovation/update
- Remove, repaint with more contrast, and add background mural
- Romig art teacher, art students, and contracted artist from the Valley (done mural work before)
- Dr. Bishop provided seed funds and PTA raised more funds, so fully funded
- Prototypes ready in next few weeks, work will be beginning at the end of April, beginning of May, back up before school starts
- Just giving the heads-up. Prototype not ready yet

**(2:11:00) Approval Consideration Anchorage Recreational Trails Plan Citizen Advisory Group**

Kathleen McCoy offered to serve

- Kathleen said that she would keep Council and Executive Board updated
- No opposition to this nomination - so name will be forwarded to Advisory Group

**(2:14:30) Update: HOME Initiative**

- Jon Isaacs provided an update
  - 15 residential zones to 5 residential zones
  - Allow smaller lot sizes, larger buildings, and different uses
  - TCC said going too fast, need to extend comment period to May 20
  - Staff report is detailed and includes concerns
  - Assembly agenda in June
  - Jon provided testimony at the Planning & Zoning Commission public hearing March 18
- Cathy Gleason
  - Needs much more discussion
  - TCC needs to decide when they want a presentation from P&ZC in preparation for submitting comments by May 20

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**(2:21:27) Cathy proposed extending the meeting to 9:05, Jon Isaacs moved, Pat Redmond seconded.**

**(2:22:00) Land Use Committee: West Anchorage Snow Dump in Connors Bog**

Cathy Gleason and Jon Isaacs, Co-chairs provided update

- Table at the Anchorage Transportation Fair
- Funding in Roads and Drainage Bond, which looks like it will pass
- TCC was opposed to this project due to placement over Class A protected wetland
- Still open for comments: Not sure there is any value to providing any more, given the project stage (design ongoing, permitting done, and scheduled for construction in 2025/2026). Karen Plentikoff will think about whether it is worth submitting any more comments.
- They did take into account some TCC comments: Minimized vegetation clearing and added natural filtration interception
- TCC and Spenard Community Councils asked the Muni staff at the Anchorage Transportation Fair if the fence could be painted green, and they agreed to do so

**9:06 (2:31:30) Adjourn**

Cathy proposed, Dan Gleason moved, Steve Montooth seconded, no objections

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Habicht, Secretary