
TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting | January 12, 2017 | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Lake Hood Elementary School, 3601 West 40th Avenue

Chaired by Cathy Gleason, TCC Vice President & Acting President

WELCOME & APPROVE AGENDA, MINUTES

- The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. About 20 people (members and guests) attended.
- The agenda was reviewed:
 - **Motion by Gloria Manni to approve the January agenda; second by Lorraine Davis.**
 - **Vote on motion: all yes, 0 no. Agenda approved.**
- The December 1, 2016 meeting minutes were available for review and approval.
 - Cathy Gleason suggested an amendment: under the Fish Creek and Coastal Trail Bench project, the motion should read “TCC will approve final design” not “be informed of.”
 - Pat Porchot indicated he was the presenter for the Audubon Wayside project, not Tim Troll, please correct the name references as needed.
 - **Motion by Lorraine Davis to approve the December minutes as amended above; second by Dan Gleason.**
 - **Vote on motion: all yes, 0 no. Minutes approved.**
- Announcements: *See Attachments flyer available as a handout in the meeting and on the TCC website.*
 - Cathy Gleason shared that the Turnagain Blvd. upgrade project has gotten its 65% design approved by the Urban Design Commission, and moving toward 95% design. They have been directed to consult with TCC on the final design, including tree species selection.
 - Cathy Gleason also shared that the AMATS Technical Advisory Committee is reviewing the Freight Mobility Study, and will be passed to the Policy Committee. UPS and FedEx would like to use freight trucks along West Northern Lights and would like future improvements, likely to increase the speed and efficiency along the road between Postmark Drive and Nathaniel Court. This item will be on TCC’s February 2 meeting agenda, and the TCC board can provide information the council received, for anyone interested.
 - February 15: There will be a transportation fair at the Alaska Airlines Center, with several different transportation related projects as a large open house.
 - Gloria Manni shared that the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) provided information about a proposed increase in ML&P’s rate, up to 30% for customers. She was not sure whether Chugach Electric customers could expect a similar increase.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

- Check Turnagain CC’s presence on Facebook and NextDoor! Join the Facebook group “Turnagain Community Forum” or watch for posts to Turnagain North and South neighborhoods on NextDoor.
- If you have not already done so, sign up for e-mail updates from TCC and other community councils. There was a flyer available at the meeting providing instructions on how to sign up.
- **TCC still needs a President for 2017!** The election was held in November and a new slate of officers elected for 2017 (with the current Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and a new Member at Large). However, there were no nominations or candidates for President—we need someone to serve for next year! Please contact the board if you are interested (tccpresident@yahoo.com). **We will hold a special election as soon as we receive one or more candidate nominations.**
- **Treasurer’s Report | Gloria Manni**
 - TCC’s board finished up the task approved in April 2016, to fix the TCC email address to remove a previous president’s name and make the name on the e-mail account “TCC President.” This work was completed by Alaska Computer Doctor and the board disbursed the

- approved \$50 payment this month. This will correct the issue going forward as well, so we will not have to change it with a change in officers, it will read “TCC President.”
- Gloria provided the annual financial report on FY 2016, and shared that the Council currently has \$1,818.97 in funds. She made one disbursement (the payment to Alaska Computer Doctor) and did not receive additional income other than 88 cents of bank interest.
- **Motion by Pat Redmond to accept the FY 2016 financial report as presented; second by Joan McKinnon.**
- **Vote on motion: all yes, 0 no. Financial report approved.**
- **Approval of TCC Letter re: Turnagain Bog Airport Wetland Fill Permit:** The Airport submitted an application to the Army Corps of Engineers with a proposal to fill a portion of Turnagain Bog for parking and other activities. TCC submitted a letter in December 2016 stating previous positions of the council regarding Turnagain Bog, and expressing objection to possible fill and development of these important wetlands.
 - John Johansen shared that the Army Corps of Engineers requested that the Airport resubmit the application with this and other language corrected. The Airport will resubmit the application, it will have a new public notice, can either submit letter or make changes, to which the council can re-submit the comments.
 - Pat noted that approving this letter would allow the board to resubmit the same letter in response to the new permit application from the Airport, assuming it is substantially similar.
 - **Motion Pat Redmond to approve the letter submitted; second by Gloria Manni.**
 - **Vote on motion: 7 yes, 0 no. Letter approved.**
- **Presentation of TCC Letter re: Simonson Estate Subdivision Replat:** Cathy Gleason shared that following the presentation of lot owners along Marston Drive who are required to replat their lots in order to develop them in the future. The presentation generated some questions from TCC members, but no position was taken. The letter stated questions asked of members, and that TCC has no objection to the proposed replat, and did not take a position.
- **Fish Creek Park and Coastal Trail Benches:** In November and December, Intrinsic Landscapes presented on a plan for two custom-designed benches, one at Fish Creek Park and the other along the Coastal Trail near Earthquake Park. This month, Chad Taylor provided conceptual drawings and a photograph of a 1:1 scale model as a handout in the meeting. The firm is before the Parks & Recreation Commission this evening, and per the motion approved at TCC’s December 1 meeting, will be back for a presentation of the final design to give final approval.
- **Federation of Community Councils:** Cathy Gleason summarized the December 21 meeting:
 - The Muni presented on the municipal bonds that will be included on the April 4, 2017 ballot.
 - The Muni is partnering with Anchorage Community Mental Health Services to provide information to homeless individuals during encounters, providing information about jobs, housing, services, and other resources to help.
 - Anchorage Police Department is increasing academy graduates and restoring to full staffing.
 - Robin Langley with Victims for Justice spoke about Senate Bill 91, the criminal justice reform bill passed last year, and shared her organization’s concerns. There is a website with more information: ajc.state.ak.us/sites/default/files/imported/acjc/ak_practitioner_guide_2016-11-21.pdf
 - Turnagain Blvd. road project will be on the bond—vote yes to secure funding for this project!
 - The bonds listed are those which have been approved by the Assembly for the ballot.
- **Appointment of TCC Delegate and Alternate to Federation of Community Councils:**
 - The Federation of Community Councils is a nonprofit organization comprised of the 38 community councils, who collectively oversee FCC staff and can act as a body. Each council has a designated seat and collectively the group can take action. The organization meets 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the FCC Office on Fireweed Lane. Meetings include representatives from various agencies, as well as updates from councils about what they are working on or issues they are concerned about.
 - Cathy Gleason expressed interest in serving as FCC Delegate for 2017, particularly since there is no president, who serves as the de facto representative per the bylaws.

- Anna expressed interest in serving as FCC Alternate for 2017.
- **The body had no objection to appointment of Cathy Gleason as FCC Delegate and Anna Brawley as FCC Alternate. Appointments approved.**
- **President's Report | We are seeking a new President for the 2017 term!**
- **Vice President's Report | Cathy Gleason**
 - No updates.
- **Secretary's Report | Anna Brawley**
 - No updates.
- **Member at Large's Report | Sandy Rabinowitch**
 - No updates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Land Use Committee: Anchorage 2040 Land Use Plan Map:** The committee has not met since last month, but has been reviewing the draft land use plan map and submitting comments to municipal staff and responding to additional requests for response from the Planning & Zoning Commission.
 - Cathy Gleason summarized the Forest Park Mobile Home Park question: the map proposes a higher-intensity use for residential ("compact mixed residential medium density"), an increase from the current "single and two family residential" designation. TCC did not previously discuss this change, but Gregg White, the manager of the mobile home park, has consulted with the owner and with several residents, and none are in support of the new designation.
 - Pat Redmond commented that the neighboring residents may or may not support this change, and probably depending on the character and quality of future development. However, she speculates that single-family homes are likely to want to retain the existing character.
 - Joan McKinnon added that if there were high-end condos built, the neighbors might see that as an improvement.
 - Tim Steele commented that he believes the residents of the park have always been good neighbors, he is concerned about them being displaced in future and would not like to see them displaced if this generates a new higher-density development.
 - **Motion by Dan Gleason to support for TCC to support the objections of the land owner, residents and the manager to the proposed increase in allowed residential density in the draft land use plan map, and support the current designation and land use. Second by Pat Redmond.**
 - **Discussion:**
 - Gloria Manni commented that she is concerned about potential increase in traffic, and believes the existing residents are good neighbors as well.
 - Anna Brawley commented that she does not object to this motion, but pointed out that citywide, more land is needed where we can build housing at different levels of affordability, making neighborhoods stay at low density or have single family homes only chips away at this overall goal. Also, changing the land use designation would likely increase the value of the property in future. And finally, any future development, especially an entire subdivision or a site with multiple homes, would still go through its own re-zoning, platting, and site plan review process, including traffic studies if there are enough units proposed.
 - Eric Croft agreed, and noted that he and Tim are representatives here to listen, but are faced with the challenge of addressing the need for housing citywide and the need for many areas of the city to accommodate more housing as the demand increases. It would not happen if neighborhoods all express interest in keeping things as they are.
 - Cathy commented that she believes this increase had not been specifically identified in the West Anchorage District Plan. She shared she spoke with the resident manager and he talked about residents' quality of life, access to their own yard, and the fact

that many had lived there for decades. She recognizes the need for more housing but supports the motion, particularly since it has support of residents and property owner.

- Pat Redmond commented that she also understands the need for more housing, and that the proposal would be reviewed again, but would still like to be responsive to the residents and the manager.
- Another member commented that he is inclined to support the motion as presented, but is also concerned about the potential for the development becoming a large-lot, less dense housing because these seems like a step backwards. However, it is difficult to say what may get developed in future.

- **Vote on motion: 8 yes, 3 no. Motion passes. The board will inform the Planning Department and the resident manager.**

- **Land Use Committee: Marijuana Establishments and Protected Land Use Separation:** The Assembly passed AO 2016-144(S), clarifying how the Muni will measure distance between a marijuana business and protected land uses, for which they have to be at least 500 feet away. The ordinance defined the 500-foot distance measured by “shortest practical pedestrian route” and that establishments have to be at least 200 linear feet from a protected land use. Contact the Municipality if you have questions about this ordinance.
- **Lake Hood Master Plan Update:** Cathy Gleason shared that the TCC committee has not met to review the new draft, but she spoke with Tom Middendorf at the Airport and confirmed that the Airport did not make the requested changes by TCC. She recommends that the board resubmit the comments previously submitted, expressing concerns about development on Airport lands particularly wetlands near the Turnagain neighborhood.
- **Turnagain St./Turnagain Blvd. Upgrades:** There is an open house on January 17, and the 65% design has been completed, pending choosing tree species appropriate to the neighborhood. The TCC committee will meet to prepare recommendations on the trees, and encourage neighbors to attend the open house as well.

AIRPORT REPORT | JOHN JOHANSEN

- *See airport updates on the handout provided at the meeting or online at: www.anchorageairport.com*
- **Lake Hood Seaplane Base Master Plan:** The public review draft of the Lake Hood Seaplane Base master plan is available at the website: www.lhdmasterplan.com, and comments will be accepted through January 16, 2017.
- **Concession Update:** There is a new bar open in C Concourse, near C-6, that seems to be busy!
- **Military Hiring Fair:** JBER is hosting a job fair on January 18th at the Arctic Warrior Event Center on base, and the Airport will participate as an employer. The goal is to connect military, their spouses, and veterans with job opportunities.
- **Hiring Opportunity:** The Airport is actively seeking heavy equipment operators, as well as facility maintenance personnel. Visit www.workplacealaska.com for more information.
- **Army Corps Wetland Fill Permit Application:** The application previously submitted erroneously included filling portions of Turnagain Bog for expanded GA parking; this is not the plan, but the plan is to fill this area and store construction materials to be used in future projects. The new application has been updated to remove this error—the GA parking is identified as a future project in the master plan but is not being developed at this time, there is not currently enough need.
- **Regulation Updates:** No update as of now, the draft regulations are out for public comment. The regulations are associated with tie-down and float slip permits on Lake Hood.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *No questions.*

LEGISLATIVE REPORT | REP. MATT CLAMAN

- **Rep. Matt Claman**
 - Rep. Claman shared that the House is getting organized, session starts next week.

- The budget will be a primary issue the Legislature needs to deal with, and he believes that the state cannot simply cut the budget and expect to be sustainability. He has heard from several people that the cuts are already being felt: cuts to natural resources, stalling needed resource permits such as mining and timber; reduced hours for the court system; and other state offices or services being reduced. He also believes that the Permanent Fund will be a necessary component of the plan, many are upset about proposed cuts and others support a reduced dividend in the future. The state needs to identify approximately \$0.5 billion in revenue to close this gap going forward.
- The new House Majority sees the budget as a primary task for the body to address.
- Rep. Claman will be chair of House Judiciary for this session.
- He has introduced a constitutional amendment to limit session to 90 days, similar to the bill he submitted last year.
- **Staff person for Sen. Mia Costello**
 - The Senator and staff were not available.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *What revenue sources are being considered to fill that gap?* There are multiple proposals, one is a sales tax, another is an income tax. A Fairbanks legislator has introduced a school tax bill, specifically to fund schools. He is leaning toward an income tax but wants to hear from constituents; he noted that several communities have sales tax already, so a statewide sales tax would be challenging. It also would not capture revenue from out of state workers who come here seasonally.
 - *Cathy Gleason asked whether it is likely to achieve more revenue from a sales tax or an income tax? Which would get the most revenue?* He has not run the numbers, but is interested in learning from Dept. of Revenue how much would be generated from each option, before making a decision.
 - *Anna Brawley commented that she is concerned about the Affordable Care Act, and potential for many people to lose health care coverage as well as the loss of Medicaid Expansion funding to Alaska.* He commented that he has heard from many people concerned about health insurance, and shares these concerns. The law isn't perfect, but he believes that there are a lot of benefits. State legislators do communicate with the Congressional delegation, and can pass resolutions on the floor about various topics. He recommends contacting Alaska's senators and representatives, and share constituents' concerns.
 - *Gloria Manni is very concerned about cuts to mental health in the state, and that cutting too much will have bad effects for Anchorage.*
 - *Dan Gleason shared that he was concerned about the number of bills introduced in pre-file (59+), and none were directly addressing the budget. It seems to show misplaced priorities already.* Rep. Claman's proposals are intended to have cost savings, including shortening the length of session; allowing women to get up to 12 months of birth control in one prescription fill; and who can perform marriages, other than the Alaska Court system officials.

ASSEMBLY REPORT | MEMBERS TIM STEELE, ERIC CROFT

- **Spenard Road:** Tim has been following this closely, there are ongoing negotiations with the few remaining eminent domains needed of parcels along the road to accommodate the new design. Once these negotiations are done, the way will be clear to construct the road!
- **Turnagain Blvd:** This will not be constructed this year, but will be on the bond and potentially in future years.
- **Municipal Bonds:** There will be multiple bonds, including a \$54.5 million school bond for construction and upgrades; the School District has paid off \$62 million in the last year, so there will not be a tax increase associated with the bond since it can be covered in the current assessment. The most recent earthquake (March 2016) damaged the Romig/West High library that needs repair, and many other schools.

- **Red Light Cameras:** There has been a big increase in red lights being run, particularly as people know that there isn't police enforcement. In Turnagain, one problem area is Northern Lights at Forest Park, people not stopping on either side of the downhill at the intersection. The technology would not be photo-based but would be focused specifically on someone who runs a red light. There have been ongoing work sessions, a revised version will be prepared in time for the deadline for the April ballot.
- **Northern Lights Inn:** The Muni is negotiating with the owner of the Northern Lights Inn to complete demolition as soon as possible, which will be a benefit for Midtown.
- **Sales Tax:** Eric Croft commented that the Assembly started looking at a sales tax, it will not be on the April ballot but requires a public vote of 60% approval. The mayor's proposal is a 2% sales tax, still being prepared. Tim Steele added that enforcement along Turnagain Arm and Girdwood was dropped by the Alaska State Troopers and the Muni is very concerned about safety along that corridor. The Muni will be tracking what happens with the state budget decisions, the city budget is currently stabilized but the state's budget decisions of course concern the Municipality. He shared the example of road plowing and previous disputes between the State and Municipality. He urges constituents to contact their legislators to keep pressure to find sustainable budget solutions.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Gloria Manni asked about the Fourth Avenue Theatre, whether the Northern Lights Inn demolition will also help save the theatre?* Tim commented that they are not specifically negotiating this now, but the owner is the same and the Muni is interested in saving the theatre if possible. Tim would like to see the façade, lobby, and panels in the theatre saved. Lorraine Davis commented that she would also hope that the proscenium could be saved, it was done by a notable artist and is well known.
 - *Carolyn Hall asked about the enforcement of the red light cameras? Would there be resources available for the police to enforce?* Anchorage Police Dept. would enforce the cameras, they have been adding officers as much as possible in order to get as close as possible to 450 after upcoming academies. Additionally, this would require a Charter amendment and a public vote, which is why it will be included on the ballot.
 - *Anna Brawley asked about the status of the fluoride issue, she hasn't followed it closely but is aware something would be on the ballot? She stated her strong opposition for de-fluorinating the water and pointed out that the argument that it's a deadly chemical is obscuring the actual chemistry involved.* Eric Croft noted that he is also in support of keeping fluoride in the water. The issue at hand is a public advisory vote to be included on the April ballot, it will not have "teeth" per se but was introduced to seek the public's opinion on the matter. The group is also attempting to get signatures for an actual ordinance change, but has not completed this to date.

AUDOBON WAYSIDE / OVERLOOK PROJECT | PAT PORCHOT, GREAT LAND TRUST

- Last month representatives attended the December 1 meeting and presented about their proposed Audubon Wayside project, along the Coastal Trail just west of the underpass tunnel of the railroad tracks, between Westchester Lagoon and the Fish Creek Estuary. TCC did not take a position in December, made suggestions about the design, and were generally supportive of the project based on members' individual comments.
- **Motion by Pat Redmond in support of the draft resolution presented to the group to support the Audubon Wayside Project. Second by Dan Gleason.**
- **Discussion:**
 - No further discussion.
- **Vote on motion: 9 yes, 0 no. Resolution passes. The board will transmit the signed resolution to the Parks and Recreation Department, for February meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.**
- Pat thanked the group for TCC's support and suggestions given at the previous meeting!

WEST ANCHORAGE LITTLE LEAGUE (AWLL) LYN ARY FIELD EXPANSION | MARTY SMITH

- Marty is the incoming president of the West Anchorage Little League. He shared that their league is growing in enrollment, a positive but unusual trend for Little Leagues nationwide.
- In 2015, the Little League presented at a TCC meeting about a proposed expansion of a field, to meet the requirements for the fields they use for major, intermediate and minor players (which have their own requirements for field size, etc.). Since then, they have done additional design work and discovered that the original plan will not be feasible, since it would put more expansion into the path of the trails.
- He shared the plan for a shared partition between two fields (majors/minors and intermediate/majors) which would allow the field to be expanded temporarily, and the partition could be adjusted to prevent balls from flying between the fields. There is existing fencing, two arcs, on the fields now with a strip of grass between them.
- The AWLL has also looked at fencing and other improvements that could be made in accordance with the Lyn Ary Master Plan. The plan states that there should not be permanent fencing on the field if it wasn't there already, and he agrees that adding chain-link fencing would not be ideal. Instead, they are proposing working with a local artist to develop an attractively shaped partition, he had one idea to make it the shape of Mt. Susitna. The current fences are 4 feet tall, the partition would need to be at least this tall and the distance would be approximately 210 feet long.
- The group does not have a final design, but wanted to come before the Council to discuss the new plans since it is a departure from the previous iteration. The Little League is open to meeting with Council members or forming a committee to jointly develop a good design concept.
- Currently the West Anc. Little League is sharing a field and teams with Dimond West, who has an available field for this summer, but this is only a solution until their cohort of younger kids age into Intermediate. This would not be ready for this summer.
- He clarified that this is an informational presentation, they are not asking for approval or have a final design at this point. He will be working with the Anchorage Park Foundation, the Parks and Recreation Department, and has some potential grant funding sources and other resources to follow up with as they develop their plan.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Carolyn Hall asked about whether parking is an issue at the park currently? People do park along the streets and in the small lots, but to date there hasn't be huge complaint from neighbors and it is a temporary demand for parking.*
 - *Dan Gleason expressed concern about fences built from wood or other defacement, graffiti and vandalism. Are there plans for protection against combustion, vandalism? The design isn't final, and he wants to consult with landscape architects about possibilities including materials and design that would be resistant to damage.*
 - *Another member suggested a design like the mountains built into the overpass along Bragaw on the Glenn Highway, shaped like mountains—perhaps a design like this would be acceptable, and add to character of the park. She likes the design on the overpass.*
 - *Cathy Gleason shared concern about blocking the viewshed within the lower areas of the park, she wouldn't like to see something very tall and opaque that blocks the view in the park. She also appreciates that the Little League approached TCC about the design, and that they are looking at the Lyn Ary Park Master Plan.*
 - Overall, no action was taken but people were generally supportive of moving forward with the concept, with concerns about the height and opacity of design.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Dan Gleason shared on behalf of Tim Steele that the tax assessment cards are being released Friday (tomorrow) and will be mailing them out, look for these in the next few days! Contact the Municipality if you do not receive one, or if you have questions.

Turnagain Community Council

- Mike Moberly commented that he's involved with addressing the graffiti on the Railroad overpass on Northern Lights—currently the Railroad has identified the Municipality as responsible for cleaning it up, the Muni is working on a plan for this work. He has been communicating with the Muni about the issue and suggested that community councils should track this information. The Graffiti Buster program is run by the Muni and wouldn't necessarily apply to Railroad property, but could use graffiti-resistant paint and other methods. He is interested in helping, but recognizes that individuals cannot just paint over the graffiti on public property, so he's looking for solutions. He knows other people are interested in addressing this, and would be willing to participate in a plan to address graffiti going forward.
 - He has been communicating with Blake Adolfae about the issue, and would like to see the Council involved in helping resolve this as well. He has found the Railroad and Muni responsive but he is just one person!
 - Gloria Manni suggested working directly with Assembly members Steele and Croft going forward, letting them know what is going on, they can help move things along as well.
 - He will keep in contact with the TCC board, and report on any needed action or discussion. It may be an item on a future meeting agenda.

CLOSING

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.
- The next regular meeting will be **Thursday, February 2, 2017** at this same location: Lake Hood Elementary Library.
- Upcoming meeting items:
 - Minnesota Drive upgrade project
 - Freight Mobility Study, specifically upgrades between Postmark and Nathaniel Ct. to help move traffic through West Northern Lights to the rest of the city.
 - (potentially) Nancy Burke, the city's homeless coordinator, may be available to speak to proposed expansion of the Clitheroe Center at the Airport.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Anna Brawley on 1/18/17

Minutes approved by Turnagain Community Council at the regular meeting on 2/2/17