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# TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting | April 6, 2017 | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Lake Hood Elementary School, 3601 West 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Chaired by Cathy Gleason, TCC Vice President & Acting President

## WELCOME & APPROVE AGENDA, MINUTES

- The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. About 20 people (members and guests) attended.
- The agenda was reviewed:
  - **Motion by Gloria Manni to approve the agenda.**
  - **Vote on motion: all yes, 0 no. Agenda approved.**
- The March 2, 2017 meeting minutes were available for review and approval.
  - **Motion by Anna Brawley to approve the March minutes, amended as follows:**
    - Under Airport Report, correct Cathy Gleason's comment to read "Cathy Gleason requested that the Airport provide a presentation about the proposed radio tower at Point Woronzof, when more information is available."
  - **Second by Gloria Manni.**
  - **Vote on motion: 9 yes, 0 no. Minutes approved as amended.**
- Announcements: *See Attachments flyer available as a handout in the meeting and on the TCC website.*
  - **TCC CIP List Committee**
    - Each year, the Municipality seeks input from community councils about capital improvement projects like road and drainage improvements.
    - Turnagain forms a committee annually to discuss priorities, and in recent years has been consistent in promoting project. A committee meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 25. Contact the TCC Board ([tccpresident@yahoo.com](mailto:tccpresident@yahoo.com)) if you would like to participate!
    - The list will be due to the Municipality by May 31, and will be on Turnagain's May meeting agenda for approval.
  - April 21 is the deadline for applications to the Alaska Community Forest Council for small grants to plant trees in honor of Arbor Day to plant trees! Contact Cathy Gleason for more information, [cathy.gleasantcc@yahoo.com](mailto:cathy.gleasantcc@yahoo.com). Is the Council interested in applying for this? No one indicated interest for the Council, but individuals may also apply.
  - April 29 is Scoop the Poop Day! Anchorage Waterways Council sponsors this event at two locations, Connors Bog and University Lake, to clean up after the snow melts. 20 tons of animal waste are produced every day, and this can badly pollute our waterways if left unattended on the ground!

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT | REP. MATT CLAMAN, SEN. MIA COSTELLO

- **Rep. Matt Claman**
  - The state's budget continues to be the biggest issue, including broad support in both houses for a Permanent Fund restructure. There is still disagreement among the Senate and House Majorities and the Governor regarding revenue measures, such as broad-based taxes.
  - There is movement on bills related to occupational licensing and student loans, worker's compensation rules, the "right to die" bill, and a "right to try" bill for experimental drugs for terminally ill patients to support treatment or pain management.
  - He is disappointed to see that the session will likely extend beyond 90 days, but at the same time there are many important issues to address.

- **Sen. Mia Costello**

- The senator just finished a six-hour floor session: the Senate budget passed, but they do not anticipate that the House will concur—so the bills will go back to both bodies for more discussion and try to reach a compromise. The budget deals with spending, and the Senate will consider revenue options now that it is done.
- Her bill making changes to allow Uber to operate in Alaska has moved through committees and will be coming back to the Senate for a vote, she is hopeful it will pass!
- She is available to speak to constituents on any issues you are concerned about, please feel free to contact her office at (907) 269-0117, including during Session.

- **Questions and Comments**

- *Dan Gleason commented on the differences between SB 26 and HB 115—they seem very similar, is there not room for “splitting the difference” and including a cap on spending in the future? He supports a compromise between the two in order to move forward, but he believes that SB 26 does not satisfy the requirement to balance the budget.*
  - Rep. Claman agreed, there are not many differences between the bills but changes include the amount of the dividend. Most people seem to be supportive of the \$1000 dividend. The major difference is the House bill income tax proposal, which would add \$650 million to the state’s revenue; the Senate bill has no new revenue measure, and does not on its own balance the budget.
  - Sen. Costello noted that the budget was recently passed, but is separate from SB 26, which is sitting in the House now. She also noted that Sen. Donny Olson has introduced an income tax bill recently, and Sen. Bishop introduced a school tax in the Senate again.
- *Cathy Gleason commented that she and Dan attended a Town Hall meeting with Sen. Costello, and had a discussion about income tax. She believe that 90% of the speakers support an income tax, out of the ~20 people who attended. Rep. Claman has similarly heard broad support for an income tax from constituents, some in the legislature do not support it however. There is also a proposal for a school tax, designed to raise funds for schools and includes a minimum and maximum amount depending on income, so it is technically different than an income tax. It raises slightly less revenue than the proposed income tax, but may be more palatable since it has that minimum and maximum contribution.*
- *Tim Steele commented that he appreciates the Legislature’s efforts to close the gap, and to have a more sustainable funding plan. He appreciates the discussion about new revenue sources, which seems to be a necessary component to balancing the budget.*
- *Anna Brawley asked about the status of the bill regarding the Real ID Act, which would allow Alaska to provide federally compliant state IDs to allow people to travel?*
  - Rep. Claman explained that the governor has introduced bills in the House and Senate to allow Alaska to spend money complying with the federal Real ID Act. This would not require Alaskans to get the new ID, but would allow them to choose, in order to fly or gain access to federal facilities. They are still under consideration.
- *Dan Gleason asked about whether a bill to provide health care to survivors/families of firefighters and other staff who were lost in line of duty? Rep. Claman noted that a similar bill passed this session, it has passed the Senate and she anticipates it moving forward.*
- *Cathy Gleason asked in regard to the Uber bill, and she has seen some negative things in the press about Uber nationally, such safety concern about drivers. She believes that local governments should potentially be able to put additional regulations in place, but does the bill allow this? Sen. Costello commented that for any ridesharing company to operate legally in Alaska, there are law changes to be made regarding worker’s compensation and designation of drivers as independent contractors. The bill does preempt local control; the Alaska Municipal League does not support this provision, but she pointed out that as a technology company, and with people moving from one community to another, it is more appropriate to regulate at the state level, and different local rules would be difficult for people traveling between two*

different places with different rules. However, local communities would be allowed to tax the company at the local level, so statements to the contrary are not accurate. Generally, people support allowing ridesharing and there are economic benefits to these services operating. Additionally, changes to the bill requires drivers to notify the company if they are involved with police activity. However, the bill still needs to be voted on by the Senate and there will be more work in conference committee.

## ASSEMBLY REPORT | MEMBER TIM STEELE

- Congratulations to Tim Steele, who won reelection on Tuesday! Four new members will be joining, and will be sworn in on Tuesday, April 18: Christopher Constant (Downtown, Fairview, Government Hill, Mountain View); Fred Dyson (Eagle River); Suzanne LaFrance (South + Girdwood), Felix Rivera (Midtown).
- Most of the agenda for Tuesday, April 11 is business, and the last meeting of the current set of members! The following week's meeting on April 18 will see the new members seated.
- The Turnagain Blvd. construction RFP has been drafted, and will be released soon. If possible and available funding, it will also include some work on side streets (Bennett and Gillam) to address drainage issues. The project will be awarded at least a month after the RFP.
- The Spenard Road construction project will also begin this summer!
- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Cathy Gleason noted that when talking to a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, she learned that the Assembly may not take up approval of the plan map until the end of the year. Is this the case? Is there any way this will be approved sooner, since it has taken a long time?* Tim was not sure on the exact timeline, but the Assembly will not start work until it has passed out of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

## MAYOR'S REPORT

- No representative was present.

## AIRPORT REPORT | JOHN JOHANSEN

- See airport updates on the handout provided at the meeting or online at: [www.anchorageairport.com](http://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](http://www.lhdmasterplan.com). There are some technical changes to be added to the airport layout plan; the rest of the plan is complete and will be released when the remaining changes are made.
- **Great Alaska Aviation Gathering:** May 6 and 7 at the FedEx Hangar! There will be an airport cleanup event on Friday May 6<sup>th</sup>, please come by in the morning to pick up trash, and enjoy a free barbecue lunch.
- **Hiring Opportunity:** There is a hiring fair on Saturday, April 8! Meet up with many aviation related employers. The Airport is actively seeking heavy equipment operators, as well as facility maintenance personnel, as well as Airport police and fire officers. Visit [www.workplacealaska.com](http://www.workplacealaska.com) for more information.
- **Radio Tower:** The proposed tower would strengthen the radio communications network including boosting signal closer to the bluff. The tower would be located south of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. There are some underground Chugach Electric cables that will impact the siting of the tower, the team needs to do more work on this first. A design and more information will be available soon.
- **Freight Mobility Study:** AMATS is doing a Freight Mobility Study which includes proposed improvements to various freight routes around the city. One of these is West Northern Lights/Woronzof Drive between Postmark and West Nathaniel Court, which is a common route for smaller vehicles from FedEx, UPS and other companies (large semi trucks are not allowed on that route). The Airport is tracking this project but is not primarily involved in the planning, but submitted

comments in favor of the road improvements on this corridor, such as road widening. There is an increase in small truck traffic with growth in e-commerce and direct-to-home orders, so this has caused an increase in small truck traffic for deliveries.

- **Questions and Comments**

- *Gloria Manni commented that she appreciates the freight needs of the companies in the area, and that she learned at a recent meeting that the companies are also aware of the neighborhood's concerns. She recommends doing some form of localized traffic study of the existing patterns of school traffic, small truck traffic, and neighborhood commuters.*
- *Could the timing of the trucks be change slightly to leave before or after the peak school traffic in the morning. Sandy Rabinowitch added that given the number of schools (high, middle, elementary) all with different start times, it would benefit everyone to stagger or time the truck traffic. John Johansen commented that he understands the issue, it is not an Airport issue per se but he can mention it to his contacts at the shipping companies. His understanding is that the truck traffic is timed according to the arriving flights and shift changes.*
- *Tim Steele commented that he is concerned about large trucks on this road, and would hope that retaining a narrow roadway would minimize the incentive to use this route.*
- *Cathy Gleason noted that Turnagain Community Council suggested studying an alternative route, using Lake Hood Drive on Airport property which is an already improved road. John commented that there was discussion about that option and one concern raised by others was that it uses two intersections instead of one. He encourages continuing to engage with the AMATS Technical Advisory Committee on this issue.*
- *Cathy Gleason asked the status on the Wetland Fill Permit application to the Army Corps of Engineers? He does not have specific information, but believes it is still being reviewed.*

## 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](mailto:tccpresident@yahoo.com)). **We will hold a special election as soon as we receive one or more candidate nominations.**
- **Draft Anchorage Freight Mobility Study Update:** Cathy Gleason and Gloria Manni have been attending AMATS Technical Advisory Committee meetings. (See above for additional discussion.)
  - Gloria Manni shared that at recent meetings, the Advisory Committee acknowledged TCC's resolution, but have stated that they do not anticipate additional truck traffic along the route (Northern Lights and Woronzof Drive between Postmark and West Nathaniel Court).
  - This will be voted on for approval on Thursday, April 13 by the Technical Advisory Committee, and then will go to the AMATS Policy Committee, who have final approval authority of this study. The Policy Committee is composed of multiple sectors, including two Assembly members.
  - TCC passed a resolution opposing a road upgrade at the March 2 meeting.
  - *Jean Bielawski asked if the meetings are public and accept public comment?* Yes, even if they do not have public testimony on the agenda, they have been open about accepting public comments in meetings, and written comments can be submitted throughout. Anyone can attend a meeting.
  - Sandy Rabinowitch commented that throughout the plan, terms are used that do not technically have a definition: for example, "primary" and "secondary" routes are not defined. It makes it confusing to understand what these policies actually mean, and they do not appear

to be defined in state or local code. He encourages being clear about these terms, and where possible indicate what the implications are for those designations. Cathy Gleason added that her communication with Stephanie Mormilo in the Traffic Department revealed that Northern Lights is not designated as any kind of route, primary or permitted or secondary, but Stephanie commented that it would be added in the future. Tim Steele will track this issue.

- **Federation of Community Councils:** Updates from the March 15 meeting:
  - FCC not only receives money from the Municipality, but also administers grant funding, which requires the delegates' understanding their roles and responsibilities. There are also changes to check writing and other policies, to ensure that FCC is compliant.
- **Appreciation to Municipal Legal Staff for work on Lyn Ary Park Memorial Garden**
  - TCC invited Robert (Bob) Owens, Jim Gorski, Chris Hedberg to be recognized for their excellent work over the last decade on behalf of the Municipality to retain ownership of Lyn Ary Park Memorial Garden and Coastal Trail lands, including multiple court challenges and a determination by the Alaska Supreme Court to let the lower court's ruling stand. The Council thanks the team for their excellent work and. Chris and Bob were able to attend, and were presented with certificates of appreciation (Jim was not present but will also receive a certificate). THANK YOU to all for their hard work protecting these lands!
  - Bob noted that there are some pieces of land, identified in the Lyn Ary Park Master Plan, that are not technically dedicated as park lands the way that most of Lyn Ary Park already is. He suggests that TCC continue tracking this issue.
- **Officers Report | We are seeking a new President for the 2017 term!**

#### CLITHEROE TREATMENT CENTER PROJECT | NANCY BURKE, MOA

- This item was originally on this month's agenda, but is postponed to the May meeting.

#### PEOPLE MOVER: ANCHORAGE TALKS TRANSIT, IMPACT TO ROUTE 36 | COLLIN HODGES, MOA

- Collin Hodges and Bart Rudolph from the Muni presented on the People Mover transit changes (Anchorage Talks Transit).
- The Municipality needs to consider changes to the system, to better meet the needs of the city with flat/declining resources in the future. The team conducted a study of ridership, route frequency, and "productivity" (average riders per day on each route, which indicates how efficient the ride is, cost vs use). Looking at these numbers, the highest used is the Mountain View route (#45), the lowest is Eagle River (#102). Route 36 through Spenard and Turnagain is the second-most productive. Another route, Spenard to the airport (#7), receives more riders and is somewhat more productive.
- The team has reviewed the alternatives, including a 100% coverage route (more coverage, less frequency) and an 80% coverage route (fewer routes or stops, but concentrated in populated areas).
- The team did need to consider the impacts of winter weather—waiting outside for a long period of time can be problematic, but walking longer distance is challenging in the snow. This is also a consideration for where to put bus stops.
- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Dan Gleason asked whether the team considered a loop that does not go to the U-Med area, but to Downtown and back?* The team did look at Route #7, which has a similar loop, and have heard that going Downtown is helpful.
  - *Sandy Rabinowitch asked whether looking at smaller buses are an option?* The team did look at smaller buses, especially in neighborhoods,
  - *[that one person] asked whether changes to Route 36 will impact Turnagain?* She noted that she appreciated having a bus stop near by, when she was working and taking the bus. The final option will be chosen in the next two weeks, but it is possible that the #36 route will be eliminated, which could mean little or no bus service through Turnagain. Where routes have less than 25 boardings per hour, they are most likely going to be changed.



- *Kathleen Bielawski commented that she does not ride the bus, but lives on the south side of Northern Lights and knows many neighbors who take the bus. She is concerned about losing bus service along West Northern Lights.* There will definitely be impacts, but it has been a tough choice: with limited resources, the Muni has to prioritize where to put routes and to try to serve the people who need it most. Need is determined in part by income level, socioeconomic status.
- *Tim Steele commented that the Northwood neighborhood, south of Spenard Road, is also concerned about losing service.* Unfortunately, the downside of not making changes is continued loss in ridership, less budget, and a continuing spiral downward.
- *Dan Gleason commented that he feels that cuts should not be made unless they save money, coverage is important and will hurt the neighborhood as being a desirable place to live.* Indeed, there are no perfect options. The public process indicated that people are willing to walk a short distance to the closest bus, and that prioritizing ridership to increase use of the buses in key areas is important.
- *Sandy Rabinowitch commented that People Mover should consider coordinating sidewalk plowing and bus stop locations, where they are already installed—this would help get riders to the bus stops and make it more feasible to wait for the bus.*

## HLB 2017 WORK PROGRAM, FIVE YEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN | CATHY GLEASON

- TCC prepared comments in response to the draft five-year work program and management plan by Heritage Land Bank. Most are the same as the previous year, on items that HLB did not incorporate after this year, and one item is new, related to the 2040 Land Use Plan.
  - *Comment 1:* HLB policy requires maintaining a mailing list for members of the public interested in updates on any HLB projects or notices. They have not yet implemented it, so TCC is re-submitting a comment to include this and begin maintaining a list.
  - *Comment 2:* Per the 1986 municipal entitlement process, Anchorage requested parcels on Airport property for transfer from the state to the city—these parcels are used for parks and open space, including Point Woronzof and portions of the Coastal Trail, Little Campbell Lake Park, Delong Lake Park, and a portion of Connors Bog, as well as the municipal snow dump. TCC is supporting transfer of these lands to the Muni to preserve park and open space lands.
  - *Comment 3:* HLB holds parcels in the Airport area, and the Airport has indicated that they do not see these as high value lands and would likely not wish to acquire these lands in the future. The West Anchorage District Plan does not allow for transfer of these lands to the Parks Department and designation as parks, but the Parks and Recreation approved removing the overlay designating these as “public facilities” and retaining them as parks and natural land. TCC comment supports the Parks and Recreation Commission position and encourages HLB to support this change to the 2040 Land Use Plan.
  - *Comment 4:* Reiterates a technical comment made last year, was accepted in 2016 by HLB but not incorporated.
  - **Motion by Dan Gleason to approve the draft comment letter and attachments as presented in the meeting. Second by Sandy Rabinowitch.**

### Discussion

- Under Airport Report, correct Cathy Gleason’s comment to read “Cathy Gleason requested that the Airport provide a presentation about the proposed radio tower at Point Woronzof, when more information is available.”
- **Vote on motion: 9 yes, 0 no. Motion approved. The Board will transmit the letter, and Cathy Gleason will present the letter and oral testimony at the HLB Advisory Commission meeting on Thursday, April 13.**

## FAA NON-DIRECTIONAL BEACON LEASE ON HLB LAND, AIRPORT | CATHY GLEASON

## Turnagain Community Council

- The lease by the FAA for an existing beacon tower on an HLB property at the Airport has expired, and they need to renew the lease. The previous lease was 40 years; the new lease is 5 years.
- No additional changes or improvements to the site are made; the FAA maintains the vegetation immediately around the beacon but does not use any other portion of the property.
- **Motion by Joan McKinnon to support the lease renewal. Second by Kathleen Bielawski.**  
**Discussion:** None.
- **Vote on motion: 9 yes, 0 no. Motion approved. The Board will prepare a letter indicating support for the lease renewal.**

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### West Anchorage Candidates Forum

- The West Anchorage Candidates Forum, co-hosted by Turnagain and other community councils in the area, was held at the Spenard Recreation Center on Wednesday, March 29, 2017. Eight candidates participated (6 for School Board, 2 for Assembly), and approximately 65 people were in the audience.
- Cathy and Dan Gleason purchased most of the food items for the event, with the intention that the co-sponsoring community councils may split up this cost if possible, and could use some of the outreach funds allowed to each council (\$75 per calendar year) to cover these costs. Cathy shared that the total cost of their purchases was \$291.
- **Motion by Gloria to support up to \$75 reimbursement to the Gleasons out of the annual outreach funds allocated to Turnagain Community Council for 2017, pending further discussion with other councils about what if anything they are willing to contribute. Second by Lorraine Davis.**  
**Discussion:** None.
- **Vote on motion: 7 yes, 0 no. Cathy and Dan Gleason abstained, since they would be receiving funds. Motion approved.**

### Land Use Committee: Anchorage 2040 Land Use Plan Map

- Cathy Gleason shared that the plan draft is still before the Planning & Zoning Commission for the next month. She and Gloria Manni met with Planning Dept. Director Hal Hart on March 31 to discuss TCC's concerns with the plan related to the airport. They shared TCC's concerns about the land use plan related to the Airport lands, and positions taken by TCC related to the Airport Expansion Alternative overlay and the Turnagain Bog buffer distance.
- Hal was responsive and interested in understanding the issues, but the Planning & Zoning Commission did not make additional changes to the map, and have indicated that they do not intend to change the existing 300 foot buffer along the neighborhood.
- After P&ZC review and approval is completed, will go to the Anchorage Assembly for final approval. If TCC would like to continue to advocate for this position, the Assembly is the next and final step.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Sandy Rabinowitch noted that in 2014, Turnagain Community Council signed an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with West High and Romig Middle Schools regarding issues related to those properties and the neighborhood, such as parking, stadium impacts, etc. This agreement has technically expired, and should be renewed if TCC and the School District is willing. The Board will arrange a meeting with the school principals prior to the May 4 meeting to discuss their willingness to renew the agreement with TCC in the future.
- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Dan Gleason commented that the practice field should be included in the MOU if it hasn't been already.* The team did look at Route 7, which has a similar loop, and have heard that going Downtown is helpful.

## Turnagain Community Council

### CLOSING

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.
- The next regular meeting will be **Thursday, May 4, 2017** at this same location: Lake Hood Elementary Library.

*Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary Anna Brawley on 4/8/2017.*

*Minutes approved by Turnagain Community Council at its regular meeting on 5/4/2017.*