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# TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

West High / Romig CTE, Student Center | 1700 Hillcrest Drive

Chaired by Cathy Gleason, TCC Vice President & Acting President

## WELCOME & APPROVE AGENDA, MINUTES

- The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. About 30 people (members and guests) attended.
- The September agenda was reviewed:
  - **Motion by Gloria Manni to approve the agenda. Second by Dan Gleason.**
  - **Vote on motion: all yes, 0 no. Agenda approved.**
- The June 1, 2017 meeting minutes were available for review and approval.
  - **Motion by Joan McKinnon to approve the June minutes. Second by Gloria Manni.**
  - **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.*
  - There will be a Fish Creek Cleanup and Festival this Saturday, September 9. Clean-up is sponsored by Anchorage Waterways Council and will be 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet in Barbara Street Park Saturday at 10 a.m. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Fish Creek Festival will begin the same day at 3 p.m., with events at Woodland Park, accessed near the Boys and Girls Club at 36<sup>th</sup>, plan to park at the Boys and Girls Club or elsewhere and walking or biking to the event via the Fish Creek Trail or along 36<sup>th</sup> to the intersection of Iowa St.
  - The Muni provides a list of liquor licenses up for renewal in each community council—there is only one up for renewal, Rustic Goat. We have until October 15 to request a public hearing on this license, please contact the TCC Board if you are interested in commenting on this license. There is a second license now operating in our area, Wing Stop at Northern Lights in the new Panda Express strip mall; it is a beer and wine restaurant license.
  - Dimitri Shein introduced himself as a Turnagain resident (he, his wife, and six children live in the neighborhood) announced he is running for Alaska’s U.S. House office in 2018. He is sharing that he has traveled across the state, has an e-commerce company, and is a West High graduate along with his wife (class of 99). He is interested in renewable energy, affordable health care, and other issues, and is happy to talk with constituents.
  - Congratulations to Turnagain Social Club, who was recently recognized by the Alaska Legislature this summer for their work! This facility is located in the old Unitarian Church on Turnagain St. and provides adult day care services and social activities.
  - Kyla Byers announced that her company, Arctic Harvest Deliveries, is partnering with Cook Inletkeeper for the new food hub, essentially an online farmer’s market to purchase local foods. Once a week, the business employees pick up produce from farmers in the Mat Su Valley, and customers can pick up items on Thursdays at the Church of Love in Spenard, next to Cook Inlet Housing Authority’s office. This will operate at least through the fall as a trial, but will be operating at least seasonally to gauge interest and customer demand. Website: [www.anchoragefoodhub.org](http://www.anchoragefoodhub.org).

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

- **Rep. Matt Claman**
  - Rep. Claman and his staff were unavailable to attend today’s meeting. They provided an update to the Council, available as a handout and online.
- **Staff member for Rep. Harriet Drummond**
  - The Legislature had multiple special sessions, and have been back in the community but will be returning to a special session on revenue options on October 23.

## Turnagain Community Council

- Rep. Drummond will host a constituent meeting on October 16. Location TBD, but will share details including location and time prior to this meeting.
- **Staff member for Sen. Mia Costello**
  - Sen. Costello could not attend, she is at her child's school open house tonight.
  - As always, please share comments and thoughts with the senator's office!

## ASSEMBLY REPORT | MEMBERS TIM STEELE, ERIC CROFT

- The Assembly has been working over the summer, but is ramping up again dealing with budget issues going into the next year.
- **Anchorage Police update:** APD has returned to their full staffing level and continuing to work on public safety issues, as well as community engagement. Tim shared that he would like to schedule a ride-along with the police to understand what's going on currently. He would like to see more traffic enforcement, as there have been many reports of speeding, running red lights, and other safety issues. Additionally, APD has seen a huge increase in heroin use, recently they reported confiscating over 29,000 doses' worth of heroin and opium. Anecdotally, drug use also seems to be the motivation for much of the low-level, non-violent property crime (car break-ins, stolen property, etc.), and likely the greater cause of crime than the homeless camps. APD has focused more on community policing as well as a vice (drug) unit, addressing the problem on the streets and where possible, the major distributors of drugs rather than users, who primarily need treatment.
- **People Mover route changes:** People Mover will change to its new route and schedule in October—the intent is to address low ridership and dispersed system of having many routes, but low frequency (buses per hour). People Mover has shifted resources to have fewer routes, but offer more frequent service, including every 15 minutes on major routes. This is intended to increase ridership, make the bus more reliable for people who use it to get to work or school, and turn around declining ridership. Unfortunately for Turnagain and Spenard, Route 36 is being cut and bus service shifting to be primarily along Spenard Road. Please share your concerns or questions with your Assembly members, they want to understand how neighborhoods and current bus users will be impacted.
- **Homeless camps:** Eric has ridden along with APD and observed the process of police identifying, approaching, providing notice at homeless camps that the camp will be cleared out after a certain time.
- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Lorraine Davis commented that there is only one crosswalk on Spenard Road between McRae and Wisconsin, she used to ride Route 36, and is concerned about the lack of connection and distance from existing bus stops.* Eric and Tim agreed that the tradeoff is difficult, but it is difficult to sustainably fund a very dispersed system with buses that aren't very full. There may need to be additional changes in the future, but as of now the new system has been determined and is being implemented in October.
  - *Dimitri Shein asked whether this is a trial period with an evaluation and going back to the old system, or a permanent change?* The People Mover changes are not a trial period and are intended to be permanent, until changed again in the future. Everyone recognizes that there are tradeoffs with this system, but the status quo was not sustainable and some changes needed to be made. There will likely be additional changes or adjustments in the future as the new system rolls out.
  - *Mark Worcester commented that it may be cheaper to provide some people with free taxi rides or on demand services, rather than paying for empty buses.*
  - *Gloria Manni commented that she has seen on-demand services in other cities, where a smaller service is available to people in the same area who have similar needs. Could the Muni consider this as well?* Some routes will have smaller buses if there aren't as many passengers, and there may be other options in the future depending on what is needed.

## AIRPORT REPORT | JOHN JOHANSEN

- See airport updates on the handout provided at the meeting or online at: [www.anchorageairport.com](http://www.anchorageairport.com)

## Turnagain Community Council

- **Draft Regulations:** The airport has posted draft regulations regarding tie-downs and other updates—check out the draft regulations online, and comments are being accepted. There will be a public meeting this fall to review the drafts.
- **Recruitment:** The Airport is hiring! They are looking for mechanics, maintenance personnel, police and fire positions (all police and fire personnel are cross trained).
- **Mat Su Transportation Fair:** There will be a multi-project open house on September 28, 3-7 p.m., at the Menard Center in Wasilla.
- **Proposed Taxiway S Improvements:** This is a project still in development, the project will be in the cargo airfield area. It is still preliminary, but is anticipated to be isolated to this airfield and not have larger impacts.
- **North-South Runway Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment:** This project recently completed its environmental assessment (EA), for the north-south runway for larger planes. The improvements will primarily be in the footprint of the existing airfield. Main environmental impacts were associated with the construction phase, including increased noise over Midtown for departures going east, rather than taking off to the north over Cook Inlet. This will likely be a two-summer-season construction project, returning the runway to normal use during the fall/winter. The environmental assessment was completed in August, with a finding of “no significant impact” which means there is no follow-up study required, and there is no reasonable alternative to the proposed plan that would mitigate impacts. The EA and more information about the project is available online.
- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Cathy Gleason commented that Turnagain Community Council submitted its concerns about the possible impacts of the runway project on existing erosion of Point Woronzof bluff, and has been speaking with the Muni and the Airport about these concerns.* The bluff erosion issue is definitely of interest to the Muni, Army Corps of Engineers, Airport, FAA, all of whom are concerned. The Airport is working on drafting a letter to Alaska’s Congressional delegation to request potential support for the project.
  - *Cathy Gleason shared that she has heard from neighbors in Spenard and Sand Lake with concerns about construction noise, and shared these as well.*
  - *Dimitri Shein commented that after moving to the Woronzof neighborhood, he heard very loud air traffic over his house. But recently, he has not heard so much noise, but noticed some specific noise late at night.* John commented that aircraft are much quieter than they used to, and airport runway use patterns shift according to wind patterns. Aircraft sometimes use reverse thrusters, which are loud but sporadic. It is hard to say what the specific situation was that generated the noise, but may have to do with changes to runway patterns.

## MAYOR’S REPORT | SHARON LANE

- Sharon was present but did not have an additional update!

## 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.**
- TCC will hold officer elections for the 2018 term at the November meeting: there are 5 officer positions and each are annual terms.
- **Federation of Community Councils:** Updates from the July FCC gathering:

- Assembly member John Weddleton shared his project to research effective public notice signage, and propose improvements as an amendment to Title 21 (where current language is required for each sign providing public notice of land use or zoning actions). He was still working on the project but would bring an ordinance soon.
- Kristine Bunnell from the Municipality shared updates on the Historic Preservation Plan, a citywide plan to document our historic resources (buildings, parks, etc.) and ways to promote preservation of important cultural or historic assets. She asked neighborhoods to contribute to their history documents, and she will also be conducting a homestead mapping and documentation project for original homesteads (existing and demolished) in the future.
- **Traffic Calming in Turnagain:** There were two speed humps to be installed in two locations (4 total), on 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave and McKenzie this summer. However, the Fire Department has concerns about speed humps and impacts on their trucks and ability to get to emergencies, and a new ordinance has been passed that allows the Fire Department to make a final determination about installation of new traffic calming. The Muni has also looked at “speed cushions,” similar to speed humps but have grooves that allow large-axle vehicles to drive quickly through, while regular sized vehicles would have to slow down to avoid running too fast over them.  
At the June meeting, TCC supported speed humps on Galactica Drive and Bridle Lane at the request of neighbors who came to the council and described the amount of speeding and unsafe driving through their neighborhood. This area requires a traffic study prior to the Muni approving any traffic calming measures, so the resolution passed supports a traffic study.
- **West High/Romig/TCC Stadium MOU:** When the West High stadium was built a few years ago, there were several parking issues that spilled into the neighborhood. TCC worked with West High and Romig Middle Schools to develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) about parking during large events, as well as utilizing parking at Dempsey Ice Arena for large events. Sandy has been working on behalf of the board with the two new principals at West and Romig to discuss updating and re-approving the MOU. He has been talking informally with neighbors over the summer, and found that so far, there seem to be fewer issues than in the past, and his observation is that there haven’t been big parking issues lately. TCC Board members will meet with the principals next Monday, and will report back at the next meeting. If you are a neighbor in the area and want to be involved or have concerns, please contact the Board!
  - Tim Steele commented that he has seen spillover parking in the adjacent neighborhood in Spenard at Hillcrest, but not huge issues. The new Spenard Road project will also have two shared parking lots for businesses, but could accommodate new parking as well.
- **Balto Seppala Park, Gleason Tree Donation:** Dan and Cathy Gleason donated several trees in the area, but one was run into by the Parks Department maintenance staff at Balto Seppala, and unfortunately the tree died. Dan and Cathy decided to donate a replacement tree, and it is now with the other 5 at the park. They continue to monitor the donated trees and make sure they are watered and cared for.
- **Right of Way Barrier at 36<sup>th</sup> Ave between Wisconsin & Turnagain:** Neighbors along the unofficial connection of 36<sup>th</sup> Ave. between Wisconsin and Turnagain contacted TCC over the summer: one neighbor had blocked off this route which is not an actual thru-way, but construction crews for the Turnagain Blvd work removed this barrier for access to Wisconsin. They objected to removing the barrier, and talked with the Muni and the construction project manager about replacing it when they are done. The Muni will put a barrier back for the winter, and while it may be opened up again for the 2018 season, when the construction is complete it will be permanently replaced.
- **Trails Initiative Meeting, Project Updates from July Meeting:** Cathy Gleason and Gloria Manni attended a meeting in July about various trail updates, including the Fish Creek Trail to Ocean project and wayfinding signage along the trail system. Tim Sullivan from the Alaska Railroad was also present for the meeting and shared that the Railroad has been meeting with the Anchorage Parks Department and the Mayor, and did a walk-through of the property and possible routes, such as edges of the Railroad right of way. According to state law, the Municipality must initiate the process of installing a trail on Railroad property, and take on all the responsibility for maintenance, liability, etc.

As of now, the Muni is working with the Nature Conservancy (who owns part of the estuary) and looking at options. This project may get funding for this project on the 2018 bond, but it is very preliminary and there may not be enough information to cost out for now. Unfortunately, AWWU's access road is not suitable for public access so another route needs to be found.

The wayfinding project is continuing along, with an opportunity to sponsor a sign or kiosk along the Coastal Trail which includes installation and 5 years of maintenance.

- **Turnagain Blvd Construction Update:** Duane Maney (project manager) provided a handout of updates—most work is anticipated to be done by the end of October, with any remaining work that isn't completed done in 2018.
- **West 27<sup>th</sup> Spinell Homes Project:** This project, on the eastern end of Northern Lights at 27<sup>th</sup>, is being developed currently and is multi-family rental housing. There will be 29 housing units, with 3 buildings: first has four 3 bedroom townhouse units, the second nine 2 bedroom townhouse units, and the third has sixteen 1 bedroom ADA assessable apartments. Much of the site work is almost complete, will frame the buildings before the end of fall, and will continue working on the interior of the buildings through the winter. The project also connects the two dead-end portions of 27<sup>th</sup> into a single connected street, using the existing right of way.
- **TCC Areawide Postal Mailing Survey:** The Federation of Community of Councils has limited funding available to councils (a few per year) to do an area-wide mailing, which includes a survey of members. The survey would need to be limited to property owners, due to the much larger cost of mailing to every address in the council, but would go out to share information about TCC, a brief survey of area residents, and any other information we would like to provide about the community council. We could also create an online version of the same survey and send out to get broader input.
- **Officers Report | [We are seeking a new President for the 2017 term!](#)**
- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Gloria Manni requested that Muni Planning staff give a presentation about the Anchorage Historic Preservation Plan at a future meeting.*
  - *Kathleen Bielawski asked when the Fish Creek Trail section between Barbara Street Park and McRae would be upgraded? She recalled that it was supposed to start this summer, but what is the new timing? Cathy shared that the upgrade project had to be pushed from 2017 to 2018, and it is too late in the summer this year.*

## CLITHEROE TREATMENT CENTER PROJECT | NANCY BURKE (MUNI), STEVE FISHBACK

- Nancy and Steve shared that they continue to work on the project, they attended a TCC meeting earlier in 2017 and will continue to attend TCC meetings periodically to provide updates.
- The Clitheroe Center is one of Anchorage's residential treatment facility, operated by Salvation Army. The facility has not been operating at capacity in recent years, and there is more need than local treatment resources can provide. There are physical issues with the facility, as it is very old, so the site will likely include rehabilitation and updates.
- The Muni has been studying treatment needs, and through prior projects such as one previously proposed at Raspberry Road, there is helpful planning work to build on at this specific site. The Muni will also work with other substance use treatment providers to understand what they provide currently and what gaps there are, during the operations review phase, and thinking about what services would be appropriate and most needed at Clitheroe.
- Additionally, the project must be informed by how it can get funded—the project is not doing extensive design work at this point until it is more clear whether and how this can be funded.
- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Mark Worcester asked whether this project is related to brush and berm clearing along the Coastal Trail, and an access path? No, this project isn't directly related, but there was some hazardous material in the area and the Muni and the ending of a lease on a portion of the site by another business. The cleanup was beneficial for the project, but not related.*  
*Mark also asked whether the facility would be built at or near its current location, or closer to*

*the Coastal Trail?* It is likely that the new facility will be close to the current site, not located near the Coastal Trail, but needs to be constructed while the existing facility is operating.

- *Cathy Gleason asked whether Heritage Land Bank's review of the land and any environmental issues have been identified and addressed?* The Muni has finished its Level 1 environmental assessment and has identified some contamination at the surface, and would do additional site work and do soil samples to understand the extent of the contamination. Steve believes it is relatively low to moderate, but does need remediation.  
*Cathy also commented that TCC will be interested in reviewing the design and any potential impacts to the Coastal Trail, including a buffer or distance from the trail.* Locating away from the Trail will be of interest to providers as well, to keep the campus away from public access and help people stay focused on treatment.
- *Sandy commented that he believes therapeutic gardens would be a great addition to the project, and asked whether this is part of the design?* Steve and Nancy agreed, this has not been incorporated into the design as of now, but the previous Raspberry project did include this and it seems like an appropriate addition. The campus design will also include areas for outdoor recreation, easy movement between buildings, etc.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### *Land Use, License and Permit Review Committee*

- **Anchorage 2040 Land Use Plan Map:** The Assembly will begin review of the draft land use plan map, with a work session Friday September 8, and eventually a public hearing on September 26. TCC has submitted comments on the plan and have two remaining issues that have been communicated to the Planning and Zoning Commission, who did not incorporate the comments, and to the West Assembly members. The two issues are removing a designation for potential airport expansion on Point Woronzof Park, and creating a much larger buffer of no development in key areas of Turnagain Bog, which is a high value wetland. Cathy encourages TCC members to submit written comments or testify in support of these changes to the plan.
- **Proposed Marijuana Onsite Consumption Regulations:** The Marijuana Control Board has released draft regulations to allow retail stores to have rooms in which people can consume their products onsite, and the Assembly will be having a public hearing about this draft regulation on October 10. The Land Use Committee will schedule a meeting to discuss the regulations and any comments from TCC later in September, contact [tccpresident@yahoo.com](mailto:tccpresident@yahoo.com) to be informed about this meeting.
  - Cathy shared her concerns about allowing indoor smoking and the potential rollback of the Muni's indoor smoking ordinance, and whether the proposal would allow smoking.
  - Anna added that the reason for the neighborhood reviewing and commenting on draft state regulations is, this would affect communities statewide and it is likely that the Assembly would adopt the same or a similar ordinance to allow this in Anchorage, based on the experience of the licensing regulations.

## LYN ARY PARK MEMORIAL GARDEN | DISCUSSION

- **June 3<sup>rd</sup> Work Party:** TCC hosted a work party to clean up the Lyn Ary Park Memorial Garden, but had very low turnout of neighbors—but did have 16 volunteers who had been signed up for a different clean-up project that had been cancelled. The team did a lot of good work at the garden, mainly pulling weeds and maintaining the planting. Additionally, the Gleasons donated two additional trees.
- **Proposed Resolution to Adopt Lyn Ary Memorial Garden:** At the June 1, 2017 meeting, the TCC board introduced a motion to adopt Lyn Ary Memorial Garden, following through on an earlier Council decision to adopt this garden back in 2010, prior to the resolution of the legal issues about this parcel. TCC has continued to maintain the garden, thanks to Cathy and Dan Gleason organizing cleanups and taking care of the area each year. The motion passed, with the intent of bringing a resolution in September. The board felt it important to discuss garden adoption further, and to find neighbors (living adjacent to or near Lyn Ary Park) to volunteer and take ownership of that garden as

well. The garden is already established, but there is a huge invasive weed issue at the garden, most maintenance has to focus on this. The board has reached out to people who attended previous meetings from the area who brought issues related to Lyn Ary Park (Sydney's Shortcut, Lyn Ary Park safety issues), but haven't had any luck getting interest from either group. The most recent cleanup had so few people, it would not be worth adopting the park if we cannot get enough volunteers to help. We will continue to keep this on the agenda for discussion, and reach out to nearby residents.

- **Questions and Comments**

- *Mark Worcester asked about the garden at the top of Lyn Ary Park—who maintains that? Kathy McCarthy and Sherry Tomlinson maintain those gardens, they look very nice. How big is the memorial garden? Cathy was not sure, but it is a relatively small piece of land at the corner of the trail and the pathway through the Park. The land is not dedicated park land, but is now officially confirmed as municipal ownership.*

## HUNTINGTON PARK TREE MAINTENANCE | GLORIA MANNI + CHURCHILL DR. NEIGHBORS

- Churchill Drive neighbors shared that they are concerned about the greenbelt and triangle of land (Huntington Park) between Forest Park and Northern Lights, a dedicated park that is mainly wooded area. There have been multiple homeless camps in this park, not visible from the road, and there has been a delay in removing this camp and continued to be issues this summer.
- Most of the area has been cleaned up, with a few remaining issues, but since it is public land and there is no maintenance of trees, neighbors cannot do their own maintenance and the Muni would need to deal with the trees and debris. They are also concerned about fire risk starting next summer.
- The neighbors want to keep the trees, since it is helpful screening to the road, but do not want to have new camps move in and needs more attention. They have been communicating with Tim Steele and would like to work with the Parks Department to come up with a solution.
- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Sandy Rabinowitch asked whether the neighbors have talked to the Fire Wise program, there may be resources or connections to help clean up the park area? They attended an initial meeting but will follow up to find out if and how that program can help.*
  - *Cathy Gleason commented that Fish Creek runs through this property, which is part of the reason it is dedicated park land. Any changes to that land would need to be sensitive to its ecological importance as well.*
  - *Mark Worcester commented that the Great Land Trust manages the easement across Northern Lights to the south, they do not allow maintenance of those lands in general, but there may be some acceptable ways to remove some of the downed wood and debris to reduce fire hazard.*

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Anna Brawley shared that her condo association found evidence of spruce bark beetle in a couple of mature spruces on the property, and had to have dead trees removed. She recommended checking out the recent ADN article about spruce bark beetle, and consider a potential preventive treatment that can be applied in the spring to mature spruces and kill the emerging beetles. It is likely that there will be more damage in the spring.

## CLOSING

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.
- The next regular meeting will be **Thursday, October 5, 2017**. Location will be somewhere on the West/Romig Campus, room to be determined.

*Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary Anna Brawley on 9/10/17.*

*Minutes approved by the Council at its regular meeting on 10/5/17.*