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# TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting | December 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 35 people (members and guests) attended, including some West High School students in Government class.
- The December agenda was reviewed:
  - **Motion by Pat Redmond to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Joan McKinnon.**
  - **Vote on motion: all yes, 0 no. Agenda approved.**
- The November meeting minutes were available for review and approval.
  - **Motion by Gloria Manni to approve the previous meeting's minutes. Second by Joan McKinnon.**
  - **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.*
  - TCC's January meeting will be held on Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup> since the school will be closed the first week of the new year. Subsequent meetings will be on the first Thursday evening.

## 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: visit [www.communitycouncils.org](http://www.communitycouncils.org) and scroll down to "Sign Up"!
- **Federation of Community Councils:** Updates from the November FCC meeting, Cathy Gleason attended on behalf of TCC:
  - Ride sharing: The Municipality of Anchorage now contracts with Enterprise (the car rental company) to coordinate ridesharing for commuters—this allows workers to connect with other commuters in their area to use shared vehicles and carpool to and from work. TCC will be inviting a person
  - The Municipality has rolled out a lot of new website features (GIS mapping software) that provides a variety of information for community members, including local facilities or institutions like schools, voting information, police and fire information, and other topics.
  - Information was provided by School Board member Dave Donley, including an overview of the 2018 Anchorage School District bonds. Most of the bonds proposed are for roof replacements and other deferred maintenance, rather than new construction.
- **Spring 2018 West Anchorage Candidates Forum:** The next Municipal election is in April 2018, and in the past the five west Anchorage councils (Turnagain, Spenard, Sand Lake, North Star and Taku Campbell) host a public event with candidates. This year, the forum will include candidates for School Board, Mayor and the bonds. We will try to hold it earlier in the spring than in the past, because of the Vote by Mail changes which means residents will be voting prior to the traditional election day, first Tuesday in April. The TCC Board will reach out to the other councils to begin planning. If you are interested in helping plan this event, please contact the board ([tccpresident@yahoo.com](mailto:tccpresident@yahoo.com))!
- **Lyn Ary Memorial Garden:** See previous meeting minutes for details. The Council has discussed adopting the garden, which involves regular maintenance and caretaking of that area, but has not heard significant interest by Council. If you live in the area and would like to volunteer to maintain this garden, please consider joining the committee!
- **Officers Report** | No additional reports.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS: LAND USE, LICENSE & PERMIT REVIEW COMMITTEE

- **Draft State Regulations for Marijuana Onsite Consumption:** Anna Brawley shared that the Marijuana Control Board discussed the proposal to allow onsite consumption of marijuana at retail stores, but postponed action on the issue until April 2018. There were over 500 pages of public comments submitted, those are available for download online at the AMCO website. TCC had submitted comments opposing this idea in October, see the TCC website for details. The TCC board will continue to monitor this item and share any updates.
- **Draft Municipal Ordinance for Marijuana Land Use Regulations:** This draft was recently made available, comments from community councils are due December 15<sup>th</sup>. The Land Use Committee will meet to review the draft and submit any potential comments. *Post-meeting update: the Land Use Committee met on 12/14 to discuss the draft ordinance, and did not see anything meriting a comment.*
- **Accessory Dwelling Unit Code Amendments:** The Planning Department submitted suggested changes to the accessory dwelling unit (“mother in law” apartment) ordinance, allowing for more flexibility in where these units can be located, how large they can be, and other changes designed to make ADUs easier for property owners to create. TCC reviewed this ordinance and provided detailed comments, adopted in October, in advance of the Planning and Zoning Commission public hearing on December 4<sup>th</sup>. P&ZC did not adopt any of the suggested revisions from TCC, but supported the ordinance, and it will come before the Assembly for adoption soon.
- **Airport Field Maintenance Storage Yard Expansion:** This proposal is for the Airport to develop a portion of their property, which is also part of Turnagain Bog (wetland), for a level storage yard. TCC reviewed the Environmental Assessment and contacted the project staff, and two TCC members met with staff to discuss TCC’s questions and concerns, and make recommendations for collaborating on which areas are subject to future development.

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

- **Sen. Mia Costello**
  - No one was present of behalf of the Senator’s office.
- **Rep. Matt Claman**
  - The fourth special session ended in November, and was called by Gov. Walker to address the state’s revenue options, but ended up focusing on public safety and changes to SB 91, the comprehensive criminal justice reform bill.
  - Rep. Claman will be holding a constituent event before the start of session on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Spenard Recreation Center. Please join for pizza, beverages and conversation about constituent issues.
  - Last month he attended a summit of all 50 states to discuss public safety, increasing costs and other issues related to criminal justice. Alaska is particularly challenged with a budget crisis as well as public safety problems, but all other states are facing some form of challenges related to incarceration, recidivism (returning to prison after release), and helping people reintegrate into the community and become productive members of society. In Alaska, approximately 37% of people on pre-trial release (awaiting sentencing and a decision in their case) commit another crime, and about 14% of people don’t show up for their trial date. A new pre-trial program will start in January to try to reduce these numbers, and a study of another state’s program showed reductions of 30% in new crimes committed.
  - Additionally, the Alaska Attorney General is recommending five new prosecutor positions, reversing some of the previous cuts.
- **Rep. Harriet Drummond**
  - Staff member Patrick Fitzgerald was present at the meeting.
  - Rep. Drummond was extremely disappointed that the Senate did not consider the proposed revenue package, she feels that this is continuing to “kick the can down the road.” However, she is remaining optimistic about how much can be accomplished in the 2018 session.
- **Questions and Comments**

- *Anna Brawley asked whether the additional prosecutors will be focused on specific issues, such as alcohol related crimes?* The prosecutors will be specifically focused on drug-related crimes, two in Anchorage, one in Kotzebue, and one in Bethel.
- *Elaine Hulse asked what the average age, or general trends related to age, in overdose deaths? For younger people, an early death means not making payments into Social Security and other lost productivity costs.* Rep. Claman did not have specific information about other indirect costs of drug-related deaths, but agreed that there are many negative impacts to the opioid crisis and that we need to address this problem.
- *Cathy Gleason asked Patrick whether Rep. Drummond has any sense of where there might be consensus on revenue, or ideas that seem promising? Has there been positive action and discussions about this issue?* Each legislator has different ideas about what should be done, and so far there doesn't seem to be much progress toward agreement. The discussion will be taken up again in January.

## ASSEMBLY REPORT | MEMBERS ERIC CROFT, TIM STEELE

- **Municipal Budget:** For the last few months, the Assembly has been working to resolve any remaining 2017 budget issues, and working on a budget for 2018.
- **Priority Projects:** Tim has been advocating for resources to address Chester Creek flooding, which is an ongoing issue. There is now funding available to make improvements along the creek corridor, and the project is now in final design phase.
- **Railroad Right of Way:** After enacting a controversial proposal to charge property owners along the Railroad corridor who have encroached into the right of way, such as a garden, shed or fence, the Railroad reversed its decision and will no longer be charging property owners for these types of encroachments. They will instead work with the owners to ensure that structures or improvements in the right of way do not jeopardize Railroad safety or operations, but allow property owners to continue using their land.
- **Electric Bus:** The Muni has secured an electric bus to test how well it works in Anchorage. If the test is successful, the Muni may consider investing in more electric buses to add to the fleet.
- **Police:** Anchorage Police Department has been working hard to be visible and active in the community, and have been addressing the many public safety issues the Muni is dealing with, including the current problem of vehicle thefts.
- **Homeless Camps:** The Muni is working on ways to improve the process of cleaning up homeless camps, including having enough staff capacity to clean up camps quickly (Parks & Recreation is tasked with this on park lands, but did not have enough staff) and reducing the number of days' notice required between making contact with the camper and actually cleaning up the camp. Additionally, the emergency shelter beds provided by Bean's Café posed a big liability issue, and they were unable to continue paying for the necessary insurance for this service. The Muni is working with Bean's Café, Catholic Social Services, and others to figure out a new facility for emergency shelter beds for the winter.
- **Stream Setback Ordinance:** The Muni has introduced a draft ordinance proposing changes to required setbacks next to streams, to address issues of flooding and erosion around waterways.
- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Elaine Hulse asked how many Anchorage streams have salmon running in them?* Tim was not sure exactly how many do or do not have salmon throughout the year, but many streams are home to salmon while others are not.
  - *Bob Loeffler asked about the status of the Fish Creek Trail to Ocean project, proposing a trail from Northern Lights to the Coastal Trail generally along the Railroad right of way?* Tim was not sure of the current status, but the Municipality is continuing to work with the Railroad to negotiate an acceptable route, determine how to pay for construction, and who would be responsible for maintenance and enforcement.

- *Anna Brawley asked the status of Dick Traini's proposed alcohol tax?* Tim shared that the Assembly still intends to discuss this option, he understands the issues people have with the tax but the Municipality needs other revenue sources besides property taxes. It will be discussed further later this month.
- *Another member asked for more information about the electric bus fleet, would the Muni consider purchasing more if they work well in Anchorage?* The buses have a range of 200 miles, and need to be confirmed to work well in cold weather. The Muni is interested in seeing whether they can perform well in that range, in all weather, but if they are successful then it is likely they would add more electric buses to the fleet.
- *Loraine Davis asked about what responsibility Bean's Café has for other issues such as trash and loitering near their property?* The Muni is working with Bean's Café to address these issues, it is difficult to hold the organization responsible for issues not actually on their property. But, the issues need to be addressed.
- *Beverly Churchill commented that she noticed significant changes in the bus depot at 6<sup>th</sup> and G street, she saw more police presence but was curious what other improvements might be made in the future, based on previous ideas shared?* There are several plans being considered, the effort is being led by Andrew Halcro who leads the Anchorage Community Development Authority, the agency that oversees EasyPark and can make other community investments. Look for more changes at the transit center soon!
- *Cathy Gleason asked about the Clitheroe Center proposal and the fact that previous presentations to TCC did not provide the amount of detail announced recently, and did not include a proposal for housing. She requested that TCC be included and informed.* Tim did not have additional specific information, and had not participated in the site visit for the Assembly. He encouraged TCC to stay involved and suggested following up with Nancy Burke for a presentation.

## 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 and Lake Spenard is an active airfield:** While the lake is frozen and some aviation activities have stopped for the winter, the lakes and surrounding lands are still an active airfield! Please stay off the ice and keep clear of any areas marked as active airfields, as there are still operations happening during the winter.
- **Reminder for Holiday Travel:** Please remember to be mindful of the pickup and dropoff areas, the holidays are a busy travel time and there will be extra traffic to and from the Airport. Please do not leave vehicles unattended at any time, and there is free parking up to 30 minutes if you need to wait longer for a flight to arrive—please do not idle in the pickup area!
- **Holiday Performances:** There will be scheduled music performances at the Airport throughout the holidays, check the Airport website for a schedule of upcoming events.
- **Recruitment:** the Airport is still looking for aircraft maintenance and operations staff, facility maintenance, and police/fire officers (these officers serve in both roles).
- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Dan Gleason asked about the status of recruitment for a new Airport Manager?* John did not have an official update, but has heard that there is at least one candidate being seriously considered, so there may be more official information soon.
  - *Ralph Guditz asked about the current width of the 15/33 runway, and what the widening project is intended to accommodate?* The runway needs to be rehabilitated (new pavement, other improvements, compliant with Group 6 aircraft), and when rehabilitation occurs, the Airport is required to bring the runway up to current codes, which means widening the runway to meet the current standard.
  - *Jonathan Galin asked about the status of the new Alaska Airlines building?* John believes the project is on track, there is a new door arriving soon to be installed.

## MAYOR'S REPORT

- No one was available from the Mayor's office this month.

## AIRPORT-RELATED CONSTRUCTION TRUCK TRAFFIC ON LAKESHORE DRIVE

- This item continues discussion and possible resolution to address safety and road wear impacts from possible illegal activity by construction truck traffic on Lakeshore Dr. that has been accessing Airport construction projects this year.
- Cathy shared that TCC has been in contact with staff from the Municipality, the Airport (Department of Transportation), and the Mayor's office, following up on residents' concerns about construction-related traffic on Lakeshore Drive throughout the summer and into the fall. It has been difficult to resolve because it is unclear who is responsible, whether there were municipal permits issued, and who would be in charge of enforcement for violations happening. Residents on Lakeshore Drive and TCC continue to ask the Municipality and the Airport to resolve this issue.
- There has been email communication regarding the status of Lakeshore Drive, and many contacts at the Municipality have weighed in, with no clear resolution yet. There is an enforcement mechanism for addressing illegal use of the roads (the Muni can issue a Stop Work order for a construction company violating the rules) but residents' requests to post clear signage about the weight limit and restrictions for large-vehicle use on Lakeshore Drive have been met with opposition.
- Ralph Guditiz and Zach Cawvey, Lakeshore Drive residents, have been monitoring this issue throughout the summer and fall, have testified before the Assembly at multiple meetings during the public hearing request
- Pat Redmond asked for clarification from the Airport what action they have taken: John shared that in future, the Airport will require from contractors proof of approval from the Muni for project haul routes. However, this does not address the issue of enforcement, and in summer 2017 residents discovered that all the approved haul routes were only for International Airport Road, not for the Lakeshore Drive route being used now. The lack of clarity of who will commit to enforcing the policy is still an issue, and residents are worried that the problem will continue next summer.
- The group discussed what action the Council would like to take to help resolve the issue.
- **Motion by Dan Gleason for the TCC Board to draft a resolution supporting posting of appropriate signage indicating the weight limit for Lakeshore Drive, similar to other signs in the Municipality on similar roads. Second by Lorraine Davis.**
- **Discussion**
  - None.
- **Vote: 18 yes, 0 opposed. The Board will draft a resolution for TCC's consideration at the January 11 meeting, working with the Lakeshore Drive residents.**

## MOVE TO AMEND PRESENTATION | BEVERLY CHURCHILL

- Beverly and others who were present in the meeting are part of local organization, Move to Amend Anchorage, and are affiliated with a national network of similar organizations. They are a grassroots organization focused on gathering support from communities (including community councils) to introduce a U.S. Constitutional amendment clarifying that corporations are not considered people and do therefore not have the same rights to free speech as individual people do. This issue arose from the 2010 Supreme Court decision, *Citizens United*, that established the legal precedent that corporations do have the right to free speech, and that spending money (such as political contributions, issue campaigns, and others) is a form of speech.
- The organization has been approaching community councils to pass resolutions of support, and this is their purpose tonight. They have so far collected resolutions of support from 22 community councils; 2 have voted not to support. Additionally, 19 states have passed some form of resolution, through legislation or through a ballot initiative, including some in the November 2016 elections.
- **Questions and Comments**

- *Elaine Hulse commented that she read that in Saudi Arabia, humanoid robots were granted citizenship rights. Assuming this is true, should this be added to the resolution, defining personhood to exclude corporations but also to exclude robots or artificial intelligence?* Beverly heard this story as well, and she is also concerned about the implications of these types of policies in a number of areas, including the possibility of multi-national or foreign companies also gaining influence on American politics.
- *Bob Loeffler commented that he has heard from candidates for state office, that they are unable to raise enough funds to be competitive in a state race, and are therefore obligated to look to outside funding sources to be able to get enough money to run. He feels that this is wrong, and in-state elections should not be driven by outside interests.*
- *Joan McKinnon commented that Congress should act to address this.* Another member pointed out that the *Citizens United* overruled the McCain-Feingold Act, which imposed significant campaign finance reforms and therefore there are limited options for overturning this decision. Beverly added that states could put laws into place at the state level, and there is a group working on model legislation to focus on this approach.
- *Elaine Hulse commented that campaign finance laws should also preclude foreign countries from contributing to political campaigns.* Beverly agreed that this is an issue, but it would be a separate discussion and would be outside the scope of the specific Move to Amend mission. The Supreme Court ruling was specific to corporations, but legislators could certainly pass other laws regarding campaign finance.
- Cathy Gleason noted that Turnagain Community Council had a presentation about this issue in 2016, but did not take specific action.
- **Motion by Jonathan Galin that TCC support the Move to Amend resolution as presented in the meeting, specifying that personhood is restricted to people, not corporations, and that money should not be considered a form of political speech. Second by Bob Loeffler.**
- **Discussion**
  - When asked what other legal options there might be to address this issue, Sam, an attorney, shared that in addition to the route the Move to Amend Anchorage group proposes (a constitutional amendment), it would be possible for Congress to define personhood—the case extended certain rights of personhood to corporations, but the Constitution does not define personhood and the *Citizens United* decision does not preclude this.
  - Cathy Gleason proposed an amendment to the resolution, changing “the people of the Turnagain Community Council...” to “read “Turnagain Community Council.” Jonathan accepted this amendment.
  - *Pat Redmond asked the Move to Amend representatives whether they are also proposing a constitutional convention as part of this effort?* No, Move to Amend supports this specific proposed amendment, but does not endorse a constitutional convention.
- **Vote: 17 yes, 1 opposed, none abstain. The TCC Board will use this template to finalize a resolution. TCC will send the resolution directly to the Assembly and Mayor, and will provide a copy to the Move to Amend Anchorage group.**

## PROPOSED STREAM SETBACK ORDINANCE | KRISTEN COLLINS, ALASKA CENTER

- The Alaska Center works on environmental, water and other issues in Anchorage, and has been closely involved in the development of this ordinance, along with the Watershed Department within the Municipality.
- The Alaska Center supports the policies in this ordinance, and believes that it will help to protect Anchorage’s natural resources, trails, recreational lands, wildlife, and property.
- Kristen shared that a stream setback is a land use regulation that requires lands adjacent to streams (or other waterways, depending on how the setback is defined) remain in its natural state a certain linear distance from a waterway. Stream setbacks prevent building too close to streams, help manage flooding and stormwater management, contribute to protection of water quality by reducing runoff and



other contamination issues, protect properties from flooding damage, and protect and enhance property values by protecting the quality of waterways.

- The current stream setback is 25 feet, below the national average of required setbacks in other communities. On the Hillside (within the Hillside district) the setback is 50 feet.
- The ordinance proposes a tiered system of setbacks, defined by the size and character of the stream, how much the waterway meanders, and whether the land has already been developed or not, since it is more difficult to change.
- See page 13 and 14 of the ordinance for allowed uses: there would be two areas, the Streamside Zone and the Riparian Zone. The Streamside Zone has more restrictions, with allowance for unpaved trails, limited structures like viewing areas, and utilities parallel to the waterway, and is generally supposed to left as natural vegetation. The Riparian Zone has more flexibility, allows some structures such as decks, sheds, some home additions, utility corridors, paved trails, wells, and snow storage.
- The ordinance would not impact existing developed lots, or lots smaller than 10,000 square feet, but is generally intended to prevent future issues when new parcels are developed into subdivisions or individual properties.
- There will be an interactive map developed by the Municipality to indicate specific setbacks for each stream, so people can easily identify what rules apply to their property depending on the stream.
- The ordinance will be heard at the Planning and Zoning Commission on February 5, 2018, and Jeffrey Urbanus with the Watershed Department will be presenting to TCC at its January 11 meeting in advance of the P&ZC hearing. Kristen noted that the team is seeking resolutions of support from community councils, and asked TCC to consider passage of a resolution of support.
- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Gloria Manni is concerned about whether the exemption for lots under 10,000 square feet is applied to future lots, with the possible issue of developers subdividing land into lots smaller than that, to avoid complying with the setback rules?* Kristen was not sure whether that had been addressed in the ordinance, but this is a good question for the Muni to consider. This ordinance is designed to primarily address future development, since it grandfathers existing properties, but the intent is to protect Anchorage's streams, having developers intentionally make smaller lots would be an issue.
  - *Anna Brawley asked about grandfathering, are the grandfather rules with the land (transferred to a new owner) or do the new rules apply if the property is sold?* The grandfather provision does not change if the property is sold, but if a building is destroyed or demolished then a new one could not be approved in that area, they would lose the grandfather status of the old structure.
  - *Pat Redmond asked when comments on this ordinance would be due to P&ZC, since she has not read the ordinance?* Cathy shared that typically comments are due two weeks in advance, and many members have not read the ordinance yet, so she recommends that the Council not take action today but consider taking action in January following Jeffrey Urbanus' presentation. TCC would also send this to the Land Use committee for discussion and drafting of any comments for TCC to consider.

## ANCHORAGE 2018 VOTE BY MAIL | PAT REDMOND, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

- The Municipality will be conducting its next election by mail in April 3, 2018, and is holding public events to share how this will work: there is a facility that will process the votes, and drop-off locations throughout the city. The purpose is to encourage voter participation and turnout, make it easier to vote, and make better use of public resources rather than recruiting, training and managing 600+ volunteers for 122 precincts, and rent state election equipment to handle municipal elections.
- Ballots will be mailed on March 13, and likely received within the next two days. The process will work similarly to absentee voting by mail, and the ballot needs to be postmarked by 8 p.m. on election day. Additionally, if there is an error or missing information on the ballot (signature, etc.) the elections staff will be checking ballots and will contact you to request a correction if there is an error.

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- There will also still be in-person voting at the vote facility as well, on election day, for those who wish to vote in person.
- The Muni will require a signature on file, and have scanned all votes since 2014 when signatures were recorded on books. All voter registration is completed by the state, and the records were available for people who have voted in the past. People who do not have a signature on file can do so when registering to vote, changing registration, and have other mechanisms to collect signatures—letters went out to 57,000 voters to request sending in a signature on file. There will also be a postcard in January to verify current address, and allows time for updating voter information to ensure that they are correctly registered.
- People who will not be home during the voting period (March to April) should still request an absentee ballot, **as ballots will not be forward to another address!** Similarly, people who move in the timeframe when ballots are mailed will need to update their address.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

- No public comments.

## CLOSING

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.
- The next regular meeting will be moved one week later than normal, since the school will be closed the first week of January: TCC will meet next on **Thursday, January 11, 2018.**

*Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary Anna Brawley on 12/12/17.*

*Minutes approved by Turnagain Community Council at its regular meeting on 1/11/18.*