
TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting | December 6, 2018 | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Co-Cathedral, Lunney Center | 3900 Wisconsin St.

Chaired by Cathy Gleason, TCC President

WELCOME & APPROVE AGENDA, MINUTES

- The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. About 22 people (members and guests) attended.
- The December agenda was reviewed.
 - **Motion by Pat Redmond to approve the agenda. Second by Kathleen Bielawski.**
 - Amendment by Pat Redmond to move the item regarding Airport lease under New Business, to before the Traffic discussion and after Airport report. Second by Anna Brawley.
 - **Vote on motion: no objection. Agenda approved.**
- The November meeting minutes were available for review and approval.
 - **Motion by Sara Haley to approve the last meeting's minutes. Second by Dan Gleason.**
 - **Vote on motion: no objection. Minutes approved.**
- **Sharing about November 30 Earthquake:** Cathy Gleason invited those present to share any thoughts or experiences from the November 30, 2018 earthquake, a magnitude 7.0.
 - Sara Haley recognized the Airport for the amazing response, including the coordination with FedEx and other carriers during and immediately after the quake. She shared that she worked closely with Airport staff and other staff at the facility, and was very grateful for their dedication and commitment to keeping things running. The situation was especially frightening in the control tower, which sustained damage, and the air traffic controllers and pilots in the approaching planes did amazing work.
 - John Johansen shared that the Airport is working on a video collage of what happened during the incident, since they have approximately 600 security camera videos onsite.
 - Pat Redmond shared that she very much appreciates the efforts of the community to implement and enforce land use regulations and building codes, despite the extra expense during building. The investment clearly paid off in this incident, with the relative lack of major damage we had.
 - Dan Gleason shared that he was downtown in Peterson Tower, he was in an interior room with no windows, and was grateful to not have been next to the 6th floor windows. He also noted a recently built retaining wall for nearby condos failed in the quake.
 - Matt Claman shared that he noticed some new cracks on the Coastal Trail when he was on the trail the day of the quake, he observed some damage that had not been there in the morning.
 - Cathy Gleason shared her thoughts for some Sand Lake residents who experienced significant damage due to sinking foundations. She is grateful for the relative lack of damage in Turnagain, particularly in light of the historic damage in the neighborhood in the 1964 earthquake, including the area that is now Earthquake Park.
- **Announcements:** *See Attachments flyer available as a handout in the meeting and on the TCC website.*
 - There is a draft ordinance, with a public hearing on Tuesday, December 18, delaying implementation of the single use plastic bag ban due to many retailers having purchased inventory of plastic bags in anticipation of the 2019 tourist season.
 - There is also a public hearing on Tuesday, December 18 for a proposed alcohol tax, for the Assembly to approve inclusion of this item on the ballot for a public vote in April 2019. The revenue generated from the tax would fund activities focused on public safety including cleanup of homeless camps, housing, addiction treatment and other services.
 - The January 2019 TCC meeting will take place the **second** Thursday instead of the first Thursday, at West High (our usual location) unless the facility is unavailable. We will send a notice and reminder closer to the meeting, but please mark your calendars now!

- Please see the Announcements document for information and a variety of contacts about earthquake response, including safety information, status of public facilities, information about individual assistance for home damage repair, and counseling resources.

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 and scroll down to "Sign Up"!
- **Gloria Manni's Death:** Gloria Manni, TCC's Treasurer, passed away on Friday, November 2, after a short illness. The Board sent flowers in October after hearing the news, and learned through her family that Gloria appreciated the gesture. Cathy Gleason spoke highly of Gloria as a neighbor and a friend, and made a great contribution to the Turnagain neighborhood.
The news was sudden, but the Board had begun to discuss ways to honor her contributions to the neighborhood and will bring ideas back to the Council in the coming months. Members suggested ideas such as a Legislative citation, recognition from the Assembly, a resolution recognizing her contributions. Please send any ideas to the Board!
- **TCC Bank Account Business:** Savings: \$1,570.68 (as of November 2018). Checking: \$200.05. Lorraine Davis will be the new Treasurer in 2019, and will bring a Treasurer's report at a future meeting.
- **Federation of Community Councils:** Anna Brawley shared updates from the November meeting:
 - The Municipality passed the 2019 budget, including restoring funding for the downtown flower displays, which received a great deal of comments. The operating budget is approximately \$525 million, with the main cost increase being health / medical costs.
 - The new Anchorage Fire Department chief, Jodie Hettrick, presented some fire safety tips. Between Thanksgiving and New Year's is the most dangerous time for home fires, as people are cooking, sometimes drinking, and otherwise not closely watching their cooking. Please remember to stay safe over the holidays, and don't leave your cooking unattended!
 - The FCC Outreach committee is developing a list of community events to have people available at a booth to talk about community councils (examples: Fur Rondy, 4th of July, Bike to Work Day events, etc.). If you have ideas of other events, or want to volunteer, let the Board know and we can put you in touch with the FCC committee!
 - The FCC is also working with the Muni to become designated as an Agency on Nextdoor.com, a popular social media site for neighbors to communicate. Agency posts can be seen across neighborhoods. The Muni is looking at designating FCC so that their updates can be posted to everyone. The FCC mailing lists, collectively for all councils, are about 10,000 people; the Nextdoor.com membership for Anchorage is about 40,000.
- **Anchorage West Little League Proposal to Honor Marty Smith:** In summer 2018, AWLL posted a sign in Lyn Ary Park on a ballfield to honor Marty Smith, who was previously president of their board and who had recently passed away. Marty had attended some TCC meetings to discuss ballfield improvements at Lyn Ary Park. The sign did not follow public process for naming public facilities, so the sign was required to be taken down, but the Assembly formed a naming committee at their November meeting including Little League representatives. Tricia Kozler with AWLL has been in contact with TCC about requesting a resolution of support at a future meeting, potentially our January 2019 meeting.
- **Project Updates:**
 - **Turnagain Blvd/Fish Creek Park Parking Lot Signage:** Lorraine Davis shared that the parking lot south of Fish Creek Park was repaved and striped, but people are not using this parking lot and instead parking along the street. It appears that people do not realize that this is a public parking lot! The Muni and the contractor, CRW, are working in additional signage to indicate that it is a public parking lot.

- **Fish Creek Trail Rehabilitation:** Lorraine Davis shared that there has been additional work in the area, including tree clearing, grading, removal of the small bridge, and have installed a new trail bed to be paved in spring 2019. The trail goes from Fish Creek to McRae to Barbara Street Park.
- **Fish Creek Trail Spenard Road Underpass:** This underpass under Spenard Road at Turnagain Blvd. has long needed maintenance and better lighting; there have been new lights installed (including anti-vandalism protection) and new pavement, recently done as part of the Fish Creek Trail rehabilitation. This is a great improvement for safety, and improves the connection between Turnagain Blvd. and the new portion of Fish Creek Trail at Northwood!
 - Cathy Gleason shared that this has always been an especially bad area for trash and debris, and hopes it will get more attention and care in the future.
 - Merle Akers commented that there should be a crosswalk at Spenard Road for people using the bus and wanting to cross the road, not just the underpass. He also noted that it is difficult to get from the underpass to the south side of Spenard Road by walking, it requires walking around by the Napa Auto Parts store.
 - Pat Redmond recommended that Turnagain CC support Spenard CC in their advocacy to improve connections in this area, from the underpass to the trail, and access to the bus on Spenard Road.
 - Sam Moore commented that he serves on the Public Transit Advisory Board, and their next meeting is next Thursday, December 13, 6:00 p.m. He encouraged anyone interested to attend and share their concerns or ideas for improving transit.
- **Westchester Lagoon South Bridge Replacement Project:** Cathy Gleason shared information from Anchorage Parks and Recreation Senior Planner Maeve Nevins that the bridge continues to move forward, but is being assessed for any earthquake damage. They anticipate pouring the concrete pilings in the next week, and once it is cured, in the near future, the bridge will be open again for winter use! Please check the Muni website for updates on the project.
- **Officers Report** | No additional reports.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

- **Rep. Matt Claman**
 - The Anchorage School District has some significant damage to facilities, ASD has invited legislators on a tour of King Career Center and the two damaged schools, Eagle River Elementary and Gruening Middle Schools.
 - Legislative session will start on Tuesday, January 15, slightly earlier this year (before MLK Day). One House race in Fairbanks is still in question, and should be decided soon after a court process. House leadership is still being determined, with this race as well as the appointment of newly-elected Nancy Dahlstrom as Commissioner of Corrections, her replacement will be appointed.
 - While it can be frustrating to deal with the additional regulations related to building codes, he is grateful for the protections Anchorage has in place for building safety.
 - They are working to schedule a constituent meeting; this meeting may be in January during Martin Luther King weekend, later than usual. His office will share details.
 - Please contact Rep. Claman's office with any questions or comments.
- **Sen. Mia Costello, represented by Sam Moore**
 - Sen. Costello shared her regrets for not being able to attend.
 - He will no longer be serving as legislative aide during session, but thanked the council for hosting him in this role.
 - Please feel free to contact her office at (907) 269-0117, or senator.mia.costello@akleg.gov.
- **Questions and Comments**

- *Merle Akers asked for the status of the Anchorage Legislative Information Office, LIO? The offices on the second floor and above were supposed to be closed due to renovations, this is still happening as planned. The first floor meeting rooms are still open to the public. Merle also shared that he is concerned about information shared at the Aviation Advisory Board meeting on November 26. The board chair stated that the Aviation Advisory Board does not have jurisdiction over Lake Hood Seaplane Base; another member stated that he is “tired of hearing public complaints about Lake Hood, and is too busy to listen to those concerns.” He intends to follow up with Rep. Claman directly.*

ASSEMBLY REPORT

- Neither West Anchorage member was present in the meeting.

AIRPORT REPORT | JOHN JOHANSEN

- *See airport updates on the handout provided at the meeting or online at: www.anchorageairport.com*
- **Concessions:** There will be a sunglasses kiosk near the Starbucks in C Concourse, opened in November. Brookstone, which went bankrupt nationally, has also closed in the C Concourse.
- **Stormwater Permit:** The Airport has been working with Department of Environmental Conservation about a stormwater permit. Like all industrial facilities that discharge into water bodies, the Airport must have a permit, but their permit has expired. They are working on the draft of this permit, and it will be released for public comment in December. There will be a public hearing on January 14, 2019.
- **Cargo Transfer Warehouse Proposal:** This proposal solicits bids for a vendor to build a quick-cargo facility, for planes stopping in Anchorage and storing cargo for a short time. This would be located near the existing cargo ramp for easy access when planes load or unload. There was a meeting on Wednesday, November 7 with about 20 attendees, including a presentation about the project and asking for interest from other entities to build and operate the facility. Participants did not share specific plans, but are requested to submit a letter of interest. This would not be an Airport-funded project, but privately funded and operated, with a lease from the Airport.
- **Holiday Music:** The Airport has an annual tradition of inviting performances of holiday music in the terminal during the holiday season. There is a list of performance times on the Airport website, and features a variety of choral, instrumental, and other music groups, particularly youth groups.
- **Passenger Drop-off and Pick-up:** There is often congestion due to people waiting for passengers to pick up, or dropping passengers off. The Airport encourages people to use the cell phone lot or short term parking, which is free for the first 30 minutes, and avoid creating congestion.
- **Recruitment:** There are several positions available, including Airport fire/police personnel, skilled mechanics and maintenance, and other positions. Please share these job opportunities widely!
- **Curbside and Taxi Stand Health and Safety Issues:**
 - Cathy Gleason shared her experience recently with the relocated taxi stand where people wait for cabs, which is conveniently closer to the baggage claim area. First, there was a lack of curb cuts making it difficult to move heavy roller bags, or at least lack of visible curb cuts for people with luggage. Second, walking to the taxi stand included walking past the smoking hut at the Airport, and was exposed to significant secondhand smoke from people outside the hut.
 - John Johansen explained that the taxi stand was relocated to be more convenient, particularly for people using the Alaska Airlines baggage claims. He noted that there is a crosswalk with curb cuts at the middle door of the Alaska Airlines baggage carousels, so he believes the Gleasons exited through a different door and missed the crosswalk. Regarding the smoking hut, John noted that this is primarily used by taxi drivers, many of whom use tobacco. They are not allowed to smoke in their cabs per the new smokefree indoor air law, so this is intended to provide a space for them.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Brian Hove asked for clarification, whether TSA has the authority to issue a fine to an individual for a traffic or parking issue? John Johansen clarified that he does not believe this*

information is accurate. He stated that the TSA can fine the Airport for not enforcing its security plan, but he does not necessarily believe this can be applied to personal vehicles.

50-YEAR AIRPORT LEASE APPLICATION TO DEVELOP T-HANGAR COMPLEX IN TURNAGAIN BOG

- John Johansen shared some information about the proposal; copies were available in the meeting.
- TLC Properties proposes approximately 120 T hangars (shaped like a T for small planes) on the southwest corner of Lake Hood Drive and Helio Place, as well as 23 aircraft tie-down spaces, snow storage area and vehicle parking. They have been discussing this proposal for over a year.
- At the time this was submitted, the Airport was already considering using this area for material storage. This area was identified in the Lake Hood Master Plan for lease or other development, which this is compatible with, but would utilize this property.
- The lease was released for public comment in November 2018, with the intent of notifying the public as well as notifying any other potential interested parties to submit a competing application for the lease. The public comment deadline is December 20, and allows for the public to share any concerns with the development.
- The applicant would need to apply for a section 404 Army Corps permit for development of wetlands, because they cannot use the existing permit that the Airport holds. The Airport does have a fill permit for this property, good for 5 years, but cannot transfer this to another entity. This would happen as the project progresses.
- Cathy Gleason re-stated that Turnagain Community Council is on record opposing fill of any more portions of Turnagain Bog.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Jonathan Galin asked for clarification of the location.* southwest corner of Lake Hood Drive and Helio Place. This parcel is located east of the post office.
Jonathan also asked whether there will be additional noise due to the increased number of planes? Would these conflict with vehicles using the roads? He is concerned about increased noise from the activities on the site, and competition with vehicles on the roads. John noted this has been discussed with the FAA, and there will need to be additional work to address access to the airstrip. There are two proposed crossings, one across Aircraft Drive to get to Lake Hood taxiway; the other would enter Echo parking lot. This is one of the concerns of the Airport and FAA.
 - *Merle Akers thanked John Johansen, and the Airport, for providing the public advance notice of a lease of Airport property. He also commented that he does not appreciate the limited notice, including a physical posting of the notice on Airport property, typically not in a very accessible location.* John noted that it is posted online.
 - *Jackie Armstrong requested information about providing public comments. She also shared that as a bicyclist who regularly bikes in that area, she is not concerned about more vehicles in area.* The group clarified that the discussion was about airplane traffic, not vehicles such as cars. The group discussed whether or how much more airplane traffic there would be.
 - *Cathy Gleason asked for any other Airport concerns about the proposal, and for specific information about the signage and safety features of the crossing.* John shared that the crossings will at minimum include signage such as a stop sign. He noted that the gates already in place along Lakeshore Drive are intended to keep vehicles from driving onto the gravel runway, rather than actual conflicts between vehicles. Major airport concerns included: the number of road crossings (discussed above), whether the airport could still store fill on the property as needed from other construction projects, and whether the airport would be able to give another entity wetland credits in order to offset the impacts to wetland fill. The airport cannot transfer wetland credits, the leaseholder would need to apply for its own permit.
 - *Anna Brawley asked whether the proposed operation is related to a mining operation?* John clarified that the proposal is a commercial venture, it is not specifically related to a mining

operation, although the co-owners of this company have stake in mining companies. He understands this to be a business venture.

- Cathy Gleason commented that in early December 2017, she, Gloria Manni and Lorraine Davis attended a meeting to discuss in detail the proposal for development by the Airport for storage. During that meeting, it became clear that the best asset on the property is the stand of trees that acts as a noise buffer for the neighborhood, even more so than the wetlands that at this point have been filled around this property and are more isolated. She expressed concern about the proposal to develop the entire parcel and remove the trees, and the potential noise impacts on the surrounding neighborhood. She also noted that the previous proposal included mitigation such as drainage, but this does not as it would fill the entire parcel. She GA aircraft T-hangars will certainly be desirable for pilots, as there are none currently at Lake Hood Seaplane Base, but is concerned about the impacts.

Additionally, she noted that the previous proposal was released before Thanksgiving and comments were due before Christmas, and the same timeline was used now, allowing for minimal input during the holidays from TCC, other community councils and the public. She reiterated the request to not clear some of the trees that act as a noise buffer between the airport and the surrounding neighborhood.

- Merle Akers commented that in his experience, the notice process was not in the spirit of soliciting public input, and that the 30-day notice process is not sufficient for a potential competitor, given that this is was an unsolicited bid. He is also concerned about the process.
- Pat Redmond commented that because many of TCC's comments were expressed in the previous public process, these likely would still apply to the new project.
- John Johansen noted that he understands the environmental and neighborhood concerns, but the Airport is intended for aviation purposes. There will be additional opportunities for public comment throughout the process, he encouraged anyone with concerns to submit comments and participate in the process.
- Jonathan Galin commented that he believes the applicant should work with the community council to mitigate neighborhood impacts early in the process, before plans are finalized. He noted there is considerable expense in developing a business or a physical development, it would be helpful to have those conversations before too much is invested in the plan.
- Brian Hove expressed concern with the approach of opposing development, and strongly urges the community council to focus on the most important impacts, such as noise abatement. He does not wish for the neighborhood to be seen as an automatic "no" on new development. He suggested addressing one priority issue that would have the most positive impact.
- John Johansen commented that anyone with concerns about any aspect of this proposal should submit comments and express those concerns.
- **Motion by Dan Gleason that this issue be taken up at the TCC Land Use Committee, to prepare comments before the December 20 comment deadline. Second by Jonathan Galin.**
- **Vote on motion: no objection. This item will be discussed at the TCC Land Use Committee on December 13.**

WEST NORTHERN LIGHTS AND WISCONSIN STREET TRAFFIC NOISE DISCUSSION

- This item is in response to request from neighbors in the area regarding an increase in noise and number of heavy trucks (semis) along West Northern Lights, primarily west of Wisconsin near Aero and west toward Point Woronzof.
- West Northern Lights is a minor arterial, and allows heavy truck traffic by that designation. However, the engineering of the road historically required weight restriction, which likely prompted installation of signs stating that there is a 10,000 lb. weight limit for thru traffic. When the road was upgraded between Wisconsin St. and Nathaniel Ct. in the early 2000s, its designation remained as a minor arterial, but it was designed to the standard of a neighborhood collector, based on advocacy by the

neighborhood and Turnagain Elementary; the rationale being that this section travels through a residential area and in front of the elementary school.

- Recently (sometime this summer), the remaining signs stating there is a 10,000 lb. weight limit have been removed, and neighbors have reported a significant increase in the number of semi trucks, which has resulted in increased noise including early hours of the morning.
- Brenda Aiken shared that they are preparing to sell their home which backs onto Northern Lights, and learned that their home price would be \$10,000 lower due to their location along the busy road. She is concerned about the financial impact to their property, but also there is a tremendous increase in semi traffic, beginning approximately at 2:00 to 3:00 a.m. This began in July 2018, and she and her neighbor Jackie Armstrong (also present in the meeting) have been tracking the traffic increase, and have documented many semis in the last several days alone.
- Jackie shared that she has been tracking, and has had 6 to 8 semis pass her home between when she wakes up around 4:00 a.m. and the rest of the morning. She called two of the companies whose cabs she noted using the roads, the companies stated that it was faster and more convenient to leave the Airport. She stated that West Northern Lights has ~5 stoplights in the area and a 35 MPH speed limit, while International Airport Road has a 50 MPH speed limit and fewer stoplights. Companies can still get to their destination faster and did not intend to change their routes.
- **Discussion**
 - Pat Redmond stated that historically, semi trucks were not allowed on this road from the Airport. Other members clarified that this is no longer the case, this is an allowed route.
 - Cathy Gleason stated that when the Official Streets and Highways Plan was being updated a few years ago, Turnagain Community Council did advocate to reduce the road classification in the plan to a neighborhood collector, but the Assembly did not make this amendment.
 - Jon Isaacs shared that there is also an issue of shift changes, regarding speed limits and following speed limits when going to or from work. He encouraged the employers to ask employees to arrive to work in a timely fashion.
 - Brian Hove asked the council to continue the discussion at a future meeting.
 - Cathy Gleason shared her e-mail conversations to date with Stephanie Mormilo with the Traffic Department, the Muni is not willing to change the road classification or re-post the signs, and does not want to make a new exception. She recommends pursuing this issue by communicating with the Mayor's office and Assembly representatives directly to communicate about the problem and develop potential solutions. She passed around a sign-up sheet to form a new committee to address speed, noise and safety problem.
 - Sandy Rabinowitch suggested addressing the multiple issues at hand: speeding, traffic noise, safety issues, and the types of vehicles using the road. He noted that the problem of speeding begins after Lois Drive, he noted that neighbors on Arlington Drive have had a problem with not being able to turn because of the volume and speed of traffic. He also speculated that a roundabout at Lois Drive and Northern Lights may be a solution.
 - Jackie Armstrong and Brenda Aiken shared that they have contacted multiple departments and have not gotten definitive answers, as well as the Mayor's office last summer. They also are in contact with other concerned neighbors, who could not attend tonight but would like to participate as well.
 - Sara Haley commented that she would like to be mindful of the other neighborhood issues TCC plans to respond to, and wants to see this addressed thoroughly. She suggested continuing this at the January meeting, but also recognized that neighbors want something done as soon as possible. She also noted that during the holiday season, there is more mail being sent in and out of the state, so there is also more truck traffic around the Airport and post office. There is still likely to be a greater number of trucks until the end of the month, just because of the increase in shipments.

COMMITTEE REPORT: LAND USE, LICENSE & PERMIT REVIEW COMMITTEE

- **December 13 meeting:** The committee will meet on Thursday, December 13 at 5:30 p.m. at the Federation of Community Councils office at 1057 West Fireweed. Items on the agenda:
 - Public Hearing Draft of R-2 Proposed Compatible-Scale Infill Housing Code Changes — Planning & Zoning Commission Public Hearing February 4th
 - Airport Lease Application for T-Hangers in Turnagain Bog (discussed earlier today).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

CLOSING

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.
- The next regular meeting will be on **Thursday, January 10, 2019.**

Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary Anna Brawley on 12/13/18.

Minutes approved by Turnagain Community Council at its regular meeting on 1/10/19.