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# TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting | January 9, 2020 | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

West High School, CTE Wing Room 152 | 1700 Hillcrest Drive

Chaired by Cathy Gleason, TCC President

## WELCOME & APPROVE AGENDA, MINUTES

- The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. About 18 people (members and guests) attended.
- The January agenda was reviewed.
  - **Motion by Dan Gleason to approve the agenda. Second by Jackie Armstrong.**
    - **Amendment:** Anna Brawley proposed adding selection of Federation of Community Councils delegate and alternate under Board Report. No objection.
  - **Vote on motion: no objection. Agenda approved as amended.**
- The December meeting minutes were available for review and approval.
  - **Motion by Jackie Armstrong to approve the last meeting's minutes. Second by Dan Gleason.**
  - **Vote on motion: no objection. Minutes approved.**
- **Announcements:** See flyer available as a handout in the meeting and on the TCC website.
  - **Rick Phillips, Our Fair Share Campaign:** Rick is a member of Northeast CC, and attended to present briefly about the Our Fair Share Act regarding proposed changes to the state's oil tax structure. It would tax existing oil fields, not new fields, and only those that produce above a certain threshold of barrels annually. The initiative also changes tax credits to only apply to active drilling areas. Rick provided a handout in the meeting with more information.
    - *Cathy Gleason asked about the timeline for the petition process?* Rick shared that they are collecting signatures with the goal of submitting next week. The intent of the campaign is to get approval to include this on the November 2020 state ballot.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

- Check out Turnagain CC 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”!
- **Secretary Resignation, Officer Updates:** Incoming Secretary-elect Sara Haley has resigned from the Board as of January. Outgoing Secretary Anna Brawley is no longer on the board, but has agreed to temporarily take minutes during TCC meetings. Sara intends to remain an active council member, and will continue leading the Spenard Beach Park committee. Anna shared that she will take minutes for the next 2-3 months, but will not fill this role for the entire year.  
The Board is actively seeking candidates for two vacant positions, Vice President and Secretary, and will hold a special election as soon as possible.
- **Federation of Community Councils:** There was no December FCC meeting. Next FCC meeting will be Wednesday, January 15, 2020.
  - **Update, 2019 outreach funds:** FCC provides funding for each community council to conduct outreach activities (up to \$75 per year). TCC has used these funds in the past for our regular candidates forums, but the most recent one had all expenses covered by a generous donation from a person in Spenard CC.
  - **Selection of FCC Delegate and Alternate:** Each council nominates a delegate to act on the council's behalf at FCC meetings, and an alternate delegate. Turnagain needs to choose delegates for the coming year. Cathy Gleason is the current delegate, and expressed interest in continuing. Anna Brawley has been the alternate, but as she is no longer a board member, it is appropriate to choose a board member.
    - Cathy Gleason nominated herself as delegate.

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- Anna Brawley nominated Pam Wright as alternate, nomination accepted.
- **Motion by Anna Brawley to nominate Cathy Gleason as FCC delegate and Pam Wright as alternate. Second by Sandy Rabinowitch.**
  - **No objection. Cathy will notify FCC about the current delegates.**
- **HLB 2020 and Five-Year Plan:** Cathy provided an update: last year's HLB plan included language intending to transfer the HLB parcels near Point Woronzof Park in 2020, thanks to work from TCC and support from Assembly members. This language was not included in the draft plan for the 1-year plan, only the longer-term 5-year plan; Cathy testified at the December 12 HLB Advisory Commission meeting to include this language. The Advisory Commission did not amend the plan to include this, Cathy will follow up with our Assembly members to request an amendment to this effect. Other comments were incorporated into the draft.
- **Marty Smith Recognition at Lyn Ary Park:** Sandy Rabinowitch shared that he attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting this evening, where the Commission passed a resolution supporting naming "Marty Smith Diamond" within the ballfields at Lyn Ary Park. The naming panel and Anchorage West Little League made a presentation prior to the vote. TCC passed a resolution supporting this item in November 2019. The proposal will go to the Assembly for final approval at some point in the near future, making the designation official.
- **AMATS 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Review Draft:** The draft plan has been published (see Announcements for details). There is a public meeting on Wednesday, February 5 at Mountain View Library about the draft plan. Cathy shared that the board will review the draft, identify projects in our area and other items relevant to the council, and bring draft comments for TCC approval at its February 6 meeting.

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

- **Sen. Mia Costello, staff Dawn Rae Dufford**
  - Dawn Rae introduced herself, she is now working in the senator's office and will be based in Anchorage throughout the session.
  - The senator will still be in town next week and has meeting slots available.
  - Please contact her at (907) 269-0117, or [senator.mia.costello@akleg.gov](mailto:senator.mia.costello@akleg.gov).
- **Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson, staff Keith Baugess**
  - Sen. Gray-Jackson shared a written update available as a handout.
  - Keith was present in the meeting to answer questions. He shared that she intends to introduce multiple bills in the new session:
    - A companion bill to Rep. Tarr's bill regarding timeline for sexual assault kit testing.
    - A bill to prohibit private prisons in Alaska.
    - A bill to expand types of health professionals who can prescribe disabled parking placards, such as physical therapists, chiropractors and other provider types.
    - A bill, or multiple bills, addressing climate change impacts.
  - She will also continue to serve on the Health and Social Services Finance subcommittee.
  - Please contact her at (907) 465-4930, or [sen.elvi.gray-jackson@akleg.gov](mailto:sen.elvi.gray-jackson@akleg.gov).
- **Rep. Matt Claman (phone)**
  - Legislative session begins January 21<sup>st</sup>, and legislators will be moving to Juneau the weekend prior but will be in town next week.
  - Key issues for the 2020 session:
    - FY 2021 budget and fiscal plan – "What can we afford to do? How do we invest in the state's future?"
    - Permanent Fund Dividend amount, and balancing this with funding state government
    - Focus on more options for funding treatment, mental health, substance abuse and addressing crisis in the criminal justice system.
    - Addressing corrections system and Governor's proposal to send prisoners out of state.
  - Please contact his office at (907) 465-4919, or [rep.matt.claman@akleg.gov](mailto:rep.matt.claman@akleg.gov).

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- **Rep. Harriet Drummond, and staff George Ascott**
  - Please contact her at (907) 465-3875; [rep.harriet.drummond@akleg.gov](mailto:rep.harriet.drummond@akleg.gov).
- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Dan Gleason asked about the \$16.6 million cut to the Palmer Correction Center, noted in Matt's report. Why not fund this, and instead spend \$17 million to send prisoners out of state?* Matt responded that the Legislature appropriated the funds, but the Governor and Corrections Commissioner stated it was difficult to hire staff for the facility.
  - *Anna Brawley asked whether he and his colleagues are discussing any legislation or other action concerning climate change this session? She is very concerned about this.* Matt is also very concerned about climate change. He anticipates that this will be a focus of discussion during session, and that there may be hearings held, but he is less hopeful that legislation will be passed. The Governor will likely also veto any legislation regarding climate change, based on his past positions and statements on the issue.
  - *Cathy Gleason commented that she is surprised and disappointed to see that the Governor has not publicly expressed interest in taking action on this issue, even with the wildfires this past summer in Alaska and now in Australia.* Rep. Claman agreed that this is disappointing. He shared that Sen. Murkowski commented in a recent event, that public funds previously spent on timber sales has been reallocated to fighting wildfires.
  - *Rick Philips commented that he attended an event with Sen. Begich and Rep. Fields, both legislators expressed interest in introducing legislation about climate change.* Matt is aware of their interest and will follow up with his colleagues.
  - *Dan Gleason asked which committees Sen. Costello will serve on in 2020?* Dawn Rae did not have the list available in the meeting, and will follow up. She will certainly continue to serve on the Education committee, as this is one of her core issues.
  - *Cathy Gleason asked whether Sen. Costello has taken a position on the Governor's FY21 proposed budget?* She is reviewing the draft budget, but has not taken a position yet.

## ASSEMBLY REPORT | AIDE JUDY JESSEN

- **Next meeting:** The Assembly last met on December 17, and will meet next on January 14. The agenda will focus on proposed revenue measures and bond proposals to include on the April ballot.
- **Tax and Bond Proposals:** Judy gave an overview of tax proposals:
  - Quinn-Davidson, Rivera and Dunbar have co-sponsored a 5% alcohol tax, with all revenue dedicated to public safety, mental health and substance use treatment, and homelessness.
  - Weddleton and Zalatel have co-sponsored S (substitute) version of the tax at 2% (up to 5% in the future), with funds dedicated to homelessness and treatment.
  - Dyson proposed a 3% general sales tax, with several exemptions, and with revenue split with half going under the tax cap for property tax relief, and the other half as new additional revenue. Judy commented that sales taxes historically have much less support in Anchorage.
  - The bond proposals will also be discussed in the meeting on January 14, including the ASD bond that Andy Holleman described later in the meeting.
- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Anna Brawley asked what other items have already been approved to be on the ballot? She believes this includes the Assembly and School Board candidates, and the proposal to allow smoking for marijuana onsite consumption.* Judy did not have the information about what has already been approved, she will follow up.
  - *Pam Wright asked whether the Assembly is considering an income tax?* No, this is not currently being discussed. The Municipality does currently have sales taxes for some products, and has the administrative capacity set up to have this kind of tax, but is not set up to administer a local income tax.
  - *Cathy Gleason asked whether there is any summary or tally of support/opposition for the various proposed revenue measures?* Judy was not present in the meetings, but other staff

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were taking notes during the testimony. She will follow up on whether there is a summary to share. There was also media coverage of the event with quotes from some testimony.

### ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD REPORT | ANDY HOLLEMAN

- **Vandalism:** There was only one incident of vandalism at school facilities over the holidays, a break-in at North Star Elementary. Police responded quickly and apprehended the person.
- **2020 budget and bond proposals:** The Assembly and School Board had a joint work session on the bond proposals on Wednesday. The proposed package is a 2-year package, so if passed there would not be a bond package in 2021, and another in 2022. The bond proposals include:
  - Funds to rebuild Eagle River High School after the 2018 earthquake (approximately \$20 million). Andy commented that this proposal is contentious, but he believes it is a good investment, will avoid overcrowding in other area schools, address needed safety improvements for future earthquakes with seismic upgrades, and accommodate future growth in the Eagle River area as Anchorage's population grows over the long term.
  - Funds for design work to upgrade Inlet View Elementary (about \$3 million).
  - Funds for upgrades and repairs to Aquarian Charter School (about \$8.5 million). This charter school is in an ASD facility that has needed work for several years, and Andy noted that
  - The remainder of the bond is earthquake repair for approximately 12 schools across the city, primarily cosmetic or non-structural repairs. The schools do not have any serious structural issues from the earthquake, other than Eagle River High and Gruening Middle Schools.
- **Strategic planning:** The School Board will hold a retreat/planning session on Friday and Saturday, January 10-11. The Board will set strategic priorities; the previous priority was 90 by 2020, to have 90% graduation rates. The Board will choose new priorities for ASD in the session.
- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Dan Gleason commented that there is currently emphasis on college preparatory work, but there should be more focus on technical and vocational education, and encouraging kids to consider the trades. He noted that the West High CTE, where TCC meets, is a great asset, but there needs to be more of this available.* Andy agreed this is important. He shared that King Career Center is a great resource, but many students like their current high school and do not want to split their time with another location. There are some other programs around the city, and it is important to offer these programs in more neighborhood schools. There is some of this happening now, but it should be increased.  
Andy also commented that test scores are a huge focus; they are useful but mostly focused on college preparation, and do not meet the needs of other kids not on that track. He also noted that vocational education and also the sciences are not included in the testing.

### AIRPORT REPORT | JOHN JOHANSEN

- See Airport updates on the handout provided at the meeting or online at: [www.anchoragairport.com](http://www.anchoragairport.com)
- **Cargo Development Lease Proposal:** Comments are due January 21 on a new lease application for West of N/S Runway/Relocation of W. Woronzof Dr., in the same location as a previous application. John provided an overview of the application from 6A Aviation. He reiterated that the public notice requirement is intended to collect any objections to the proposed lease, and solicit any other competing applications from others interested in that parcel. The proposal is on the western end of Airport property, adjacent to Point Woronzof area and another active application. The company also has a current lease for cargo development to the south. This would include a cargo warehouse and employee parking, which takes advantage of special rules for Hawaii and Alaska allowing for transfer of cargo while on the ground in these two locations.
- **Lake Hood Seaplane Base:** Reminder that Lake Hood is an active airfield in the winter when it is frozen over, stay off the ice!
- **Airport Community Outreach Plan:** The Airport may update this plan every 2 years. The Airport is not proposing any changes, but is collecting public comments through March 18 if other entities have comments or suggestions. Cathy added that TCC was involved in development of this plan and

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participated in the update process, there are some comments that the Airport has not incorporated in the document. The board will review the draft and prepare comments based on our

- **Transportation Fair:** This event was scheduled for January 23, but has been postponed until this fall.
- **REAL ID:** Reminder, you need a new REAL ID compliant license! This is required per federal law, starting October 1, 2020, to fly and go through TSA. The DMV is working to have an information booth at the Airport and be able to process people's applications.
- **Traffic:** Please do not park at the arrival and departure areas, use the cell phone lot while waiting for your arriving passenger.
- **Recruitment:** There are several positions available: please share the job opportunities widely!
- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Cathy Gleason asked for clarification for the two leases described: it is the same company, but two different parcels for development, are these related or will they become one property?* John clarified that yes, this is the same company, the company submitted an application for a different location but another company is currently pursuing this for UPS operations. 6A Aviation sought a different parcel for that proposal. Whether these become one or two leases or developed together remains to be determined.
  - *Sandy Rabinowitch asked for more information about the proposed re-routing of the road in this lease application? Who would bear the cost of re-routing a road?* The tenant/leaseholder would be responsible for re-routing the road within the property, at their own cost. The Airport would not be required to build the re-routed road.
  - *Dan Gleason asked whether there are geotechnical issues with that area, that would impact the road?* John did not have details, but understands that the soil quality and stability is decent in this area and not a high-risk area.
  - *Marni Isaacs asked for clarification where the parcel is and where the re-route would occur.* John pointed out that the road is the one used for access to Point Woronzof and the Clitheroe Center site, this is what would be re-routed in that area.
  - *Jean Bielawksi asked whether there would be a gate or truck traffic leaving the facility, would cargo be transported offsite?* Access will primarily be for employees, there may be some traffic offsite but primarily it will stay on the Airport in order to transfer from one plane to another. This is for transferring cargo from, for example, international locations to other U.S. cities by changing planes. It also allows short-term storage of cargo when the schedule of the arriving and departing planes does not align.
  - *Cathy Gleason pointed out that there is a similar proposal from another company to develop this type of facility near FedEx. Is there demand enough for both? Will the Airport consider this in approving the leases?* John commented that this is not the Airport's decision, this is a business decision, but it will be a factor in considering the feasibility of these proposals. He believes the companies will continue to discuss whether there is sufficient business to support multiple proposals. John is unsure whether there is sufficient demand for all of these.
  - *Anna asked whether potential leaseholders or other companies are offered development incentives or credits for doing business with the Airport? She stated that among the types of economic development incentives, giving away public funds to private entities for relocating is one of the least effective methods for outcomes that benefit the community.* John shared that the FAA does not allow these types of incentives: the Airport cannot provide public resources for private benefit to one company, with the exception of short-term incentives like waiving landing fees for a less than a year.
  - *Kathleen Bielawski asked about whether this impacts the proposed North-South runway?* The proposed runway is to the west of this parcel, and would not conflict with the current Airport Master Plan for the proposed runway. The Airport would not allow a lease within an area designated in the plan for future aviation use or development.  
*Kathleen also asked whether the Airport proposes locations for businesses' lease applications, or whether they simply accept lease applications?* The Airport does not typically solicit a business for a specific location, and generally does not suggest another location for a business

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- unless there is a clear reason or issue with the parcel. They primarily evaluate the proposals as written and for the proposed parcel.
- Jackie Armstrong commented that she was able to quickly get a new license through the process, and encouraged others to do so. You can also make an appointment with DMV.

## SPRING 2020 WEST ANCHORAGE CANDIDATES FORUM | CATHY GLEASON

- TCC and neighboring councils typically host a candidates' forum before local elections and state legislative elections. The Executive Board proposes co-hosting an event again this year—the first of two, since there is a local election in April and state election in November. The event would likely be in February, after the candidate filing deadline but before the mid-March date when the ballots are mailed out to voters. Cathy Gleason also reached out to Spenard CC to ask if they are interested in co-hosting again, and they agreed to do so.
- **Motion by Dan Gleason for TCC to co-sponsor a spring 2020 West Anchorage Candidates Forum. Second by Kathleen Bielawksi.**
  - **Amendment:** Anna proposed approving sponsorship of both spring (Anchorage election) and fall (state legislative election) candidate forums in 2020. Amendment accepted.
  - **Vote on motion: no objection.**
- Cathy shared a sign-in sheet for volunteers of the organizing committee. Contact TCC if you are interested in volunteering for this event!

## RATIFICATION OF TCC COMMENTS: PROPOSED CODE CHANGES FOR FRONT PORCHES AND LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS | ANNA BRAWLEY

- Cathy Gleason shared that this is a leftover item from our December 5 agenda. Comments on both items were provided verbally at the November 18 Planning and Zoning Committee meeting.
- **Motion by Jackie Armstrong to ratify the TCC comment letter regarding landscaping requirements and allowance of cottonwood trees as existing landscaping. Second by Dan Gleason.**
  - **Discussion:** None.
  - **Vote on motion: 10 yes, 0 no. Ratified letter will be shared back with the Muni.**
- **Motion by Anna Brawley to ratify the TCC comment letter regarding allowing additional lot coverage by open-air front porches. Second by Jackie Armstrong.**
  - **Discussion:** None.
  - **Vote on motion: 10 yes, 0 no. Ratified letter will be shared back with the Muni.**

## COMMITTEE BUSINESS

As always, contact TCC ([tccpresident@yahoo.com](mailto:tccpresident@yahoo.com)) if you would like to join a committee!

- **West Northern Lights Traffic:**
  - Jackie Armstrong shared an update: the Eagle Express (Post Office contractor) trucks will (hopefully) end! She was able to connect with someone at the Post Office, and got an assurance that they will direct the contractor to stop using this road. Expect to see reduction in trucks, from Eagle at least, within the next week. She commented that there are still other trucks using the road, but this is a huge win!!! It may also help make the case to other businesses that this is in the best interest of everyone in the community.
  - The committee continues to work on a variety of angles to address this, including with State DOT&PF and Muni Traffic Department, and will continue to work on these other efforts to protect the road from all large trucks, including restoring the weight limit signs if possible.
  - Next meeting: TBD. Contact Patti Nielsen for more information.
  - **Questions and Comments**
    - *Sandy Rabinowitch asked if Eagle is the primary contractor for the Post Office?* Yes, Jackie's understanding is they are the primary contractor, prior to that it was another company, so it might change in the future. But this is a huge positive step.

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- Kathleen Bielawski commented that the owner of Shoreside Petroleum, another truck traffic generator, lives in Turnagain. She will research if she has contact information for the committee to utilize.
- **Spenard Beach Park Improvements:**
  - Cathy Gleason shared that the committee met on December 11, and TCC approved the conceptual site plan for the park at the December meeting. The committee also generated a list of potential donors to reach out to, and will follow up this year to prepare fundraising materials, reach out to ask for donations, and continue moving the project forward.
  - Next meeting: TBD. Contact Sara Haley for information.
- **Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS):**
  - In fall 2019, a student was injured in a collision in the Hillcrest intersection. This is a safety issue, ASD and the Muni Traffic Department is working on potential safety improvements.
  - The SRTS committee has not met recently, but is re-convening the group to discuss this and other improvements that the committee previously recommended for the West High/Romig campus and surrounding intersections.
  - The SRTS is working to organize a meeting of the committee, West High principal, Anchorage Police Dept, and Assembly and School Board representatives later this month to discuss safety improvements.
  - Next meeting: TBD in January. Contact Barbara Bundy for information.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Jean Bielawski asked whether anyone knows of places to drop off plastic bags for recycling?
  - Cathy noted that she noticed there is still a recycling container at Best Buy that she noticed last time she was at the store, well after the bag ban.
  - Others commented that some other stores used to have collection containers, but not all of them still collect this.
  - Sandy Rabinowitch that there a new business on 31<sup>st</sup> and Minnesota, Blue Market, they offer items in bulk (soap, etc.) by reuse and refill. They also take used plastic food containers and can wash them and offer to other customers.
- Kathleen Bielawski commented that she would appreciate an earlier meeting start time, and suggested the meeting begin 15 minutes early to accommodate people with early work schedules. She hopes it would also increase regular attendance to the meetings and encourage more people to come.
  - Cathy Gleason shared that the board also discussed this, such as starting at 6:30, and is open to the idea as well. Increasing attendance and engagement with members is a priority for sure.
  - The council should consider a sergeant at arms, or other timekeeping measures!
  - The board will consider a time change and communicate with ASD to change the permit.

## CLOSING

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.
- The next regular meeting will be on **Thursday, February 6, 2020**.

*Minutes prepared and submitted by Anna Brawley on 1/12/20.*

*Minutes approved by Turnagain Community Council at its regular meeting on 2/6/20.*