**Welcome & Approve Agenda, Minutes**

- The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. About 22 people (members and guests) attended.
- The February agenda was reviewed.
  - Motion by Sandy Rabinowitch to approve the agenda. Second by Pam Wright.
  - Vote on motion: no objection. Agenda approved.
- The January meeting minutes were available for review and approval.
  - Motion by Jackie Armstrong to approve last meeting’s minutes. Second by Anna Brawley.
  - Vote on motion: no objection. Minutes approved.

**Announcements:** See flyer available as a handout in the meeting and on the TCC website.

- **Trails Initiative Cycling Survey:** There is a survey open through the end of February if you use the trails in town as a cyclist. Respond to the survey online here: [http://sites.google.com/view/anchoragecyclingsurvey/home](http://sites.google.com/view/anchragecyclingsurvey/home)
- **Deadline for voting registration is March 8!** Ballots will be mailed on Tuesday, March 17 for the April 2, 2020 municipal election. Verify your mailing address!
- Monthly announcements: Cathy Gleason asked if people utilize the monthly announcements document she puts together, since it takes considerable time to put together. She has asked the FCC office to share a report on the number of people who click on it each month.
  - Jean Bielawski commented that she knows several neighbors who don’t regularly attend meetings, but they do read the agenda and announcements.
  - MoHagani commented that it is easy to read with good colors and clearly visible hyperlinks!

**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”!
- **Officer Updates:** The Board is actively seeking candidates for two vacant positions, Vice President and Secretary, and will hold a special election as soon as possible. Please contact TCC if you are interested in nominating someone, including nominating yourself!
- **Federation of Community Councils:** Cathy gave updates from the January 15 FCC meeting.
  - Anchorage School District gave an update on the proposed bonds.
  - Planning Department shared information about the downtown zoning district project.
  - AMATS presented on the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
  - Dave Stieren, the governor’s community outreach liaison, gave an update on state happenings. Cathy also shared with him Turnagain’s concerns about truck traffic on Northern Lights and upcoming developments at the Airport.
  - Next FCC meeting will be Wednesday, February 19, 2020.
- **Trails Wayfinding Plan and Signage:** This is an ongoing project to upgrade and standardize signs across the community. The mile and half-mile marker signs have been installed; now they are looking at more detailed wayfinding signage to give more information about navigating the trails. TCC members and representatives from the Park Foundation and the Parks Department met at Rustic Goat to discuss next steps on signage. Additionally, there was a $9,000 no-strings-attached donation to Lyn Ary Park! This could go to a variety of amenities, but possibly some wayfinding signage. TCC has
final approval authority for all signage installed in Lyn Ary Park, so any future signage would be before the council for approval.

- **Transportation on the Move Comments:** People Mover bus system is considering additional routes added to the system, when there are resources to do so. Cathy shared that the board prepared comments to support the proposed Route H, which would go from Downtown to Turnagain via Wisconsin, to the Library and the Dimond Mall transit center.

- **HLB 2020 and Five-Year Plan:** Cathy shared that there will be an Assembly hearing on the plan on Tuesday, February 25. There will be a work session on Friday, February 21 at noon. She shared that TCC has already submitted comments, most of which were accepted through the process, but she would like to share TCC’s priorities with our Assembly members. She will follow up!

- **Marty Smith Recognition at Lyn Ary Park:** Cathy shared that there will be an Assembly hearing to approve this naming recommendation (Marty Smith Diamond) on Tuesday, March 10.

- **Trails Initiative Meeting, Feb 5:** Cathy attended a meeting of trail and health advocates on Wednesday. Alaska Trails presented information about the economic benefits of trails, and why it is important to invest in these amenities, for both visitors and residents: it is can have significant economic benefits. If only half of visitors who comes to Anchorage would stay one more day in town, it could generate millions of dollars in new revenue in the economy—and our trails are a major draw for those visitors.

- **Spring 2020 West Anchorage Candidates Forum:** Cathy circulated a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help with this event. This will be coming up soon, she will send out a meeting invitation soon to organize. The date has not yet been set, but will be in the evening on a weeknight and held at Spenard Recreation Center. Volunteers are needed to help plan the event, get organized and of course help during the evening of the event! Contact tcc.president@yahoo.com to volunteer.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

- **Sen. Mia Costello, staff DawnRae Dufford**
  - Sen. Costello introduced a bill regarding education (SJR 9) including forward-funding for education in the Alaska constitution; requirements for physical activity and recess (SB 56); requiring that high school start no earlier than 8:30 (SB 149).
  - The school bond debt reimbursement (for existing bonds) is included in the proposed budget this year, which has been a point of contention after it was vetoed last year.
  - She is serving as chair of the Senate Transportation Committee this year.
  - Please contact her at (907) 269-0117, or senator.mia.costello@akleg.gov.

- **Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson, staff Keith Bauguess**
  - A written handout was available in the meeting, including bills that Sen. Gray-Jackson has sponsored this year.
  - Please contact her at (907) 465-4930, or sen.elvi.gray-jackson@akleg.gov.

  - Rep. Claman shared that the Legislature is busy with the budget, including the supplemental budget to propose restoring funding for Medicaid services, increases to Troopers in rural Alaska, increase to Department of Corrections, and others. The Governor has not put forward significant cuts like last year, and filling previous cuts from last year. There has not been significant discussion about the Permanent Fund Dividend yet, but this will be discussed as well. The goal is to finish the budget within 90 days, per the statutory deadline.
  - There have been many visitors to the Capitol over the last two weeks.
  - If you are in Juneau, please stop by his office to visit!
  - There will be an Anchorage caucus meeting on Saturday, February 22 in the morning, and followed by a more local constituent meeting in the afternoon on the 22nd. Details TBD. It will likely be at the Anchorage LIO building.
  - Please contact his office at (907) 465-4919, or rep.matt.claman@akleg.gov.
Turnagain Community Council

- **Rep. Harriet Drummond**
  - Please contact her at (907) 465-3875; rep.harriet.drummond@akleg.gov.

- **Questions and Comments**
  - Cathy Gleason shared thanks for Rep. Claman and others’ e-mail updates, it is very helpful and informative. Matt reminded anyone who is not signed up for e-mail communications to sign up on his web page or e-mail his office. Cathy also commented that she appreciates that the deep cuts proposed last year have not come to pass, and that the governor has recognized that these were not feasible. Are there proposals for new revenue, to offset the costs of services? Matt shared that Sen. Bishop introduced an increase to the motor fuel tax, as well as an education head tax. Rep. Thompson introduced a lottery bill. The governor has proposed other taxes but has not introduced legislation yet. The House voted in favor of an income tax a few years ago, but the Senate did not take this up at the time. He sees the proposal for another large dividend to
  - MoHagani asked whether there is any interest to tax oil companies at a higher rate? Matt noted that there is a current initiative to change the oil tax laws, and there are legislative proposals for changing the tax structure, but so far this has not moved forward. He anticipates that the ballot initiative will end up on the ballot in November.

**ASSEMBLY REPORT | AUSTRIN QUINN-DAVIDSON**

- Austin, Felix Rivera and Meg Zalatel jointly prepare a monthly update, available in the meeting and included in the handouts.
- **Tax and Bond Proposals**: Austin shared that information about the taxes proposed by Assembly members; the 5% alcohol tax proposal was ultimately passed 9-2 by the Assembly.
  - Austin shared that she sponsored and supported the alcohol tax again this year because it is proposed to go to specific services, and polling shows that there is community support. She also shared information about the other (2%) alcohol tax, and the sales tax proposed by Fred Dyson. She also noted that the opposition campaign to this proposal far outspent the support campaign last year, which makes a difference.
- **Tobacco 21**: Last year the Assembly passed the Tobacco 21 ordinance, making it illegal to purchase tobacco under age 21. This has been a national movement, and recently federal legislation passed to increase the purchase age across the U.S. Almost all people start smoking under age 21 and the health costs of tobacco are so large, that this is a measure to protect public health.
- **Assembly Priorities**: The Assembly undertook a visioning session to set priorities (2019-2021). It includes issues that constituents have brought up as most important.
- **Questions and Comments**
  - Cathy Gleason asked about the response to one of the alcohol industry’s arguments last year: to not single them out and tax drinkers to cover the problem. Austin noted that many other communities already have an alcohol tax: Juneau, Fairbanks, North Pole, Dillingham, Denali Borough, etc. The city also taxes marijuana and tobacco. Additionally, this is not punishing drinkers; it would collect 5% per drink or purchase. She feels this is a reasonable tax.
  - Sara Haley asked how much revenue it might raise per year? The estimate is annual revenue of $11 to $15 million each year. Austin acknowledged that level of new revenue will not solve all the community’s problems, but it will raise money for some important programs.
  - MoHagani asked where specifically the money will be dedicated? Shouldn’t voters know this ahead of time? The ballot measure specifies what issues the money be spent on: public safety, behavioral health, reducing child abuse and sexual assault, and homelessness. The money will be directed to a dedicated fund for these purposes. Like all budgeting processes for the Municipality, the Assembly will undertake a public process to discuss where the money should be allocated and in what way: staff positions, grants to other organizations, etc. The Assembly will go through this process if the vote is successful in April, outlined in a resolution passed by the Assembly in January after approving the tax.
• *Dan Gleason asked who would receive the funds, the Health Department?* The specific allocations will be determined through the public process Austin described, including information gathering about where the money could be spent and for what outcomes. There would likely be grants made to other organizations, through a competitive bidding process. Details will be determined later this year if the vote is successful.

• *Dana Dardis asked about how this relates to the state budget and other issues, such as taxing oil production? Would passing this tax negatively impact Anchorage’s funding from the state?* Austin clarified that the Muni does receive some state funding, but this has declined significantly over the year and it typically allocated to specific uses. The revenue proposed for the tax would not replace other state revenue. Additionally, it is likely not feasible for the Municipality to levy taxes on oil production or an income tax, these are separate issues.

• *Dan Gleason commented the oil industry is taxed considerably at the state and federal level.*

• *MoHagani asked the likelihood the alcohol tax will pass this year, if it did not pass last year?* Austin shared that polling done by other organizations supporting the tax shows that the idea does have significant support, and almost passed last year, despite very little organized effort to advocate in support and significant spending by the opposition campaign. She believes that a strong support campaign would make a difference.

• *Cathy Gleason asked whether there is information about the municipal snow dump listed as a road project on the bond proposals for 2020 (Project R18)?* Austin was unsure of information about this project. John Johan sen verified that the location is near the existing snow dump, but neither person knew more about it. Cathy requested Austin and John research this, and will follow up with a written request.

**ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD REPORT | ANDY HOLLEMAN**

- **Bond proposals:** The total proposed bond is $82 million for two years, so there would not be an additional bond the following year. $27 million is for repairs after the 2018 earthquake; $42 million is for Gruening Middle and Eagle River Elementary, including repairs and upgrades (renewal) to improve safety and security features, concurrent with that earthquake repair; $6.8 million is for fixes to Aquarian Elementary Charter School, which was strongly advocated for by parents. If passed, the District will retire $112 million in bond debt (part of which is the state’s reimbursement, which is unclear at this point and will be determined this session).

- **2020 budget:** The District is closely watching the state budget, including the fact that the budget is flat-funded next year: this requires cutting services over time because costs rise over time. The specific cuts being discussed are security guard at Polaris K-12, assistant principal at South High School, and changes to the delivery of the gifted (Ignite) program. Anchorage schools has seen several years of cuts in all areas, and this has been felt across the city over time. Reducing services is necessary unless there is increased funding from the state or another source.

- There is a more detailed white paper available on the Gruening Middle School proposal.

- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Dan Gleason asked for clarification: if we are retiring more in bonds than we are taking on, why would property taxes increase?* The additional cost is dependent on whether the state continues to reimburse the bond debt as promised, ultimately the Municipality (and voters) are still responsible for that bond debt.
  - *Pam Wright asked whether the origin/funder of the Inlet View postcard was ever determined?* The source of that mailing was never identified, a postcard critical of the proposed Inlet View renovations. Inlet View Elementary School has been granted an exemption for several years from fire code requirements, and is above capacity. Parents who work downtown, for example, like having their children close by during the school day.
  - *Anna Brawley asked how the proposed Eaglexit would impact the proposed Eagle River school bonds over the long term? Would this responsibility shift to Eagle River residents only?* The legal and fiscal implications are unclear, this would be several years out. Andy noted that regardless of the outcome of the Eaglexit plan, the bonds would benefit the city as a whole.
AIRPORT REPORT | JOHN JOHANSEN

- See Airport updates on the handout provided at the meeting or online at: www.anchorageairport.com
- 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: Comments are due on the draft plan by March 18th.
  - Cathy Gleason confirmed that this will be an item on the TCC March meeting.
- Concessions: There is a new pretzel stand serving coffee.
- Traffic: Please do not park at the arrival and departure areas, use the cell phone lot while waiting for your arriving passenger, or go to the short term parking garage.
- Recruitment: There are several positions available: please share the job opportunities widely!
- 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 has an office at the North Terminal to apply for this license, as well as driver’s tests and other services. Schedule an appointment online.

Questions and Comments

- Anna commented that she has heard that people can make appointments at other DMV locations as well, and that the process is easy provided that you bring the needed documents. She suggested that people retire the stereotype that DMV is a terrible place; Alaska’s DMV provides great service. John agreed.
- Cathy Gleason asked whether any other flights are scheduled to be diverted through Anchorage from China, or any other concerns about transmission of the coronavirus? John shared that there are no additional flights scheduled at this time, but there may be diversion of flights on a case by case basis. If any there are health concerns with incoming flights, the CDC and state and local health departments would be involved.
- Dan Gleason asked if any passengers who stopped in Anchorage on the flight and went on to California were showing signs of illness? No, all passengers were reported to be healthy.

Oversized Truck Traffic on Northern Lights | Loren Leman

- Loren shared updates on recent meetings and other developments: there were several discussions in the 1990s about expansion of the Airport, which Turnagain Community Council tracked closely and advocated for a balance between the economic benefits of expansion, with the concerns of the neighborhood regarding traffic and other noise.
- The deal negotiated at that time was to re-route some of the roads, and make International Airport Road more suitable for truck traffic; that Airport uses and lessees not use Northern Lights Blvd. for truck traffic, and require this as leases came up for renewal; and the Municipality would monitor traffic as well and post weight limit signs. Since that time, truck traffic on Northern Lights has increased considerably, and especially in the last year, of semi trucks and loud traffic. The weight limit signs have been removed as well.
- The committee met with the Airport Manager on May 30, presented this case and the background on this agreement. The meeting was cordial but TCC did not hear a great deal of sympathy for the cause. He shared he would communicate the request to Airport lessees, including a letter drafted to accomplish this. An edited version of the letter was sent out at the end of August. The letter does seem to have had some positive effect and reduction in traffic. However, this has not in itself solved the problem, and the issues continued, particularly from Post Office contractors. There has been a decline in truck traffic since Christmas, but this is likely due to the slowdown in mailing, not policy change.
- DOT&PF Meeting, Dec 20: Loren sent a letter to the DOT Commissioner about this issue; he assigned staff to the issue, and scheduled a meeting to discuss this issue. He provided the same information as above, and asked for a solution to benefit the neighborhood. DOT&PF stated that they cannot legally ban traffic from the road if it is classified as being appropriate for that road, and it is up to the Municipality. They are investigating the legal position (whether or not they can put those requirements in leases) but have not committed. Additionally, the governor would like to showcase
Alaska as “open for business.” This goal is shared by the committee as well, provided that they can find a win-win solution to minimize impacts on the neighborhood without impeding business.

- The committee continues to contact the Post Office, and were able to reach someone at the local office to schedule a meeting in the near future. The Post Office suggested a meeting with FedEx, UPS, the Truckers Association, and also with the Municipality to discuss re-classification of the road or at least put additional restrictions on weight and use of the road.

- **West Northern Lights Committee Meeting, Feb 5**: The committee met yesterday to continue strategizing next steps, and the safety hazards associated with fuel trucks (the large tanker trucks) traveling through the neighborhood.
- Cathy will call the Mayor’s office on Friday to schedule a meeting with Municipal officials and Assembly members to discuss next steps.

- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Sandy Rabinowitch asked whether the State or Municipality has authority to make an exemption to the road classification? And if so, how can this be accomplished?* Cathy Gleason clarified that in code, the Traffic Engineer can designate a road or restrict it further, if it is a danger to safety or the roads are deteriorated.
  - *Sandy also commented that International airport Road seems to be built to a high standard for heavy vehicles. Is that true for West Northern Lights? If it was not, then the road will wear down much quicker than it would have otherwise, which has additional cost. The committee is thinking of this as well, and is researching the design standard for that road.*
  - *Dan Gleason commented that there are several stoplights along International Airport Road.* Cathy pointed out that there are 7 lights and a school zone on Northern Lights, versus 3 lights on International Airport Road.
  - *Sara Haley commented that she has seen trucks attempt to turn around when they are on Northern Lights near the Spinell Homes building, it causes a great deal of problems.* The group discussed the logistics of this.

**AMATS 2040 MTP Public Review Draft | Cathy Gleason**

- A comment form was distributed to the group to collect comments on the draft plan.
- This local transportation plan includes 3 categories: short term projects, long term projects, and prospective “illustrative” projects over a longer term.
- Cathy prepared draft comments, based on previous comments, including rehabilitation of Turnagain Street (northern segment) and installation of lighting, sidewalks and other features. This project is listed in the long-term category; she proposed moving it to the shorter term instead, as a priority. She acknowledged that Turnagain has gotten a great investment in local projects recently, so this may not be realistic; but it is still worthwhile to ask. She also encouraged individuals to send a comment in support of the project.
- Another project is to widen the Coastal Trail; TCC has opposed this in the past, with concerns about higher-traffic areas, potential collisions with bikes, and loss of vegetation. Additionally, the council could recommend re-painting center lines on all segments of the trail, and other painted signs showing speed or saying “slow down.”

- **Questions and Comments**
  - Sandy commented that he has asked center lines to be repainted for several years.
  - Pam commented that she would like to see speed limits or “slow down” signage on the trail.
  - MoHagani commented she bikes and supports human-powered transportation, but there are other vehicles such as e-bikes (with a motor) that push the limit of safety on a multi-use trail. She supports speed limits and other ways to make people slow down.
  - Anna commented that increasing road lanes does not reduce traffic congestion, and other studies have shown that reducing from 4 to 3 lanes does not cause more congestion: this has been the case to date on redesigned Spenard Road. Also, in winter Northern Lights is often functionally 3 lanes when snow piles up, and does not seem to be a detriment.
MoHagani commented that wider sidewalks could be installed outside the existing roadway, and utilize the adjacent land instead. This would avoid the need to change the road lanes, and provide safer paths for bikers and pedestrians.

- **Motion by Kathleen Bielawski to approve request to move the Turnagain Street rehabilitation project to Short Term projects. Second by Dan Gleason.**
  - **Discussion:** None.
  - **Vote on motion:** 14 yes, 0 no. This comment will be submitted.

- **Motion by Dan Gleason to oppose widening of the Coastal Trail as proposed, and to re-paint center lines on the trails (on straightaways, not just curves) and other speed management signs. Second by Dana Dardis.**
  - **Discussion:** None.
  - **Vote on motion:** 14 yes, 0 no. This comment will be submitted.

- **Motion by Dan Gleason to approve other comments about projects, including questions and more information about projects adjacent to Turnagain (Minnesota Blvd), without taking a position at this point. Second by Jon Isaacs.**
  - **Discussion:** None.
  - **Vote on motion:** 13 yes, 0 no. Approved comments will be submitted.

**LOWER YUKON SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT HOSTEL VARIANCE | SANDY RABINOWITCH**

- This is a proposed landscaping variance for the Lower Yukon School District (former Long House) to allow a slightly narrower landscaping bed (7.5 ft. versus 8 ft.) This is an existing planter with mature trees. The board proposes submitting the following comments:
  - Support the proposal, it seems reasonable and makes use of existing landscaping.
  - Support retaining existing vegetation, especially mature trees.
  - Consider planting additional trees in areas behind the property to provide additional screening.
  - Support proposed additional landscaping.

- **Questions and Comments**
  - **MoHagani asked for clarification, is it an historic site?** It is formerly the Long House Hotel until recently, it is not listed as an historic site.
  - Melisa Babb noted that she drafted the request. She noted that the owner would like to retain this landscaping, and want to do additional landscaping. She also commented that it is a former Army barracks moved to the property and re-covered with log siding.

- **Motion by Dan Gleason to approve TCC comments. Second by Anna Brawley.**
  - **Vote on motion:** 10 yes, 0 no. Approved comments will be submitted.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

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

- **Land Use Committee:**
  - Tom Davis (Planning Department) will present updates on the proposed R-2 zoning changes.
  - Next meeting: Feb 18, 5:30 p.m. *Note: this meeting was postponed until March, date TBD.*
  - Contact Anna Brawley for information.

- **Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS):**
  - Next meeting: Feb 19, FCC office, 12:30-1:30pm. This meeting will be with Assembly, District and School Board representatives with recommendations for safety improvements around West High (lighting, crosswalk improvements, etc.)
  - Contact Barbara Bundy for information.

- **Spenard Beach Park Improvements:**
  - We are about to launch our fundraising efforts! We are looking for volunteers to fundraise in the spring, with the goal of starting installation in early summer at the park.
  - Next meeting: TBD in February.
  - Contact Sara Haley for information.
PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

CLOSING

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.
- The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, March 5, 2020.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary Anna Brawley on 3/5/2020.
If you have corrections or edits to this document, please submit them to tccpresident@yahoo.com by the Monday before the next Council meeting: Monday, March 2, 2020.