Welcome & Approve Agenda, Minutes

- The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. About 18 people (members and guests) attended.
- The March agenda was reviewed.
  - Motion by Pam Wright to approve the agenda. Second by Jackie Armstrong.
  - Vote: no objection. Agenda approved.
- The February meeting minutes were available for review and approval.
  - Motion by Sandy Rabinowitch to approve minutes from last meeting. Second by Jean Bielawski.
  - Vote: no objection. Minutes approved.
- Announcements: See flyer available as a handout in the meeting and on the TCC website.
  - AMATS Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) comment deadline is Sunday, March 9. See announcements for details about TCC’s comments and how to submit a comment.
  - Anchorage election is April 7, 2020: Ballots will be mailed on Tuesday, March 17 for the April 2, 2020 municipal election. Verify your mailing address by March 8, and submit your ballot by mail or in a secure drop box when you receive it in the mail and mark your votes!

Anchorage Police Department Officers Report | Officers Whitworth + Jensen

- APD officers Jensen and Whitworth introduced themselves and fielded any questions from the audience. Officer Whitworth has worked in the Spenard/West Anchorage area for over 10 years, and trained Officer Jensen who works in the same area. Officer Whitworth’s contact: (907) 786-8878. Officer Jensen’s contact: (907) 786-8916
- Officers provided some general statistics:
  - About 260,000 calls for service citywide in 2019. In Turnagain during the same period, about 385 calls (0.15% of all calls citywide).
  - The most common locations are Point Woronzof lookout, Lyn Ary Park, and some residential addresses. Variety of reasons, but often disturbances, reports of potential trespassers, and seasonal issues like fires or activity on the beach in summer.
- Questions and Comments
  - Dan Gleason commented that a traffic calming study was done on Hillcrest Drive recently, and found that 85% of people on that road are driving up to 29 mph, but another 15% are driving 30 mph or higher. The findings were such that the road did not meet the criteria for traffic calming interventions, but he and the Safe Routes to Schools Committee are concerned about safety issues, especially after a student was hit by a car recently. The traffic calming study recommended more traffic enforcement in this area: Hillcrest needs attention. Dan also noted that a flashing light at the street crossing was also recommended by the committee.
    - Traffic issues are certainly an issue. However, it is challenging when having to prioritize response to different issues, and there is limited staff. Officers are encouraged to use any down time to identify and pay attention to problem areas, such as speeding, and can also send this information to the traffic enforcement unit for follow-up. Certainly safety in school areas is very important, officers do not want to see this happening either. It can be challenging to see the behaviors since people tend to respond differently when people drive past marked police cars, but sometimes even parking a police car on the road can improve behavior. It can also help to find a “hidden” location (not clearly visible from the road) to observe people when they believe they are not being observed, and issue traffic tickets as needed.
Pam Wright asked, if a driver observes someone running a stop sign, and you aren’t able to see their license plate, what should you do?

- Report these to APD, particularly if you can get the license information and vehicle description as well as time and location. These do get logged in the system as a call, and with the license plate they can look up the owner of the car and could follow up if it is a repeat offender, if there a numerous reports of the same vehicle. APD cannot issue citations purely on others’ reports, but if there is a clear record of violations, it can become a nuisance vehicle.

Pam also commented that she believes it may be worth Anchorage considering installing traffic cameras, to catch violations and issue citations automatically. She has seen these in other communities, including small towns. She would like to see a discussion of this policy.

- Most traffic violations, including collisions, happen close to home, within a 4 mile radius. This is because people are most comfortable with their immediate area, less likely to be paying attention, and also most trips are relatively close to one’s home.
- Other members in the meeting noted that Anchorage has considered traffic cameras in the past, but there was not support for them over the years.

Sandy Rabinowitch commented that the SRTS committee is recommending a pedestrian-activated light (i.e., a button that someone can push to activate a signal to allow someone to cross the road).

- Officer Whitworth recommended following up with the school’s SRO (school resource officers) who are monitoring enforcement on campus.
- Cathy Gleason clarified that they have met with school staff, district staff, Assembly members and Traffic Department officials to discuss this. Because it is a public road, the school staff has limited jurisdiction.

Dan Gleason commented that he has noticed a person driving without headlights in the same area, even when it’s dark—he will note license plate and vehicle description when possible, and report. What would happen if he is able to report?

- APD officers provided their contact information and can follow up. It is a moving violation to not have headlights; however, it can be challenging to contact them. He also noted that driving without headlights can be a common indicator for driving under the influence (DUI).

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!
- Treasurer’s Report: No transactions to report. Current balances in the accounts: Checking, $565.05; Savings, $1613.17. Total assets held by TCC: $2,178.22.
- Federation of Community Councils: Cathy gave updates from the February 19 FCC meeting. Most of the information provided were related to items on the ballot.
- HLB 2020 and Five-Year Plan: Cathy shared an update about the February 25 Assembly hearing:
- Marty Smith Naming Panel Public Hearing: The Assembly will hold a public hearing on this item at its March 10 meeting.
- Spring 2020 West Anchorage Candidates Forum: This event will take place the evening of Thursday, March 19, at Spenard Recreation Center, 6 to 8:30 p.m. There is a committee meeting to
continue planning the event on Monday, March 9th at 5:30 p.m. at the FCC Office, 1057 West Fireweed. Contact tcc.president@yahoo.com to volunteer. [Note: this meeting was cancelled, due to the Spenard Recreation Center being designated as an emergency quarantine facility and public events being canceled to COVID-19. The planning committee instead compiled responses from candidates and sent out to the sponsor councils’ e-mail lists on Monday, March 23.]

- **Spenard Corridor Plan:** A review draft has been posted, with the deadline for community councils’ comments on March 23, and a Planning and Zoning Commission hearing on April 13. This will be discussed briefly at the Land.

- **Upcoming Agenda Item: Indoor Tennis and Pickleball Facility:** This item will be discussed at TCC’s April 2 meeting. The proposed facility is not in Turnagain, but near Goose Lake. [Note: this item will be postponed to a future meeting, due to the April meeting being canceled.]

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

- **Sen. Mia Costello, staff DawnRae Dufford**
  - Sen. Costello recently fell on the ice and broke her hip, and has been in the hospital after emergency surgery. She has been keeping in close contact with her office and other happenings in Juneau, and staying informed about legislative progress. She is planning to be back in the office on Monday, March 9.
  - 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). She has also introduced a bill regarding state fees for aviation services.
  - DawnRae is traveling to Juneau the week of March 9, and will be there for 10 days. The Anchorage office will be closed, but her staff can be reached down in Juneau.
  - 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.
  - Please contact her at (907) 465-4930, or sen.elvi.gray-jackson@akleg.gov.

  - The House passed the operating budget this week, $4.5 billion, generally in line with previous years. This is very similar to the Governor’s proposed budget of $4.45 billion. There were few increases in funding, but include Department of Corrections. There is also funding for the Alaska Marine Highway System. The budget will now go to the Senate.
  - The House also passed a bill honoring Walter Harper, a young Alaska Native man who climbed Denali and achieved other impressive feats, but died young at age 25.
  - Please contact his office at (907) 465-4919, or rep.matt.claman@akleg.gov.

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

- **Questions and Comments**
  - Anna commented she is concerned about vacancies and attrition of government workers (state and otherwise), and that they are portrayed in public dialogue as ineffective or redundant. The work they do is important, and of great value. She is worried that the state cannot function well if it loses the people who know how to do critical jobs. Attrition is a huge issue. Rep. Claman commented that in looking at public safety and court personnel, for example, existing positions are difficult to fill, vacancies stay open longer, specialists are difficult to find, and also retirement and pension benefits are factors. This isn’t due to an intentional effort not to fill those jobs, but the cumulative effect of many different issues.
  - Pam Wright asked what the reasons are for state employee attrition? Pension and benefits are a big factor for staff such as the State Troopers, as well as having competitive pay compared to similar jurisdictions. Rep. Kopp introduced a bill to create a defined benefit plan (pension) for Alaska State Troopers. But more is needed; for example, API had a lower pay scale than
private health care for similar jobs, so it was difficult to retain qualified employees and reduce vacancies. By raising the rates, API has had more success with recruitment.

ASSEMBLY REPORT | AUSTIN QUINN-DAVIDSON

- Austin, Felix Rivera and Meg Zalatel jointly prepare a monthly update, available in the meeting and included in the handouts.
- **2020 Census**: The federal government is conducting the decennial (every 10 years) Census, and it is important because the population counts in each state or local area affect many different funding formulas and allocation of resources. It is also important data. The Census is mailing forms, which can be filled out online by households using the code in the mailed form, and will be sending people door to door to encourage response. The data is protected by the federal government and cannot be released, it is strictly private. Please look for your information in the mail, and complete the Census!
- **ASD Budget**: Anchorage School board transmitted their draft budget to the Assembly for approval, there will be a joint work session the week of March 9 to review the budget and discuss questions.
- **COVID-19 Outbreak**: The Anchorage Health Department has been working hard to prepare a response plan to the coronavirus outbreak, including posting informational materials in multiple languages; coordinating with state and local governments, as well as CDC, to share information and materials and work together as needed. There are no cases currently in Anchorage [note: as of March 5], but there are plans established to respond should there be an issue. The Assembly’s Health Policy committee, co-chaired by Austin and Suzanne LaFrance, met with AHD staff to review the plan. Additionally, they are working on a draft disaster response plan should it be necessary, including ability to do emergency declarations such as quicker procurement rules should they need to purchase a service as soon as possible. The Muni is prepared to respond should there be any indication of cases in Anchorage.
- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Pam Wright asked the status of testing for the virus?* She contacted a hospital recently, and learned that no testing is being done locally yet. She also noted that she has had trouble finding information online and did not find updated information on the CDC or Alaska DHSS websites, she encouraged the Muni to post updated information as much as possible. As a new disease, there is limited information and fast-moving updates as we learn more. There are a limited number of tests available, and as a new disease they need to be able to reliably test for that virus—this was an issue in Washington state, where they were not utilizing tests for people who were exposed to the virus or potentially carrying it, even without all the symptoms. Austin was not aware of the current status of available tests in Alaska, but encouraged checking the Alaska DHSS and Anchorage Health Department website. Austin also noted she understands the frustration about lack of current or good information about the disease, but encouraged checking the Muni website as they are working hard to keep that information updated and current.
  - *Jackie Armstrong asked about the Pay for Success Home for Good project?* Austin will learn more about this in an upcoming work session. She understands that the program is to improve outcomes of people leaving corrections, at risk of being homeless and using emergency services, by investments in supportive housing. She can report back after learning more.
  - *Dan Gleason asked about the status of the ML&P sale?* Austin did not have specific information about the project, but was also aware there is a delay in the project currently.
  - Cathy Gleason thanked Austin and her colleagues, as well as Chris Schutte with the Muni, for drafting, supporting and passing amendments to the HLB Management Plan regarding Turnagain’s priorities for lands by Point Woronzof Park at their recent meeting.
  - Cathy also noted that Turnagain’s comments on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and the proposed widening of the Coastal Trail, were brought up but ultimately the changes TCC recommended were not made. She thanked Austin and others for attempting to amend per the community council’s priorities!
Cathy also asked about more information about the proposed legislation regarding ownership of Alaska Railroad rights of way? Austin noted that it has to do with previous federal issues regarding ownership of rights of way, most of which apply to issues in south Anchorage, but would apply generally to all rights of way. Tim Sullivan confirmed.

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD REPORT | ANDY HOLLEMAN

No one was present in the meeting to provide a report.

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: This will be discussed as a separate agenda item.
- Recruitment: There are several positions available: please share the job opportunities widely! The handout shared in the meeting has a list of specific jobs posted. There will also be a job fair with tourism-industry employers.
- 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.
  
  John shared a question from Spenard Community Council’s meeting, whether individuals who are flying on airlines or flights that do not require TSA screening (such as Ravn Air). [Note: this deadline is likely to be extended by the federal government, with pending legislation on 3/25/20].
- Questions and Comments
  
  - Josie Wilson asked the status of a communications services procurement that was issued by the Airport and contested after the initial notice of award? John was not aware of the status of the procurement, and that it was contested. He encouraged contacting the procurement officer listed on the RFP.
  
  - Marnie Isaacs asked whether pilots and other crew on cargo planes coming from Asia go through additional screening or testing? These crew do not go through additional screening, but do go through the usual customs process. If there is any observation of symptoms or potential illness, they are flagged for follow-up from CDC or state health officials while onsite. Crew are also provided information about self-care, self-observation and what to do if they do have any kind of symptoms.
  
  - Pam Wright asked whether there are any plans for utilizing a facility, like a motel or similar building, for patients who have confirmed cases of the coronavirus? John did not have this information, and encouraged contacting Alaska DHSS, who would likely be the agency overseeing that issue should it be required. There are currently no cases in Alaska.
  
  - Anna Brawley commented that she and her partner were both able to apply for and receive their REAL ID compliant licenses, and again complimented DMV for excellent service.

TSAIA AIRPORT COMMUNITY OUTREACH PLAN | CATHY GLEASON

- Cathy thanked the Airport for having a more generous (more than 30 days) public comment period.
- Previously, representatives from Spenard and Turnagain Community Councils participated in meetings with the Airport and local leaders to negotiate a clear communications plan for the Airport and the community. This plan has been periodically updated, and has significantly improved communications and the relationship between these stakeholders.
- Cathy prepared draft comments on the plan, with 7 specific recommendations: she provided an overview, which was also available as a handout.
  
  - Rec. 1: Replace the outdated 2010 Land Use map with the current plan map, including updated land use designations.
• Rec. 2: Include community councils in the list of stakeholders (such as elected officials) who are required to be responded to for requests for meetings.
• Rec. 3: Spell out the acronym “OPN” (State of Alaska Online Public Notice system).
• Rec. 4: Strengthen language regarding requirements for land lease applicants to meet with the appropriate community council(s) to discuss any potential impacts of their proposals, and inform the councils about their application. The applicant would need to provide proof that they completed this requirement prior to the approval of their lease application.
• Rec. 5: Require that the Airport send a notice to the surrounding community councils when the Airport makes a decision regarding land use applications, to ensure councils are informed about the result of the lease process. These are sent out through GovDelivery, but need to be specifically provided to the councils. Ideally, this would include information about whether and how the councils’ recommendations were taken into account.
• Rec. 6: Improve communications and the flow of information about safe, courteous use of the airport by Lake Hood user groups that they can disseminate to members. Example: reminding pilots about safe flight habits and minimizing noise over the neighborhood.
• Rec. 7: Include and ensure that the adjacent community councils are notified to attend regular Stakeholder Group meetings, along with other stakeholders. The meetings include a variety of entities, but should also include the neighborhoods’ representatives. The plan says that the group meets regularly, but it is not happening now; either this should be removed, or the meetings should be continued as the plan states.
  ▪ John verified that there have not been meetings since the new Airport Director took his position, and he is not aware of plans for future meetings.

• Motion by Dan Gleason to approve TCC comments, including the 7 recommendations listed, on the Airport Community outreach plan as presented in the meeting. Second by Anna Brawley.
  • Discussion: None.
  • Vote on motion: 10 yes, 0 no. Comments will be submitted before the March 18 deadline.

ANCHORAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTATION | DIR. MARY JO TORGESON
• Mary Jo Torgeson presented information about Proposition 7, a facilities bond including funding for the Anchorage library, the Senior Centers (in Anchorage and Chugiak) and other existing public facilities. The bond would provide funding for critical repairs including the senior center roof, improvements to the library, the Mountain View Plaza, and others. There are some serious safety concerns with the condition of the facilities, and there was one death due to unsafe conditions. She provided an informational handout.
• The 2020 Census is important! Encourage your neighbors to participate. There will be outreach workers at the Library throughout the process. The Census is very important to make sure everyone is counted and included in decisions about where funding is allocated across the U.S.
• The Loussac Library is regaining a bus stop, and Turnagain is gaining a bus route (former Route 36) up Wisconsin St. and to the Library in the near future. This will greatly help with access to the library.

WEST ANCHORAGE SNOW DISPOSAL FACILITY | JOSIE WILSON, HDR
• This is an ongoing project, in the site selection stage. The current location, on Airport land, is not sufficient for current operations and a new location needs to be selected. The Assembly approved a site selection study for this year, which has recently launched. The first step will be establishing criteria for selecting a site; the site does not have to be Muni owned, but needs to meet the snow storage needs. One of the criteria, for example, is minimal impacts to people and surrounding uses. There is also a proposed ballot measure (Prop 3 – roads and drainage bond) that would include design funding for this new snow storage area, so this project can move forward to the next phase.
• There will be a project open house on March 24th, at the Loussac Library concurrent with the Assembly meeting that evening. Please spread the word about this meeting! [Note: this meeting has been changed from an in-person meeting to a virtual meeting on Zoom. There is also an online open
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*house in which you can leave comments, between March 24 and April 24. See website for details: www.westanchoragesnow.com.*

- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Dan Gleason asked why the current snow storage site (Kloep site on Northwood Drive) is not sufficient, and what the criteria are for the new site?* Josie clarified that the issue is not with the physical constraints, but the contracting requirements for the Muni.
  - John Johansen added more background on this issue: The Muni previously leased this land from the Airport, but to continue using it for this purpose would require the Muni to spend $2 million to do the necessary water quality remediation (per DEC requirements) over the long term. The Airport and Muni were negotiating about a long-term lease, but disagreed over the fair market value for a long term lease and ultimately the Muni declined to sign this lease and is seeking another location.
  - Cathy Gleason requested that Josie attend the West Anchorage Candidates Forum on March 19, provide materials on Prop 3 and be available to answer questions from attendees.

**ALASKA RAILROAD TREE-CLEARED ALONG TRACKS, LA HONDA DR. | TIM SULLIVAN, AKRR**

- During the AWWU project to install infrastructure near the railroad tracks in recent years, there was significant tree clearing on the western side of the right of way, as well as installing a fence within the right of way on that side. This has improved visibility and reduced trespassing on this side of the right of way, but the same issues are present on the eastern side of the right of way. There is now some funding to clear some trees (minus a buffer between the neighborhood and the tracks) and install 1200 feet of fence on the tracks-side of the berm, near La Honda Drive, to minimize trespassing and other issues without negatively impacting the adjacent neighborhood. Clearing will begin in spring 2020.

- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Dan Gleason asked the status of the Fish Creek to the Ocean trail project?* Tim noted that the Muni has been negotiating with the Railroad about this, but he was not aware of updates since the discussions last year and proposal for funding on a previous bond.
  - *Cathy Gleason commented that the current status is that the Muni was considering multiple routes, but settled on a potential route within the AKRR right of way.* Tim was aware of the discussions, and the Railroad agreed that a trail on either edge of the right of way, away from the tracks, would be amenable. The Railroad is waiting to hear from the Muni about next steps but was involved previously.
  - *Cathy asked how much width will be cleared, approximately?* The intent is to clear 50 feet from either side of the tracks, with an existing 20 feet cleared and another 30 feet to be cleared along that right of way. Where there is the existing berm, the fence will be on the same side of the berm as the tracks, so the fence will only be minimally visible. It will be 1200 feet from the railroad overpass bridge, a mile south of where the tracks approach the Coastal Trail.
  - *Cathy also asked whether neighbors expressed any issues about the noise, and whether it would increase noise?* There may be some additional noise in some spots along the tracks, in the winter when there is no foliage, but likely no additional impacts in the summer. However, the existing berm blocks significant noise for most people with property along the tracks.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

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

- **Land Use Committee**
  - Next meeting: Thursday, Mar 12, 5:30 p.m. *Note: this meeting was postponed from February.*
    - Contact Anna Brawley for information.
      - Tom Davis (Planning Dept.) will present updates on proposed R-2 zoning changes. There will be a forthcoming public review draft on this item.
      - The committee will also briefly discuss the Spenard Corridor Plan.
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- Changes to landscaping requirements for native species: This went before the Planning and Zoning Commission on December 9, and had two hearings of the Assembly on January 28 and February 25, passing on that date.
- Front porches: The proposal to allow larger open-air front porches and incentivize this by allowing more lot coverage. Originally this proposal was for single family homes only, which was supported by the Planning and Zoning Commission, but the Assembly is considering whether to allow this for other zoning areas (multiple units per lot). This will be on the Assembly’s March 10 agenda. [Note: this item was on the March 10 agenda but not yet approved in that meeting.]
- TCC comments on Lower Yukon School District, Student Housing Landscaping were submitted after approval at the February 6 TCC meeting. There is an Urban Design Commission hearing on this item on March 11.

- **Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS)**
  - February 19 meeting: the committee met with several representatives to discuss this issue, as well as receiving a summary of the traffic calming study conducted that previous spring, shared previously (see APD update earlier in the minutes). Committee members also asked the status of having crossing guards hired, which the school principal did (typically high schools do not have crossing guards). However, the crossing guard quit after 2 hours, because she felt unsafe performing that function and did not want to get hit by a car. This is an important message to address.
  - The committee is also reviewing data and the criteria for speed limit signage, and whether this area would qualify.
  - Next meeting: TBD. Contact Barbara Bundy and Dan Gleason for information.

- **Spenard Beach Park Improvements**
  - We are launching our fundraising efforts, with materials to help volunteers make asks and raise funds! We are looking for volunteers to fundraise in the spring, with the goal of starting installation in early summer at the park. Materials will be available at the April meeting.
  - Next meeting: TBD in March. Contact Sara Haley for information.

- **West Northern Lights Committee**
  - Next meeting: TBD. Contact Patti Nielsen for information.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- Cathy Gleason asked for a brief overview of the proposed railroad easements bill introduced by Rep. Kopp. The bill has to do with the Railroad’s allowed uses of these easements.
  - Tim Sullivan shared that when the rights of way were transferred from the federal government to the Alaska Railroad in 1982, there were many existing homesteads that included fee simple transfer. However, the Railroad has “exclusive use easements” which currently allows them to fence off the property, charge for use, install utilities, etc. The bill proposes restricting the Railroad’s uses of the property to those allowed under the original 1914 law, that allowed usage for telephone, telegraph and a short list of uses that does not encompass current practice. This includes trails, other utilities and allowing charging fees for other uses.
  - The Assembly will introduce an ordinance on March 10 supporting the proposed legislation.

**CLOSING**
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.
- **Note: the April 2, 2020 meeting will be postponed or canceled, to comply with current health mandates and guidelines designed to reduce community spread of COVID-19. The TCC board will provide updates and announcements relevant to the council when possible.**

Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary Anna Brawley on 3/25/2020.
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 30, 2020.