

Minutes of the Tudor Area Community Council
May 7, 2009
Rogers Park Elementary School

President Sheli Dodson called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. There were eight members and three guests present. The council approved the minutes for the April 2, 2009, meeting without objection. The president asked that we register our e-mail addresses with the Federation of Community Councils' new e-mail list manager at <http://www.communitycouncils.org/>. Use of the new e-mail list manager will cut down on the labor-intensive process of having the office manager enter each e-mail address by hand.

Speakers:

Assembly: Assemblywoman Elvi Gray-Jackson was absent due to a personal illness. She provided her constituent notes, which are attached.

Legislative Report: State Rep. Berta Gardner provided an end-of-session update, saying that it had been an odd sort of session, slow to start, with plenty of diversions due to the Federal stimulus program funding. Rep. Gardner noted that Gov. Palin did not seem engaged as she did not push her own priorities and her department heads did not want to take firm positions without the governor's commitment. The legislature and administration worked together to resolve issues such as the cruise ship clean water initiative, but in the end no one had any idea whether or not the governor would sign the compromises worked out.

Rep. Gardner said this was the first year of a two-year session. The legislative committees did not find "strings" attached to the Federal stimulus funds, and Gov. Palin wound up accepting all of the Federal money except for the energy conservation funding. It was clear that the state's school districts knew that the Federal stimulus funding was a one-shot deal.

In response to a question on whether the 90-day session was long enough, Berta said that when the general public was not interested in the esoterica of making laws, then 90 days was probably enough. If the public is paying attention to a high-interest topic, such as the death penalty, it takes time to respond to the public and there is a definite crunch when the public wants to be heard within the 90-day limit.

State Sen. Ellis's representative, Amory Lelake, said that the 90-day session limit tends to shunt the public aside and forces the legislature to focus only on essentials. Rep. Gardner went on to say that both houses of the legislature have appointed committees to look into the question. On the budget, the legislature needs input from the departments. When the administration's input is delayed, errors in the draft bills are passed on to the next committee rather than being fixed in the original committee, which should happen when there is adequate time.

One member asked if Gov. Palin's national campaign had been a problem. Rep. Gardner said that the media made more of the situation than was really warranted. Most of the (legislature's) focus had been on substantive issues, not on political philosophy.

Amory Lelake, State Sen. Ellis's new representative, introduced himself to the council.

There were no discretionary funds for legislators this session, and when there are some they have to be used for capital projects, Rep. Gardner said in response to a question about the possibility of a grant for the community council to increase its membership. Legislators also need input from the Federation of Community Council, the Muni department involved, and the Muni administration on grant requests.

FCC Report: Sheli Dodson said that the FCC meeting was quick. (Jason Bergerson, the FCC president, attended this Tudor Area Council meeting.) Muni Parks & Rec. has good summer programs this year. Neighborhood parks are being rehabilitated one-by-one by neighbors, additional volunteers, and Parks & Rec. personnel. McDowell Park, which is in the council's area, was briefly discussed. The short walking trail loop is almost done, and the larger loop has not been worked on yet. David Green

Park was rated as having a good state of repair. It's the park that is most visible in the Tudor Area Community Council. Parks & Rec. has limited the size of the groups using the park under permit in response to complaints by council members about noise, late hours, and alcoholic beverage consumption.

Jim Lamson, the Muni's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Coordinator, spoke to the FCC about the CIP. There were no reports from the mayor's officer, school district, or assembly.

FCC members are involved in the Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) conference as hosts for the 2011 meeting, which will be held the weekend before Memorial Day, 2011. Sheli (the TACC president), Mark Butler (the FCC's office manager), Jason Bergerson (FCC President), and Berni Bradley (FCC Treasurer) are going to Spokane for the NUSA 2009 conference to see how the hosts organized the conference. Ms. Bradley is also a member of Anchorage CHARR, the Anchorage Cabaret, Hotel, Restaurant and Retailers Association, and will be looking to see how their organization could help with the conference.

Sheli talked about the need to improve communications, particularly in light of the recent budget cuts.

Old Business:

The council discussed the proposed traffic signal at MacInnes St. and E. 36th Ave. Mike Davidson, from Fire Station 4, raised the issue within the department and the information has been provided to Scott Thomas of the State Dept. of Transportation Design and Engineering section.

Capt. Davidson talked about fire station closures. Station 4 is the second-busiest station in the department. (Station 5 in Spenard is busier still.) The problem is overtime costs. The department has exceeded its overtime funding every year, and this year there is no "excess" funding available to cover any additional overtime. A new paternity leave policy is compounding the problem. There were at least 24 people on paternity leave this past year. This is a new source of workload for the people not on leave. The closures are being rotated between stations to keep everything fair.

Kevin Frank asked about the cause of the budget shortfalls. Jason Bergerson, the FCC president, is a member of the Budget Advisory Committee. He briefly provided his assessment of the sources of the budget problems. Those included lower than expected investment returns and getting used to the two-year budget cycle. He noted that bad decisions in the first year of the budget cycle lead to overages or shortages in second year.

New Business:

2010 Capital Improvement Plan:

The council noted that the Heritage Land Bank had mistakenly included a project for E. 48th Ave. in the Tudor Area CIP. It should be shifted to the Campbell Park CC list.

The council discussed its input for the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) due this month. After discussion, Kevin Frank moved that we rank the Municipal Project Engineering & Management projects in this order: 1. Tudor Area Traffic Calming; 2. 36th and Locarno Intersection Improvements; 3. Fish Creek Improvements. Deanne Tuckerman seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved the motion.

The council discussed its input for the State of Alaska CIP. After discussion, Richard Newman moved that we rank the State projects in this order: 1. Tudor Rd. Access Management; 2. Seward Hwy. - Tudor Rd. Interchange; 3. Seward Hwy. to Glenn Hwy Connection. Kevin Frank seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved the motion.

After discussion, Berta Gardner moved that the Municipality add a Capital Improvement Project to protect University Park from commercial development and to develop it as a park. Deanne Tuckerman seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved the motion.

“Flower House” on MacInnes St.: Mr. Cragen asked what the status was on the owner cleaning up his construction debris at 4201 MacInnes St. After discussion, the council recommended that he call Muni’s Code Enforcement Section.

There being no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 8:55 PM.

Good Neighbor Award Recipient: Todd Butler

A few weeks ago, I received a message on my answering machine from Todd, asking for a callback. When I called him back, we exchanged the usual pleasantries for a few minutes. Then, he said he wanted to offer his congratulations. When I asked what he was talking about, he said something to the effect of, “Well, I didn’t know it was possible to go from 0 to 60 in the distance between your home and mine until I saw you leaving for work one morning.”

A short pause followed while his meaning sunk in.

I am often caught up in my morning routine and typically running behind my self-imposed timetable. It hadn’t really occurred to me that my daily “race” out the door, into my vehicle and down the street was noticed. More importantly, I hadn’t bothered to consider the possible implications of driving through the neighborhood at breakneck speed.

I apologized, and Todd assured me that his intention was not to harass me, create conflict, or give me a hard time. It was obvious to me, based on his friendly and open approach, what his message was. (*Slow down.*) He admitted that he sometimes isn’t attentive to his own speed, and that a friendly conversation with a neighbor who was concerned about his driving speed reminded him to slow down when coming through the neighborhood.

I pointed out to Todd that his **friendly** phone call was a great reminder to me to pay better attention to what is going on around me, especially when it comes to my driving speed. For those who are not aware (or, like me, just need a reminder), the speed limit in a residential neighborhood is 25 MPH.

Anchorage residents are a hardy bunch, so you’ll find us outside year-round, even in the coldest weather. Our neighbors, their children, grandchildren, friends and family are riding bikes, walking, rollerblading, running, jogging and ambling through the neighborhoods at all hours of the day and night. So please, set a good example for me to follow, and slow down on the roads.

Thank you, Todd, for how you chose to handle the situation and bring it to my attention. – Sheli Dodson

<p style="text-align: center;">Tudor Area Community Council We want to hear from you! Contact me at: Tudor Area Community Council Sheli Dodson, Chair PO Box 230808 Anchorage, AK 99523 (907) 522-6436 or sheli@gci.net Put Tudor Community Council in the subject line</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Contact Info Anchorage Police Dept. Comm. Center (Dispatcher): 786-8900 Emergency: 911 Code Violation Hotline 343-4141</p>
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Assemblywoman Elvi Gray-Jackson's Notes for Tudor Area Community Council, 05/07/09

- Assembly approved the 2009 1st quarter budget revision and approved the mill levy.
 - A total of \$18M in property tax relief
 - \$15.1 from revenue sharing, \$2.9 in additional revenue sharing from the stimulus funding
 - Mill levy for Taxing District 1 = 15.62 (ASD 7.18) prior to adding the \$2.9 in property tax relief
 - Mill levy for Taxing District 1 = 15.50 (ASD 7.18) after adding the \$2.9 in property tax relief.
 - Change in leadership – Ossiander Chair, Drummond Vice Chair – New Committee Assignments (See attached)
 - Next meeting – May 12th.

Municipality of Anchorage 2010 CAPITAL PROJECTS NEEDS LIST

Rank # Tudor Area

E 48TH AVE/TUDOR CAMPUS DESIGN, SURVEY AND PLAT

Not in Tudor Area. Move to Campbell Park Community Council

36TH AVE AT LOCARNO/COTTONWOOD (HSIP) INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

Ranked 2

36th Ave at MacInnes St Pedestrian Overpass

Obsolete. Overcome by events. Delete

Fish Creek Improvements - Cook Inlet to Lake Otis Pkwy

Ranked 3

Tudor Area Traffic Calming Improvements

Ranked 1

STATE OF ALASKA CAPITAL PROJECTS

Seward Hwy - Tudor Rd Interchange NE/SE Quadrant Hook Ramps

Ranked 2

Seward Hwy to Glenn Hwy Connection (H2H) - Bragaw St to Tudor Rd

Ranked 3

Tudor Rd Access Management (East) - Seward Hwy to Patterson St

Ranked 1

Tudor Area Community Council Proposed Addition

MOA 2010 CAPITAL PROJECTS NEEDS LIST

University Park – Protect from commercial development and develop as a park.