

Minutes of the Tudor Area Community Council
Oct. 1, 2009
First Church of God, Tudor and MacInnes

President Sheli Dodson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. There were fourteen members and five guests present. The president proposed adding a KABATA representative to the agenda, without objection.¹ The council approved the minutes for the Sept. 3, 2009, meeting without objection.²

Speakers:

H2H: John McPherson of the Highway-to-Highway project office (H2H) spoke about the current state of the project to connect the Glenn and Seward Highways. There are seven potential options they have developed to be addressed in an environmental impact statement (EIS). H2H has been gathering public comments for some time now with four rounds of public meetings to date. The project office hopes to get Federal funds for the project. The Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) and the state Dept. of Transportation and Public Facilities will determine the project's final scope and direction.

Mr. McPherson said that the alternative corridors have not been fully developed yet. Their solution must address congestion in the Anchorage road system, particularly downtown, as well as getting from the Glenn to the Seward Hwy. The FTA also requires that light rail be considered. "Everything is on the table", he said. The project office's traffic modeling shows that most of the highway traffic is headed towards destinations within Anchorage. Mr. McPherson did not directly address a question asking if H2H would coordinate highway decisions with the Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority (KABATA), saying that "both are in the long-range transportation plan and thus must be taken into account", and that H2H traffic modeling would include bridge traffic. He noted that the Knik Arm Bridge would change areas of growth and sources of traffic.

In response to several other questions, Mr. McPherson said that none of the routes developed by H2H were firm, and that the corridors depicted were "fat" – overly broad. He said in response to a question on the location of employment areas that H2H used the Anchorage 2020 plan policy maps to "drive" the traffic study, and that they would also look at moving areas of land use around a bit to see if that might solve some traffic problems. The current H2H route choice is the original proposal – a trenched highway through Fairview aligned along the Gambell-Ingra couplet. There will be more public meetings later this year or in early 2010.

Assembly: Assemblywoman Elvi Gray-Jackson said she had received "tons of emails" on the Highway-to-Highway project. She talked about the 2009 budget shortfall, which now seems to be fully funded. Answering a question, Elvi said that Mark Begich did not withhold budget information from the Assembly. The noise is political. The 2010 budget is up next for discussion.

KABATA: Mary Ann Pease represented the Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority (KABATA). She said that the Authority got \$110 million in 2003 to do the initial work and the EIS for the road. The projected cost is \$685 million with funding to be obtained from a public-private partnership based on Federal funding and bridge tolls for 50 years. The intent is to add private equity and innovation to a public project. The Knik Arm crossing would provide an alternative route to the existing Glenn Hwy. The website is www.knikarmbridge.com/. Tolls are projected

¹ Moved by John Quinley, seconded by Connie Quinley, unanimous approval.

² Moved by Deanne Tuckerman, seconded by Connie Quinley, unanimous approval.

at \$5.00 for cars and higher for bigger vehicles. There were a number of questions from council members on technical and environmental issues. Ms. Pease asked for a resolution of support from the council. No action was taken on the request.

Fire Department: Capt. Lindsoe asked if we had any questions, so council members obliged him. He explained that a “rolling closure” for a station meant that one or more trucks would not be manned or operate. This lengthens response times. The current goals are for an ambulance to be on scene within five minutes and a fire truck on scene within eight minutes. Station 4 is busy. We (public) need to educate the Assembly and Muni administration on what we want. Shutting down fire apparatus will eventually lead to higher insurance rates. There are a number of reasons that we might see fire trucks from other stations at Station 4. Our station is the EMS supply point and it’s also the gas fueling station.

Capt. Lindsoe said that it takes 18 months to train a new fireman. The Muni is always behind the power curve in hiring and training new firemen. He noted that the newest hires are the first group without a pension. They have nothing to tie them to Anchorage Fire Dept. so if they get a better offer they are gone. Once gone, they probably will be less interested in coming back to the department. One council member said that both Seattle and Spokane fire departments have been recruiting in Anchorage. There followed a lengthy discussion on Anchorage’s budget situation.

There were no Legislative or FCC reports.

Old Business: There was nothing new on the light at E.36th Ave. and MacInnes St.

New Business: Rich Tuott called Muni Parks and Rec. four times about broken equipment at David Green Park. There was no action until he took a parks employee who was at the park mowing grass to the broken equipment. Connie Quinley proposed installing a planter box at the corner of E. 36th Ave. and MacInnes St. (More to come later.)

Rich Tuott was the recipient of this month’s Good Neighbor Award for helping an elderly neighbor clean his house gutters.

The council adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

The president asks 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.

<p>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>Contact Info Anchorage Police Dept. Comm. Center (Dispatcher): 786-8900 Emergency: 911 Code Violation Hotline 343-4141</p>
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