

Turnagain Community Council
April 1, 2010, Meeting Minutes

TCC President Breck Tostevin called the TCC meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

I. Announcements

Breck Tostevin and Cathy Gleason provided the following announcements:

- Municipal elections will be held April 6th, not the 9th, as stated in the TCC agenda.
- April 1, 2-7 p.m., West-Romig Master Plan meeting, Romig Multi-Purpose Room. For info: www.asdk12.org/renewal/HS/west_romig/index.asp.
- April 7, noon, Anchorage Airport Communications Committee meeting, airport.
- April 12, 4-6 p.m., DOT&PF Highway Safety Improvement Program meeting, 4111 Aviation Drive, to discuss six proposed projects around the city; closest one to Turnagain is International Airport Road @ Jewel Lake Road Channelization. For info: call 269-0549.
- April 16, 6 p.m., TCC Board Meeting, Kaladi Brothers in Northern Lights Center.
- April 28, 6-8 p.m., Anchorage Park Foundation Challenge Grant Application Workshop, Spenard Recreation Center. \$200,000 will be available in matching funds to community organizations to improve parks and trail. For info: www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org.
- May 8, 9-noon, Anchorage Waterways Council Creek Cleanup; Celebration at Valley of the Moon Park from noon-2 p.m. For info: www.anchoragecreeks.org.
- Balto Seppala/Lloyd Steele Boardwalk Update: wetland permit has been granted; no work will take place between April 15 through July 15; cost estimates are being done. This item will be on May's agenda.
- Other agenda items for May 6th TCC meeting: Fire Island Wind Power Project; Capital Improvements Program project ranking (if anyone is interested in serving on committee, contact Breck) — list will be posted on TCC's Web site; West-Romig Master Plan.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Pat Kelly moved to approve TCC February and March, 2010, minutes; Dan Gleason seconded. Motion passed with no objections.

III. Council Comments/Future Agenda Items

No one had any comments.

IV. West Anchorage District Plan Update

Breck Tostevin reported that a draft of the Table of Contents has been released. Also, a draft of the Vision/Goals Statements are out for Planning Group comment. Planning

Group members have also been asked to rank community priority of individual parcels in and around the airport.

V. W. Northern Lights Blvd. Pathway between Lois Dr. and Captain Cook Estates Dr.

Brooke Blessing, Municipal Engineering Dept., discussed the proposed pathway project south of WNL, which was included in the 2007 Pedestrian Plan, at the request of TCC. In 2009, the Legislature approved \$170,000 for a Design Study. \$920,000 for construction has been requested from the Legislature this year. Because of the bus stop location east of Captain Cook Estates Dr., Federal Transit Authority money may be available as well. The pathway will be located in the right-of-way. There is a slope problem along Fish Creek. A retaining wall will be built along some of the pathway. It will meet up with the existing sidewalk at Lois Dr. A preliminary design will be presented at our June TCC meeting. For questions/comments, contact Brooke at 343-8387.

Questions included:

- Will trees be removed? Hasn't been determined yet. Looking at a 5-foot width, but more space will be needed for retaining wall.
- Project timeline? If Muni receives legislative funding, construction will start this fall, with completion next spring.
- Concerned pathway will be covered in winter because of snow plowing: where there's retaining wall, won't be a problem, but along Fish Creek, there won't be wall. May have to cross over to north side of WNL.
- What is Street Maintenance's input on project? All departments will be asked for input.
- What materials will be used? Maybe asphalt, but continuity will be important and existing sidewalk is cement. Retaining wall will be poured concrete, with some decorative element.

VI. Assembly Report

Assembly representative Harriet Drummond provided information on the following:

- Assembly approved spending \$50,000 on an audit; will probably be done by July.
- Assembly approved collective bargaining with plumbers at Sullivan Arena and 4-year guidelines for 70 IBEW members.
- Assembly approved moving the Knik Arm Bridge project from the short-term to the long-term Long-Range Transportation Plan project list, but AMATS committee overruled decision.
- Two bus routes (Spenard and Arctic) will have override traffic lights for People Mover buses to allow for expedited traffic flow; this will not work the same as for ambulances, however.
- Residential design standards for Title 21 have been approved by the Assembly.
- George Sullivan death insurance: Assembly approved referral to independent legal counsel and back to Ethics Board.

- All 87 liquor stores voluntarily agreed to a 100 percent I.D. check, so the Assembly withdrew its ordinance that would have required the check.
- Assembly approved the Anchorage School Budget of approximately \$789,500,000.
- Anchorage Bicycle Plan was approved, but amendment to delete bike path along Aero Ave. ROW failed. Reconsideration of plan approval will be on April 13th, but will recommend no vote; better way to handle this issue is to propose an amendment to delete the project. Ms. Drummond will give TCC notice when amendment is introduced.

VII. Legislative Report

Sen. Hollis French teleconferenced from Juneau. Topics included:

- Senate passed two major bills: 1) campaign finance disclosure requirements; and 2) decoupling oil and gas taxation structure and what happens under tax structure. Both will go to House for consideration.
- Capital budget will be looked at in coming days. Negotiations are ongoing.

VII. Anchorage Tomorrow on Ballot Bonds

Mary Rasmuson, Board member of Anchorage Tomorrow, advocated for the following bond proposals on the April 6th ballot:

- Prop. 1 - Roads and Drainage - \$37,090,000. The road bond does not include any specific projects in Turnagain. Muni will pay off \$28.4 million on bond debt this year.
- Prop. 4 – Areawide Public Transportation Capital Improvements - \$932,000. There would be a federal match of \$3.7 million. Bond includes vehicle purchases, facility improvements, management and automated operating systems and other capital maintenance fleet improvements.
- Prop. 5 – Sisterhood Park Land Exchange. There would be no cost to taxpayers. This involves trading 2.77 acres, consisting of 1.90 acres of dedicated parkland and .87 acres of vacated ROW to American Fast Freight in exchange for 2.73 acres of land to the Municipality to provide parking for sports fields at the park near the Spenard Recreation Center and a multi-use trail.

Assembly member Drummond added that there are two other bonds on the ballot: Anchorage Fire Dept. improvements - \$1.2 million; and Ambulance for Sand Lake area - \$225,000. There are no school or park bonds on this year's ballot.

VIII. Proposed Sale of Lyn Ary Park Memorial Garden and Other Lots West of Park

Robert Owens, Assistant Municipal Attorney, updated the council regarding the lawsuit and possible land sale of the lots described above. Land involves lots 500 feet to the west of Lyn Ary Park ballfields. The city bought the parcels in 1996. The land is not dedicated, but designated parkland and Coastal Trail greenbelt and is currently

managed by the Parks and Recreation Department. The difference is, dedication goes through a formal process approved by the Assembly and requires a public vote to dispose of land. Designated parkland can be disposed of by a vote of the Assembly.

Owners of five lots to the south filed a lawsuit in 2007, claiming their property extends to the coast. They have since meet with MOA in a settlement conference, requesting that the MOA sell the land to them. The private property owners would pay for appraisal of the city-owned land, then, if the city manager or an assembly member introduces an ordinance to dispose of the land, it would go before the Assembly with a purchase price. An appraiser was to be hired by March 15. If this moves forward, MOA would agree to a purchase price of \$300,000 or appraised value, whichever is greater.

Mayor Sullivan is a business partner with one of the private property owners and is not involved in discussions. Mr. Owens stated the city would recommend a "No" vote to sell the property. If the Assembly opposed an ordinance to sell the parkland, litigation would resume.

Pat Kelly moved to approve a TCC resolution, which was prewritten and read, that:

- 1) calls on the Municipality of Anchorage and the Anchorage Assembly to oppose any private sale of the Memorial Garden/Coastal Trail Public Lands;
- 2) urges the Municipality to vigorously defend the public's ownership of these lands in the courts; and
- 3) calls on the Municipality of Anchorage to fully implement the approved Lyn Ary Park Master Plan by formally dedicating this public land as parkland within Lyn Ary Park once the legal dispute over the land is resolved by the courts.

Mark Wiggin seconded the motion. The motion passed 39 – yes, 1 – no.

Someone asked the lone no voter to explain why she opposed the motion; the voter was Diane Wilke and she stated she is one of the plaintiffs of the lawsuit and could not discuss the case.

Charles Wohlforth moved to authorize the TCC president to communicate with the administration regarding this matter and request that the land sale proposal not be presented to the Assembly, but that if does go before the Assembly, a public hearing be required. Motion was seconded by Ellen Toll. The motion passed 39 – yes, 1 – no.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Cathy L. Gleason, TCC Board Member