

Approved
Sept. 2,
2010

**Turnagain Community Council
Meeting Minutes May 6, 2010**

Breck Tostevin, TCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

I. Announcements

Cathy Gleason made the following announcements:

- The project to re-do the culvert at Fish Creek at 36th and McRae will be on the agenda for June TCC Community Council Meeting. There is a question whether the project is being done in conjunction with 35th and McRae road project.
- May 26, 2010 is the next meeting of the AACC (Anchorage Airport Communications Committee) at the Airport South Terminal. Elections of officers, an update on de-icing, and other matters are on the agenda.
- The Lake Hood Advisory Committee is being put together and has met twice and next meeting is June 9, 2010 at the General Aviation Office.
- The Municipality's Planning and Zoning Department is doing a site plan review for a trail improvement plan for Far North Bicentennial Park on Wednesday, June 9.
- The "Clean and Green Rehab Project" will be held at Woodland Park on Friday June 11-12. For more information, contact the Anchorage Parks Foundation.
- Park cleanup is planned at Minnesota Park at 33rd and Minnesota on Saturday, June 26, which is also sponsored by Anchorage Parks Foundation.
- The Boardwalk that connects Balto Seppala and Lloyd Steele Park is being finalized and the dates for construction will be set.
- The pothole hotline number is 343-MEND.

Pat Kelly made the following announcements:

- Although Pat Kelly is one of the TCC Reps on the Anchorage Airport Communication Committee (AACC), he wasn't able to attend the last meeting so Merle Akers reported about the meeting. Merle reported agenda that since Matt Claman is not on the Assembly, he has no status on the committee. Merle suggested that the Committee should have provided in by-laws that the chair can continue as person at-large. Cathy Gleason commented that Matt Claman that Sand Lake or Spenard Community Councils have three members, so it would seem appropriate to have Matt continue to serve on the committee instead of replacing one of the current members.

Pat Kelly made a motion to nominate Matt Claman as a third representative to the AACC from Turnagain Community Council. Pat Redmond seconded the motion.

There was some discussion. It was again suggested that there should be a carryover position for the Chair. Another person asked if Matt Claman lived in this area, which he

does, so the person commented that it didn't make any difference if Claman carried over as Chair or was elected by the Community Council. Another comment was that the Community Council didn't approve the members of the AACC, the other two representatives were just appointed by the TCC Board. Matt Claman spoke about the history of the AACC. He indicated that the old Airport Commission had policy making and decision making role and the Airport refused to participate. So when Claman was Mayor, he asked the Airport if they would participate in a new committee and the Airport agreed but not if the committee had a policy role. Some of the comments suggest that the committee should have a policy role, but the purpose of the committee is for information and communications, not policy. Cathy Gleason commented that TCC should have an Airport Committee, which would be separate from the AACC and a list was passed around at the last three meetings. The TCC Airport Committee needs a chair and it will go nowhere until someone volunteers to be the chair. Merle suggested chairing the TCC Airport Committee is role of the Board.

The question was called and 10 voted in favor; 1 opposed. The motion passed.

- Andy Hutzel from Lake Hood is trying to set up a Lake Hood Advisory Committee to include aircraft owners, lots of aviation groups, and is also inviting TCC, Spenard, Sand Lake Community Councils to participate.

Cathy Gleason made a motion to nominate Merle Akers to serve on the Lake Hood Advisory Committee. Pat Redmond seconded the motion.

There was some discussion. Merle commented that the committee is just a rubber stamp. Cathy Gleason commented that TCC can participate or not, but can't complain afterwards about the airport taking actions without community knowledge. Assembly member Ernie Hall asked President Tostevin if he could flush out the purpose of the committee. He anticipates the group will meet quarterly and the group will review the Lake Hood Master Plan. **Although Merle Akers didn't accept the nomination, he agreed to cover the June 9 committee. It was stated if Merle Akers doesn't wish to continue attending the meetings, he can withdraw.**

The question was called and the motion passed 7 in favor, 0 opposed.

II. Approval of minutes.

A motion was made by Mark Wiggins to approve the minutes from the April 1, 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded by Pat Kelly.

III. Assembly Report

The Assembly Report was taken out of order after the Legislative Report. The Assembly Report was presented by Ernie Hall. Assembly Member Hall announced that last week, he hosted a meeting at his home with four of five Community Council presidents in his district to

ensure that everyone knows his plan to work together. He announced that he will attend every Community Council meeting and attend the whole meeting. He is working with Senator French and Mike and other Representatives in this area to make this community what it ought to be. Assembly Member Hall indicated that as groups and individuals, we need to get out of our silos to work together on economic development in Alaska as oil and natural resources wind down. Hall indicated that he has met with the Anchorage Economic Development Corp. (AEDC), the Chamber of Commerce, and others to work to address these issues together. As to issues on the TCC Agenda this meeting, Hall stated he was the first chair of the Airport Advisory Committee and it is just a briefing, not a policy making body. Hall said he is working with various people from the airport. But since the State of Alaska owns the airport, policy matters would need to be addressed through or from Senator French. Hall suggested it is a great idea to have Matt Claman on the Airport Advisory Committee and continue to work with him. Hall reported that he has his eye on the Lyn Ary Park land and lawsuit issue and has talked to Breck Tostevin, TCC President, and is willing to talk to Board Member Mark Wiggin, who chaired the Lyn Ary Park subcommittee. At the last Assembly meeting, there was an amendment to fund the police academy, which passed 6-5, but will probably be vetoed. Although Hall stated he initially support the additional funding, when the new chief of police said he had a plan and he could work with the money he had, Hall felt he had to stand with the chief of police and voted against the funding. Everything else at the Assembly meeting went smoothly in part because of a work session the night before the meeting. All votes were 9 and 8 in favor and the only close vote was 6-5. Assembly member Hall encouraged anyone to contact him with any issues at erhall@alaskalife.net; or at his office at 562-2088. If you send an email, please leave a telephone number.

IV. Legislative Report

Senator Hollis French gave the legislative report. Senator French reported that it was the best session ever from a non-partisan perspective. He worked with Mayor Sullivan and Attorney General Sullivan on a domestic violence, bail and preserving evidence bill. Another big issue during the session concerned corporations and campaign finance; the legislature passed a good bill and Alaska now requires disclaimers about who is contributing and how much. James Waldo and Rep. Lindsey Holmes spoke to the governor about defending capitol budget. For our area, there is money allocated for McRae Road, a sidewalk between Forest Park Drive and Lois Drive, as well as money for schools and whiteboards. Senator French indicated that now is the time to invest in our state. He expects the governor to sign the Cook Inlet stimulus bill, as well as the bill to store gas in Cook Inlet. Storing the gas will not begin this winter, but next winter there will be gas storage. The storage will not be proprietary storage; it will be gas to sell to consumers.

Senator French asked for any questions and TCC member questions concerned the following: Are there any further developments on the suing the federal government on the health care issue? Senator French stated that the governor is joining the lawsuit started in Virginia. It is Sen. French's prediction that the U.S. Supreme Court will not hear the case, but the question is whether the Court will do so before or after the November elections. It most likely will happen after the elections.

V. 2011 Capital Improvement Project Ranking

There was a motion to approve the proposed Capital Improvement Project Ranking as determined by the Board. The motion was seconded.

There was some discussion about what happens with the Ranking, and it was explained that the Ranking goes to Municipality, then to the Assembly, and then to the legislature. The legislature does look at the TCC Project Ranking independently of the Municipality's positions. There was some discussion about re-ordering.

The motion passed, 9 in favor of the list as presented and 0 opposed.

VI. Other Topics

A. Anchorage Park Foundation Grants

Aurora Hoveland made a presentation that the Filipino Community is applying for an Anchorage Park Foundation grant to build a picnic shelter in Woodland Park in Spenard. Ms. Hoveland was a good friend of Thelma Buchholdt and the Filipino Community is doing the shelter in her honor.

There is a dollar for dollar match with the grant. The Filipino Community has experience and built a shelter in Centennial Park in 1986 and she stated it would help the application if there is a recommendation from TCC for the grant.

Barb Jones made a motion for TCC to support the Filipino Community's application to the Anchorage Park Foundation for a matching grant to build a picnic shelter at Woodland Park. Mark Wiggin seconded the motion.

There was some discussion that the Municipal Parks and Rec Department will be working with the group on placement of the picnic shelter. The group will also be adopting the park and trying to add surveillance. There is an improvement day scheduled to rehabilitate the park on June 12, which is Filipino Independence Day. There will be a program from 12 noon - 2 p.m. at the park. Another comment was in support of the project because of the merger of a private group and the community to do this project.

The motion passed, 12 in favor; 0 opposed.

B. West High- Romig Middle School Master Plan

The West High-Romig Middle School Master Plan has the purpose to improve the flow between the two schools. Mike Abbott, who works in the superintendent's office, announced that the School District is making this same presentation to the school board after presenting it to all of the community councils to take into account the comments of the community. West High - Romig Middle School is the only double campus in Anchorage. The campus will have 2500 kids, which will be the largest campus in Anchorage. Other High Schools and other Middle

Schools are large than West or Romig, respectively, but West High-Romig is the largest together. There is a lot of the buildings that are fully functional, but the vast majority of the buildings are older than 1975 and need to be rebuilt or remodeled to bring them up to district standard. The site is probably undersized for a high school, now, but certainly smaller than a HS-MS campus. One of things ASD has heard is to limit amount of traffic during school and before and after school events. However, ASD will not be able to get all of the traffic off Hillcrest Drive, nor will it be able to get the traffic on or off Minnesota because Minnesota is a state highway. There will be some possibility to have access to the campus from Northern Lights Boulevard and possibly from Benson Boulevard. The Master Plan concept is a goal. To date, no Master Plan has ever been fully built out because of cost and other issues. The project update is currently slated for 2014 or 2015, which assumes bonds approved every year between now and then. The planning process includes a generous state grant to include West Romig as a Community Center. ASD used that money to make a much more comprehensive planning process to do more than build a high school, but to build a center of community. It has the potential to be a place for more than MS and HS.

A question from a TCC member was how does the project rank in the school district? The response was that Service High is first; East High is second; there are no middle schools that rank higher than this project; but there are a number of elementary school projects, but those are smaller. This ranking is subject to annual decision making by the School Board. Another questions was how does this relate to the West Anchorage District Plan and how does the West High-Romig Middle School Master Plan dovetail in with the West Anchorage District Plan? The response is that the long term goal is to make some southern access from Northern Lights or Benson and a town center is slated for this part of the world. (Cathy Gleason commented that the West Anchorage District Plan is proposing moving the town center from Minnesota and Northern Lights to Spenard and Northern Lights.) A follow up questions was how does the West High-Romig Master Plan make sense as a holistic traffic plan for the area? The response is that ASD has been talking to city traffic and city planning and state DOT as well. There was a lengthy discussion of the new plan.

C. Fire Island Wind Farm - Jim Jaeger with CIRI

Mr. Jaeger reported that CIRI's Fire Island Wind Farm would create 33 turbines to run on the south side of Fire Island. The turbines expected generation is about 17,000 households annually. It should offset the fuel burn of 1.7 BCF of natural gas. It will not be an immediate impact on the energy crisis in Southcentral Alaska. An EIS was done and the project received a Corps of Engineers permit last summer. It included wetlands, water permits, and all the normal part of permitting. A question was asked by a TCC member, what were some of the alternatives? The site was picked in the first place because Chugach Electric did a survey of Southcentral Alaska and came up with a list of sites for a wind farm. And Fire Island was first because of proximity to railbelt, impacts, lack of environmental issues, lack of conflicting land issues, lack of avian issues, and other benefits. Chugach Electric approached CIRI and CIRI went forward, but Chugach Electric pulled out and may be a customer. The wind studies started in the early 2000s. The permits were issued last June. Modern wind towers do not have as much impact with birds. There will be no bird impact, small impact during the autumn and some impact in some years.

A question was asked about how the project is funded. The bulk of the project is CIRI funded. Part of what is driving the project is federal grants in lieu of tax credits to develop wind farms. If CIRI gets the wind farm on line before 2012 they are eligible for 42 million in federal funds and thus the result would be reduce the price of power which would be passed on to rate payers. There is also \$25 million state appropriation to pay for lines, which would also reduce the ultimate price of power for the project. Comments: The bulk of the funding is private funding. Fire Island is being paid for primarily by private money. They have had lots of studies on Fire Island. The wind speed is about 16 miles per hour. The wind is low in August, but the good news is that the wind is blowing the hardest in the winter when we need power in Southeast Alaska. The speaker indicated that if CIRI can get to the 30-31% capacity, the project is cost effective. A question was asked whether CIRI has a power purchase agreement in place. The response was that the State will not spend its money until CIRI has the agreement. Another remaining factor is a VOR, which is a navigation aide. The FAA said you can build 24 wind turbines, but not 36. With only 24 turbines, the project is not cost effective. CIRI is working with FAA to build a new VOR facility on the airport. The testing will begin this summer and when it goes off the island, then CIRI can look into the power purchase agreements after it knows how much it will cost to build. The RFP is going out this spring before approval of the power purchase agreements. The flight lines are going to be changing slightly but the FAA is moving those. Essentially, the anticipated schedule is to finish the site cleaning and geo tech work this summer. By next winter or early spring, the VOR will be completed/decommissioned, then construction will begin next summer and the rest by 2012 and power should be online by 2012. The cable will cross and buried cable runs along the existing power corridor and goes to substation on International Airport Road. When the cable hits land, it goes underneath the Coastal Trail. There is one little spot where there is a bluff and where the cable couldn't go underground because kept running into buried parked cars! The entire route is existing corridor or planned corridor. A question was asked about when the cable comes up in Connors Bog, does CIRI have a permit or do they need a special wetlands permit? The response was that there is no filling new wetlands at Connors Bog. The trenching would look as good or better after the cable is buried. The ski club agreed with the plan to replace the exiting natural vegetation.

D. Chugach Electric Rezoning Request for New Helicopter Landing Pad

The speaker noted that there two issues - one is building a new power plant and the second is taking the helicopter landing pad site and moving it. Chugach Electric has plans for a gas fired power plant, which is a very efficient way to generate electricity. The construction could start 2010 and be commissioned by 2013. It's a combined Chugach Electric and Municipal Light and Power project. Chugach Electric bought a piece of property along Minnesota for construction lay down. Chugach Electric applied for a zoning change from I-1 which is appropriate now, to I-2. In the operations area, there is a helipad that generates 152 flights per year. To move to helipad to build the new power plant, Chugach Electric needs a conditional use permit to move the helipad about 1000 feet to the NW. The storage lighting will go in this year so they can begin construction of the new power plan net year. They will ask for conditional use permit to have a helipad, fence and lighting. A question was how does relocating the helipad affect the flight patterns? The response was that Evergreen Helicopters is the contractor and is located on Merrill Field. The new pad will be closer to the Minnesota interchange. All pilots have been requested

to take off from helipad and depart to the east to 600 feet and then turn west along Minnesota and then turn west. This is how pilots are instructed to go, unless someone tells them differently, which may be along the railroad tracks. Air traffic control at Anchorage, Lake Hood, and Merrill Field tell the pilots where they need to be. There is a section that is the no fly zone. The helicopters are required to be at 600 feet. Fixed wing aircraft are at 1000 feet. The Providence Medivac helicopter is 800 feet. Chugach Electric has had 5 complaints since 2005 and they address every complaint. The vast number of flights start at 7:00 a.m. and end at 3:30 or 4:30 p.m.

As to the construction, there is an existing berm and some vegetation and that will remain. The schedule for construction is late May or early June and CE wants to be done in July or August. It will all be done this year. The FAA gave a letter of non-objection. There is more room for the heliport and it will all be open and a long, fairly clear landing strip for the helicopter.

TCC Member Merle Akers spoke and indicated that before the MOA issues a permit for a helipad they should require the company to have established corridors and they should have a public hearing for all the people who live under the corridor. Mark Wiggin suggested calling them to fix it. Merle suggested that the TCC should oppose the helipad until the MOA requires them to have established corridors. A response was that the MOA Planning and Zoning Commission had approved the rezone. Chugach Electric has not applied yet for the conditional use permit for moving the helipad. The Chugach Electric spokesman said that the Evergreen contract will require pilots to fly this route unless FAA tells them differently. The spokesperson will send notice of the public hearing to TCC even though the project is not in TCC boundaries

E. Memorial Garden Litigation Update

The TCC President noted that he had invited Andy Lebo to come and talk to TCC, but understood that Mr. Lebo was not speaking because his clients, who are the landowners suing the city in the lawsuit, told him not to come because TCC minds were made up. As far as an update on the case, the Assembly will hear the proposal from Mr. Lebo's clients to offer to buy the property from the MOA. The TCC Board sent a letter to the Mayor, but the Mayor has not responded. Mark Wiggin said at the last TCC meeting, the vote was 39-1 in favor of NOT selling the property, and the one person who opposed was one of the property owners. The TCC meeting was the same night as the discussion of the West High Master Plan. It's a good time to speak again to the issue. It's the Assembly who will make the decision. Assembly member Ernie Hall mentioned that the issue in the paper is because the issue is going through the Municipal Legal Department, so that might be why the MOA can't say what's up. George Vakalis will make the decision, because the Mayor has a conflict. The people who have filed the lawsuit are making an offer to purchase the property. The proposed ordinance will come from the administration, although a comment was made that it will come with a recommendation for non approval. It was also suggested that the TCC should get signatures from community members in support of the resolutions for not selling the property. Another comment was that this proposed park land sale is not just a Turnagain Issue, it is a city issue, it is a land use issue. Mark Wiggin encouraged everyone in attendance to have neighbors sign the petitions in support of the resolution NOT to sell the land and bring the forms back. Assembly member Hall

encouraged the TCC to come to the Assembly meeting when the issue is presented. There was some reference to the other case, where the MOA was sued over land, but the legal distinctions between that case and the current favor the MOA in this case. There has been no discussion about the price for the property.

VII. End of meeting

Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Jones, Secretary-Treasurer