

**Minutes of the Tudor Area Community Council**  
**January 5, 2006**  
**Rogers Park Elementary School**

Sheli Dodson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. There were eight members and six guests attending. The council approved the minutes for the Dec. 1, 2005, meeting without objection.

Ann Brooks, Alaska Dept. of Transportation (DOT), and Ron Goughner, USKH (engineers), presented information about DOT's Highway Safety Improvement Program. Its purpose is to make spot safety improvements that can be done quickly in order to improve highway safety and to reduce the number of crashes. They asked for information from community council members on three specific areas: Lake Otis Pkwy. and Northern Lights Blvd.; Lake Otis at Campus Drive; and Lake Otis and 42<sup>nd</sup> St. They are considering sight distance, traffic buildup, and crash evaluations. There will be no increase in traffic capacity as a result of the spot improvements.

There was lengthy discussion on each of the three locations, and council members unanimously requested that any improvements be worked in conjunction with a University-Medical (U-Med) district comprehensive traffic plan. The Municipal Traffic Engineer, Mr. Bob Kniefel, was also present. He said that a current traffic study due in February 2006 would affect traffic within the Tudor Area Community Council (TACC) neighborhood. He will return to the TACC after the study has been completed. Assemblyman Traini noted that the proposed spot improvements would affect AMATS (Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions) planning.

In his Assembly report, Mr. Traini said that the Assembly had approved the replacement building for fire station #4 as a design-build project. The new station will be a full-sized station, which will occupy part of the land now occupied by an adjacent trailer court. There will be some increase in staffing, and the Muni will add a Paramedic function. The Assembly meets next Friday with the Parks and Recreation Commission to discuss the new P&R plan. Mr. Traini said that south Anchorage property owners do not pay taxes to support municipal Parks and Rec.

Mr. Traini feels that recent move by several Assembly members to limit the exercise of the government's power of eminent domain would be better addressed by statewide law; he said that House Bill 318 has recently been introduced in the State Legislature (by Rep. Lesil McGuire) proposing uniform statewide limits on eminent domain powers.

The Assembly will take up the issue of a municipal sales tax soon. The main questions are: who pays?, how much?, and on what? Mr. Traini asked that anyone who is concerned with a Muni sales tax to come tell the Assembly what they think. He said that Anchorage taxpayers feel that they are over-taxed. A council member asked Mr. Traini how Anchorage tax rates compared to those of other cities of similar size, and what the property valuations were for commercial and residential property.

Mr. Traini said the Assembly would probably turn down the request to install a small cyclotron in a residential neighborhood. When a council member asked what had happened to the traffic light on MacInnes at 36<sup>th</sup> Ave., Mr. Traini said that he got differing answers from Muni departments when he asked what happened to the funding that Rep. Cheryl Heinze had gotten for the light. He promised that the light would be installed; after all, the State of Alaska had paid for it.

Sgt. Stanton presented the Anchorage Police Department report. The department is working to carry out its plan, developed in 2004, to become a better department. She asked for e-mail comments (three things good, and three bad) from the community councils and individuals on how the department is doing. Her responses are due January 20. She said that activities in the Tudor Area that get the attention of the police department are slow right now.

There were no legislative or Federation of Community Councils reports this month.

#### Old Business:

Bob Kniefel, Municipal Traffic Engineer, presented a lot of information about the intersection at 36<sup>th</sup> Ave. and MacInnes St. He said that the State of Alaska funding of \$130,000 for the traffic light has been spent on the 2005 project channeling traffic on 36<sup>th</sup> Ave. at MacInnes St. The intersection has been plumbed for traffic signals. He said that the intersection did not meet the usual traffic engineering criteria for a traffic signal (number of accidents, crossings, breaks in traffic, etc.).

Mr. Kniefel watched traffic for two days in the morning and evening to get a feel for how traffic was moving. His measurement showed access time to 36<sup>th</sup> Ave. was 88 seconds, compared to the usual cycle time for a traffic signal of 160 seconds. There were few accidents at the intersection (2003 – 4, 2004 – 2, 2005 – 1). He thinks that a signal at 36<sup>th</sup> would increase traffic cutting through from Tudor because of improved access. He also said that the State of Alaska would likely install a signal on Tudor at MacInnes if the Muni installed one at 36<sup>th</sup> Ave., which would definitely increase cut-through traffic. Mr. Kniefel will review the intersection each year to see if it warrants a traffic signal. He said the typical cost for a traffic signal is \$300,000.

Mr. Kniefel produced a large photographic print of the area and most people stood around the table, asking questions. Mr. Kniefel described possible traffic improvements in the Tudor Area, including the infamous Lake Otis and Tudor intersection. He also described some of the problems impeding implementation of some of the proposed improvements. The Tudor Road Corridor Study will be available soon, and Mr. Kniefel will return to the TACC (probably in February or March 2006) after he reads the study. (The “Pre-Final Report” of the study covers the Tudor Road corridor between Bragaw Street and Lake Otis Parkway. The report was published in April 2005, and is available at the Muni website at “[www.muni.org/iceimages/traffic/Pre%20Final%20Tudor%20Corridor%20Study.pdf](http://www.muni.org/iceimages/traffic/Pre%20Final%20Tudor%20Corridor%20Study.pdf)”). Mrs. Etter said that the U-Med district access is in the Long Range Transportation Plan as a study topic. Mr. Kniefel said that the new UAA chancellor has brought a new attitude to dealing with outside agencies.

The council really appreciated Mr. Kniefel’s presentation and invited him to come back soon.

#### New business:

Mr. Butler brought up the problem house at 3903 MacInnes St. There is now a couch out in front of the house, and other debris that had been moved to the back yard is now appearing again in the front yard. Mr. Traini advised that council members call Mr. Greg Moyer, the Municipal Ombudsman, at 343-4755.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 8:46 PM.