
TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting | December 1, 2016 | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Lake Hood Elementary School, 3601 West 40th Avenue
Chaired by Jonathan Tarrant, TCC President

WELCOME & APPROVE AGENDA, MINUTES

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. About 35 people (members and guests) attended.
- **Reminder: because of the school district vacation schedule, Lake Hood Elementary is closed January 5th, our regular meeting time. TCC will meet on Thursday, January 12.**
- The agenda was reviewed:
 - **Amendment: add item “Audobon Wayside” to the agenda after Crime Watch item.**
 - **Vote on motion: all yes, 0 no. Agenda approved.**
- The November 3, 2016 meeting minutes were available for review and approval.
 - **Vote on motion: all yes, 0 no. Minutes approved.**
- Announcements: *See Attachments flyer available as a handout in the meeting and on the TCC website.*

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

- Check Turnagain CC’s presence on Facebook and NextDoor! Join the Facebook group “Turnagain Community Forum.”
- If you have not already done so, sign up for e-mail updates from TCC and other community councils. There was a flyer available at the meeting providing instructions on how to sign up.
- **TCC still needs a President for 2017!** The election held last month was held and a new slate of officers was elected for 2017 (with the current Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and a new Member at Large). However, there were no nominations or candidates for President—we need someone to serve for next year! Please contact the board if you are interested (tccpresident@yahoo.com). We will hold a special election to fill this seat at the next meeting, and continue to recruit for candidates.
- **Federation of Community Councils:** Cathy Gleason was not able to attend the November meeting.
- **President’s Report | Jonathan Tarrant**
 - (see above) We are seeking a new President for the 2017 term!
- **Vice President’s Report | Cathy Gleason**
 - No updates.
- **Secretary’s Report | Anna Brawley**
 - No updates.
- **Treasurer’s Report | Gloria Manni**
 - No updates.
- **Member at Large’s Report**
 - No updates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Land Use Committee: Airport Zoning District:** The committee worked with MOA planning staff in late October to discuss a new proposed Airport Zoning District, but did not have a chance to submit additional recommendations and meet with staff a second time. The committee submitted a letter on November 17 requesting that the item be postponed, in part because there are other land use recommendations for the Airport being considered as part of the 2040 Land Use Plan Map. This letter needs to be approved by the Council at this meeting.

- **Motion by Dan Gleason to approve the letter dated November 17 requesting postponement of the Airport Zoning District ordinance until after the Land Use Plan Map is completed. Second by Gloria Manni.**
- **Vote on motion: 8 yes, 0 no. Letter approved.**
- **Update on Airport Zoning District:** Terry Schoenthal (MOA Current Planning) shared that the Mayor's office has postponed this item temporarily in order to allow the Land Use Plan Map to move forward. The next hearing is being scheduled with the Planning and Zoning Commission, he will notify TCC when a new date is determined. Cathy Gleason thanked Terry for working with TCC and for the consideration of the Land Use Plan Map.
- **Land Use Committee: Anchorage 2040 Land Use Plan Map:** Cathy Gleason shared that the committee met with Thede Tobish and Tom Davis (MOA Long Range Planning) to discuss TCC's previous comments about the map, particularly as it concerns the Airport. MOA staff will meet with the Airport to discuss suggestions as well, and try to find common ground.
- **Turnagain St./Turnagain Blvd. Upgrades:** This committee has been following the progress of the first phase of upgrades to Turnagain Blvd. (between McRae and Spenard, the southern portion of the road). The 65% design for this road will undergo site plan review with the Urban Design Commission for approval. It may be on the 2017 improvement bond list.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT | SEN. MIA COSTELLO AND REP. MATT CLAMAN

- **Staff person for Rep. Matt Claman**
 - Please see the monthly legislative update from Rep. Claman (available as a handout).
 - Thank you to the district for reelecting Rep. Claman, he appreciates the support.
 - There is a new bipartisan House majority coalition working on a list of priorities; Rep. Claman will be chair of Judiciary.
 - Legislators and staff will be moving down to Juneau in mid-January, in the meantime contact his staff at the Anchorage office.
- **Staff person for Sen. Mia Costello**
 - It has been a busy time for the Legislature, apart from the election. It will be a busy and challenging legislative session addressing large-scale budget efforts. She will continue as chair of Senate Labor and Commerce.
 - The Governor will release his FY 2018 budget on Thursday, December 15.
 - As of now, the State has \$3 billion in savings and the budget will only balance when oil is at \$102/barrel—this means we need to make significant changes and decisions.
- **Staff person for Rep. Drummond**
 - Rep. Drummond was out of state but thanked everyone in her district for reelecting her.
 - She is also looking forward to the House bipartisan coalition, and is now chair of Education.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *None.*

ASSEMBLY REPORT | MEMBER TIM STEELE

- He is glad to hear that the State is considering new revenue sources, the budget challenges are impacting cities as well, who are anxious to work with the State about revenue sharing.
- The Assembly is finishing up the budget, utilities will have increased rates to cover infrastructure costs: AWWU (proposed rate increase of 5%) has not raised rates in several years, and has been making progress in improvements to the system overall. ML&P will have a substantial rate increase (up to 25%) to cover the cost of a new 2-A power plant. The RCA (regulatory commission) will approve rate increases soon.
- There are several marijuana applications on the Assembly's agenda, as well as taxi cab permits and other changes. The Assembly proposes introducing some new permits, not transferrable but allow owner-operated services, to expand transportation options in the city.

- Tim Steele noted that he had not planned to run again for Assembly, but has decided that he would like to run again for another term—he is seeing several longtime members terming off or leaving who have a lot of institutional knowledge, so he would like to provide additional knowledge in the coming term as several new people enter the Assembly. He would also like to see through the Spenard Road and other improvement projects in West Anchorage, so he believes his work isn't done yet. He is also interested in improvements to Jewel Lake Road, Strawberry Road, and Turnagain Blvd.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Cathy Gleason asked whether Tim would support or work on formal dedication of all parks currently designated, but not dedicated, in the Turnagain area?* Tim noted that he is not sure what stance the mayor has taken on this issue, he will ask. Cathy added that TCC passed a resolution in support of this idea a couple of years ago, and the parks identified within Turnagain are not controversial, she believes, such as Fish Creek Estuary.

AIRPORT REPORT | JOHN PARROTT

- *See airport updates on the handout provided at the meeting or online at: www.anchorageairport.com*
- **Wetland Permit for “GA Parking”:** The Airport submitted a wetland fill permit application to Army Corps of Engineers to expand a nearby area, not GA parking per se so this wording was confusing. They do not anticipate having expand General Aviation parking until there are significantly more planes operating in the area which generates more traffic.
- **Lake Hood Seaplane Base Master Plan:** The public review draft of the Lake Hood Seaplane Base master plan is available at the website: www.lhdmasterplan.com, and comments will be accepted through January 16, 2017. Do not walk across the lake, it is an airport area!
- **New Alaska Airlines Hangar:** Alaska Airlines is planning to build a new hangar at Old International Airport Road and 50th, where Specialty Services used to be located. The hangar will be able to hold two Boeing 737-max planes.
- **Concession Update:** There will be a new kiosk-style bar in C Concourse near Sushi on the Fly.
- **Regulation Updates:** The Airport periodically updates regulations, it is difficult to review all regulations at once so the Airport will be looking at pieces of the regs and updating as they go. Currently under review are regulations specifically related to Lake Hood and its usage. If you are interested in participating, check the Airport website for updates.
- **Do not leave cars unattended at the pick-up and drop-off areas!** Cars left unattended can be ticketed AND towed, and like all other airports, it is not allowed.
- **Holiday Performances:** There will be several holiday performances throughout December, there is a schedule on the airport website. Check the schedule and come listen!
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Cathy Gleason asked for clarification about the wetland fill permit—it is being withdrawn?* No, it is still being requested but for excavated material, lay-down and staging for other work, they do not anticipate expanding that parking for many years. She and John discussed existing tree locations in this area. Jonathan clarified that the land is near the post office and vehicle storage lot, close to the municipal snow dump area. This is an area of Turnagain Bog, but it is isolated from other areas because it is bounded by roads. Cathy asked whether the A.C.E. has determined if it is significant? John stated the permit is still being considered, but the Airport feels this would be an appropriate use of this parcel that doesn't impact the rest of the Bog.

NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH | SANDY RABINOWITCH

- Arlington Drive neighbors are interested in forming a Neighborhood Watch group, and Sandy is getting the word out if you live in the area, or are interested in a similar group for your street. He has worked with the APD neighborhood unit, and has found it enjoyable. Neighborhood Watch requires having at least one person as an organizer, and keeping contact information for other neighbors who are participating so they can communicate as needed.
- **Questions and Comments**

- *Tim Steele commented about NextDoor being useful, and asked whether contact information for neighbors put online? No, only the neighbors on the street receive the information, for the purpose of communicating or coordinating. It is different than NextDoor and intended just for that street, but neighbors could certainly continue to post online about what they see.*

AUDOBON WAYSIDE / OVERLOOK PROJECT | PAT POURCHOT, GREAT LAND TRUST

- The Great Land Trust works in several areas of the state to protect wetlands and other natural areas.
- After the purchase of the Business Park wetlands over by C Street, approximately \$92,000 remained and was donated to the Anchorage Audobon Society. This organization had the funds for some time but didn't have the ability to use it, and subsequently transferred it to Great Land Trust. GLT, at the suggestion of Audobon, proposed upgrading the area on the Coastal Trail where there are benches currently between the tunnel under the railroad tracks between Westchester Lagoon and Fish Creek Estuary. GLT sought approval from the owner of the tidelands, who approved of the project, to create a 20' by 30' small overlook peninsula, past the current extent of the benches and fenced area. The purpose is to create a larger and wider view area, beyond the brush line currently there, and very prime location for viewing birds at the estuary and out on Cook Inlet mudflats. There are hundreds of people using the overlook during the course of the day, and can cause bottlenecks along that particularly narrow parts of the trail.
- The project will include interpretative boards about the birds and other important information about the area. Earthscape (Dwayne Adams) will be working on the project and seek other support for geotechnical and engineering, then working with a construction firm to complete the work. The construction will need to happen after the bridge replacement is complete because equipment would not be able to access the site before then, but hoping to begin late winter or early spring, and completed before birding season and the Tour of Anchorage ski race. The team is hopeful to work as soon as the bridge work is completed.
- The intent is to enhance, not detract from, the Coastal Trail. There will be two benches and an interpretive plaque, and telescopes to see birds in more detail. The railing will accommodate several people along the rail and allow them to see the same direction at once. It will also accommodate an additional 3' of trail width in the future,
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Dan Gleason asked for clarification of where it will be located, and also about earthquake rating? (see handout). It will be along the Coastal Trail between the tunnel past Westchester Lagoon and before the Fish Creek Estuary, where there are existing benches. Yes, it will be designed to withstand movement, this will be one of the jobs of the structural engineer.*
 - *Tim Steele asked how high it will be, will it be possible for a person to get under the platform? The platform will be the same height as the existing trail, the deck will look similar to the platform at Westchester Lagoon. There will be metal poles and fencing, to discourage people from getting underneath. The group has also talked about the threat of debris and logs getting underneath the platform, as well as people trying to access under the structure. They are working on making this safe against trespassing as well as structural issues.*
 - *Sandy asked whether there are any planned trail closures while this is being developed? The intent is to minimize impacts on trail usage, focused on bringing in materials and other specific tasks in the project, not a long term closure. Closures would only be a couple of days at a time.*
 - *Cathy Gleason asked whether the current benches will stay, and would the group consider installing a bike rack? The current benches are not to code and the garbage can at the site is not up to current Parks standards. The group agreed that a bike rack would be a good addition to the site. The benches will be of a similar design to other recently installed benches in the Muni, and only two are planned because they anticipate most people standing and watching birds, and seating can get in the way of this if there are a lot of people.*

- *Gloria Manni asked whether the benches being installed could be donated, like other items through the Anchorage Park Foundation?* Pat answered that they have not talked about it, but the group has talked about telescopes which are typically \$4,000 each and could end up being a discretionary item if there isn't enough budget to cover them, so they may have to fundraise to get additional money. This is possible. He recommended contacting him directly, as he is the point of contact with the Muni, and they can discuss further.

BENCHES AT FISH CREEK PARK AND COASTAL TRAIL | CHAD TAYLOR, INTRINSIC LANDSCAPES

- Chad's firm received a Parks Foundation Challenge Grant to build three benches in Muni parks unique to the areas. Two of the benches will be in Turnagain's area, one at the Coastal Trail (mile 2.2) at Earthquake Park and the other in Kiwanis Fish Creek Park at Turnagain Blvd.
- They have come to TCC for approval for benches to be designed and installed at these two sites. They will not be able to conduct a full public outreach process with final design approval. The group clarified that the firm will not come back to TCC for another round of approval, but is looking for overall approval of these ideas and working within the identified area.
- The benches have not been specifically designed yet, but the team submitted concept designs and similar designs to what they envision as part of their grant application. Overall the designs are intended to be natural, sculptural elements that complement the natural environment.
- The total budget is \$43,400: the Parks Foundation matches funding from volunteer hours and donations. Intrinsic Landscapes is donating design and installation costs, and has received other donations which APF will match. Chad shared examples of other benches they have designed in the past, a Centennial bench using old Muni park signs, and the railroad wheel benches at the train at 9th and E downtown. The locations were chosen for overall use, were recommended by Anchorage Park Foundation, and which will be visually distinctive areas for a new bench.
- The Fish Creek Trail bench will be located in an area with great visibility on the trail, away from other park improvements to not conflict, and will be designed to reference the creek's natural and human history as a fish bearing creek. The bench may take the form of traditional fish traps, and will be designed to prevent intrusions of sod and grass into the bench's base. So far the team identified a maximum area, and is working on overall dimensions.
 - **Motion by Ryan Johnston. Second by Molly Carver to approve the concept presented for the Fish Creek Park bench, the location proposed, and support the installation of this bench in this location, and that TCC should approve the final design.**

Discussion

- *Gloria Manni asked whether nearby neighbors were informed, and recommends outreach to them directly (door to door, flyers)?* Chad noted that this meeting is the public outreach. Jonathan Tarrant added that not all projects have the same level of required public notice.
- *Cathy Gleason asked when the final design will be available for viewing?* Chad noted that the project is currently somewhat behind schedule, but anticipating design very soon in order to begin fabrication.
- *Cathy Gleason also asked what the bench will be composed of and whether it will be vandalism-resistant?* Yes, the intent is to minimize the amount of damage or vandalism that will occur. He is looking at materials that will be resilient and damage-resistant.
- *Tim Steele commented about the gaps between slats, and a potential "pinch point" for small children who may get their hands caught.* This is a good point, they have talked about safety in the design and have two alternatives, the second of which may address this issue better.
- *Dan Gleason asked what materials will be used to minimize maintenance, including a coating to prevent rust and corrosion?* Some of the options for materials are cost prohibitive, and all materials have some level of maintenance cost going forward. Cathy Gleason added that she hopes the team will not choose materials that will deteriorate in the future. Chad and the team are talking about how to cost-effectively design the benches to address these issues and do not allow them to deteriorate into the future.

- **Vote on motion: 6 yes, 1 no. TCC approves the concept and location of this bench.**
- The Coastal Trail bench will have a different design but with the same considerations identified and addressed above. The site has great views of Cook Inlet and the mountains, as well as downtown Anchorage, so the design will reflect both natural and human assets in the city. The bench will be next to the existing trees at the site, and would be combined into a single seating element rather than two benches there currently. The bench would use more of the reclaimed wood from old park signs similar to the wood used in the Centennial bench.
 - **Motion by Dan Gleason to approve the concept presented for the Coastal Trail bench, the location proposed, and support the final installation of this bench in this location, and that TCC should approve the final design. Second by another member.**

Discussion

- *Sandy Rabinowitch complemented on the presentation, and suggested that even increasing the amount of seating at that site would be helpful. He is also concerned about the potential for snow collecting on the bench, blown by the north wind. Additionally, could a bike-lock function be built into the bench, not as an add-on but integrated into the design?* Chad commented that he likes this idea as well and has talked about using bikes as a natural divider for different groups or individuals on the bench. *Sandy also commented that he is concerned about vandalism and the concerns raised about the other bench.* Chad agreed, wood has challenges for maintenance and vandalism but so do metal and concrete. Wood is still a good material for the cold climate and can be more pleasant to sit on in the winter.
- *Dan Gleason commented that he appreciates the design and the considerations explained by others. He thinks it is a good location for several reasons and several types of users.*
- *Cathy Gleason noted that she does not like the idea of using wood that shows park names on the bench.* Chad commented that Parks & Recreation does not want the park sign names used in other works, only the wood, and his idea was to reuse the wood but not anything displaying a park name. *Cathy also commented that she is interested in input from Parks and Recreation about the importance of having visual unity and design of amenities along the Coastal Trail, including the same benches throughout.* Chad pointed out that the uniqueness of the area and geographically unique location would lend itself to having distinctive designs.
- **Vote on motion: 7 yes, 2 no. x. TCC approves the concept and location of this bench.**

TRAFFIC CALMING PROPOSAL | NICK OLIVEIRA, HDL

- MOA Traffic Calming is proposing installing four speed humps in two locations:
 - 33rd Avenue between Wisconsin St. and Turnagain St. (2 speed humps)
 - McKenzie Dr. between Sagan Cir. and Milky Way Dr. (2 speed humps)
- The team did a follow-up study of the speed humps based on the direction that the neighborhood gave earlier this year about where they would like them. They selected these locations as potentially good areas to install them, and conducted neighborhood outreach on the surrounding streets. Everyone was in favor of this and the comments they received were all positive.
- The consultant completed a preliminary design and has sent it to the Municipality for review. If approved these would be installed in summer 2017.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Dan Gleason asked whether Fire Station 5 was consulted, as they have had issues in the past with speed bumps, like other emergency vehicles?* They will be consulted. The design of new speed bumps have
 - *Cathy Gleason thanked the team for conducting outreach, and asked whether there has been a change in policy about speed humps based on a change of administration?* Tim Myland commented that he is not aware of the rationale behind the opposition to speed humps by the previous administration, but they have been strategic about where to put them and there are reasons not to put them on higher-classified roads.

MOA EFFORTS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS IN ANCHORAGE | NANCY BURKE, MOA

- Nancy introduced Nora Morse who manages the portal: it has been revamped and it can be accessed on the Muni website. Reporting a camp can be done by geolocating while out near a camp, placing a pin on an online map, or manually typing in the location. You can also post a photo of the camp. The Community Action Policing (CAP) team visits the camp, posts notice and makes contact with residents, and then they have the ability to remove the camp from public property. Camp cleanup has dropped off in the winter with the end of the season of workers doing that work, but they are addressed by community work service. Please continue to post when you see them!
- Nancy also shared the Muni's efforts to connect with homeless people and connect them with services in the community, including housing and support services. The work van program has been helpful, and while demand is still high, there has been a different.
- Nancy noted that the annual point in time homelessness count will be happening the last Wednesday in January and volunteers are welcome! This includes documenting the location of camps with the app, which can provide a year-to-year comparison.
- The Municipality has graduated an academy class of 36 new officers, who will be doing training soon! This is meeting the goal of having 3 academies in 2016 and fully staffing the department.
- An increase in patrols has happened in neighborhoods recently, and police should be visible in the neighborhood. Turnagain area submitted 87 responses to the policing survey, and identified need for additional patrols and safety on bikes and trails is important. APD is also looking at additional bikes for officers to do park and trail patrols.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Tim Steele asked if there is information about how much trash has been picked up? She was not sure, but there is information on the website. There is a great deal.*
 - *Sandy Rabinowitch asked whether a person should keep reporting the same camp if it hasn't been cleaned up? She recommended waiting a short time before reporting again, but if nothing happens within a few weeks please follow up with a call. The system will send a notification, if you have provided contact information, that a camp has been cleaned up.*
 - *Gloria Manni asked whether it has been successful to date, and if people are getting better housing and services? Nancy shared that they have been successful with the "economic" homeless individuals, who maybe lost their job or are in process of moving out of state. There is a weekly meeting among housing and service providers who work through the list of requests based on contact with homeless individuals, the list is estimated to be 400 currently. The theory is to help people who need the lowest level and the highest level of service, to make room for people who could be best served by a shelter.*
 - *Cathy Gleason asked whether churches have been active in providing shelter and other services? Yes, have been very helpful. Muldoon Community Assembly especially.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

CLOSING

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.
- The next regular meeting will be **Thursday, January 12, 2017** at this same location: Lake Hood Elementary Library.

*Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Anna Brawley on 12/18/16
Minutes approved by the council at its regular meeting on 1/12/17*