
TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting | June 1, 2017 | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 3900 Wisconsin St.

Chaired by Cathy Gleason, TCC Vice President & Acting President

WELCOME & APPROVE AGENDA, MINUTES

- The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. About 25 people (members and guests) attended.
- The agenda was reviewed:
 - **Motion by Pat Redmond to approve the agenda. Second by Sandy Rabinowitch.**
 - **Vote on motion: all yes, 0 no. Agenda approved.**
- The May 4, 2017 meeting minutes were available for review and approval.
 - **Motion by Gloria Manni to approve the May minutes, with minor amendments from Cathy Gleason as corrections. Second by Sandy Rabinowitch.**
 - **Vote on motion: all yes, 0 no. Minutes approved as amended.**
- Announcements: *See Attachments flyer available as a handout in the meeting and on the TCC website.*
 - **TCC does not meet in July or August! The next meeting after June will be Thursday, September 7.** We will likely be moving our meeting location back to Turnagain Elementary Library once the renovations are done.
 - TCC and the Parks Department will be hosting a Lyn Ary Park Memorial Garden clean-up event on Saturday, June 3rd, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Activities will include weeding, picking up trash, mulching, and other maintenance of the garden. We will provide gloves, garden supplies, and pizza for lunch! Meet at the Memorial Garden (2009 Foraker Drive, down the hill where the park intersects with the Coastal Trail, west of the ball fields).
 - AMATS Long Range Transportation Plan meeting on Wednesday, June 14, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., Mountain View Library. The meeting is part of updating the region's transportation plan.
 - The new bench, presented at previous TCC meetings by Intrinsic Landscapes, will be installed at mile 2.2 of the Coastal Trail, initial work has begun and will be completed in the next several days. There is no formal opening event, but go check out the new bench!
 - Spenard Road Reconstruction open house and informational meeting on Tuesday, June 6, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Romig Middle School. The northern section of the road (between Fireweed and Hillcrest) will be closed first, and will also complete painting of the wall along the ramp connecting Spenard and Minnesota Drive.
 - Two bridges on the Coastal Trail at the Fish Creek Estuary and Kincaid Park have been replaced! There is one remaining bridge to be replaced in Turnagain, the bridge along the western side of Westchester Lagoon. Several other bridges are being replaced throughout the city, some this year and some next.

ASSEMBLY REPORT | MEMBERS TIM STEELE, ERIC CROFT

- Upcoming meetings, including a work session on Friday.
- The new Assembly members are receiving training and orientation about their new roles, with help from returning members.
- **Homeless camps:** The camps identified on Northern Lights in the neighborhood have not been removed, and there may not be resources to do so in the near future. Tim will follow up, but there are dozens of camps needing attention so it may be difficult to get these taken care of promptly.
- **West/Romig Access at Arlington and Belmont:** No specific update on these projects, but Tim will continue to speak with Mike Abbott about making these projects a priority.
- **Heritage Land Bank 5-Year Plan:** Tim and Eric are interested in learning more from TCC about specific recommended changes to the HLB 5-year management plan, related to the parcels on the Airport. The Assembly delayed action on this item until June 13, 2017 to discuss changes to the plan.

- **Questions and Comments**

- *Dan Gleason asked the status of the proposed Chugach Electric and ML&P merger?*
Assembly members on the Enterprise committee met recently and recommended that the two agencies continue to cooperate and consider the feasibility of combining the two. The item will go to the full Assembly for discussion. Options include: combining the two into a single entity; creating a new entity and dissolving the existing organizations; one purchasing the other; and other configurations. The merger would require a great deal of support: at least 60% of Assembly members, since it is disposing of an asset; the board of Chugach Electric; the board of ML&P; and a majority of the Chugach Electric members, since it is a cooperative. Eric and Tim commented that they see some promise in combining, but there are several issues to resolve, including what new entity would be created. Many of the cost-saving measures have been taken already, and the agencies cooperate regularly already, but there are future considerations as well.
- Gloria Manni commented that she does not believe a cooperative is the right entity, since it is now an urban area and cooperatives were intended for rural areas.
- Pat Redmond commented that she does see some benefits in remaining a cooperative.

AIRPORT REPORT | JOHN JOHANSEN

- *See airport updates on the handout provided at the meeting or online at: www.anchorageairport.com*
- **Summer Construction:** There will be a repaving project along Postmark Drive, beginning in June, that will affect vehicles on that road while the surface is being rehabilitated. Additionally, there will be work at Lake Hood, at the West Float Ramp and Lakeshore Taxiway.
- **Summer Travel:** As always, summer is extra busy at the airport—please allow extra time to go through security, especially during the evenings when many long-distance flights are leaving.
- **School Artwork:** The Airport recently installed artwork from Grace Christian School on wooden panels, at the intersection of Jewel Lake Rd and International Airport Blvd. There is room for other students' artwork—if your school is interested in participating, contact John Johansen.
- **Real ID:** The Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, the Real ID Compliance bill which will bring Alaska into compliance with federal regulations for identification. The requirement will go into effect on January 20, 2018 meaning that a Real ID compliant ID is needed when passing through TSA or entering government buildings or property. The state DMV will be creating a Real ID compliant option for residents for an additional \$10, no word yet on the timeline of when this will be available. In the meantime, state IDs can be used at the airport until January.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *None.*

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

- **Rep. Matt Claman**
 - Unfortunately, there is not currently a fiscal plan approved by the Legislature and the Senate is in special session currently trying to negotiate.
 - The House has currently adjourned, having passed its budget and multiple proposals for a broad-based tax, but the Senate is in special session and has not indicated support for the House proposal. Many legislators are no longer in Juneau.
 - There will likely be a second special session in the next several days, and currently the prospect of a government shutdown on July 1st is real in the absence of an agreement.
 - Items on the table:
 - House should consider more cuts than they have proposed.
 - Senate should consider revenue options which they have not supported in the past.
 - Use of the Permanent Fund to sustainably fund the government.
- **Julianna Melin, staff for Sen. Mia Costello**

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- The Senate is still in session, she is also frustrated with the lack of progress and is encouraging members to meet in conference committee to try to reach a compromise and pass a budget.
- There is a lot of frustration and tension in the Legislature, between the houses and between members. Sen. Costello, as a former teacher, is not in favor of education cuts but knows that there are difficult funding decisions to be made and no easy answer.
- Please continue to contact her and other legislators to share your thoughts!
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Eric Croft asked whether the Governor will introduce a sales tax, as he has heard? He is concerned about the implications of that, not just for cities with tax already, but also with cities who do not have sales tax already.* Yes, it is likely that the Governor will introduce a sales tax for discussion, but the House has already taken a position on revenue measures.
 - *Pat Redmond noted that in Seward, she saw on her recent tax bill that there is currently city and borough tax. She is concerned about the burden on communities that already have sales tax.* Agreed, sales tax has implications and would impact some communities more than others.
 - *Another member asked whether there is likely movement in the next 30 days?* It is difficult to say, but the level of partisanship has increased.
 - *Sandy Rabinowitch commented that as a former federal employee, he has experienced multiple government shutdowns, and they each have caused significant negative impacts on the private sector, the taxpayers' costs, and other lost staff time and resources by having to plan for shutdown.* There would certainly be negative impacts starting this month if the government was shut down. There will also likely be a rush to spend money or access benefits like health care before the end of the fiscal year, if people either anticipate a shut down or are uncertain about it.
 - *Anna commented she is frustrated that it appears the 15 members of Senate Majority are obstructing progress for the entire state by not taking up the House proposal, and is very concerned about the state's fiscal future.* Rep. Claman agreed that the situation is a difficult one and many people across the state have voiced the same concerns. He encouraged everyone to continue to contact the Senate and House with their concerns and preferred solutions.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- No one was available this month.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

- Check Turnagain CC's presence on Facebook and NextDoor! Join the Facebook group "Turnagain Community Forum" or watch for posts to Turnagain North and South neighborhoods on NextDoor.
- 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 was held in November and a new slate of officers 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 as soon as we receive one or more candidate nominations.**
- **Federation of Community Councils:** Updates from the May 17 FCC meeting:
 - Housing and Homeless Priorities Survey: the Municipality Health and Human Services Department is working to update their comprehensive housing and homelessness plan, including a public survey of priorities. The board circulated copies of the survey for meeting attendees to fill out. The board will compile members' comments and priorities and share with Muni DHHS. *Note: the board did not receive any comments from attendees at the meeting. Contact the board at tccpresident@yahoo.com if you would like to share thoughts to include in the response to DHHS.*

- The FCC will not hold June or August meetings, but will have a picnic during their normal meeting time on Wednesday, July 19th.
- The Muni is working on an Historic Preservation Plan and writing histories of the original city neighborhoods. Turnagain has a draft to review, and other councils still need a write-up. If you would like to help write any of the neighborhood histories for the plan, contact Kristine Bunnell at the Muni (bunnellkr@muni.org). If you would like to review Turnagain's draft, contact the board for a copy.
- More internal FCC policy changes are pending, will be reviewed at their September meeting.
- **TCC-Sponsored Earthquake Park Cleanup:** About 10 people came to help clean up Earthquake Park on Saturday, May 6th. Thanks to all who attended!
- **TCC-Sponsored Lyn Ary Park Memorial Garden Work Party:** See Announcements.
- **Fish Creek Trail to the Ocean project:** Cathy has been in contact with Josh Durand at the Parks Department. The Department is working on a conceptual route, but needs agency input from AWWU, the Railroad, and also stakeholder/neighbor feedback before releasing this draft. They will also come to the council for input when a clearer conceptual route is developed.
- **Lyn Ary Park/Marston Drive Safety Issues:** A neighbor, Josh Hodes, contacted TCC with concerns about safety concerns at Lyn Ary Park and along the empty portion of Marston Drive. Neighbors were dealing with issues last summer, but many have lost momentum to track the issues this year. Josh provided a list of requests for TCC to endorse, most involving the Parks, Police, or Fire Departments. There was not enough time to prepare this item for tonight's meeting, and the council does not meet formally again until September. The council could call a special meeting in the summer to discuss these issues, inviting the local neighbors to participate as well. Cathy read out the list of recommendations from Josh, and shared what neighbors did last year.

Questions and Comments

- Eric Croft noted that he was working with neighbors last year, and he recalled that they received a key to the gate blocking the parking lot, to block access late at night; more APD patrols in the area; and signage indicating that the park closes an hour earlier than it used to.
- Lorraine Davis commented that she noticed the park hours signs were gone by the end of the summer, she hasn't seen any replaced lately.
- Pat Redmond and another member commented they have noticed occasional activity late at night, especially when the weather is nice, along Marston Drive and in the neighborhood.
- Another member commented that it would be difficult to effectively enforce the beach fires, since people can move up or down the beach area and start a new fire. There may be parking solutions, but the Traffic Department did not allow banning parking on both sides of the street.
- Pat Redmond suggested that since TCC passed a resolution last year regarding this issue, starting with the existing resolution. She recommends that the board start by following up with the existing resolution, that the same issues are happening again this year, and that TCC would like to work with the Muni to address these problems.
- Anna agreed and noted that rather than endorsing specific solutions at this point, the key thing is to keep working on the issue and find out what is possible.
- The council agreed by consent to follow up on this issue, based on the 2016 resolution on this topic, and working with Josh Hodes and other neighbors to resolve it.
- **Traffic Calming Projects on 33rd Ave and McKenzie Drive:** The Traffic Calming Department was planning to install speed cushions (smaller, allows emergency vehicles to go through but smaller vehicles cannot bypass it) but the Fire Department objected to installation of these without testing. They will install a test speed cushion in the Fire Department parking lot for them to discuss.
- **MOU with West High and Romig Middle Schools:** Sandy Rabinowitch provided a brief update on the board's efforts to work with school leadership to mitigate impacts of large events on the neighborhood, as well as a shared parking agreement for events that happen at Dempsey Arena, West High or Romig Middle. The current principal of Romig, Sven Gustafson, will be the principal for West High in the fall. Sandy and Sven discussed meeting in August, once the new principal has been

named, to discuss an updated agreement. The board will work to schedule a meeting and will hopefully present back a new agreement for approval in September. If anyone living in the Hillcrest/Forest Park area would like to participate, contact TCC (tccpresident@yahoo.com)!

- **Fall 2017/2018 TCC Meeting Space:** Turnagain Elementary Library upgrades will be completed by this fall, so the TCC board was planning to move back to the previous meeting space for the next school year. However, budget cuts have meant that starting in the 2017-18 school year, elementary schools will not be available for meeting space after 8 p.m. This means that we need a new meeting location! The board will look at spaces in West High or Romig Middle, one recommendation was the Romig library. Gloria Manni suggested that the new conference room in the tech addition would be a great space, it is on the second floor but has elevator access. However, there are several options and it will be important to make sure that whatever meeting room is chosen, it is easy to get to. The board will work with the school this summer to determine the best location (most accessible, easy to find, and good setup for community meetings) and communicate out to the members in advance of the September meeting. Whatever location is chosen, TCC will continue to meet there at least through the end of 2017-2018 school year.
- **Officers Report | [We are seeking a new President for the 2017 term!](#)**

TED STEVENS AIRPORT RUNWAY 15/33 REHABILITATION PROJECT

- This item was discussed last month, and TCC provided informal input about their questions and concerns during the meeting. Following the meeting, Cathy Gleason followed up on behalf of the board to ask additional questions about the project, including concerns about bluff erosion and noise impacts during construction. The project manager provided answers to the questions, provided as a handout at the meeting. However, she is still concerned that the environmental assessment should address potential vibration impacts on the bluff as well as construction noise impacts.
- Since TCC did not take a formal position or submit comments, and comments are due June 18th, the board is recommending submitting formal comments on the scope of the environmental assessment. Based on the comments discussed in the previous meeting, as well as positions TCC has taken in the past, Cathy Gleason prepared a list of proposed comments/requests for TCC to submit about this project for the current comment period, specifically about the scope of the environmental assessment.
- A public meeting about the project will be held on Thursday, June 22nd, 5 to 7 p.m., at a conference room in the Coast International Inn.
- **Motion by Anna Brawley for TCC to approve and submit the proposed list of comments on the environmental assessment for the Airport's Runway 15/33 Rehabilitation Project. Second by Dan Gleason.**

Discussion

- The group reviewed the list of comments for discussion.
- Cathy shared that she has been following airport studies and erosion at Point Woronzof bluff for several years, and that there hasn't been formal study of any impacts of planes taking off on the bluff. Planes in general are getting larger, and it is unclear whether the activity is causing the erosion to accelerate.
- Another member commented that another cause might be a wake vortex from larger cargo planes when they take off—he cannot say whether it is significant, but it does take small amounts of material. A large windstorm would cause much more damage than this alone, but without good data it is not clear whether these things are having an impact.
- **Amendment:** include airplane wake vortex as a potential contributing factor to erosion and needing further study. Accepted.
- Eric Croft asked whether the UAA study completed recently established any causation for erosion? Cathy noted that they did not establish any causation, but documented the acceleration and that tidal action, wind, and several other factors could be contributing.

- Dan Gleason commented that there is a proposal to install riprap along the coast at the bottom of the bluff, but the cost is extremely high. At the same time, there are several risks to infrastructure and access, including the runway, for not taking action.
- **Vote on motion: 11 yes, 0 no. Motion approved. The board will prepare and submit comments by the June 18th deadline.**

2040 LAND USE PLAN: TCC ADDITIONAL INPUT | CATHY GLEASON

- TCC has already submitted comments on the draft land use plan map, including several comments on Airport land and proposed future expansion of runways. One item not specifically discussed in previous meetings is a proposed setback on airport land between developable areas and the neighborhood, over by Turnagain Bog and the small plane runway north of Lake Hood.
- In 2001, an ordinance was passed identified large portions of the bog as land not to be developed. The ordinance related to a corps wetland permit. The Airport creates its own master plans, and can determine what it wants to do with its land subject to FAA approval, but because the Muni-wide land use plan can put designations and policies on land within the Muni, including the Airport, it is possible for the Muni to communicate intent and guidance for which areas should not be developed. Turnagain Bog is Class A wetlands, and considered the highest-value wetland in the city. TCC has consistently opposed development or fill of the wetland, and submitted comments requesting a larger and more comprehensive protective area for this wetland. This was also previously discussed during the West Anchorage District Plan. These comments were submitted to the Planning Department originally, and were not adopted as recommendations. This idea was not specifically proposed in the comments to the Planning and Zoning Commission, but the plan is now before the Assembly.
- **Motion by Dan Gleason to request the Assembly adopt an overlay zone in the 2040 Land Use Plan Map, consistent with the area on the 2001 ordinance map, protecting Turnagain Bog wetlands from airport development. Second by Pat Redmond.**
Discussion: none
- **Vote on motion: 11 yes, 0 no. Motion approved. The Board will submit these comments to the Assembly and the Planning and Zoning Commission.**

TRAFFIC CALMING ON GALACTICA DRIVE | GALACTICA DRIVE RESIDENTS

- Val Lakeram is a resident on Galactica Drive, she and other neighbors are concerned about the speed of traffic on their street, especially around corners, and many people are using it as a shortcut between Milky Way and Aero. There are also speeding concerns where Galactica turns into Bridle Lane, as well as around Balto Seppala Park. Neighbors on both sides of Aero are concerned.
- Cathy Gleason shared that she spoke with Val and with Tim Myland in the Traffic Calming Department, who recommended that Turnagain Community Council pass a resolution in support of a traffic study for Galactica Drive. If a resolution was passed at this meeting, the department could conduct a study this summer to determine what if any traffic calming measures are appropriate.
- **Motion by Pat Redmond to approve the draft resolution supporting a traffic calming study on Galactica Drive, between Milky Way Drive and Bridle Lane, and Bridle Lane from Galactica Drive to Wendy's Way, including the potential of installing painted crosswalks at key intersections along that section. Second by Dan Gleason.**
Discussion
 - Gloria Manni proposed a new "whereas" clause stating that the subdivision developed in the early 1980s was developed without sidewalks along the roads. Amendment was accepted.
- **Vote on motion: 11 yes, 0 no. Resolution approved as TCC Resolution 2017-05. The Board will prepare the resolution and send it to the Traffic Calming department, who may be able to conduct a traffic study this summer. No action would be taken until the study is completed, but it is the necessary first step to include this project in traffic calming priorities overall.**

LYN ARY PARK MEMORIAL GARDEN | CATHY GLEASON

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- **June 3rd Work Party:** See information above under Announcements.
- **Memorial Plaque Update:** After re-affirming the 2013 resolution supporting the memorial plaques at the garden for the two individuals recognized at the garden (Michelle Byrum and Robert Durst), Cathy Gleason has been speaking with Josh Durand at the Parks Department about following up and installing these plaques. TCC will provide wording for the two plaques, and will seek funding from the Parks Department to pay for the plaques. The Parks Department will install them.
- **Proposed Resolution to Adopt Lyn Ary Memorial Garden:** TCC had intended to formally adopt the Memorial Garden in 2010, but ongoing legal issues regarding the status of the park as public property took much longer to resolve than originally intended. The Board is proposing that TCC re-consider this idea and formally adopt the Memorial Garden
- **Motion by Pat Redmond to consider a resolution in September 2017 to re-affirm the 2010 decision to formally adopt Lyn Ary Park Memorial Garden. Second by Dan Gleason.**

Discussion

Gloria Manni commented that she hopes that the neighbors who live near the park consider volunteering to maintain the park!

- **Vote on motion: 9 yes, 0 no. Motion approved.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Land Use Committee: Anchorage 2040 Land Use Plan Map

- The Planning and Zoning Commission continues to meet to discuss and review the land use plan map, but have not officially voted. They anticipate voting formally to approve the plan at their next meeting on June 13th, at which point the Planning Department would take approximately a month to incorporate the changes and updates to the plan. After a new draft is available, it would be sent to the Assembly for consideration, but community council representatives voted to request postponement of the comment period until the fall, since many councils do not meeting in the summer.
- The comment period for the updated land use plan map draft will be available in October. TCC will continue to track this project and share updates as they are available.

Land Use Committee: Heritage Land Bank 2017 5-Year Plan

- (see Assembly report) The Assembly postponed action on this item until June 13rd. Cathy Gleason will meet with Tim Steele and Eric Croft to share more detailed input and recommendations that TCC has submitted to HLB.

Land Use Committee: FAA Non-Directional Beacon HLB Lease

- The lease was formally approved by HLB. TCC had submitted comments to support this project.

Land Use Committee: Anchorage Freight Mobility Study

- The AMATS Technical Advisory Committee did not accept TCC's recommendations to remove the proposed upgrades to Northern Lights from Nathaniel Court to Postmark Drive. TCC submitted the same comments to the Policy Committee.
- This item will be taken up at the next AMATS Policy Committee meeting on Thursday, June 22nd.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A member commented that he has noticed that either the Muni or the state have been replacing street lights along Northern Lights—several had been burned out or flickering.

CLOSING

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.
- The next regular meeting will be **Thursday, September 7, 2017**. Location to be determined.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary Anna Brawley on 6/3/2017.

Minutes approved by Turnagain Community Council at its regular meeting on 9/7/2017.