
TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting | April 5, 2018 | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

West High / Romig CTE, Student Center | 1700 Hillcrest Drive

Chaired by Cathy Gleason, TCC Vice President & Acting President

WELCOME & APPROVE AGENDA, MINUTES

- The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. About 35 people (members and guests) attended.
- The April agenda was reviewed:
 - **Motion by Anna Brawley to approve the agenda. Second by Sandy Rabinowitch.**
 - **Vote on motion: all yes, 0 no. Agenda approved.**
- The March meeting minutes were available for review and approval.
 - **Motion by Dan Gleason to approve the previous meeting's minutes. Second by Gloria Manni.**
 - **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.*
 - **TCC June 7 Meeting:** TCC will not be meeting at West High in June, since school will be over and the facilities will be closed. As in previous years, we will be meeting at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church on Wisconsin and 40th, near Lake Hood Elementary. The May meeting will still be at the same West High location.

In addition, TCC has reserved West High CTE room 152 (the same room we meet in now) for the upcoming 2018-2019 school year, and will adjust our meetings times as needed if they conflict with holidays like New Year's. We will have the same room issue in June 2019, and will plan to meet at a different location for that meeting as well.
 - **People Mover Bus Route Changes:** There are some changes to the People Mover route system, routes 11, 21, and 31. All of these changes are in Mountain View and Government Hill, and will not impact routes in the TCC area. See the flyer available in the meeting or in the handouts packet online for more information.
 - **Anchorage Equal Rights Commission:** The commission published its annual report, and there are copies available from the commission as well as online. Please contact the Equal Rights Commission for more information.
 - **Proposed Plat Removal of Property at 42nd Ave. and Beechcraft Drive.** The plat removes language related to a driveway, and does not make substantive physical changes to the property. The TCC board was contacted about this project a few months ago and has since reviewed the application and decided not to bring this issue forward, since it appears to be a minor change and the owner later learned a community is not required under Title 21 for this type of change. There is a hearing on May 2nd and the packet is available from TCC.

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: visit www.communitycouncils.org and scroll down to "Sign Up"!
- **Federation of Community Councils:** Cathy Gleason gave updates from the March meeting:
 - **Employee personnel policy changes:** Delegates formally approved some changes to the existing employee policies.
 - **Officer Elections:** Next month the delegates will select officers for the upcoming term. Officers can be elected from among the community council delegates.
 - **Updates from elected officials:** Dick Traini, Forrest Dunbar (Assembly) and Dave Donley (School Board).

Turnagain Community Council

- **First Quarter TCC Financial Report:** Gloria Manni reported on TCC's current finances. We currently have \$1770.07 in the bank, and earned \$0.22 in interest this quarter. The only disbursement was \$50 for a donation in memory of Marty Smith, who passed away earlier this year. He was involved with Anchorage West Little League, so TCC's donation was made in his name and in recognition of his good work in the neighborhood.
 - Cathy reminded the group that most of TCC's money was earned several years ago when Turnagain took on the project of curbside recycling in the neighborhood, before this was available from the Muni. TCC does not currently have income, but has made occasional disbursements such as the donation this year.
 - Gloria also commented that she learned recently, Spenard Community Council has over \$30,000 in funds, from previous events and fundraisers, and reaching out to local businesses. She suggested that the council consider ways for TCC to raise money for local projects, as putting in some funds (however small) can communicate the neighborhood's willing to invest in projects important to the community. Spenard CC also collects voluntary dues and has for several years, this is not something TCC has done in the past.
- Cathy Gleason reported that she submitted an online nomination for Turnagain Street Rehabilitation (TCC's #1 MOA Roads & Drainages project) to be included in the AMATS 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the region's short-range project plan for transportation improvements. Now that improvements have been made to Turnagain Boulevard, the southern portion of that corridor, the northern portion will be the next priority, pending available funding.
- **Community Councils Crime Task Force:** Dan Gleason shared that he and fellow TCC member Lorraine Davis attended the first meeting of the Community Councils Crime Task Force, organized by Midtown Community Council. However, the original organizer of this committee, Ric Davidge, was afterwards appointed to the statewide public safety task force with state, federal and local partners. Since Ric was chair of this task force, the group will meet at least once more next month and determine whether they have enough interest to continue.
- **TCC Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Ranking Committee:** Each year the Municipality asks community councils to submit their priorities for capital improvement projects for the coming year, and ranking projects on the list. TCC forms a committee annually to review the list and make recommendations for TCC to approve. In addition to TCC board members, all TCC members are welcome to serve on this committee. Contact tccpresident@yahoo.com to sign up.
- **Lyn Ary Park Memorial Garden:** See previous meeting minutes for details. The Council has discussed adopting the garden, which involves regular maintenance and caretaking of that area, but has not heard significant interest by Council. If you live in the area and would like to volunteer to maintain this garden, please consider joining the committee! Contact tccpresident@yahoo.com to sign up. Cathy Gleason has been collecting names of volunteers to help maintain the park.
- **Officers Report** | No additional reports.

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

- **Sen. Mia Costello (via phone)**
 - Senator Costello was not available for tonight's meeting.
 - Please call or email her office with any questions, comments, or anything you would like to discuss. Phone: (907) 465-4968 Email: senator.mia.costello@akleg.gov.
- **Rep. Matt Claman (via phone)**
 - It is officially Day 80 of the session.
 - The House passed the operating budget, and the Senate is working on the budget now.
 - The House budget includes a \$1,600 Permanent Fund Dividend, a compromise among all members after much discussion.
 - There is continued focus on safety, including protections for hospital workers, portions of the Governor's Safe Alaska plan, and the gun violence protective order bill introduced by Rep. Tarr, which has been contentious.

- Please contact Rep. Claman’s office with any questions or comments!
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Gloria Manni asked about the proposal to pass a two-year education budget? She supports this idea, and wants to support adequate funding for schools.* Rep. Claman shared that the budget is still being considered, along with discussions about tracking the allocation with inflation in the future to ensure schools aren’t underfunded in the long term.
 - *Nezir Alili asked about the gun violence protective order bill: he would like to see additional protections against bump stocks, high capacity magazines, and other firearms features. How can this be passed?* Rep. Claman noted that the goal is to find a compromise bill that will pass the Legislature, so they are working on a bill.
 - *Cathy Gleason asked about the status of SB 63, smokefree workplace bill?* The bill is still sitting in House Rules, and there has been considerable pressure on the chair, Rep. LeDoux, to bring this bill to the House floor. There is a lot of interest in seeing the bill pass, and broad support for its passage, but it is still unknown at this time.

ASSEMBLY REPORT | MEMBER ERIC CROFT

- **Liquor Licenses:** The Assembly has been reviewing liquor license applications, renewals and new ones. There are two main mechanisms the Muni has for imposing conditions on licenses: first, conditions on the license itself, which are recommended by the Muni to the ABC Board; and second, local special land use permits and other land use regulations such as zoning.
- **Public Safety Committee:** Eric is chair of the committee, and their next meeting will be Tuesday, May 16 at City Hall, 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. On the agenda will be a presentation from members of the Criminal Justice Commission, who have worked on statewide criminal justice reforms, and well as continued discussion about heroin and opioid deaths. The committee is looking at how opioids move through the system.
- **Homeless Camps:** The Muni is gearing up to address homeless camps this summer, anticipating more activity with the warm weather. The Assembly worked with the ACLU to determine an appropriate number of days for notice prior to cleaning up the camp, from 15 days to 10 days. This, along with more resources toward cleanup this year, should result in swifter action this coming summer to deal with homeless camps.
- **Municipal Election:** Vote by mail has been in the works for a few years, after the Muni considered the fact that vote by mail has been successful in other communities, and also the Muni’s voting machines are very outdated and are not being serviced or produced anymore, so they could not be easily replaced. Out of 200,000 ballots, the Muni was anticipating a 25% to 30% voter turnout rate, but have seen about 90,000 ballots returned, almost 50% return! It will still be several days before the election can be certified, to ensure mail-in ballots are counted, but this has been a success so far.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Elaine Hulse asked about whether the committee is also addressing opioids and legal medications, in addition to heroin?* Yes, this is certainly being discussed. Legal medications are often seen as a “gateway” for people to become addicted, and/or people have extra doses of medication that they give away or sell to others. It is difficult to address the sale of legal drugs versus illegal, but there are some options. One is to look at secure drop boxes to deposit unused and unwanted medications.
 - *Sandy Rabinowitch had feedback on the voting process: first, pay for return postage to make it easier to return ballots; make it clear what the stub (the piece you rip off the ballot before mailing) is for, and why people should keep it; and hiding the signature on the outside of the ballot, for security reasons.* Return postage would be a great addition to the process, but is difficult to either pay an extra \$100,000 for postage on all ballots, or use the business reply mail system to pay for only ballots are returned, but these do not have a specific postmark so it is difficult to set a cutoff for receipt of ballots. The Muni is looking at ways to improve the process for the next election.

Turnagain Community Council

- *Jonathan Galin commented that he's seen more people panhandling, and small groups of people panhandling, on street corners, posing a public safety issue.* It is certainly a problem, but they may not be doing anything illegal, and therefore cannot be arrested or kicked off the street. Eric has noticed fewer people on the street than in previous months, but it is still a problem. He also noted that generally, substance abuse treatment alone has limited efficacy if someone returns to their old situation or otherwise has nowhere to live, but Housing First and permanent supportive housing are very effective. It is important to find more ways to house people, and help them with recovery over the long term. Sending them to prison is an not effective solution for dealing with mental health or substance abuse issues.
- *Cathy Gleason commented that the Assembly will be hearing the HLB Work Program and 5 Year Management Plan on May 8, and she would like to share TCC's comments in an Assembly work session and discuss input by community councils (Rabbit Creek and Hillside also have comments). Would the Assembly consider having a work session prior to the hearing?* Eric will review TCC's comments and consider requesting a work session.
- *Cathy also asked the status of the accessory dwelling unit ordinance, she has not seen updates lately?* Eric is not sure of the status, he will look into this and report back.

MAYOR'S REPORT | SHARON LANE

- **3-1-1:** The Muni has a new non-emergency line for APD, with several options for reporting issues to APD. There are multiple options in the menu so you can get routed to the appropriate place for your call: APD, street maintenance, impounded vehicles, code enforcement, and other issues. Call 3-1-1 first and get your questions answered!
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Gloria Manni asked whether anyone who wants to report a camp, should they call the 3-1-1 number or post information online on ANC Works?* Either is still fine, but calling 3-1-1 may be faster than posting information online.
 - *Anna Brawley thanked the Muni, specifically street maintenance, for their prompt response in regard to a clogged drain at her street corner.* Sharon will pass these thanks along, and encourages others to report issues they see in the neighborhood so they can be taken care of!
 - *Dan Gleason commented that his neighbor has not had a quick response to a drainage issue at Northern Lights and Wendy's Way, what should they do to get a response?* Sharon recommended making a call to 3-1-1, and if you don't get a response, call the Mayor's office.
 - *Cathy Gleason commented that the Parks and Recreation Department staff are not returning her calls, and she would like a more consistent response, as a resident and a community council president.* Sharon will share this back.

AIRPORT REPORT | JOHN JOHANSEN

- *See airport updates on the handout provided at the meeting or online at: www.anchorageairport.com*
- **Job Fair:** There will be a job fair on Saturday, April 7, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the North terminal. Employers represented will include the Airport itself, as well as airlines and other businesses that operate in the area. The event is free, and parking at the North Terminal lot will be free.
- **North-South 15-33 Runway Rehabilitation Project:** This 2-year construction project will begin this summer, and conclude the summer of 2019. The project will upgrade the North-South runway to current standards, including widening the available airfield. This will impact flight patterns for both summers when a portion of the runway is shut down for construction, which will primarily impact residents in Spenard and Midtown, in terms of additional noise. This summer, only the southern portion of the runway will be closed, so smaller planes can still use it but not the larger planes. The following summer, the entire runway will be shut down for the season and will not be used.
- **Airport Environmental Summary Report:** The Airport has been implementing environmental policies like recycling, and last year they diverted about 350,000 pounds of waste through recycling. Much of the material was scrap metal.

- **Aircraft Firefighter Training:** There will be a training May 2 and 3, there will be smoke in the area on the southern portion of the airfield.
- **Airport Cleanup:** The annual spring cleanup will be Saturday, May 5, starting 10 a.m. and concluding at noon with a BBQ lunch. Bring family and friends, help clean up!
- **Tower:** The team is continuing to work on planning for this project, but the initial bid for the cost of the project was higher than anticipated, so the Airport will not be building this summer and likely not next summer. The tower is at the Chugach substation near Point Woronzof parking lot, and will not be able to place the tower on existing cleared land, and will therefore be clearing about 5,000 square feet of trees on the property to make room for the tower. The tower has a radio tower with a fenced lot, and improve the emergency communication systems between the Airport and local emergency response. The Airport will return to TCC at a later date with more details, when they are known.
- **Communications Plan:** The Airport has prepared a draft and proposed changes to the Airport Communications Plan, which was last formally updated in 2014. Council comments will be due April 15, and the Airport will schedule a meeting with the 3 neighboring councils (Spenard, Turnagain and Sand Lake) after that point to work out any differences. [Note: this item is further on the agenda, consideration and approval of draft TCC amendments to this plan].
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Sandy Rabinowitch asked whether the Airport has considered more energy efficient systems like escalators that have auto-shutoff features when not in use?* John commented that they may be a good idea, one safety concern would be if an escalator suddenly stops or starts, but he will look into this.
 - *Sandy also commented regarding the issue of vehicles driving up onto the Coastal Trail in the winter and parking on the grass or trail, he alerted the Airport to this issue in the winter, and they suggested also coordinating with Parks and Recreation to find solutions to this issue. He also pointed out that he had no response from Parks and Rec*
 - *Cathy Gleason commented that erosion of the bluff continues to be a big issue, would the Airport consider shorter foliage like bushes to control erosion, not trees?* John pointed out that visibility would still be an issue particularly in the summer, but lower-growing foliage may be helpful. However, Sandy pointed out that the parking issues are winter only, so any foliage would need to be tall enough to be seen above the snow to be effective.

AWWU SEPPALA SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT | AWWU STAFF

- The project is to replace buried pipe near Turnagain Elementary and on Seppala Drive: the current pipe is in disrepair and because it is not insulated and is not buried very far underground, it tends to freeze in the winter.
- The project is currently out to bid, with anticipated award of a bid in May, and construction would begin in the summer, after school is out and before the next school year begins in August.
- There will be a detour on Seppala Drive during construction, going to 29th and Wisconsin, and diversion onto Northern Lights. There will be a bypass system handling sewage flow from customers while the system is being worked on, so residents shouldn't be impacted beyond traffic rerouting.
- Please contact AWWU if you have any questions about this project, staff provided a project handout (see handout in TCC Handouts file posted on the website for a scanned version).
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Jonathan Galin asked how long the construction work will last?* The construction period will likely be 2 months of actual work, but may need to be paused periodically depending on the contractor's schedule, so the timeline is to begin in late May and complete by August 22 when school starts.
 - *Nezir asked how long the pipes are anticipated to last, when would they need to be replaced?* The new pipe is insulated PVC and manholes, AWWU has been using these for at least 10 years and they do not corrode like metal pipes. AWWU builds to have these systems for at least 30 years, and they may last longer, it is unknown exactly how long they might hold.

- *Anna asked how common this issue is, older pipes in Anchorage that freeze?* Pipes freezing in the winter is a common issue, but depends on how deep or shallow the pipe is relative to the surface—shallower pipes are more exposed to cold air and frozen soil, and tend to freeze, deeper pipes are more insulated naturally.
- *Elaine commented that there are some natural dips in that area. She also asked what earthquake safety features the pipes have?* The pipes have some flexibility, this is certainly part of the design process, since we live in an earthquake-prone area. Above a certain magnitude it is hard to predict the impacts, however.
- *Dan Gleason asked some technical questions about how the pipes will be stabilized and installed.* The engineers addressed those technical questions.
- *Jonathan Galin asked about another project to upgrade the underpass of Northern Lights and the railroad overpass?* Other council members commented that this is a state project and therefore will depend on DOT&PF getting funding and being authorized to carry out this project. AWWU is not directly involved, unless there are impacts to their systems.
- *Cathy Gleason asked about potential impacts to the Methodist Church landscaping and foliage?* There may be some lawn damaged and will be replaced, and any trees that are removed to do the work are replaced in-kind by AWWU (a younger tree that will take time to mature, but still replacing with the same type of tree).
- *Another member complimented AWWU on the drainage work next to Northern Lights beside Fish Creek.* AWWU staff commented that the Railroad required closing off the area along a trail, and putting up a fence to block off the area. The Railroad stated that AWWU required putting up the fence.

HLB 2018 WORK PROGRAM & FIVE-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN | CATHY GLEASON

- Cathy Gleason shared that she submitted comments to HLB, similar to those sent in the past and especially regarding HLB's land at the Airport. She also submitted an inquiry about public notice to community councils, and was able to confirm that notice was not being provided directly to councils, only through the FCC mailing list which was not always reaching the relevant councils in time to comment before the deadline. The HLB Advisory Board agreed that this needed to be addressed and that HLB staff should send notice directly to councils in the future.
- The parcels of interest to TCC are the HLB-owned parcels on Airport land, designated as "park or natural area" on the recently approved 2040 Land Use Plan. In the past, these parcels were considered potentially part of a land trade between the Airport and the Muni, but the Airport is on record saying they have no interest in these particular parcels and they are not important for operations. TCC has requested the Muni transfer these lands from HLB to the Parks Department, but previous requests have run into various barriers from Parks and Rec staff and others. Cathy and Dan Gleason have also personally advocated for this transfer to happen, and have offered to cover the administrative costs associated with transfer of these parcels.
- Approving the comments Cathy submitted on behalf of TCC was on the March agenda, but the group postponed this item to today's meeting. The council needs to retroactively ratify the comments that have been submitted on February 6.
- **Motion by Nezir Alili to ratify TCC comments on HLB Work Program and Five Year Management Plan. Second by Joan McKinnon.**
- **Discussion:**
 - *Another member asked where the bridge that was recently replaced is in relation to these parcels?* The group looked at the TCC boundary map and pointed out the parcels in question. Part of HLB's property is the Clitheroe Center, but north, west and south of that property is designated park land already. If this land was transferred, the portion of the Clitheroe Center would presumably be platted out as a separate property.
 - Eric Croft commented that this issue will continue to be disputed, whether or not the Airport needs this land in the future. He urges caution about assuming this is done. However, the

group clarified that the parcels still in dispute are Point Woronzof Park further north, these particular parcels do not appear to be in dispute any longer.

- Cathy requested that Eric Croft (and Tim Steele) continue to be involved and track this issue, including the work session she proposed earlier, and have a discussion with the Airport, HLB, community councils, and others to come to agreement on the parcels in question.
- **Vote: 14 yes, 0 opposed. The board will update the comments to reflect TCC's ratification and re-transmit to HLB, the Assembly, and other relevant parties before the May 8 hearing.**

AIRPORT COMMUNICATIONS PLAN UPDATE | CATHY GLEASON

- The Airport Communications Plan is now being updated. The Airport released its draft changes and is requesting Sand Lake, Spenard and Turnagain CCs do the same by April 15th. TCC comments are based on previous recommended changes submitted to Airport in 2016, and Cathy has identified additional comments that TCC may want to make in light of the Airport's proposed changes, and in response to issues regarding public notice of the lease of Lake Hood float plane slips.
- Cathy shared background: the Muni and the Airport formed a committee in 2009 to draft a communication plan to ensure better community relations between the Airport, the Muni, and community councils. The plan was included in the Ted Stevens Airport Master Plan and has not been updated since its original adoption, other than some draft updates that were never finalized.
- In addition to this work, the new airport manager would like to meet with community councils in May to discuss the communications plan in more detail, prior to its passage.
- Significant changes in the document:
 - Community councils asked for notification of leases or pending leases at the Airport, which the Airport did not agree to do during the original plan development. Following the issue earlier this year with the lease at Lake Hood, the Airport has begun to send notice of other leases. TCC proposes formalizing this in the new communications plan.
 - Current state regulations only require posting through their website (GovDelivery) and a physical location on Airport property, which is currently the North terminal and not easily accessible. TCC proposes formalizing other methods of notice that are more appropriate for the community: surrounding community councils, at a better location at the Airport, at the location of the proposed lease.
 - One overall concern Cathy brought to the group's attention, is the original plan was intended to be a collaborative effort among all parties. The updated plan's proposed changes from the Airport re-characterize the plan as the Airport's plan, and proposed to be renamed "Airport Outreach Plan." She hopes that this new plan can also be collaborative and reflects all stakeholders' interests.
- **Motion by Nezir Alili to approve TCC comments and proposed changes to the draft Airport Communications Plan. Second by Dan Gleason.**
- **Discussion:**
 - Elaine Hulse proposed, on page 1 item 2, changing the word "fine" to "adequate." Accepted as a friendly amendment.
- **Vote: 14 yes, 0 opposed. The Board will send these comments to the Airport by April 15, and will communicate back to the council about scheduling a meeting with the new airport manager to discuss the communications plan.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS: LAND USE, LICENSE & PERMIT REVIEW COMMITTEE

- **MOA Stream Setback Ordinance:** The Planning and Zoning Commission is still deliberating on this item, the public hearing has been closed but action has been postponed to May 7th. TCC did not have major recommendations and most of the streams in this area are proposed for the minimal stream setback since they are in an urban area (25 feet), but Hillside residents have raised the issue that the current stream setback in the Hillside District Plan is 50 feet, and this new plan would reduce that back to 25 feet of non-disturbed area, and another 25 feet where more uses would allowed than are now.

Turnagain Community Council

- **Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance, Amendment Updates:** There is no update, this has not been scheduled for the Assembly yet—the Land Use Committee will continue to track this item.
- **Anchorage Historic Preservation Plan:** The Muni has released their draft Historic Preservation Plan, which includes recommendations for protecting Anchorage’s historic resources, and a series of context statements (background/history) about each area of town, including Turnagain. Cathy had asked Kristine Bunnell which sections would be of particular interest to TCC or neighborhoods generally. She had recommended looking at the Introduction and Sections 6, 7, 8, 9. TCC will hold a Land Use Committee meeting to review the draft.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- No public comments.

CLOSING

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.
- The next regular meeting will be on **Thursday, May 3, 2018.**

Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary Anna Brawley on 4/6/18.

Minutes approved by Turnagain Community Council at its regular meeting on 5/3/18.