

Minutes of September 8, 2005 Turnagain Community Council Meeting
7 p.m. Turnagain Elementary School Library.

I. Introductions/Announcements/Minutes

TCC President Mark Wiggin made Introductions of Officers, Board Members and Assembly members.

Mark asked attendees to sign in since under a recent TCC Bylaw amendment past attendance is required in order to vote in TCC elections.

Mark passed out subcommittee sign-up sheets for two important matters to the TCC. The first is the issue of Traffic Calming Measures throughout the TCC. The second was the development of the Turnagain Slide Area (Marston Dr./Foraker Dr. /Water/Sewer Improvement District). Mark urged members of the TCC to get involved early, so that their concerns could be incorporated into the projects.

Mark announced that Breck Tostevin had volunteered to serve as Interim Sec./Treasurer and thanked Doreen Schenkenberger for all of her efforts in the position.

Cathy Gleason reported on a number of matters. She announced that the latest TCC Aluminum Can Recycling Pick-Up check covered the last four months and came to \$195.67. She noted that Saturday, September 10 was the next pick-up day (changed from the first Sat. because of Labor Day weekend) and encouraged neighborhood participation.

The West High School/Romig Middle School Renovation Assessment Study Public Meeting set for September 14 has been postponed and that a later date would be announced by the Anchorage School District. Contact Michael Logan, ASD Facilities Support at 348-5207 for information.

Cathy announced that the Anchorage Long-Range Transportation Plan was undergoing its first revision since 1991. On Monday, September 19, 2005, from 5 to 7 p.m. is a joint public meeting of the Anchorage Assembly and the Planning & Zoning Commission to seek public comment on the Draft Long-Range Transportation Plan. Written comments are due September 26. More information is available from www.muni.org/transplan.

The Title 21 City Land Use Code is out for public review. Comments are due on September 16. Public Review Draft #1 can be reviewed on the Planning Department's Web site at http://www.muni.org/planning/prj_Title21.cfm.

Mark introduced Doe Anderson who is the Northwest District manager for Parks & Recreation for the Municipality. She thanked TCC members for participating in the Lyn Ary Park “Clean and Green” painting project this summer.

Pat Redmond moved to approve the minutes from the May 2005 TCC meeting. The motion was approved.

II. Assembly Report:

Assembly member Dan Sullivan reported that the Assembly has been working on a number of matters.

They have adopted regulation changes regarding what towing business operators can charge within the municipality.

Taxes were approved for the Downtown Improvement District and boundary changes are being considered.

The Bike Helmet Ordinance was approved, which includes a warning letter for an initial violation and municipal participation in the Providence Medical Center’s free helmet program.

The Assembly is working on a Methamphetamine Precursor Ordinance that would involve registration of individuals buying large amounts of cold medicine that are components used in making the illegal street drug methamphetamine. The issue for the Assembly, he noted, was the amount of cold medicine that should be the trigger for registration.

He noted that the Assembly was considering a conditional use permit application for the over-eighteen-year-old Adult entertainment establishment “Fantasies on Fifth,” which would move the Setter’s Bar liquor license upstairs.

He noted the upcoming hearing on the Long-Range Transportation Plan. A major issue was the connection of the Glenn and Seward Highways via a sunken freeway along Ingra/Gambell Streets with gardens and sidewalks above the freeway as has been developed in other cities.

Preliminary budget work was underway. Assembly member Coffey had proposed a municipal sales tax to reduce property taxes. He noted that he was exploring whether a sales tax could be used to completely replace property taxes.

Assembly member Pamela Jennings spoke to a number of additional issues.

The Bike Helmet Ordinance applies to children under 15 and that laws in other locations have been shown to increase helmet use.

She thanked TCC members for participating in the Parks and Recreation Clean and Green Program at Lyn Ary Park in July.

A zoning change for the old seafood processing plant was approved that will allow construction of a sports dome to house several soccer, baseball and field sports.

Municipal Code Enforcement now has one number 343-4141 that will provide you with a case number with which you can track a complaint.

She is on the Title 21 Committee that meets every Friday until December and welcomed TCC member comments on the Title 21 draft Land Use Code.

Residents brought up the following issues: more blight seen in neighborhoods and large puddle of water along bike trail due to W. Northern Lights road construction.

III. Legislative Report.

A Representative from Sen. Hollis French's office noted he was out of town and was unable to attend. She also noted that Rep. Ethan Berkowitz would like input on concerns about natural gas pipeline issues.

IV. Traffic Calming Study

Mark Wiggins introduced new Municipal Traffic Engineer Bob Kniefel. He discussed the Traffic Calming Study that is proposed for the TCC area — one of three neighborhoods in the city chosen. The Assembly allocated \$500,000 for implementation of traffic calming solution, but that is for all three areas. A contractor would be hired by January to conduct the study. Data would be gathered in the winter and spring and the study completed in May. The traffic calming study will gather data and analyze available tools to slow traffic. The first step is scoping the issues and identifying specific areas of concern. He invited TCC members to submit scoping comments to the Traffic Department Page of the Muni's Website. He noted that there are procedures on the Website to begin the process to petition for temporary speed humps.

TCC Members from the Turnagain Parkway area expressed safety concerns the need to implement long-term solutions to speeding traffic along Turnagain Parkway. Tom Chapple asked if Turnagain Parkway could be prioritized for work in the summer of 2006. Other area residents express interests in volunteer labor to

implement needed solutions. The response was that there's no guarantee Turnagain Parkway will be the first project funded. Specific data on how effective the temporary traffic calming elements put in this summer were not available, but he could come to next month's meeting with them.

In closing, Bob Kniefel encouraged TCC members to review and comment on the Long-Range Transportation Plan, since it is a critical way to influence the future development of Anchorage transportation infrastructure.

V. Turnagain Slide Area Redevelopment.

A presentation and discussion has held concerning the Road/Water/Sewer Improvement District Project and Pump Station 10 Upgrade Project being done by the Muni and AWWU. Mark Coburn, Project Manager from VEI Consultants, a contractor for the Municipality, and Brian Baus from AWWU spoke.

Mark Coburn said that his firm had been issued a notice to proceed in July 2005. They have done survey and geotechnical work. They have found lots of jumbled debris from the 1964 earthquake in the area. His firm is tasked with developing a Design Study Report for the road/water/sewer and Pump Station Upgrade projects. He indicated that there would be a September 29 Public Meeting at the Turnagain Elementary School Library. At the end of October will be the Draft Design Study Report. This will include information on the sidewalks, roads, parking lanes, and connecting trails. Connecting trails to the Coastal Trail will be impacted during construction and they are working with the Parks and Rec. Dept. Another public meeting will be held on the Draft Design Study. 65% of the preliminary design for the project will be done by mid-January 2006, followed by a public meeting in February. Final Design would be in April 2006 to bid. July 2006 construction would begin and continue through the summer of 2007. Paving would occur in 2007.

Brian Baus from AWWU explained that a location for the pump station has been chosen; it is at the western end, outside of the housing development boundary. Design is at 35%; final design on the pump station will be in February. He explained that it was located to utilize gravity flow and that while the footprint of the natural gas emergency generator for the pump station was relatively small (20X24 feet), the project would involve large excavation to place holding tanks underground. The plan was to landscape, fence and gate the pump station for security. Brian gave his contact information as Brian.Baus@awwu at 564-2765.

Mark Wiggins asked that a traffic plan for the construction be part of the Draft Design Study. Mark also asked for a 6 line milestones for the project that can be

provided to TCC members. Questions were asked as to where all the construction traffic would go. Cathy Gleason stated that the minutes from the TCC meeting in May indicated that the construction traffic would not go down Turnagain Parkway. Mark Colburn indicated he did not know at this point where the construction traffic routes would be except that traffic could not go west on Northern Lights since it was not a truck route. Residents expressed concern about the narrowness of Marston Dr. Other residents expressed safety concerns about children's use of Lyn Ary Park and construction traffic on Turnagain Parkway. Others expressed concerns about damage to local roads from heavy trucks.

Bob Durst asked how the TCC could affect the impacts from the later private housing construction on the planned 21 lots in the redeveloped area. Brian Baus indicated that would be a Title 21 issue. Other residents asked about Coastal Trail access during the construction. The west access by the pump station site would likely be closed because of the construction.

VI. DOWL/Municipal Review of West Northern Lights/Aero Road Projects

Steve Gillete, MOA Project Manager, Matthew Korshen, from DOWL Engineering and ?? from Quality Asphalt Paving provided an update to the road projects. The schedule has changed because utility work took longer than projected along WNL. Construction is broken down into five phases; Westwood to Aero is the only phase of WNL that will be done this year. Curb work on the east side of Aero has been completed. Remaining curb, sidewalk and paving of Aero should be done by end of this week. Storm drains will be in by the end of September. A temporary bike path along WNL will be installed and all road areas will be paved over the winter.

WNL from Westwood to Westwood is closed completely because excavation has been harder than anticipated. This should only last one more week.. Speed bumps were put in neighborhood streets to mitigate the detour traffic. The job will be 65% complete by the end of September. Work has been really tight with lots of utility work. All utility work is done except Chugach and they will be done by the end of Sept.

Tree removal has been a paramount issue; they heard more complaints about that than anything else. The design was modified to avoid some trees. Lots of trees were cut, but they tried to minimize it as much as possible and DOWL worked to encourage utility companies not to clear-cut trees. \$1 million in landscaping is budgeted. Tree landscaping will be concentrated east of McKenzie; mostly shrubs are planned west of McKenzie. Cathy Gleason stated that the Advisory Committee will be revisiting the landscape plan and more trees will need to be planted to

compensate for the amount cut. More money can be put in the Road Bond next April to cover additional landscaping costs.

Work is expected to start again around April 15, depending on snowmelt and ground thaw, and end in August. Yards will be reseeded at end of the job next year.

Neighbors along Northern Lights expressed concerns about large standing water puddles in front of their driveways preventing access. Also, Aero intersections at Westland, 30th and Galactica have huge rocks and potholes and are very difficult to navigate. DOWL said it was difficult to maintain road during rains since they can't use heavy equipment. Utility spikes have also been experienced by residents.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.