

Turnagain Community Council Minutes
Regular Meeting March 2, 2006

Mark Wiggin, TCC President, called the meeting to order and made opening remarks.

I. Legislative Report.

State Senator Hollis French gave the legislative report. Senator French discussed the hearings on the Governor's proposed Oil Production Tax and the issues raised during those discussions. He noted that the Legislature would be hearing from its experts next week concerning the proposals. The gas pipeline deal will not be passed until the oil tax bill is passed. The Legislature is also considering a constitutional amendment to reverse the Alaska Supreme Court decision requiring benefits to same-sex partners.

II. Approval of Minutes.

The January and February 2006 meeting minutes were approved.

III. Assembly Report.

Assemblymember Pamela Jennings gave an Assembly report.

She noted that the Assembly passed a large domestic animal ordinance that provides for setbacks for horses to reduce impacts to neighbors. The setbacks are 25 feet or 75 feet from the nearest house or 10 feet of vegetation. Existing uses were not grandfathered but could apply for a conditional use permit.

The Assembly also passed an ordinance filling a loophole in the mechanized land clearing ordinance. The loop hole allowed land to be subdivided into two-acre lots and then allowed clearing of larger acreage, in two-acre phases, without a permit. That loophole was closed.

Action on the Assisted Living Facility Ordinance was postponed. There are two proposals: one would allow for up to 6 residents and the other up to 8 in areas with residential zoning. The members are trying to work out the differences. Anchorage currently has 300 assisted living facilities.

The proposed ballot measures for a 50% runoff and instant run-offs in Mayoral municipal elections were not acted on prior to the April ballot deadline.

The Assembly will hear on March 28 the proposed changes to the Municipal Sign Ordinance. Assemblymember Dan Sullivan's proposal "S" version would grandfather big pole signs and allow pennants, whirly gigs, and tethered balloons as permitted advertising. In response to a question, Pamela Jennings noted that big pole signs have a 75 year expected life-span. The S version of the ordinance will be heard on March 12 before the Planning & Zoning Commission.

The Assembly renamed Conifer Park the Dave Rose Park in honor of his contributions to the community and renamed the museum, the Anchorage Museum at the Rasmusen Center in honor of the Rasmusen family's contributions to the museum and the community.

She discussed several bond issues on the April ballots. One would approve a nonexclusive lease of Russian Jack Springs to a youth group to develop a summer golf program for disadvantaged youth. The school bond on the ballot would provide \$90 million in funds for Anchorage School construction, \$62 million of the debt is reimbursable by the State.

She was asked about the sales tax measure on the ballot. She explained that it was Assemblyman Coffee's proposal although he wanted to study the issue another year to garner support and iron out ambiguities in its application. It would be a 3% sales tax on goods excluding food, prescription drugs and includes a cap of \$200. It would take 30-40 municipal employees to implement the tax and \$3 million in costs. The proposal will require a 60% approval by voters.

She also noted that the National Veterans Wheelchair Games to be held in Anchorage July 3-8, 2006 is looking for volunteers to assist. See www.wheelchairgamesanchorage.net

Dave Nyman asked about how the community could create a West Anchorage District Plan.

IV. APD Liaison

Anchorage Police Department Sgt. Cindi Stanton discussed the TCC Community Council 2004 and 2005 crime statistics she passed out last month. . (These are posted on the TCC Web site). These statistics are based upon calls that resulted in police reports and do not include all calls for assistance. She noted that thefts and vandalism were up from '04 to '05 and that car thefts had doubled in that amount of time. She stated that many car thefts are opportunistic, when keys are left in the vehicle and the vehicle is left running.. One member noted recent car break-ins at the Connors' Bog Dog Park. Cindi Stanton said she would look into the situation and ask for extra patrol.

V. Marston/Foraker and Pump Station 10 Development.

Bruce Robson, on contract with AWWU, spoke about progress since the last community meeting in January on the Pump Station 10 project. The January meeting notes are on the TCC Web page. AWWU is reformatting the September 29 meeting responses to community questions on the project. Goal is to have that done by the end of March.

The AWWU Web site for the Pump Station 10 site is being redesigned since it cannot handle long comments.

A 65% design of the Pump Station 10 project will be presented at a May Public Meeting. AWWU is doing a more detailed review of construction routes and impacts to streets. AWWU is coordinating with the traffic division and with DOWL engineers on traffic calming.

The Municipality has just been served with a lawsuit regarding ownership of Tract B. Property owners south and above Tract B feel they have ownership of Tract B. When asked if the lawsuit could alter the location of the new pump station, the response was that AWWU was pretty firm on that location.

Preliminary plat approval, with a variety of conditions, was issued by the Platting Board after reconsideration to require future platting approval of future development of Tract B.

A review of the geotechnical data collected is supposed to be submitted this week and will be forwarded to the Geotechnical Advisory Commission by the end of the month.

Patrick Kelly asked about the plat approval condition of no change to access to the coastal trail and the concern about the 60 foot access to Tract B. The response was that AWWU will mitigate to the extent they can and that a firmer design will be at the 65% design level.

Another question asked about the width of the easement on the west side. Response was that it could be reduced, but a utility easement may be needed.

An adjoining property owner asked about noise from the new pump station. Bruce Robinson noted that the effluent pumps are below ground level and that the emergency generators are designed with the noise aimed at the inlet to reduce

noise during maintenance and emergency generator operation in the event of power failure.

It was stated that maintenance access to the pump station would probably occur once per week.

Construction on the project has been delayed until 2007.

VI. Turnagain Neighborhood Traffic Calming Study.

Matt Korshen from DOWL Engineers gave a presentation on the development of a community-based traffic calming study for the Turnagain Neighborhood. There is a link on the TCC Web page to the DOWL Web site. The goal is to identify collector roads and roads below collector status where there is speeding and cut-throughs in the TCC area. The City will then prioritize the projects identified in the report. He noted DOWL had no preconceived notions of what should be addressed in the report and that it would be developed working with the TCC subcommittee that has formed to work with DOWL in developing the report.

There is a schedule on the DOWL Web page. A draft report is scheduled for May. He will be having monthly meeting with the subcommittee.

One member asked whether Forest Park Drive was included. He said that it was and that stop signs like those on that road are not really a traffic calming measure. He explained that a goal of traffic calming is to reduce a driver's perception of the width of the roadway and cause them to slow down. He said this can be done with different tools ranging from curbs, islands, landscaping and other tools.

Pat Kelly asked whether the Traffic Calming Study would address the Pump station 10/Marston development construction traffic. Matt Korshen said that the study was to address long-term traffic issues. AWWU will address the construction traffic impacts through its contract process and will coordinate with the Traffic Division and DOWL concerning the Marston development traffic.

VII. Anchorage Tomorrow Presentation on Road and Parks Bonds

Anchorage Tomorrow is a non-profit organization that promotes the development of needed municipal facilities in Anchorage. On behalf of Anchorage Tomorrow, Matt Korshen urged TCC members to support the road and parks bonds on the April 4 Municipal ballot. All told, the ballot bonds include 45 projects for a total of \$44 million.

VIII. Didlika Park Improvement Project

Cameron Sordahl gave a presentation on his Eagle Scout Project to improve Didlida Park through construction of a new wood fence to replace the damaged chain link fence. Other projects could include upgrades to playground equipment and an historical marker. Cameron has raised \$1,300 for the project, including a \$1,000 donation from TCC. He is working with Deborah O'Leary, a TCC Board Member and Candi English to apply to the Anchorage Park Foundation for a Rasmussen Foundation Matching Grant. The TCC Board of Directors adopted a resolution supporting the project so that TCC support was in place by the grant application deadline. His goal is to raise \$4,700. Donations to the project can be sent to Cameron Sordahl, 2440 Captain Cook Drive, Anchorage, AK 99517. Checks should be made out to Boy Scout Troop 125 and noted for the Didlida Park Improvement Project.

IX. Federation of Community Councils E-mail Policy

Cathy Gleason, VP, introduced a discussion about TCC members' wishes about receiving notification e-mails directly from the Federation of Community Councils. Presently, e-mails are forwarded to TCC President Mark Wiggin, who forwards those e-mails he feels are very important to TCC members and has the other information posted on the TCC Web page. After discussion, the council unanimously adopted a resolution to approve the current approach to have the President filter e-mails for the general membership and rely on the TCC Web site to post information provided to the President from the Federation of Community Councils.

X. Northwest District Park Advisory Group.

Cathy Gleason is the TCC representative on the Municipality's NW District Park Advisory Group. The Advisory Group is working to identify park improvement projects and then prioritize those projects as a community. She noted that there are 40-60 high school volunteers coming to Alaska to work with the Parks Department on park improvement projects. She noted that the Parks and Recreation Dept. was also going to plan another Park Clean and Green Day this summer for a TCC area park. The council discussed which Park should be worked on and agreed to work on the Didlika Park as part of the efforts directed at its improvement this year. A trail around the perimeter of Balto Seppala and Lloyd Steele parks that would connect the two parks was also discussed, as this has been a desired project every since the creation of a Master Plan in 1998. It was stated that a Parks Committee would be better suited to work with Cathy on specifics of Turnagain park improvements. Also, everyone is encouraged to contact her directly with ideas.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Breck Tostevin, Secretary/Treasurer.