

Turnagain Community Council
Meeting Minutes February 7, 2008

Mark Wiggin, TCC President, called the meeting to order.

I. *Announcements*

Mark Wiggin encouraged community members to participate in the TCC as board members or officers to help spread the load that has been borne by the same officers for a long period of time. Are there suggestions to update the e-mail list? Paper agendas are very expensive and/or time-consuming to mail through snail-mail. Suggestions included doing a survey and inserting a mailer into the utility billing.

Cathy Gleason said that she would call Alaska Waste to find out if the curbside recycling will occur in all of the TCC areas.

Harriet Drummond and Sherri Jackson, Assembly candidates, were introduced; candidates' forum will be held at our March 6th meeting.

II. *Upcoming events*

City will sponsor a public open house meeting regarding plans for renovations/improvements to Town Square on February 11 from 5-9pm at the Performing Arts Center.

Northwest District Parks will hold a workshop on the Parks Foundation Challenge Grants on February 26 from 7-9 pm at the Spenard Recreation Center. Workshops will be held on other dates for other districts.

Planning and Zoning will hold a public hearing March 3 on a proposed conditional use permit for a Habiliative care facility at 3201 Doris Street.

The Platting Board will held a public hearing March 17 on a proposal for Faith Christian Church on Wishcon Street to subdivide two lots into one lot and vacate a utility easement and a storm drain easement.

Candidate forum for the Assembly and School Board will be held on March 1 at the Alaska Wild Berry Theater.

III. *ACS Fiber-Optic Cable*

Mary Gasperlin and Dale Patrick presented a plan by Alaska Communications Systems to install a submarine fiber-optic cable to connect Anchorage with Florence, OR. Construction site is on the northwest side of the East/West runway where an underground cable will be threaded under the mudflats and Coastal Trail to connect with existing

facilities on Raspberry Road. Construction is scheduled to start August 2008. Handouts showing details and contact information were distributed. Sherry Greenshield from New Horizons Telecom was also there to answer questions. Mary can be reached at: 907-564-7722.

Public comment periods: DNR 30-day comment periods starts next week; Heritage Land Bank public hearing February 14; and Municipality/Assembly February 26 to March 18.

IV. Didlika Park update

Chris Habicht presented a brief update for the Didlika Park project: The Municipal Parks and Recreation Department sent out a landscape architect to meet with folks active on this project and will return with design plans. A one-year extension was granted for this project.

V. West-Romig Redevelopment

Blythe Marston presented an update on the West-Romig Redevelopment Plan. Potential ideas for this plan include sports complex, mentoring program, Internet café, and business/student partnerships. She also introduced a proposed resolution in support of appropriating funds to redesign the West High/Romig Middle School Campus as a Center of Community. After much discussion regarding the merits of the program, a modified version of the resolution passed 19 in favor and 0 opposed (Dan Gleason made the motion, with Mimi Beck seconding it). The passed resolution can be found on the TCC web site. A report outlining the opportunities for this project will be presented to the Anchorage School Board March 3rd. Anyone interested in helping with this effort should contact Blythe.

VI. Capital Improvement Projects

Discussion regarding the timing and sequence of how the TCC should coordinate with the Municipality on capital improvement funding requests resulted in the following:

Assemblyman Dan Sullivan stated that the legislative funding package from the Assembly has already been sent to Juneau. He asked for a priority list from the Council to check to see if last year's Municipal request matches the Council's priorities. If they do not, he will check to see if projects can still be added. Results from these actions will be sent to Mark Wiggin.

The TCC needs to have a priority list put together by April 2008 to submit to the Assembly for next year's planning.

TCC will again send our current CIP priority lists for parks and roads to Sen. French and Rep. Holmes as a reminder.

VII. Legislative Report.

Rep. Lindsay Holmes gave the Legislative report via telephone from Juneau.

Significant dates: Annual Pizza Constituency Party on March 1 from 3 to 5pm at the Spenard Recreation Center. Town Hall Meeting regarding the gas line proposal from Trans-Canada will be held at the UAA Lucy-Cuddy Hall on February 19 at 6-8 pm.

Bills:

Gas Line – these will probably be dealt with this summer in a special session
TransCanada, Conoco-Phillips

What to do with surplus – should we save or invest?

Susitna-Hydro Dam is being discussed again

Energy rebate program

Domestic Violence

Gov. has moved the Habitat Division back to the Department of Fish and Game, so legislative bill is moot

VIII. Assembly Report.

Assemblyman Dan Sullivan and a representative for Matt Claman attended the meeting. Assemblyman Dan Sullivan gave the Assembly Report.

Bonds on the April ballot:

Two school bonds totaling \$40 million:

1) Chester Creek and Sand Lake Elementary School upgrades;

2) General maintenance for schools throughout the district;

3) Roads and drainage bonds: Sullivan feels Assembly should separate out the “needs” from the “wants” into different bonds and the E Street downtown upgrades should be separated from general road bonds.

Pool Bond: \$2M bond will only be spent if Legislature passes matching funds.

Pools belong to the Municipality. Pools have been losing \$. Parks and Rec. has many missions. Maybe pools should be operated by a group like Swim America. Assembly will provide recommendation in March.

Title 21: By summer or fall, expect final document. Dan Gleason stated that the goal was to have the Land Use Map out by last August. Dan Sullivan said the Municipality is still working on one and that the final map is still not out.

Rezoning from Industrial to Retail for the Target: Cathy Gleason asked why the Municipality would support a rezone for the Target in south Anchorage from industrial to commercial, after all the planning and rationale to retain industrial-zoned land was emphasized in the 2020 Comprehensive Plan.. Dan Sullivan said that the Comp. Plan is advisory and that flexibility must be maintained to adapt to changing needs.

IX. Marston-Foraker project

Mark Wiggin introduced the work that the Lyn Ary Park Subcommittee has been doing to try to resolve impacts of the Marston Drive/Foreaker Drive RID/WID/LID on Lyn Ary Park. In particular, the Subcommittee focused on the impact that the intersection of Marston Drive and Foraker Drive would have on the adjacent area. The concerns centered over both auto-pedestrian safety and pedestrian traffic flow.

The Subcommittee met with the Municipality and came up with some solutions that are included in the resolution posted on the TCC web site. Cost would be an additional \$80,000. The resolution was passed 15 in favor and 0 opposed. The passed resolution can be found on the TCC web site.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Habicht, Secretary-Treasurer