

Turnagain Community Council Minutes Regular Meeting November 2006

I. Assembly Report. Assemblyperson Pamela Jennings gave the Assembly Report discussing the Spenard Road Project, her vote in support of the Wal-Mart rezoning decision, rewrite of the Municipal Ethics Code, and an update on the Anchorage Convention Center construction. She noted that property taxes had dropped from 59% of municipal revenues to 44% because of the municipal tobacco tax and state revenue sharing. Cathy Gleason asked about a provision in the ethics code that would prohibit municipal employees from becoming community council officers and she said she would look into it.

II. Legislative Report. Sen. Hollis French gave the Legislative Report. Sen. French discussed the third special session concerning same sex partners benefits for state employees and the Legislative Council's suit against Governor Murkowski seeking to prohibit his signing the natural gas line contract without Legislative approval. Mark Wiggin asked about the Governor's Trade Mission. Dan McIntyre asked Sen. French his opinion about the gas reserve tax initiative. Sen. French indicated that he was leaning against it because he was not convinced that it was the right mechanism to move a gas line forward.

III. October Meeting Minutes. Deborah O'Leary moved to approve the October meeting minutes. Sherry Tomlinson seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. It was announced that the West Side Pulse is being published again and will print TCC minutes.

IV. Westchester Lagoon Fish Passage Project. David Wigglesworth from the Municipality gave a report on the Westchester Lagoon Fish Passage Project. Two utility lines were relocated deeper last summer to allow stream channel development. The relocation used directional drilling to avoid re-disturbance of the mudflats. An advisory committee will be formed in the near future after the Municipality awards a contract to oversee the work, which will include TCC representation. AWWU's utilities will be moved next spring, then the culvert and intertidal channel will be constructed. A fixed schedule has not been established, although timing will depend on salmon runs and migratory birds; he thought work would go through 2008. He said that the project would include improvements related to the Coastal Trail bike path between the two existing tunnels, which is very congested. David mentioned that he did not believe the fish passage would create bear problems since Coho and King salmon would spawn higher in the watershed. He was asked about coordinating with the Spenard Road improvement work since the 17th street bridge improvements would impact the lagoon. He noted that the bridge there is a congested area with pedestrian issues and that he would look into coordination possibilities.

V. Title 21: Municipal Land Use Code. MOA Planning Director Tom Nelson gave an informative overview of the purpose and history of the rewriting of Title 21 Anchorage Land Use Code . New design standards will be included and it will be more concise and easier to use. He discussed the process that the Municipality and the Assembly were using to revise the code in phases. Chapters 1, 2, 8 and 13 are currently in the public hearing process, with the Planning and Zoning Commission hearing set for Nov. 13. The Assembly hearing will probably be in Jan. 2007. The public can go to muni.org for the chapters and public hearing schedule.

VI. Community Council Elections. Mark Wiggin, Cathy Gleason, Breck Tostevin, Deborah O’Leary, Bob Durst, and Pat Redmond were re-elected by unanimous consent as President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Board members, respectively. Pat Redmond made the motion and it was seconded by Nelson Page. Passed by a vote of 19-0.

VII. Anchorage West Little League & Lyn Ary Park. Matt Zencey and Bob Durst presented the Anchorage West Little League’s proposed location for a storage conex in Lyn Ary Park. The conex will store a field mower and other equipment for maintaining the park’s ball fields. The TCC approved a resolution made by Breck Tostevin by a vote of 17-0 supporting the AWLL’s proposed location A on the southeast ball field’s periphery. Sherry Tomlinson asked about the sponsor advertising signs on the ball field fences and expressed her concerns that they were distasteful given the park setting. Matt Zencey explained that the signs were part of PR agreed to by the Citywide Little League for ball fields. Dave Shapiro, NW Park District Manager, added that the signs were there to encourage more sponsorships. Matt said he would tell the sponsors there is unfavorable feedback from the neighborhood and look into whether smaller signs on the dugouts or plaques might be substituted.

VIII. Pump Station 10 Construction Traffic Focus Group. Mark Wiggin lead a lengthy discussion of the results of the AWWU Focus Group concerning the traffic construction issues associated with the Pump Station 10 project. Four meetings were held and the notes of those meetings are on the TCC website. The last meeting involved attendees ranking the different construction routes using an impacts matrix prepared at the Group’s request by AWWU. AWWU’s tallying of the matrix indicated Route 4 – two ways on McKenzie Drive – was the preferable route.

A long discussion took place concerning whether the matrix was properly weighted and whether different attendees used similar ranking approaches. The TCC then discussed the agreed upon mitigation measures committed to by AWWU as part of the meetings. As a result of that discussion, the TCC adopted a resolution (made by Penny Zobel and seconded by Barry Kantin) by a vote of 17-0 on an agreed list of construction traffic-related mitigation measures for AWWU to put in place.

Pat Kelly then expressed concern that the resolution was not providing AWWU with actual direction from the Council on the preferred route by the community. Pat expressed concern that other municipal entities would not engage communities in similar planning efforts if the results of those outreach meetings did not produce a recommendation. After further discussion of the proposed routes, in particular the impacts on McKenzie Drive of a two-way route and concerns about safety at Lyn Ary park on the Iliamna route, the TCC by a vote of 14-1 adopted a resolution made by Pat Kelly supporting an unspecified one-way round trip truck route as a means to lessen the burden imposed on McKenzie Drive residents.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Breck Tostevin, Secretary/Treasurer.