
TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting | October 6, 2022| 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Chaired by Anna Brawley, TCC President

WELCOME & APPROVE AGENDA, MINUTES

- The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Approximately 27 - 38 people (members and guests) attended.
- Rules for membership: must be 18 or older. Must live or own property in Turnagain. Turnagain attendees are considered voting members the evening of their first meeting.
- Zoom Guidelines: All attendees must sign in with their first and last name and designation of member or guest. When not speaking or presenting, keep personal microphones on Mute. Use the “Raise Hand” function on your Zoom screen if you wish to speak. Please be brief, respectful and relevant to the subject at hand.
- The October agenda was reviewed.
 - Motion by Cathy Gleason to approve the agenda. Seconded by Kathleen Bielawski.
 - Cathy Gleason moved to approve the September minutes. Carolyn Hall seconded. The minutes were approved with no objections. Final minutes will be posted on TCC website.
- **Announcements:**
 - Lindsey Hajduk announced Fish Creek Trail Trick or Treating, Monday, October 31, 2022.
 - Two benches at the Marston entrance/exit to the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail. Kathleen Bielawski provided some background information on Guy and Pat McGee.
 - Carolyn Hall mentioned the Fish Creek Trail new commemorative signs.
 - Carolyn Hall also thanked Dan and Cathy Gleason for maintaining the gardens around Lyn Ary Park near the Coastal Trail.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

- **Notice of Vacancy of the office of TCC Treasury:** No candidates yet, but TCC is still looking for someone to volunteer for this position. Please contact TCCPresident@yahoo.com to volunteer. If we have interest, we will conduct a special election to fill the position of Treasurer.
- TCC officer election next TCC meeting - Thursday, November 3, 2022. All offices are up for election. If you are interested in running, please contact TCCpresident@yahoo.com.
- Two notices:
 - Renewal of VITUS Energy liquor license; if anyone has any issues with the license renewal, please contact TCC.
 - Marijuana license application for Catalyst Cannabis, at 4707 Spenard Road. This is in Spenard TCC area; FYI to TCC.
 - The Board is not taking any action on these items at this time.
- **FCC Delegate Report.**
 - Cathy Gleason attended meeting on behalf of TCC. MOA Homeless task force representatives gave a presentation at the meeting.
 - Portia Erickson announced that she is no longer with the Mayor’s Office.
 - The Assembly is proposing for, April 2023 ballot, an increased property tax exemption, up from 20% to 40%, maxing out at \$70,000.00.
 - Community councils discussed how they are doing continuing to hold Zoom meetings. Many are having difficulty. Some are meeting in person; some are trying a hybrid form. (TCC has decided to meet on Zoom through December 2022.)

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- FCC requested \$90,000.00 from MOA to provide services to all individual community councils.
- Meetings are open to the public.
- **West Anchorage Community Candidates Forum.**
 - Coming up for the fall for state legislative races. Usually held about a month before the election.
 - If you would like to volunteer, please contact TCCpresident@yahoo.com. Time commitment involves 3-4 committee meetings.
 - More information to come in late October.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

- **Rep. Matt Claman**
 - First ranked-choice voting for state-wide elections.
 - **Question:** Cathy Gleason. Regarding Fish Creek Trail Connection, is Rep. Claman doing anything based on constituent input?
 - Rep. Claman: Has been contacted regarding the trail project. He spoke with project managers and Assembly members: how far along is the project? He has been assured that the project is going at a steady pace, but no decisions have yet been made regarding a proposed route.
- **Sen. Mia Costello - Katie McCall, Staffer for Sen. Costello**
 - Please contact Sen. Costello at (907) 269-0117, cell: (907) 227-5276 or email:
 - senator.mia.costello@akleg.gov. Sen. Costello welcomes all input.
 - Please contact Sen. Costello's office if you need assistance with any State agency.
 - Upcoming election on November 8, 2022. Early voting begins October 24, 2022.
- **Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson - Besse Odom, Staffer for Sen. Gray-Jackson**
 - October is Filipino-American History Month. It is also Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Also Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
 - Rogers Park unveiling of art mural; a result of a grant from Alaska State Council on the Arts. Just past Rogers Park School, on Northern Lights Blvd.
 - Sen. Gray-Jackson drove through her district looking for road improvement and drainage improvement needs. She will add these projects to her Capital Budget List during the next legislative session.
 - Harvested pesticide-free vegetables grown at the LIO were given to Beans Cafe.
 - Please contact Sen. Gray-Jackson at (907) 465-4930, or sen.elvi.gray-jackson@akleg.gov. Her website also lists her current committees.
- **Rep. Harriet Drummond**
 - Funding is available for renovation of Inlet View School. It is a matter of determining how ASD will use it. They should be able to fund all renovations, but the longer they wait, the more expensive it gets. ASD has a severe budget shortfall. The Legislature "needs to step up to the plate" to fund school districts.
 - Legislature has not had school district bond reimbursement since 2015. Huge pent-up demand state-wide for new school and school repairs.
 - Legislature must return all public employees in the State to the defined benefits retirement program. We are losing too many young professionals in education and State positions. We are losing Troopers, Firefighters and First Responder, as well as teachers, lawyers and engineers. "One in three young persons in the State of Alaska is leaving."

ASSEMBLY REPORT | AUSTIN QUINN-DAVIDSON

- **Austin Quinn-Davidson**
 - Felix Rivera will cover plans for Homeless shelters.
 - Austin Chris Constant and Forrest Dunbar introduced an increase of the annual property tax exemption. This item will be put on the Spring 2023 MOA ballot to increase the property tax exemption. Currently the exemption allows up to 20% of \$50,000.00. The increase would allow up to 40% of \$75,000.00. This will benefit lower income residents. It benefits everyone for a home up to \$900,000.00 in value.
 - Audience participation at Assembly meetings. Initial audience participation early in Assembly meetings has been eliminated.
 - Lyn Ary Park Naming Panel is “trucking along.”
 - Assemblyperson Daniel Volland wrote an ordinance with Austin allowing only emergency use of local Rec Centers for homeless sheltering. The ordinance passed and is now law.
 - Budget season: Mayor introduced his budget on October 1, 2022, (for 2023). Budget increase to past budget. Budget process will be “unfolding” over the next two months.
 - Forest Park resident Marnie Isaacs contacted Austin about road improvements in Forest Park. The Assembly used to do a lot more work on road issues. Assembly now relies on only what it can put on a bond list for an upcoming election.
 - **Comment - Pat Redmond.** Pat was one of the original people who raise money for Dempsey Ice Rink for hockey. She was surprised to find that ice rinks are no longer under Parks and Rec. She feels they still should be. Pat will continue to do research and comment. Rinks need to be maintained to help develop future hockey and figure skaters. “We are a winter state. We should support winter sports.”
 - Pat is also disappointed that Sullivan Arena is being used for homeless sheltering again. She stated that Sullivan was developed for hockey, with an Olympic-sized hockey rink.
 - Austin replied that Anchorage has “not seen a lot of leadership” in selection of sites for sheltering homeless person during the winter. Austin believes that smaller sites are better than a large navigation center. “Communities consistently complain when we try to do services. It is very difficult to do this work and have people say that [this] place is the wrong place. Everyone has a reason for not wanting a service site in their area.” “It is extremely frustrating.” She is trying to figure out how to work with the Mayor’s Office. “We need to be working together more.”
 - Cathy Gleason - Who is managing the hockey facilities?
 - Pat Redmond — the Mayor’s Office.
 - Cathy Gleason - “Shocking.” “How can we get those facilities back under Parks and Rec?”
 - Please contact Austin Quinn-Davidson at 907-343-4116 or at: Austin.Quinn-Davidson@AnchorageAK.gov.

MAYOR’S REPORT / NO REPORT

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT / PAT HIGGINS, ASD SCHOOL BOARD

- Safety issues.
- Inlet View Funding will be decided on December 5, 2022.
- Focus should be on early grades for increasing academic performance of students.

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- ASD is dealing with the bus driver, teaching and food service employee shortages.
- Defined-benefit retirement plan. Changes in law allow for under-funding. “It’s not a cost issue. It can be done. It’s a matter of will power. It’s a critical factor.” We are losing teachers and principals.
- “We should be talking about kids.”
- State legislature needs to stand up and start funding education.
- Please contact Mr. Higgins at: higgins_pat@asdk12.org or 907-952-5871.
 - **Question - Jonathan Galin.** What is your opinion - do you support building a new school at Inlet View? Should we build a school for just under 300 kids, or could other schools absorb those kids?
 - **Mr. Higgins.** Is more concerned about the safety of students in ASD buildings. ASD schools were built to last, following the 1964 earthquake. Charter schools are not under the same building codes. Also, cutting schools runs up the cost of transportation. Mr. Higgins is concerned about the impact on academics of closing any schools. “If we are going to keep it, we need to replace it. My personal view is that I want to see all kids safe.”

AIRPORT REPORT | JOHN JOHANSEN / MEGAN PETERS

- See Airport updates on the handout provided at the meeting or online at: www.anchorageairport.com.
- Recruitment and retention of airport employees. Several critical positions are opening for which the airport is actively recruiting.
- Any commercial activity conducted around the airport requires a permit. Airport Leasing Office issues permits. Contact brandon.tucker@alaska.gov.
- Lost and Found items. Enter information into the airport Lost and Found online portal.
- Please use the cell phone lot. Lights in the parking lot will be turned on soon.
- Please be safe walking out in the airport area and Lake Hood sea plane base. All pets should be on leashes. Airplanes have the right of way on area roads.
- ALL departing passengers: check in and bag check is currently at the South Terminal.
- No COVID restrictions at the airport. Contact your individual airline for their current COVID protocols. No COVID testing sites at the airport.
- Please use the online portal for getting your questions answered regarding the airport.
- Megan’s email: megan.peters@alaska.gov.
- Anna will post the September Airport Report on the TCC website.
 - **Question - Cathy Gleason** - under Land Use Committee Reports, we have updates on two items. What does the airport have to say about these two issues?
 - **John Johansen** - FEDEX and Alaska Cargo and Cold Storage: not much new has happened. FEDEX is working on a lease agreement. Alaska Cargo and Cold Storage is working on their plans. We are just now getting into options for GA replacement parking for Lake Hood Echo parking. Hope to have something new within in the next month. Raspberry Road development is still working through environmental process. DEC is working on study to determine how much contamination has spread from fire containment training. Still working with developer on potential lease for property east of the Lake Hood strip.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee for November 2022 TCC elections.

Officers are elected for one-year terms. President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer and two at-large members. Committee prepares a slate, but nominations are also always accepted from the floor.

Cathy Gleason moved that we create nominating committee. Jon Isaacs seconded. No objections. The motion passed. The Nominating Committee will make recommendations to the Council for potential candidates. No one volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Call for volunteers for the committee. Failing volunteers, issue defaults to the TCC Board. Jon Isaacs stated that if people are interested in running, should they make their interest known to the TCC Board. Anna Brawley suggested that interested persons contact TCCpresident@yahoo.com, or reach out to any current Board members. Interested persons need to have attended two meetings in the last 12 months.

- Question - Teri Clark — work is done in October in order to present slate at the November meeting?
 - Anna Brawley: yes. Officers are elected on November 3, 2022, and take office in January 2023.

PRESENTATION - FISH CREEK TRAIL CONNECTION PROJECT - CRW Engineering - MATT EDGE / KENNEDY KRUCHOWSKI - Solstice AK

TCC Land Use Committee Meeting - Monday, October 10, 2022. At FCC Conference Room, 1026 W. Fireweed Lane.

Fish Creek Trail Connection Project Open House - Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Spenard Rec Center.

Please go to www.fishcreektrail.com for background and presentation materials.

- Question - Cathy Gleason. Can you clarify that once the Open House is over, you'll be working on the design study report — will that include the preferred design?
 - Matt Edge - draft design study report goes to AK DOT and Parks and Rec. They select the preferred route. Geotechnical and environmental review conducted more specifically on preferred route. Design Study Report will be then finalized. Projected date for completion of this portion: Spring, 2023.
- Question - Loren Lehman - Mr. Lehman has walked AWWU maintenance trail. "It is the best alternative." "It may take some political work to get to get that approved, but from a technical standpoint, that's the most obvious solution."
 - Matt Edge - "As I said earlier, the area we are proposing is ARR ROW; essentially private property. ARR has stated that the existing trail is too close to the tracks. Not considered a viable route by the ARR." Along the other section of the AWWU access road, it goes further away from the ARR ROW. Must be in the "outer 25 feet" of ARR ROW. Anything else is considered by ARR to be unsafe.
- Question - Jon Isaacs - if TCC wants to take action with a resolution or a preferred route in November, does that leave enough time for it to be considered by the Design Team?
 - Matt Edge — November 3 should work well within the design timeframe. Email addresses for all involved parties are available at www.fishcreektrail.com. "We are reading every email received from Anchorage residents and we are responding."
- Question - John Haxby - "I was told that if the MOA did not go forward with this project, they would be liable for \$1 million already paid by the Parks and Rec Bond passed in Spring 2022. None of the federal funds have been used, but MOA would be required to repay their unused \$1 million reserve."

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- Matt Edge — All of the money used for design study by DOT and MOA - 9% MOA and 91 Federal. “My understanding is that if the project does not move forward, that, yes the MOA would need to pay back the federal government for the dollars that have been used for the project.”

Anna Brawley urges any further questions be addressed to the Design Project Team. Contact: www.fishcreektrail.com, or CRW Engineering Group, LLC, Matt Edge, Project Manager at 907-343-4518. Mr. Edge’s email is: comments@crweng.com.

PRESENTATION - FELIX RIVERA - ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY MEMBER, CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS. Emergency Shelter Plan 2022.

- **Question: Teri Clark.** Are mental health and substance written into your plan or are these elements to come in at a later time?
 - Mr. Rivera: Main objective has been to provide beds or housing for 250 individuals. That’s why I want to get past emergency mode. After that, we can focus on real, long term solutions.”
- **Question: Brian Evans.** Is the total number we are talking about just 350 people?
 - Mr. Rivera: “The total number is 350 individuals. [Shows graphic for Sullivan Area, Golden Lion Hotel and Annual Cost Comparison.]
- **Question: Brian Evans.** “I’m surprised the number is so low, too. We talk about \$81 million dollars on homeless during the COVID crisis, and I’m not seeing that here. There’s got to be more cost there. What did we do before two years ago? It seems since COVID, homelessness has really become a focus for Anchorage. We live in Spenard; we certainly have our share of homeless....but what did we do before two years ago? Did we just not have them?”
 - Mr. Rivera: “A quick response: The Assembly created the “Homeless Committee” in 2013. That is when we really started to see more homelessness. It has been a longstanding issue in the Anchorage Municipality. Since 2013, the MOA and Assembly have taken a more proactive stance. For decade, the MOA had invested zero dollars in homelessness. In 2019, MOA finally spent money on shelter. It is our responsibility, especially in winter. Now what we are trying to do is look at long term solutions so that we aren’t making...millions of dollars in the wrong area. We don’t want to make millions of dollars of investments in shelter; we want to make millions of dollars of investments in housing. Housing is the solution to the problem.”
- **Question: Teri Clark.** Sen. Gray-Jackson mentioned harvesting produce and contributing to Beans Cafe. Also, Mary Peltola has food security legislation. Have you ever talked about the food security issue, along with homelessness, or thought about using our greenhouses, such as Russian Jack, to move from flowers to food?
 - Mr. Rivera: Christopher Constant has thought about that. Turning the old Alaska Native Hospital site into a working garden. Alternative possibilities.

Please contact Assemblyperson Rivera at felix.Rivera@AnchorageAk.gov. or at 907764-0841.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS — AS ALWAYS, CONTACT TCC (TCCPRESIDENT@YAHOO.COM) IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER FOR ANY TCC COMMITTEES.

LAND USE COMMITTEE REPORT - Jon Isaacs / Cathy Gleason - Next Meeting - Monday, October 10, 2022, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at FCC Building.

• **Airport Issues.**

- Tie-downs. 39 aviation spaces to be relocated. Originally to be located east of the Lake Hood landing strip. Campbell reconsidered and looked at moving to Echo GA tie-down, off of Lake Hood Dr. Still looking at where these 39 spaces can be relocated incrementally in other places. Airport “seems to be reassessing” this issue after neighborhood and TCC input.
- At the invitation of Craig Campbell Airport Director, the TCC Land Use Committee attended a site visit of Charlie relocation areas of infill for alternative parking location. No good place for relocation. Still collaborating with the airport for a resolution.
- Wetland fill permit requested from Corps of Engineers. TCC did not submit formal comments; Cathy Gleason did as a Turnagain neighbor. Her comments reflected everything that TCC voted upon this evening regarding cumulative impacts and loss of wetlands. The Corp responded to Cathy and to the lease applicant. Her comment letter also included proposal of a berm along eastern side of Fedex expansion lease lot and Alaska Cold Storage to help mitigate significant ground noise created for west Turnagain. Evergreen landscape berm. This was a specific ask by Anna, Jon and Cathy. It is not yet known what will happen. The Land Use Committee wants to keep an open dialogue with the airport. Tour was interesting and informative.
 - Jon Isaacs - The main concern is that development is so close to neighborhood. TCC would like the opportunity to work with airport AND lease applicant to avoid and mitigate impacts to the neighborhood.
 - Craig Campbell- appreciates the meeting with Land Use Committee. Wants to see more. Welcomes the idea of quarterly meetings with TCC. “My intention is not to do it behind your back. Your comments are important.” Regarding the berm, “that can be considered going forward when we develop the lease. It’s not a bad idea. It’s not being dismissed out of hand.” Heavy traffic: to all leaseholders - use International Airport Road, NOT West Northern Lights Blvd.” Regarding the 39 parking spots: we sent two “possible” spots to TCC. Neither spot is confirmed. “We are looking at other alternatives, but they are very limited. “We might be able to peel off a few. But we need to identify 39 spots.” “I want to hear more from you before we go to the FAA and say that here is our proposed alternative.” Spenard residents commented as well. Campbell will think of possibly putting out an RFP with other parameters. “Tighter parameters around what our expectations are.” “Thank you for allowing me to be working with you.”

• **Fish Creek Trail to the Ocean**. - Special Meeting, Monday, October 10, 2022.

- Jon Isaacs. Some questions about the level of environmental study. Design Team has indicated that they have a Categorical Exclusion. Jamie Linxwiler and Jon will follow up on this.

• **Proposed New Snow Disposal Site**. South of DeLa Vega Park, in Connor’s Bog wetlands. These are Class A wetlands. Anna Brawley - the TCC comment letter is posted on the website - communitycouncils.org.

- Question - Jonathan Galen. Trucking of raw sewage in tanker trucks down W. Northern Lights Blvd to the snow dump area. Does anyone know anything about this?

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- Jon Isaacs. Has heard nothing about this.
- Anna Brawley remembers a presentation about this. Will follow up.
- **Title 21 Changes**. Parking and Site access is supposed to go before the Assembly in September. Land Use Committee submitted comments to the Assembly. Main concern is that changes may force additional parking on the street that could create traffic safety and snow removal concerns. We will revisit our comments on this issue.
- **Accessory Development Units**. Cathy Gleason. Public hearing on September 19 in front of Planning and Zoning Commission. What comments has TCC submitted? What do we want to resubmit comments from the past? Concerns about ADU use in Turnagain.
 - Jon Isaacs - We need more affordable housing in Anchorage. Rogers Park and Rabbit Creek have asked TCC if we want to sign on to their resolutions regarding Accessory Development Units.
- **Proposed change to parking ordinance**. If parking requirements are reduced in neighborhoods, it will put more cars on the streets, creating problems for snow removal

MOTION TO ADJOURN - CATHY GLEASON MOVED. JON ISAACS SECONDED.

No objections.

CLOSING

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.
- **Next meeting: Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.**

Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary Kathleen Bielawski on 10/30/22.

*If you have corrections or edits to this document, please submit them to tccpresident@yahoo.com by the Monday before the next Council meeting: **Monday, October 31, 2022.***