

Turnagain Community Council  
Meeting Minutes October 4, 2007

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

I. *Announcements*

Mark Wiggin announced the availability of the response to questions at the August 9 meeting with Russ Oswald on the Marston-Foraker LID/RID/WID and an update by Bruce Robson on the Pump Station 10 project, which has been delayed by litigation over ownership of the property that includes the new pump station site. The update is available on the TCC website. [www.communitycouncils.org](http://www.communitycouncils.org).

Mark announced the availability of a letter from the Municipality (posted on the TCC website) concerning Mark Pferer's proposed clearing of trees on the coastal trail easement that runs through his property he is developing next to Lyn Ary Park. Cathy Gleason expressed an interest in having the TCC write a letter concerning the proposal and supporting the Municipality's position.

Mark Wiggin encouraged community members to sign up to run for TCC office because new elections are coming up this fall. He also announced an oil and gas forum concerning changes on the State's Oil and Gas taxes at the next month's meeting.

Cathy Gleason announced aluminum can pick-up the first Saturday of the month.

The City is upgrading its website and is seeking community input. There is a survey on the city website; survey comments are due October 10.

Cathy Gleason has compiled a Calendar of Events, which is available on the TCC website.

II. *Approval of Meeting Minutes*

Dan Gleason moved to approve the April, May, June and September minutes. Pamela Jennings seconded the motion. Approved by a unanimous vote.

III. *Anchorage Fire Department.*

Zake Weston from the Spenard Fire Station gave the TCC an informative overview of the Anchorage Fire Department's operations and activities in our area. There were 38,000 911 calls in Anchorage in 2006. All 911 calls go to the police department, then are transferred to the appropriate responder. A new program is now in place, where the department is tested against standards; the goal is to respond to a 911 call within 90 seconds. A "Report to the Community" from the Anchorage Fire Department is now available.

#### *IV. Assembly Report*

Assemblymen Matt Claman and Dan Sullivan presented the Assembly report. Matt Claman stated that the first budget work session is tomorrow. The Mayor proposed a \$431 million proposed operating budget. He explained that the budget process takes place over a 6-7 week period ending around the week before Thanksgiving.

Dan Sullivan discussed the budget, noting that health care costs and Public Employee Retirement System costs were increasing. He discussed the appearance of many swimmers before the Assembly concerning the possibility of the city closing two of the community pools. He noted that the City could not turn operation of the pools to nonprofit organizations until needed repairs are made.

A discussion the Inspection and Maintenance Program for emission inspections of automobiles took place. Dan Sullivan and 4-5 other assembly members had proposed an ordinance to sunset the program. It was clarified that the ordinance, if passed, would only start the decertification process; the state and federal governments would give final approval. There will be a public hearing on Tuesday night.

Matt Claman discussed Assemblyman Coffey's proposed ordinance to keep dogs off ball fields. He noted that 95% of his mail was opposing the ordinance as too restrictive.

On October 9, the Assembly will hear the Pedestrian Plan. Matt Claman talked about the TCC's recommendations, including increasing the priority of the West High/Romig Jr. High crossing at Hillcrest Dr.

#### *V. Legislative Report*

Andy Modrow, representing Senator French, discussed the senator's Health Care bill that will be up for a hearing. On October 18, a special session to discuss possible changes to the oil and gas production tax will begin in Juneau. Sen. French was not available to speak to us because he was attending a VPSO task force hearing in Bethel.

#### *VI. Context Sensitive Design/Solutions*

Bob Kniefel, Municipal Traffic Engineer, gave a presentation on the draft proposed context sensitive design planning process for transportation projects. He discussed that the idea of the policy is to front-load the public participation process at the individual road project level. He noted it was more cost-effective to engage the local community in a planning process before the engineers develop expensive design study report. The idea is to engage the local community in a negotiation concerning aspects of the project that can be changed to accommodate local concerns in the context of larger planning documents. The planning effort will create a citizen advisory group of citizens and businesses and engage a specialized team from the municipality trained in community relations. The end product would be a concept report which would be approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission to ensure accountability in the process. The process would also have a project completion survey to judge community satisfaction with a

project after its completion. The policy will be before the Planning and Zoning Commission in December and the Assembly in January or February.

Bob Kniefel was asked about the status of the Spenard Road. He noted it was going to be broken into four parts. Benson south would be dealt with by the State. The City was working with an advisory group on the Fireweed to Benson and the Hillcrest to Fireweed sections. He said there was agreement on the Hillcrest to the Lagoon section. He noted that the Spenard Road was going to be completed in one month for each segment and that there would be compliance incentives in the contracts for the project.

Cathy Gleason asked what recourse the public has, if there is dissatisfaction expressed in the post-project completion survey? She expressed concern about the grass landscaping on the Aero/W. Northern Lights project, as it is not maintained properly and is becoming weed-ridden – as per predicted by her and Bob Durst during the project process, but installed anyway. Bob answered that the survey results would just be used to learn for future projects.

## VII. *Airport Master Plan*

Eric Miyashiro, ASCG Incorporated, gave a presentation concerning the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport Master Plan process. The Airport Master Plan is updated every five years. The last Master plan was approved in 2002. The master plan contains a section on Goals & Objectives, an Inventory of Existing Facilities, and a forecast of aviation demand (both passenger and cargo) and then an analysis of facility requirements for the forecasted demand. This includes a capacity demand analysis that focuses on projected airport delays. Cargo tonnage is projected to increase by 6.1% per year. Mr. Miyashiro discussed projected air cargo delays in 2012 and 2017 at times of high peak use at mid-day. He noted a lack of IFR capacity results in the use of one east-west runway to land. He stated that taxiway issues caused some congestion and that there is a projected shortage of cargo apron space.

He discussed alternatives to meet the Airport administration's projected growth. He noted technical/operational improvements and GPS navigation system. Another alternative is a new north/south runway and moving runway 7 left further to the west. There will be meetings in November on the alternatives.

Merle Akers noted that extending 7R to the west, and building a new north/south runway all involved big costs. He asked at what point did the costs make sense to move the cargo operations to the Kenai Peninsula.

He asked how much additional noise impacts would be imposed on the local neighborhoods. He was told that a Part 150 Noise Study for the Airport would not be updated, but noise modeling would be done as part of the update.

He also asked about deicing fluids draining to Spenard Lake. Rich Wilson stated that deicing fluids were not draining to the Inlet but that some still drained to Spenard Lake.

He discusses a de-ice/snow plan and a long-term plan to reduce deicing fluids. One possibility is de-icing pads on ends of the runways to collect fluids. He noted that the Minn/St. Paul Airport had a system of recycling glycol with the airlines.

Rich Wilson mentioned that the 2002 Technical Report concerning alternative airports as addressing the comment about Kenai alternatives.

Mark Wiggin questioned the slide projecting “some” delays as not a meaningful statistic. He noted that in the Technical Advisory Committee meetings he learned that the delays were only 2-3 minute delays at 12-2 in the afternoon and questioned whether such delays really justified spending millions on new runway. He noted that Alaska Airlines had questioned imposing such costs on passenger aviation when cargo operations could be re-routed to Fairbanks or other locations at times of peak demand.

Cathy Gleason asked when community constraints (i.e., noise, air pollution, environmental impacts, etc.) are applied to the projected growth forecasts in accessing realistic options. She was told that the alternatives phase of the Master Plan must consider these constraints on growth projections.

Dan Gleason asked whether the stop light overpass at Postmark Dr. and International Airport Road was part of the master plan. He was told that this was an issue of priorities in the State Capital Improvement Project process. Response was that it is in the long-term DOT plan. Cathy Gleason expressed concerns about an overpass at that intersection and what the noise impacts from elevated traffic would be on the nearby neighborhoods.

### VIII. *Lake Hood Noise Committee*

Merle Akers addressed the TCC concerning a proposed resolution supporting the creation of a Committee to address Lake Hood Noise issues. Merle explained that he is a resident of Broadmore Estates Subdivision and a pilot. On June 28<sup>th</sup>, he met with Lake Hood, Tower personnel to discuss elevated noise from Lake Hood traffic. Linda Bustamante, Communications Director for the Airport, stated that the Airport agreed to host a group with scheduled air carriers at the Lake Hood strip to address noise issues. The group would look at alternatives and bring them back to the community councils and the air groups. The group would include the Lake Hood Manager and the FAA air traffic control tower. Linda Bustamante framed the issue as “Are there ways to fly friendly and reduce noise?”

Dan Gleason moved that the TCC support the formation of the committee and appoint Merle Akers as our representative on the committee to report back to the Council. Pat Redmond seconded the motion. There was clarification that the study will include both seabased and wheeled aircraft and helicopter noise generated from the Lake Hood Complex. The motion was approved by a vote of 16 to 0.

## IX. Park Advisory Committees

Mark Wiggin discussed the creation of three Park Advisory Committees: one for Balto Seppala/Lloyd Steele Parks, with Pat Redmond, Frank Keen, Joan McKinnon, Cathy Gleason and Dan Gleason as members. The committee will work on the design of the boardwalk over the wetlands between Lloyd Steel and Balto Seppala Parks with Peter Briggs, who has been contracted by the Parks Dept.

A second parks committee will be for Didlika Park. Chris Habicht said there are 5 people on it and they have requested an extension of the Park Foundation grant to continue the effort that will include redoing the fence and adding an ADA accessible walkway to the park.

The third committee is for Lyn Ary Park. Future plans for the park are in a state of flux with the new homes being planned in the Marston-Foraker area. The issue is how to maintain the park and the subcommittee is working with Jeff Dillon to go over plans and present them to us in December. Sherry Tomlinson stated there are a lot of issues with Lyn Ary Park because of its high and varied use.

## X. Airport Development District in Title 21 Zoning District.

Cathy Gleason discussed a proposed TCC resolution regarding the proposed “Airport Development District” in the Municipality of Anchorage’s Title 21 Rewrite. Pat Redmond moved to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Pam Jennings. The resolution included deleting the word “development” from the district title and making reference to the West Anchorage District Plan in the text. The motion was adopted by a vote of 16 – 0.

## XI. Closing Announcements

Linda Oakland informed members concerning a High School Exchange student from Turkey in need of a host family.

The Turnagain PTA asked for TCC financial support for its ice rink project. Mark Wiggin said that we would take up the request at our next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Breck Tostevin, Secretary