

Minutes of the Tudor Area Community Council
May 1, 2008
Rogers Park Elementary School

Kevin Frank, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. The president was not able to attend due to an accident. There were twelve members and two guests at the meeting. The council approved the minutes for the April 3, 2008, meeting without objection. Mr. Frank announced that, in keeping with past practice, there would be no meetings in June, July, or August.

Speakers:

Elvi Gray-Jackson gave the Assembly report. She was sworn-in in April, and has gotten into the full schedule of Assembly meetings and work sessions. The Muni will test curbside recycling in limited areas of the Solid Waste Services service area, and more work sessions on the subject are under way. Kevin Frank told Ms. Gray-Jackson that the Tudor Area Community Council has specific neighborhood interests, one of which is the rapid growth of the University-Medical (U-Med) district, as it is having a large impact on Tudor Area traffic. We are also concerned about the mixing and growth of home-based businesses in single-family residential (R-1) neighborhoods, where the business has more than a minimal impact on the surrounding homes.

Capt. Mike Davidson, Anchorage Fire Dept. Station 4, talked about the busy summer they were having. He said they department was working on standards of coverage issues, and he was especially concerned about the problems folks have had with refueling recreational vehicles (ATVs, boats, etc.) and yard equipment. He wants refueling to be done safely and away from the house, garage, or other buildings. Capt. Davidson noted that the crews dispatched to a fire will be the units that are closest to the fire, not necessarily those assigned to that geographic area. The rapid growth of the mid-town area over the last ten years is changing the response profiles that the station is responsible for. He would like visitors to the station and asks that we call 267-5004 before coming to the station to visit.

State Representative Berta Gardner provided the legislative report. The 90-day session is finished. Highlights include three-year plans for school funding and municipal revenue sharing. She noted that Gov. Palin insists that local projects have wide support from the local community before she will consider them for funding. The TACC often has a chance to review the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for our area, and we can send a resolution to the Assembly supporting project additions to the CIP.

The special session on the natural gas pipeline is up next for the legislature. There are several options possible, including the Trans-Canada proposal, a bullet line to South Central, and an LNG line to saltwater. Max Hensley, Sen. Ellis' aide, asked that we let them know if additions are needed to their newsletters. Rep. Gardner reminded us that she and Sen. Ellis are available in Anchorage when the legislature is not actively meeting in Juneau.

Kevin Frank announced items of interest. Several liquor license requests are up for Assembly review. There is a meeting on the Locarno-Cottonwood improvements on May 14 at the Rogers Park school cafeteria. If a new median is installed there, it will close off means of accessing the TACC area. He expects that the improvements will simply move traffic problems from Locarno to MacInnes St. Call Kristy Stuller, DOWL Engineers, at 562-2000 with your comments. There was some discussion of previous comments by Municipal traffic engineers about adding traffic lights to 36th Ave. Mr. Frank also mentioned a traffic study of Green Acres subdivision.

Kevin also presented the Federation of Community Councils (FCC) report, based on Sheli Dodson's notes. The election of FCC officers has been completed. Officers are Jason Bergeson, (President), Dick Tremaine, (Vice President, Betty Atkison (Secretary) and Bernie Bradley (Treasurer). The new board approved the move of the FCC offices to the old United Way quarters on Fireweed Lane. They need volunteers to help with the move. The board will have to replace the current accountant, who has taken a job with the Muni and thus has a conflict of interest. The Assembly approved acquisition of the Valley Center Building in Eagle River for Muni offices. Several of the FCC members are going to the Neighborhoods USA 2008 Conference on Neighborhood Concerns held in Hampton, Virginia on May 21-24th.

Old Business:

There was no new information about the house on MacInnes St. that is being used for wholesale flower distribution. There seems to have been little or no construction this summer on the new garage and storage area. Last year, the owner began work on the new foundation. The owner got building permits for the addition, but several council members are concerned that the addition will be used for increased commercial activity in violation of the zoning code. These concerns are based on several discussions neighbors have had with the building owner.

Another concern is that a prejudicial precedent will be established if increased commercial activity in an R-1 zoned neighborhood is ignored or overlooked. The current situation is watchful waiting. Some council members have few or no concerns over the matter, and others members closer to the addition are quite concerned. The council needs to find out if there are formal guidelines for home-based businesses. There was an involved discussion on the subject. The vice president noted that the Muni has an established procedure to deal with code violations. One member said that the Code Enforcement office is aware of the situation.

New Business:

Tod Butler expressed concern over the viability of the Tudor Area council. The number of people attending meetings seems to be down unless there is a hot topic before the council. Berta Gardner said in her experience if she doesn't hear from people, they think that things are OK. A specific concern is getting replacements for the current TACC officers who are now at the end of their allowed number of terms. Berta suggested that we canvas neighbors with information on the community council just before the next meeting. There was further discussion on "getting involved", both with your neighbors and in your community.

There being no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM.

<p>Tudor Area Community Council We want to hear from you! Contact me at: Tudor Area Community Council Sheli Dodson, Chair PO Box 230808 Anchorage, AK 99523 (907) 522-6436 or sheli@gci.net Put Tudor Community Council in the subject line</p>	<p>Contact Info Anchorage Police Dept. Comm. Center (Dispatcher): 786-8900 Emergency: 911 Code Violation Hotline 343-4141</p>
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A neighbor received these two anonymous letters over a 4 day period in mid-November 2007.

IT IS AGAINST THE LA W TO PUT YOUR SNOW IN THE STREET.

ALL OF THE SNOW FROM YOUR DRIVEWAY SHOULD BE PLACED ON YOUR OWN PROPERTY, CHECK THE LA W.

WHAT MAKES YOU SO SPECIAL THAT YOU CAN IGNORE THE LAW.

MANY OF YOUR NEIGBORS ARE UNHAPPY WITH YOUR "TO HELL WITH EVERYBODY ELSE ATTITUDE". WE ARE YOUR NEIGHBORS AND WE ARE WATCHING.

YOU WILL BE REPORTED THE NEXT TIME YOU DO IT.

THE NEIGHBORS AT



Obviously you are intent on being a neighbor who thinks it is OK to break the law.

By pushing your snow into the street and leaving it is against the law. You have no regard for your neighbors who obey the law.

The public street is not your personal dumping grounds. Maybe if your property became a dumping ground you would understand.

Remember Newtons Law???

Signed; your neighbors are watching you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

A note from the Chair:

I was very distressed to hear about an incident last winter in our neighborhood. Apparently, someone in the neighborhood sent *unkind, anonymous* letters to a neighbor to address their snow removal techniques.

I've attached the letters for your review, and I'm going to hop on a soapbox for a minute to vent my disgust and displeasure.

I've found that the fastest way to clear the air of misunderstandings and misinformation is to talk directly (face-to-face) courteously to the person you are having an issue with. If that had occurred in this instance, rather than the letters you see, both parties might have learned a valuable lesson.

The property owner who shoveled snow into the street would have learned in a friendly, conversational manner that the laws are different than their former residency, (even though they had moved from elsewhere in the state). What you don't know (and neither did the letter writer) is that the property owner in question came from a city/village where residents were advised, permitted and *encouraged* to remove snow from their driveways and/or sidewalks INTO the street for road crews to remove with the roadway snow. This particular owner admittedly was not aware of all of the municipal ordinances, including those pertaining to snow removal. I can honestly say, I haven't read all of them, either. Some people might say, "Ignorance is no excuse". I would reply with, "Well, have you read all ordinances?" I would also ask, "Have you ever made an honest mistake?" And truly, we could go back and forth all night over the issue and completely miss the point I am trying to make.

The conflict-avoidant neighbor (which is the nicest thing I can say about the letter writer) could have practiced their much-needed skills in diplomacy and tact, made a new friend of someone new to the area, and prevented this shameful and disappointing episode from occurring. Instead, they chose this alternative. Too which I say, "Shame On You!"

I realize there are two sides to every story, and I am more than willing to hear the letter-writers version, but would like to close on this note:

One of the purposes of the Tudor Area Community Council is to make sure our voices are heard about issues that matter. Another is to promote a sense of community and cooperation among the residents and neighbors, and to strengthen to bonds of neighbor and family for the good of all.

If you do not share that vision, please move to a neighborhood that tolerates mean-spirited cowardice such as the type displayed in the letters, because this council does not.


Shelli Dodson