

**Minutes of the Tudor Area Community Council**  
**September 4, 2008**  
**Rogers Park Elementary School**

Sheli Dodson, President, called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. There were nine members, two firemen from Station 4, and nine guests attending. The council approved the minutes for the May 1, 2008, meeting without objection.

**Speakers:**

**Assembly:** Assemblywoman Elvi Gray-Jackson spoke about curbside recycling that Solid Waste Services will begin shortly within parts of its service area. She says there will be only a minimal increase in cost. She also noted that the rewriting of Title 21, the Muni's land use regulations, is still going on. The draft regulations are on line at [www.muni.org](http://www.muni.org), and the working committee meets every Thursday at the Development Services building on Elmore Rd., just off Tudor Rd. Hot button issues on land use include being able to keep chickens on residential property. She also said that the extension of 48<sup>th</sup> Ave. would be named after Dr. Martin L. King.

Ms. Gray-Jackson noted that the Vehicle Inspection & Maintenance (I/M) emissions testing program continues until July 2010. The previous Assembly voted to end the program then. To date, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has not approved ending the program. This means that the state of Alaska would have to take over the operation of the I/M program when the Muni program ends. The Muni Dept. of Health and Human Services has been tasked to come up with new ideas.

Assemblywoman Gray-Jackson said that the Assembly has approved an agreement for Muni Light and Power (ML&P) to build a joint generation facility with Chugach Electric Association. The issue seems to be somewhat controversial, according to Ms. Gray-Jackson. Tuesday, Sept. 9, the Assembly will consider a proposal to make ML&P an area power authority.

**Equal Rights Commission:** Ms. Yvonne Gutierrez and Ms. Barbara Jones from the Anchorage Equal Rights Commission spoke briefly about their responsibilities, which include employment and housing. The Commission enforces municipal and other anti-discrimination laws on behalf of all citizens and visitors to Anchorage and provides anti-discrimination education. They report to both the mayor and to the assembly.

**Parks & Rec. Dept.:** Ms. Teri Peters, Northeast Parks Manager for the Muni, handed out a draft report card for rating our local parks. They will be used to as source information for making maintenance plans and improvement projects, for preparing the Parks and Rec. budget, and for making capital improvement funding requests. The report cards can be done as a group activity, and they will soon be put on-line for easy access. She graded David Green Park tonight as a test, and she said that David Green is the only neighborhood park with playground equipment. The Muni has more than 80 parks.

Ms. Peters said that the Parks Dept. has an arrangement with the First CME Church for overflow parking for the park on a non-interference basis for groups of more than 25 people (at a cost of \$50 paid to the church). Several council members said that park usage on the Fourth of July "was a disaster" as the group was noisy and activities went until after 10 P.M. There was discussion about using Cuddy Family Park as a venue for larger groups, and there was a question about the possibility of playground equipment for Cuddy Park.

**Traffic Improvements, 36<sup>th</sup> Ave. & Locarno Dr.:** Ms. Kristi Stuller and Ms. Alison Lohrke from DOWL Engineers handed out a flyer for a public meeting to be held on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>. The engineers have come up with four possible options and would like public comments. There will be one combined meeting for the Muni and State Dept. of Transportation projects at Locarno and 36<sup>th</sup>. Bob Kniefel, MOA Traffic Engineer, is in charge of the Muni's projects there, and Kevin Jackson, from Alaska DOT&PF, is responsible for the State's projects. There was some discussion by council members about several alternatives, particularly about the possibility of improving the sight distance at MacInnes St. Ms. Stuller said that they had heard some opposition to the plans. One of the possible outcomes could be the installation of a traffic signal at 36<sup>th</sup> Ave. and MacInnes St.

**MOA Rain Gardens:** Ms. Dawn Lobaugh, of HDR Alaska, spoke about a program the Muni has which provides reimbursement of one-half the cost (up to \$750) to homeowners who install a rain garden on their residential property. Municipality of Anchorage Watershed Management Services has an Alaska Coastal Conservation grant for the installation of rain gardens in cold climates<sup>1</sup>. Ms. Lobaugh handed out brochures on the program. Funding to homeowners is on a first-come, first-served basis. Much more information can be found at <http://www.anchorageraingardens.com/>.

**Fire Station 4:** The firemen asked that we have furnaces checked and chimneys inspected. In response to a question about a traffic light at MacInnes St. and 36<sup>th</sup> Ave., firemen said that they generally use Tudor Rd. rather than 36<sup>th</sup> Ave.

**Legislative & FCC Reports:** There was no legislative report. Sheli Dodson reported that the Federation of Community Councils (FCC) first meeting at its new location on Fireweed in the former United Way location would be on Sept. 17.

#### **Old Business:**

The council discussed its position on the addition of a traffic signal at MacInnes St and 36<sup>th</sup> Ave. The discussion was tabled until the October meeting. The council also discussed the need for an on-demand traffic light at MacInnes St. and Tudor Rd. to speed egress by the fire department. There was some discussion of the abuse of R-1 zoning by home-based businesses. A specific concern was the lack of parking.

The council discussed the construction on the house at 4201 MacInnes St. There has been no sign of progress for almost one year (since October 2007). There is a partially open excavation at the site. The same situation exists at 3903 MacInnes St. The house there has sat with no siding and with Tyvek house-wrap exposed for about one year. There is also an open excavation for a garage foundation there.

Council members again discussed the relatively low attendance at meetings. Current officers will reach the end of their time in office in January 2009. The matter will be on the October agenda. There was a suggestion that the council could send a questionnaire to all Tudor area residents asking about their participation in the community council.

**New Business:** None.

There being no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 8:42 PM.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.alaskacoast.state.ak.us/ACMPGrants/Documents/2007\\_request\\_proposal.pdf](http://www.alaskacoast.state.ak.us/ACMPGrants/Documents/2007_request_proposal.pdf)

## Good Neighbor Award

Submitted by Kevin Frank

Sorry this took so long to write. I think of this neighbor often and am more grateful than I express.

If nothing this Good Neighbor Award is long overdue. The subject of this award is likely well known to you and with good reason. Our neighbor and friend has been a positive force in the neighborhood and the community for a long time. And we have been the beneficiaries of her considerable efforts. Currently the President of the Tudor Community Council, Sheli Dodson is a classic example of the old saying 'if you want to get something done, ask a busy person". Sheli makes connections. She is an arbitrator, negotiator and sometimes friendly agitator. She is a diplomat, an advocate, a contributor. She is a doer. She is proactive and direct. She tends the many fires that warm her home, her neighborhood and our community. She facilitates better resolution through gaining meaningful information, engaging in discourse and keeping an open mind. Sheli is a lot of things and plays many roles. We are all fortunate that the lengthy list includes TACC leadership, smiling face and tireless community-minded resident. Most of all I feel fortunate that she is my neighbor and my friend. She is yours as well. As we draw to a close on Sheli's term as TACC President we should reflect on a quote from Henrik Ibsen that graces the end of many of her emails. It says, "a community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm." Thanks for all you've done Sheli!!!!