

Turnagain Community Council
Meeting Minutes May 7, 2009

Breck Tostevin, TCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

I. *Announcements*

Breck Tostevin announced the first two events and Cathy Gleason (TCC Board member) announced the rest:

- **Lyn Ary Park Master Plan Survey.** Please take 5 minutes and answer a short survey on the future goals for the Park over the next 20 years – May 11 is the deadline.
 - Adults:
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=T3ys9pSYOvYnWCA BvrJx7Q_3d_3d
 - Young Adults and Kids:
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Dea5tFuBaWSzyGzg Zfg_2fNQ_3d_3d
- **Animal Disaster Response Team** is organizing pet rescuers' training on May 9. Office of Emergency Management.
- Pat Redmond is lining up the **location for the TCC June meeting**. It will be either across the street Methodist church or at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Church on Wisconsin. Location will be on the agenda and we will post a sign on the front door of the school.
- Need volunteers to water trees and pull weeds at the **Lyn Ary Park Memorial Garden**. Nancy Beardsley (volunteer coordinator for Anchorage Parks and Recreation) will take names and times. We need to show that the city still has possession of the property with is relevant to the law suit (see below). Passed around a sign-up sheet
- **AMATS Technical Advisory Committee Meeting** is scheduled for May 14, 2:30 - 4:30 PM at Planning and Development Center, Main Conference Room, 4700 Elmore Road. Agenda:
<http://www.muni.org/transplan/Agenda.cfm>
- Public review of draft plan for the **Anchorage Economic Development Corporation** ends May 15.
- Comment deadline for Anchorage Bowl Long Range Transportation Revision for the **Knik Bridge** ends May 27.
- **Treeriffic** is scheduling a work session at the **Lyn Ary Park Memorial Garden** to fix fencing around trees on May 20 at 3:00pm
- **Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (TSAIA) disaster exercise.** Airport needs "victims" June 6.
- Anchorage Parks Foundation is providing a **Summer Parks and Play program**. Selected 5 parks where kid can be dropped off and play – 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM June 8 to July 31.
<http://www.anchorageparkfoundation.org/projects/Park&PlayArtists.htm>

- The Municipality is holding a bunch of FixIt projects in neighborhood parks. The **FixIt date for Woodland Park** is September 14.

II. *Assembly Report*

Assemblyperson Harriet Drummond gave the assembly report.

- April 14 meeting:
 - Lots of interest in the use of landfill gas from various companies.
 - Passed a Wildlife Public Safety Ordinance that was watered down:
 - No hunting
 - Work with existing agencies
 - Will look for moneys to hire an officer
 - Firefighters gave concessions which led to domino affect on other unions. Police provided layoff and wage concessions.
 - Public Safety Committee is looking at keeping bars open after closing hours.
 - Administration gave report on composting – no progress on replacing Port Woronzof – not this year. Having problems with garbage due to the loss of values of recyclables but increasing costs of landfill.
- April 21 meeting: Certified election and found four people that voted twice.
- April 28 meeting:
 - Budget revisions passed unanimously – set mill rates and applied savings toward tax relief and for next year when problems will be worse.

Mark Wiggin asked about the shuffling of assembly/mayor duties now that the election is over. Response: Drummond is vice chair, Debbie Ossiander is chair, and Sullivan is mayor. Leadership could change when Claman returns.

III. *Meeting Minutes Approval*

April TCC minutes were approved with unanimous vote.

IV. *Legislative Report*

Sen. Hollis French provided the report.

- Fast session – some felt that not much got done – focused on the budget oil process and the economy.
 - Operating budget 9.7B this year. Will draw 1.3B this year 6B still left – at this rate 4 more years of spending. Need \$72/barrell oil to pay for all the services.
 - State took in \$540 million in federal stimulus moneys. These were used for infrastructure, research vessel, major school maintenance, Dalton highway, among other items.
 - Capital budget was 16% less than Governor gave, and lower than last year.

- Passed SB133 on electronic health records. Uses stimulus money. Could save 5% on health care costs.
- Increased minimum wage to \$7.75/hr.
- Eliminated penalty for charter schools when enrollment dropped below 150
- Passed SB72 – more explicit booster seat laws affecting children between 20-40lbs. Bill makes State eligible to 200K in federal funds.
- Passed a power cost utilization program with \$5M available statewide.
- Some items that did not pass and some took longer than expected:
 - Denali Kid Care qualifications not raised from 170% of property – most states 300%
 - Death penalty bill did not pass – happy about that.
 - Governor did not take \$26M in energy stimulus funding – disappointed.
 - Wayne Anthony Ross was not confirmed. He was well known, had written columns and run for governor.
 - Filling Juneau Senate seat – did not come from the names provided by the party. Not resolved until the last day.
- Filed a bill to put web cameras in every committee meeting so that constituents can get streaming video on the internet.

Rep. Lindsey Holmes provided secondary update:

- Sen. French hit the highlights and lowlights – only 90 days long – this year started from scratch. Design to move slowly – hard to do budgeting and massive stimulus funding. House judiciary committee – spent a lot of time on the death penalty – passed out on 4 – 3 vote, but not popular in House. Not much support and not moving quickly.

Several TCC members brought up questions for Sen. French and Rep. Holmes:

A discussion on the use of cell phones while driving, the sustainability of spending more than the State brings in and on the availability of natural gas for Anchorage ensued.

V. *Ranking the Capital Improvement Projects*

Breck Tostevin introduced the three handouts that the Turnagain Community Council Board put together with their proposed rankings. Community Council rankings are used by the municipality and state to prioritize and rank projects. See List: <http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/viewfolder?id=3495Jeff>

All three rankings passed unanimously as presented:

- Parks and Recreation: Mark Wiggin made the motion to approve as presented. Seconded by Barb Jones. Discussion followed by vote: 16 in favor, 0 opposed.
- State Projects: Mark Wiggin made the motion to approve as presented. Discussion followed by vote: 17 in favor, 0 opposed.
- Roads and Drainage: Steve Strait made the motion to approve as presented. Seconded by Mark Wiggin. Discussion followed by vote: 18 approve, 0 opposed.

VI. *Lyn Ary Park Memorial Garden– Marston-Foraker Coastal Trail Buffer Litigation*

Assistant Municipal Attorney Robert Owens provided an update on the status of the private party litigation over the Marston/Foraker lands adjoining the Coastal Trail to the west of Lyn Ary Park and the lawsuit against the City concerning the Memorial Garden site.

The city bought the land (and has a deed) in 1996 from a bank after the bank acquired a quiet title. Now the plaintiffs are saying that the deed is not legal and that they own the land. Attorney Owen thanked everyone who came to the hearing and encouraged us to keep coming to the hearings. It is important to document community work and interest in the garden and to take lots of photos. Please let Nancy Beardsley (volunteer coordinator for Anchorage Parks and Recreation) know about community volunteer work – she will keep log.

No ruling made yet. Contact Breck if you want to be notified of future hearing.

Land to the west of this lawsuit is on appeal with the State Supreme Court. In that case the landowners inland of the disputed land won a lower-court ruling to obtain land to the mean high tide line of 1960. The Municipality did get parties to agree not to disturb the trail, the land north of the trail, or the land up to 25 feet south of the trail. No vegetation should be disturbed in these areas.

VII. *Mayoral Report*

Acting Mayor Matt Claman provided the mayoral report:

- New Mayor will be sworn-in in July. Mr. Claman will be serving West Anchorage as Assemblyman again.
- Proposition 9 got voted in. This proposition uses a 9-year rolling average for inflation so the tax cap will go up each year.
- Dust cleaning takes a month – 55% are city roads – May 1 start. Started in mid-April this year. Pushing the state to do their roads. Know dust is an issue.
- Potholes – if you have one, call the 343-MEND pothole hot line. A crew should be out within 48hr of call in.
- Ruts are a problem – how are these being fixed - CIP? Stimulus funds will be used for rut repair rather than buying busses because there is no money available to run the busses. L-Street and Minnesota are the two rut repairs.

VIII. *Lake Hood Bike Path Construction*

Linda Bustamonte (TSAIA communications director) and Andy Hutzel (Lake Hood manager) give an overview of the airport construction project underway this summer.

- The project involves extending the road shoulder to create a pedestrian/bike path. Federal moneys for airport improvement and a match of 6.2% from airlines are funding this project. The driving force behind the project is to balance safety for

the public while continuing to provide access for recreation. Project should be complete by the end of summer.

- A map with phone numbers for all tenants was provided and distributed.
- Introduced a bank stabilization project. Provided fliers showing erosion areas. Corps of Engineers allowing recapture of a couple of slips, but want to go the whole length so that a road and a taxiway can be placed on the peninsula. Two bank stabilization methods will be tested this summer in slips to see which ones should be used.
- Andy Hutzler offered to provide anyone with a tour – just call him to set it up.
- FYI - There is a firing range on the airport. It has been there for 35 years. It is located on the southwest corner of the airport.
- Please call or send an e-mail to Linda if you have any questions or concerns. Linda will be working on the West Anchorage District Plan.
- TCC members provided some feedback and questions to the TSAIA representatives:
 - Cathy Gleason thanked the airport for following through on the airport master plan in relation to the bike path.
 - Cathy Gleason had some questions about wetland fill creep on airport property. Linda will get with Cathy to look into this.
 - Erosion at the end of the N-S runway at about 12'/year. Nobody is doing anything about it. Linda will take this back to the airport's attention.
 - Drive-through deicing – any progress? Linda said that they are still looking for location right now. Facility would cut down the glycol use by 95%.
 - Many members said that noise is a problem. Linda said they are aware of it and are trying to do some innovative projects to bring the noise level down. For example, 2-bladed propellers are a problem – looking into providing an economic incentive to use the three-bladed prop instead.
 - Clark Rush said that providing access for people who like to watch planes would be a service the airport could provide that would benefit the public.

Adjourn 9:10pm

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Habicht, Secretary-Treasurer