

**Turnagain Community Council
Meeting Minutes June 3, 2010**

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

I. Announcements

- Pat Kelly agreed to be the TCC Airport Committee Chair. He has stepped down from serving as one of TCC's representatives to the Anchorage Airport Communications Committee. A sign-up sheet for committee volunteers was passed around.
- A handout identifying the airport's 2010 Proposed Construction Projects was available.
- Spenard Farmers Market is this Saturday from 10-3 – flyer details in back.
- The Festival of Flowers will be held at Town Square on Sat., June 5. This is a kick-off fundraiser for the newly created City of Flowers Endowment Fund, which aims to involve the private sector in funding the city's beautification projects.
- The Lake Hood Advisory Group, which TCC has been invited to participate in, will meet Wed., June 9 at 2:00 p.m. at the aviation office, 4451 Aircraft Dr.
- The Anchorage School Board will meet June 14 to discuss the West High/Romig Middle School Master Plan.
- The Parks Dept. has asked for volunteers to help this summer with the gravel portion of the trail project connecting Balto Seppala and Lloyd Steele Parks – dates to be announced later. A sign up sheet was passed around.

II. Minutes

The May meeting minutes were not presented.

III. Assembly Report

The Assembly Report was presented by Harriet Drummond and Ernie Hall. Comments included:

- the Assembly is working to allow fire fighters to continue to solicit donations by changing the ethics ordinance prohibited conduct.
- There has been a proposal for senior citizens to pay \$3 for events at the Performing Arts Center for roof and other maintenance because of cuts to the budget. Currently, they are exempt from the fee.
- IM testing was voted to be removed – now needs state and federal approval. There is benzene in Alaska gas refined by Tesoro, but Tesoro has promised the benzene will be reduced. Alaska is allowed higher benzene emission levels under fed law. The effective date for the end of the testing will be 180 days after state and fed approval, but there would be an additional 180 days before IM testing would end, which gives the businesses time to allow employees to transition to other opportunities.
- On May 25, the Assembly voted to oppose an initiative on the August 24 ballot initiative proposing to create an Alaska Anti-Corruption Act. Anyone with federal, state or local government contracts will

not be allowed to participate in campaigns, nor can their grandchildren or grandparents, if it's over \$500. The Assembly voted to oppose the initiative through the Alaska Municipal Association. The Anchorage School District and others also oppose it.

- The Assembly is continuing to work on the topic of illegal campsites, and if they are dismantled, how long people will have to reclaim their goods confiscated from the campsites. The Mayor's Homeless Task Force has been working on a Plan for over a year and has given a draft to the Mayor for review. After that, it will go before the Assembly.

- There were questions for the Assembly Members regarding homeless, MDA fire fighter collections, IM testing, public safety concerning an aircraft accident, Chugach Electric Association zoning exemptions and CEA failing to apply for zoning change for helipad.

III. Legislative Report

James Waldo, legislative aide for Rep. Lindsey Holmes, gave the legislative report. The Governor signed the budget and vetoed certain projects in our district, including the pathway on W. Northern Lights, upgrades to Demsey Anderson Ice Arena, and improvements to 35th Ave./McRae Rd. Other Anchorage area-wide projects took a big hit. The key projects for our area that were funded are schools getting new white boards and smart boards at Turnagain Elementary and Romig Middle School. There is other money for smart boards and computer equipment at West and new equipment at Lake Hood Elementary. Borland Street and Turnagain Boulevard received funding to deal with flooding and glaciation problems. There were no vetoes for district discretionary spending on infrastructure, roads and schools. The Governor signed Sen. French's bill regarding corporations engaging in political campaigns. The new bill set up a framework for corporations to disclose who is paying for the ad as well as say aloud who paid for it and where you can find them.

IV. Lyn Ary Tennis Courts

Bill Bittner spoke about the Lyn Ary tennis courts application for an Anchorage Parks Foundation Grant. He said the Alaska Tennis Association started working last year to get Lyn Ary tennis courts resurfaced, since those courts haven't been resurfaced in over 30 years! The Anchorage Parks Foundation received a grant from the Rasmuson Foundation, which requires a 40% match. Bill got the good news that the \$40,000 Lyn Ary Tennis Court grant was approved. The Hendrickson family is providing the grant match for the courts. The goal would be to get the tennis courts done this year. The grant award will be presented on Friday at noon at Town Square Park. Ernie Hall mentioned that he is on the Anchorage Parks Foundation Board, so with \$341,000 in grants approved, plus the matching amounts, \$2 million in improvements to parks will be funded. In addition, in the Governor's budget was \$1.2 million for Anchorage parks.

V. Woodland Park Cleanup and Celebration

Clint Bacall, of the Filipino Alaska Association, is working to build a picnic pavilion with the Municipality at Woodland Park. On Saturday, June 12, 2010, at 9:00 a.m., there will be a clean up of the park, followed by lunch put on by the Filipino Community to celebrate the Filipino Independence Day. Everyone is invited. Evelyn Abello, Vice President of the Filipino Community of Anchorage, noted that the group is planning to dedicate the shelter in memory of Thelma Buchholdt, who represented the Spenard area, in the state Legislature. The Filipino Community applied for an Anchorage Parks Foundation grant and the membership approved matching the challenge grant for \$20,000. The Filipino Community would like to thank Suzanne Little for her help.

VI. Balto Seppala/Lloyd Steele Parks Boardwalk Project

Breck Tostevin reported that Suzanne Little from the Parks Dept. gave him an update. The construction drawings are completed, wetland and right-of-way permits have been received, and a trails contractor has been approved. There will be volunteer opportunities for the gravel portion of the trail project. A sign-up sheet was distributed.

VII. West High- Romig Middle School Master Plan Traffic Update

TCC invited people to talk more about the traffic proposals in the West High-Romig Middle School Master Plan. Kent Crandall is the project manager for the Master Plan project. The project was presented at the May TCC meeting, and the issues that were still a concern were access and traffic. The traffic update was presented by DOT representative Scott Thomas; Joan Mitchell (USKH); Mike Abbott (ASD); and Bob Kneifel (MOA traffic). Out of 13 options considered, the Plan retains Options 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13 for further review. Options 10 and 11 involve site acquisition from Lutheran Church of Hope and the office supply store. The office supply option is very attractive because it will improve circulation. The idea is to bring in a separate lane near the Dempsey Anderson Ice Arena with a light and to line it up with the new entrance to Aurora Village CARRS. A bus route will come in on Northern Lights and go behind the school and continue out to Hillcrest Drive. The access proposed is only for buses and otherwise will be gated, except it may be open for special events.

Scott Thomas indicated that DOT permits state roads and access. DOT supported the site plan and recommended waiting to see how the roads will fit together and tap into access on Northern Lights, as well as tap into Benson Boulevard. The DOT says these road options will solve some of the problems.

There were interim measures to control traffic taken on Hillcrest drive by the MOA Traffic Department.

There were comments that people from West Anchorage drive to Forest Park Drive, so TCC parents would probably not use Benson. The goal would be to take a left on Benson between Carrs and dentist office and cross Northern Lights to a new drop off spot behind Dempsey and Romig. For traffic on Northern Lights going west, there will be a new light after the post office. There may be need to have an internal link from the post office parking to the new road. TCC members expressed concern that when the post office was created, they originally designed the entrance to not line up with Carrs, but TCC recommended that it be changed, so that it would line up directly with the west Carrs entrance, so plans were adjusted. DOT says we are all looking for internal linkage and could eliminated some of the in and outs on Northern Lights and directly them to one light. DOT is taking the opportunity of the West-Romig Master Plan to fix some of the traffic problems on Northern Lights, but can't make everybody fix it because some of the land is private property or state highways.

A comment was made that during high rain periods and spring break-up, there are problems with water and flooding on West Northern Lights between Forest Park Drive and Turnagain Parkway under the railroad overpass. The response was that there would be some reworking on the grading. Part of the schools intent is to direct kids to the intersection to create a nice easy direct way to cross the street. So the big picture is if the School District approves the master plan, then when the school gets the money, then it goes through the formal steps of permitting. Nothing in the master plan should be interpreted as a permit; all decisions will go through public comment and permitting through ASD, MOA, and DOT. The Master Plan is really a concept, it is not a final decision, no final funding decisions. So this will take a number of years. But as to the traffic, DOT and the MOA take every opportunity to work on traffic improvements.

VIII. Fish Creek Culvert Project

As part of the 35th Ave./McRae Rd. upgrade road project, Fish Creek will need to be reculverted 50 feet to the east of the existing culvert. While design work has been progressing on this project, the state Legislature budgeted the road project his session, but it was one of the line items vetoed by Gov. Parnell, so no funding is currently available.

The creek was moved and turns at a 90-degree angle and there is a drop and there are fish in the creek and they can't make the drop. The creek project has been worked on for over 20 years. The project managers realized they couldn't solve the problem of the creek without solving the problem of the road. They worked together to make the best road and it involved realigning the sewer line and moving the creek away from the road so there isn't snow dumped into the creek. The trailer court will be moved and there will be trees and plantings. There will be an overlook into the creek. The goal was to bring attention to the creek by putting the name on the creek. There are black fish in the creek, which are not native to this area but native to Bristol Bay. There are also Dolly Varden and Silver Salmon. They have seen adult silver salmon in the creek up to Northern Lights. There are water quality and low flow problems, so the salmon are probably not a run. The water quality has improved. They are trying to deal with issues at Old Hermit Park. It would deal with the storm drain outfall. Fish Creek runs in an open channel at Midtown Park.

They corrected the safety issues on the road by raising the intersection and straightening out the road in the design. The mature trees will have to be removed because they will be under the new part of the road. Because the overall road project got vetoed, the creek project will not go forward. The MOA may still look at the project next April as part of a bond issue. Construction bids are coming in considerably lower than two years ago. The neighbors have been informed about the project and are supportive and the questions involve trees, driveways, and they have answered all of the concerns. As to Fish Creek on Northern Lights, the plan is to let the Creek heal itself. The goals is to control pollution and water control on the upper part of the creek, the lower part can heal itself. A question was asked about the pond on Barbara Street Park on 32nd. The response was that it really needs to be removed, but it is on private property.

IX. TCC's Capitol Improvement Projects List

Because of the Governor's vetoes on the CIP funding (the two vetoed projects were the pathway along the south side of W. Northern Lights and the 35th & McRae Rd. funding), it was suggested to resubmitting the CIP list with the vetoed items placed back in our priority list.

A motion was made by Cathy Gleason and seconded by Pat Redmond. No discussion. The motion passed, 8 in favor and none opposed.

X. End of the meeting.

Pat Redmond announced that donations are being asked for to pay the fee to use this facility (Our Lady of Guadalupe Church).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.