

**Turnagain Community Council
Meeting Minutes April 7, 2011**

Cathy Gleason, TCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

I. Announcements

Cathy Gleason provided a handout with the following announcements and project updates:

April 11 — Planning & Zoning Commission public hearing on a Minor Amendment to a Conditional Use to reflect the platted boundary approved February 2, 2011, for AWWU Pump Station 10, 6:30 p.m., Assembly Chambers Loussac Library. Info: Paul Hatcher, AWWU, 564-2763.

April 11 &12 — Alaska Peer Partnership Conference 2011, “Peer Powered Systems,” Sheraton Anchorage Hotel. Register online at www.peerconference.org. Info: Yvonne Evans, Conference Coordinator, 727-5828, yvonneevans@live.com

April 13, April 27, May 11 & May 25 — Spenard Road Redesign Task Force Meetings, 5:00-6:00 p.m., MOA Project Management and Engineering office, 4700 Elmore Road. Chris Habicht and Matt Claman represent TCC on this group. Meetings are open to the public. Info: Assembly Member Ernie Hall, 562-2088, Halle@ci.anchorage.ak.us.

April 14 (*postponed from March 10*) — Heritage Land Bank Advisory Commission public hearing on the 2011 HLB Work Program and 2012-2016 Five-Year Plan. 11:30 a.m., 1st Floor Permit & Development Center, 4700 Elmore Rd, Conf. Rm. 170. Info: Acting Director Tammy R. Oswald, 343-7986, hlb@muni.org.

April 15 — Deadline for EARLY Registration — Anchorage Neighborhood USA Conference May 25-28 (\$150). After April 15th, registration fee is \$350. Info. and registration: www.nusa2011.org.

April 21 — TCC Board Meeting, 11:45 a.m., Muffin Man Café 817, 817 W. 6th Ave. Info: TCC President Cathy Gleason, 248-0442, tccpresident@yahoo.com.

April 25 — Pathway along W. Northern Lights between Captain Cook Estates & Lois Dr. Open House, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Romig Middle School Multi-purpose Rm. Info: Brooke Blessing, 343-8387, blessingbr@muni.org.

April 25 — Community/Airport Strategic Workshop #2, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Spenard Recreation Center, 2020 48th Ave. Continued discussion on how to improve communication and collaboration between neighborhoods, recreational/parks/open space interests and the airport. Info: Chair Matt Claman, 350-3105, mattclaman@gmail.com.

April 28 — Lake Hood Seaplane Base User Group Meeting, 1:00 p.m., General Aviation Office, 4451 Aircraft Dr., Suite H. Info: Andy Hutzal, 266-2741, Andy.Hutzal@alaska.gov.

May 5 — TCC Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Turnagain Elementary School Library, 3500 W. Northern Lights Blvd. Info: TCC President Cathy Gleason, 248-0442, tccpresident@yahoo.com.

May 6 — Anchorage Airport Communications Committee Meeting. 3:30 p.m., north end of South Terminal. Info.: Matt Claman, 350-3105, mattclaman@gmail.com.

May 14 — TCC Lyn Ary Park Memorial Garden Work Party, 10:00 a.m. It's time to spruce up the area, do some flower planting, and make it look good for the NUSA South Addition-Turnagain Neighborhood Tour!

May 27 — West Anchorage District Plan Public Review Draft Comment Deadline. Plan can be found at www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Projects/WestAnch/Pages/WADPDocs.aspx. Info: Thede Tobish, 343-7918, TobishTG@ci.anchorage.ak.us.

PROJECT UPDATES:

AWWU Turnagain Interceptor Sewer Project: Construction to begin mid-May; topic will be on May 5th TCC meeting agenda. There will be some traffic impacts on West 29th Avenue and Wisconsin Street. Info: Joshua Shackelford, 786-5697, Joshua.Shackelford@awwu.biz.

Lyn Ary Park Tennis Courts Rehabilitation: Work will begin approximately May 20; ready for play mid-July (weather dependent). Info: Anchorage Park Foundation Website — www.anchorageparkfoundation.org/projects_challenge/2010_LynAryTennis.htm.

West Anchorage District Plan: A public review draft is now posted on the Muni Website. Comment deadline is May 27th. A longer public hearing phase of the Plan will follow this first review. Thede Tobish will be at the TCC April 7th meeting to provide an overview.

Lloyd Steele Trail Tree Clearing: This summer (date to be determined), a handful of volunteers will be needed to clear small tree moose browse along a couple of trails in the southwest area of Lloyd Steele park for better visibility and safety from moose. This project is being coordinated with the Municipality. Please contact Frank Keen (248-9174) if you are interested in helping out.

Lyn Ary Park Memorial Garden and lots to the west: Municipality declined to sell the property to private property owners to the south of this area. Now back in lawsuit mode. Plaintiffs have asked judge for a 90-day continuance to hire new attorneys; MOA attorney objected. Judge needs to rule on MOA's motion to dismiss the case.

Announcement from Willis Lyford, President of Anchorage West Little League – May 7, 2011, AWLL Field Day – parent and players will be on the fields at Lyn Ary Park to rake fields, clean up the trash, among other duties. There are over 150 kids involved in West Little League. As discussed at the TCC Board Meeting, Barb Jones made a motion to purchase pizza for AWLL kids and families involved in the clean up on May 7, with a friendly amendment from Mark Wiggin to spend up to \$200; Dan Gleason seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Willis Lyford thanked the TCC and made a second announcement regarding the Anchorage West Little League use agreement with the Municipality. About 4-5 years ago, the Municipal Parks and Recreation Department asked the Little Leagues across the city to take over field maintenance for the fields. So the Anchorage West Little League mows, weed whacks, and takes care of all of the maintenance within the fields. This year, the Municipal Parks and Rec

Department announced very recently that it wants the Little Leagues to take on heightened responsibilities, including aeration, fertilization, paying for pickup of the port-a-potties, and well as paying for excess trash. Both the extra responsibilities and the process – the short notice - are a problem. Lyn Ary Park is unique because the ball fields are in the middle of the community park and it's an access point to the trail. Anchorage West Little League uses the fields from May 1 – July 20; but the new agreement from the Municipality expects AWLL to perform these duties from May – September 15. The fields at Lyn Ary are used after hours by others, like the ultimate Frisbee players.

Willis had language in a resolution that he asked the Turnagain Community Council to support that requests the Parks and Recreation Dept. to reinstate the 2010 Cooperative Use Agreement with AWLL at Lyn Ary Park for the 2011 season, and focus on making changes in a new agreement for 2012 that addresses concerns AWLL have expressed. Matt Claman made a motion supporting the resolution; Dan Gleason seconded. The discussion that followed include that Mark Wiggin says he called Parks and Rec and said his contact at the Department thought the burden on AWLL is \$97, but she might have left out the 500 man hours. Mark Wiggin agrees with the motion and recognizes that some things that are new and the budgets are different with P&R. Another comment echoed the previous comments and stated that when the Little League took over the field maintenance, and they were told they have priority use, but basically we have a volunteer group and have given them a responsibility that is fundamentally our city's responsibility. Matt Claman pointed out the another key group of users is the ultimate Frisbee players, who are on the fields as soon as Little League is off the fields and are usually there until 1:00 a.m. Scott Stringer, MOA Forester stated he has no comment, but the Parks and Rec Department has taken \$3.5 million cut; facilities struggling to stay open; and the department is doing whatever it can to keep the fields open. He will take the comments back to Chris and John Rodda. There was a call for the question and the motion passed, 11 in favor; none opposed.

II. Treasure's Report

TCC Treasurer Barb Jones reported there is no change since the last report. TCC has \$4,265.10 in its account.

III. Minutes

The March minutes are not available and will be approved at the May meeting.

II. Committee Reports

A. NUSA Convention and South Addition-Turnagain Neighborhood Tour Committee

Barb Jones reported that TCC and South Addition Community Councils are doing a joint NUSA Tour, which will begin in South Addition and end in Turnagain and with dinner at a the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum. The Committee has been meeting regularly and will meet tonight after the TCC meeting. The idea of a Turnagain banner design contest has been put on hold. Dan Gleason made a motion for TCC to donate, or for members to donate, up to \$100 for general use for food for the NUSA Conference Tour dinner; the motion was seconded by Mark Wiggin. The motion passed, 11 in favor; none opposed.

B. TCC Aviation Committee

Merle Akers gave a brief presentation on the Lake Hood Ski Plane Operations update. When the Lake Hood Stakeholders Group met in January, the issue of why the lake was being closed in the winter was discussed. As a result of interest in this issue, three additional meetings were held; the best report is online and prepared by Alaska Dispatch, Ben Anderson. The Lake is now open or quasi-open. Based on the objections on the closure until now, Merle is very disappointed about the new rule or regulation – that the lake will be closed whenever there is four inches of snow. There were no public hearings; no input; the accident data doesn't appear to be any reason. It appears that the reason is because there is limited manpower and only one piece of equipment to come over from the International side of the airport to plow the strip. Cathy Gleason thanked Merle Akers for following this issue. The TCC Aviation Committee is not meeting regularly because there is no chair, but members have discussed joining with Spenard and Sand Lake Community Councils. Anyone who is interested, please sign up.

C. Spenard Road Redesign Task Force – TCC representatives

Chris Habitch and Matt Claman are the TCC representatives on the new Spenard Road Redesign Task Force. The first meeting was a few weeks ago. All of the Task Force committee members introduced themselves and discussed organizational process and discussed some options that might work. A question was asked about what happened to the survey cards that were passed out at the community council meetings? The response was that the responses will be sent out to all community council presidents and the Federation of Community Councils soon.

IV. Legislative Report – There was no legislative report

V. Anchorage Assembly Report

Harriet Drummond gave the Assembly report. At the March Assembly meeting there was a transit meeting where they equipped the busses with a tool that triggers the traffic light to stay green if the bus is approaching. (It won't change a red or a yellow.) It was implemented on two routes and actually works; it keeps the busses on schedule; it doesn't affect traffic. The recommendation is to extend this equipment to all the busses because it saves energy.

Another important action before the Assembly was to amend the Anchorage Municipal Code to clarify that the tax cap is figured based on the previous year's collections.

In the election on Tuesday, the proposition that proposed a 100 percent ID check at package liquor stores passed with 70 percent of voters saying yes. There will be a proposal before the Assembly in May beyond the advisory vote to require 100 percent ID check in restaurants and bars, as well as package liquor stores. The objective is to make sure the people with a red stripe their on drivers' licenses are not able to buy liquor. There are some concerns about people with the red stripe using other forms of ID – a passport or an out of state driver's license. Harriet stated her concern is not to go overboard; the bartenders and staff do a pretty good job and should stop serving them. The best practices include checking ID of everyone. Some of the red stripe people are going to find a way to get liquor anyway. There is a reward system if you capture a red stripe driver's license buying liquor, which was passed by Harry Crawford, but that law has no enforcement. It just established the red stripe driver's license.

There is a surplus of \$11.5 million dollars in the Municipal budget. Do you want it back? The responses were as follows: Fix the schools that didn't get fixed; the guy from the little league should not be maintaining the fields; give P& R some money; repaint the cross walks downtown; use local funds to matching State funds for \$900,000 sidewalk on W. Northern Lights from Captain Cook Estates to Lois Drive; put pedestrian crossing at Spenard Road now and not wait until major road project; give \$500,000 for the Coastal Trail rehab from Earthquake Park to Kincaid that didn't pass in the Parks bond.

Harriet Drummond also stated that the downtown ticketing for parking proposition passed, and it will be assigned to Anchorage Community Development Authority. Will be carefully and kindly enforced and will go into effect before tourist season starts.

There was a question about Municipal public notices. Harriet stated that public notice and getting notices sent to people should be on the Municipality's home page. Harriet will take this up with the new IT Director, Lance Ahern. You can sign up to be a recipient of the RSS feed, but then you get everything. At the least, the community council presidents should be included. (What about some of these alternative papers, like Press, Alaska Dispatch?)

VI. Wendy's Way Property Acquisition Update for Lake Hood RPZ

Wolfgang Junge indicated that the State has contacted five of the six property owners on Wendy's Way regarding purchasing their property for the Lake Hood Runway Protection Zone. They are getting the appraisals. Once they get the appraisals they will be contacting the property owners to negotiate and get some agreement. The plan is to relocate those living in the homes (mostly rentals) by the end of summer. The buildings will be removed and they will work with the council on landscaping and fencing, but there will probably be no tall trees. End of project is projected for summer 2012.

There was a question about the gravel strip runway: if it is extended to the north, would DOT need to acquire more property? The response was that will not be happening because if they shift the runway, they would have buying another duplex. So, there is no plan to expand the runway. Another question was that TCC submitted input on the Environmental Assessment and made a suggestion for the fire department or police department to use the structures before they were demolished. The response was that it was considered, but will not be happen because of impact to neighbors and level of risk. A clarifying question was asked whether the airport was going to acquire the buildings before the end of this season? The response was that the plan is that the homes will be leveled before the snow flies. The airport does not have to wait until all six are sold before taking some down. As soon as the deed is signed, the state property manager will visit the property everyday to make sure the utilities are managed and the buildings are safe. They will have locks and keys and secure the building. The State will pay all project costs up front and then get reimbursed by FAA.

VII. Invasive Grass Removal at Westchester Lagoon

Scott Stringer, Municipal Forester, made a presentation about the invasive Reed Canary Grass (RCG) at Westchester Lagoon; it is currently growing from the radio tower to the north shore area. The Municipality could lose the salmon habitat at Westchester Lagoon with this invasive grass. It must be burned before birds arrive and start nesting. The City wants to phase in the process, starting with the area from the radio tower to the fish passage area. The grass is not in the waterway. No permit required because it is all above the high water line. This is not aquatic

grass. There was a question asked about what would be used to re-vegetate? The response was first it would be burned, then covered with a stapled black tarp for two years, then reseeded with a native grass seed specified by the Department of Agriculture. Scott Stringer has spoke to US Fish and Wildlife Bird person and they were not concerned as long as done before nesting; the Anchorage Fire Department will do the burn as a training exercise. The grass was originally planted by the Department of Transportation for erosion control. Similarly, the “May Day” trees are also pretty, but problematic because it can be invasive. Education signs will be posted in the area.

VIII. West Anchorage District Plan

Thebe Tobish from the Municipal Planning Department discussed that when Anchorage 2020 Comprehensive Plan was adopted 10 years ago, it required a district plan for West Anchorage. The Planning Department has undertaken a few district plans, and recently has been working on West Anchorage. The presentation noted that the State requires cities to do a comprehensive plan shows that shows projected housing growth. They did the projected population growth for 20 years and found that the vacant land supply was probably enough to handle the projected population with some proposed increase in density. The plan is set up by Chapter and the key Chapters are Chapter 3, which includes goals and objectives, which are followed throughout the document; Chapter 5 is the implementation chapter. Generally, the district plan focuses on generalized land use; generalized transportation issues; parks and rec; and impacts from the airport.

Some of the highlights of the plan, beyond basic land use, are that the community and the structures are aging. That means that in the next 20 years, the area is likely to see lots of redevelopment. Builders are not building single family homes; they are doing remodels. Some of the airport issues that the plan focuses on and highlights are the airport noise contours, and most of those lots are covered by commercial, but the plan tries to address those conflicts. There are four Interface/Key Conflict Areas identified: vacated Kulis land, the Coastal Trail, northwest Turnagain and South Airpark. The plan also includes an identification of parcels in and around the airport for discussion of long-term uses.

Another key item in the plan was the Spenard Road Corridor, which has historical and growing interest. The Comprehensive Plan identified a Town Center in the area and it has started to evolve on its own, with improved pedestrian amenities part of the plan. The plan is on the website, www.muni.org/Department/OCPF/Planning/Project/West_Anch/Pages/Default.aspx. Comments are due May 27. All the maps shown tonight are in the document and there are a lot more.

A question was asked about the Land Use Map and how much of it has been has been changed from the conceptual approval in 2006? Thebe responded that not a lot has changed, but it is definitely different, and it took in consideration community council comments; they focused on specific study areas. Most of the higher density recommendations are at Sand Lake. A comment was made by Cathy Gleason that Spenard, Sand Lake, and TCC were considering doing a joint community meeting on the West Anchorage District Plan, maybe the second week of May. Eventually TCC will need to submit comments and will need member inputs.

IX. Heritage Land Bank 2011 Work Program and 5-year Management Plan

A comment letter drafted by the TCC Board was passed out for members to review regarding the HLB 2011 Work Program and 5-Year Management Plan. It is similar to past TCC comment letters and Cathy Gleason asked the TCC to approve the letter. One of the items in the letter is TCC recommending that the HLB land west of the airport be transferred into the Parks & Recreation Department for a dedicated Coastal Trail greenbelt. TCC has previously passed a resolution supporting this land transfer. A motion was made by Barb Jones to approve the letter; the motion was seconded by Dan Gleason. The motion passed, 10 in favor; none opposed.

VIII. Comments from the Floor and Agenda Items for May

Cathy Gleason reported that the following items are scheduled for the May 5th meeting:

- TCC discussion on the West Anchorage District Plan
- AWWU Sewer Project Update
- Lake Hood Pedestrian Signage/Gateway Project
- CIP Ranking List; comments are due June 1 (TCC may ask for extension so we can discuss this at June meeting)

Harriet Drummond commented that she heard from a lot of people about being “nickel and dimed” by the City; for example, a teacher who has her class “adopt a park” each year and now the school has to pay \$40. This is ridiculous that the left hand is charging the right hand; it is appropriate to look at the uses, but to charge is costly.

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Jones, Secretary-Treasurer