

**Turnagain Community Council
Meeting Minutes June 2, 2011**

Cathy Gleason, TCC President, called the meeting to order at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church at 7:07 pm. and announced that this was the last meeting until September 1, 2011.

I. Announcements

Cathy Gleason noted that the announcements were on the back of the printed agenda and highlighted those in bold:

- ⇒ **Volunteers needed for TCC Tree Moose Browse Clearing Project at Lloyd Steele Park this summer**
- ⇒ **Parks Committee volunteers needed this summer to identify park projects that would be appropriate for legislative grant funding**
- ⇒ **Passed around sign-up sheet for Joint Aviation Committee for TCC, Spenard, and Sand Lake Community Councils.**
- ⇒ **Thanked all the volunteers who participated in the NUSA South Addition-Turnagain neighbourhood tour and Aviation Heritage Museum dinner.**

Request for donations for Our Lady of Guadalupe for allowing us to use their building for the meeting tonight.

II. Treasurer's Report and Minutes

The Treasurer's report included expenditure of \$149.25 TCC spent for the West Anchorage Little League field day. Current discretionary funds are \$751.13 and total balance, which includes dedicated funds is \$4,115.85.

Chris Habicht moved and Bill Wortman seconded the motion to approve the April 7 TCC minutes and there was no opposition. The May minutes are not available and will be available in September.

III. Legislative Report

Sen. Hollis French gave the legislative report. The regular session ended with no approval of the renewing the Coastal Zone Management Program; the state program will sunset on July 1, 2011. The federal program will be in effect, but it is weaker than the federal program. Sen. French anticipates one more opportunity to resolve. The operating budget was approved and the capital budget was approved. \$1 billion was put into savings. West High and Romig Middle School received \$3.5 million – more than any other Anchorage schools. It is the only joint middle-high school campus and; badly in need of upgrades. Much of the session was consumed by oil tax debate and whether ACES should be revised. Hollis believes oil taxes are fairly set. Questions

from members: noted deposit of sand at mile 3.1 on the Coastal Trail near Uranus planet sign, probably from wind-generated bluff erosion, so there is a great deal of concern about loss of the Coastal Zone Management Program. The Coastal Zone Management Program really gives local people voices in the process; the oil industry is just opposed to the program. Legislators from Barrow and elsewhere are concerned about the lack of a program because of the subsistence and offshore drilling. In response to a question regarding the Governor's response to the budget: The Governor's deadline to veto is 20 days from the day the budget was transmitted to him, excluding Sundays and holidays. Legislature passed \$3.2 billion capital budget and Gov. said he will cut to \$2.8 billion. He said if we did not pass oil tax reduction, then he would need to cut elsewhere. Hollis' newsletter is being mailed and it was suggested that it be emailed to cut costs. Hollis responded mailing out the newsletter is currently very inexpensive and not everyone has email.

IV. Anchorage Assembly Report

Postponed until later in evening. Harriet Drummond gave the Anchorage Assembly report and confirmed the Mayor's announcement that Anchorage won the Tree City USA Award for the 5th straight year in a row; it was presented at the Arbor Day Celebration May 16.

There were a lot of major items passed on at the Assembly May 24 meeting. The Assembly eliminated the Board of Directors for AWWU and ML&P; the MOA is going back to the utility form of governments. The day after, Mark Premo, general manager of AWWU for 20 years, resigned. The Assembly approved 100 percent ID check at package liquor stores. The industry has already been doing that and the reality is that .004 of the population is the problem. The problem is that the state passed the red stripe license law and there is no way to enforce it; people are not forced to get red stripe driver's licenses. Only about 4000 people in the state have been instructed to get them and only 500 have gotten them. There probably better ways to do this (i.e., ankle bracelets), but there aren't resources. Until the state comes up with alternatives, this is the best we have. We look at the liquor license violation. A question was asked if there a sunset clause and the response was that Ms. Drummond didn't think so.

The Assembly passed an ordinance amending noise permit conditions to address commercial and industrial areas adjacent to residential areas. There is no change to the amount of noise; it just beefs up the fines, but this doesn't help if the city doesn't have the ability to enforce the ordinance. There is an application on iPhone to monitor noise/decibel levels and take photos; can also purchase application that costs \$10 and it has sound studio quality. The ordinance does not apply to airport noise; just construction, commercial and industrial noise. It does not address boom boxes from cars or trucks with loud bass. That is a separate one the Assembly should deal with.

There is no zoning for the airport that is reserved under title 21. A question asked for an update on improving noticing public meetings. Regarding public notice, the RSS (Really simple syndicated) is there, but 15 percent of people have no access to Internet. It is also not user-friendly – something should be on MOA Home Page, so it is easy to sign up to receive notices via email. Public works has the Hanson systems; it is GIS based. And we get notices sent for info. on Anchorage road constructions updates. There was another question regarding public

notice that MOA doesn't have money for public notice, but Mat-Su does. You can go to FCC and get all of the Community Council meetings and minutes and community service and emergency service with very limited budget and yet the whole big city can't get this info together. A suggestion was made that FCC should contract with the MOA to create a list serve for all the public notices. Barb Jones, Municipal Ombudsman, will follow up with Harriet and Bonnie Jack and will report at the TCC September meeting.

Another question concerned the Mayor's educational summit. Ms. Drummond responded that the first two days will be sometime in November, with follow up meetings in January and February. What is the subject and goal? We have spent a lot of money; the ASD has good facilities, but students don't seem to have the ability to get successful employment.

V. AWWU Turnagain Interceptor Sewer Project Update

Joshua Shackelford, Civil Engineer for AWWU, provided information on the continuation of the sewer project, which as started in 2011. The preliminary schedule was May – July 4, but they are about 10 days behind schedule. Project is scheduled to be completed by mid-July, before school starts in August. Wisconsin Ave. will be open to northbound traffic only. Southbound traffic will be detoured. The sidewalk should be open on the east side, but the bike path on the west side will be closed.

VI. Lloyd Steele Park Entrance Revitalization Project

Steve Callahan from The Boutet Company was present to discuss the Lloyd Steele Park Entrance Revitalization Project at the end of 30th Ave. Cost for the project is \$40,000 and it's money left over from a legislative grant. There was a discussion about the type of trees proposed-Amur Chokecherry. Because they are deciduous trees that attract moose, moose fencing will be placed around them. For lower cost and lower maintenance, it was suggested to just plant evergreen trees. A response was that evergreen trees will block the view. If you get deciduous trees that are larger than moose-height, which is a pretty big tree, it is more expensive. Also it was requested not to plant the trees that are poisonous to moose. The Municipal Forester's direction was only that the trees be planted 20 feet apart and are noninvasive. Consensus was to leave the final decision on tree choice to the contractor. The project will advertise next week and will take about six weeks to complete.

VII. Cell Tower Development at the Airport's North Airpark

Cathy Gleason provided information on a proposed cell tower at TSAIA. The airport received notice that a company wanted to lease land north of Penn Air in North Airpark to build a 95-foot cell phone tower that will be used for aviation and non-aviation purposes. Alaska Airlines is interested in using it to boost Internet access on its plane. The TCC Board met with the airport and the representative from Atlas Tower to discuss the project. After discussion of possible alternatives for cell transmitters in the area, it made sense to have a stand-alone tower constructed. The Board requested green chain-link fencing around the tower and evergreens around the ground level equipment and tower. Atlas Tower nor the airport had a problem with that request. FAA has approved the project and construction will begin this summer.

There was a question about what kind of revenue the airport would be receiving for the cell phone tower, with the thinking that any revenue generated after a certain year could be used to mitigate noise.

VIII. TCC Ranking of 2012 Capital Improvement Projects

Pat Redmond moved and Elaine Hulse seconded motion to approve the TCC Board ranking recommendations, so discussion could take place. There were no parks projects approved from our list from last year and there were no park projects in the list provided by the Muni this year, so all our previous requests were added back in. The road and drainage projects were the same as last year's TCC ranking. A question concerned Romig/West High access and whether that was within our Community Council and it is. Another question concerned erosion at Point Woronzof to Lyn Ary, but the Municipality has said it's the airport's problem, since the worst areas are on their land; the airport says the Corps of Engineers should cover the cost of bank stabilization. Last year there was fencing between Point Woronzof and Earthquake Park and it was on airport property and it was unknown why it was taken down. With no other discussion, the motion passed 10 in favor; none opposed to approve the TCC Board Ranking Recommendations for the 2012 CIP list. A question was asked whether it would help to pass a resolution regarding the erosion at Point Woronzof? It was stated that the city is aware of the erosion and at TCC's request, the issue has been included in the WADP. The issue was addressed in the TCC's comment letter.

IX. West Anchorage District Plan

Breck Tostevin and Cathy Gleason served as representatives on the West Anchorage District Plan Planning Group and led the discussion. The TCC Board drafted a comment letter for the Public Review Draft for the council to consider approving; comment deadline is June 10. A request at the May meeting was for the TCC letter to include more detail; the main topics are the same, but much detail has been added to this draft.

Topics discussed:

Using funds from TSAIA and fuel tax revenue to mitigate noise at the airport. The recommendation in general was that the plan recognized that the regulation of the airport is very complex. We recommend that Planning Department acts as an advocate for the community and that the Muni needs a staff position proficient in airport issues and law.

Protection of Turnagain Bog and detailed references about preservation. Tony Knowles Coastal Trail and protecting the greenbelt on municipal lands. One of the recommendations in the letter was to address coastal bluff erosion and to address and implement a strategy. Also there is a recommendation about acquiring portions of the coastal trail greenbelt between the Westchester Lagoon and Kincaid Park and recommend working with Great Land Trust or Anchorage Parks Foundation to obtain land, because currently the Coastal Trail is just an easement across private and airport for "trail purposes."

As to an additional North-South Runway, the plan recognized the public opposition to the runway, and we are asking the plan to recognize that TCC passed resolution that we opposed by resolution as well as the impacts of an additional N-S runway. With regard to the comprehensive land exchange, we stated that this is not in TCC's interest to trade away dedicated parkland for other airport land used as parks, but rather for the MOA to obtain airport parcels through purchase or conservation easement. There is a conversation easement in state law. West Anchorage Land Use Plan map discussion concerned the fact that the map doesn't properly designate areas within the airport property. Currently all of the property within the airport boundaries is marked "Major Transportation Facility." What was the reason for the Municipality changing the land use from 1982?

The response from the Thede Tobish, MOA Senior Planner, was that Anchorage adopted the trend that is going across the county. Railroad land is another example. It could show commercial, industrial, and institutional. It is a catch all. There are live leases that change all the time. Putting green areas on the land use map was meaningless. This reflects the reality that the airport doesn't pay any attention to zoning. What would you prefer? A statement was made that the plan should reflect what the municipality thinks is appropriate land use for community interests for the next 20 years; it should NOT concede this point. Response was that the plan tries to reflect the reality; and presented an alternative reality that would involve a comprehensive land exchange. A land use map is a state required document that reflects the community and ... you follow the TSAIA Master Plan. The plan does include an airport land use map. Comment was made that if a Muni document shows all the airport land as Major Transportation Facility, it suggests the city is not going to address anything that happens on airport land. Another comment was that the 2020 Anchorage Comprehensive Plan discussed non-airport uses for some of these areas. This map provides more detail about the possibilities on the various pieces of property.

A final comment concerned noise mitigation measures and burden on the private property owners that are proposed in the plan. Is this fair that people impacted by noise at TSAIA are burdened with potential disclosure laws, but others near Merrill field are not impacted the same? Mr. Tobish responded that the overlay is just a proposal. And it educates the community. Their concern was that there was a lack of understanding about airport business and airport noise. There is a difference between recommending or recommending what should be researched as the option. There can be some word smithing that could be done that would help take a negative bias out of the plan. A comment was made that this is what airport can do; this is what community can do. Another comment was that this was already addressed in state law.

The plan is on the Municipal Website, www.muni.org/Department/OCPP/Planning/Project/WestAnch/Pages/Default.aspx. The Comments period was extended from May 27 to June 10.

A motion was made by Blythe Marston and seconded by Pat Redmond to pass the TCC letter as presented, with inclusion of the technical reference to fuel sales tax revenues. Accepted as an amendment and by the second. Steve Straight stated he is conflicted and supports including the comment in our submission. With regard to TCC opposing another N-S runway, he stated if you want to shut down the airport in 30 years, this is what you do and he can't support the motion, but does support the plan. The comments are all great comments and should be included, but he

doesn't support motion. Pat supports the comments that are being put in because 30 years from now we don't know what will be in the next plan. Blythe agrees that the WADP is much more than the airport. The plan is very complex and it really cries for an executive summary and here are the issues and here are the summaries. Another comment is that the Spenard Road Corridor section is really good; and objectives are really good, and the point is to strengthen the Implement Actions in the plan. Everyone here is encouraged to submit comments; Spenard submitted comments about the property disclosure and the WADP does not include all of Spenard Community Council within the plan, which is something their council opposes. This is only one time that we have the opportunity to make comments; there will be other opportunities to make comments, including on the public hearing draft as well as to the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Assembly. There was a call for the question and the motion passed, 10 in favor; one opposed and one abstention.

There were announcements regarding the following: 1) work at Westchester Lagoon is starting an improvement project tomorrow; 2) tennis court upgrades will begin soon at Lyn Ary Park; 3) volunteers are needed for work at Lloyd Steele Park; Frank Keene will be in touch and there is a sign up sheet in the back of the room; and 4) Any suggestions for the September 1st agenda would be appreciated.

X. Adjournment

Adjourned 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Jones, Secretary-Treasurer