

Turnagain Community Council Meeting Minutes January 9, 2014

Bill Wortman, TCC President, called the meeting to order at Turnagain Elementary School Library, 3500 W. Northern Lights Blvd. at 7:00 pm.

I. Opening Remarks/Announcements/Approval of Minutes

Cathy Gleason noted that the announcements were on the back of the printed agenda and announced a few new ones:

- **Rustic Goat Coffee Shop/Bistro Turnagain Crossing:** Developer J. Jay Brooks invited Cathy to tour the new facility. Cathy was shown around by the chef and took some photos. These were passed around. Establishment is expected to open in a matter of weeks.
- **Jan 13 Planning and Zoning Commission** will hold a public meeting on review of the Design Criteria Manual for recommendation(s) to the Assembly.
- **Feb 25. Hearing for beverage dispensation license for The Northern Lights Spa at the Airport.** See more about this concession under the airport report (below).
- **Treasurer report** was provided by Chris Habicht. Current balance of \$4,088.89 in the account. Last report provided December 31, 2009 showed \$4,293.14. Chris will work with former secretary to provided accounts of expenditures.
- **Cathy was presented with a plaque for service to TCC:** Plaque had the "T" from the original Turnagain neighborhood sign that was destroyed by a vehicle accident. Presentation was followed by a standing ovation in appreciation for Cathy's dedication to the TCC.

Project updates:

The Assembly Rules Committee met on Dec. 12th and recommended that the public hearing on the amended ordinance be reopened. **The public hearing for this item is scheduled for Jan. 14th.**

II. Committee Reports/Project Updates

- **Proposed Reduction of Parkland Disposal Public Notice.** Cathy presented the update: On Dec. 3rd, the Assembly amended the ordinance by deleting the proposal to reduce public notice from 180 days to 30 days, but retained a waiver for the 180-day notice requirement to deal with disposal of a specific park in Spenard (Ure Park). Cathy thanked the Assembly for not changing the public notice requirements.
- **Project '80s & Tennis/Rec. Ctr. Legislative Funding.** Cathy presented the update: December 17, the Assembly voted to dedicate \$4.4M for a tennis facility at the Dempsey site. This will not be enough to fund the full project.

III. Airport Report

- Teri Tibbe Airport Operations Manager presented

1. Part 150 Noise Study:

- a. The next Study Input Committee (SIC) meeting will be early 2014.
- b. Consultant is continuing evaluation of operational mitigation alternatives and identifying potential land use and administrative mitigation alternatives.
- c. Web site is anc150study.com for information and to send comments, questions and request to receive notifications/updates.

2. Master Plan:

- a. The 7th and final Public Open House was held December 11, 2013 at the Coast International Inn.
- b. The Master Plan Update is nearing its conclusion. The Airport will release a draft Master Plan Update document in early 2014, at which time the public will be able to review and provide comments on the document.
- c. New Public Comment Response materials have been posted in the library on www.ancmasterplan.com; public comments and Master Plan Update team responses through June 30, 2013 are available on the website.
- d. The Master Plan Update team will be distributing a public involvement satisfaction survey to its email distribution list in January 2014. The survey will also be linked to the main page of www.ancmasterplan.com.
- e. Website is www.ancmasterplan.com for information and to send comments, questions and request to receive notifications/updates.

3. Concessions:

- a. An expansion of the landside seating area for Norton Sound Seafood House is anticipated to be completed by March, 2014. The area will include the sale of beer, wine and liquor.
- b. Construction is complete on a new spa concession. The Northern Lights Spa offers manicures, pedicures, massages, tanning, and hair styling. Also requesting a liquor license.

4. **Lake Hood Tiedown Parking:** Winter ops are in effect and seasonal ice tiedowns are available. For all tiedown inquiries please contact Lake Hood 907-266-2410.

5. Sign up for **GovDelivery** at www.anchorageairport.com to receive emails on all sorts of DOT related things.

IV. Assembly Report

- **Ernie Hall** was not present
- **Tim Steele**
 - I have no additional information on the **tennis courts**. \$4.4M for the courts, but that is not enough. Request for \$10.5M for tennis in the State request, but may be a left over from last year.
 - **2014 State Legislative Program** publication shows funding for: Park projects; Hollis French got funding dedicated for a pedestrian path on Lois Drive; funding

for flood control where train crossing Northern Lights; funding for roadwork near Turnagain and 36th; and funding for Spenard Road work. There is also funding for projects in Harriet Drummond's District - Spenard Road got some funding. Asked for \$12.5M from the State – Muni is expected to contribute \$3M.

- **Legislative Caucus** is scheduled for January 11 from 9 - 12 at the Loussac Library.
- **Park projects** - Parks Foundation working up Chester Creek eastward on the trail. Flood control Chester Creek and Arctic: funds are available for this project. Hope they will clear out Westchester Nature Trail.
- **Uri Park** - On the agenda for January 14 - Public comment is closed. Neighborhood told them that they did not want Lion's Club concession.
- **Questions/comments from audience:**
 - Sales tax committee. 60 people there - very favorable. 6,382 tax exempt properties - schools, churches and others. There is an underlying support for sales tax. We need diversification of taxes.
 - Response: Tim Steele agreed that tax base should be diversified. Need to have more information on what will be exempt from the sales tax. Needs to be better described to voters.
 - The problem is that we spend too much on children and other folks who are in need. Focus should on creating jobs rather than handing out money.
 - Tragic bicycle accident last week. This accident highlights the need for a Traffic study if the Dempsey site is developed.

V. Legislative Report

- **Berta Gardner** representative was present
- **Lindsay Holms** representative was present
- **Harriet Drummond** was not present
- **Hollis French**
 - We are 12 days from the start of the legislative session.
 - My number 1 agenda item is statewide pre-kindergarten. I want to get a voluntary program instated – excellent investment.
 - There will be very strong downward pressure on the budget as a result of lower revenues. We will be spending down some of the \$17B we have in reserves.
 - Governor has highlighted the unfunded liability in retirement obligations - but not sure that the right place to put funds.
 - I want to repeal the oil tax giveaway.
 - Raging debates on oil taxes and education costs.
 - Will be at Loussac Library on Saturday from 9 - 12 to hear from public.

- Marijuana is on ballot - hearings will have to be held on what the measure does; it is modeled under the Colorado initiative.
- **Audience questions:**
 - Legislative building in Anchorage – how did this poor contract get signed?
Response: I am embarrassed by what happened. Hawker was given authority. I want to see legislation that would prevent another. We probably cannot get out of the contract.
 - Argument: SB 21 base tax rate 35%. Taxes are high now that we would have under ACES. Now have more incentive. Makes more stable for gas production in the future. *Response:* Yes, but we gave up is progressivity. There is no consensus on this subject and we could debate this for a week.
 - How do you pay for pre-K? Can you use revenue bonds to pay down debt? *Response:* You can squeeze funds out of the general fund. Conditions are bad for the next couple of years and outlook is even worse. Revenue bonds can backfire if financial markets do not do what you expect.

VI. Approval of 2014 TCC Delegate/Alternate to the Federation of Community Councils

Cathy has been on the federation delegate for quite a few years - and enjoys being involved. Bill would like to be official delegate, but Cathy would like to be an alternate.

**Motion made that Bill would be the official delegate and Cathy would serve as alternate:
15 yes, 0 no.**

VII. Balto Seppala Park Improvement Projects

TCC members have served on a VIP Balto Seppala Park Committee to discuss proposed improvements for the park, with Summer 2014 implementation. **Steve Rafuse** and **Josh Durand** from the MOA Parks Dept. presented the proposals and sought TCC support of the project improvements. Handout was provided showing drawings of proposed plan.

\$300K available from various sources. Thanked TCC for reporting card assessment - that's what gets things going. Most of the improvements will be near the Wisconsin Street parking lot. These improvements include: Picnic shelter with tables and BBQ area, 2 playgrounds (one for 2-5 year olds and one for 5-12 year olds), central plaza with benches, library/bulletin board, swings, ADA accessibility throughout, dog stations, garbage bin, restriping parking lot, bike racks, landscaping, replacing signs, remove graffiti, soft-surface wood chip trail interpretive trail. Volunteer day will be scheduled and this will be a good opportunity for the community to help with landscaping.

Questions from the audience:

- Can we add a rake to take stuff out of the gravel? *Response:* Will look at that – it would need to be tethered.
- Path between Milky Way and 35th - *Response:* That iss in another project.
- What trees will be planted? *Response:* Aspen will be planted in social seating area.
- Theme should be Iditarod - Balto serum run theme. Library would be a sled. Fund to make sure books on the serum run should be avaiالبة. *Response:* The design can be neighbor-driven is someone wants to create something unique, otherwise will be a standard design. Maintaining the library will be up the community.

Cathy presented a resolution in support of the plan. Appendix A.: 16 yes, 0 opposed.

VIII. Anchorage School District Budget Challenges

Anchorage School Board President Tam Agosti-Gisler made a presentation outlining budget challenges facing the ASD for the upcoming years.

10 things to understand:

- 1) Municipality will release proposed budget Jan 21.
- 2) Board has no power to tax.
- 3) Funding comes from State, Municipality and Federal sources
- 4) State has not increased Base Student Funding for 4 years, so we have reductions in real money.
- 5) Health care, technology, and energy costs are increasing. Health care is the fastest growing: Costs per student over time: 1982 - \$6,000 salary /\$1,000 benefits; 2012 - \$6,500 salary/\$5,500 benefits (numbers adjusted for inflation).
- 6) Other funding comes from:
 - a. Legislative grants – one-time money, that board is reluctant to spend on continuing expenses like teachers
 - b. Capital projects – can't spend on operating costs. Not vetted by board. (stadiums are examples of this). Also safety updates; which are good.
- 7) Municipal contributions are capped by the state (started in 2012). Can amended, but for now, State will deduct what the Municipality adds above the cap.
- 8) Municipality is now charging for services they used to provide: Changed to use parks - and school resource officers (muni employees). Good to have, but now school is paying for these. Muni shifted \$3M to schools to cover 12 months a year; now muni only charging for 9 months. SRO's know building will and can respond without delay.
- 9) Last year cut Board cut \$18M in admin costs. Used \$7M from savings to fill in, but this \$ is runing out - must keep it for bond rating.

10) New funding will be going to destination 20-20 goals: PAGES - Proficiency, Attendance, Graduation, Efficiencies, Safety.

There is a deficit of \$49M over the next 2 years. Board reduced 215 positions last year and 200 more in each of the next 2 years. down to 5,100 employees. We will lose lots of teachers this year because there are no other positions to cut.

Call to action: Need base student funding allocation – contact your Governor. Reduced fee assessments – contact your Mayor. If you have ideas on any cost saving - contact the Board.

Questions: What is the funding breakdown? *Response:* Fed (15%) and Muni (33%), rest is state. \$638M per year budget - without unfunded retirement liability. \$120M/year comes from the state to pay for this liability. We are 48th in the country for the % of funds contributed to education.

IX. West Anchorage Land Trade Task Force

The MOA and Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport are collaborating on an effort to trade land between the two parties, which could include a proposal for the Airport to acquire Pt. Woronzof Park. **MOA Senior Planner Thede Tobish** provided information on the West Anchorage Task Force, which has been formed to put together potential land trade scenarios.

West District Plan - focuses on Airport issues (50+ pages). 30 parcels available for things to happen. Some parcels within the airport boundaries that are in use by the public as informal park land. Lands will be needed by AWWU. Airport has land use needs (N-S runway. Buffer lands needed by residential areas. Pressing need by the muni for a snow dump by conners bog. Can not upgrade with permanent structures unless the muni has ownership. Unsucessfully negotiated to accuire. Aripport wants to have land to expand N-S runway so they would like to have Woronzof Park land. FAA has rules and teh and they can not give land to Muni without getting somethin (land) in returen. If they can prove they will never need spome of the land, they can trade it. Mayor and Airport should initiate a task force to finally resove the issue. Taks force of 15 members. of all walks of life. AWWU, muni arirport, community councils,

- Questions/Comments:
 - Two TCC members expressed concern that the Coastal Trail is not valued by the Municipality and pointed out that the trail has received high marks from the American Planning Association and the Anchorage Daily News. Concern was voiced about what might happen if Pt. Woronzoff Park was traded to the airport.
 - It appears that the only option that the airport is interested is a trade that would result in their acquisition of this park and AWWU land. What is the point of this task force if that is the only outcome acceptable to the airport? Name and scope of the task force should be changed and we should be following the West Anchorage Plan. *Response:* Propose a name.

- Erosion at the point is claiming the trail. *Response:* Agreed – about 1 foot per year loss. Plan calls for a group effort to deal with erosion. Rip-rap at the base is the likely solution.

TCC voted to endorse Board approval for Cathy Gleason to represent TCC on the Task Force, with Bill Wortman as alternate.

X. Airport Communication Committee

Matt Claman proposed a resolution to sunset the Airport Communication Committee. Appendix B provides rationale and resolution.

Discussion: Some members expressed concern that the this subject was not on the agenda and therefore public notice given. Other concerns included that the Communications Plan in the Master Plan may not have incorporated all the recommendations from the committee. It was questioned why the committee was sunsetting before the Master Plan was finalized. Some expressed concern regarding who would initiate review of the communications plan every two years, as specified in the Master Plan.

Resolution did not pass: 1 yes; 5 no.

Matt Claman said he would bring the resolution to the floor at the next meeting and requested that this subject is on the February agenda and that the resolution is posted on the web site. Some committee members said they would review the Master Plan to see how committee recommendations were incorporated.

XI. Comments from the Floor/Agenda Items for February 6th meeting

None

XII. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Habicht, Secretary.

Appendix A.

**Turnagain Community Council Resolution Regarding
Proposed Improvements to Balto Seppala Park**

WHEREAS, Balto Seppala Park is a popular, multi-use park located within the Turnagain Community Council Boundaries that provides for natural open space and a variety of recreational opportunities in our neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, for many years, Turnagain Community Council has been actively involved in planning efforts for appropriate use and project development at Balto Seppala Park, including oversight of the construction of a sledding hill, development of a Master Plan, working with the Lions Club on a playground equipment project, planting a tree buffer, and collaborating with the Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Dept. on a parking lot addition along Aero Avenue and a boardwalk and trail connection to adjacent Lloyd Steele Park; and

WHEREAS, as a result of neighborhood input during the 2011 Anchorage Park Foundation Report Card on Parks, approximately \$300,000 from various funding sources have been appropriated to Balto Seppala for park improvements; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 2013, a Balto Seppala Park VIP Committee was formed by the MOA Parks and Recreation Department to collaborate with Turnagain Community Council and neighborhood residents on recommendations for a design layout and a list of park improvement projects;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, the Turnagain Community Council hereby supports the proposed design, projects and amenities recommended by the VIP Committee and the MOA Parks and Recreation Department for Balto Seppala Park, which include a covered picnic shelter, additional seating, landscaping, playground equipment upgrades and new garbage bin and dog station installations.

Passed January 9, 2014, by a vote of Yes 16 ; No 0 .

Bill Wortman
Turnagain Community Council President

Appendix B.

**RESOLUTION OF THE TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ANCHORAGE)
IN SUPPORT OF SUNSETTING THE
ANCHORAGE AIRPORT COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
9 January 2014**

1. WHEREAS Acting Mayor Matt Claman established the Anchorage Airport Communications Committee ("AACC") in June 2009 for the purposes of facilitating and improving communications between Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport ("Anchorage Airport") and the Anchorage community.
2. WHEREAS the AACC included representatives from the Sand Lake Community Council, the Spenard Community Council, the Turnagain Community Council, the Anchorage Mayor's office, the Anchorage Assembly, and the Anchorage Airport who agreed upon a mission for the AACC: "To facilitate and improve communications and collaboration between Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport and the community."
3. WHEREAS the AACC held numerous meetings, facilitated strategic discussions, and prepared a recommended communications plans for the Anchorage Airport to consider in developing its 2014 Master Plan Update Final Plan for Future Development ("2014 Master Plan Update").
4. WHEREAS the recommended communications plan provides a framework for continued effective communications between the Anchorage Airport and the community that is consistent with the work of the AACC and is reflected in the mission of the communications plan: "Inform, consult, and involve."
5. WHEREAS the communications chapter in the proposed 2014 Master Plan Update incorporates the recommendations of the AACC, and individual members of the public may continue to submit comments to the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport to consider before it adopts the 2014 Master Plan Update.
6. WHEREAS the AACC has served its purpose for over 4.5 years and the adoption of a communications chapter in the 2014 Master Plan Update shows that the AACC has been effective.

NOW THEREFORE, the Turnagain Community Council hereby resolves:

- A. The AACC has been effective in working to fulfill its mission;
- B. The incorporation of a communications chapter in the 2014 Master Plan Update demonstrates the success of the AACC; and
- C. The work of the AACC should be considered complete upon adoption of the 2014 Master Plan Update with a communications chapter and the AACC should hold no further meetings.

Date of Resolution

President, Turnagain Community Council