
TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting | February 5, 2015 | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Turnagain Elementary School Library, 3500 W. Northern Lights Blvd.

Chaired by Danielle Bailey, TCC President

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. 25 people were in attendance, 2 via phone.
- The agenda was amended by Cathy Gleason to include an Airport Stakeholders Committee Report under Committee Reports, and a proposal for a West Anchorage Candidates Forum.
- **Motion by Cathy Gleason to amend the agenda with the items above; second by Jonathan Tarrant**
 - **Vote: 8 yes; 0 no, 0 abstain. Motion Passes.**
- The January meeting minutes were reviewed; Cathy Gleason submitted amendments to the minutes for the council's review.
- **Motion by Bill Wortman to postpone approval of January minutes until the March meeting; second by Chris Habicht.**
 - **Vote: 5 yes; 1 no, 0 abstain. Motion Passes.**
- Announcements:
 - *See Attachments flyer available as a handout in the meeting and on the TCC website.*
 - Cathy Gleason shared that Jasper Hill, a longtime TCC member, passed away in January. Jasper was active in TCC's Recycling Program and the Turnagain Community Patrol; those who remember him appreciate his work and are sad to see him go.
 - Ira Perman announced that Phil Isley is the new chair of Spenard Community Council, elected at last night's council meeting.
 - Anna Brawley shared an upcoming event: the Anchorage Winter Market on Saturday, February 21, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1335 Gambell St (the old Lincoln/Mercury dealer) in Fairview. It is a pop-up event featuring local vendors, live music, fun outdoor activities. She is helping organize, contact if you are interested in learning more. Check it out on Facebook! <http://www.facebook.com/anchoragewintermarket>

BOARD REPORT

- Switching TCC bank accounts: First National Bank account was closed, and all TCC funds were transferred to a Credit Union 1 account.
- TCC dedicated funds: There are two earmarked sets of funds in the TCC account. One account is the TCC Community Patrol fund (\$1,654.72), comprised of money raised through recycling revenue from previous years. The other is Didlika Park (\$1,720), raised through private donations for a project at the park. After investigation, the board discovered that the Didlika funds were the result of a project to upgrade the park, working with the Park Foundation and MOA Parks & Rec for certain improvements like fencing. The Park Foundation ended up covering most of the improvement costs. Previously the Council voted to donate these funds to the Park Foundation to be used for Turnagain area park improvements. Anna added that both funds are fully owned by TCC as far as the group can tell, does not include any grant money.
 - The board recommends completing this task with the portion of funds for Didlika (\$1,720), per previous resolution. Cathy Gleason and Mark Wiggin may have more information about this regarding the resolution (not available in the files).
 - The group will return to this issue next month once more documentation is found.
 - Gloria Manni suggested also considering how to use the community patrol/safety funds, whether to add back into the general fund for TCC.
- Facebook

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- Turnagain Community Council has created a Facebook group, Turnagain Community Forum. Please join and participate if you're interested, it is not an official TCC page or communication channel, but it meant to be a community communication tool.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT | SEN. MIA COSTELLO + REP. MATT CLAMAN (VIA PHONE FROM JUNEAU)

- Anchorage Caucus is coming up TBD, tentatively February 28 at the Loussac Library.
- Sen. Costello
 - She is on the Labor & Commerce, Judiciary and Resources committees; committees have not yet had hearings scheduled at the time of the meeting.
 - The budget is the big issue, the governor is holding a press conference in Anchorage on Friday to share his budget that he is bringing to the Legislature.
 - President Obama's proposal to designate the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) as protected wilderness and managed as such is of concern to Alaskans, and she is hopeful that Congress will take action.
 - Sen. Costello is focused on education and economic development, she welcomes input from constituents.
 - Contact the senator's office at (907) 465-4968
- Rep. Claman
 - Big issues: budget concerns, making smart budget cuts to deal with the economic situation.
 - Prof. Gunnar Knapp (ISER) said, "We can't cut our way out of the budget problem" so the legislature needs to look carefully at what should and should not be reduced.
 - Serving on Judiciary, Transportation, and Energy Committees.
 - Sen. Claman is keeping tabs on the 2014 reappropriated Anchorage tennis courts funds, to ensure it is spent on TCC's high-priority projects in our district.
 - Marijuana initiative: several proposed bills, including 7 pages of statutory language which will be written into Title 17.
 - Contact the representative's office at (907) 465-4919
- Questions and comments
 - *Tim Steele asked about capital projects in Anchorage and the district?* Sen. Costello has been told by the chair of Senate Finance (who oversees the capital budget) that there will not be much in the way of discretionary capital funds. Rep. Claman added that he is tracking funds in the budget set forth in Anchorage.
 - *Phil Isley commented that there are other industries besides the state, and the impacts of cutting the budget should not be the only priority; other industries should be promoted as well.* Rep. Claman clarified that he also doesn't believe that state funding is the only concern for the state's economy, but that the state performs important functions and funds other important services that are necessary.
 - *Anna Brawley asked about marijuana policy bills—which ones are active?* Current bills include SB30, which was not popular in its first introduction. Another bill is to be introduced that will set up a five-person board with the same staff as the ABC Board, which is the preference expressed. Both the Senate Judiciary and State Affairs committees are following this issue and holding informational hearings; the House Judiciary committee is following this issue as well. Rep. Claman shared that he is analyzing the bill with his staff, and is focused on implementing the statutes that the voters approved. The initiative is set to become law on February 24. As of now the legislature is considering the creation of the new board.

AIRPORT REPORT | JOHN JOHANSEN

- *See airport updates on the handout provided at the meeting or online at: www.anchoragairport.com*
- **150 Noise Study:** The plan has been submitted to the FAA, who is reviewing the recommendations and noise maps from the study. If the recommendations are approved, they will be eligible for FAA funding to implement.

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- **Lake Hood Seaplane Base Master Plan:** The January 29 open house was well attended (about 60 people) and had a lot of good feedback and questions. The consultant team is working on the inventory and forecast for Lake Hood. www.lhdmasterplan.com. The Lake Hoods Pilots' Survey is open to anyone who would like to provide input, and was open through Monday, February 9.
- Dynamic Airlines is providing charter passenger service through Anchorage to LA from Changsha Province in China which does not currently have direct flights to the U.S. The province is excited about the opportunity, and the airline may add other flights to Las Vegas and New York, which would also stop in Anchorage.
- Anchorage Transportation Fair took place on Wednesday, February 5; handouts were available at this meeting as well. Most of the airport related projects have to do with upgrades to runways.
- An aviation job fair will be held on March 21, 10 am to 3 pm at the north terminal at Ted Stevens. Spread the word for anyone looking for employment!
- Questions and comments
 - *Pat reported that the online meeting function for the open house on the 29th worked well.* John added that this functionality will be used in future meetings.

ASSEMBLY REPORT | REP. ERNIE HALL, REP. TIM STEELE

- The Assembly approved a \$59 million bond package for school district, and \$34 million for road and drainage bonds. Reps. Steele and Hall added additional funds for some of the Coastal Trail bridges were added to the road bond package; there were additional funds for a Road Improvement District for Sylvan Rd., but both projects end up getting pulled out. The total was intended to be below the amount of bonds the Muni is still paying off, but it is unfortunate that it was taken out.
- Charter schools had asked to be exempt from property tax, to match what is provided for public schools. The Assembly passed this provision, as well as starting to look at how charter schools could use space in existing under-capacity school buildings.
- Rep. Traini sponsored a proposed ordinance for an alcohol tax; Rep. Hall amended the ordinance to include both treatment and housing, with the intent of funding some projects related to homelessness. The measure failed 6 to 5. Rep. Hall would like to continue working on this issue and educate the public about the tax. The Legislature has never provided a complete accounting of the \$40 million annual state tax on alcohol collected.
- Rep. Hall announced that on February 28, 9am to noon there will be a town hall meeting about regulating marijuana at the Loussac Library, Assembly Chambers. He invites the public to attend, learn some information from the municipal attorney, and have public discussion. He shared some of his concerns regarding edible products and THC content; growing operations; licensing; and other issues which will affect the Muni and the community. He encouraged the council to discuss the issue and document concerns about impacts to the neighborhood and the proposed regulations.
- Questions and comments
 - *Jonathan Tarrant asked about the Assembly's approach to address increase in crime, and to be more proactive and preventative related to policing? He is concerned about low staffing now, an increase in crime and possible enforcement issues.* APD is recruiting for the next police class.
 - *Ira Perman added that his recent experience of witnessing a hit-and-run accident and waiting for more than an hour for police, who ultimately did not come because they were engaged elsewhere. The average number of alcohol-related calls for each police person is about 5 to 6 per shift; this ties up a great deal of police time, and takes them away from other issues.*
 - *Pat pointed out that the Council could gather current legislation and think about questions to ask at the town hall.*
 - *Jerry Trainor asked about the possibility of a municipal sales tax?* Ernie said this is not on the table currently, although some preliminary research has been done.
 - *Anna suggested a public process for marijuana policy and urged Reps. Hall and Steele to advocate for this approach.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Bylaws Committee:** Chair Bill Wortman shared that the committee is meeting twice a month on Thursday (coming up Feb 12 and Feb 26, 6pm). The goal is to have a draft completed for review at the May council meeting.
- **Lake Hood Master Plan Advisory Committee:** Jerry Trainor shared (in place of Chair Brian Hove, who could not attend) that the committee met on Feb. 3 and reviewed TCC's 2005 position statements regarding Lake Hood and would update this document for TCC's consideration at the March 5 meeting. They will meet regularly in the coming months. Among other information, the committee learned that approximately 300 tie-down airplanes have relocated from Merrill Field to Lake Hood, leaving more space at Merrill Field.
- **Safe Routes to School + CIP Joint Committee:** These two committees met together on Feb. 2 to discuss how to integrate the Council's SRTS priorities list with the existing 2015 CIP list. Members attending were Gloria Manni, Pat Redmond, Chris Habicht, Merle Akers, Sandy Rabinowitch, Cathy Gleason, Dan Gleason, Barbara Bundy.
 - CIP committee chair Cathy Gleason shared the committees proposed combined priorities list and identified which items have changed (*see handout*):
 - Turnagain St. and Turnagain Blvd. were retained as #1 and #2 MOA Project & Engineering Management priorities for the Council.
 - The two highest-ranking STRS recommendations, the Minnesota Drive off ramp at Hillcrest Drive intersection and Hillcrest Drive pedestrian crosswalks, were inserted as the new #5 and #6 PM&E priorities on the list.
 - The group also recommended rehabs of the existing pedestrian easements at Arlington and Belmont Drives, already on the CIP list, as #7.
 - The remaining STRS projects were listed as PM&E priorities #10-14 on the list.
 - Other CIP projects on the PM&E category were moved down on the list accordingly.
 - **Motion by Dan Gleason to approve the new CIP list; second by Jonathan Tarrant.**
 - **Vote: 15 yes; 0 no, 0 abstain. Motion Passes.**
 - Danielle will email the revised list to George Vikalis, Municipal City Manager, and copy the Assembly representatives; Anna will post the new list to the TCC website. Cathy will update the Council's CIP list on the Muni's CIP website.
- **Airport Stakeholders Committee:** Cathy Gleason attended the most recent Airport Stakeholders meeting in January as TCC's representative. In addition to updates shared in the Airport Update
 - A main terminal and parking study is being done to determine how to improve flow of passenger pick-ups and drop-offs.
 - FAA has issued a public notice that the south portion of the former FCC, south of Raspberry Road, parcel can be used for non-aviation purposes.
 - There is no additional progress in the Land Trade Task Force between the Muni and Ted Stevens Airport, due to state staff changes with the new administration.
 - Passenger activity was up at Ted Stevens in 2014, but cargo is going down slightly; larger planes require fewer flights. Chinese cargo companies are considering more cargo exchanges between planes stopping in Anchorage.
 - No definite leases set up at Kulis Base, despite some initial activity.
 - 6 hotels have shown interest in leasing property on the airport to build and operate a hotel to serve travelers.
 - Lower fuel prices will not affect flight prices (lower rates for travelers) in Alaska, because of our transportation system (there is a limited-entry market for jet fuel, which is shipped up).

ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION RESOLUTION: EARTHQUAKE & LYN ARY PARKS

- A follow-up from last month's meeting regarding improvements to 1) Earthquake Park including signage and trails, tree removal and trimming to improve the scenic view from its interpretive area, and 2) at Lyn Ary Park including a gateway area along the Coastal Trail with benches, interpretive

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signs and new landscaping. The board collected comments from members over the course of the month, and Danielle Bailey and Cathy Gleason compiled the comments into a resolution for the council's consideration.

- Danielle read out the resolution. *See electronic version posted on TCC website.*
- **Motion by Cathy Gleason to approve the resolution; second by Jonathan Tarrant**
 - Discussion + Amendments
 - Dan Gleason amended with a wording change to remove "generally" (approved)
 - Merle Akers asked about the process: how the resolution was developed, whether there was a committee meeting, whether the resolution was available. Danielle shared that comments were collected from members over the course of the month since the January meeting.
 - Cathy Gleason shared some information about memorial plaques that TCC has recommended and worked with Parks & Rec in the past, and the remaining task is to determine wording.
 - Anna amended with numbering to 2015-01 (approved)
 - **Vote: 14 yes; 1 no, 0 abstain. Motion Passes.**
- Questions and comments
 - *Merle Akers asked about the provision including the recommendation regarding memorial plaques for Michelle Byrum and Rob Durst? Was this a decision made previously by the Council, and what is the status?* Cathy Gleason recalled that the status was that the installation of these plaques was planned, with the Anchorage Park Foundation covering the cost, and all that remains is determining the wording for them. TCC is not funding the plaques. Anna Brawley located a reference in the previous council minutes (November 2013) that a resolution was passed unanimously to support this project. The resolution was not available in the files at the time.
 - *The group discussed whether tree-topping is an appropriate process for erosion control.* See the resolution document for more information about erosion control.

WESTSIDE CANDIDATES FORUM

- Cathy Gleason recommended to the Council that TCC work with other councils to host a West Anchorage Candidates Forum for candidates in the April 7 mayoral and school board election.
- Jonathan Tarrant expressed a great deal of interest in this.
- Anna Brawley shared that logistics are not very complicated; she organized a candidates forum in summer 2014, and has information and the flyer to pass along if helpful.
- The group agreed that contacting the other councils to gauge interest in co-hosting is a good idea: Spenard, Taku/Campbell, Sand Lake, North Star.
- Pat Redmond suggested that it should be mid-March; closing of candidates' filing is February 13, and announcement of the official slate is February 16.
- Phil Isley would like to see the city bonding issue discussed in the candidates forum.
 - Pat stated that the bonding issues are important, but suggested that they might be a better topic for a council meeting, to give it more time and find the appropriate people to answer questions.
 - Jonathan and Cathy agreed bonds would be a good agenda item for the March TCC meeting.
- **Motion by Jonathan Tarrant to organize a West Anchorage Candidates Forum for the mayoral and school board candidates and for Chris Habicht and Cathy Gleason to co-chair the planning committee, second by Pat Redmond**
 - **Vote: 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain. Motion passes.**
- Cathy Gleason, Chris Habicht, Jonathan Tarrant, Breck Tostevin volunteered; anyone else interested in helping plan this event should contact Chris. Chris organized an initial planning meeting for Monday February 23, 6 p.m. at the FCC Conference Room.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Jonathan encouraged members to keep an eye on their neighbors, be vigilant and to communicate about anything unusual; crime is on the rise.
- Bill Wortman has been having problems signing up on NextDoor.com, an online neighborhood connection website. It is a forum for a neighborhood issues; the group briefly discussed neighborhood boundaries.
- Merle Akers is interested in the council addressing the issue of whether the council should be board-driven or member-driven, and suggests this be included on the March agenda.

CLOSING

- Danielle will be out of town March 4 through 29, and Jonathan will preside in her absence. She will be responsive until she leaves, so continue to send agenda items or other issues.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.
 - **Vote: all in favor, none opposed to adjournment.**
- The next meeting will be Thursday, March 5, 2015, 7 p.m. at Turnagain Elementary School.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Anna Brawley on 2/7/2015

Minutes revised with suggested edits from member Cathy Gleason on 3/5/2015.

Minutes approved by the Council on 3/5/2015.