
TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

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

Chaired by Jonathan Tarrant, TCC Vice President & Acting Chair

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. 27 people were in attendance, 1 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 Mimi Beck to accept the agenda with the addition; second by Chris Habicht**
 - **Vote: all yes; none opposed, none abstain. Motion Passes.**
- The January meeting minutes were reviewed; Cathy Gleason had submitted amendments to the minutes for the council's review that Anna incorporated, not seeing substantive changes requiring further discussion.
 - **Motion by Cathy Gleason to approve January minutes with amendments as suggested; second by Jerry Trainor.**
 - **Vote: all in favor, none opposed, none abstain. Minutes approved.**
- The February meeting minutes were reviewed; Cathy Gleason had submitted amendments to the minutes for the council's review, which Anna incorporated, not seeing substantive changes requiring further discussion.
 - Cathy suggested additional wording changes: adjust wording in Legislative Report regarding funding previously allocated for tennis courts; in CIP List item, add "PM&E" before #5-6 priorities to clarify which ones referring to.
 - **Motion by Gloria Manni to approve February minutes with amendments as suggested; second by Chris Habicht.**
 - **Vote: all in favor, none opposed, none abstain. Minutes approved.**
- Announcements:
 - *See Attachments flyer available as a handout in the meeting and on the TCC website.*
 - There will be a West Anchorage Candidates Forum on Wednesday, March 25, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Spenard Recreation Center. The planning team is looking for volunteers to help with setup and cleanup (sign-up sheet passed around during meeting). There are 6 school board candidates and 11 mayoral candidates, so the event may run closer to 9 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT | REP. MATT CLAMAN (VIA PHONE FROM JUNEAU)

- Rep. Claman
 - The Anchorage Caucus was held on February 28, with helpful feedback from constituents.
 - The proposed FY16 has approximately 5% cuts across the board, which the Legislature has been discussing and working through.
 - He has been hearing from constituents about the following concerns: school funding, budget cuts, services for seniors.
 - Marijuana regulation: the first portion of the law took effect on February 24, and the Legislature (House and Senate) are working on multiple bills regarding regulation as well as the creation of a Marijuana Control Board.
 - It has been great to see so many people from the Turnagain neighborhood stop by and share their concerns. Families can also connect with the House Page, who can give tours and share more with kids about the workings of the Legislature.
- Questions and comments
 - *Gloria Manni asked what the rationale is for eliminating Daylight Savings Time?* Rep. Claman shared that the bill introduced by Sen. McKinnon is controversial, and many in the

tourism industry are opposed to the proposal because it would be fewer hours in summer to engage in tourist activities. Currently it seems to be 5- or 6-to-1 to keep DST. He is interested in hearing more from constituents who have thoughts or concerns about this proposal.

- *Cathy Gleason asked for an update regarding funds previously appropriated for indoor tennis courts in West Anchorage?* Matt answered that the funds have been redirected into road projects in the district, but has not heard from the Municipality how it has been used to date. He will follow up with the Council once he learns more.

AIRPORT REPORT | TERI LINDSETH, PLANNING MANAGER

- See airport updates on the handout provided at the meeting or online at: www.anchorageairport.com
- **Lake Hood Seaplane Base Master Plan:** Check out updates at www.lhdmasterplan.com. The next advisory committee meeting will be in May, which will be noticed publicly prior to the meeting.
- **Summer Construction:** Airport construction projects for summer 2015 will be announced in April.
- **Concessions:** there will be a new boutique clothing, tea, candy and bookstore opening in the C concourse, as well as Sushi on the Fly.
- **Events:** An airport jobs fair will be held on March 21, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the north terminal at Ted Stevens. Spread the word for anyone looking for employment!
- Questions and comments
 - *Anna asked if there are any new liquor licenses, and how many there are in the airport currently?* Teri did not have updated information, but will follow up after the meeting.
 - *Jon Isaacs asked about the status of review of Title 17 regulations?* She is not aware of any particular updates but recommended another airport staff person to contact.
 - *Steve Strait asked whether the representative is aware of TCC's proposed resolution regarding a land trade between the Muni and the Airport, and if there is an update?* Teri shared that the parties involved have submitted comments and their positions and these documents have been submitted to the Mayor, but there is no further update at this time. [Note: Cathy Gleason later clarified that the proposed TCC resolution was regarding dedication of all designated, but not formally designated, parks in Turnagain's boundaries. See item below for more information.]

ASSEMBLY REPORT | MEMBER TIM STEELE

- The Assembly is waiting to hear news from the Legislature regarding funding and other legislative decisions that affect the city.
- The Muni held a listening session regarding marijuana regulation on Saturday, February 28, and the Assembly been working with state staff and other stakeholders to discuss responsible policies.
- Tim sits in the MOA Budget Committee and shared some of the current issues being considered: whether to retain sprinkler exemptions for property owners, a current exemption which was originally put in place to help building owners offset the cost of installing newly-required sprinkler systems several years ago; tax exemption rules for non-profit organizations; and the mayor's proposal to sell the Solid Waste Services collection business. SWS is currently self-funded, but the cost issue appears to be primarily staff costs, and pension liabilities going forward for municipal employees.
- There were some projects preliminarily identified to receive the funds previously designated for the indoor tennis courts at Dempsey, but no definite information yet. Tim believed that one priority project that might be identified is the section of Turnagain Blvd. between McRae and Spenard Road, which is a high priority street section needing upgrading to address current drainage and flooding issues.
- Questions and comments
 - *Jerry Trainor asked about possible savings from money not used on road maintenance this winter?* Tim believed that the funds would be reappropriated as useful on road or other maintenance projects, but there is not a specific plan for the funds.

- *Another member asked a question regarding the size of permanent signs at businesses, and whether the Muni is inspecting signs? He feels that signs keep getting bigger and would like to know if they are in compliance with the signage ordinance.* Tim verified that the Community Development Dept. is tasked with handling this issue, and information about specific signs can be obtained from that department.
- *Jonathan Tarrant asked who to contact regarding political signs and whether they are in compliance with regulations?* Tim shared that Code Enforcement (343-8039) is the correct agency to contact, but many roads are state roads controlled by DOT, who tend to be more lenient with regulations. The larger signs do need to have particular permits, which can be found on the Muni's website under the Elections page.
- *Phil Isley shared a concern about the parking sign at Jewel Lake and Spenard at the parking structure—the red and blue flashers are distracting and potentially hazardous.* Tim recommended calling Code Enforcement (343-8039) and also submitting a complaint in writing through the Muni website.
- *Cathy Gleason asked what Tim's position is on the ability to testify on behalf of an organization such as a community council, and also as an individual in the same public hearing?* He supports the ability to testify for an organization and an individual, if not consecutively. It is up to the Chair in each session, although it is preferable for the Assembly to be consistent regarding public testimony.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **TCC Lake Hood Seaplane Base Master Plan Update Committee:** Chair Brian Hove shared an update, and thanked the committee for their hard work. The committee's proposed position statement was shared as a handout in the meeting and posted online on Mar 5. The final point was updated slightly from the written version provided to adjust inaccurate wording. Brief summary of points (*see document provided*):
 - No further development or expansion at Lake Hood until negative impacts to the neighborhood are resolved;
 - Recommends a long term management agreement between TSAIA and MOA Parks Dept. for Spenard Beach Park;
 - Supports continued long-term TSAIA management of the Lion's Club Picnic area;
 - Remove a proposal for a Turnagain Bog Perimeter Trail on airport property (adjacent to western Turnagain neighborhood boundary);
 - Designate undeveloped wetlands and uplands of Turnagain Bog as a protected buffer area.

Questions and comments

- *Jerry Trainor had asked the Fire Department (McRae Station) how long it might take to respond to an airplane crash near Lyn Ary Park north of Northern Lights? AFD staff had responded that if the crew was available, they could leave the station within 2 minutes. However, if they are elsewhere or run into traffic on the way, they could not respond until at least 8 minutes after the crash. The Airport has said that they would not necessarily respond to a crash off of airport property. He believes this would be an important addition to consider because it represents risks to the airport.* Brian agreed that this is an issue, he believes the wording of the first paragraph covers this situation.
- *Phil Isley shared that each plane at Lake Hood pays \$75 annually, which he views as a tax. This tax money could be designated to go toward improvements to the Lake Hood area and the surrounding parks, or another aviation related use. He recommends Turnagain CC advocate for and put a request to the MOA to have those funds dedicated to use in the area.*
- *A new member asked for clarification on the location of Turnagain Bog in the region. Council members consulted the map, provided by a TCC committee member.*

Motion by Pat Redmond to accept the Position Statement developed by the TCC Lake Hood Seaplane Base Master Plan Update Committee; second by Jerry Trainor.

- **Amended by Cathy Gleason to accept the new wording presented by Brian Hove, developed after the committee's initial draft was shared; amendment accepted by the Council.**
 - **Vote on amended motion: 13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain. Motion passes.**
 - **Brian will update the document as amended and provide it to the president for distribution to relevant entities.**
- **Bylaws Committee:** Chair Bill Wortman shared that the committee meets twice a month on Thursdays (next meetings are on March 12 and 26, 5:30 p.m.). The goal is to have a draft completed for review at the May council meeting. Anna Brawley added that while there is no document presented to the Council for official review at this time, all committee drafts are posted on the TCC website and available for review at any time. Drafts indicate the progress made through the document and has any changes marked.

BOARD REPORT

- **Treasurer's Report:** 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. There are two items for the Council to consider:
 - **Didlika Park Funds (\$1,720):** Anna Brawley shared more information gathered since the last meeting (see also February meeting minutes for more information) about the original intended use of these funds. The Council voted on June 7, 2012 to approve donation of the funds to the Anchorage Park Foundation, with the intention that they be used for Turnagain area park projects. Anna brings the issue back to the Council to ask if the members would like to re-affirm donation of the funds, or to reallocate them as they deem fit.
Motion by Cathy Gleason to re-affirm the Council's previous decision to donate the Didlika Park funds to the Anchorage Park Foundation, as originally approved on June 7, 2012.
 - **Amendment by Bill Wortman to submit with the donation a list of priority parks and/or park projects, after approval to donate, to show intent for how to use funds.**
 - **The group discussed the process, and recommended approval of the donation and to form an ad hoc committee to discuss the list of projects to submit to the Park Foundation with the check.**
 - **Vote: 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain. Motion passes.**
 - **Community Patrol Funds (\$1,654.72):** these funds were originally set aside for a community patrol, but there are no current volunteers for this effort and the funds are not being used. In addition, TCC's general fund has only \$236.80. Anna recommended shifting the Community Patrol funds into the general fund until another specific use is determined for all or part of the funds, to give TCC more flexibility to use its modest funds as appropriate.
 - **Motion by Pat Redmond to move all funds designated for Community Patrol into the general fund; second by Frank Keen.**
 - **Vote: 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain. Motion passes.**
 - **Anna will "zero out" the Community Patrol Fund and note that those funds are now part of the TCC general fund.**

TURNAGAIN ELEMENTARY REDESIGN | YUKI JANSON (ASD PROJECT MANAGER), PAUL BARIL (NVISION ARCHITECTURE), CARISSA COTE (TES PRINCIPAL)

- The project team presented information about the need for an update:
 - The most recent addition to the school was 1983. There are two main programs: a regular neighborhood program as well as a Russian immersion program. There are about 440 students.
 - Some of the issues TES is dealing with: need for general upgrades, amount of road space and parking space to handle the number of cars, particularly traveling across the city; only 1

school bus for 440+ students; location of the main office, poor visibility for people entering and exiting the school; and lack of space for conferences and meetings.

- The team then shared information about the project scope and planned improvements:
 - The budget is approximately \$14 million to upgrade the school to meet current codes. There were 3 options considered: basic, intermediate and expanded renewal. The intermediate renewal option was approved by the Anchorage School Board, which will take care of much-needed repairs and upgrades. While there have been some “band-aid” projects to the building in the past, the school is in need of a more comprehensive update. The project is contingent on the school bond passing on April 7, along with several other school projects.
 - Paul (architect) shared some of the specific changes to the building: improving parking options, electrical and mechanical upgrades, circulation and layout changes, relocating the main playground and using the space for an improved entryway and drop-off area.
- Questions and comments
 - *A member asked about security and lockdown capability?* Security is a concern; the plan for the school is to remain locked, with doors able to be unlocked.
 - *Steve Strait asked whether what is the school bond package total for this year?* The total bond package will be about \$59 million, with approximately a 20-year payoff period. Pat Higgins of the Anchorage School Board added that they have regularly paid down existing bond obligations.
 - *Steve also asked about the Ketchikan lawsuit regarding school funding for local governments and taxation for schools?* School Board member Pat Higgins shared that the lawsuit challenged the state Legislature’s requirement of local governments to contribute up to 20% of school funding through local taxes, and found that this was not appropriate to require local governments. The arrangement was created to help support rural school districts without sufficient tax base to cover school costs in the same way the urban districts are able to cover. It is not clear exactly what will happen, but some funds will likely come back to the Municipality to determine what they would like to use the funds for. Currently the state pays about 50% of the cost for education. It is currently not clear what the Legislature will do regarding the budget, but this year the Anchorage School Board will receive a better reimbursement ratio. Pat Higgins added that the Legislature restricts out-of-classroom funding for state funds, which places more burden on the school district to cover other costs, from administrative to IT to maintenance and capital projects.
 - *Pat Redmond shared that Ed Crittenden, a local architect who just passed away in January, designed the building and there are other historic elements because of the original materials used. Are there plans to preserve any part of the building?* Carissa shared that others have expressed interest in the historic elements of the building, and that this is being taken into consideration. Mary Cary, another TES employee, shared that interesting artifacts and time capsules have been found during the course of upgrade work, and they appreciate learning more about local history from people in the neighborhood who have these memories.
 - *Cathy Gleason asked whether any trees would be removed as part of the project? Some of the trees were originally planted by the Garden Club for Arbor Day.* Paul state that no trees are marked for removal, but will verify with Cathy the location of those trees in question.

TURNAGAIN PARKS DEDICATION RESOLUTION

- While many parcels of land in Anchorage, including several in Turnagain, are generally treated and managed as park land, some are not formally dedicated (only designated) as parks. This is important because dedicated park land requires a vote of the people to change its status or sell the property, whereas designated park land does not have this same level of protection. Cathy Gleason has been working with Parks & Recreation Department staff to determine which parcels are currently in this situation, and has drafted a resolution for the Council’s consideration to recommend that the Assembly adopt all non-designated park land within Turnagain’s boundaries as dedicated parkland. See

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Attachment C of the resolution, which indicates which park lands have not been dedicated as parks within TCC's boundaries, as verified by Parks & Rec.

- The proposed resolution was read out by Cathy (*see resolution text*).

Motion by Bill Wortman to table this resolution until the April Council meeting, with a representative from the Parks & Recreation Department; second by Steve Strait.

- **Discussion**

- Bill would like more time to review the proposed motion and the specific parcels in question, and did not feel there is enough time to sufficiently review this resolution and consider the implications.

- **Vote: 5 yes; 7 no, 0 abstain. Motion Fails.**

Motion by Cathy Gleason to approve the resolution in support of dedicating all non-dedicated lands used as park or recreation within TCC's boundaries; second by Pat Redmond.

- **Discussion**

- *Steve Strait shared information about the West Anchorage Land Trade regarding lands identified for trade between the airport and MOA, which included some portions of the Point Woronzof area. He believed this resolution was an attempt to block the trade.* Cathy pointed out that the parcels identified for dedication in the resolution (see Attachment C, map) do not include Point Woronzof, which is already a dedicated park. This resolution is not related to the proposed land trade and does not impact those parcels.
- *Anna Brawley asked about the background of this effort, and whether it is related to ongoing discussions of the Assembly to dedicate all designated, but not dedicated, park land in one ordinance?* Cathy Gleason shared that originally the Huffman-O'Malley CC brought this to the attention of their assembly members because of some concerns of parcels in their area, and several other councils have passed similar resolutions for parkland in their area. While the Assembly is working on taking action on other parks, she urges the Council to pass the resolution communicating TCC's request for dedication of Turnagain parkland be initiated.

- **Vote: 12 yes; 3 no, 0 abstain. Motion Passes.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- *None.*

CLOSING

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.
 - **Vote: all in favor, none opposed to adjournment.**
- Danielle Bailey will be back in April; in the meantime, please contact Jonathan Tarrant at tccpresident@yahoo.com or find his contact information on the TCC website.
- The next meeting will be Thursday, April 2, 2015, 7 p.m. at Turnagain Elementary School.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Anna Brawley on 3/7/2015

Minutes approved by the Council on 4/2/15