
TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting | October 1, 2015 | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Turnagain Elementary School Library, 3500 West Northern Lights Blvd.

Chaired by Danielle Bailey, TCC President

WELCOME & APPROVE AGENDA, MINUTES

- The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. About 42 people (members and guests) attended.
- The agenda was reviewed.
 - **Motion by Danielle to approve the agenda as amended. No objections; agenda approved.**
- The June meeting minutes were reviewed. Anna Brawley incorporated minor edits and addition of specific language of bylaws amendments as submitted by Cathy Gleason.
 - **Motion by Danielle Bailey to approve the June 2015 meeting minutes. No objections; minutes approved as presented.**
- The September meeting minutes were reviewed.
 - **Motion by Danielle to approve the September 2015 meeting minutes.**
 - **Cathy Gleason proposed two amendments correcting items related to the land trade: page 4 (correct information about Assembly indefinitely postponing AO 2015-69); page 9 (clarification about Treasurer position in new bylaws); page 9 (correction regarding Mayor's office statement about land trade ordinance, not snow dump lease).**
 - **Vote: all in favor; none opposed; none abstain. Minutes approved.**

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

- **President's Report | Danielle Bailey**
 - We now have a bank account, a new treasurer (Bill Wortman) and checks! We have therefore also been able to submit our donation to the Anchorage Park Foundation.
- **Vice President's Report | Jonathan Tarrant**
 - Turnagain BBQ: Thanks for all who contributed and attended our event! We estimated we had about 40 people overall, and were pleased with the event. Given that it was a cold evening and people did not stick around, we are considering holding another event in late spring or early summer, this time at a Turnagain park.
- **Secretary's Report | Anna Brawley**
 - The Turnagain Neighborhood Survey results summary was submitted to Mayor's office on September 9, and is available on the website. The Mayor's office thanked TCC for its input and is determining which items are feasible to follow up on.
- **Treasurer's Report | Bill Wortman**
 - Now that TCC has a bank account, the Didlika Park Funds donation was successfully made to the Anchorage Park Foundation on September 15 and was acknowledged. The Park Foundation will share an update with our council soon, as they are working to act on the recommendations (*see TCC website*).
- **Board Elections**
 - The 2016 term begins in January, meaning that elections will be next month, at the Thursday, November 5 TCC meeting.
 - Nominations are being sought for all positions!
 - President (Danielle Bailey), Vice President (Jonathan Tarrant) and Board Member (Chris Habicht) have indicated they do not intend to run again for a seat on the board. Anna Brawley intends to run for Secretary again; Treasurer Bill Wortman was just elected for the interim of 2015, but has not indicated yet whether he intends to run again.

West High, Romig Practice Field: There have been complaints about noise and activity at Romig practice field. Danielle Bailey and Bill Wortman are planning to follow up with the Anchorage School District and will report back next month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Federation of Community Councils:** Danielle shared that she has heard concerns from multiple people about not receiving e-mails from the FCC-maintained mailing list. She brought this up at the FCC meeting and, along with others, have suggested that councils should have more control over their mailing list in order to get items out faster.
- **Lake Hood Master Plan Committee:** Brian Hove shared that the Lake Hood Master Plan Advisory Committee met on September 30, and prior to that the TCC Lake Hood Committee met earlier in the week to review the alternatives presented. Brian represented TCC at the September 30 meeting: committee members were given stickers (red, green, yellow) to indicate what was favorable or unfavorable to committee members within those alternatives, to give feedback. There will be an open house for the Lake Hood Seaplane Base Master Plan (*see Airport report*).
- **Land Use Plan Map Committee:** This group met on September 22 to get organized, select chairs (Anna Brawley and Cathy Gleason) and review materials from the previous effort and the West Anchorage District Plan. The draft land use plan map is due to be released soon (the dates keep changing) with a tentative deadline for public comments on December 30; the committee will plan to bring the committee's comments for TCC review and approval at our December 3 meeting, unless the timeline shifts further. Our next meeting will be Monday, October 5 at the FCC office at 5:30, pending receipt of the draft map. Join the committee if interested!
- **Airport Part 150 Noise Study Committee:** Comments were due to the FAA by September 25, submitted by TCC (a duplicate of the letter of comments approved by the council in November 2014).

AIRPORT REPORT | JOHN JOHANSEN

- *See airport updates on the handout provided at the meeting or online at: www.anchorageairport.com*
- **Lake Hood Seaplane Base Master Plan:** There was a Lake Hood Master Plan Advisory Committee meeting on September 30. The group discussed the alternatives that the consultant team has developed as options to consider to address the issues brought up in the first part of the planning process, and as Brian Hove shared (above) provided feedback on the alternatives. There will be a public open house in November, date to be determined. To learn more, visit www.lhdmasterplan.com.
- **Concessions:** There will be a new Alaskan Outfitters store near Baggage Claim 4.
- **Plant Update:** Herbicide treatments were made by the Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources to combat the very invasive elodea detected in the lake, to prevent its spread across the region via seaplanes.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *None*

LEGISLATIVE REPORT | REP. MATT CLAMAN, SEN. BERTA GARDNER AND SEN. MIA COSTELLO

- **Sen. Berta Gardner**
 - Sen. Gardner thanked Turnagain for being such an active and organized council!
 - There is a special session called by Gov. Walker beginning October 24 down in Juneau: the topic will be about the natural gas pipeline, specifically purchasing a portion of TransCanada's share of the gas line, giving us more control over the project but still a minor partner (about 40% in the maximum-share scenario). The session will also consider the reserve tax. Sen. Gardner indicated that she has not taken a position yet on these issues, and is interested to hear more about them, but is also concerned about the prospect of being only a minor partner and the implications for the partnership as a whole.
- **Rep. Matt Claman**

- Rep. Claman reiterated that the natural gas pipeline and potential tax will be a good discussion this fall.
- He expressed frustration with the Medicaid expansion lawsuit, still moving forward by the legislative majority, and he and several others feel it is a waste of funding and effort.
- There have been many questions about the land trade proposed between the Municipality and the Airport, which most recently the Mayor indicated he does not support and will not pursue. Rep. Claman has been meeting with Airport and Muni representatives to encourage them to move forward at least with the snow dump proposal, and has identified this has an issue.
- **Sen. Mia Costello**
 - Staffer Weston Eiler represented the Senator's office, and thanked attendees for being active constituents.
 - Sen. Costello is vice chair of the Senate Resources Committee, and will be involved with the pipeline discussions in special session; no details have been released yet, but she and others have spent time with consultants providing information on the details of the Governor's proposal.
 - As chair of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee, she is also very interested in options for encouraging workforce development and has been meeting with the Department of Commerce (DCCED).
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Brian Hove asked whether the reserve tax is similar to the one proposed earlier, and how it might affect production?* Rep. Claman was not sure of the details at this time, as it will be proposed during the special session.
 - *Jerry Trainor asked whether it is possible to secure Alaska hire requirements or agreements, to keep more jobs within the state rather than what happened in the 1970s and 1980s, when many out-of-state workers moved north? He is concerned about the capacity of TransCanada to develop this project.* Sen. Gardner shared that it is very difficult to enact hiring requirements (versus preferences) but they are certainly considering options and can look to other existing projects for precedent. She is also very interested in this issue, but noted that
 - *Danielle Bailey expressed her extreme frustration with the Medicaid expansion lawsuit as well, and feels it is a waste of time and money.*
 - *Jonathan Tarrant requested written or verbal report at next month's meeting regarding the progress of the special session.* Rep. Claman agreed, and noted that they will continue to provide reports as they do during session.
 - *Dan Gleason (disclosure stated, he works for Brooks Range Petroleum) he was disappointed with the deferral of the tax credits and shared that two projects were shut down because of the financial complications with the tax credits not available as planned.* Sen. Gardner stated that the tax credits were intended to target smaller producers in order to help them boost exploration; it is only available as a tool for those who pay current taxes, as they can use it as a deduction. Those companies not currently paying taxes were receiving a check. Rep. Claman added that in the 1970s when the system was set up along with the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, most of the industry was very large operators, due to the cost and barriers to entry in the market. The growth of smaller-scale operators is a new development, which is not necessarily aligned with our current tax policy, and will require more adaptation.
 - *Cathy Gleason asked about the timeline for the snow dump, given that there were upgrades supposed to be done by the EPA and Alaska DEC in order to allow that operation to go forward.* Rep. Claman is not sure of the current status, but is optimistic that it would come to a question on the next bond package (or a future bond package) in order to secure the funding to complete those capital improvements.
 - *Elaine Hulse inquired whether salmon and beluga whales are considered resources?* From a resource usage standpoint, salmon are considered resources particularly for Alaska Native people as well as commercial fishermen and other residents. Beluga whales are not necessarily a usable resource for all people, but some species are hunted as subsistence resources. Gloria

Manni added that they are not considered fish, and there is a restriction on hunting these animals to protect that particular population.

ASSEMBLY REPORT | ASSEMBLY MEMBER TIM STEELE + IRA PERMAN (FOR ERNIE HALL)

- There is a new attitude and atmosphere at the Municipality, with the new administration and accompanying new staff. Previously, everyone reported to the City Manager; now there are a few department heads with more direct reports, such as Economic Development and Community Development, which includes Public Works, Planning, and Parks and Recreation. Other new hires: a new chief of police, a new director of Direct Services (in Health and Human Services), and others.
- **Spenard Road Corridor:** There is a new project with the Spenard Road Corridor, including a study of transportation oriented development and redevelopment initiatives; a consulting contract will be awarded this month. Member Steele encouraged the council to consider making Spenard Road and nearby projects a priority in the Capital Improvements List for the coming year(s).
- **ML&P:** There has been work at the Asplund sewage treatment plant for a new chlorination system.
- **Budget:** The Assembly is developing an FY16 budget, and considering hard decision such as cuts to the budget.
- **Equal Rights Ordinance:** The Assembly passed an ordinance protecting the rights of people based on their gender identity and sexual orientation, and making sure it aligns with current federal law.
- **New Projects:** At 4th Avenue and A Street there is a container business (in a shipping container) that was interested in serving alcohol, and sought input from the Muni. There was discussion about whether this is legal or desirable; there were several code issues, as it is not a permanent building. Public testimony was taken. The business owners argue that it is a new concept and that it would bring new life to the region.
- **Marijuana Regulation Committee:** Ira shared that there are concurrent efforts at the state and local level to develop regulations to implement the laws enacted by Ballot Measure 2 (AS 17.38) which calls for regulations at both state and local level. The state regulations are scheduled to be passed on November 24, and the Municipality is developing parallel regulations. Ira shared some of the main concerns: where licensed businesses will be allowed to operate (zoning and land use); the structure of a local licensing system; how to handle the costs and project potential revenue; and what regulations are going to be created for edibles.
- **Other Community Concerns:** Ira noted that he and Ernie have heard several concerns lately about junk cars and other unsightly items on people's property. There is a gray area of what constitutes "junk" which can make these vehicles hard to impound or haul away.
- Ira Perman apologized to the council for missing the Turnagain BBQ—he was providing chauffeur services for a friend's daughter's wedding.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *A member asked for clarification of what is being done regarding homeless camps being identified around the city?* Tim shared that he has heard from multiple residents about homeless camps, particularly in parks and areas near neighborhoods. There is a new notification process when removing a homeless camp, posting the notice first rather than confiscating personal property without notice. The Mayor is working on the related issues such as housing and options for affordable housing and other needed services. Ira added that the campers are not necessarily aggressive, but there is an informal drug trade for spice (synthetic marijuana) which is also bring petty crime such as bicycle theft.
 - *Elaine Hulse added that there is a significant sized homeless camp near Earthquake Park, near Nathaniel Court.*
 - *Anna Brawley thanked the Assembly members present for passing the Equal Rights ordinance; her brother does not live in Anchorage but now his rights could not be infringed if he were a resident, as he is a genderqueer individual.*

MAYOR'S OFFICE REPORT | SHARON LANE, MOA

- **Neighborhood Survey:** Sharon Lane shared that the Mayor thanked the council for providing the summary of the survey done this summer, and is following up on some of the recommendations; no further response has been prepared, as the budget process is the first priority, but the survey has been taken under advisement.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *None.*

2803 MARSTON DRIVE PUBLIC ACCESS TO TRAIL: “SYDNEY’S SHORTCUT” | BILLY WAILAND

- The property adjacent to the Rasmuson family’s property (2803 Marston Drive) has been for several years used as a shortcut to the Coastal Trail. It is currently being built on, and the shortcut is blocked off with a “No Trespassing Sign.” Multiple people have contacted the TCC to provide information about whether this is legal, and have inquired with the Muni and others to find out whether this is allowed. Billy has been doing some independent research, contacted the owner about the plans for the property, but did not receive a response. He is primarily concerned about how long this easement will be closed during construction, what the future plans are for the easement to maintain its public benefit, and to start the discussion early with the property owner.
- Last month, Billy proposed drafting a letter, to come from the community council, to begin a dialogue with the property owner next month about the long-term plan for this easement, and to find a solution for community benefit. He shared the letter as a proposed resolution for the council to vote on at the October meeting (provided as a handout during the meeting).
- **Motion by Pat Redmond to send the letter as presented in the meeting. Second by Gloria Manni.**
Discussion:
 - A member provided more information about the legal details of the easement, including some potential legal precedent regarding historic trails, and suggested an amendment indicating where a trail would be placed along the property.
 - While there is encroachment on the historic trail, Billy suggested that it will be easier to seek enforcement of and development of the actual easement rather than the original trail.
 - Amendment accepted: clarify in the letter where exactly the easement would be developed.
 - Cathy Gleason asked for clarification about whether it is a right of way and/or an easement? Billy shared that the term “right of way” was consistently used in the documentation, so he used that language as well. She also whether the details of the potential trail would be included in the letter, such as what type of trail or the actual cost?
 - Pat suggested that the letter should retain the level of detail needed currently, just to start the dialogue.
 - Sandy Rabinowitch suggested attaching the original documents presented to the owner. Billy shared that he provided the documents to the owner previously, but will attach them again in order to provide a complete package.
 - Elaine Hulse suggested adding emphasis on the importance of the trail to the community. Billy did not feel it should be added to the letter, but acknowledged that this is certainly an important emphasis.
 - John McPherson clarified that while an easement may allow the owner to retain certain property rights, a right of way may not allow them to retain rights. He recommended clarifying this in the letter. Billy will remove the word “easement” for the sake of clarification.
- **Vote on motion, with amendments as noted above: 24 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. Motion passes. Danielle will work with Billy to make any needed remaining edits to the letter and have it sent before the next meeting.**

TRAFFIC CALMING AT TURNAGAIN ST. & WEST 33RD AVE. | TIM MYLAND, MOA

- Tim Myland, a traffic engineer with the Municipality, came to present about a few related issues with traffic calming and the department’s current plan.

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- The MOA reviewed traffic data, and found that on two streets in Turnagain, MacKenzie Drive and West 33rd Avenue (From Turnagain Blvd to Wisconsin), there was sufficient data regarding speeding which allows those streets to qualify for traffic calming measures. There were several other streets studied but which did not have sufficient data about these streets. Turnagain had relatively few streets with current issues as shown in the data, despite residents' concerns about many other streets.
- Tim recommended reviewing the data, providing prioritized list (of the two streets, as of now) of streets requiring traffic calming, and for other streets, develop a short recommendation for other streets that the council believes needs attention.
- The general process for traffic calming efforts:
 1. Council passes resolution about a specific street to be studied
 2. MOA conducts traffic study of the street to determine whether there is sufficient data about speeding (what % of people are speeding and to what degree); study would happen next summer
 3. If the data shows that there is cause for traffic calming, the MOA considers the appropriate solution(s) for the street, depending on the degree of speeding and the volume and size of the street, as well as the length of the problem area (if it is a small area or a long corridor).
 4. Looking longer term (20-30 years) many major streets will have significant reconstruction through capital improvement projects; the engineers will also consider how to rebuild the street to better meet the capacity and use of the street.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Bill recommended studying several streets in the area, not just 33rd, and noted that he has seen a great deal of traffic on 29th and 30th near the Rustic Goat, between Turnagain and Wisconsin.* Tim acknowledged that there may be other areas needing study, and these can be put in a resolution from the council for the MOA to study.
- **Motion by Danielle Bailey: A resolution in support of a traffic calming study for Turnagain Street and West 33rd Ave. Second by Pat Redmond.**

Discussion:

 - The group discussed several more streets as possible candidates for the resolution and needing further study, including
 - Turnagain Street from Northern Lights to McRae
 - 33rd Ave between Turnagain and Wisconsin
 - Foraker Drive between Knik Avenue and Turnagain (amendment by Cami Daulton)
 - Lois, Arlington (north side) and Northern Lights (intersection)
 - Barbara Street between 29th and 32nd
 - Cathy Gleason pointed out that it may be better to discuss the list of streets with a committee, in order to compare it back to the existing CIP list and other documents and establish some prioritization for a resolution.
 - Tim Myland reiterated that because traffic studies cannot be done until next summer, a resolution would need to be sent by (but not until) March or April 2016 in order to be considered for the coming season.
 - **The motion was not brought to a vote, but a committee will be formed to continue the discussion, and the original motion can be taken up again at the next meeting if a set of recommendations is ready for next month. Motion tabled.**

WEST HIGH & ROMIG MIDDLE SCHOOLS REMODEL | BRIANNE KEIFER, DOWL

- Members of Romig Middle School and DOWL presented on the site improvements to be made at West High and Romig Middle. There are 8 improvements proposed, which would be put out to bid for construction.
 - Consolidated bus parking area for both schools
 - Two-way bus-only driveway which enters and leaves onto Hillcrest Drive and can also exit by the Dempsey Anderson Ice Arena, separate from other traffic and pedestrians
 - Renovate northwest parking lot to allow for bus lane

- 15' landscape buffer at west property line along with the bus lane
- (Alternative addition) Upgraded lighting in northwest parking lot
- (Alternative addition) Renovated hockey rink boards
- (Alternative addition) Add two tennis courts to the four existing courts.
- The team will be presenting the recommendations to the Urban Design Commission in November, at which point public comments will be taken on the packet of information. For more information or to provide feedback, contact Brianne Keifer: bkeifer@dowl.com.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Sandy Rabinowitch asked about the traffic implications for the neighborhood, and whether cars will be blocked from cutting through the parking lot? He also asked about pedestrian access and existing pedestrian use in that area.* There will likely be fire lane gates, in addition to those existing, which could be opened at certain times such as large events. There is also consideration for pedestrians in the planning, such as a possible crosswalk.
 - *John McPherson commented that he would like to see a safer bike and pedestrian route on the north side of the building, south side of road, a narrow strip of the road with no curb cut to allow a biker to hop onto the sidewalk.*
 - *Cathy Gleason shared that TCC created a series of recommendations as part of the Safe Routes to School Committee, passed last fall. She requested the team to consider looking further at the parking lot by Hillcrest, with some pedestrian improvements to help direct people through the large lot. She also asked for clarification about where buses would access Northern Lights?* The buses would exit by Dempsey Anderson and onto Northern Lights Blvd. The projects related to that section are related to turn radius and lane width. Moving some of the bus traffic exiting the site will alleviate the congestion on Hillcrest Drive.
 - *Gloria Manni recommended that TCC provide the council's Safe Routes to Schools documented recommendations to the team. Danielle will send this to the project team.*
 - *Dan Gleason suggested having buses enter from Northern Lights instead, and exit on Hillcrest Drive, given the traffic volume already on Northern Lights.* One of the project team noted that having a traffic light just east of the proposed intersection allows for large gaps in traffic, which does not allow for a constant flow.

FISH CREEK FENCE DEVELOPMENT | TIM SULLIVAN, ARR; STEPHEN NUSS, AWWU

- Stephen shared that there have been many concerns about work being done along the railroad right of way and the permanent fence constructed. He is appearing before the council to provide more information about the project.
- It is a 3-phase project: the first phase was completed on the mudflats near West Chester Lagoon earlier this summer, the current phase is working on infrastructure near the Fish Creek estuary, and the third phase will be replacement of some infrastructure such as manholes on the verge of failure.
- There will be a road, fence and steep embankment for the project in order to allow vehicles to access the area; given that the railroad right of way does not allow for additional space, this is not publicly accessible. The current phase of work is projected to be done on November 1; the next phase will be completed with use of snow roads, to avoid damaging vegetation, and will not begin until December or January.
- Tim shared that ARR required that AWWU build a permanent fence on the west side of the right of way (ROW); ARR will build another fence on the other side of the ROW in order to keep pedestrians along the tracks for safety reasons, such as safety to people and also ballast (rocks) being dislodged from under the tracks. The plan to build a fence has been on the railroad's list of projects for several years, and they are now taking advantage of the opportunity with AWWU construction to complete this project. ARR understands that several people use this area as a social trail, but they have many safety concerns.
- **Questions and Comments**

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- *A member asked about the potential impacts to wildlife moving east to west, including moose, and whether ARR has consulted Alaska Department of Fish & Game? ARR has not consulted ADF&G on the issue. He added that there are current permits allowing passage, and that it should be considered that those long-standing passages should be accommodated, not closed off. Tim agreed that there are existing permits, and that the right of way is not intended to bisect the area, but that there are legitimate safety concerns and potential hazard to life by not restricting access.*
- *Dan Gleason agreed that the fences would likely channel moose into neighborhoods and not allow a means for them to pass through the area and pass over the tracks. He strongly recommends consulting with ADF&G about possible diversion or other means of ensuring wildlife can pass through, without endangering the railroad and movement of trains.*
- *Chris Habicht added that blocking off the railroad right of way would force moose onto the pedestrian underpasses to be able to go through, which would create more problems.*
- *John McPherson expressed interest in retaining access to the Great Land Trust Fish Creek property. Tim acknowledged the interest in trails, but that the railroad is not interested in maintaining trails; the Municipality and other governments would need to take on that responsibility.*
- *Danielle commented that the plan does not include or consider designated crossings, and she is disappointed that there was not public input sought. Tim acknowledged public interest in trails, but reiterated the serious safety concerns with not restricting access to the tracks.*
- *Stephen shared that during negotiations with ARR, AWWU noted the designation in the Anchorage 2020 Plan and the Anchorage Bike Plan to have a trail in this area. While he does not see this happening in the near future given other budget constraints and priorities, he encourages the council to remain involved in the issue and*
- *Another member requested that ARR contact ADF&G to discuss wildlife impacts further, as well as to consider possible further impacts. Tim accepted this and will follow up with that department. She also commented that the fence was not originally part of the plan, including the information shared with the Great Land Trust during the project.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PUBLIC COMMENTS

See Attachments flyer available as a handout in the meeting and on the TCC website.

- West High Art Project will be held at the Hotel Captain Cook on Friday, October 2, 5 to 10 p.m.
- Gloria Manni shared that she heard the Westchester Lagoon bridge will re-open October 15; crews are working to replace it.

CLOSING

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.
- The next meeting will be Thursday, November 5, 2015 at Turnagain Elementary.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Anna Brawley on 10/4/2015

Minutes approved by the Turnagain Community Council membership on 11/5/2015