

Turnagain Community Council Meeting Notices, Announcements & Project Updates

Compiled by TCC Member Cathy Gleason — as of January 7, 2016

Turnagain Community Council is on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/328948347297691/>
Check for updates on our webpage: www.communitycouncils.org

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

JANUARY 2016 NOTICES:

- **January 7 — Turnagain Community Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Turnagain Elementary School Library, 3500 W. Northern Lights Blvd.**
Info: TCC President Jonathan Tarrant, tccpresent@yahoo.com
- **January 8 — COMMENT DEADLINE — Fish Creek Trail Improvements Project Design Study Report & 35% Design Review.** This mile-long project includes upgrades to a southern section of Fish Creek Trail between 45th Ave. and the Taft St./W. Tudor Rd. intersection and a northern section between Kiwanis Fish Creek Park and Barbara Street Park. Trail upgrades include resurfacing trail, replacement of four Fish Creek bridges, replacement of lighting, minor improvements to the trail grade and alignment, and removal of select nearby trees and installation of root barriers to reduce future pavement damage caused by root intrusion. Design will continue through 2016, and construction is anticipated to begin summer 2017. *An overview of the project was presented at the Dec. 6th TCC meeting. The TCC Board submitted a letter December 21st, stating we cannot provide detailed comments by January 8th. A TCC Committee is being formed to review and provide comments/recommendations as soon as possible.*
Info: www.anchoragetrailsrehab.com
- **January 9 — Town Hall Meeting, 10:00-11:30 a.m., West-Romig Library, 2500 Minnesota Dr.** Special Guest Cliff Groh, former Special Assistant to the Commission of Revenue, and legislative staff will be joining event hosts Sen. Berta Gardner, Rep. Andy Josephson and Rep. Harriet Drummond to discuss the Permanent Fund Dividend and insight on the state's fiscal options.
Info: 269-0174
- **January 9 — Anchorage Legislative Caucus Meeting, Noon-3:00 p.m., Assembly Chambers, Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St.** Testimony will be limited to two minutes per person.
- **January 9 — Town Hall Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Turnagain Elementary School, 3500 W. Northern Lights Blvd.** Rep. Matt Claman is hosting this gathering; AK Department of Revenue Commissioner Randy Hoffbeck will attend to discuss the budget and the Governor's plan to bring the deficit this legislative session.
To view the FY 2017 Governor's 2017 Proposed Budget, go to: www.omb.alaska.gov
- **January 11 — Planning & Zoning Commission Public Hearings on Rezoning Parcel of Land from R-O to B-3 South of W. Northern Lights Blvd. and West of Carrs/Safeway Gas Station & to Amend the West Anchorage District Plan Land Use Map to Reflect the Rezone, 6:30 p.m., Assembly Chambers, Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St.** Case No. 2016-0001 & 2016-0002 — The proposed rezone is to allow construction of a Panda Express Restaurant and a small retail development on the site.
Info: Petitioner Representative Wende Wilber, wwilber@ecihyer.com, 561-5543
- **January 12 — Assembly Public Hearing on Submitting to Voters a Ballot Proposition on Items Related to a Retail Marijuana Sales Tax, 6:30 p.m., Assembly Chambers, Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St.** AO 2015-143 — This would place a proposition on the April 2016 Municipal ballot amending Municipal Code to adopt a marijuana sales tax and items related to this tax.

- January 13 — OPEN HOUSE — Minnesota Dr. Reconnaissance Study, 4:30-7:30 p.m., Romig Middle School Multi-Purpose Room, 2500 Minnesota Dr.** The Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities is studying ways to improve Minnesota Dr. between Westchester Lagoon and the Seward Highway/O'Malley Road interchange. Do you have any problems you encounter on Minnesota Dr.? Are there safety or operational problems you'd like to see fixed? Have suggestions on how to fix them? **Comments due February 11, 2016.**
Visit Project website for info. or to submit comments: www.MinnesotaDriveStudy.com
Also submit comments to: JoannMitchell@KinneyEng.com
- January 13 — OPEN HOUSE — Turnagain St. & Turnagain Blvd. Upgrades, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Turnagain Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room, 3500 W. Northern Lights Blvd.** Preliminary designs were done for these two roads in 2011; a Draft Design Study Report has now been done as well. Additional funding has been acquired for the final design study, detailed design, pre-construction tasks and right-of-way acquisition. NO CONSTRUCTION FUNDING HAS YET BEEN RECEIVED FOR EITHER PHASE. Construction for Turnagain Blvd. (Phase I) could start in 2017, while Turnagain St. (Phase II) may be several years out. *These two road projects are the highest ranked CIP road projects for TCC. A project presentation was made to TCC at our Dec. 3rd meeting; a TCC Committee was formed at the meeting to review documents and provide recommendations to the council for comment.*
Info: MOA PM&E Project Administrator, 343-8221, ManeyDC@ci.anchorage.ak.us or CRW Civil Engineer Justin Keene, 646-5632, jkeene@crweng.com
Project website: www.turnagainstreet.com
Submit comments at: comments@crweng.com
- January 13 — POSTPONED FROM JANUARY 6 — Alaska Railroad Right-of-Way Public Use Debate, Spenard Community Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Spenard Recreation Center Multi-Purpose Room, 2020 W. 48th Ave..** Representatives from the Alaska Railroad and Oceanview Community Council will debate the issue of Alaska Railroad ROW public use. *FYI: neighbors are advocating for a "Fish Creek Trail to the Ocean" within the AKRR ROW between the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail and W. Northern Lights Blvd.*
Info: SCC President Phil Isley, spenardcc@gmail.com or philisley@ymail.com, 248-0018
- January 16 — TCC Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Rustic Goat, 2800 Turnagain St.**
Info. and to confirm: TCC President Jonathan Tarrant, tccpresident@yahoo.com
- January 26 — Assembly Public Hearing on Title 21 Additions/Amendments for Marijuana Establishments, 6:30 p.m., Assembly Chambers, Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St.**
 AO 2016-?? — This is an ordinance that would add new sections to Title 21 Municipal Code to enable marijuana establishments in certain zoning districts, and amend current Code to enable retail marijuana stores in the downtown (Central Business District). The Planning & Zoning Commission considered 20 amendments to the ordinance at their Jan. 4th meeting. *TCC created a Marijuana Committee at our Dec. 6th meeting to follow local marijuana-related items, but has not yet met to address possible input on the ordinance.*
To view the DRAFT ORDINANCE, go to:
<http://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Case%20Information/MJ%20Ord%20PZC%20Draft%20with%20Exhibits.pdf>

FEBRUARY 2016 NOTICES:

- February 1 — Planning & Zoning Commission Public Hearing on Cell Tower Revisions to Municipal Code, 6:30 p.m., Assembly Chambers, Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St.**
 These revisions address, among other things, public notice requirements and height allowances and types in zoning districts. *A group of residents from various community councils has reviewed the ordinance, drafted amendments, and has proposed a resolution for councils to consider — TCC Committee has been collaborating with this group. The resolution will be considered at TCC's Jan. 7th meeting.*
To view the draft ordinance, go to:
<http://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Documents/Draft%20AO%20Telecommunications%20code%20revisions.pdf>
If you are interested in serving on the TCC Committee, contact: Cathy Gleason, 248-0442, cathy.gleasantcc@yahoo.com.

- **February 4 — Turnagain Community Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Turnagain Elementary School Library, 3500 W. Northern Lights Blvd.**
Info: TCC President Jonathan Tarrant, tccpresent@yahoo.com
- **February 11 — COMMENT DEADLINE — Minnesota Dr. Reconnaissance Study.** The Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities is studying ways to improve Minnesota Dr. between Westchester Lagoon and the Seward Highway/O'Malley Road interchange. Do you have any problems you encounter on Minnesota Dr.? Are there safety or operational problems you'd like to see fixed? Have suggestions on how to fix them? Visit Project website for info. or to submit comments: www.MinnesotaDriveStudy.com
Also submit comments to: JoannMitchell@KinneyEng.com
- **February 23 — Assembly Public Hearing on Cell Tower Revisions to Municipal Code, 6:30 p.m., Assembly Chambers, Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St.** AO 2015-142 — an ordinance of proposed Cell Tower/other telecommunications facilities Title 21 Code Revisions that address, among other things, public notice requirements and height allowances and types in zoning districts.

PROJECT UPDATES:

- **APPROVED — West High School & Romig Middle School Campus Site Renewal Project**
On December 9th, the Urban Design Commission approved a plan to amend the existing West-Romig campus site plan. Improvements include: new, consolidated bus drop-off area on west side of West/Romig building; new bus-only access road on west side of campus with ingress/egress at Hillcrest Dr. & WNL Blvd; modifications of northwest parking lot; restriping of West bus drop-off area; dumpster screening; and new site lighting. Also approved were three "Project Additive Alternatives" that will be part of the improvements, if funding allows: construction of new Romig parking lot; reconstruction of hockey rink boards/fencing; and two new outdoor tennis courts. **The TCC SRTS Committee submitted comments to the Muni Planning Dept., which were affirmed at the Dec. 3rd TCC meeting. Committee members also provided testimony at the hearing. Based on SRTS/TCC input, Municipal staff and the UDC incorporated some of our recommendations to improve pedestrian safety at the campus.**
- **Kiwanis Fish Creek Park & Barbara St. Improvements**
The Muni Parks Dept. is proposing upgrades to Kiwanis Fish Creek Park and Barbara St. Park for summer 2016. A community advisory group has been meeting to discuss park strengths/weaknesses and make recommendations for potential themes, playground equipment and other potential amenities. **A resolution of support will be considered at our January 7th meeting, with more design details to be presented at the February 4th TCC meeting.**
Info: Taylor Keegan, MOA Park Planner, 343-4518, keeganth@muni.org.
- **Airport Part 150 Noise Study**
FAA approved the Noise Exposure Maps and Noise Compatibility Program on November 17th. The measures not approved by the FAA for federal noise funding are: the noise barrier on the northeastern boundary of the airport along the Turnagain neighborhood boundary, the ground run-up enclosure, and gate electrification and preconditioned air at all jet bridges. FAA's action completes the Part 150 Noise Study — a final Study Input Committee meeting will be scheduled in early 2016.
Details of the approved/disapproved measures can be found in the FAA's Record of Approval at: anc150study.com
- **Anchorage Land Use Plan Map Update**
The Planning Dept.'s anticipated release the Public Review Draft in late December has been delayed for several weeks. Stay tuned for a release date. **TCC LUPM Update committee will schedule meeting date(s) after the document release.**
For info, or to join the committee, contact Committee Co-chairs:
Anna Brawley, annab.brawley@gmail.com, or Cathy Gleason, cathy.gleasantcc@yahoo.com, 248-0442
For Project Info:
<http://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Projects/AnchLandUse/Pages/default.aspx>
- **AWWU Fish Creek Sewer Rehabilitation Phase 3**
Construction continues on repair of the 36-inch sewer in the Alaska Railroad Right of Way. **Clearing and large construction equipment and dump trucks traffic through this area will occur, to access the construction site.** Construction will be trenchless technology, but excavation pits will be necessary to access the pipes on either side of the railroad tracks. (Work anticipated for Phase 3 to occur November 2015-March 2016.) **CHAIN LINK FENCING**

WILL BE PLACED ON BOTH SIDES of the railroad ROW between Westchester Lagoon and W. Northern Lights as part of the project.

For more info, contact AWWU Project Manager Mark Corsentino, mark.corsentino@awwu.biz, 564-2784.

- **Northern Lights Blvd/Benson Blvd. Improvement Project Update**

This project is now in winter shutdown — work will resume in spring 2016. Upon completion, both Northern Lights Blvd./Benson Blvd. will be repaved and have new signage and striping, curb ramps will be upgraded to current ADA standards, and automated traffic recorders and signal system will be improved. Completion is schedule for June 2016.

Info: DOT at <http://AlaskaNavigator.org> or 770-2612.

To sign up for project updates, email: NorthernlightsBenson@spawnak.com.

- **Spenard Road Reconstruction Project — Hillcrest Dr. to 30th Ave.**

This Municipal road project is starting up again, after a conceptual 3-lane design (one lane in each direction with a two-way center left turn lane) was presented in 2011 as the best way to improve vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle safety. Improvements are expected to include a new road base, curb and gutter, storm drain, transit improvements, lighting upgrades, pedestrian crossing improvements and landscaping. Public meetings will be held, dates and times TBA.

Sign up to receive project notices and project information updates at: <http://www.midtownroads.com>

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CONGRATULATIONS to the TED STEVENS ANCHORAGE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT!

According to the AK DOT&PF's *Plane Talk* Winter 2015-2016 newsletter, "Just .07% of flights through ANC over the past year were cancelled." Also, "Anchorage International has the lowest average departure delay of any airport in the country, at just seven minutes." *Thank you for providing travelers such great service!*

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BUDGET PUBLIC INPUT:

Provide your input online, via email & at Board public hearings on the ASD budget.

Online: www.asdk12.org/budget

Email: schoolboard@asdk12.org

Anchorage School Board Public Hearings: Feb. 1 & Feb. 16, 2016; meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.

SIGN UP FOR ASSEMBLY COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICES:

This Assembly Committee (formally titled Title 21 Committee) is holding weekly committee meetings to discuss potential changes to Title 21.

To receive committee meeting notices, contact Municipal Clerk's Office Agenda and Records Assistant Amy Solberg at SolbergAR@ci.anchorage.ak.us or 343-4243.

MAYOR BERKOWITZ INVITES INNOVATION, SOLUTIONS WITH "ANCHORGE INNOVATES":

Mayor Ethan Berkowitz has announced "Anchorage Innovates" — a new place for the Mayor to receive feedback, comments, questions, and concerns. **A link to "Anchorage Innovates" can be found on www.muni.org and on the Mayor's page at www.muni.org/departments/mayor/pages/default.aspx.**

Comments, questions and concerns can also be submitted through emailing mayor@muni.org, calling 343-7100, or if you are feeling nostalgic, mailing a letter to: P.O. Box 196650 Anchorage, Alaska 99519.

For more information contact Myer Hutchinson at (907) 343-7133.