

Turnagain Community Council Meeting Notices, Announcements & Project Updates

Compiled by TCC Vice President Cathy Gleason — as of February 1, 2016

Turnagain Community Council is on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/328948347297691/>

Check for updates on our webpage: www.communitycouncils.org

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 — the TCC Committee has been collaborating with this group. TCC passed a resolution to support the citizen group's amendments to the draft at the January 7th meeting.*
To view the draft ordinance, go to:
<http://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Documents/Draft%20AO%20Telecommunications%20code%20revisions.pdf>
- **February 4 — Anchorage Transportation Fair, 4:00-8:00 p.m., Alaska Airlines Center Auxiliary, University of Alaska Anchorage, 3550 Providence Dr. (free parking)** This event is a “super open house,” providing information on a number of transportation projects, planning efforts or existing plans concerning walking, biking, and driving within the Municipality of Anchorage — including Fish Creek Trail Rehabilitation, Anchorage Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Implementation, Minnesota Reconnaissance Study, People Mover and Public Transportation, Spenard Road Reconstruction Phase II: Hillcrest Dr. to 30th Ave. (and many more!)
Info: <http://anchoragetranspofair.blogspot.com/>
- **February 4 — Assembly Special Public Hearing on Title 10 & Title 21 Additions/Amendments for Marijuana Establishments, 6:00-11:00 p.m., Assembly Chambers, Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St. (Please note: new, temporary Assembly chambers building entrance is farther west of the old first floor library entrance.)**

 - AO 2016-3 & AO 2016-3(S) — This is an ordinance (and substitute ordinance that includes Planning and Zoning Commission recommended amendments approved at its January 11th meeting) 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).
 - AO 2016-16 — This is an ordinance amending Title 10 Municipal Code to add a new chapter for the licensing and regulation of marijuana establishments in the Municipality; providing for Assembly review of AO 2015-7; addressing public consumption of marijuana; and amending the Municipal fine schedule.

On behalf of TCC, the Marijuana Committee provided written comments and testimony on the Land Use Ordinance at the January 26th Assembly public hearing. The committee is also reviewing and providing written comments to the Assembly on the Licensing Ordinance before February 4th, due to the special public hearing and TCC's February 4th meeting scheduled on the same evening. All comments will be on the TCC February 4th agenda for ratification.

Info: TCC Marijuana Committee Co-chairs: Anna Brawley, annab.brawley@gmail.com, 717-7073; Cathy Gleason, cathy.gleasantcc@yahoo.com, 248-0442.

- **February 4 — Turnagain Community Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Turnagain Elementary School Library, 3500 W. Northern Lights Blvd. PLEASE NOTE: WE ARE STARTING THE MEETING A HALF HOUR EARLY FOR A SPECIAL ALASKA STATE BUDGET PRESENTATION — PLEASE ATTEND THIS INFORMATIVE AGENDA ITEM!**
Info: TCC President Jonathan Tarrant, tccpresent@yahoo.com

- February 10 — Airport Part 150 Noise Study Input Committee Meeting, 1:30 p.m., ANC Airfield Maintenance Facility.** The Part 150 Noise Study is now complete; this meeting is a final follow-up for the committee.
Info: John Johansen, john_johansen@alaska.gov, 266-2622
FAA's Final Approval of Record and other related documents can be found at: anc150study.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 11 — OPEN HOUSE — Spenard Road Reconstruction Project, 6:00-8:00 p.m., West High School Cafeteria, 1700 Hillcrest Dr.** A Design Study Report (DSR) for Spenard Road Reconstruction Project, Phase II, Hillcrest Dr. to Benson Blvd. has been completed. **Comment deadline on the DRS is February 25th.**
Sign up to receive project notices and project information updates at: http://www.midtownroads.com
For questions or to submit comments: Anne Brooks, P.E., Public Involvement Coordinator, comments.brooksalaska@gmail.com, 272-1877
- February 15-20 — Great Alaska Schools Public Schools Celebration Week.** A different activity will take place each day throughout the week, including Friday, February 19th, free showing of "Play Outside and Go Public" movie at Bear Tooth Theatre, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Info: www.greatalaskaschools.com
- February 18 — TCC Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., location TBA**
Info. and to confirm: TCC President Jonathan Tarrant, tccpresident@yahoo.com
- February 19 — COMMENT DEADLINE — Short Plat Application for 2605 W. 33rd Ave.** The owner is proposing to subdivide four lots into one lot to meet current Title 21 Code requirements; in the 1960s, the three existing apartment buildings were built over lot lines. No new development is proposed.
Info: Petitioner Representative Bobby Burnett, 350-5541, or MOA Planning Division, Current Planning Section, 343-7942.
- February (DATE TBA) — West Anchorage Constituent Event.** Sen. Mia Costello and Rep. Matt Claman will be co-hosting a constituent event either February 21st or 28th. *Please stay tuned for more details.*
- 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. **TCC passed a resolution to support a citizen group's amendments to the draft at our January 7th meeting.**
- February 24 — FIRST DAY FILING — Marijuana Licenses and Special Land Use Permits for Commercial Establishments.**
- Every Tuesday in February — Anchorage School District "Visit Our Schools Month" Tours, 9:30 a.m., All ASD Schools.** Evening tour at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 23 only. Tours open to parents and the community. They are coordinated by the school principals to ensure student safety and limit classroom disruptions.
Info: www.asdk12.org/visit

MARCH 2016 NOTICES:

- March 3 — 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
- March 7 — COMMENT DEADLINE — Airport Communications Plan Update.** The Airport is seeking public comments and modification recommendations for the Airport Communications Plan biannual review through March 7th. The Communication Plan documents the Airport's mission with regard to communicating with businesses, neighborhoods, government officials, interest groups, and other interested parties, and establishes guidelines for effective two-way communication between the entities. **TCC members who helped develop the plan will provide any recommended changes at TCC's March 3rd meeting.**
To review the Plan and submit comments, go to: www.anchorairport.com
- March 10 — COMMENT DEADLINE — Alaska State Rail Plan Online Open House.** Alaskans are invited to participate in an online open house to learn about the Alaska State Rail Plan update, review the final draft document, and submit comments.
To review plan and submit comments: www.asrpoloh.com.
- March 10 — COMMENT DEADLINE — AMATS Public Participation Plan Update.** The public is being asked to provide comments/feedback regarding the AMATS Public Participation Plan.
To review plan and submit comments:
http://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/AMATS/PPP/Public_Review%20Draft_012216.pdf
- March 23 — WEST ANCHORAGE CANDIDATES FORUM, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Spenard Recreation Center Multi-Purpose Rm, 2020 W. 48th Ave.** TCC is taking the lead on organizing a mayoral and school board Candidates Forum with other West Anchorage community councils. Public is welcome and refreshments will be served. Volunteers are needed to organize and/or help out the evening of the event.
Info: Cathy Gleason, cathy.gleasantcc@yahoo.com, 248-0442

PROJECT UPDATES:

- Kiwanis Fish Creek Park & Barbara St. Park Improvements**
 On January 14th, Parks and Recreation Commission approved proposed upgrades to Kiwanis Fish Creek Park and Barbara St. Park for summer 2016. A community advisory group will continue to meet to finalize project plan details. **A resolution of support for the project was passed at the TCC January 7th meeting.**
Info: Taylor Keegan, MOA Park Planner, 343-4518, keeganth@muni.org
- Turnagain St. & Turnagain Blvd. Upgrades**
 A project Open House was held January 13th, with Preliminary designs for both roads presented (materials are posted on the project website). TCC provided initial input 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. **TCC has formed a committee, which met the last week of January to review documents and provide recommendations to the council at our February 4th meeting.**
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
To join TCC Committee, contact: Cathy Gleason, cathy.gleasantcc@yahoo.com, 248-0442

- **Alaska Railroad Right-of-Way Public Use/Fish Creek Trail to Ocean**

At the Spenard Community Council January 13th meeting, representatives from the Alaska Railroad and Oceanview Community Council debated the issue of Alaska Railroad ROW public use; lack of access to a long-time informal Fish Creek Trail between WNL and Cook Inlet was also discussed. A decision was made at the meeting to put this on the Spenard CC February 3rd agenda to form a multi-council committee (that would include participation by TCC) to work with the Municipality and the AKRR on allowing a public Fish Creek Trail within the railroad ROW. 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.

If you are interested in participating in this multi-council committee, contact: Cathy Gleason, cathy.gleasantcc@yahoo.com, 248-0442

- **Lake Hood Seaplane Base Master Plan Update**

The results from the Master Plan Alternatives Survey were posted on the project website January 15th. Project team is developing draft recommended alternative over the winter. Next Advisory Committee meeting is anticipated for February/March, with a Public Open House in the spring to present the draft recommended alternative.

Info, submit comments, receive updates and project notifications: www.lhdmasterplan.com, 562-2000

- **Fish Creek Trail Improvements Project Design Study**

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 a January 8th comment deadline. A TCC Committee has been formed to review and provide comments/recommendations as soon as possible.

To sign up for the TCC Committee: Please contact Cathy Gleason at cathy.gleasantcc@yahoo.com, 248-0442 if you would like to serve on the committee.

Project Info. www.anchoragetrailsrehab.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 dates(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 IS BEING 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.

- **RELATED TO ABOVE ITEM — Fish Creek Trail in Alaska Railroad Right of Way**

In response to concerns about closed access to an existing informal trail used by local residents for many years within the railroad ROW along Fish Creek north of W. Northern Lights — it was decided at the January 13th Spenard Community Council meeting to form a multi-council committee (that would include TCC) to work with the Municipality of Anchorage and the Alaska Railroad on this issue.

If you are interested in joining this effort, contact: Cathy Gleason, cathy.gleasantcc@yahoo.com, 248-0442

- **Neighborhood Streets Qualifying for Traffic Calming Assistance**

The Municipality of Anchorage has released an updated list of streets that have qualified for traffic calming assistance. TCC had submitted a list for consideration and two of the streets — McKenzie Dr. (from Aldren Cir. to Milky Way Dr.) and W. 33rd Ave. (from Turnagain St. to Wisconsin St.) — made the “Qualified Streets List.” The full list of qualifying and “culled” street lists are posted on the TCC website.

- **Chester Creek Flooding Project**

A Chester Creek Flooding Project Open House was held January 27th to discuss flooding issues, learn about the project, and hear about potential solutions.

Info: <http://chestercreekflooding.ddaalaska.com>

For questions or comments: Holly Spoth-Torres, Public Involvement Lead, Holl@DDAalaska.com, 223-0136; Russ Oswald, MOA Project Management & Engineering, OswaldRH@Muni.org, 343-8196.

- **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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **2016 ANCHORAGE PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS:**

To research your Property Assessment Online: <http://www.muni.org/pw/public.html>

Muni Property Appraisal Division website:

http://www.muni.org/Departments/finance/property_appraisal/Pages/Default.aspx

- **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.