
TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting | January 7, 2016 | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Turnagain Elementary School Library, 3500 West Northern Lights Blvd.

Chaired by Jonathan Tarrant, TCC President

WELCOME & APPROVE AGENDA, MINUTES

- The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. About 28 people (members and guests) attended.
- The agenda was reviewed.
 - Cathy Gleason moved an amendment to the agenda add an item regarding the Fish Creek Park and Barbara Park resolution presented at the Council. Amendment accepted.
 - **Motion by Cathy Gleason, second by another member to approve the agenda as amended. No objections; agenda approved as amended.**
- The December meeting minutes were not available at the meeting, and therefore not reviewed; they will be reviewed and approved at the February meeting.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

- Welcome to new and returning board members! Jonathan Tarrant, President; Cathy Gleason, Vice President; Anna Brawley, Secretary; Gloria Manni, Treasurer; Kennis Brady, Member at Large.
- **President's Report | Jonathan Tarrant**
 - Fish Creek Trail Rehab project: the Board composed a letter in December commenting that the council would like additional time to review the proposed plan and provide comments. The Board sent the letter on Monday, December 21; it was available as a handout in the meeting.
 - On Sydney's Shortcut: Jonathan reported that since the December meeting there have been informal discussions with the property owner, adjacent owners, and neighbors. The new home has been built next to the easement and it may be difficult and costly for the owner to maintain fencing and landscaping to screen the right of way. The Municipality is currently not planning to move this issue forward, and adjacent neighbors have expressed opposition to a new pathway. Jonathan will reach out again to those he hasn't heard back from, but this issue is stalled for now.
- **Vice President's Report | Cathy Gleason**
 - No updates.
- **Secretary's Report | Anna Brawley**
 - No updates.
- **Treasurer's Report | Gloria Manni**
 - Officers have updated the bank accounts this month to transfer over to the new officers.
- **Member at Large's Report | Kennis Brady**
 - Check Turnagain CC's presence on Facebook and NextDoor! Join the Facebook group "Turnagain Community Forum."

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Federation of Community Councils:** A TCC representative was not able to attend this meeting, Jonathan will follow up with Mark Butler to receive a summary of the December meeting to report back to the Council next month.
- **Anchorage Land Use Plan Map:** No updates from the committee: the Muni has not yet posted the draft map, and at this point are anticipating late January.
- **Lake Hood Seaplane Base Master Plan:** No updates.
- **Turnagain St./Turnagain Blvd. Upgrades:** Jonathan shared that there is an open house on Wednesday, January 13 for this project (*see handouts*).

- **Anchorage Trails and Wayfinding Signage:** A committee has been made to discuss this, and some initial comments have been written down and will be presented by the committee (*see handout provided*).
- **Marijuana Ordinance (AO 2016-3):** A draft ordinance for land use and zoning regulations for marijuana businesses is being considered by the Muni. This committee has not yet met, but is planning to review the ordinance and provide recommended comments to the board and council. The Assembly has indicated that they will vote on the ordinance at their January 26 meeting, so the committee may need to submit comments for the Board's approval first, then present the comments at the February meeting. A sign-up sheet was distributed: contact cathy.gleasantcc@yahoo.com and annab.brawley@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.
 - Anna clarified that this is the first ordinance specifically dealing with land use; another ordinance dealing with licensing will be released soon. There is also a proposed retail tax, which has been put forward to appear on the ballot in April.
 - Dan Gleason and Jonathan Tarrant added that while there is not currently much business- or industrial-zoned land in Turnagain, re-zones may take place of existing properties in the future, so it is something to pay attention to nonetheless.
- **Safe Routes to Schools:** The MOA Urban Design Commission approved the site plan for Romig Middle School. The committee submitted comments and suggestions based on TCC's Safe Routes to Schools Committee work last year; most of these recommendations were incorporated in the site plan, but a few were deemed to be out of the scope of their current project.
 - *Tim Steele commented that a better walking connection from the back of the campus to the arena is needed, he was disappointed that this was not included in the project.* Cathy shared that Sandy Rabinowitch also advocated for this particular improvement and would agree this is a good idea.
- **Fish Creek Trail:** This project is moving forward, and project represented to the Council last week. The deadline comment was Friday, January 8 so there was not time for TCC to provide comments; however, a committee has formed and will continue to track the project. Contact Cathy Gleason, cathy.gleasantcc@yahoo.com, if you are interested in the committee.
- **Traffic Calming:** This committee reviewed the list of Turnagain streets that have been included in the 2016 Traffic Calming study and which have been culled; all but two (MacKenzie St and 33rd) have remained on the list. TCC presented a list of streets recommended for inclusion in the study, but they were not included by the Municipality for this coming year. See handouts on the TCC website for the full list of qualified and culled streets for 2016.

AIRPORT REPORT | JOHN JOHANSEN

- *See airport updates on the handout provided at the meeting or online at: www.anchorageairport.com*
- **Part 150 Noise Study:** There will be a final study committee meeting on Wednesday, February 10 at 1:30 p.m. to review the finalized plan.
- **Lake Hood Seaplane Base Master Plan:** The team is working on recommended alternatives for the airport and will have posted the individual elements that may be incorporated into the final alternative.
- **Concessions:** No updates.
- **Lake Hood Seaplane Base:** There have been issues with people walking across the frozen lake; however, it is still an airfield even though it is frozen. Please pass along the word that this is not open space and people must stay off the lake year-round.
- **Communication Plan:** This plan, which indicates how communities work with the airport and share information, is being reviewed during its usual biennial review period. Comments can be submitted online (see handout for more information).
- **Drones/Unmanned Aerial Vehicles:** As of now, all drones (including those for personal use) must be registered with the FAA. This can be accomplished at www.gobeforeyoufly.com.
- **Questions and Comments**

- *Cathy Gleason earlier commented that the Airport may receive applications and entertain the idea of having marijuana businesses on the Airport's industrial property.* John Johansen indicated that they have received one inquiry for a grow operation, but that since the Airport receives federal funding and is governed by FAA rules, the Airport has indicated that potential business owners should contact the FAA about whether this is possible.
- *Dan Gleason asked about the possible lease of a hangar near some wetlands, near the tie-down area?* John did not have specific updates about the project.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT | REP. MATT CLAMAN AND SEN. MIA COSTELLO

- Legislators are traveling down to Juneau after next week. The session starts on Tuesday, January 19.
- **Rep. Matt Claman**
 - Rep. Claman will host a meeting on Saturday, January 9, 2016, from 12:00 to 3:00 PM at Loussac Library for the Anchorage Caucus.
 - He will also host a constituent meet and greet at 4:00 to 5:00 PM on January 9, 2015 at Turnagain Elementary. The Revenue Commissioner, Randy Hoffbeck, will also attend and can provide a brief presentation about the Governor's proposed budget.
- **Sen. Mia Costello**
 - The first Senate Labor and Commerce meeting will take place when session begins, on January 19.
 - The Senator will send out a survey, online and publicized via a mailer, to gather constituents' priorities for this session. Look for this survey soon!
 - Rep. Claman and Sen. Costello will co-host a constituent event in late February and will have a chance to share additional information about what is happening during session, updates on key issues, and other information.
 - She has pre-filed two bills, one of which would allow for peer review of surveys rather than making departments wait several months for approval. The other bill would allow for an individual to provide funding for an innovative business or idea, at a small or large scale, as an equity investor.
- **Rep. Harriet Drummond** [not present]
- **Sen. Berta Gardner**
 - Sen. Gardner's staff member shared that she will be holding a town hall on Saturday, January 9, 2016 at 10:00 to 11:00 AM at the West Romig Library.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Elaine Hulse asked whether equity investors would also take on liability for something they have invested in?* Sen. Costello was not sure whether this was addressed in the bill, but will make sure it will be discussed in committee hearing, it is a good concern to ask about.
 - *Jonathan asked the legislators' views on the current budget crisis, and what has been proposed so far for substantial changes to the state's financial structure?* Sen. Costello shared that there have been cuts already, and that she takes seriously her duty to represent constituents; this will be a very important session and these are not easy issues to solve. Rep. Claman shared that while everyone dislikes something about the Governor's plan, he has not seen a better alternative yet and believes it is very important to look at both revenue and expenditures this session, rather than focusing on cuts; cutting the budget too much will have a very negative effect on the overall economy. He and other legislators are listening prior to session and working to ensure they have heard from constituents concerns.
 - *Another member commented that he feels that the economic situation is more tenuous than he felt it was in 1986, especially with the decline in oil price and production. He emphasized he supports more revenue sources such as a sales tax, and he is "happy to pay" in order to contribute to a change in doing business, and that he feels the Governor's plan is a good start.* Sen. Costello agreed, and shared that she is concerned about people having to make difficult

choices such as having to leave the state. She emphasized the need for balance, looking at revenue and costs.

- *Steve Strait asked about the possible implications or discussions by legislators about Ketchikan vs. State of Alaska, regarding who is responsible for paying for certain costs. Is the legislature looking at the implications for this, as it is potentially a \$750m liability for the state.* Sen. Costello did not have specific information about this, but noted that it is the type of issue that would require significant review, and discussion in standing committees as well.
- *Another member commented that he very much appreciated the presentation by Pat Pitney about the budget situation, and he recommends that the Legislature use easy-to-understand graphics to help the layperson understand the complex issues at stake.* Rep. Claman encouraged him and everyone to join the e-mail list for legislators' information, as he and Sen. Costello both regularly send information, including links to other
- *A member asked whether these budget presentations can be recorded for later viewing, if someone is not able to attend the meeting.* Sen. Gardner's representative will ask about the feasibility of this. Jonathan Tarrant added that TCC is working to add a budget presentation at the regular February meeting.

ASSEMBLY REPORT | ASSEMBLY MEMBERS TIM STEELE + ERNIE HALL

- The Assembly did not meet over the holidays; their next meeting is Tuesday, January 12.
- **2016 Bonds:** The bond measures have been approved for the 2016 election; the largest item on the road bonds is the Spenard Road project, redesigning the northern portion of the road. There are other bonds, for a total of \$38 million (includes fire, police, road construction).
- **Marijuana Regulation:** In addition to the land use/zoning ordinance being considered currently (to be introduced in the Assembly at the meeting on the 12th, and open to public hearing on the 26th), there will be a proposed 5% sales tax on marijuana; it would be put forward to voters, and subsequent increases can occur up to 2% every two years, up to 12%, if costs for licensing and enforcement are not covered by the tax alone. The increases would need Assembly approval. Starting February 24, the state will begin receiving applications for state licenses, and within 90 days they will either be issued or denied by the Marijuana Control Board. At the local level, community councils and the Assembly will also receive these applications and need to review and provide comments. There may be many in the first several months in particular, so it will be important for councils to be active participants and prepared for extra activity.
- **Other Community Concerns**
 - [none identified]
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Jonathan Tarrant asked about whether the Assembly has discussed the potential for the state to return bond/debt obligations to local governments? Is there a contingency plan for this?* Tim Steele shared that as of now, the Assembly has not taken action on this, as they do not believe the Legislature will release their obligations at this time. He added that he feels that if the state makes excessive cuts or releases too much back to local governments, it will not ultimately be effective.
 - *Elaine Hulse asked about the homeless camp located in Earthquake Park? Ira shared that he has not visited the site lately, but he passed information to the Muni and asked if they would post signs indicating No Camping, etc.* Jonathan Tarrant added that he has also followed up with the Muni; their response was that if there is not harmful activity happening, they will not pursue the issue. However, if neighbors see a fire and/or see other illegal activity happening on that site, they can call the Muni to report the issue. Parks and Recreation is the primary enforcement entity to clear out camps.
 - *Cathy Gleason asked why the Turnagain Blvd. construction project had been put on the list of potential bond priorities, then removed from 2016's list?* Tim shared that ultimately there were other priorities, including Stuckagain Heights Road, for 2016; he anticipates the construction

for this project being part of a bond for 2017, particularly given limited state resources and the fact that design work still needs to be done.

- *Sarah Drummond asked where homeless people who have been removed from a camp will live?* Ira shared that the Muni has acquired property where some individuals can move into stable housing. Tim added that there are other movements within the Muni: building more housing, working with private developers, acquiring some state parcels to be able to build additional housing.
- *Annette Cartier [Rogers Park] asked about the project being proposed along Eklutna Road to house some homeless veterans, developed by Ric Davidge.* Neither representative had specific information about that project.

MAYOR'S REPORT | SHARON LANE [NOT PRESENT]

ORDINANCE FOR TITLE 21, CELL TOWER REGULATION | HOWARD LEVINE, ANNETTE CARTIER

- Annette (from Rogers Park Community Council) and Howard (Turnagain resident) shared that they have been tracking the project as it has passed through the Assembly committee process. She has been frustrated by the process to date, as residents were not given a chance to speak during committee meetings. She and others collected into a working group and produced an alternative draft with modifications that residents would prefer, in lieu of the technologies offered in the Muni draft. The University Area Community Council also passed a resolution opposing a particular cell tower in Rogers Park, with many of the same concerns brought up by Rogers Park CC.
- The presenters brought a resolution of support for the proposed substitute draft that the citizens' group has prepared, which calls for newer technology and less intrusive cell infrastructure in neighborhoods, as well as more thorough site review of applications. They also brought a contact list of representatives to contact directly if someone is concerned about this issue.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Jonathan Galin asked about concerns about health risks with cell towers located near residential areas and other uses?* Howard shared that the ordinance does not include any reference to health concerns, as that has been deemed at the federal level to be an obstruction by neighborhoods to location of this infrastructure. However, the draft ordinance that the citizen group produced includes a required 200% (of the tower height) separation from most uses, and in some cases as low as 150% but no lower than that. This is consistent with old Title 21 code but the proposed new code reduces this to 150% or in some cases 110%.
 - *Jonathan Tarrant asked about co-location and how this would impact the entities sharing a tower?* Yes, each situation is different but there may or may not be extensive notice requirements on a telecom company to notify the owner of the location they are co-located at.
 - *Another member asked about the overall content of the resolution, and what TCC's next steps would be?* Howard and Annette gave an overview of some of the main points in the ordinance, and shared that the resolution presented is a template that can be modified by the council, but primarily provides broad support for better resident input into the proposed ordinance. Some of the technology recommended is either camouflaged, hidden from view, or co-located "stealth" infrastructure that conceals the antenna and places it on an existing building.
 - *Another member asked whether the height of the structure has been considered in light of possible earthquake risk, and whether it would fall over?* The separation buffer would provide sufficient (in most cases) area for a "fall zone," although if it includes equipment on the top that can catch wind like a sail, it may be carried further. The proposal for a new tower must be reviewed by a third party engineer on contract with the Muni.
 - *Jerry Trainor asked whether a tree or other object could pose a threat to this infrastructure or other structures?* Howard and Annette did not have specific information on this but agreed that there are many situations that need to be considered.
- **Motion by Gloria Manni, second by Jerry Trainor to approve the resolution as written.**

Discussion

- *A member commented that everyone appreciates connectivity on their cell phones, and there are better technologies than just the bare minimum infrastructure that are equally effective, may cost more, but which have fewer neighborhoods impact. He urges passage of the resolution.*
- *Gloria commented that she supports the resolution, and was disappointed with the experience of working with Verizon several years ago, particularly the non-responsiveness of the Muni.*
- *Another member asked what the relative cost of the infrastructure is, as proposed? Howard and Lynette did not get a specific estimate, and companies present in the meetings did not provide an estimate either.*
- *Jonathan Tarrant gave control of meeting to Cathy Gleason, and commented that he attempted to invite a representative from the Municipality, and no one was available. He appreciates the work done, and suggested an amendment that makes clear that the resolution supports the draft as it was presented on 1/7, and not any additional content of the draft.*

Amendment by Jonathan Tarrant: In paragraph 4, change the language to “only the following points” to make clear that the support given by TCC in the resolution is for the current draft as presented on 1/7/16. Dan Gleason second.

- *Howard was not in favor of the amendment, as he strongly feels that having the same resolution with the attached draft will send a strong message.*
- **Vote on amendment: 8 yes, 13 no. Amendment fails.**

Vote on motion: 22 yes, 1 no. TCC Resolution 2016-01 passes.

MARSTON PARK EASEMENT WORK | JARRETT BOLING, CHUGACH ELECTRIC

- In order to deliver power to new properties being built near Marston Park, which is a small wooded area with a small bike trail and some landscaping.
- Part of the proposal would be to retire an existing 20’ easement that bisects the park, in exchange for a 15’ easement along the road. In order to access the line, there would be some trees removed; Chugach Electric would be completing the work, and there is a surveyor who marks the extent of the clearance ahead of time.
- The infrastructure installed would serve the subdivided lots, as well as a conduit installed for possible future electricity access in the park (it does not currently have it). The infrastructure will be below ground in the park. The conduit would be a plastic material rather than metal, to prevent future corrosion and rusting.
- This would be approximately 1 week of work, starting in spring 2016 at the earliest.
- The proposal would be brought next to the Parks and Recreation Commission, then the Assembly; because it is included on park land, it must be discussed
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *A member asked whether it is possible to have Chugach Electric staff present during the tree clearing, to ensure additional trees have not been removed unnecessarily? Jarrett will bring this and other comments back to the operations manager as suggestions.*
 - *Elaine Hulse suggested that a community council member be present as well, as there have been multiple experiences by the council that items have been removed beyond the original scope of work.*
 - *Cathy Gleason added that replanting trees is important because it is parkland, and ideally of the same species as the one removed. Jarrett will bring the suggestion back to Chugach Electric staff and look into having a staff member present.*
- **Motion by Cathy Gleason, second by Pat Redmond for a resolution requesting Chugach Electric provide restoration of removed trees in the project area with similar species to those removed, when the work is complete; and that a Chugach Electric employee be present on site when tree clearing occurs, to avoid additional foliage being removed.**

Discussion

- Jonathan Tarrant suggested a friendly amendment to note that TCC supports the relocation of the easement in general. Amendment accepted.

Vote on motion: Yes 18, 1 no, 1 abstain. TCC Resolution 2016-02 passes.

KIWANIS FISH CREEK AND BARBARA STREET PARK IMPROVEMENTS | SCHAWNA THOMA, TAYLOR KEEGAN

- Schawna shared that she and others have been working to discuss improvements to two parks: Kiwanis Fish Creek Park and Barbara Street Park. The greenbelt along Fish Creek is the border between Turnagain and Spenard. She has been a volunteer participating in park improvement projects, including a Park Foundation Challenge Grant to raise funds for park improvements.
- Keegan Taylor gave an overview of the current conditions of the park, strengths and weaknesses.
 - For Kiwanis Fish Creek Park on the Turnagain side: people generally like the playground, specifically the purple dinosaur, and like the connectivity along the trail running through the park. However, they felt that there is not sufficient connectivity between the playground and the gazebo, and there are visibility and equipment issues.
Suggestions for design elements: equipment will need to be suitable for 2 to 12 year old kids. There are currently underutilized areas of the park that could be better used. In addition, the thematic elements of water (such as blue turf ribbons running through green turf areas). Cathy and Dan Gleason are donating 35 trees in celebration of their 35th wedding anniversary, some of which may be included in this park.
 - At the Barbara Street Park (the “tiny house park”) there are positive elements such as the open hill and the ability for kids to run up and down. Mothers who bring kids to the park would like to see a wider variety of uses for kids of different ages. The group would also like to keep two of the three “tiny houses” (the most enclosed one, which has questionable activity) and replace the third with another playground element like a climbing structure.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *A member asked about what specifically the turf being proposed is made of?* Katie and Schawna noted that there is artificial turf currently at Balto Seppala Park and Cuddy Midtown Park playgrounds; this would use the same type of turf.
- **Motion by Cathy Gleason, second by Jerry Trainor for a resolution presented to the Council in hardcopy to support the park projects, particularly Kiwanis Fish Creek Park, and requesting that the project team return in February to share more details of the final design.**
 - Taylor Keegan proposed an amendment that the resolution support the park project and not require an additional presentation, as details will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee.
 - *Cathy Gleason spoke against the amendment, noting that the design has not been finalized and she has not had a chance to review the existing materials.*
 - **Vote on amendment: 12 yes, 2 no. Amendment passes.**

Vote on motion: Yes 13, 1 no, 0 abstain. TCC Resolution 2016-03 passes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

CLOSING

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.
- The next meeting will be Thursday, February 4, 2016 at Turnagain Elementary.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Anna Brawley on 1/25/2016

Minutes approved by Turnagain Community Council at the regular meeting on 3/3/2016