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# TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting | March 3, 2016 | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Turnagain Elementary School Library, 3500 West Northern Lights Blvd.

Chaired by Cathy Gleason, TCC Vice President

## WELCOME & APPROVE AGENDA, MINUTES

- The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. About 30 people (members and guests) attended.
- Announcements: *See Attachments flyer available as a handout in the meeting and on the TCC website.*
- The agenda was reviewed.
  - **Motion by Pat Redmond, second by Gloria Manni to approve the March agenda.**
  - **Vote on motion: all yes, 0 no. Motion passes.**
- The December 2015, January 2016 and February 2016 meeting minutes were available for review and approval.
  - **Motion by Pat Redmond, second by Dan Gleason to approve the December minutes. Vote on motion: all yes, 0 no. Motion passes.**
  - **Motion by Joan McKinnon, second by Pat Redmond to approve the January minutes. Vote on motion: all yes, 0 no. Motion passes.**
  - **Motion by Pat Redmond, second by Dan Gleason to approve the February minutes. Vote on motion as amended: all yes, 0 no. Motion passes.**
    - **Amendment: John Johansen provided a correction on page 4: the Airport Report should read “land lease agreement,” not “land grant.”**

## EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

- Check Turnagain CC’s presence on Facebook and NextDoor! Join the Facebook group “Turnagain Community Forum.”
- **President’s Report | Jonathan Tarrant**
  - No updates; Jonathan was not able to attend.
- **Vice President’s Report | Cathy Gleason**
  - No updates.
- **Secretary’s Report | Anna Brawley**
  - No updates.
- **Treasurer’s Report | Gloria Manni**
  - No updates.
- **Member at Large’s Report | Kennis Brady**
  - No updates.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Federation of Community Councils:** Cathy Gleason reported on items from the meeting, in addition to issues that are discussed later in the meeting:
  - Capital Improvement Project (CIP) List: the Municipality is proposing a new process this year. Typically councils are provided with a list of proposed projects in their area and asked for a prioritized list for that council, with finalization by May 31. However, this year with the capital budget cut, the Municipality sent only one capital project request this year, for the Port of Anchorage. In the same spirit, the Muni has asked community councils to identify the TOP priority within the list of Parks and Drainage projects as well as the top priority among Parks and Recreation. Cathy shared that TCC’s 2016 priorities are Turnagain Blvd upgrades and improvements at Point Woronzof Overlook Park. She passed around a sign-up sheet; the council will need to determine top priorities in these categories for

2017. Contact [tccpresident@yahoo.com](mailto:tccpresident@yahoo.com) if you are interested in participating in the CIP committee this year.

- The Municipality is also starting a new transit project and will share more information soon.
- **Anchorage Land Use Plan Map:** Cathy Gleason shared that the draft map was scheduled this week (February 29). Muni staff will hold an open house on March 15 and 16, 2-5 p.m. and a public workshop 6-8:30 p.m. at the University of Alaska Anchorage Consortium Library. The committee will also schedule meetings to review the document and prepare comments for TCC to approve next month. Comments are due on the draft by Friday, April 29.
- **Anchorage Trails and Wayfinding Signage:** Gloria Manni shared a committee update: the Municipality and Anchorage Park Foundation are conducting a study of proposed signage along the Anchorage trails to help people navigate (residents and tourists), to add information and items of interest along the trail, while choosing something that fits in the environment. The project shared proposed concepts at a meeting this week, and will provide their concepts for public comment as well. The project is also engaging a variety of associations and trail users. Gloria shared that the options include color-coding trails, design options that are more or less contrasting with the surrounding environment. The primary comment the committee recommends is that TCC and the neighborhoods should have input prior to any final design being approved for trails within the Turnagain area. Currently there is only funding for a study, but the group is pursuing potential funding through sponsorship and other means than public funds.  
The council did not have strong feelings for or against the project at this time, but is interested in seeing more information at next month's meeting. The committee will request this for the April agenda and share materials from the project when they are available online.
- **Airport Part 150 Noise Study:** Cathy Gleason shared that the noise study has been completed, there was a wrap-up meeting on February 10. The FAA has accepted some recommendations and rejected others. The Airport anticipates implementation of the approved recommendations over 5 or more years. John Johansen also shared that the Airport is working on a real-time flight tracking system where a user can click (with 10 minute delay) on a plane currently passing overhead and found out who it was. This is forthcoming.
- **Fish Creek Trail Rehabilitation:** No report. This project is providing repairs and upgrades to existing sections of Fish Creek Trail in Turnagain and Spenard.
- **Marijuana (Ordinances):** The committee met one final time on Saturday, February 6 and finalized comments on the amendments to AO 2016-3(S) about land use, and a comment letter for AO 2016-16 about licensing. The letters were submitted on Monday, February 8 and need approval by TCC. Both amendments passed at the Assembly's regular meeting on February 9, with an additional vote reconciling two conflicting amendments that took place on February 23.  
Anna Brawley and Cathy Gleason shared an overview of the process and the contents of two comment letters. There are additional items related to marijuana later in the meeting.
  - **Motion by Pat Redmond, second by Dan Gleason to approve the TCC Marijuana Committee comment letter about the land use ordinance AO 2016-3(S) submitted to the Assembly February 8, 2016.**  
**Discussion**
    - Anna provided an overview of the letter contents. No questions.**Vote on motion: 10 yes, 0 no. Motion passes.**
  - **Motion by Pat Redmond, second by Joan McKinnon to approve the TCC Marijuana Committee comment letter about the land use ordinance AO 2016-16 submitted to the Assembly February 8, 2016.**  
**Discussion**
    - Anna provided an overview of the letter contents. No questions.**Vote on motion: 10 yes, 0 no. Motion passes.**

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

- **Sen. Mia Costello**
  - Today the Rasmuson Foundation launched a new site, [www.plan4alaska.com](http://www.plan4alaska.com), with a participatory feature to let people play around with the different budget proposals and see how changes impact the budget. You can also enter your ZIP code and send a message to your legislators.
  - There is a new text feature: by texting a bill number to (559) 245-2529, you can sign up for text updates/alerts when the bill changes status.
  - She also shared that all of Governor's revenue generating bills and other budget related bills are moving through the review process in committee. Currently there are four taxes in Senate Labor and Commerce: alcohol tax, tobacco tax, income tax and cruise ship head tax. The Governor may not pursue the cruise ship tax further given previous agreements and potential legal action.
  - The Medicaid reform bill (SB 74) continues to move forward, and recently the state got good news from the federal Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) that some costs such as travel from rural areas will be 100% federally funded. Additionally, her committee (Sen. Labor and Commerce) recently passed along the telemedicine bill.
  - They are also looking at SB 91, the criminal justice reform bill from Sen. Coghill which will hopefully keep more people out of prison, reduce costs and produce better outcomes for former inmates.
  - The senate and house are moving forward on reviewing budget, and anticipating a vote on the draft budget on Saturday, March 13.
  - There are other bills under consideration, and more items will be heard once the large budget items have been dealt with.
  - She encouraged council members to stay involved, she is encouraged by the amount of interest and attention on the legislative session this year, and your voice is important.
- **Rep. Matt Claman**
  - Rep. Claman or staff member were not available.
- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Anna Brawley asked about the status of SB 165, the bill related to alcohol control, the ABC Board and minor consuming?* Sen. Costello shared that this bill, part of a comprehensive package to reform the state's alcohol laws, is currently in her committee (Senate Labor and Commerce). She anticipates it moving next week.
  - *Jeff Hershberger asked about the status of an Anchorage ordinance?* She does not represent the local government, but is aware of the proposed ordinance that restricts the amount of personal property people could have on their front lawns, and from what she has heard, many people are concerned about unintended consequences. Because it has already been proposed, this ordinance will be heard by the Planning and Zoning Commission, as well as the Assembly Community and Economic Development Committee, and the Assembly meeting on March 22. She does not have direct involvement in this but encouraged interested people to attend public meetings where it will be discussed, and express their views.
  - *Dan Gleason stated that he works with Brooks Range Petroleum and asked about her stance on HB 147 and HB 148, the oil and gas tax credits bills?* Sen. Costello shared that her approach, aside from how to handle the Permanent Fund and its earnings, is to focus on the long-term economic impacts of a proposal: will it be beneficial in the long term, or will it only have a short-term bump in revenue? For example, she has long-term concerns about an increase to the alcohol tax, based on what she has heard from breweries. She does not want to sign onto proposals that will have long term detrimental effects; she would like to see more robust economic models about the implications for these proposals.
  - *Mark Wiggin asked about the status of the senate bill regarding allowing students to carry guns on campus?* Sen. Costello shared that Sen. Kelly's bill is currently being heard, she does

not have specific updates at this time about that bill. *Mark followed up and asked why this has been introduced and being focused on, given what else is happening in the legislature right now?* She shared that anyone can introduce a bill, and committee chairs have discretion to determine what is heard, but other than that she does not have direct control over the process otherwise. *Mark asked whether she would vote to move that bill out of committee?* She believes in the process and believes in moving bills through the vetting process. She sees this as a separate matter than how she would vote as an individual legislator.

## AIRPORT REPORT | JOHN JOHANSEN

- See airport updates on the handout provided at the meeting or online at: [www.anchorageairport.com](http://www.anchorageairport.com)
- John Johnsen provided handouts, including a list of construction projects for this season.
- **Lake Hood Seaplane Base Master Plan:** The Airport and consultant team have prepared a draft about future uses for Lake Hood Seaplane Base. They will have a meeting on March 10, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Badge Office in the North Terminal. There will also be a public open house later this month, to be announced soon.
- **Construction Projects:** (*see handout for details*) Projects include removal of some trees which have grown into the safety zone, as well as some projects that should be completed before the spring thaw, to avoid damage to vegetation. There are other projects including repairs to a road in the Sand Lake area, as well as planting new trees (white spruce) and other screening vegetation along International Airport Rd. and Old International as a better gateway to the area. The Airport has been working with local schools to produce artboards, and would be re-painted by schoolkids and re-installed annually.
- **Airport Communications Plan:** The communications plan has been posted to the Airport and TCC websites. This is an update from the 2014 plan, with several proposed changes (many administrative) and encourages individuals and the council to make comments. Comments due Monday, March 7.
- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Cathy Gleason asked about the target height for tree removal, and whether it is possible to leave some trees in place if they are not too high? She is concerned because they are a noise buffer, and have negative impacts on the neighbors leaving adjacent to that zone.* John shared that the cottonwoods in the area will be cut down and mulched, not trimmed, and that they should be removed because hand-cutting them would be resource intensive and they are all generally the same height now. The FAA generally recommends clearing of all trees in the safety zone, but do not require it.
  - *Jonathan Galin asked whether the Airport discussed treetopping instead?* Yes, this was discussed but it is significantly more costly, and in his personal opinion is less attractive.
  - *Dan Gleason commented that he believes the shortcut near the terminal currently for shuttle buses and other official traffic should be opened up to general traffic, and he does not feel there is enough traffic to justify it being closed.* John shared that it is a general safety concern at that three-way intersection. He does not believe it will be changed at this time.

## ASSEMBLY REPORT | MEMBER TIM STEELE

- Agenda items for the March 8 meeting include:
  - Anchorage School District budget
  - A proposed re-zone of a property west of Carrs-Safeway on Minnesota from RO to B-3. Cathy Gleason shared that she learned from someone working with the property owner that the building would include a Panda Express and other retail space.
  - A proposal to purchase additional ownership interest in the Beluga Gas Field, since it came available. This has been beneficial for the Municipality and would continue to benefit the city going forward. Hilcorp is proposed to manage the project going forward.
  - A reconsideration of some items in Title 23 (building codes), such as hot water heater inspections, which Tim feels is critical given the potential for injury and damage.

## Turnagain Community Council

- There is a controversial proposal to allow recreational vehicles to park in commercial parking lots (Walmart, Cabelas, etc.) The push to ban this is primarily from business owners who charge for parking, but some other businesses have been concerned about long-term occupancy. Tim feels it should be a self-policing issue and he will not support this ban; he believes it is up to the business to determine policy.
- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Jonathan Galin asked for an update about Port construction?* This is certainly a priority but the Municipality needs the funds to continue work. The Muni has put in a legislative capital request for funding, and potentially could leverage the state's bonding capability. Some of the improvements are critical and raising funds through bonding.
  - *Jeff Hershberger asked about erosion and other issues at the Port's public-access boat launch and whether those items will be taken care of?* Tim agreed that this is a necessary resource, but the Port has had significant issues with it. Upgrades are needed.
  - *Jeff also commented on the proposed ordinance to remove items from front yards, he believes it is overkill and that we have other tools to deal with the issue. He also pointed out that the language includes several vehicles such as boats, recreational vehicles and trailers, but not "junk."* Tim agreed that it is a problem but this is not the right solution; it is more of an enforcement issue. He shared that the ordinance will be brought to Planning and Zoning on Monday, March 7, and is on the Muni website.

## MAYOR'S REPORT | SHARON LANE

- No one from the Mayor's Office was available this month.
- The mayor will hold open office hours each month, second Thursday of the month 4 to 5pm, in City Hall downtown. Anyone is welcome to attend and chat.
- Cathy Gleason added that at the February FCC meeting, a Mayor's representative shared that his office would hold "mobile office hours, for example an hour before community council meetings start. More detail to be announced.

## AIRPORT COMMUNICATIONS PLAN | CATHY GLEASON

- Cathy Gleason shared the history of the communications plan: several years ago, community and airport representatives developed a communications plan, including responsibilities for councils and the airport, and adopted into the Ted Stevens Master Plan. The airport is now updating the plan, has posted it on the website and has some amendments.
- Cathy and Joshua Spring, as a small ad hoc committee, reviewed the existing plan and proposed amendments. Cathy shared an overview of TCC comments prepared by her and Joshua for the council's review and approval (*see comments document on the TCC website*). Significant items include retaining the 24-hour phone number for public concerns, which the airport has proposed removing, and language better reflecting current practices between the airport and the community.
- **Discussion questions**
  - *Steve Straight asked what the next steps for this process, and whether there would be additional discussion or response by the airport about comments?* John Johansen shared that there has not been a specific process identified, but if the airport receives significant comments they may follow up with stakeholders or do further review.
- **Motion by Pat Redmond, second by Gloria Manni to submit the comment letter to the airport.**
- **Vote on motion: 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passes. TCC will submit the comment letter.**

## ANCHORAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT QUESTIONNAIRE | NATASHA WELCH, APD

- Officer Welch works with the Community Action Policing team. Her unit has created a five-question survey about community concerns, particularly items which may not be reported or generate police calls. Completed surveys can be provided back to TCC who will pass them along, or members can

send a copy directly to APD. Some members completed surveys and turned them in at the meeting. Please consider filling out a survey by the end of this month! (*A copy of the survey is included with the scanned PDF of handouts from the March 3 meeting.*)

## WEST ANCHORAGE CANDIDATES FORUM | CATHY GLEASON

- The West Anchorage Candidates Forum will be the evening (6 to 9pm) on Wednesday, March 23, at Spenard Rec Center. Turnagain is working with Spenard, North Star, Sand Lake and Taku Campbell community councils to plan this event.
- Candidates for the West Anchorage Assembly seat and School Board seats A and B will present and answer questions from the moderator, and there will be informational materials about the various issues on the ballot including the road, park, and school bonds, proposed marijuana tax, and others.
- A flyer was available at the meeting and will be shared widely this month prior to the event. The flyer has also been posted to the TCC website and will be shared through the mailing list. Spread the word, come and learn about what issues and what candidates will appear on the ballot! There will be refreshments at the meeting, and please feel free to bring something to share if you wish.
- The municipal election will be Tuesday, April 5. Pat Redmond added that the ballot has been published, and absentee voting will begin on March 21.

## TRAFFIC CALMING PROPOSAL | TIM MYLAND, MUNI TRAFFIC CALMING DEPARTMENT

- Tim Myland shared that there are an additional \$38,000 in funds from a leftover project in the Turnagain area, which would need to be returned to the state if the Municipality does not have a clear plan for these funds. There are two streets in Turnagain, McKenzie Drive and West 33<sup>rd</sup> from Turnagain St. to Wisconsin St., which were prioritized for traffic calming measures. Tim proposes using these funds to install speed bumps, the cost of which could be generally covered with these funds. If the community council supports this plan, the department would also conduct outreach and other planning for the projects. The department would like to conduct construction this summer to be able to demonstrate to the state that the funds will be used.
- **Questions and Comments**
  - *Are there other streets that qualify for traffic calming?* There are other streets on the list, but are not prioritized for any interventions.
  - *Dan Gleason commented that he supports this traffic calming project and believes West 33<sup>rd</sup> is a pass-through street for traffic from the Rustic Goat.*
  - *Karen Miovas asked for clarification about which street segment of McKenzie this would be? There are speed humps on the northern portion of the streets already. This would be south of Northern Lights Blvd., near Milky Way and Andree Drive.*
  - *Anna commented that she has concerns about use of speed humps, whether they are effective, and whether there are other options.* Speed humps are not a best practice on high-traffic roads, but for lower-traffic roads they can be effective. There are other options in the “toolbox” of traffic calming strategies, but some are expensive or require more construction or installation.
  - *Cathy Gleason suggested that if the council takes action, she would like the wording to be contingent on the wishes of the neighbors.* Tim agreed that any action would need to involve the adjacent neighbors.
- **Motion by Dan Gleason, second by Pat McKinnon for a resolution to support the Municipality installing traffic calming features (speed humps) on sections of West 33<sup>rd</sup> and McKenzie, contingent on the approval of a majority of the immediate neighbors and cost-effectiveness of the final intervention. (Note: per amendment below, “speed humps” was stricken)**  
**Discussion**
  - *Jonathan Galin commented that signs before the speed humps should be clearer to read, to warn drivers that they are coming. Often signs are not visible.*
  - *Anna suggested an amendment to adjust language to strike “speed humps” from the motion, to generally support traffic calming.* This amendment was accepted by Dan.

- **Vote on motion: 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passes. TCC will prepare and send the resolution.**

#### CELL TOWER CODE REVISIONS | CATHY GLEASON

- The Municipality is reviewing current code regarding cell towers and proposing new language. The Planning and Zoning Commission will deliberate on the issue on March 14 and the Assembly will hear the ordinance for public hearing on March 22. Cathy shared that she and other residents participating in a working group are concerned about the content of this ordinance, and especially implications regarding the type of towers they will be using. They would like a third party to review the code. The citizens group following this issue will provide comments and continue to track the issue.

#### PROPOSED TRAIL TO THE COASTAL TRAIL ALONG ALASKA RAILROAD ROW | CATHY GLEASON

- Cathy Gleason shared information about the working group formed about this issue. (see handout for contact information).

#### MARIJUANA: TCC COMMENTS ON AO 2016-27, NEIGHBORHOOD RESPONSIBILITY PLANNING | CATHY GLEASON, ANNA BRAWLEY

- Anna Brawley and Cathy Gleason gave a summary of Neighborhood Responsibility Plan ordinance, introduced for hearing on February 23. The ordinance creates a process for a neighborhood (specifically community council) engagement with marijuana businesses, to ensure that there is good communication and a process for resolving conflicts. Draft comments are posted on the TCC website.
- Anna shared the committee's concern for what might happen if the processes outlined are put in place by the business and the council, but a major conflict comes up and one or both sides are unwilling to work together further. There should be some clear process for resolving conflicts that cannot be resolved by the council and the business, and a definition of the role of the Municipality (Assembly, Clerk's office, or other entity) in resolving such conflicts. The comment letter includes a request for this language to be included in the ordinance (but does not suggest specific language).
- **Motion by Gloria Manni, second by Pat Redmond to approve the comments by the committee regarding AO 2016-27.**  
**Discussion**
  - Gloria suggested highlighting the last comment (about conflict resolution) since it is requesting new language, and moving it to the beginning of the letter.
  - Jonathan added that he believes the Assembly should come up with a plan for conflict resolution and clearer wording in the ordinance to give councils and businesses clarity.
  - **Vote on motion: 10 yes, 0 no. Motion passes.**

#### PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT: STANDING LAND USE, ALCOHOL, MARIJUANA COMMITTEE | ANNA BRAWLEY

- Board members shared a proposal to create a standing committee to review land use, alcohol and marijuana license or permit applications, to allow TCC a mechanism for responding to these applications in a timely manner. Many other councils are creating similar committees, or committees dedicated specifically to marijuana applications.
- *Questions for TCC members' consideration, and discussion next month?*
  - Should TCC have one committee to review all these different types of proposals?
  - How should members be chosen, and should they be regularly reviewed?
  - Should committee comments always be approved by TCC or Board prior to submitting?
- No action needed this month; the board is providing notice of a proposed bylaws change and will share a formal notice and draft language for the Council's consideration next month, and potential vote and approval in May.

## Turnagain Community Council

- Cathy Gleason also proposed that in the interim, if and when Turnagain receives any marijuana applications, that the existing marijuana committee be able to review the applications and make recommendations to the council. The Board can also perform this function, but because the committee members have read the ordinance and understand the general concepts, they are currently well suited to review applications. Any official position taken on an application would still go through the process of being presented at the next TCC meeting, and if a response is needed before then, preliminary approval by the Board until the next meeting. This would apply only to marijuana applications, not alcohol or land use applications, which would still go through the existing review process.
- **Motion by Jonathan Galin, second by Pat Redmond to allow the marijuana committee to review any incoming marijuana business applications until the bylaws have been formally amended and the new standing committee established.**
- **Vote on motion: all yes, 0 no. Motion passes.**

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Jacque Boutet, representing Anchorage Tomorrow (an advocacy group that promotes infrastructure investment in Anchorage), shared information about the upcoming transportation and other bonds which will be featured on the ballot. There
  - He urges members to vote yes on issues 3, 4, 5, 6, 7: proposed Muni general obligation bonds for improvements to parks, roads, drainage, firefighting system, police department headquarters needing a new roof. The road bond also includes funding for the Spenard Road reconstruction project, which would be funded through this bond; if it passes, construction could begin next year, and if it fails construction will be stalled considerably. There are also projects to address erosion of the Coastal Trail into Cook Inlet, particularly tidal erosion due to larger storms throughout the year. This creates additional undercutting from tidal action. There would also be improvements to Campbell Creek Trail.
  - The total cost to property owners is published as measured per \$100,000 of real property, which is often hard to understand; based on his rough calculations, the current bonds would represent about \$40 per year for the average Anchorage home (based on median home price). However, retirement of old debt will reduce the cost by about \$30 per year, in addition to some reductions in cost due to refinancing of current debt at lower interest rates. His rough calculation is that it would cost approximately \$20 per household, net of additional debt and retired debt.
  - *Tim Myland asked how the Spenard Road project will involve the new Vision Zero initiative from the Mayor's office, to eliminate deaths and injuries due to traffic collisions with pedestrian and bikes?* Jacque noted that the Spenard Road construction project is re-starting with an updated design and ensuring it is safe.

## CLOSING

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.
- The next meeting will be Thursday, April 7, 2016 at Turnagain Elementary.

*Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Anna Brawley on 3/11/2016.*

*Minutes approved by Turnagain Community Council at its regular meeting on 4/7/2016.*