
TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting | April 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 7:04 p.m. About 20 people (members and guests) attended, including youth members of Boy Scout Troop 82.
- Announcements: *See Attachments flyer available as a handout in the meeting and on the TCC website.*
 - There is a Planning and Zoning Commission hearing to review the Turnagain St. and Blvd. improvement project design, Monday, May 9. No testimony will be taken. This information was published after the announcements document was finalized.
- The agenda was reviewed.
 - **Motion by Joan McKinnon, second by Chris Habicht to approve the April agenda.**
 - **Vote on motion: all yes, 0 no. Motion passes.**
- The March 2016 meeting minutes were available for review and approval.
 - **Motion by Gloria Manni, second by Dan Gleason to approve the March minutes.**
 - **Vote on motion: all yes, 0 no. Motion passes.**

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.
- **Vice President's Report | Cathy Gleason**
 - No updates.
- **Secretary's Report | Anna Brawley**
 - No updates.
- **Treasurer's Report | Gloria Manni**
 - Treasurer's Update: TCC currently has \$1,868.09 in the bank: \$100.05 in checking and \$1768.04 in savings. All savings funds have been placed in General savings; the funds raised for Didlika Park was donated to the Anchorage Park Foundation in 2015.
 - Disbursement Request: Jonathan and the Board have been attempting to update the e-mail address to display the correct name, with no luck. The tccpresident@yahoo.com e-mail still shows Danielle Bailey as the account holder, and cannot be updated. We are attempting to change it to "TCC President" and have the name stay associated with the account, rather than changing it every time the officers change. The Board would like to engage a technical support person for \$50 to fix this problem for good, and have talked with Alaska Computer Doctor who agrees to complete this job for the given price.
 - **Motion by Joan McKinnon, second by Chris Habicht to approve disbursement of up to \$50 for technical support to correct the TCC e-mail address issue.**
 - **Vote on motion: all yes, 0 no. Motion passes. The Board will engage tech support to fix the e-mail issue, and prevent the problem in future years.**
- **Member at Large's Report | Kennis Brady**
 - No updates.
- **Recognition of Two Longtime Board Members, Chris Habicht and Breck Tostevin**
 - Chris Habicht served on the board from 2007 to 2015, mainly as Secretary-Treasurer.
 - Breck Tostevin served on the board for several years, including as president in 2009-2010.

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- The Board recognized Chris and Breck for their work with TCC, and Cathy Gleason presented certificates of appreciation during the meeting.
- Thank you to both gentlemen for your service!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Federation of Community Councils:** Cathy Gleason reported on items from the meeting:
 - The Neighborhood Responsibility Plan ordinance will be reviewed by the Assembly on April 12 (*see notes below*).
 - The ordinance to update Title 21 and change development standards will be fast-tracked and not be reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission, and will be on the Assembly's April 12 agenda. The current Assembly is hoping to take of this issue before outgoing members' terms are done.
 - Residents can sign up for a new e-newsletter, the Berkowitz Bulletin, on the Muni website.
 - 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. 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 if you are interested in participating in the CIP committee this year.
 - Two individuals presented on CPEAK, a new public engagement platform that may be of interest to the community councils.
- **Anchorage Land Use Plan Map:** Map documents have been posted to the Municipality's website. Committee meeting on Thursday, April 14. Thede Tobish, a Municipal planner, will attend. The comment deadline is still Friday, April 29. On Friday, April 22 there will be a focused discussion meeting for North Star, Spenard, and Turnagain Community Councils, with an open house.
- **Marijuana (Ordinances):** The Neighborhood Responsibility Plan ordinance (AO 2016-27) has been substantially modified from its original draft, has not been released yet but anticipating release. The TCC Marijuana Committee submitted comments on the previous version of this ordinance, we are not sure if they will re-open public testimony but if so, the committee may meet again. Also, regarding licenses, the state is working on addressing the needed issue of background checks: currently they are required but the state needs authorization to do them. Anna Brawley also shared that she and Gloria Manni attended a Spenard CC meeting on March 16 between council members and businesses interested in opening in the neighborhood. It was a productive conversation, no decisions or official actions but a way for all sides to understand how this will play out. To date, TCC has not received notice of any marijuana applications, either official notice or unofficial word.
- **West Anchorage Candidates Forum:** This event was very successful, held at Spenard Rec Center on Wednesday, March 23! Thanks to everyone who participated and helped make it a success, including Cathy Gleason, Anna Brawley and Kennis Brady from this council.
- **Cell Tower Code Revisions:** The draft ordinance received a lot of scrutiny and recommendations from community members, including Rogers Park and our council, as well as telecommunications industry input. There were multiple work sessions on this ordinance to address community concerns. The next work session is Thursday, April 14, 11:30 am to 1 pm. There will be a Planning and Zoning Commission hearing for this ordinance on Monday, April 18.
- **Fish Creek Trail Rehabilitation:** Funding for this project passed on the Parks and Recreation bond on Tuesday, April 5! No updates on the project, but funding means it will move forward with design and construction soon.

- **Anchorage Trails and Wayfinding Signage:** There are two concurrent projects regarding signage along Anchorage trails: the first is to create designs for wayfinding signs along the trails, which resulted in three options and a survey for residents to give feedback on design elements. Gloria Manni and Cathy Gleason, the two committee members for this topic, provided personal comments on the signage designs. The second is a design project to create icons for Anchorage neighborhoods and parks that would be used in wayfinding and direction signs, to “brand” the parks and neighborhoods along the trails. There is no “Turnagain” icon design, but there are multiple parks in Turnagain’s area that received an icon design: Lyn Ary Park, Earthquake Park, and Westchester Lagoon. (*See draft icon designs in the meeting handouts*). Cathy and Gloria’s suggestions: add off-kilter trees to the Earthquake Park logo, to indicate earthquake impacts; the Lyn Ary Park icon includes the ship as part of the playground equipment at the upper area of the park, but this is not as iconic for this park than the Coastal Trail and view of Cook Inlet and Denali, and could be redesigned; and the Westchester Lagoon icon should not have trees on top of the mountains and the duck could be smaller relative to the mountains.
 - The group discussed other input on the logos.
 - Jonathan asked interest in providing council input on this item?
 - **Motion by Cathy Gleason, second by Chris Habicht to request TCC final approval of icons for parks and trails within the Council’s boundaries: currently Earthquake Park, Lyn Ary Park, and Westchester Lagoon.**
 - **Vote: 9 yes, 0 no. Motion passes.**
- **Lake Hood User Group:** Merle Akers (representative) and Cathy Gleason (alternate) attended this meeting on Monday, April 4. Among other updates, the Department of Natural Resources provided an update on the elodea treatment to eliminate this invasive weed. A treatment was applied last year there will be a second application of chemicals as well.

AIRPORT REPORT | TERI LINDSETH

- *See airport updates on the handout provided at the meeting or online at: www.anchorageairport.com*
- **Lake Hood Seaplane Base Master Plan:** There will be the final Lake Hood Master Plan open house on Thursday, April 28, 6 to 8 pm at the Lakefront (former Millennium) Hotel to share the draft recommended alternative.
- **The Great Alaska Aviation Gathering:** this annual event will be Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1 at the FedEx hangar on Postmark Drive.
- **Annual Airport Cleanup** will take place Friday, April 29: join for a morning clean-up, meet at the old field maintenance building on Aircraft Drive at 10 a.m. And, enjoy a free lunch as a thank-you to volunteers!
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Jonathan Galin asked about the status of tree clearing that was presented on last month? Teri shared that this work has already been completed. Cathy Gleason commented that there is more noise at her house as a result of tree clearing. Teri will share this information back.*

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

- **Sen. Mia Costello**
 - The Senate passed the budget, and there has been a conference committee formed to reconcile the House and Senate versions. Public notice has been reduced to 24 hours rather than 5 days given that we are nearing the end of regular session. The Senate Resources Committee is working on oil-related bills, as well as House committees.
 - The Senate also passed SB 74, the Medicaid reform bill that will save the state money in the long term and improve health outcomes. These needed reforms will save hundreds of millions of dollars: bi-partisan support, a lot of community groundwork laid, and positive outcomes.
 - Senate Finance is reviewing the Permanent Fund restructuring proposals currently.

- Senate Labor and Commerce is considering various taxes: income tobacco, alcohol, mining and other tax proposals.
- She encouraged council members to stay involved, and the Legislature is working hard to address our budget situation.
- **Rep. Matt Claman**
 - The budget is by far the most important issue this session, and he supports the Governor's and the people's urging to make significant progress on this issue.
 - SB 91, the criminal justice reform bill, is being considered by the House Judiciary committee. It has several important reforms to reduce the prison population, help keep people out of prison or return to prison, and reduce state costs with better outcomes.
 - There is a Senate bill and now a companion House bill to allow Alaskan women to receive up to a 12 month prescription for birth control, particularly for individuals who have seasonal jobs or live in rural areas and have trouble accessing prescriptions on a monthly basis.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Jonathan Galin asked about the escalating costs of health care in the state, particularly health insurance premiums—what discussions has the Legislature been having about this issue?* Yes, this is a significant issue and Lori Wing-Heier, the Division of Insurance director, has worked with the Governor's office and the Senate Labor and Commerce committee to introduce a bill that would place high-risk or high-cost individuals into a risk pool to which all payers must contribute. This allows the most costly individuals to be covered through a separate mechanism than insurance premiums on the individual market, rather than pushing the cost burden to all of the individuals on the federal exchange. She is confident it will pass this session and have significant positive impacts on the rising cost of insurance.
 - *Tim Steele asked for an update on PERS and TERS, specifically concerns that those liabilities will be borne by the local governments?* Sen. Costello shared that the PERS (Public Employee Retirement System) bill will likely not move forward, but the TERS (Teachers Retirement System) bill will likely move forward and slowly increase the share of payments that are required municipal contributions. There was also a bill allowing municipalities the option to not retain the senior tax exemption (currently it is mandated in state law) but this bill is likely not moving forward.
 - *Jonathan Tarrant asked whether they anticipate the session ending on time as planned, or whether there will be a special session?* The Legislature can extend session by as much as 10 days without being considered special session. Sen. Costello shared that the Governor will likely call a special session if an income tax is not passed in the current session. Rep. Claman shared that he is not sure of the timeline and how quickly things can be done, but is optimistic that he and the senator will be home by the beginning of May.

ASSEMBLY REPORT | MEMBER TIM STEELE

- **Elections:** The election for Assembly members, School Board and ballot measures happened on Tuesday, April 5. The election must be certified before the new members will be installed.
 - The Spenard Road bond passed! This is an important milestone for upgrading Spenard!
 - The School bond appears to have failed, but is close enough that a final count of votes may change the outcome.
 - Jennifer Johnston, Paul Honeman and Ernie Hall are leaving the Assembly. Ernie regrets he was not able to attend this evening.
- **First Quarter Budget Adjustments:** the Assembly is preparing to make revisions this quarter, Tim is not anticipating controversial issues but this remains to be seen.
- **Marijuana Licensing:** the State is not currently able to perform national criminal background checks until they receive legislative authorization, so this is holding up the rest of the licensing process.

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- **Construction projects:** Several projects in the area will impact Turnagain residents, including the final phase of upgrading Arctic Road between 36th and Tudor; the Loussac Library entrance upgrades; and design work for the northern portion of Spenard Road.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Dan Gleason asked about the status of the elections?* Tim Steele and municipal clerk, Barbara Jones, shared that there are still several hundred ballots to be counted. Unofficial results have been posted, and so far there have been no changes to the results based on the remaining ballots (but this could change).

MAYOR'S REPORT | SHARON LANE

- No one from the Mayor's office was available this month.

YOUTH ATTENDEES | BOY SCOUT TROOP #82

- Four young men from Boy Scout Troup 82 attended the meeting this evening to learn more about local government and civic work, as part of earning their Citizenship and the Community merit badge.
- James Starling, scoutmaster for the troop, also attended, as well as Bill Eastham, assistant scout master and Barbara Jones, secretary.

HERITAGE LAND BANK PLANS, TCC COMMENTS | CATHY GLEASON

- The Heritage Land Bank is a Municipal department that manages city land for conservation or future development. HLB updates their five-year master plan annually, and Turnagain has commented on the plan. Cathy Gleason prepared a draft comment letter and a summary of comments for Council approval.
- Comments (*see handouts for specific language*)
 - 5 comments related to typos and wording suggestions
 - 1 comment requests including language per current code requirement regarding receiving notice of proposed actions, if residents request to receive notice
 - 1 comment requests adding language that gives details about Mayor Berkowitz's request for a transfer of State owned land to the Municipality.
 - 1 comment reiterates previous TCC comments regarding transfer of HLB parcels near the Airport to the Parks Department (along sections of the Coastal Trail).
- **Motion by Chris Habicht, second by Jonathan Galin to submit the comments on HLB plan as summarized.**
 - **Discussion:** *None.*
 - **Vote on motion: 9 yes, 0 no. Motion passes.**

LAKE HOOD MASTER PLAN UPDATE | CATHY GLEASON

- Cathy Gleason shared that the Lake Hood Master Plan Update draft has been sharing, including capital improvement projects that would creation of additional tie-down area and lease lots in wetlands located between the existing runway and the neighborhood (currently a fenced off area that buffers the neighborhood from this portion of the airport). This project was recommended in the past, but a previous environmental assessment found that this was not advisable because of its proximity to the neighborhood. Another portion of the Turnagain bog wetlands near Postmark Drive is proposed, next to the existing "echo parking lot."
- There is also a proposal to create a separated trail that runs through Turnagain bog and connects with Northern Lights Blvd., to encourage pedestrian and bike traffic to not use the roads around the lake. Cathy shared that she and others have commented that people enjoy walking next to the lake, and will likely continue to do so rather than using this separate trail. In addition, the Airport would need to construct a second chain link fence on either side, keeping people off the tie-down area and to demarcate Airport property.

- Cathy shared that the council has in the past opposed these projects and any additional development in Turnagain bog because of additional noise, plane traffic and neighborhood impacts.
- **Motion by Jonathan Galin, second by Dan Gleason to reiterate Turnagain’s strong opposition to development projects on Turnagain bog land at the Airport, and specifically the three projects identified in the draft plan (next to the neighborhood, and near Echo parking lot) and the proposed trail through the bog.**

Discussion

- Elaine Hulse asked whether bicycles would be able to use this path, and objects to the term “pedestrian path” as it is exclusive-sounding and does not include bikes.
- Chris Habicht is less concerned about the tie-down area to the west, but supports commenting on the areas adjacent to the neighborhood.
- Cathy noted that both areas are Class A wetlands (part of Turnagain bog) and that most pilots during the process indicated that the main demand is for float plane areas, not tie-down areas for wheeled planes.
- Dan Gleason pointed out that there is also additional tie-down capacity at Merrill Field, and some pilots could park there instead.
- The group discussed how specific to make the position, and whether or not to simply resubmit the comments submitted last year, and whether to oppose specific projects in the comments.
- Brian Hove shared that throughout the process, he has urged the group to not be “the community that always says no.” There appear to be some areas that are non-starters for the council, and others that may be more suitable for future development.

Amendment by Jonathan Tarrant, second by Chris Habicht to limit opposition to the areas east of the runway and the pedestrian trail, with no stance on the western tie-down area.

- Cathy commented that she feels this is a contradiction of previous stances taken regarding no development in Turnagain bog.

Vote on amendment: 3 yes, 7 no. Amendment fails.

Vote on motion: 8 yes, 1 no. Motion passes. The Board will prepare a letter reiterating Turnagain CC’s opposition to development on Turnagain bog land, and note specifically the three projects discussed in the draft plan.

PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT: CREATING A STANDING TCC COMMITTEE FOR APPLICATION REVIEW (LAND USE, MARIJUANA, ALCOHOL, OTHER) | ANNA BRAWLEY

- This is 30 day notice of a proposed bylaws change! TCC will take action next month on this item (voting to approve or reject the language as proposed or as amended).
- 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.
- The committee’s purpose is first to review any incoming land use applications (including alcohol establishments, marijuana establishments, development permits, other state or federal permitting processes) and to identify any issues of interest to the council. The committee would bring comments to the council for approval, and ensure these comments are transmitted to the review body (Assembly, Airport, state agencies, etc.) If an application’s timeline does not allow for review and approval by the council before the comment deadline, the committee would submit any comments to the Board for approval, and comments would be retroactively approved by the Council. If the Board does not act in time, the committee could submit comments and seek approval by the Council at its next regular meeting. The intent is to only allow the committee to act independently in some situations, and to still ultimately be answerable to the Council.
- **Questions**
 - *A member asked if other councils have a committee like this one?* Anna shared that Spenard CC had a Land Use committee for several years, particularly focused on development along

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Spenard Road. Many other councils are considering starting a Marijuana Committee to review applications (Spenard, Fairview have begun a committee like this). TCC does not anticipate many marijuana applications, but this committee would be an opportunity to treat all applications the same, since most have the same issues (traffic, noise, etc.)

- *Another member asked about what would happen in the summer, when community councils do not meet?* This is outlined in the bylaws language: the committee could, if on a very tight timeline, submit comments prior to getting Council approval. But, the intent is that the committee must seek Council approval, or if needed during the summer, get Board approval at least and bring comments back to the Council in the fall. If there is a significant issue, the Council can still call a special meeting to hear a presentation about the project and discuss TCC's concerns.
- *Brian Hove commented that he supports this concept, but would like to ensure that the committee's intent is included with the bylaws amendment, so it is clear what this committee is intended to do, when it still exists years in the future.* Anna pointed out that the committee could develop some guiding principles over time (important values or policies that TCC consistently holds about land uses in our neighborhood). In addition, the committee will give monthly reports back to the Council about their activities, and could also post information about all projects reviewed, even if no action was taken, on the TCC website. The intent is to streamline review of projects but not to keep relevant information from reaching the Council.
- *Who can be a member of the committee?* TCC has rules in the bylaws about all committees, which this would follow: any council member can be a committee member, and the chair or co-chairs are to be chosen by the committee from among the members.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- *Dan Gleason shared that there is a plan for replacing bridges along the Coastal Trail, he would like to know if Turnagain Community Council will be consulted?* The Council has not been informed or consulted, and Cathy Gleason shared that the Municipality intends to use the same design as the bridge that was recently replaced by the railroad tunnel at Westchester Lagoon.
- *Chris Habicht asked for an update on Sydney's Shortcut?* Jonathan shared that as far as he is aware, there were previously discussions about restoring the right of way, not in the area where the actual passageway existed, but where the current right of way lies. The discussion has shifted from whether or not the easement would be restored at its original location, who would maintain it, and potentially limited (keyed) entrance.
- *Gloria Manni shared that she is participating in the "Fish Creek Trail to the Ocean" working group, people interested in installing a trail along the railroad corridor north to the Fish Creek estuary. She shared volunteer information, and encouraged anyone interested to attend.*

CLOSING

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.
- The next meeting will be Thursday, May 5, 2016 at Turnagain Elementary.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Anna Brawley on 4/9/16.

Minutes approved by Turnagain Community Council at the May 5, 2016 meeting.