
TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting | May 5, 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 7:05 p.m. About 20 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 Gloria Manni, second by Pat Redmond to approve the May agenda, with an amendment to move guest presentations (Turnagain Blvd, and Northern Lights Railway Overpass) earlier in the agenda.**
 - **Vote on motion: all yes, 0 no. Agenda approved as amended.**
- The March 2016 meeting minutes were available for review and approval.
 - **Motion by Cathy Gleason, second by Joan McKinnon to approve the April minutes.**
 - **Vote on motion: all yes, 0 no. Minutes approved.**

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**
 - No updates
- **Member at Large's Report | Kennis Brady**
 - No updates.
- **Federation of Community Councils:** Cathy Gleason reported on items from the meeting:
 - Anyone is welcome to attend the FCC meetings, they are informative and interesting! Meetings are third Wednesday of the month at the FCC Office. Many items shared in that meeting are being discussed tonight in this meeting, or are included on the announcements.
 - Both Anchorage Talks Transit and Vision Zero (zero bike/ped fatalities) are meeting this evening (May 7) to kick off initiatives to improve Anchorage's non-motorized transportation system, and transit. AMATS is seeking input on improving Anchorage's transit system.
 - Each council receives \$75 annually for outreach. TCC has not made use of these funds to date, but can take advantage of this however is useful. Contact the board if you have ideas about how to do better outreach to members!
 - Municipal vote by mail starts in 2017. The board is planning to ask an individual from the Clerk's office to present on this item, closer to the next municipal election.
 - Another community council noted that their council was being charged for use of a park, and felt this was not appropriate. Dick Traini, present at the FCC meeting, indicated that he would look into this. TCC was charged for use of Balto Seppala Park this past summer for our barbeque, despite explaining it was for a council event.
 - The Municipality received a grant for a Welcoming Gateways for Growth project, working to make our city more welcoming for new immigrants.

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- The Municipality completed the Point in Time homeless count this past winter (January 2016) and will be publishing a report soon.
- The Muni is also considering using NextDoor for community announcements rather than Nixle, and will be reviewing this option. Stay tuned and contact the Mayor's office if you have thoughts on this item.
- Airport Communications Plan
 - The Board prepared comments on the update of the Airport Communications Plan, shared with the Council in April, and received responses from the Airport.
 - Two items were not satisfactorily resolved, both about notification of councils for activity happening at the Airport. Cathy Gleason presented a follow-up letter with two items for clarification that the board sent in response.
 - First comment: TCC would like to reiterate the importance of receiving notice from airport lessees on potential projects, as well as the airport itself about anything that might impact the neighborhood. We ask that notices be e-mailed directly to the three community councils (Spennard, Turnagain, Sand Lake) and not just sent through GovDelivery; our experience to date is that notifications are not going through GovDelivery now, as the airport indicated.
 - Second comment: TCC would like to receive adequate notification by potential lessees of airport land, even if the planning process is happening during the summer when the council does not meet. The council can decide whether to call a special meeting or submit comments from the Board in the interim.
- Jonathan received an e-mail regarding drug use and speeding at Lyn Ary Park. He followed up with MOA Traffic Department and APD to request more attention on this issue. The Traffic Dept. is planning to station a counter in the area to do reconnaissance. It is important to continue calling the police if you see suspicious activity; even they are not able to come, as police calls are tracked and helps build up patterns of potentially concerning activity.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Anchorage Land Use Plan Map:** [see below]
- **Marijuana (Ordinances):** This committee has not met or reviewed additional materials at this time. Business applications are in process and some other councils have begun hearing presentations from applicants. Turnagain has not received any at this time. The state Marijuana Control Board met at the end of April and approved draft regulations for onsite consumption at retail establishments (allowing a separate room for consuming products bought at the store). The regulations will be available for comment, and will likely inform what the Assembly also proposes as a local ordinance. The committee does not plan to comment on the state regulations but will be watching for a complementary local ordinance later this summer. [*Note: the draft regulations were published on Wednesday, May 11 for comments, due June 21 to the state.*]
 - **Question:** *A member asked about security concerns, especially since at this time it has to be an all cash business since local banks will not deal with these businesses?* Tim Steele shared that the assembly has discussed the idea, but is looking to the business community for this solution. Jonathan Galin added that in Colorado and Washington where there are existing licensees, there are security firms who work with businesses and are anticipating coming to Alaska. As of now, federal banking regulations prevent banks from dealing with marijuana related funds. The State will need to accept cash payments and this will likely include secure transport. Anna added that there are several provisions in the licensing regulations related to security of the premises, including cameras and secure doors.

AIRPORT REPORT | JOHN JOHANSEN

- See airport updates on the handout provided at the meeting or online at: www.anchorageairport.com

- **Lake Hood Seaplane Base Master Plan:** The open house on April 28 included the final presentation about the plan; materials are available at www.lhdmasterplan.com.
- There will be a runway shutdown May 4 – 23 (the northernmost runway, 7L/25R) for scheduled maintenance. The north-south runway will also be shut for maintenance in June, which will cause more departures on 7L which means increased noise over Midtown during business hours.
- **The Great Alaska Aviation Gathering:** The event went very well! Thanks to all who came.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Jonathan Tarrant asked about fire danger, he saw a lot of Anchorage Fire Department activity the other day and was wondering if it was fire-related?* The Anchorage Fire Department was a training rescue exercise, but fire is certainly a concern. The Airport itself has a significant fire department, focused primarily on aviation-related fires but will be first responders for other incidents happening at the Airport, with AFD being the primary force who would respond to incidents on the land.
 - *Cathy Gleason asked about potential tree-cutting that Tom Middendorf mentioned at the Lake Hood Master Plan? She has noticed significantly higher noise since the tree-cutting last month. Would the Airport consider a sit-down with the Council and other interested parties to discuss further tree-cutting, particularly near the neighborhoods where trees provide a sound buffer?* John shared that this is an option, he will look into it. FAA requirements (Part 77) include clearing of obstructions within a certain zone.

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

- **Sen. Mia Costello**
 - The Legislature is in extended session. The Senate is holding on some items that will require House passage as well, but waiting to transmit some items
 - There are multiple aspects of the budget. The House is still working on other major bills before they can take on the budget in conference committee. Main aspects include:
 - Cost reduction
 - Reform (including legal changes, cost-saving measures, and significant changes to fiscal policy particular as it relates to oil)
 - Revenue
 - Income tax
 - Mining and other industry taxes
 - Alcohol and tobacco taxes
 - Fuel (gas) tax
 - Two major reform items have passed as of today:
 - SB 74, Medicaid Reform
 - SB 91, Criminal Justice Reform [*Note: as of May 28, this bill continues to be discussed as the House and Senate must reconcile the two versions passed*]
 - The House is working next on oil tax credit reform, which is a significant portion of the budget. The House will also soon take up Permanent Fund Restructuring, which the Senate has discussed and is ready to work with the House on.
- **Rep. Matt Claman**
 - Rep. Claman was not available for the meeting as the House was in a floor session.
- **Sen. Berta Gardner**
 - A staff member of Sen. Gardner's office shared that the Senator is very concerned about the depth of the fiscal crisis and that the solution needs to seriously evaluate oil tax credits, prior to passing income tax and restructuring the Permanent Fund.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Cathy asked both representatives about which measures seem most likely to pass?* Mia felt that in order, it is most feasible to look at cost reduction, reform and revenue. There are concerns about feasibility in particular about income tax, it is a controversial measure.

However, if the Legislature does not take action, it is likely that the Governor will call a special session. Sen. Gardner's staff shared that at this point, based on discussions happening between the parties, it does not seem likely to pass other new revenue sources except the motor fuel tax. Alcohol tax, tobacco tax, and mining taxes, she believes, are less likely to pass.

ASSEMBLY REPORT | MEMBERS TIM STEELE, ERIC CROFT

- The Assembly is working to catch up on various business items.
- **ML&P Plant 2A:** The plant is operating well; there was a contractor dispute regarding the total cost of a contract, but this was resolved with a "medium sized" contract amount. The renovation project is moving forward.
- **Bond Projects:** Following passage of the bonds, the Assembly is working through the approval process for the various projects that are now funded. There will be various construction projects around town for the summer.
- **SAP Management Software:** The project is moving forward again and has been significantly restructured; the Assembly has its own contractor. This project was way over budget and was put on hold briefly while the Muni considered how to move forward.
- **Mill Rate and Property Tax:** Following seating of new members, the Assembly approved a new mill rate. There was a budget surplus, with considerable debate about what to do with the extra: many people want property tax relief, but contingent on knowing the final impacts of the state's budget decisions, particularly if the Muni might need those extra funds for things that will not receive adequate state funding. The approved measure would be determined in September and focused on relief for residential property owners. The final tax change would be approximately 7%, accounting for changes in assessments, increase in mill rate, and inflation related increases. Croft and Forrest Dunbar are meeting with the Assessor to discuss the appeal process and ensure it is more equitable.
- **The RCA (regulatory commission) approved the Beluga gas field** purchase by the Muni for future fuel supplies, which will give us some security in the future for price and supply.
- **Fish Creek to the Ocean:** Eric Croft shared that in addition to the items shared already, he is interested in the Fish Creek to the Ocean trail. He will attend the next meeting. Both Croft and Steele are in favor of this and see the next step as working with the Railroad.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Jonathan Tarrant asked whether APD will meet its recruitment goals?* Yes, new recruitments seem to be keeping up with attrition rate currently. Retention appears to be the main issue, people leaving after training—currently must stay for 5 years, but people tend to leave after that time rather than staying and continuing to benefit the city with this training.
 - *Anna asked about safety downtown? She works downtown and does not feel unsafe personally, but have seen more troublesome activity and heard others say they feel it is unsafe, especially around Town Square Park.* It is a priority of the mayor, and he a workplan for making downtown safer and more livable. The Muni is also working on street maintenance to ensure streets are clean.

MAYOR'S REPORT | SHARON LANE

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

BYLAWS UPDATE: LAND USE, LICENSE AND PERMIT REVIEW COMMITTEE

- Anna presented an overview of the bylaws amendment and resolution to establish a standing committee to handle issues in the Council related to land use, as well as licenses for marijuana and alcohol establishments. The concept was presented in the last several meetings and last month the Board gave notice for a proposed bylaws amendment.
- The committee would have co-chairs and be open to all members. The committee would review any incoming applications (or renewals) of alcohol licenses, marijuana licenses and land use permits, Title

21 required community input on development projects, subdivision and replats, and other applications that are sent to TCC, or impact TCC. The primary function of this committee is to look in detail at an application and determine whether the council should take a position, and/or be informed about the project in more detail, and/or make specific comments about the project. The committee would be able to submit recommendations and comments to the Council for approval, and if the Council does not meet prior to the comment deadline, the committee can submit to the Board for approval. If for some reason the Board does not act in a timely manner in this situation, the committee may choose to submit comments independently. In any case, the committee must submit anything submitted as public comments to the Council for approval after the fact if not before.

- **Motion by Pat Redmond, second by Gloria Manni to approve the bylaws amendment as presented in the handout shared in the May 5 meeting.**

Discussion:

- One member suggested, why not just have the board do it?
 - Jonathan responded that the committee would likely have board officers participate, but there is wider opportunity for people to be involved, even on a limited basis, and also spreads responsibility beyond the board officers, who have other duties already. The board would still have review power over the committee. There would be opportunities for others to participate if they are especially interested in the project, even if they choose not to be involved in the long term.
- Would committee meetings be noticed, how will the other members know what is being discussed?
 - Board members shared that they agreed it will be important to make the committee's activities transparent. Setting meetings is responsibility of the chair(s) but the group could select a standing meeting time, or at least provide notice in various places about the meeting: the TCC website, FCC email list, social media.
- Cathy Gleason proposed two amendments in the language, accepted by the maker of the motion Pat Redmond.
 - Article V, Function: add section (I) to include "Review of other land use proposals of interest to the Council." Accepted in the motion.
 - Article XI, Committees, section F: at the end of (1), add language "Section E and I of these bylaws, or other land use proposals of interest to the Council." Accepted in the motion.
- **Vote on motion: 10 yes, 0 no. Motion passes. Bylaws amended with the language shared.**
- The group also discussed the resolution establishing the committee. The resolution explains why the committee will be helpful and what their authority will be.
- **Motion by Pat Redmond, second by Gloria Manni to approve the bylaws amendment as presented in the handout shared in the May 5 meeting.**
 - **Vote on motion: 13 yes, 0 no. Resolution passes.**
- If you are interested in participating in this committee, contact tccpresident@yahoo.com!

TURNAGAIN ST. + TURNAGAIN BLVD. | JUSTIN KEANE, DUAN MANEY

- Justin (CRW Engineers) and Duane (Muni) came to present an overview of the Turnagain St./Blvd. project: The southern portion of the project (35th to Spenard, along Fish Creek Park) is Phase I and is currently being designed. The northern portion (Northern Lights to 35th) is Phase II of the project; the team heard TCC's request for more public input on this phase, and will be back at a later time when this project phase moves forward.
- The DSR (Design Study Report) for the southern portion is being reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission this spring, and the team hopes to complete the 65% design of the road and hold a public open house in the fall.

- TCC had previously supported the design of the boulevard overall and submitted comments. Cathy Gleason reiterated the comments. Comments included: better daytime visibility of the signage panels (the one currently at McRae and Spenard is the model that will be used, but panels will be darker on the Turnagain portion); coordination with the Fish Creek Trail rehabilitation project; location of the trail adjacent to the road; add meanders to the trail within Fish Creek Park; choose trees that are not desirable for moose to eat, to give those trees a chance to establish; add a path between the parking area and picnic shelter; installing imprinted concrete for more visual appeal but also allow for snow storage in winter. The team is also looking at other traffic calming measures, like raised intersections or bulb-outs at intersections (narrowing the road so people have to slow down).
- The project is currently at 35% design; the team will notify the community council about the 65% and 95% designs, either in a presentation or holding open houses.
- The website: www.turnagainstreet.com has a comment function, and you can also contact Justin at CRW with any questions or comments.
- Questions
 - *Dan Gleason commented that raised intersections can be problematic, for example the Milky Way raised intersection at Balto Seppala Park, will the team take this into account?* Yes, Justin indicated the team would look into this.
 - *Dan Gleason also asked about drainage, what is the plan for drainage and will it meet EPA standards to ensure there is not runoff into the creek?* Yes, there is a current failing culvert and there is a plan as part of construction to add a new system that will prevent runoff into Fish Creek, the intersection of Turnagain Blvd. and Borland Dr. These have not been fully designed but will be part of the design and conform to current standards.
 - *Mark Worcester asked about alternatives presented for Phase 2, in particular the proposal to straighten the road and remove the “jog” at Barbara St. at 34th.* Phase 2 has not been designed at all yet, but this is one consideration that would require additional land but would solve some traffic issues on that curve.
 - *Jonathan Galin asked what the issue is with speed humps, why they are not being considered?* It is in part a decision of the given administration in office, and other services are not in favor of them because they interfere with emergency services and snow management. They are more useful on smaller streets that do not have as much traffic.
 - *Cathy Gleason asked about whether immediate neighbors were contacted about traffic calming options?* The team is working with MOA Traffic Calming on the project and has been communicating the process and opportunities for input to the nearby neighbors.
 - *Anna commented that planning is important and things like street standards and subdivision planning are helpful for future infrastructure projects. The problems on Turnagain St. and issues like misaligned roads can be avoided with initial planning.*

ALASKA RAILROAD OVERPASS DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS | MARK FRUITEGGER, DUANE MANEY

- Mark (R&M Consultants) shared that this has been a Turnagain priority for some time, and the legislature gave an appropriation to begin preliminary design for drainage improvements. The railroad underpass at Northern Lights and near Lois Drive creates significant problems with drainage: the sidewalks and pedestrians can get soaked and, in the winter, freezes on the sidewalks, creates ponding of water and potential hydroplaning by cars driving through the area, and other maintenance issues with pooling water that does not sufficiently drain. The project is to improve all of these issues by addressing drainage problems.

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- Work to date:
 - Topographic study, confirming the anecdotal evidence that the road grade contributes to the problem (the dip in the road collects water).
 - Study of the drainage pipes to assess their condition and whether there is sufficient flow through the system.
 - Document research of existing documentation about this area and other areas with these types of problems.
- Findings:
 - Banking of the road: typically a road has a highest point in the middle of the road, so drainage will flow out of the road to the sides. The lowest point of the road under the railroad tracks, however, is in the middle of the road, and this transition point tends to pool water at the lowest point and the water does not effectively drain. Additionally, rutting in the road and the intersection just to the north at Forest Park Drive cause further drainage issues. One of the drainage pipes is also compromised, which minimizes how effectively the system can drain.
- Possible solutions:
 - Change the elevation of the road so that it always drains to the outside
 - Replace some of the pipes and the catch basin for the water
 - Replace the broken pipe
 - Repave the pedestrian pathways on either side, which are in rough shape
- Status:
 - Currently this project only has funding through the initial (35%) design phase, and would require more funding in future to complete the improvements.
 - The project website includes the documentation and design study report (DSR) for the project, as well as opportunity to make comments.
 - The estimated cost of completing the project is \$1.9 million, including further study and construction.
- Questions
 - *Jonathan Galin asked about whether the railroad bridge is part of the project?* It is not, but they are coordinating with the railroad. One goal is to not reduce the clearance of the roadway or impact the railroad.
 - *Mark Worcester asked about possible traffic impacts while work is being done?* The project is not far enough along yet, but yes it will cause some delay and congestion as there are few detours available because of the railroad tracks.

LAND USE PLAN MAP

- The Land Use Plan Map committee has met to discuss recommended comments and identify issues of interest to the Council. Chairs Cathy Gleason and Anna Brawley presented a summary of the group's discussion and that comments are due Friday, May 27 to the Muni. Comments can be submitted by email to landuseplanmap@muni.org, see more information online at <http://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Projects/AnchLandUse/>
- Items of interest to Turnagain
 - Overall residential density: much, if not all, of the map is unchanged from current land uses and densities. Committee recommends supporting this.
 - Greenway supported development: daylighting Fish Creek, concentrating more housing in this area, connecting Spenard and Midtown with a trail or similar connection along Chugach Way.

Committee recommends supporting this concept, but with concerns about daylighting a creek without restoring the banks on either side, or building too close to it.

- Traditional neighborhood design overlay: the older neighborhoods in town (Spenard, South Addition, Fairview) would potentially have additional design guidelines for sidewalks, design, and other elements to incentivize new development to look more like walkable neighborhoods. Committee recommends supporting this, but would like more information (in future) about design standards when they are being developed.
- Airport and adjacent lands: There are several issues, many of which are ongoing issues from previous plans (such as the West Anchorage District Plan). Cathy gave a brief overview of the issues and that the committee has several recommendations to correct geographical errors on the map and depictions of lands that have been previously considered for a land swap.
- The committee is working to finalize recommendations, meeting later in the month in order to finish comments by the May 27 deadline.

CELL TOWER CODE REVISIONS

- There have been a great deal of changes to the original ordinance, many of which were better for neighborhoods, but subsequent amendments from the Planning and Zoning Commission have significantly changed the ordinance as well. There is a work session on Friday, May 13, and the group tracking this is anticipating more amendments.
- Cathy Gleason shared that TCC passed a resolution earlier this year (January 2016) in support of a draft ordinance produced by a citizen group. There is not a TCC committee for this issue but there is a loose working group of multiple neighborhood representatives who are trying to keep up with the ordinance amendments, and promote ideas like stealth tower design and co-locating different carriers' equipment on the same tower to save space.
- Joan McKinnon commented that she is frustrated because she does not have an I6 compatible phone and cannot have a SIM card (she has GCI), so she does not get good reception because of issues with the airport. Jonathan added that he has also had significant issues for the last several years and has gotten a miniature cell receiver that uses wireless, that is at least a better solution. He recommends calling about this option.

CIP RANKING

- The Municipality has asked councils to present one priority in each category, given the funding constraints from the state.
- There are no proposed state projects in Turnagain, only Parks & Recreation and Project Management & Engineering (PM&E). Cathy Gleason presented the previous years' priorities on a handout.
- **Motion by Pat Redmond to approve the #1 projects from 2015 for the 2016 CIP list, listed below. Second by Dan Gleason.**
 - **Turnagain Blvd. Upgrade, 35th Avenue to Spenard (PM&E)**
 - **Point Woronzof Park Overlook (Parks&Rec)**

Discussion

- Amendment: swap #2 and #3 on the PM&E list: moving the Northern Lights drainage project above the Turnagain St. road upgrade (the Phase 2 section not currently funded). The Muni will be looking only at the first priorities under each category, but TCC feels it is important to communicate top priorities. Amendments accepted.
- **Vote: 10 in favor, none opposed, none abstain. Motion passes. Cathy will prepare the rankings for submission to the Muni by the deadline, May 31.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Bob Loeffler and Sharman Haley presented a resolution for the Council’s consideration to support a constitutional amendment overturning Citizens United, “affirming that human beings have constitutional rights, regulating political contributions because money is not speech, and supporting campaign finance reform.” They requested that the Council take up this item on the June agenda.
 - Jonathan will propose it for the agenda, and board will discuss whether to include it on the agenda. He will attempt to find a counter-point to present and have a balanced discussion.
 - Pat Redmond shared that League of Women Voters has taken a position against Citizens United.
 - Mark Worcester expressed concern about the council discussing this issue and potentially taking an issue, he is strongly opposed to TCC taking a position or putting it on the agenda.
 - Jonathan shared that he personally is opposed, but part of his role is creating the agenda according to members’ interests.
- Cathy Gleason shared that there will be a ribbon-cutting for the new interpretive signage at Earthquake Park, 1:30 to 2 next Friday (5/13).

CLOSING

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.
- The next meeting will be Thursday, June 2, 2016 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church at 3900 Wisconsin Blvd (at the corner of Wisconsin and 40th, park in the parking lot and enter through the entrance facing the parking lot).

Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Anna Brawley on 5/28/2016

Minutes approved by Turnagain Community Council at their regular meeting 6/4/2016