
TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting | December 2, 2021 | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Zoom meeting

Chaired by Cathy Gleason, TCC President

WELCOME & APPROVE AGENDA, MINUTES

- The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. About 30-35 people (members and guests) attended.
- Cathy Gleason announces the upcoming Board changes given the results of November's election.
- The December agenda was reviewed.
 - Motion by Jackie Armstrong to approve the agenda. Second by Diane DiSanto.
 - Motion by Anna Brawley to amend the agenda to add Forest Park Drive traffic concern under New Business. Second: Jackie Armstrong
 - Vote: no objection. Agenda approved, as amended.
- There are no available meeting minutes from the last meeting to review.
- **Announcements:** *See flyer available as a handout in the meeting and on the TCC website.*
 - The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) is promoting the "Bring Back the Light" event at 5:00 p.m. on December 19. The event is meant to have people step outside bring light/candles/flashlights to step out and bring back some light to our dark winter day

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

- **Mark your calendar** – the next meeting will be the SECOND Thursday in January, instead of first, due to the holidays. We will return to meeting the first Thursday of each month in February.
- **FCC report** – Cathy Gleason is the FCC delegate. The FCC met on November 17
 - The Executive Board is going to look into increasing FCC's Zoom account from 100 to 250 attendees
 - Assembly Chair Suzanne LaFrance gave a report and Assembly member John Weddleton shared report on the Homelessness Task Force
 - The AMATS project manager discussed the 2050 transportation plans goals and objectives.
 - The MOA Planning Department gave a presentation about the changes to the Municipal Code about land entitlement and land use appeals.
 - The FCC will meet again on December 15 at 6:00 p.m. Guests are welcome to attend. The FCC meetings via Zoom.
- **Northern Lights Boulevard closure near Nathaniel Court.** Jackie Armstrong reports that a request for a two-week extension for the road closure was submitted to the Muni. If the extension is not granted, the construction company will fill the hole they're working in and return to finish the project in the spring. Jackie will report back on whether the extension is granted.
- **2022 Heritage Land Bank Five Year Plan.** The HLB has only one staff member now. The staff person is working on revisions to just one year of the 2022 Five Year Plan and will share it when the draft is ready for review and public comment. It will likely be ready to review in January.
- **Lyn Ary Park Baseball Memorial Project.** The next meeting is scheduled for December 8th. There are three West Anchorage Little League coaches who have passed away who will be honored through this project. The text for the panels is being finalized. Hopefully by January or February, the project committee will return to TCC to seek additional review.

- **This is Cathy Gleason's last meeting as TCC Acting President.** Cathy thanks and expresses appreciation to all members, elected officials, staff and volunteers for the support over the years. Thank you to everyone for being a part of TCC.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

- **Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson**
 - Thank you to Cathy for her leadership and time as TCC Acting President. Welcome Anna Brawley as incoming TCC President.
 - Sen. Gray-Jackson is looking forward to the new session and shares updates about the bills she's introduced, which are in various stages of legislation.
 - The passage of the federal infrastructure bill means a tremendous amount of money will come to Alaska for a variety of projects and needs.
 - The senator discusses redistricting impacts and how that impacts the district she represents.
 - Please contact her at (907) 465-4930, or sen.elvi.gray-jackson@akleg.gov.
- **Rep. Matt Claman**
 - Thank you to Cathy for her years of service to TCC
 - Redistricting; the Mat-Su Borough filed a lawsuit today; anticipates another lawsuit having to do with the senate pairings of Eagle River and East Anchorage/Muldoon.
 - Federal infrastructure bill. Is hopeful that the Administration will adequately support Alaska's priorities.
 - The annual pre-session constituent meeting is scheduled for January 12 at 5:30 p.m. It is not clear yet whether the meeting will be in-person or over Zoom due to COVID-19 concerns.
 - Please contact his office at (907) 465-4919, or rep.matt.claman@akleg.gov.
- **Rep. Harriet Drummond, staff Sarah Evans**
 - Staff Sarah Evans representing Rep. Drummond, gives the report
 - Thank you to Cathy for her many years of work, supporting Turnagain and TCC. Welcome and congratulations to Anna for stepping in as president.
 - It appears that with redistricting, Rep. Drummond will no longer represent Turnagain
 - Please contact her at (907) 465-3875; rep.harriet.drummond@akleg.gov.
- **Senator Mia Costello, staff Katie McCall**
 - Staff Katie McCall representing Sen. Costello, gives the report
 - Thank you to Cathy for her service, and glad that Cathy will remain as vice president
 - There's a lot of work going on right now preparing for the upcoming session
 - Redistricting impacts Sen. Costello, as of now, the senator is paired with Sen. von Imhof
 - Please contact her at (907) 269-0117, or senator.mia.costello@akleg.gov.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Cathy asked what part of Turnagain Sen. Gray-Jackson would represent with the redistricting changes?* Not sure what exact Turnagain streets will be in her district. The map doesn't provide enough detail to zoom in to review carefully. Also, lawsuits will impact the maps and we're just not sure what the final map will ultimately look like.
 - *Cathy comments that Turnagain is likely to be split into three House districts*

ASSEMBLY REPORT | KAMERON PEREZ-VERDIA

- Thank you, Cathy for your service
- At next Tuesday's Assembly meeting, agenda item 14.D seeks to update Municipal Code to align with the State of Alaska's **THC limits**, increasing from 5mg to 10 mg. The AO has been introduced and will be up for public hearing.

- **MOA Budget update**
 - It is the second budget in MOA history to be passed unanimously. It is an approximately \$550m budget. There were a number of amendments to the budget. A few highlights include restoring job positions, returning the Mobile Crisis Team to the Fire Department and restoring the Crisis Team's funding, restoring funding for APD's School Resources Officers program, and restoring funding to community grants.
 - The mayor vetoed almost all of the above amendments. The next step is for the Assembly to meet and vote whether to override the vetoes, which will likely happen.
- **Reapportionment and the Assembly**
 - Reapportionment is Anchorage's version of redistricting. The committee that is working on this has 60 days to complete the process. Cathy has a handout with the timeline of public hearing process. Public comments are critical to this process. Public hearings will be Feb 15th and March 1st
 - It is not possible to finish this work in advance of the 2022 election; reapportionment will be effective in 2023 (including the 12th seat on the Assembly)
- **MOA Bonds**
 - Mayor's bond packages are submitted. The Assembly will work with TCC and others to amend the Bond package to ensure that TCC's priorities are included in the package.
- **Worksession schedule**
 - FEMA reimbursements for the November 2018 earthquake and the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent "talking point" that the MOA is in debt
 - FEMA will reimburse the MOA. The question is how long that will take.
 - Bond ratings
 - The MOA is downgraded one level. What does this mean and why did this happen?
 - The Administration's reorganization. More than 400 position changes are involved. The Assembly will learn more about this at the next worksession. The Assembly will vote on this at next week's Assembly meeting
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Pat asks whether the new, 12th Assembly seat will be up for election in 2022 or 2023. KPV says the new seat will take effect in April 2023.*
 - *Anna asks what the deadline is for the Assembly to vote to put the bonds on the ballot. The end of January is the deadline for the Assembly to approve the ballot packages for the ballot.*
 - *Anna comment: She anticipates bringing forward a resolution for the TCC to vote on in support of the bond package(s) that impacts TCC. KPV: now is the time to invest and get people to work. This is important for the economy. The mayor's proposed bond package is much smaller than in years past.*
 - *Rep. Claman question: Does the Assembly wait for the redistricting process to be complete before being able to go through the reapportionment process? KPV: this has not been addressed in the reapportionment meetings yet. Once the Redistricting Board vote occurred, the Assembly's 60-day deadline began. KPV will ask the committee whether reapportionment is impacted by the new districts*
 - *Cathy comment: the Reapportionment Committee fact sheet will be posted to the TCC website*
 - *Cathy comment: TCC approved its rankings for roads, drainage, and parks and rec for last year's bond package. This will make it easier for us to go through the process this year.*
 - *Anna asks about the THC ordinance coming up at the next meeting, AO 2021-115. If Anchorage keeps the 5mg limit locally, how does this impact manufacturers, retailers, etc.? KPV: if Anchorage chooses not to be in alignment with the State, that will be problematic. Size of the packaging matters, too. There are questions and continuing concerns about*

public safety. The Community and Economic Development Committee voted not to support the increase in THC. KPV explains who voted yay/nay and offers nuanced details about the vote. The AO will still come before the Assembly for a vote, the AO just doesn't have the support of the committee,

- *Anna asks whether this issue could be continued to January.* KPV is not sure, but it's possible. KPV has had conversations with people who are pro and con with this AO.
 - *Cathy comment: we'll need to add the THC potency issue to New Business if we want to discuss this.* Anna motions; Sara Haley seconds; Cathy offers context to TCC's history with offering comments on THC/MJ policies; that this is something we would typically discuss. Motion passes with a vote of 14 yay, 0 nay

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD REPORT | MARGO BELLAMY

- **School Board meetings** in December are on Mondays, to not be in conflict with the Assembly's work
- **Worksessions and Executive Sessions** are scheduled as usual – taking place right before School Board meetings
- **Committee meetings** will occur the week following the weeks with full Board meetings
- There is a joint Assembly meeting on December 10 from 10:00 a.m. – noon, followed by a luncheon with Anchorage legislators
- **The School Board approved a school bond** on November 17 for just more than \$11 million and includes projects such as planning and design, roof replacements, etc., for 38 schools. More information will be brought to the January TCC meeting
- **Superintendent search** is getting underway, starting with planning for how to go about the search, both for community input and as for an internal search. The plan for how the search is to be conducted will be finalized at a work session on December 6. The plan will be shared with TCC, so as to be able to participate in the process.
- **[Vaccination clinics for the flu](#)** are available
- **If you'd like to give public comment** at an upcoming Board meeting, you may do so at the beginning or the end of the meeting. [Sign up in advance](#). You may [watch Board meetings online](#).
- In the process of monitoring optional programs and career life and readiness programs. Data will be shared with the Board on December 6.
- **The COVID-19 dashboard** is still up on the website
- **The Family Partner Program** – anticipate voting on their charter at the December 6 meeting
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Cathy asks Margo to email her written report to her.*
 - *Margo thanks Cathy for her service*
 - *Anna comments that Nial Williams is using disrespectful and offensive language in the Zoom chat. An exchange between Nial and Cathy occurs. Cathy requests Nial to be respectful.* Anna motions to remove Nial for 20 minutes, Dian DiSanto seconded; Anna withdraws her motion since Nial voluntarily left the Zoom meeting.

AIRPORT REPORT | JOHN JOHANSEN

- *See Airport updates on the handout provided at the meeting or online at: www.anchorageairport.com or on the TCC website*
- **Capstone sites:** free vaccination clinics are still available, near the second level entrance to A concourse, to the left side of B ticketing. The testing site that was near the Alaska Airlines baggage claim area has moved to right behind security, for ticketed passengers only.
- **Holiday parking:** expect a shortage in the garage; please don't arrive too early
- **Cell phone parking lot:** please use it.

- **Lake Hood Seaplane Base:** Reminder that Lake Hood is an active airfield in the winter when it is frozen over, stay off the ice!
- **People Mover:** is only serving South Terminal, no longer the North Terminal
- **Job recruitment:** There are positions available: please apply!
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Jonathan Galin:* any comments regarding the aircraft owners meeting that took place last month. John doesn't have an update.
 - *"Brian's A52" question:* I am a healthcare provider and want people to be tested. What is the reason the testing site moved behind security? It's the only 24/7 testing site in the state. John: There are many other options for testing. The reason for the move is because we got people coming to the airport, mixing with travelers, not feeling well, and getting tested. We followed Juneau and Fairbanks airports. The reason is to mitigate the number of people not feeling well going to the airport and potentially spreading COVID to many other people. The decision was made out of concern for the traveling public.
 - *Cathy comment:* the newspaper reported that Alaska Park is now a testing location and there additional testing opportunities across the community. Megan Peters is the communications manager and adds context to the testing location change. The move is because so many people were coming and going through the airport in a relatively small environment. Alaska Park was set up close to the airport to help travelers who need test results before boarding their flight. Awaiting information from DHSS about whether a new 24/7 testing site will be set up. Megan will report back to TCC what she learns.
 - *"L. Dickson":* Is there an update on the Lake Hood development and Connors Bog? Cathy: Lake Hood User Group Meeting met November 8-ish. There will be road rehab Aircraft Drive and Lakeshore Drive next summer, on the gravel GA strip next spring. There's a proposed new air traffic control location where Charlie Parking and General Aviation is located. Want to relocate the parking to the east side of the gravel strip, which east of there is Turnagain Bog and then Turnagain's boundary. This is a complicated location because of legally binding language in an AO. *"L. Dickson":* there is survey tape in the wetland and a map showing that they're going to put a bike path in there along with other activity. The map is on "the" website (which website). John: no update beyond what Cathy already shared. Yes, the surveying is associated with that project and it was a preliminary survey. Asks "L. Dickson" to email John so he can connect "L. Dickson" with people who may have additional information. John is still waiting on the AG's opinion whether the AO is legally binding to the airport.
 - John Johansen's email: john.johansen@alaska.gov

ANC PACIFIC AIR-TO-SEA SERVICE (PASS) ETC. | BILL POPP, AEDC

- With the global supply change challenges, TIA recognized the opportunity to step in to support the supply change. Research proved that Anchorage stepping up into this role makes sense. TIA accounts for nearly 75% of all air cargo between Asia and North America. The cost and timing of cargo, having air cargo come to Anchorage, then having it put on a barge, (barges going south from Alaska are largely empty) is a timely option to get goods to market. It is also cost-effective based on all other options. This is an opportunity for markets to diversify their supply chains.
- AEDC is engaging in national education campaign to bring interest to Alaska; haven't seen solid interest, but entities are inquiring, there's a growing sense of interest on this topic. There is a slow and steady national engagement outreach campaign, to build up confidence in retail, manufacturing industries. We will need to demonstrate that this is feasible. This will likely take quite some time for this to develop and bring online. If we can proof point that this works, it will take time and testing to see what works – testing approx. 10 flights a week. It may be possible to reach approximately 150 flights per week for this purpose if it is proven practical.
- Additional information may be found at <https://aedcweb.com/supply-chain-solution-anc-pass/>

- **Questions and Comments**

- *Jonathan Galin asked about infrastructure concerns in Anchorage and whether the increased transportation load will impact the local roads, traffic, etc., and can the Port of Alaska handle this increased shipping traffic?* Bill Popp: the Port capacity concern is not an issue because those containers are heading back to Tacoma empty right now. People/shippers want them full. Transportation part of Jonathan's question: has not been focused on yet, due to the early stages of this concept. It will take a few years to realize and understand the long term project and capacity.
- *Pat Redmond comments that International Airport Road should be the transportation route for traffic between the airport and the Port*
- *Cathy comments that TCC will not support NL Blvd as an option for transportation between the Port and the airport.*
- *Dan Gleason asks whether areas on the airport have been identified for warehouses during the transition between air and sea.* Bill Popp: there are a few buildings that may be viable – a combination of existing buildings and potential new buildings.
- *Anna Brawley motions to extend the meeting to 9:20 p.m.* Dan Gleason seconds the motion. Cathy offers a friendly amendment: push the Lyn Ary dog park item to the January agenda. Anna and Dan concur with the amendment. There is no objection. Motion passes

NEW BUSINESS

- **Concern about traffic on Forest Park Drive**

- *Julianne and Eric Thompson: have lived on Forest Park drive for about three years, near where the road curves. Their mailbox has been hit by cars 4 times, cars parked in their driveway have been hit 3 times, and last Saturday their daughter and grandfather were hit. Their family is thankfully ok. The impact knocked the car seat, with their baby daughter, out of the hands of the grandfather. The baby is ok. The grandfather has minor injuries. The Thompson's have been in touch with Traffic Engineer Kris Langley, and she recommended that the Thompsons be in touch with TCC for support with traffic calming.*
- **Questions and Comments**
 - *Cathy offers thoughts on TCC's traffic calming concerns; there's criteria that needs to be met. The MOA rejected TCC's concerns about traffic calming on Hillcrest Drive and where it connects with Forest Park Drive. Cathy offers background and history as to potential next step, which involves a petition for the neighbors to bring to TCC, which would involve TCC drafting a resolution to bring to the MOA.*
 - *Pat Redmond offers perspective about traffic calming history and how the stop signs were installed along Forest Park. It's been a problem for many years.*
 - *Anna Brawley: in 2017 or 2018 neighbors brought Forest Park Drive concerns to the TCC. This should be on the agenda for January to be addressed. There may be multiple options for the TCC to be involved to help.*
 - *Sandy Rabinowitch – short term: ask the MOA to do more sanding at the problem area; ask if APD can increase speed enforcement and people actually stopping at the stop signs. Long term: think about the lighting where the Thompsons are located. The lighting near West High is likely different than where they are located. It will probably take years for a lighting upgrade but is probably worth it.*

- *Marnie Isaacs: Safe Routes to School is how lighting improved previously. Narrowing the traffic lanes, according to previous interactions with the Traffic Department, may be a possibility, however it is expensive, and we need to wait for the traffic lines to fade*
- *Jonathan Galin suggests contacting APD to get one of those mobile, lit “over the speed limit” signs. Cathy doesn’t believe TCC has ever requested that before, but it’s possible and should be explored. Jonathan thinks this could be a priority, emphasizing the public safety issue with APD.*
- *Kameron: additional funding was approved/allocated for traffic calming and wants to work with the Thompsons to help them move forward*
- *Chris Barnett lives near Forest Park and Arlington and had a pretty bad crash about a month ago that caused an ambulance to come. People are likely blowing through stop signs. Happy to work with people similarly interested in traffic calming. There are a lot of people that turn onto Arlington to avoid the NL Blvd and Forest Park stoplight. Maybe this could piggyback on this issue. (Don’t speed on Arlington)*
- *Pat: we have had those speed management mobile “carts” before, we should be able to have those again. Whatever we can do to slow down the traffic.*
- *Cathy: let’s invite APD to attend January’s meeting to provide thoughts and guidance*
- *Julianne and Eric Thompson may be reached at loughlij@gmail.com*
- *Sandy suggests that the APD liaison is invited to the January meeting, as well, so they can be aware of the issue.*
- *Steve Montooth: when talking to the MOA in the past about this issue, it’s about a two-year process for traffic calming to be implemented.*
- *Cathy notes there’s about 6 or 7 streets in Turnagain that need traffic calming, but the MOA continues to negate the need. Were the mailbox incidents reported to APD? Eric Thompson: last Saturday our family was hit, the next Monday the mailbox was hit again. These incidents were reported to APD. Prior mailbox incidents were not. (Thought it was high school kids being irresponsible) Moving forward, everything will be documented.*
- **MOA change re: THC potency to align with SOA limits**
 - *Increasing THC potency from 50mg to 100mg, which would align with SOA*
 - *Anna: this is an issue of serving limits; there isn’t really an equivalent for alcohol; offers additional federal, state and local policy context and nuance based on her previous policy work several years ago.*
 - *Jonathan Galin offers that the limit is a limit, it’s up to the manufacturers as far as how much they choose to package and sell Anna and Cathy clarify that the SOA’s limits is that a single serving cannot exceed 10mg per serving, and that not more than 10 servings may be sold in a single package. This is what the Assembly is considering. Jonathan says it’s up to the consumer as far as how much they purchase*
 - *Cathy asks KPV whether APD has weighed in on this. KPV says APD has not voiced any new concerns to the new proposed limits*
 - *Dave Weir notes that it’s still illegal to consume products on-site. The limit is irrelevant because it cannot be consumed on-premises.*

Turnagain Community Council

- *Sara Haley: recommends not taking a position. Alaska's legalized MJ is a tourist draw. She operates an AirBnB and can attest to her experiences with those clients. We should align with SOA. From a business perspective this makes more sense.*
- *KPV: THC is highly regulated, and requirements are exact. The typical sale is higher than what's proposed. Packaging is another consideration when it comes to more/less packaging (waste)*
- *Steve Montooth: we don't know enough information and we shouldn't weigh in at this time. Jackie Armstrong agrees.*
- *Anna motions to extend the meeting to 9:30 p.m. Jackie seconds. Motion approved.*

CLOSING

- No time for committee reports
- Land Use Committee meets next week on December 9, agenda TBD. Planning Department is scheduled to attend at 5:30 p.m. re: off-street parking and access. Other items will be on the agenda, as well.
- Jackie motions to end the meeting, Carolyn Hall seconds. Motion passes and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.
- The next regular meeting will be on **Thursday, January 13, 2020.**

Minutes prepared and submitted by Carolyn Hall on 1/14/2022.

*If you have corrections or edits to this document, please submit them to tccpresident@yahoo.com by the Monday before the next Council meeting: **Thursday, February 3, 2022.***