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# TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting |November 3, 2022| 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Chaired by Anna Brawley, TCC President

## **WELCOME & APPROVE AGENDA, MINUTES**

- The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Approximately 25 - 41 people (members and guests) attended.
- Rules for membership: must be 18 or older. Must live or own property in Turnagain. Turnagain attendees are considered voting members the evening of their first meeting.
- Zoom Guidelines: All attendees must sign in with their first and last name and designation of member or guest. When not speaking or presenting, keep personal microphones on Mute. Use the “Raise Hand” function on your Zoom screen if you wish to speak. Please be brief, respectful and relevant to the subject at hand.
- The November agenda was reviewed.
  - Motion by Jon Isaacs moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Kathleen Bielawski.
    - No objections to agenda approval.
  - Cathy Gleason moved to approve the October minutes. Carolyn Hall seconded. The minutes were approved with no objections. Final minutes will be posted on TCC website.
- **Announcements:**
  - Solarize Anchorage group is working to give group/bulk discounts for people to purchase and install solar panels on their homes. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ubn719Q9VQ> for further information.
  - Sara Haley announced that the ASD is meeting tomorrow evening, November
    - Pat Redmond. This affects all of us, not just the areas where school are being targeted for closure. According to the Alaska State Constitution, the State is required to protect education. Please vote carefully.
- **What’s New in Turnagain**
  - Carolyn Hall — Accident at Forest Park and Northern Lights Blvd this evening.. The traffic light is out. Please take care and observe 4-way stop when driving tonight.
  - Brian Evans - AEDC did a study based on a company who came up twice, once in the winter, once in the summer. Roger Please see the link: <https://aedc>

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT**

- **Notice of Vacancy of the office of TCC Treasury:** No candidates yet, but TCC is still looking for someone to volunteer for this position. Please contact [TCCPresident@yahoo.com](mailto:TCCPresident@yahoo.com) to volunteer. If we have interest, we will conduct a special election to fill the position of Treasurer.
- **FCC Delegate Report.**
  - No one from TCC was able to attend the October meeting
  - Meetings are open to the public.

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

- **Rep. Matt Claman**
  - Anchorage School District Budget and Legislative component. The State has not kept up with inflation. Must be looked at very carefully in the next legislative session.
  - Don’t Forget to Vote!
    - Rep. Claman: Has been contacted regarding the trail project. He spoke with project managers and Assembly members: how far along is the project? He has been assured that the project is going at a steady pace, but no decisions have yet been made regarding a proposed route.

- **Sen. Mia Costello - Katie McCall, Staffer for Sen. Costello**
  - Please contact Sen. Costello at (907) 269-0117, cell: (907) 227-5276 or email:
    - [senator.mia.costello@akleg.gov](mailto:senator.mia.costello@akleg.gov). Sen. Costello welcomes all input.
  - Town Hall Meeting at Northwood School, November 4, 2022. Look for more information at the ASD website. Sen. Costello is tracking the issue closely, especially after hearing from frustrated constituents.
  - Please contact Sen. Costello's office if you need assistance with any State agency.
  - Upcoming election on November 8, 2022. Early voting begins October 24, 2022.
- **Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson - Besse Odom, Staffer for Sen. Gray-Jackson**
  - November is Alaska Native Heritage Month. First declared in 1916; officially decreed in 1990.
  - Early voting has started. General Election Day is November 8, 2022.
  - Sen. Gray-Jackson is currently working on her agenda items:
    - women's rights, public safety, forward-funding education, among others.
  - Sen. Gray-Jackson will miss representing the Turnagain neighborhood.
    - Cathy Gleason - Thank you to Sen. Gray-Jackson for being such a valuable member of Turnagain Community Council.
    - Anna Brawley - echoed this sentiment.
  - Please contact Sen. Gray-Jackson at (907) 465-4930, or [sen.elvi.gray-jackson@akleg.gov](mailto:sen.elvi.gray-jackson@akleg.gov). Her website also lists her current committees.
- **Rep. Harriet Drummond**
  - If she wins re-election, she will continue to represent Huntington Park. East end of Turnagain, north of Northern Lights.

## **ASSEMBLY REPORT | AUSTIN QUINN-DAVIDSON**

- **Austin Quinn-Davidson**
  - Budget Season. Mayor has put forth budget; Assembly is currently working on amendments. City Hall, Room 155 on November 10.
  - Capital Program (Mayor has proposed lower than normal Capital programs); Assembly will put forward what goes to voters in April. Austin is working with Marnie Isaacs to put forth resurfacing of Forest Park Drive.
  - Mobile Crisis Team to deal with behavioral or mental health issues. Takes pressure off of APD.
  - Alcohol Tax. To be spent on prevention programs (sexual assault, domestic violence, early education programs). Less has been spent on these programs and more on homelessness.
  - Non-Approval of Funding for Elmore Navigation Center. Assembly continues to explore other options (Golden Lion Hotel).
  - Early Education Ballot Proposition. Directs marijuana tax money toward early education programs.
  - Assembly has always funded education at its maximum allowable level, as determined by the State.
    - John Haxby why would we be wanting to increase bond amounts? All it will do is raise our taxes. What have you done in the past?
      - Austin - Look at the different bonds.
    - Cathy Gleason — what has the marijuana tax been directed to previously?
      - Austin - we don't have the funding to fund general government if we redirect marijuana money elsewhere. Big advantage would be to have consistent funding for education.
    - Cathy Gleason - any idea if, since marijuana tax has been implemented, has there been any increase in DUI stats related to marijuana, as opposed to alcohol or other substance abuse?

- Austin - please email me and I will direct your email.

- Please contact Austin Quinn-Davidson at 907-343-4116 or at:  
Austin.Quinn-Davidson@AnchorageAK.gov.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT / NO REPORT**

## **SCHOOL BOARD REPORT /NO REPORT**

## **AIRPORT REPORT | JOHN JOHANSEN**

- See Airport updates on the handout provided at the meeting or online at: [www.anchorageairport.com](http://www.anchorageairport.com).
- Recruitment and retention of airport employees. Several critical positions are opening for which the airport is actively recruiting. Heavy equipment operators and mechanics. Approval was given to raise salaries for these positions, as well as for maintenance positions.
- Any commercial activity conducted around the airport requires a permit. Airport Leasing Office issues permits. Contact [brandon.tucker@alaska.gov](mailto:brandon.tucker@alaska.gov).
- Lake Hood User Group Meeting, November 10, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. Zoom in.
- Lost and Found items. Enter information into the airport Lost and Found online portal. "We get a lot of stuff!"
- Please use the cell phone lot. Lights in the parking lot will be turned on soon.
- Please be safe walking out in the airport area and Lake Hood sea plane base. All pets should be on leashes. Airplanes have the right of way on area roads. Lakes are freezing over. Stay off the ice!
- Central Region Aviation Design is still working on plans for replacing parking. Preferred option: NW of ECHO parking is going in to NEPA environmental consideration. Waiting to get some options before proceeding for design for aircraft parking.
- Lease application for property to the east of the southern end of the Lake Hood strip hangars. We received a competing lease bid. In the process of putting out an invitation to bid. Should be out in December, 2022.
- Prospective tenant planning to develop T-Hangars. Not making a lot of progress, but they are working on it. Involves parking along Lakeshore Dr., near Echo Parking.
- ALL departing passengers: check in and bag check is currently at the South Terminal.
- No COVID restrictions at the airport. Contact your individual airline for their current COVID protocols. No COVID testing sites at the airport.
- Please use the online portal for getting your questions answered regarding the airport.
- Megan's Peters' email: [megan.peters@alaska.gov](mailto:megan.peters@alaska.gov).
- Anna will post the September Airport Report on the TCC website.
  - Question - Cathy Gleason - under Land Use Committee Reports, we have updates on two items. What does the airport have to say about these two issues?
- John Johansen - FEDEX and Alaska Cargo and Cold Storage: still working on their plans. Airport is working out lease terms with each company. FEDEX is working on a lease agreement. Alaska Cargo and Cold Storage is working on their plan. We are just now getting into options for GA replacement parking for Lake Hood Echo parking. Hope to have something new within in the next month. North Link development along Raspberry Road is still working through environmental process. DEC is working on study to determine how much contamination has spread from fire containment training. Still working with developer on potential lease for property east of the Lake Hood strip.
- Airport has been asked by DEC to test all drinking water within one half-mile of the airport. Contacts made with approximately 85 residents who have wells. Most are south of Raspberry Road. Work on this began a week ago. Results will not be back until 6-7 weeks after samples were sent in. Well water sampling is to determine if any PFAS is contained in drinking water.
  - Question - John Haxby - Many buildings out at the airport building leases have been . Airport leases renewed? Why are they not getting leases renewed?
  - John Johansen - Depends on what comes out of the Master Plan.

- Question - Jonathan Galin - Large semis on West Northern Lights. During the time the school zone lights are flashing. Can the effort be increased to stop heavy industrial traffic on W. Northern Lights.
- John Johansen - Airport manager is not in favor of mandating limiting heavy traffic on W. Northern Lights. It is a legal roadway. "My boss has committed to put up some signage on Postmark Drive. I haven't finished getting input on language of signage. We have requested that our tenants not use W. Northern Lights. We do not allow truck traffic associated with airport construction projects on Northern Lights. This is written into our construction projects. Other than that, it is a legal roadway for semis and trucks."
- Question - Merle Akers - Last Friday, Governor's Aviation Board had a presentation in Fairbanks about Lake Hood development. I asked the Board to ask the airport to give that presentation in the evening in Anchorage, when everyone can attend. The Airport was asked to advise why we are not being allowed to find out at the meetings they have with signatory airlines. Signatory airlines are asked to approve funding for projects at Lake Hood.
- John Johansen - please send me an email summarizing your request.
- Question - Cathy Gleason - you've received a competing bid for development southeast of the strip. Is this for T-hangars or some other kind of development?
- John Johansen - it is for aircraft hangars, not T-hangars.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **November 2022 TCC Officer Elections.**

Officers are elected for one-year terms. President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer and two at-large members. Committee prepares a slate, but nominations are also always accepted from the floor.

Carolyn Hall and Arielle Wiggin developed a matrix to assist with vote counting.

Slate for 2022. We do not have a full slate; nominations will be taken from the floor.

Anna Brawley will not be running for president of TCC or putting herself forward as a member of the Board.

#### **President**

Pat Redmond nominates Marnie Isaacs. Marnie declined. Pat Redmond nominated Jon Isaacs. Jon Isaacs declined in order to remain on the Land Use Committee.

Jon - can someone self-nominate? Yes. If someone is interested and wants to learn more about the duties, they can contact past officers for information on officer duties.

Pat Redmond nominated Carolyn Hall for Secretary. Carolyn Hall declined.

Jonathan Galin nominated Dan Gleason for president. Dan Gleason declined to run but said he would "think about it."

#### **Vice-President**

Cathy Gleason nominated herself for Vice President. Anna Brawley nominated Cathy Gleason for Vice-President.

**Secretary.** No candidates for Secretary.

Kathleen Bielawski said she possibly could do minutes on a month-by-month basis. Reluctant to run officially.

Turnagain Community Council

Cathy Gleason nominated Sara Haley. Sara Haley declined.

### **Treasurer**

Carolyn Hall was nominated by the Board. Carolyn accepted the nomination.

### **Member-At-Large 1**

Carolyn Hall nominated Arielle Wiggin. Arielle accepted the nomination.

### **Member-At-Large 2**

Jon Isaacs nominated Stephanie Quinn-Davidson. Stephanie accepted the nomination.

Pat Redmond moved that we cast a unanimous vote for acceptance of those nominees who have accepted. Cathy Gleason seconded the motion.

Discussion: No discussion. No objections. Cathy Gleason, Vice-president; Carolyn Hall, Treasurer, Carolyn Hall, Member-at-Large 1; Arielle Wiggin, Member-At-Large 2.

Anna Brawley suggested that any persons interested in running for any vacant TCC officer position contact [TCCpresident@yahoo.com](mailto:TCCpresident@yahoo.com), or reach out to any current TCC Board members. Interested persons need to have attended two consecutive meetings in the last 12 months. New members will take their positions in January 2023.

### **RESOLUTION - Forest Park Drive Resurfacing - Cathy Gleason / Marnie Isaacs.**

**Cathy** - MOA asks community councils to list our Capital Improvement Projects (roads/drainage/Parks). We do this once a year, typically in April/May. To have any kind of work done along Forest Park drive, for non-motorized use, it would have to be combined with a road re-surfacing project from Northern Lights Blvd to Hillcrest Dr. "It needs to be our Number 1 priority."

Resolution would move Forest Park resurfacing project to Number 1 on our Capital Improvement List. This puts Tony Knowles Coastal Trail to #2. Turnagain St. would move to #3.

Cathy Gleason moved that TCC approve this resolution. Pat Redmond seconded.

**Comment:** Marnie Isaacs. "Very glad this is now coming to the fore." Traffic Department comes out in spring. This year, Traffic Dept. came out to Forest Park Drive and declared that the road shoulders have "really deteriorated." "Forest Park Drive is overdue for a road resurfacing. You can solve all of these problems at one times and then you can put the lane trails wherever you want."

**Question:** Jonathan Galin - What is happening with the Turnagain St. upgrade? "It's been on the list for a long time."

**Comment:** Cathy Gleason: "We were told that it would be quite a while because of the narrow width of the road. It is still a high priority for our CC, but as Marnie explained, the thinking behind shifting Forest Park to the top is so that we can get it done next summer. I have not heard anything to the contrary that MOA is not going to provide funding for Turnagain St. in the near future. Doesn't mean we are not going to continue to advocate for it."

**Question:** Jonathan Galin would like to amend that Lakeshore Drive be moved to #3.

**Comment:** Anna Brawley - commented that we are now six months beyond moving this item now. It would be better if we waited until Spring 2023.

**Question:** Brian ??? - So there is funding in a bond for this?

Turnagain Community Council

Comment: Austin Quinn-Davidson — “It’s not if there is money or isn’t money; that’s not really how the bonding process works. How it works is, we identify a range we’re comfortable with and then we vote on that and put it toward voters and the voters approve it. Then it would be included and bonded for it.”

Question: Brian ???. So to be clear, Marnie can go to you and it comes back, we prioritize it and it gets put on the bond.

Comment: Austin Quinn-Davidson: “Yes.”

Comment: Brian ???. We all have to work together. If we think that Forest Park can be funded and bonded next year, and the work done, let’s do it. But if they’re all kind of up for grabs, we ought to have more discussion.

Comment: Austin Quinn-Davidson: It’s up to the community councils.

Question: Sarah Haley - “Marnie, if it doesn’t get bonded, are you ok moving it [Forest Park] down in priority?”

Comment: Marnie Isaacs - would need to talk to TCC and the community. We have an enormous petition and many have signed. I will keep working on this.”

Comment: Harriet Drummond. Was a resident of Forest Park back in the 1970s. Has represented Forest Park on the Assembly and the State Legislature. She is supportive of the improvement project for Forest Park Drive.

Question: Rick Becker. What is the cost feasibility for this project? Does TCC have any idea what the cost may be to do the Forest Park proposed upgrades?

- Anna Brawley - Our understanding is that it will be about \$550,000.00. In terms of the lanes, 11-foot traffic lanes will be shortened to 10-foot traffic lanes in order to accommodate re-striping. Pavement footprint will not be expanded.
  - Rick Becker - Can’t imagine that \$550,000.00 allocation will be enough to cover the project, given that asphalt is an oil-based project and with high oil prices, that amount will not go far.
  - Cathy Gleason - It’s not the job of TCC to know amounts for projects. This is decided by the Assembly and MOA.
- Cathy Gleason moved that we vote on the resolution amending the TCC 2023 CIP list to move Forest Park Drive to #1. The resolution to vote passed 18-0.

Motion to approve resolution: Kathleen Bielawski moved. Marnie Isaacs seconded. Vote Passed 22 - 0.

CIP Document will be updated, listing Forest Park resurfacing as Item #1.

TCC extended thanks to Marnie Isaacs for her work on this issue.

**RESOLUTION - FISH CREEK TRAIL CONNECTION PROJECT - Two things to vote on. (1) Resolution (2) Comment Letter**

Jon Isaacs provided a quick history on trail use along ARR tracks between W. Northern Lights Blvd to the Coastal Trail. TCC has always supported trail development as long as it does not negatively impact area neighbors.

Field trips, meetings, presentations followed in 2022.

- Comment: Cathy Gleason. No one route in the current design presentation is a route that TCC would approve. Impacts to neighbors must be minimized. Impacts to Fish Creek Estuary must be minimized.

What TCC feels is an appropriate position: to support the trail, but with the following conditions: Use the AWWU access road. This road is used a couple of times a year. This presents a good location: minimized impacts to neighbors to the west. Far enough away from ARR tracks.

- Cathy Gleason - Resolution supports the N3 Alternative. Keep it in the cleared area, as much as possible, overlaying the AWWU access road. N3A option is supported in the Resolution: into purely MOA land, not encumbered by any current development. We do not support N3B.

TCC opposes all other routes for this project. If they choose to not follow our conditions in our Resolution, then an Environmental Assessment must be done.

- Comment - John Haxby - Rails with Trails study in early 2000. Study indicated that there were trails located anywhere from 7-100 ft away from railroad tracks. Average is 15 ft. Track speed is 20-25 mph from Westchester Lagoon to Northern Lights Blvd. With pressure from MOA and Governor, this trail option could be utilized. Makes it reasonable: wouldn't take down trees; wouldn't take out people's yards, limited impact upon Fish Creek. We need to get the ARR to approve.

Cathy Gleason moves that we extend the meeting to 9:20 p.m. Pat Redmond seconded. No objections.

Jon Isaacs moved to approve the motion to approve the resolution. Kathleen Bielawski seconded.

- Question - Sara Haley. - What does Spenard CC think? Have they put forth their own resolution?

Cathy Gleason - Regarding "informal" support from Spenard residents, they attended walk-throughs and TCC Land Use Committee meetings. "Informal input: pretty well supportive of what we are proposing: "Let's just use the AWWU access road." Spenard has not seen our Resolution, although Spenard people are on our TCC mailing list.

- Comment - Anna Brawley. - ARR had instructed the Project Team to NOT include AWWU access road as an option. Common sense dictates that using the AWWU Roadway is the most economical, best solution.
- Question - John Haxby. - Are the maps included with the Resolution?

Anna Brawley - Yes. The two maps shown tonight will be included with the Resolution submission.

Cathy Gleason moved to delete the "Whereas" that refers to Woodland Park. Jon Isaacs seconded. No discussion.

- Vote: 19 in favor of the resolution. Opposed - 0. The Resolution passes.

Jon Isaacs moved to approve our comment letter. Kathleen Bielawski seconded. Has to do with Categorical Exclusion - no controversy, no significant impacts. Thank you to Jamie Linxwiler, Cathy Gleason, Jon Isaacs, John Haxby and Brian Boyd.

TCC does not think that this project qualifies for a categorical exclusion. Requirements are not satisfied by saying we can use a Categorical Exclusion. Our comments ask why. Also, what about wetlands? If construction goes into the Estuary, we feel an environmental impact statement by Fish and Game is necessary.

## Turnagain Community Council

- Comment - Cathy Gleason. - It is not clear that any of the other proposed routes require wetlands fill. Anything that goes into Fish Creek Estuary, The Great Land Trust (GLT) absolutely will not allow any fill of wetlands. Any in-fill of wetlands would contradict the entire idea of protecting the wetlands in the Fish Creek Estuary.
- Comment - Brian Boyd. - Under the Clean Water Act, with a boardwalk, the pilings will constitute "fill."
- Comment - Jamie Linxwiler. - The actual position of The Great Land Trust is that none of this project can go into the Estuary. GLT doesn't want this trail anywhere in the Estuary.
- Comment - John Haxby. - Spoke to one of the lawyers who is an investor of the Conservation Easement. Very concerned that no improvements be made within the Estuary. The boardwalk is considered an "improvement." Does not want to see anything in the Estuary.

Jon Isaacs called for a vote on the comment letter. For -17. No opposition. The comment letter is approved.

A Categorical exclusion may only be appropriate with the trail routes proposed by the TCC.

Please go to [www.fishcreektrail.com](http://www.fishcreektrail.com) for background and presentation materials. Contact: [www.fishcreektrail.com](http://www.fishcreektrail.com), or CRW Engineering Group, LLC, Matt Edge, Project Manager at 907-343-4518. Mr. Edge's email is: [comments@crweng.com](mailto:comments@crweng.com).

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN - PAT REDMOND MOVED. SARA HALEY SECONDED.**

No objections.

### **CLOSING**

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.
- **Next meeting: Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.**

*Minutes prepared and submitted by Secretary Kathleen Bielawski on Tuesday, April 4, 2023*

*If you have corrections or edits to this document, please submit them to [tccpresident@yahoo.com](mailto:tccpresident@yahoo.com) by the Monday before the next Council meeting: **Monday, November 28, 2022.***