
GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
C/O Community Councils Center • 1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99503

Melinda Gant, President
Kyle Stevens, Vice President
Cass Willis, Secretary-Treasurer
Kyle Stevens, FCC Representative
Mavis Hancock, Donna Rymut, and Greg Miller, At-Large Board Members
Stephanie Kesler, Past Presidents

GHCC Meeting Minutes
20 October 2016
Submitted by Cassandra Willis

President Melinda Gant, Presiding

Melinda opened the meeting at 6:39 pm.

1. Typical round the room introductions

2. Legislative Update: Representative Les Gara

Not much to report. New employee hired and will be present for the meeting.

3. Legislative Update: Senator Johnny Ellis: Tom Begich Surrogate

The new Legislative Offices have been opened. Johnny is working on the Crime Bill and looking at previous issues with it. The Hemp Bill is also being re-examined to be purposed. Election is November 8. KABATA update: he doesn't believe that KABATA is not fully dead and those resources should be diverted to better projects.

4. Assembly Update: Assemblyman Patrick Flynn

The Assembly is working on a number of police academies and looking ahead to request them to tweak state laws and increase police availability. Budget bills were provided and Mr. Flynn is looking at funding for port, senior center, etc.

Question to Mr. Flynn: Utilities prices are being raised for consumers. Are MLP and AWWU going to stop putting their funds into city's general coffers?

5. Park Review: Bob French, Committee Chair

If we get our parks plan into Parks and Rec by November or December, we can better involvement from Parks and Rec. Bob is going to set specific times to a review at each park. The announcement and accompanying survey will go out via Next Door. Park users were encouraged to complete surveys and identify needs so that grants can be used to help update our parks. Grants under \$50,000 are easier to get, and most of our projects would be under that amount. It just depends on the engagement from the neighborhood.

Bob can be contacted at *GHCCparks@gmail.com* and the more information and request we can get, the more we can help our parks.

Mavis really wants the Mugoo pine trees removed from the park. Parks and Rec promised it but then didn't have the budget after all. Mavis will continue to spearhead this project.

6. Knick Arm Crossing Update: Bob French

The project remains slightly viable. The metropolitan transportation plan will be updated in the next few months and should include getting rid of KABATA. Ensuring that the KABATA plan is fully out of omission will take another year of concerted effort. We will also need to ensure that it is omitted entirely from all Federal, State, and Municipal planning.

7. Hillcrest Children's Center: November Celebration

Big event postponed due to unexpected conflicts. Moved tentatively to Spring 2017. They also discovered that the Center is actually 50 years old in 2018, not 2016. They're not sure how long the party will be postponed or if it will happen. They are kicking off a Capital Funding plan this November and have applied for Rasmussen Foundation Grant to bring their building up to code.

8. Elections: Nominating Committee

Melinda Gant will Chair the Committee. Mavis Hancock and Stephanie Kesler will be on the committee.

9. Crowley Update: Greg Miller

Please let them know if any of the lights are problematic because they have contractors out there right now. They only have jet fuel up to the base but they also have loading rail cars until Nov 15 so they can get it to Fort Eielson. The trucks that deliver locally are from the Tesoro from Nikiski and some on the barge.

10. Community Gardens and Orchard Project Update: Stephanie

Stephanie Kesler presented an update to the Council. Ms. Kesler noted the location of new development on Erickson. Vision will be a large commons orchard, common area for education, orchard, art, and a variety of community minded things. They have a formalized structure and have an incorporated 501c(3). They are just in the startup phase now. They have finalized and improved the bylaws, which drive the vision and mission. They are working with the DOT and MOA for the site, which includes both empty lots on the east and west side of Erickson Street. This land is currently owned by the DOT and we're trying to get the MOA to enter into a long-term lease and have the GHCC nonprofit to be the caretaker of it for the MOA. This should be resolved in the Spring. The plan initially was that the contractor who demolished the site would leave the water connected but that was lost in translation. The cost will be about twenty thousand dollars, and they have a ten-thousand-dollar grant from MOA. They're hoping to get the rest of the money from the DOT. They're going to start actively fundraising and asking for money from the community and corporate partners within the area. They are definitely looking for more members for the different committees involved and regarding the Orchard.

11. Mike Davidson, Battalion Chief, Anchorage Fire Station One

They continue to work with the Port on emergency management. They have adopted the 2012 National Fire Safety standards to be consistent throughout the Port area. He also worked with Williams Fires, who are the experts in the field of large tank fire farms. They explained that we are well within the international fire standards for large chemical or petrol producing and storage areas. When they put in the Methanol storage, they were required to add alcohol-resistant firefighting foam. They are within the recommendations for the alcohol resistant foam, but perhaps for only one tank fire.

12. Safety Committee: Melinda Gant

Review of the CAP's presentation last month. There were other questions about the safety of the neighborhood, especially considering the high value items that have been involved in burglaries. Kyle Stevens will be heading the newly established Safety Committee. He will be available at ghccvicepres@gmail.com and is also open to having more volunteers on the Safety Committee.

13. Executive Committee: Melinda Gant

Taco King will be opening up soon and Melinda will be following up with him to have a soft opening for the Government Hill restaurants. Melinda also asked strip mall owners about the trash and illegal storage that is happening behind the businesses. She will be contacting the businesses.

14. Other Business and Neighborhood Concerns

Gabriel said that he and Kyle are working on a basketball court in the park and they will work with Bob French and the owners of the high density housing. They are also working with the AMHT to get a small grant, and if they could get more money from the Rasmussen Foundation, they would have a much higher rate of success.

Representative from Mercy Tree, a cannabis cultivation business at 1648 Post Road was present and wanted to express that they are actively involved and want to engage with the community councils and keep a positive relationship with the communities in which they work.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm