

# GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

c/o Community Councils Center • 1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Arnie Cohen, President

Jody Sola, Vice President

Peter Partnow, Secretary/Treasurer

Kyle Stevens, FCC Representative

Donna Rymut, Greg Miller, Stephanie Kesler At-Large Board Members

Melinda Gant, Past President



## GHCC Meeting DRAFT Minutes February 15, 2018 Submitted by Peter Partnow

### President Arnie Cohen, Presiding

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

#### 1. Introduction of meeting attendees

Noted that Kyle Stevens not present, so no FCC update.

Noted that Sharen Walsh is not present so no **Port of Alaska** or **Port Committee** Reports.

Noted that Greg Miller not present so no **Crowley** report.

Jody Sola moves to accept the agenda as revised

Stephanie Kesler seconds.

**Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.**

#### 2. Minutes of January 18, 2018 meeting

Noted that the name of the Alaska Railroad Representative at the January meeting should be Andy Donovan, not Andy Dalton.

Motion to accept January 18, 2018 minutes as corrected by Celeste Cohen

Second by Stephanie Kesler.

**Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.**

#### 3. Legislative Updates (delivered telephonically from Juneau)

Senator Tom Begich

Representative Les Gara addressed status of state budget and noted he will push for education funding increase.

4. **Assembly Update—Chris Constant**

Reported on assembly approval of use of certain drones.

Addressed up-coming election with mail-in ballots.

Reported on proposal for allowance of height increase for “green” houses—e.g. roof top gardens.

Reported on tour of the Square Dance building. Noted cost of repair +/- \$750,000. Rumors of imminent demolition unfounded. Suggests organized community action likely required to have building repaired and made available for public use. President Cohen appoints a committee to be chaired by Jody Sola, with Bob French and Christine Ohana volunteering to be members. Other interested community members welcome to join. Committee to consider, among other things, the Harvard Park VIP Plan.

Discussion of undergrounding of utilities.

Discussion of recent issues with low water pressure on the Hill. Will be addressed at the March meeting presentation by Rancho Mesa relative to the tank farm.

Stephanie Kesler moves to issue letter express concern regarding water main break, the cause, relation to low water pressure and plans for adequate water supply for the Hill and the Port of Alaska.

Second by Jody Sola.

**Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.**

Some discussion of Proposition 1 on the April Municipal Ballot.

4. **Business updates**

**Tim Sullivan** reports no Alaska **Railroad** open house this year due to budgetary issues. Discusses Community Rail service to the Valley, still being looked into but notes issues including summer season challenges due to lack of equipment and single track to Wasilla. Notes need for depot in Wasilla. Notes that such systems elsewhere are highly subsidized and approximately an 80% subsidy would be required to make such service feasible. Noted the 2017 business for the Railroad was favorable compared with 2016 –over 500,000 passengers. Passenger reservations strong for 2018 and additional demand for winter train service. Freight was up somewhat due to increased gravel hauling, but otherwise remains down.

5. **Committee Updates**

**Safety Committee—Aaron Pascar** from Nunaka Valley and **Mark Butler**, Manager, Federation of Community Councils, reported regarding community safety patrols. Noted they are non-profit and volunteers. Currently around ten within the Municipality with patrols under consideration in +/- eight other areas. The Coalition meets first Fridays of the month (for “perp” walk rather than “art” walk.) Volunteers are required to submit to background check. Gas cards are issued for volunteers who patrol neighborhoods by car. Some volunteers are armed—up to

the particular neighborhood. Training can be provided by others who have experience, but no formal training program for volunteers. GHCC to consider participation or not in this program at March meeting.

**Capital Projects Committee**—**Steve Gerlek** provides a highly informative, detailed handout (copy attached to the minutes). Recommendations in the handout as to projects to be identified and supported as community priorities are accepted with the addition of Sunset Park for estimated cost of \$100,000.

**Parks Committee**—**Bob French** reports we did not get grant for trails requested due to lack of overall funding and preference for motorized trails. Committee will continue to work with National Park Service regarding trails around the Hill. Bob will attempt to energize activity this summer for park clean parties, clean and green.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:15 per motion by Stephanie Kesler, seconded by Jody Sola.**