

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



MINUTES (DRAFT)

May 17, 2018

The meeting began at 6:32 p.m.

Introductions were made.

Agenda was reviewed. President Cohen noted the following additions on the agenda: Dave Battle of Alaska Fish & Game will present on the bears and rabbits on the Hill and Cal Craig of Alaska Precision Extracts.

Jeffery Ide with ADP introduced himself.

The agenda was approved with these additions.

Minutes were reviewed. Steve Gerlek moved to approve the minutes and Thomas Pease seconded. Minutes were approved.

Legislative Update – Senator Tom Begich

- Senator Begich noted that the session was successful with the exception of the KABATA project. \$2.5M was requested and he will write a letter to the Governor to veto. This money could be used for other transportation projects.
- Did not get the increase for education within the BSA; however, we did receive extra monies for the next year. Pre-K doubled the amount.
- \$100,000 was added to the FCC for community patrols and approved.
- Foster Care received funding.
- Voted against the operating budget and worked collaboratively with both parties.
- Marijuana bill did not pass, will work on it next year.

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Established 1915 • Anchorage's First and *Oldest* Neighborhood

- Three crime bills came to the floor. “Catch & Release” was eliminated and the judge will now make the decision vs. it being automatic. SB54 section has been reviewed and some items have been removed if they did not work.
- Senator Begich noted that Jeffrey Ide from ADP is a great addition to the community.

Assembly Update – Christopher Constant

- Gave detail on the cleanup of the homeless camps. Mr. Constant is working with Susanne LaFrance from the Assembly so that she understands the challenge of the concentration of homeless camps and the impact. Noted that the concentration of homeless is not in the best interest for the City and other options need to be reviewed.
- Next meeting is with South Anchorage and their challenge with Chester Creek and Valley of the Moon Park.
- Mr. Constant gave details on the trash clean up in Fairview. The Assembly approved \$150,000 additional funding for Parks & Rec to hire more staff to monitor the parks.
- Thomas Pease noted that this is a great example of the disadvantages we have with one Assemblyperson for all the district areas.
- Mr. Constant discussed the following: housing, resources, and those that do not want services, segmenting the population based on their need.
- Mr. Constant confirmed that he does not have an update regarding the \$200,000 bond money for the Square Dance Club.
- Mr. Constant noted that the City capital budget appropriated \$20M for the Port of Alaska. \$1.5M and \$7M have been appropriated from the Port of Alaska for more projects.
- Focus is for ML&P merger and Port of Alaska future. ML&P process is well under way.
- ACDA has proposed to purchase the LIO building. One Assembly member is going to propose that City Hall meetings are conducted at that location.
- Working with council representatives and their priorities and how they can work together to get their projects completed.
- Resident, Paul Carnicelli, noted that many complain that there too many cannabis shops in downtown Anchorage, why does no one question if there is too many bars due to the bar break issues that are happening (i.e. Brown Bag incident). Does CHARR need to put pressure on the bars in downtown Anchorage? Mr. Constant confirmed that he would support a citywide moratorium but not just downtown. Mr. Constant commented about the alcohol issue and bar break, Brown Bag already did a council plan but they did not want to do that they wanted to go to the Assembly. Brown Bag is being invited back to the council meetings. Resident, Melinda Gant, noted she would like to see Brown Bag close at an earlier time as a temporary solution until they get other safety measures in place. Chris confirmed that Brown Bag is not a member of CHARR. ADP has proposed that they lose their license but he does not support that action.
- MOA City Clerk Mandy Clark noted that any complaints on a liquor establishment should be passed on to the Clerk’s Office or to your Assembly Rep.
- At-large Board Member, Donna Rymut, inquired on the ADU changes and homelessness. Chris noted that ADU change has nothing to do with homelessness but rather to allow property owners to create additional living quarters. Government Hill is not impacted with this proposed modification of the ADU. June 8th the Assembly will have a work session on this topic. Ms. Rymut noted her concern of the change and that two other community councils are opposing this change as well.
- Resident spoke on Suzan Nightingale McKay Park. Porta potty was placed in a new area that would like it back in the original location near Boyd. Has received signatures from all residents in the area

with the exception from 1 resident that opposes. Steve suggested that she speak with AC Stewart. Chris Constant suggested that the Council vote for support to write a letter to him and John Ronda to make that change. Paul moved to have the porta potty at Boyd and Steve seconded. No objections from the Council to support the location.

NEW BUSINESS

Wireless Building — Kristine Bunnell

- Kristine Bunnell updated the Council that a 3-day workshop regarding historic properties was just conducted. Wireless Station has been identified from the Council and it is listed as a historic property.
- Discussed the following from the workshop: why the property was significant, integrity, and recommendation for rehabilitation.
- Ms. Bunnell noted that she has an intern working on the Wireless project over the summer who will also be working with volunteer architects.
- Summer time workshop has been scheduled as well as other MOA departments.
- Will need to take a recommended course of action and documentation will be critical. Options are the following: destroy, modify, remove, and add features.
- Noted that the \$200,000 needs to be used for the wireless building and not used for the Parks & Recreation budget.
- Requested a support letter for the historic preservation plan citywide. President Cohen confirmed he would send that letter to Ms. Bunnell.
- Resident, Steve Gerlek, discussed the challenges with the property and the community will need to be open to possible changes to make this a successful project.
- Parks and Recreation created drawings of the buildings to assist with review of the property.

Alaska Fish & Game – Dave Battle

- Dave Battle introduced himself. Primarily he handles bear conflicts.
- Residents confirmed that we have active bears.
- Mr. Battle encouraged residents to get bear resistant containers as the bear population comes to Government Hill only if they can get trash immediately.
- Discussed homeless camps and changing the law to address the trash issue. Consensus was to take that idea to the City to see if enforcement could occur.
- Resident noted that a bear hangs at her property and she has done all the appropriate safety steps. Dave noted that she should review the other properties near hers.
- President Cohen updated the community that the bunnies have grown from last year.
- Mr. Battle noted that feral rabbits could be terminated. Typically, an individual is feeding them to help that population grow. Dave confirmed that the first step is to identify who is feeding the bunnies.
- Mr. Battle confirmed that bunnies are not a big food source for bears. Dave confirmed that you do need a hunting license to kill the bunnies.
- Mr. Battle could not confirm the fishing date season.

Alaska Precession Extracts – Cal Craig

- Cal Craig updated the Council that they are establishing a marijuana manufacturing location in the Ship Creek area at the Parallel 64 location.

- The following was discussed: area is fully secured, nothing will be sold directly to the public, and product goes to other licensed shops.
- Mr. Craig confirmed that the product is cannabis oil.
- Mr. Craig noted that they are using ethanol to extract their product. Ventilation steps are run thru the fire Marshall.
- President Cohen asked if there were any objections to APE's business. No concerns were voiced from the audience.
- Ms. Gant noted that draft minutes would be given to Cal as documentation.

BUSINESS UPDATES

Port of Alaska – Sharen Walsh

- Ms. Walsh noted that the Port is dredging the area near the boat launch. It is expected that the project should be completed at the end of the week. Boats should not launch until the project is complete.
- Construction Projects: Ground stabilization next to the dome, piling (pile driving will occur), wharf piling enhancements.
- Ms. Walsh noted that the funds for those projects came from the Port of Alaska.
- ML&P will be back near Suzan Nightingale McKay parking to complete their project.
- Bridge project will continue for one more week.
- AWWU's project will occur at Terminal Road at the North end near AT&T.
- Fence improvement project, near AT&T.
- Cruise ship was here this week. Ships will be coming every 2 weeks on Monday.
- Getting some visits from the Navy, not sure on the date.

Alaska Railroad – Tim Sullivan

- Flooding with the Susitna River. Ice was shoved up on the tracks. Able to get the passenger trains thru. \$2M expense.
- Requested to sell land while in Juneau. 20 acres in the Port to the City. Currently the City has it under lease. Question that was raised if the Port could buy the property as a City.
- Arnie noted that there are ruts on the property from Alaska Railroad contractor. AKRR would like to put asphalt in the area that they would like access.
- Discussed the following: Restoration of the property, consider using mats on the property.
- Noted dog poop has been a problem in the area. Ms. Gant will send a reminder to the Community via social media.
- The Council confirmed that other vehicles are not driving on Harvard Park.

FCC Update – Kyle Stevens

- Working on personnel policies and were finalized.
- Updated the Council on the following: hiring a new employee and elected a new Executive Board.
- Kyle now has moved to the Nunaka Valley and GHCC will need a new representative for FCC.
- Kyle confirmed that FCC does not meet during the summer and will start up in September.
- FCC is having a picnic.
- Resident noted that Kyle has done a fantastic job as the FCC representative.

- Al Milspaugh introduced himself as the youth outreach coordinator. Noted that he would be happy to talk at schools. Mr. Milspaugh confirmed that a new arborist has been hired by the City.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Safety Committee – Kyle Stevens

- Mr. Stevens updated the Council on light options for safety.
- Lights could be added to the trails in Government Hill and improve the ability to use the trails during the winter.
- Displayed a battery operated light. Light was changed one time during the year period.
- Displayed SunForce lighting that is run by a solar panel that was displayed on his house.
- Discussed the areas of where the lights could be installed.
- Kyle confirmed that he would recommend installing four lights.
- Arnie expressed that the idea would need to be run via Bob French.
- Melinda recommended that Bob should get approval from Parks & Rec.
- Mr. Stevens confirmed that that the cost of the solar lights was \$35 at Costco.
- Mr. Stevens confirmed the following locations: East side would be by Sunset Park and the alley behind Al Miller's park.
- Donna Rymut expressed concern regarding installing lighting at the Al Miller park location and further conversation would need to occur before installation.

President Cohen announced that he sold his house and will be resigning effective May 31, 2018. Jody Sola as Vice President will head the Council.

Other Community Concerns

- Donna asked if the ADU discussion was noted in the minutes. Melinda confirmed it was.
- Donna discussed her concerns about the proposed ADU changes that the City is proposing.
- Melinda noted that Donna could write a letter to the Anchorage Assembly so that they could present at their work session regarding her concerns.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.