



# GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 100018 • Anchorage, Alaska 99510-0018

Stephanie Kesler, President

Bob French and Dan Lowery, Co-Vice Presidents

Melinda Gant, Secretary-Treasurer

Mike Adams, Mavis Hancock, and Diane Miller, At-Large Board Members

Julie Jessal, FCC Delegate; Robert Atkinson, Alternate Delegate;

Susanne Di Pietro and Thomas Pease, Past Co-Presidents

---

## April 20, 2006 MINUTES

**Introductions** – The meeting opened at 7:05 p.m. Introductions were made by all those in attendance.

**Legislative Report** – Geran Tarr called on the behalf of Les Gara - Focus of the Senate is the oil tax issue. We expect the 24 hour rule to occur early next week. K-12 was not included in budget. We have 19 days left, but all around we feel we have a good budget. Tomorrow, Rep. Stolz will be presenting his bill. Senator Ellis plans on voting against it. Please call other Senators voicing your opinion.

President Kesler asked what Senator Ellis' overall opinion is on funding. Ms. Tarr understands that Senator Ellis feels they will appropriate a small amount to keep funding going. Starting next Monday we will work on the budget. Thursday and Friday are the days that have been designated for Anchorage's public testimony. Ms. Tarr will pass an email with an update if anything has been slipped in on the capital bill.

President Kesler asked what happens if the bridge gets dragged in special session? In response, the Governor has the right to add anything in special session. For instance, the Meth/Marijuana Bill was rejected in the conference report and folks speculate that the Governor will put this in the special session. The special session will begin immediately after the regular session (May 10th).

A resident asked, has there been any talk of subsidizing the oil/gas especially for the bush area? Ms. Tarr replied that yes there has. They are considering the following 1. rebate 2. keep it as is or 3. expand the scope of the program to include heating and assistance. The rebate idea has not moved forward. Mat-Su and Fairbanks will not support the program. Folks in the democratic caucus are supporting the 3<sup>rd</sup> option short-term, due to the circumstances of rising costs.

**Stuart Hall Memorial - Kathleen King** - Met with the architect to discuss ideas. Cost would be an estimated \$45,000. Unfortunately, we did not apply for the grant. Rep. Gara interjected that we should still put together a request for monies in case there are left over dollars that can be used for Stu's memorial.

April 20, 2006  
Minutes

Steve Saunders, Inlet Petroleum VP / Upper Cook Inlet Area Maritime Security Chair, presented \$1,000 towards Stu Hall's memorial. Mr. Saunders expressed that Stu did an outstanding job representing GHCC. Bob Cole, Tesoro and who also served on various committees with Stu, presented \$1,000 towards Stu Hall's memorial as well. Mr. Cole concurred that Stu will be missed. President Kesler expressed that with these most recent donations, we can probably move forward on putting together Stu's memorial.

**Parks/Grant Update - Doe Anderson** - C Street community gardens has had some problems. The Fire Department will use it as a training area for brush fires; consequently, the area will be cleaned out. Minnesota Park's skate ramp will be worked on. "Zone Gardeners" will be assigned to areas in Anchorage. Government Hill will be assigned 1 person. Geroge Kimbell will be retiring. Ray Roberts will be moving to this side of town. We will be having a clean up this Saturday Boy Scouts on Delaney Park Strip. Challenge grants will be announced next week. If we have left over monies, we could possibly apply those monies to Stu Hall's Memorial. Mavis and Howard Hancock will be attending a field trip on May 1st in order to set a timeline for cleanup in your area. 40 youth will be coming up this summer to spend 20 hours per week for park clean up. They have been scheduled Tues., Thurs., and Sat to come in to Government Hill. Doe emphasized that Mavis and Howard have been wonderful to work with.

**East Bluff Water Upgrade – AWWU** - Melinda Tsu presented the project for the east side of Government Hill. Woodstove piping that is over 50 years old is being replaced. This is a priority project. There is 800 ft. on Ivy; 400 ft. on E Bluff. Tam Construction will be in to do the work end of May or early June. This will be a 45 day project. Contractor will be obligated for traffic solutions. A resident asked, is it necessary to start this project as the Hollywood / Vista project will begin this year? Ms. Tsu's responded that we would do this project with or without the Hollywood / Vista project. Ms. Tsu expressed that there will be temporary water interruptions (2-6 hours in length). The contractor will be obligated to give a 72 hour notice to those impacted. A resident asked if could replace sidewalks. Ms. Tsu expressed that they could certainly assess the area. Ms. Tsu stated that we have been coordinating with Anchorage Community Development Authority and Alaska Railroad. Elmendorf has also been contacted regarding access concerns.

**Les Gara - Legislative Report** - Oil tax is consuming all discussion. Media advertisements are being released to the public, regarding oil taxes, are stating that the State of Alaska is tripling taxes. In actuality 1/5% increase has been pushed. We are also working on a production tax as well. In regards to the Knik Bridge, Don Young might be interested in some changes that do not impact the neighborhood and is open to reviewing a proposal. There has been little discussion about monies for the bridge. Bill for bond was non-controversial. Les doubts that they will be able to get the funding and support from the stock market as they have not been forthcoming on the toll cost and construction cost of the bridge. Please call my office if you would like to speak next week.

April 20, 2006  
Minutes

**Assembly Report – Allen Tesche** - Darryl Jordan, of KABATA, recently updated the Anchorage Assembly. We should be expecting the draft EIS in the next couple of months and information on what the economic impact on Anchorage will be. Financial plan should be out in the next couple of weeks. KABATA estimated \$3-\$5 toll; 10,000 trips per day and elevating to 40,000 trips per day within 15 years. Bonds will have to be sold on Wall Street. Approach is still A/C. Major Begich does not support this route. Most are very skeptical of the project, the numbers presented, toll, and drive time. A resident asked, are they considering ferry usage? Mr. Tesche stated that the Mat-Su Borough is very excited about moving forward with the ferry system.

**Intermodal Update – Alaska Railroad, Deb Allen** - This project will begin this summer. We are having a 4:15 meeting this Tuesday for the public. There will be some road changes in the Ship Creek Area. 1st Avenue is the preferred area but most costly. A resident expressed their concern about emergency access. 2nd Avenue is also being considered as well. A resident asked if seismic work has been done on the bridge. A resident stated that seismic work has been done by a UAA professor.

**World Changers – Lori Nealley** - Government Hill has been selected. We are looking for single family residences, multi-family, 1 level home to do work on (i.e. shingle replacement, surface work). We will be here from June 26-June 30. If you would like to be considered, deadline is end of May. I can be contacted at 677-8490

**Park Update - Mavis Hancock** Would like to present after tour has been completed in May.

**Knik Arm Bridge - Stephanie Kesler** - Have heard that the draft EIS will be released in 1-2 months. Bob French and I will be meeting with Mary Jane Michael of MOA and than following up with Bill Sharrow and Don Young in getting the route moved to the east side. Bill Wolfe has been appointed the new chief for the State of Alaska's transportation. There is concern that the EIS process has not been fair and followed properly. Our focus was that the Boniface route should be on the table. Bill Sharrow's focus was safety. We talked about how Government Hill has been treated improperly and also about the Anchorage Access Solution (AAS) as an alternative. Dale Paulson declined to show and expressed that he had no additional information on the EIS. Anchorage Neighborhood Housing has been contacted regarding the AAS. They are concerned but open to ideas that work for everyone involved. President Kesler asked for input on the resolution presented and to forward comments to her by mid next week.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.