

GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Jody Sola, President

Stephanie Kesler, Vice President

Peter Partnow, Secretary

Melinda Gant, Treasurer

FCC Representative (Vacant)

Donna Rymut, Greg Miller, Ron Clark, At-Large Board Members



GHCC Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Peter Partnow

President Jody Sola, Presiding

Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m.

1. Introductions of meeting attendees

2. Approval of Agenda

Approval moved by Stephanie Kesler
Second by Melinda Gant

Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

3. Approval of Minutes of November 15, meeting

Approval moved by Melinda Gant
Second by Ron Clark

Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

4. Farewell from former Representative Les Gara

GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

5. Election of Officers

Stephanie Kesler presented the recommended slate of officers as follows:

President	Jody Sola
Vice President	Stephanie Kesler
Secretary	Peter Partnow
Treasurer	Melinda Gant
At Large Board Members	Ron Clark, Donna Rymut, Greg Miller
No nominee was presented for FCC representative. Volunteers solicited for that office-- search will continue	

Melinda Gant moved approval of proposed slate of officers.

Second by Will Sola

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

6. Legislative Update: Senator Tom Begich (via phone from Juneau) thanked Les Gara for his service. Reported on initial positive atmosphere on the Senate side in Juneau. Noted Senate priority related to the budget, with minority caucus priorities as to education and health/welfare. Noted possible repeal of the per barrel tax credit bill to be considered as well as possible hearing on legislation to expunge criminal records of marijuana only convictions. Advised he will be in Anchorage on March 9 for a constituent caucus at Side Street Café.

7. Assembly Update: Chris Constant discussed action on the bonds with work session next week; bond includes \$ 6.5 milion for Government Hill School for roofing etc. Also something for Government Hill in the park bond. Discussed the Port of Alaska; he chairs that committee. Mentioned library issue where parents are against events where people come in and do story time. Municipality wrestling with damages re December 1 earth quake; the 29th is last date to report damage to the State. Municipal property tax appeal period started yesterday and only 30 days for the appeals; Chris will publish notice re same on Next Door. New appraisal system being implemented. Municipality responded well to the earthquake. Regarding request to cut down from the east side—must be part of the comprehensive plan. Chris will back same if part of the plan.

Peter Partnow raises question regarding possible Assembly make up and possible ways it may change. Chris discusses the problems with current system.

Bob French asks is there going to be a bond for the Port of Alaska and inquires re programs to assist small business with earthquake damage.

Peter Partnow raises issue re the parking on streets and possible ordinance to address same. Chris discusses issues re same.

Chris mentions a possible charter amendment to allow lease purchase agreements.

Plastic bag ban will go in to effect in September.

8. **FCC Update**—no rep due to conflict. Still open and actively recruiting. Third Wednesday of each month.

9. **Business updates**

Alaska Railroad--Tim Sullivan—Interesting two months. Earthquake did a lot of damage. Operations Center had several hundred thousand dollars of damages. Dispatch Office destroyed. Older buildings did better than the newer ones. Headquarters had some damage. Some damage in the depot—cracks etc. Mostly back together now. Damage where tracks from Eklutna to Houston ground sloughed. Temporary fix (completed within 72 hours) until spring thaw. No train on the tracks at the time the quake actually happened. Had to reschedule a few trains.

There was a derailment of a 71-car train to Fairbanks this week —there was a breakdown of the truck/wheels on one of the cars leading to derailment of the car. The break line on the train was compromised, leading to loss of air pressure. By the time the train stopped, about two miles of ties were damaged/destroyed. Working to complete repairs—railroad will keep train length short for the time being.

Estimated damages—earthquake estimate 5 to 7 million dollars; derailment around 2 million.

Port of Alaska—Sharen Walsh—Earthquake did some damage but not extensive. Inspection afterwards looked at every piling—did not identify any damage. Long crack the length of the breakwater. A small slough. Port personnel learned lessons about response management, as there was much duplication of effort. More inspections in the spring including more detailed under dock.

Fence clearing between Port and JBER with new fencing in the spring. The new gate at entry almost complete—normally to be in up position.

Getting ready for spring work-some fender piling inside existing fender piling to lessen risk.

Modernization project—cement terminal at 95 %; time to order steel etc. Tariff increase necessary to get someone to finance—a revenue bond.

Port lost a staff member who had been in charge of coordinating the modernization project. Sharen has been asked to fill in.

Steph asks about earthquake damage to Port McKenzie. Sharen reports there may have been damage to building there.

Crowley—Greg Miller reports on limited earthquake damage.

10. Committee Updates—Bob French reported briefly on AMATS and Park Committees. Noted his ability to deal with these matters had been disrupted by the earthquake, his office being badly damaged and heavy work doing reviews of school buildings.

11. Community Thoughts

Melinda Gant introduced JBER representative **Dana Rosso** who is now a civilian employee with Public Affairs, but has been in the active military and otherwise involved with JBER for fourteen years. He or someone else from his office will plan regular attendance at GHCC meetings. Dana described some of the earthquake damage experienced on base and noted they were back in operation within several hours. In response to question, noted the heavy vehicle traffic off the base immediately after the earthquake was caused by closure of ASD schools and the tsunami warning. Reviewed base projects including possible north/south runway project which would have off-base impact of lessening flight noise from landings and takeoffs. Mentioned possibility of allowing bike access to Arctic Thunder in 2020. Reported that the 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. are current hours when the Government Hill gate is open. Hours may change in the spring.

Donna Mears from the Central Environmental Inc. (CEI), which is located in the former Knik Arm Power Plant, presented update on work at the facility on Whitney Road. Seeks support from GHCC for proposed site improvements. Will provide site improvement plan at the February GHCC meeting and seek a resolution from GHCC supporting the plan. The power plant will be listed to present business updates at future GHCC meetings—may be individual other than Donna since her own community council meetings conflict with GHCC meetings.

Jody Sola reviews several communications she has received, none requiring action at this time.

Meeting adjourns at 8:22 p. m.