



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

Zoe Lowery, Treasurer

Bob French, FCC Representative

Pete Murphy, Belinda MacIntire, Ron Clark, At-Large Board Members

GHCC Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Peter Partnow

Meeting conducted via Zoom called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Jody Sola.

1. **Introduction of Attendees:** Attendees identified via Zoom appearance and noted on the virtual sign-in sheet provided with these minutes

2. **Approval of agenda:** Motion to accept agenda: Zoe Lowery
Second: Pete Murphy

Motion unanimously approved

3. **Approval of April 20 2023, meeting minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of January meeting as amended: Zoe Lowery
Second: Will Sola

Motion unanimously approved

4. **Legislative update:** A. **Senator Loki Tobin** reports on status of budget at special session. Awaiting action by the House (announced later in this meeting). Senator Tobin pleased with much of the budget though compromises needed to be made. High points were education funding, public radio, childcare assistance, long trail project, downtown lighting and Ingra / Gamble Project. Likely there will be a special session in the fall dealing with revenue.

Contact information: Senator Loki Tobin: office phone is 907-465-3704, and her email is sen.loki.tobin@akleg.gov or Mackenzie.pope@akleg.gov

B. **Representative Cliff Groh** could not attend because the House was in session.

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5. **Assembly Update:** **Dan Volland** discusses pothole concerns—call 343-mend. Trying to have Anchorage designated a regional tech hub—this would attract investment. Noted vote of non-confidence on the deputy library director, though she then resigned. Noted ordinance to define quorum for certain boards and commissions. Assembly will be discussing settlement of various claims against the Muni at a public hearing. Also discussed the on-going homelessness issues.

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/FOCUS-Homelessness.aspx>

6. **JBER :** **Joy Boston** discussed Memorial Day event on base (people can register to get on base) and at the Anchorage Veterans Memorial on the Park Strip—music starting at 9:00 a.m, ceremony at 9:30.

No air show here this summer but at Eielson AFB on July 22-23.

7. **Port of Alaska:** **Steve Ribuffo** reports first vessel at the new terminal starting two weeks ago. The foundation work on the new ad building is done. Also work on the north extension stabilization project—Phase 1. Notes designer of record is WSP and GHD. Regarding the Atlas Towers, no work will be done this summer as contract is still being negotiated. Noted the possible building next to the tower will be no taller than a single story and should not impact the Government Hill view.

8. **ANCHORAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT:** **Captain Dustin Molle** from Station 1 noted that the fatalities in residences this year all in locations with not working smoke detectors or fire alarms. Advised that this summer, people should be careful with bbqs and with any open fires, particularly because of the wind often impacting the hill. If open burning is being pursue, call “hot line” at 267-5020.

9. **ASD School Board:** **Pat Higgins** discussed graduations. Noted change in school start times delayed a year. Also grade 6 will be moved to middle schools. Thinks there will be additional elementary school closures. Notes this is his last meeting with our community council and we will have a different board member next year.

10. **New Business:** **Jody** reports a letter of support sent regarding the lease to JBER of HLB parcel on the East End. Notes work being done on signage of areas on the Hill. Notes that Stephanie and Bob are working on a new Welcome to Government Hill Sign—it will need approval of the railroad. Reports there will be some viewshed clearing this summer. Noted the funding is firm for the new fence for the Commons which will hopefully be installed this summer. Issues thanks to people who have done trash clean up. Notes that this is our last regular meeting until September 21.

11. Community Concerns: Chris Constant reports there has been an election challenge and that there may be other issues evolving.

Bob French reports on changes at the FCC.

Ron Clarke suggests that the new signage on the Hill should also include the historical significance of the various points of interest.

Meeting adjourns at 7:42 p.m.
