



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 September 21, 2023 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:** Jody Sola announces changes in the agenda.

Motion to accept agenda as amended: Margy Hughes

Second: Pete Murphy

Motion unanimously approved

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

Motion to approve the minutes of May 2023: Zoe Lowery

Second: Will Sola

Motion unanimously approved

3. **Treasurer's Report:** Zoe Lowery reports no change since May meeting.

4. **Legislative update:** A. **Kayla Epstein (aide to Senator Loki Tobin)** reports various actions including efforts to increase the base student allocation and to improve teacher retention.

Contact information: sen.loki.tobin@akleg.gov or 907-269-0224

B. **Representative Cliff Groh** reports question re the DOT STIP. Discussed issues pertaining to improvement of East Loop Road. Working on housing and homelessness issues. Indicated he has done several "ride alongs." He

GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

continues to be available for the next 6 Saturdays to meet from noon until 2:00 p.m. at the Lucky Wishbone.

5. Assembly Update: Chris Constant discusses numerous issues relating to housing and homelessness. Mentioned the protective bike lane project. Noted discussion of change of name of the Port of Alaska to the Don Young Port of Anchorage. Discussed further work to be done on ordinance re zoning practices. Discussed the Eklutna River Restoration project. Much discussion of steps to be taken to deal with the homelessness issue this coming winter. Reported that Tract J has been dedicated as a park. Also discussed Bear designation efforts to have bear resistant trash containers provided.

6. JBER : Joy Boston discussed the AIM High Flight Academy (apply by October 15) and the new ReAccess pass that is replacing iSportsman.

AIM High Flight Academy

This is an opportunity for high school students age 16-18 to attend a 3-week flight introduction program that includes up to 15 hours of flight instruction. This is a free program and there is no commitment to the Air Force or military. More information at <https://www.recruiting.af.mil/AIM-High-Flight-Academy/>

RecAccess has replaced iSportsman as the web platform to safely recreate on military lands.

RecAccess features (new):

- smart phone friendly
- sign-in/sign-out of training areas via SMS (text)
- increased recreation area access; check-in to 3 areas (this is an increase from 2 with iSportsman)
- geolocation functionality; RecAccess will show where you are in the training area

Check out the Public Affairs article at:

<https://www.jber.jb.mil/News/Articles/Display/Article/3481069/recaccess-to-replace-isportsman-for-recreational-access-on-jber/>

7. Nick Constantino (AFD) reported two new truck companies, 10 new firefighters with 20 more at the start of the year.

8. Officer Joy (APD) noted APD is staffing the tent city at 3rd and Gamble, and that APD is trying to hire new police. Referenced statistics on crime city-wide.

<https://communitycrimemap.com/>

Stephanie inquired as to follow up by APD on vandalism at the Commons and at the wireless building. Officer Joy indicated Officer Lampert has information re status of same.

9. **Anchorage School Board—Dave Donley** summarized the school board’s 3 main goals. Noted additional school closures will likely be necessary but that it will be an “open process” without targeting specific school(s) at the outset. ASD faces a significant \$95 million budget deficit. To just meet the deficit would require laying off 500 employees. Miles Baker inquired as to the “academy model” which has been discussed. Chris Sis inquired as to future status of the immersion program at Government Hill Elementary School.

10. **New Business: A. North Point Bluff Viewshed Resolution:** Steve Leider presented the proposal and the history of resolution for vegetation management including removing cotton woods etc and adding native vegetation. Work to be done through donations and volunteer work parties. Jody Sola reads the resolution. Miles Baker reports concern of individual property owners pursuing “self-help” to take down trees as opposed to this resolution following the proper procedure.

Motion to accept the Resolution: Tyrone Neel

Second: Margy Hughes

Motion Passes by Show of Hands—20-0 with 0 Nay Votes and 0 abstentions

B. Jim Huettl makes detailed and informative presentation regarding the new Downtown Mushing District. www.anchoragemushingdistrict.org

C. Jody Sola raises the request by Abraham Gallo to purchase the Municipal parcel near Ski and Benny’s and where espresso stand is located. Concern raised about access to the school and that the sale of the parcel would not be consistent with the adopted neighborhood plan or the terms of the sale of the property to the Municipality by the Alaska Railroad.

Stephanie Kesler moves that GHCC endorse a letter objected to sale of the parcel.

Second: Peter Murphy

Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

11. **Old Business:** Jody Sola reviews the history of Tract J

12. **Other matters of community interest:** General discussion of the proposed improvement of Whitney Road near the Port and possible impacts on the neighborhood during construction.

Noted there will be a cyclocross race along Harvard Avenue of September 30.

Motion to Adjourn: Stephanie Kesler **Second** Pete Murphy

Meeting Adjourned at 8:28pm