



GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Jody Sola, President

Margy Hughes, Vice President

Peggy Wilcox, Secretary

Zoe Lowery, Treasurer

Bob French, FCC Representative

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

MINUTES MARCH 21, 2024 MEETING

CALL TO ORDER March 21, 2024 @ 6:32pm

Agenda approved after amending to include ballot measure 9 presentation

Minutes for February approved. Move: Peter Murphy, Second: Ron Clark

Treasurer's report: Zoe Lowery Legislative: \$2,223 in savings

BUSINESS REPORTS

Legislative Updates:

Sen. Loki Tobin – Legislative report: Halfway through the session. Governor vetoed increase in base student allocation (BSA). Personal legislation: brain injury awareness month is likely to become law by next GHCC meeting. Noted that Saturday, July 20 will be the Fairview Block Party. See attached flyer for more from Sen. Tobin.

Rep. Cliff Groh - Discussed education funding and energy topics. Mentioned personal legislation including a bill to provide a “help desk” for veterans to call about employment and services. Shared contact info (907) 465-4998 (office), (907) 952-3353 (cell), and rep.cliff.groh@akleg.gov. Announced constituent milkshake event March 30, 12-2 at Lucky Wish Bone.

Assembly Update: Assemblyman Chris Constant

- Assembly adopted the ASD budget as presented. It contained an assumption of \$100 BSA increase (then governor vetoed increase).
- Assembly took action to indemnify the Ombudsman when carrying out their duties.
- Notes that Anchorage may lose SEMT (?) program funding for crisis team w/o an audit (overdue) from the mayor's departments.

AFD Update: Chief Doug Schrage

Prop 6 is the areawide public safety and transit bond. Includes 2 new ambulances for AFD – they need to be replaced every 7 years due to use. Is currently hiring a wildfire mitigation officer and plans to reopen the wildfire mitigation office which was last open in 2008.

Alaska Railroad: Megan Clemens, Dir. of External Affairs

Port received \$5M grant to upgrade multimodal transfers from ship to train. Gearing up for summer, Denali service begins May 9th, Seward service May 10th, Glacier Discovery May 11th

Port of Alaska: Steve Ribuffo

Mentions \$5M multimodal grant to improve railroad track and extension to reach north end of port. This will eliminate the need for some truck cargo service between ships and train, and storage on Port property.

GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Described federal Port Act, it is intended to streamline process improvements and expediate post-appropriation permitting. It currently takes 12-18 months after appropriation to begin building.

JBER Update: Joy Boston

Arctic Thunder Open House & Air Show July 20-21

Changes in recreation access - \$10 for annual pass and discount for veterans. Can sign into 3 areas, not just 2.

NEW BUSINESS:


Park Bonds: GHCC President urged a yes vote. Money is included for Government Hill Parks.

Ballot Measure 9: Marc June discussed Prop 9, Chugach CASA bond to solve parking to Chugach State Park Anchorage. \$5 per \$100K of home value. Will improve Rabbit Lake access road to Chugach Park. At times so congested it completely blocks traffic.



Seward to Glenn PEL: John McPherson, project manager, Aimee Burnett, Taylor Horne
Slide show of alternatives for improving freight traffic through Anchorage focusing on Glenn Highway, Seward Highway and Port.

Public comment until April 7:



SCAN ME WITH YOUR SMART PHONE

ONLINE *
sewardglennconnection.com

BY EMAIL
info@sewardglennconnection.com

BY PHONE
(907) 206-2289

H.O.M.E. initiative: Assembly people Dan Volland, Meg Zalatel, and Anna Brawley.

Initiative Proposal streamlines/standardizes residential zoning. Proposal would allow duplexes, in some cases triplexes, with a 60' (what?? 35') height limit in single family home zones. Proposal would also allow for mobile homes and would reduce building setbacks from road. Timeline is to have the proposal before Planning

GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

& Zoning on May 20, then to Assembly in late June for public hearing, and action by Assembly shortly after. Proposal presentation can be accessed at this link [Assembly Focus on Housing \(muni.org\)](https://www.muni.org/assembly-focus-on-housing)

H.O.M.E. initiative GHCC resident comments:

- Will impact desirability and livability of our neighborhoods. Problems with parking. Problems with 4-plexes. Neighborhoods would be better off with grants to tear down abandoned buildings.
- Concerned with speed of process. Does not appear that this will solve Anchorage’s housing issue.
- A 3-4 plex could dramatically change the character of the neighborhood if they build to all maximum levels, it will change the livability of the neighborhood. Worries that density spreading away from downtown shifts the focus away from downtown.
- As represented in the Comprehensive Plan, people didn’t want density. People’s dislike of density is based on experience – we have many poor examples in Anchorage. The promise of design standards is what brought people over for the Comprehensive Plan, that and limited areas allowing for more density
- Air BNBs. On my block we lost three homes to Air BNBs (Assemblywoman Zalatel: We won’t be overriding the Air BNB veto. We are introducing a bill to require non-aggregated reporting of taxes from the platform, so we have a better idea of its effect on our housing stock.)

GHCC Resolution for Traffic calming Eastside

Concerns from residents that people are speeding down East Bluff Rd and then down Birch or Cedar to get to Hollywood. Resident said a resolution from Community Council was needed to have traffic calming put in place. Fire Chief Schrage volunteered to make some calls at City Hall to find the quickest way to get some answers. Chief will contact Jody to discuss. President will draft a resolution for next month requesting traffic calming along bluff road if needed.

ADJOURN: Steve moves, Zoe 2nd 8:48 pm

Respectively submitted,
Peggy Wilcox