



# GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Stephanie Kesler, President

Bob French and Dan Lowery, Co-Vice Presidents

Diane Miller and Mark Musial, Co-Secretary-Treasurer

Wendy Lindskoog, Mavis Hancock, and Kathleen King, At-Large Board Members

Robert Atkinson, FCC Delegate; Harriet Shaftel, Alternate Delegate;

Susanne Di Pietro and Thomas Pease, Past Co-Presidents

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## MEETING MINUTES

**September 15, 2005**

The September 15th meeting was opened at 7:00 PM by President Stephanie Kesler with introductions of those present. Minutes from the May 19, 2005 meeting were discussed, amended to clarify points about work the Parks Committee would do and the location of traffic accidents on the curling club "curve". The May minutes were subsequently approved as amended.

### **Legislative/Assembly Report**

Les Gara noted that the Knik Arm Crossing appears to be inadequately funded and wondered if the additional funding would need to come from the State or Municipality. He also talked about delays in gas leasing and how that tended to lessen interest in a pipeline. The State may have a legal right to cancel the leases and rebid them to companies who will develop them.

Allison from Sen. Ellis' office provided a contact sheet and newsletter.

Alan Tesche referred us to his Blog and invited more people to be on the email list. He went over an extensive list of issues before the MOA, including development of the underage strip club, Fantasy's on 5<sup>th</sup> and their large new building, as well as the convention center and E Street corridor to the ARRC that will impact downtown areas. There was also considerable discussion about the reduction in Assembly staff potential reduced service to the public because of it. There was also discussion that did not generally favor AWWU deregulation and questioned the ability of AWWU to assume the responsibilities of regulating themselves.

**East Loop Road Signage.** Stu Hall and Mike Adams presented a resolution to A) post the speed limit at 20 MPH on Ocean Dock Road leading into and exiting the Port and B) post a Merge Left sign with flashing lights on the downhill, southbound land of East Loop Road where Port traffic merges. This resolution is identical to a similar resolution passed by the Port Security Committee. Stu made to motion to approve the resolution and it was seconded by many. The resolution passed unanimously.

**Update on the Ship Creek Bluff Project.** Dave Vralsted of the Alaska Railroad passed out a fact sheet on the project and discusses the upcoming Phase 2 work the Phase 1 work that was completed in 2004. Phase 2 is scheduled to begin in May 2006 and will include mining and regrading of the bluff and addition of a 6,500 ft long track. There was considerable discussion in which old concerns of GHCC were reiterated: A) Slope Stability. The project will include a sheet pile wall at the toe of a continuous 2H:1V slope. The stability has been evaluated by the

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ARRC and proven to be ok. B) Contamination Elmendorf was discussed About 1,000 cy of soil contaminated with jet fuel and diesel was discovered in Phase 1, but none has been found in many borings drilled for this project, so the sense is that the risk is low.

Mavis Hancock asked if a larger greenbelt would attract more vagrants. The ARRC indicated that the area is patrolled and not one frequented by vagrants. She also asked if the greenbelts will become increasingly smaller. Dave indicated that trees would be left around Sunset Park.

Tom Pease asked about landscaping. Approximately \$100 was allocated in the Phase 1 budget but none was done other than seeding. He asked if the money was being used elsewhere and if the ARRC would honor their assurances of a couple years ago regarding Phase I. Dave indicated the ARRC was still committed to landscaping.

There were a number of other questions including:

- ? Will the project impact the Hollywood Vista redevelopment? The ARRC responded that their work will not impact the usable area for Hollywood Vista and that they are coordinating with the landowner.
- ? Will the sheet pile wall would limit public access. ARRC responded that this was not a public access area and that in some places the wall would be within 20 ft of the active railroad track.
- ? Will there be increased traffic? ARRC indicated that there would not be, since this track would be used for inspection. There would be less switching to breakup trains.

Further question should be directed to Stephanie, who will refer them to ARRC.

**Knik Arm Crossing Committee** – Bob French reported that federal funding bill dictated that the bridge was to be referred to as “Don Young’s Way”. He summarized the work of the committee over the summer and indicated that comments had been provided on the project. There was discussion on the negative impact the bridge funding earmark would have on other ADOT&PF projects. The Draft EIS is expected in Mid-October.

Alan Tesche asked if the project was included in the MOA Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and indicated he was interested in our thoughts on this. Stu Hall indicated that he understood that the project would be added to the LRTP once the EIS was completed and if the project is recommended. There was discussion that adding the project in this way may not be consistent with the guidelines and principals of the LRTP, especially if a project that never was a priority for the community were to suddenly become one to the detriment of other projects. Les Gara noted that the way the project is discussed will impact how it is built. For example, it could say that “Any Bridge or Tunnel be built so that it has the least impact on neighborhoods.” It was recommended that GHCC follow up on how to amend the LRTP language either with AMATS or Alan’s office.

**KABATA Update** - Lindsey Holmes distributed handouts and continued the discussion on “Don Young’s Way” by clarifying that the bridge is referenced in the LRTP but not discussed in detail. She outlined a number of studies that are ongoing that would effect how the bridge and access roads were discussed. There was also discussion on the MatSu terminus and improvements that would be needed in the in the Burma Road. Public comments have still not been posted to the website but would be. Primary effort of the team has been focused on the scoping summary

report. Stephanie Kesler asked when the draft would be released. Lindsey indicated that it would be released to FHWA sometime in October, but that she was uncertain about the timeline for the FHWA to release the report to the public.

There was considerable comment about shortcomings of the cost estimate as we understand it and how the various options may not be fairly compared because key components aren't included in the costs, such as a new bridge across Ship Creek for the Erickson/Degan corridor. The request was made for copies of correspondence with the military and their cost estimate so that these questions could be answered. Other questions were raised and comments made, including:

- ? Has the BRAC process been considered and potential impacts to the military needs?
- ? How are much higher fuel and steel costs being factored into the cost estimates?  
They don't seem to be considered at this point.
- ? When will construction start?
- ? Has the final decision been made on the bridge design?

Susanne DiPietro asked about the financial feasibility report by Wilber Smith and requested a copy when it was done. The report still is not complete.

Another question was asked by Kevin about the best place for commuters to arrive in Anchorage? What is the travel demand? When will the Alternative Report be coming out? How can decisions be made without this information?

Lindsey closed by saying that the summary of public comments through July should be updated on the website next week. She can be reached at 276-8095 or email: lholmes@risealaska.com if you have comments or questions.

**Introduction and Overview of the New Park District Structure** – Doe Anderson, Manager of the recently created NW Park District introduced herself and other members of her staff. Eighteen parks were worked on this summer as part of their Clean & Green program to raise the tree line and improve safety at the parks. Their mission is to work hand in hand with the communities.

In general Government Hill parks are in good condition compared to others in the MOA. Stu Hall commented that the Government Hill parks were in good shape because of the significant efforts of the Parks Committee and the Hancock's. He would like to see recognition for their work.

They will be creating several charts to get input from the public that will also become a part of the KABATA document.

There was also a question from Alan Tesche about who was responsible for noise & use permits.

**Parks Committee** – Mavis Hancock reported on work over the summer. The work we committed to in the fall was more than we could handle. Neither GHCC nor the Parks Department got all they had hoped for.

- ? Susan Nightingale Park was kept in good shape.
- ? Al Miller Park was not worked on and is not wooded and not really safe.
- ? Brown's Point Park was worked on. Vandals pushed tables over the bluff and the boulders blocking traffic have been pulled back out.
- ? Alderwood Park has erosion at the bridge and the west end needs work.
- ? Sunset needs bollards and the water meter needs to be replaced and graffiti removed.
- ? Harvard underwent major trimming. However, there was discussion about recent incidents at the park and increased vagrants seen there. Too, somebody dumped concrete debris in the planter at the entrance, but Melinda Gant volunteered to clean this out when she was doing some other cleanup at her house.

Janel Walton volunteered to keep track of hours and can be reached at ph: 929-0698 or email:walton5@gci.net if you have any to report. Mavis can be reached at 279-1662 if you have a question about the parks or would like to see some work done.

Stu Hall noted that a tremendous amount of deadwood was removed, but there is still a lot more to remove. Overall, Mavis and the Parks Committee did a great job. Thank You!

**Public Safety Committee** – Melinda Gant talked about their meeting with Sgt. Stanton of APD and others from Government Hill at the Square and Round Dance Club. They discussed many issues including:

- ? Parking of vehicles, RV's, boats, and other large vehicles in the street. Sgt Stanton recommended talking to your neighbors. On street parking should be less than 24 hr, Monday to Thursday, but Friday to Monday noon, street parking is allowed up to 72 hours. Enforcement of parking issues is a low priority for APD so you need to allow at least 72 hours for them to respond and should call again if no response.
- ? Hollywood-Loop Road Intersection Traffic. Problems with the traffic flow and sight-distances were discussed.
- ? Trees and vegetation at corners and alleys should be trimmed back to improve viability.
- ? Government Hill Elementary School. Speeding is an issue.
- ? Bridge Speeding. A patrol officer was requested.

There was also a comment that people leaving Elmendorf and AT&T seem to be speeding. Please give Stephanie your comments, and she will forward them. Stu Hall commented that we had more issues to discuss with the base that he would take up with Stephanie.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Mark Musial  
Co-Secretary/Treasurer

**Next Meeting – October 20, 2005**

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