

Government Hill Community Council
Meeting Minutes 12/16/10

Call to order: at 7:08 PM by President French, Donna Rymut, as secretary.

November Minutes: Unanimously approved as written.

FCC Delegate Brit Szymoniak was not present. Nick Szymoniak reported that the State of Alaska Grant applications for 2012 will be available soon. The Assembly approved an \$80,000 operating budget in 2011 for the FCC.

Assemblyman Flynn discussed the recently approved budget noting the tobacco tax increase allowed them to keep a few more essential services than what was in the Mayor's budget; the assembly's push to retain adequate bus service; and closure of the Dimond library. He voted against the approved use of fireworks on New Year Eve.

Current issues: 1) a possible increase in the number of people the Cordova Center (halfway house) can house 2) an ordinance was introduced to allow municipal employees to oversee downtown parking enforcement 3) The ABC board expressed concerns about the increased number of conditional use permits, including the recently passed CUP governing the Tesoro package liquor store. Mr. Flynn suggested to the board that they figure out what alcohol management practices they can live with and to work it out with the various neighborhoods involved. Mr. Flynn will be out-of-town for our January meeting.

Legislative Update: Heather Beaty, aide to Senator Johnny Ellis, reported that Senator Ellis is responsive to our neighborhood concerns including the KABATA Bridge and asked for ways in which they can advocate more on our behalf. President French emphasized that the legislature has a critical role now that KABATA wants state funds to backstop tolls. Ms. Beaty said that both Rep. Gara and Senator Ellis are finance committee members and therefore will be at the table. A council member suggested that Dan Saddler be brought to the meetings since he represents the other half of GH.

Northpointe Bluff/Hollywood Vista: The Northpointe Bluff One Condo Association Resolution that was approved in November was sent to the ACDA. Brian Fields said there is nothing new to report but that things are in the works.

Knik Arm Crossing Update: President French reported that KABATA is short 2/3 - 3/4 of the monies to fund the bridge project. A major hurdle for KABATA is whether the state agrees to fund the project with TIFIA loans. If not, they would have to pay back the 50 million dollars spent so far. In addition, a supplemental EIS may be needed. Concerned persons are encouraged to write a letter to the paper.

GH Parks: Mr. French announced that Howard Hancock died on Thanksgiving Day. He said that Stephanie Kesler volunteered to head-up an effort to find a suitable memorial and possibly rename McKinley View Park in his honor.

Mr. French also said that he saw a homeless family tent living in Alderwood Park and that he reported it to the police, the railroad, Assemblyman Flynn, and to Parks & Rec.

Harvard Park VIP Committee had their first meeting on December 1st. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 10th at 7:00pm at the S&RD building.

Anchorage Port Update: Steve Ribuffo discussed several issues including a decrease in their operating budget, but that the state budget did include \$20M for the Port. On a positive note, the former Defense Fuels land is moving forward towards transfer to the Muni. Issues about land contamination and liability, etc. remain. Mr. Ribuffo assured us that the port has no intention to put buildings that would be visible from the neighborhood on the land north of Bluff Road, and that a 2001 resolution passed by the assembly to modify the 1999 master plan to ensure GH has a “greenbelt safety buffer” (not a park) at the top of the bluff would be in the upcoming land transfer agreement that will need to get Assembly approval sometime in 2011.

Neighborhood Concerns:

Howard Hancock Memorial: Carl Fleming made a motion for a memorial park bench. Ron Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A suggestion was made that we obtain a state resolution recognizing Howard Hancock for his many years of service to GH.

Neighborhoods USA National Conference (NUSA): Volunteers are needed to plan and take part in the GH Neighborhood Pride Tour on May 26 between 4:00 and 7:00 pm. The tour will accommodate 35 to 45 people. The 3 hours includes travel time, tour, and a potluck dinner supplied by residents and/or business at a location of our choice. Information is available on the FCC website.

GHCC Mailbox: The GHCC PO Box has been generously paid for by Susanne DiPietro and Thomas Pease for the past two years. Although the GH Council offered to collect donations to reimburse them, Mr. Pease graciously declined. The PO Box is paid for through the end of May 2011 and after that the mailing address will be transferred to the FCC - thank you Susanne and Thomas.

Business Participation: Mr. French spoke with Wendy Lindskoog who in the past attended our meetings on behalf of the RR. She is short staffed and unable to attend but will respond should we have any concerns.

We will see if someone from Chevron and Flint Hills can attend our meetings.

Other Business:

Brian Fields wants to know the size of the easement along the greenbelt between Northpointe Bluff property and the Railroad Yards;

President French suggested we check with street maintenance on parking and snow removal for Fur Rondy;

The GH school library is booked the 3rd Thursday in February so we need to look for an alternative place to meet such as the S&RD building.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 PM Submitted by Donna Rymut