

Government Hill Community Council
Meeting Minutes 2/17/11

Call to order: at 7:10 PM by President French, Donna Rymut, as secretary.

January Minutes: Mike Abbott moved to approve the minutes Robert Atkinson seconded the motion, unanimously approved as written.

Elections were held for the 2011 GHCC board members and are as follows: Bob French, President; Donna Rymut, Vice President; Stephanie Kessler, Secretary; and Mavis Hancock, Member At Large. Tom Brennan moved to approve all the candidates, Mr. Atkinson 2nd the motion, unanimously approved. Assemblyman Flynn recommended we have an ‘industrial seat’ on the board and brought up Flint Hills Terminal Manager, Steve Fernandez. Bob French suggested we obtain input from all industries and offered to send out a written notice to other interested local businesses to invite them to volunteer.

Assemblyman Patrick Flynn spoke briefly: 1) the main issue for the legislative tax cap is its effects on municipal assistance 2) The Brown Jug advisory vote will be held on April 5, 2011. Flynn noted that the question is not whether every package store is required to check for ID since most stores carry out universal ID checks but rather the ‘red stripe’ law. State Law allows a red line to be placed on a driver’s license after a 2nd DUI offense but not on other forms of ID and may defeat the purpose of a store clerk being able to determine if alcohol should be sold to or purchased by repeat alcohol related offenders.

Mr. Flynn introduced Officer Sally Jones with the APD who is part of a team that works on chronic problems such as the sale of alcohol to repeat public inebriates. She said the owner of ‘The Liquor Store’ on GH was cited for selling alcohol to intoxicated customers. She noted that many repeat offenders do not have a license and use other forms of ID such as a passport. Since most stores perform universal ID checks a red line on a driver’s license may not fully solve the problem.

Mr. Atkinson inquired about an assault that took place in a car outside his house two weeks ago around 5:00 - 5:45 am. No further information is available at this time.

When asked about the homeless plan Mr. Flynn said that the assembly has tried to broker an agreement between the ACLU and the attorneys since as it is unclear what the time frame requirements are to store personal belongings that are found in a homeless camp. The assembly is grappling with how much notice is required to break up a homeless camp without being responsible for storing confiscated items.

Legislative Updates: Unable to obtain connection with conference bridge phone.

Rep. Dan Saddler contacted President French on the following: 1) He is on the Labor and Commerce Committee. A public hearing will be held on a House bill that might require installation of residential fire sprinkler systems if added to the building code. 2) As a member of the Energy Special Committee he provided testimony in support of the Susitna Dam. The project is 11 years out and has a cost estimate of 5 billion. Rep. Saddler supports changes to the ACES oil & gas tax as he thinks it would increase North Slope oil production going but it is unclear if he supports State funding for KABATA.

Flint Hills: Marisa Sharrah with Koch Companies Public Sector in North Pole introduced herself as the PR person for Flint Hills Alaska. She and Flint Hills Terminal Manager Steve Fernandez in Anchorage were present. Ms. Sharrah explained how GH can request monies for community projects. The amount of monies donated relates to the impact on the community. The criterion for fund consideration looks at

how the project affects the environment, education, the arts, and community/civic events and activities. It was noted that a normal contribution is \$1,000 to \$5,000 and that they value relationship based support and funding.

Mr. Fernandez said that Flint Hills has voluntarily spent \$17,000 to provide a temporary system to eliminate diesel generator driven motor noise that would otherwise be more intrusive to neighbors. Ms. Sharrah noted that their community advisory committee (CAC) is located in North Pole.

FCC: No Update

Knik Arm Bridge Update: Members asked why we are spending \$150 million dollars in public monies to entice private partners to come in and pitch in their own money. A major concern is that KABATA may be grossly overestimating income from tolls and that it could take 50 or 60 years to recoup bond funds with a five dollar toll. A state guarantee is being discussed in the Senate Finance Committee but has yet to be introduced to the House.

Anchorage Port Steve Ribuffo reported that the Assembly unanimously approved the Defense Fuels land transfer to the Muni. The port has reached a deal to move in with the guard. Construction plans in that area are on hold for 5 years. Mr. Ribuffo supplied copies of a 25 page research study conducted by UAA and the POA on cargo distribution patterns from the POA throughout Alaska.

Dave Shaftel inquired about a former agreement between then Governor Bill Sheffield and the GHCC. Mr. Shaftel reminded Mr. Ribuffo that Mr. Sheffield made verbal commitments that specified once the land transfer was complete the chain link fence would be moved further to the north (from the AT&T building to the east to the bluff to the west) and the bluff area would be deemed a greenbelt.

Harvard Park: A three page handout provided topical drawings of Harvard Park & Browns Point Park and a list of preliminary improvements with estimated construction cost between \$58,000 and \$70,000. The planned birch tree removal in Suzanne Nightingale Park was not listed but discussed.

Time constraints limited further discussion on the proposed Harvard Park plan but a motion was made and approved to accept the overall preliminary park design with two caveats: 1) add two garbage cans along the Harvard Park greenbelt 2) resolve the number of trees to remove in Browns Point Park and where. Landscape architect Callahan noted the drawings did not accurately show the two areas proposed for tree removal in Browns Point Park. Mr. Brennan noted that selective cutting instead of removing a whole section should open a view in Browns Point Park. Another suggestion was to selectively remove the old dead trees in lieu of healthy. The desire to open up partial views was contrasted with the benefits trees provide in decreasing industrial noise, exhaust, dust, air, and light pollution. Other concerns included: renovating the full basketball court and not just half the court; the amount of monies allocated for tree and landscape removal in Harvard Park; and complete evergreen removal next to the park sign. Ideas discussed included: assign and alternate days of the week for tennis- and pickle ball court time and to work with the Curling Club or S&RDC to store the nets when not in use.

NUSA: Volunteers are needed to create the neighborhood NUSA committee for the May 26 tour.

Neighborhood Update: Enrollment is now open for GH Elementary School's fall kindergarten class.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15 PM Submitted by Donna Rymut