



GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

C/O Community Councils Center • 1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99503

Bob French, President

Donna Rymut, Vice President

Stephanie Kesler, Secretary -Treasurer

Brit Szmoniak, FCC Representative

Mavis Hancock, At-Large Board Members

Stephanie Kesler, Past President

Government Hill Community Council 3/17/2011 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Introductions

February Minutes: Approved. Susanne DiPietro moved for approval and Thomas Pease seconded.

Legislative Updates:

- Representative Dan Saddler:
 - See attachment for update.
 - District 18 should shrink by 1800 people.
 - Stephanie Kesler asked about redistricting. Rep. Sadler's response: No predicting or influencing what will happen. Does enjoy representing Gov Hill.
- Bob French's recap of House Finance Committee hearing on HB158.
 - KABATA representatives testified – avoided mentioning numbers and figures.
 - Jamie Kenworthy then testified - walked through the numbers and ramifications of HB158.
 - The State would guarantee \$3.2 Billion to pay for \$648 Million project. Kenworthy also questioned whether it makes sense for legislature to change state liability for bonding, as AIDEA and other agencies with large bonding capacity don't need an explicit state guarantee for their debts.

Another hearing coming up before the House transportation committee on March 24th.

Assembly Update: Patrick Flynn

- Assemblyman Flynn is honored to represent Government Hill on the Anchorage Assembly.
- Met in Juneau with legislators last month.
- Advisory vote on ID check for alcohol sales. It is not Brown Jug specific. Might be useful, part of a larger program. Susanne DiPietro asked, "What is the argument against checking ID?"
 - Older customers get tired of showing ID every time.
 - Create a black market for red striped folks contracting others to buy their alcohol. Red stripe is a state law – red striped ID's can't buy alcohol.
 - Speed of transaction - getting ID out. But several stores require id for purchase.
- Carl Fleming: Observed one individual buying alcohol and then going to the bus stop and distributing alcohol to other individuals. Assembly Flynn suggested that we note the time, date, number of people, names if we know them.
- Robert Atkinson: Who funds Community Service Patrol? Answer: NANA contract. Robert - good folks - doing good work.
- Have an ordinance scheduled for hearing on March 29th. Change governance structure of AWWU and ML&P. Quasi-independent board structure now. Enforce better communications lines between utilities and Assembly. Particularly regarding rate changes.
- Participated in Tuesday March 15th Historic 4 sponsored Assembly debate: Downtown, Fairview, Mt. View, South Addition - good exchange of ideas.
- Robert Atkinson commented: Thanked the city for plowing the streets for Rondy: GHCC will write a letter of thanks from GHCC to Dan Southard for getting the streets plowed and widened for Fur Rondy.

Land Use Enforcement: Cora Weaver

Rust in Peace - hauling away old junk vehicles. Going away soon, so take advantage of it. Call 343-8331 to have vehicle hauled away.

Federation of Community Council: Brit Szmoniak

No FCC update – Brit is ill

Anchorage School District Bond Presentation: Mike Price

3 propositions on April election:

- 1) Complete Service High - 170K sq ft of building and auditorium. Will completely renew facility for another 40 yrs. \$37.1 M for the Bond. Received \$21M grant from State. \$10M - see attachment.
- 2) Renew building systems - i.e. \$16.8 M replacing alarms, roofs, etc. for over 20 facilities.
- 3) \$17M - improves and expands career training programs - improves existing spaces and expands programs to more students can participate.

Robert Atkinson suggested: Emphasize that Prop 1 extends life by 40 yrs. Prop 2: we're putting in high efficiency boilers - 30% gas use reduction. Prop 3: Voc Ed programs can help reduce dropout rate.

Bob French commented: GHES was recently renovated, Service HS & others badly need it.

Anchorage Tomorrow Presentation on Bonds: Nichole Rehm

Propositions 4, 5, and 6. Nichole stated they're very important and encouraged us to vote yes. See attachment for details.

Prop 4:

- is \$38.5 M - lowest Anchorage has seen in a decade. Passing bond will keep us from falling further behind in road construction.
- Most will happen in 2011.
- Requested matching grants from state funds - if bonds pass chances are good that we get a dollar for dollar match from the state.
- Annual increase in tax would be \$10. \$2 increase for maintenance.

Prop 5:

- Improve parks - \$3M in principal.
- Tax cost per \$100K is \$0.88 per year and \$1.12 for maintenance

Prop 6 Public Safety Upgrades:

- \$941K in principal \$0.24 and \$0.03 per \$100K

Robert Atkinson commented: "The propositions would make things in the city work better. If you have a good community, people want to come here."

Government Hill Neighborhood Plan: Joni Wilm and Dave Tremont

The Government Hill Neighborhood Planning process was on hold until the Knik Arm Crossing Record of Decision was issued by the Federal Highways Administration. [ROD issued in late December of 2010] that was why we had not heard anything for a couple of years.

The responsible municipal department: Community Development - Planning Division - Long Range Planning section.

RFP:

- The process of the neighborhood plan is in very beginning stages.
- The Long Range Planning section has started drafting and RFP to send out to prospective consultants.
- Hope to send it out in mid-April to bidders.
- The muni would like at least one member of Gov Hill to help with RFP process. Person needs to be on-board through June.
- Susanne DiPietro volunteered to be Gov Hill representative.

Timeline:

- The consultant will be selected and hired in June.
- The consultant will spend the summer doing background tasks: field work and working with the GHCC committee.
- Fall - consultant will start engaging with public and community. Details will be in proposal
- Winter – write draft plan
- Early March 2012 public draft issued for review
- March: Incorporate comments for final approval
- Based on MOU between KABATA and Muni, the plan must be complete by end of March in 2012.

General Info:

- Anchorage 2020 plan calls for district and neighborhood plans.
- Basic components: housing, population, project growth, environmental info and constraints, land use inventory, reflection of neighborhood's desire for the future.
- Historic preservation would be a significant component.
- Must comply with Title 21 and 2020 plan.

- Once plan is adopted, it will be part of municipal plan. Will be a powerful document.
- RFP for Historic 4 historic plan is also under development.
- Government Hill Oral History will be combined with South Additions Historic Inventory
- GHCC comments on RFP – due on March 31st.

GHCC Committee established including: Susanne DiPietro, Bobbi Bianchi, Thomas Pease, and Mick Rush.

Historic 4 Assembly Candidate Debate recap: Bob French

Participants: Ron Alleva, Al Swank, and Patrick Flynn

Ron Alleva: runs the auction house down by Brother Francis

Al Swank: civil engineer and planner - lives in South Addition

Debate topics: small lot sizes, chronic inebriate housing in Fairview, H2H, Knik Arm Crossing, Why does Historic 4 District have only one Assembly Person, etc.

- All were unanimous in their opposition to Knik Arm Crossing.
- All 3 cautiously supportive of H2H if it ties neighborhood together and is done right.
- Small Lot Sizes: All responded - need some flexibility in zoning requirements.
- The one Assembly representative is supposedly rotating position among all the Assembly Districts.

Bob French's comment: Do your research to figure out their positions.

Knik Arm Crossing – Susanne DiPietro

Bills in House and Senate to provide partial state funding for project. Summary of bills are attached to minutes.

Legislators are beginning to ask more difficult questions as a result of our education process. There is now a better sense of what questions to ask among committee members. Senator Thomas from FBX sent out 3 different letters to DOT, AG, Revenue that attempt to clarify bond obligations and what happens if KABATA defaults.

Neighborhoods USA: Bob French

Tour will be on May 26th.

The tour will be guided by Gov Hill residents and will feature:

- Issues the neighborhood deals with and how we deal with them.
- Mixed land use and ownership, railroad, port, JBER, parks, etc.
- Gov Hill has all of the components of how Anchorage has grown over the years.
- The first house, first strip mall on west coast, east side has the first urban renewal district in Alaska.

Will also ask business partners to participate, 30-40 people will be on the tour, Need to form a committee:

- Nick signed up to help with the food - gas grill,

Parks Report: Mavis Hancock

Harvard Park Work Party May 21st - first work party of the season for Parks & Rec.

Suzanne Nightingale park hedge rejuvenation:

- In April - as soon as weather can accommodate it.
- Snow has to melt and ground has to dry.
- Will chip the debris down.
- Will need people to rake and bag after chipping – about half dozen volunteers.

Mavis will present annual parks resolution at next meeting.

Donna asked if the Parks Committee should meet to discuss the resolution before May GHCC meeting. Mavis responded that the committee solicits feedback by all the parks representatives prior to resolution coming before coming before GHCC for vote.

Donna is an at large member.

The Parks Committee will also need a new representative for Harvard Park.

Neighborhood Concerns:

Mick Rush asked if the blueprints for the single family going up in Hollywood Vista have gone through the Northpointe Design Committee. Bob responded that the plans were reviewed and approved and it's an owner build.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Stephanie Kesler, GHCC Secretary.