



GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 101677 • Anchorage, Alaska 99510-1677

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

Meeting Minutes from GHCC April 21, 2011 Monthly Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Bob French

Corrections to March Minutes:

- Assemblyman Flynn objected to being called Historic 4. He did not feel that he was that old.
- Robert Atkinson and Donna Rymut are the two Al Miller park representatives on Parks Committee.

Susanne DiPietro moved to approve the minutes with the two changes. Ron Clark seconded.

Assembly Update by Assemblyman Patrick Flynn:

- Debbie Ossiander is new chairperson of the Assembly.
- The final Port Committee meeting will be held on May 6th at 11:00 AM.
- Patrick will hand over gavel and the Port Committee will expand to include: Port, Solid Waste, Merrill Field, MLP, and AWWU. The purpose of the expanded committee is to foster a more active engagement with the various municipal entities
- 1st Quarter budget amendments are due next week. Some changes: Asbestos abatement on train engine on Park Strip. \$20K back to Youth Court - case load has come back up. Restore some hours at the Fairview Community Center.
- Alcohol issues: Universal ID advisory passed. New ordinance is wider than the advisory vote.
- John Aronno is Assemblyman Flynn's new aide. Student at UAA. Loves this part of town. johnaronno@hotmail.com

Legislative Update by Representative Dan Saddler (Rep. Gara & Sen. Ellis not on phone):

- Day 4 of special session.
- House passed operating budget.
 - \$2M for Heritage Center
 - \$300K for Bartlett renovations
- Redistricting:
 - Dan is observing the process - sad that he would no longer be representing Gov Hill
 - Middle of June is the deadline to adopt the final one.
 - Members of the redistricting board are splitting up to take testimony throughout the state

FCC – no update

Update from the Fireman of Fire Station #1 (the Downtown Station).

- Two new engines for the Muni - one of which will be engine 2.
- Aerial truck on bonds. May go to Spenard.
- Four medic rigs - 1 new, 3 replacements
- Safer Grant: 29 positions for fire department includes 3 safety officers. The remaining 26 positions are fire fighters. 7 positions will come to Station 1.
- Annual open house May 14th. Training center of off airport heights.
- Yard cleanup: anticipates that there will be no open burning.
- Thanks to the Principal of Government Hill Elementary for inviting them to judge the science fair.

KABATA update by Loran Frazier, Chief Engineer of Knik Arm Crossing:

- Update on work that will take place this summer.
 - KABATA surveyors in Gov Hill neighborhood measuring property pins. Looking for existing property lines.
 - The surveying required before any property acquisition can occur.
 - On Mat Su side looking for unexploded ordinance.
 - Loran's contact number: 269-6299
 - KABATA's \$150MM Reserve Fund request: In committee. But will be taken up in the next session.
 - KABATA has started the permitting requests – at least a dozen permits are required: air quality, Corps of Engineers, etc.
- Q&A:
 - Bob asked about continuing Beluga studies. Have committed to doing another Beluga count.
 - Bob – Heard a rumor that the existing P3 partners were going to get thrown out and the RFQ be rebid? Loran - that's a board action. Board will meet next to decide. RFQ is 4 years old and many conditions have changed, may need to be redone.
 - Carl - are there going to be any zoning changes? Loran didn't know.
 - Nina - if KABATA is still in the process of getting project approved, why are people working on the project before it's approved? Loran - doing preliminary work. The approval was the ROD. The survey work is Phase I.
 - Joni (of the Muni) - Have the permit maps been submitted to the Muni? Loran - no - the surveying work will result in the maps.
 - Mavis - how earthquake proof will the cut and cover be? Loran - it will be built to the most current standards.
 - Susanne - will final design have to go through the municipality geotechnical advisory committee? Loran was not sure.
 - Final design will be done by P3 Partner.
 - Steve - How far east and west of Ericsson Street Corridor will team be working? Loran - depends on the state of pins - if pins are missing, they may need to move to next closer pins.

Neighborhood Planning: Joni Wilhm and Dave Tremont, Municipality of Anchorage:

- Good comments from Mick, Susanne, Seth, and Steph on RFP.
- RFP is now in Purchasing. Not sure when it will be released. But soon.

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

- 3-4 weeks to get responses back.
- Committee will take a week to review, then meet, score, and start selection process.
- Susanne - will be the Gov Hill representative. Seth will be the backup, if the schedule changes.
- Muni will also be out surveying for land use maps over the next few weeks.
- RFP will be posted on American Planning Association website. And also sent to a specific list of firms. Want a good number of responses.
- Susanne: If the Neighborhood Plan is approved by Assembly, it becomes enforceable. It can put people on notice what we want for our neighborhood.
- Susanne: Also a neighborhood Historic Plan and Oral History. Will be conducted by Tom Davis of the Municipality. Encouraging collaboration between the neighborhood plan and the neighborhood historic plan. The historic preservation plan is for the Historic 4 Neighborhoods. Braund report recommendations will most likely be in sync with Historic 4 recommendations.
- As Joni and Dave do the work, please don't hesitate to contact them with information, ideas, etc.

Knik Arm Crossing Update: Susanne DiPietro

- Susanne testified on one of the KABATA bills: One moved through both Transportation committees, and next session will go before Finance committees.
- \$150MM Reserve Fund will be taken up next session before Finance Committee.
- Susanne met with several legislators to educate them about the bills. Had mixed reception - with some legislators open and others not so open.
- Representative Saddler commented by phone that: Two no recommendations and two amends from the transportation committee. Pretty tepid response.

Neighborhoods USA: Bob French

- Wed-Sa before Memorial Day. Tour Day is May 26th.
- Still looking for more volunteers to help with the walking tour, will end up Harvard Park.
- Steph, Mavis, Donna, and Susanne volunteered to help.
- Donna will talk to Subway. Susanne will talk to the Port about donating hotdogs, etc.
- Thomas will solicit the new 7-11 liquor store for refreshments.
- Brian Singleton [Principal, Government Hill Elementary] - Subway has been an awesome business partner.

Port Update: Steve Ribuffo

- National Marine Fisheries has published the Beluga critical habitat. Port was excluded, but will need to follow existing operating conditions limitations. Port is working with NMFS.
- Going to do summer port tours: July 10th-August 28th.
- 50th Anniversary of Port of Anchorage.
- First cruise ship of season Friday May 20th. Every other Friday this season.
- Chevron sold their terminal to Crowley.
- Coast Guard Maritime safety and security team was decommissioned by Coast Guard. Being disbanded and assets are farmed out to other MSSTs in Alaska. This is not the sector team - they will be moving to JBER.
- Comment from Bob - lots of noise from the scrap metal barge.

Parks: Mavis Hancock

- Annual resolution: see attachment
 - Most parks are in good shape
 - Clean and green explanation: thinning brush and lower small diameter branches. The goal is maintaining sight lines for safety from 2 and 4 legged predators.
 - Seth asked who maintains the garbage cans on the trails. Answer: the municipality. Seth commented that there used to be a trash can down on west Harvard trail next to transformer. That was most likely a rogue trash can but perhaps we can put a another can down there.
 - Move damaged trees by the windstorm - two trees are obviously leaning the wrong way. Parks and Rec will do the cutting.
 - Donna – what is the Harvard Park cutting plan? The general concept is on the drawings for the Harvard Park VIP plan, selective thinning to re-establish views in the only 2 “view parks” in the Muni, Brown’s Point & Susan Nightingale McKay. P&R created the map and Robert pointed out the planned cutting corridors, which will be established by P&R’s forester with input from community – we will have another chance to actually walk the parks and look at the planned trees to be cut.
 - Thomas moved to accept, Mick seconded: unanimously approved.
- Hedge project in Susan Nightingale McKay: equipment will come in when soil is dry. Late next week or early following week. When it is done we'll need 1/2 dozen volunteers with rakes and thick leather gloves to cleanup/rake the Siberian pea.

News and Notes:

- Brian Singleton: awesome Gov Hill on School Yard Habitat. Bird feeders.

Adjourned at 9:03 PM.