

**Government Community Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday May 19, 2011**

**April Minutes**

On page 4, Ms. Rymut clarified that she had asked a question about the “clean and green” project, not about the Harvard Park cutting plan. Mavis responded that she had explained about the tree trimming in response to a question. Ms Rymut moved to delete that entire paragraph because she did not say that. Steve Stehr seconded. Thomas Pease offered an alternative of deciding what was said instead of deleting the whole section. Several alternatives were offered. Ms. DiPietro called the question. Three in favor; eleven opposed; motion fails. Ms. Gant suggested we just remove the word “Donna” from the beginning of that paragraph. Motion passed unanimously. Motion to approve as amended. Ms. Gant seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Legislative Updates**

Paula Spreter reported that Rep. Saddler regrets that he was unable to be here. Ms. Spreter was unable to get a full list of projects for this area. Rep. Saddler’s personal accomplishments included a Declaration of Honor, a “Veteran’s” designation on ID or drivers’ licenses, and funding for Veteran’s service officers at two university campuses. Rep. Saddler also supported and co-signed many bills that did not pass. Redistricting results indicate that Government Hill may be removed from his district, and he will miss us.

Representative Gara reported on the “standoff” between the governor, the house and the senate. Bills were introduced in both bodies to give a minimum of \$150 million to KABATA as a “Reserve” to backstop for lack of toll revenues, and another to give a state guarantee for payments to the private company that gets the contract to build the bridge. Representative Gara stands with the GHCC in opposition to this subsidy, as does Senator Ellis. Rep. Gara expects that these bills will have strong support next session from the house finance co-chair, Bill Stoltze, and we will be in for a tough fight.

Rep. Gara voted against the capital budget because it was too big. There certainly were some good projects but the Port expansion and other projects made it too big in his opinion. Rep. Gara supports Port expansion but not without a rational, cost-effective plan. The budget includes a college aid plan based on both need and merit (with funding for needs being half of that for merit). Rep. Gara reported funding to add 50 extra spaces at the Glenn Alps parking area, funding for parks city wide, and for Government Hill Elementary School. A proposal to inflation-proof school funding was not approved, meaning that school funding will not keep up with costs this year. \$10,700 was approved for the GH Elementary School Achievement Recognition program, but it could be vetoed.

**Assembly Update**

John Aronno, Assemblyman Flynn’s aide, reported that the budget was fine-tuned in the last month. \$50K was approved for asbestos abatement for the railroad car on the Park Strip. Money was approved to return the Fairview Recreation Center to its full hours. Mr. Flynn authored an amendment to restore \$20K to youth court; this amendment was picked up by Mayor Sullivan and placed in his budget, which was approved. The Downtown to Mountain View bus route was not restored, despite high ridership and low car ownership in the Mountain View neighborhood. Lance Wilbur inexplicably testified in favor of the cut, and this testimony proved critical to defeating the effort to restore the funding. Chair Debbie Ossiander appointed a redistricting committee, but the committee did not meet. She nevertheless testified to the redistricting board that the Assembly and municipal officials supported the plan. This assertion was formally contested by several Assembly members, including Mr. Flynn.

Every ten years by charter, the single-district Assembly district is supposed to be re-evaluated; however this has not been done in 20 years. Mr. Flynn plans to redress this oversight.

A question was asked about a proposal for the Wireless buildings. Mr. Anderson responded that Anchorage Historic Properties has asked the Mayor to ask the federal government to transfer ownership to the MOA, with a lease in perpetuity to AHPI. AHPI's intent is to restore and renovate the properties.

Mr. Flynn feels that the recently scaled-back version of the Port project has potential problems in terms of scope and functionality. Regarding the Geotechnical Advisory Commission discussion at our last meeting—Mr. Flynn confirmed that it does not have to approve KABATA's plans, although it could ask questions.

### **FCC Update**

Defer until next meeting.

### **Neighborhood Planning**

Ms. Wilm reported that a Request For Proposal (RFP) was drafted for firms to bid on a contract to create a neighborhood plan, but the RFP has not been released because it is stuck in MOA's purchasing department. Firms will have 4 weeks to bid, after which a bid review committee will evaluate the proposals. MOA staff have been doing some land inventory work and developing background data for the project. The successful bidder likely will start in August. The time line is to achieve Assembly approval by December 2011. Ms. Wilm said that if for some reason the project cannot be adequately completed by that date there are options for extension.

The South Addition Inventory and GH Oral History projects have been lumped together into the same RFP, which has been released from purchasing.

### **Government Hill Oral History Project**

Mr. Davis of the MOA Planning Department reported that four projects were funded through the Knik Bridge project's federally mandated "Section 106" mitigation process, including the GH neighborhood plan, oral history project, and an historic preservation plan for the Historic Four neighborhoods. The historic preservation commission is working on several projects. Existing historic inventories exist but are piecemeal. The OHP plan includes a project to create a comprehensive inventory. The GH oral history project is out for bid with a deadline of June 10. The RFP is available online. The Commission would like a resident to serve on the bid selection committee. The Historic Preservation Plan request for proposal will be out soon with a goal of starting work in July. The successful bidder will contact the GHCC in August about a public information plan. The HP plan will be adopted as an element of the Comprehensive Plan and will feed into the historic elements of the neighborhood plan. The goal is to coordinate the three projects.

Discussion ensued about how we wish to be involved in working with the successful bidding. A committee was suggested: Pease, Hancock, French, DeArmoun, Bianchi. There was a suggestion to use social media to increase outreach.

### **Knik Arm Crossing Update**

Mr. French described the project, which is controversial and expensive. A resident shared that she had called Rep. Saddler to ask his opinion about the project and was told by Rep. Saddler that he supports it, which she said is against the wishes of the neighborhood.

### **Neighborhoods USA Tour: Thursday, May 26**

GH tour is from 4-8 pm. Hot dogs donated by the Port; meal will occur in the partially renovated railroad building. Atkinson offered to donate sockeye filets. Ms. Rymut reported that Subway had offered to donate sandwiches. About 20-25 people are expected for our tour. Contact Bob French if you would like to volunteer to help with the tour.

### **Work Party at Harvard Park**

**Saturday May 21 from 9 am until noon.**

The MOA will provide the tools; all volunteers are welcome.

Nina Stehr asked about the amount of gravel, the proposal for a metal sign, and the proposal to pave only half of the basketball court—have these elements been decided? French responded that the resolution was approved in April, and the MOA's contract for the work has been awarded. Several residents served on the VIP committee that came up with the plan. Ms. Gant explained that the committee thought long and hard about how best to spend the limited amount of money available. Restoring the entire basketball court would have consumed the entire project budget, partially because of the tree roots underneath as confirmed by the project engineer. The group concluded that we could afford to restore half the court with the idea that we would do the rest later if possible; and that we would prefer to restore the tennis courts because they seem to get more use. Mr. Atkinson added that the gravel will be used primarily to connect the two trails at the same elevation and to avoid the trail deteriorating and getting muddy. Regarding the wooden sign, the problem is maintenance. Ms. Rymut said the basketball standards looked to be vintage and reported that she had conferred with Suzanne Little about an alternative plan of not paving the basketball court and saving the whole thing for later. Ms. Rymut moved to reconsider the basketball court part of the project by deleting it entirely from the scope of work. Mr. Fleming seconded the motion. Much discussion ensued. All opposed. Motion fails. Ms. Rymut moved to delete the basketball court renovation entirely, on the condition that the funds currently appropriated remain available for a future full court renovation. Mr. Fleming seconded. Discussion ensued regarding our ability to change the scope of work in an existing contract. Friendly amendment was offered: add another condition that the contractual issues can be worked out. The movant and the seconder accepted the amendment. Three voted in favor. Ten opposed, with one abstention. Motion fails.

### **Report on JBER Advisory Environmental Board**

Mr. Jim Brown has been appointed to represent GHCC on the JBER Advisory Board. He does not live in the neighborhood but did serve on the citizens' advisory board for Fort Richardson. He said that he has been an academic studying ground water and soils issues and also engineering. He would be happy to act as liaison. A solvent spill was discovered near a weapons building north of the runway during construction of an addition. A containment plan is being prepared.

### **Anchorage Port Update**

Deferred until September because we ran out of time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susanne DiPietro  
Ad Hoc Secretary