



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

Meeting Minutes GHCC September 19, 2011 Submitted by Stephanie Kesler

Introductions

May Minutes: Approved without corrections. Melinda Gant moved to approve, Ron Clark seconded.

Legislative and Assembly Updates:

John Aronno aide to Patrick Flynn:

- Budget process starts in October. Can follow at www.munibudget.org
- AMATS & Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update for 2035
 - 2 huge projects dwarf other short term projects: \$100MM 36th and New Seward
 - \$200M reconstruction of New Seward and exits at Benson and Northern Lights
 - \$700M - everything else
 - Will dissolve the firewall between Knik Arm Crossing and other AMATS projects
 - Bob French: stated that friends and representatives of GHCC will present on the bridge to other community councils
- Assembly redistricting will start once all the House & Senate districts are set. Start to rotate the single member district from Gov Hill/Mtn View/Fairview to another.
- Robert Atkinson: Asked John to thank Patrick on our behalf for his work on Harvard Park

Representative Les Gara

- Legislature is redistricting – No surprise that proposal won't be final until contested in court.
- Knik Arm Crossing
 - Recommend that we speak with Rep. Sadler regarding the bridge.
 - Bob French: Rep Sadler has given us an indication that he supports the bridge. We will initiate further conversations.
 - Will give us a list of which senators to speak with regarding the \$150 M bill
 - Bob French - two projects in STIP related to Bridge. First \$182M project is from A/C, thru Gov Hill and to N end of the Port, the other chunk of project is \$519M. Why do first stage if bridge never happens? Why spend the \$182M? (Costs on both projects don't include financing costs)
 - We brought Les up to speed on the current ROW situation.
 - Joni Wilm: Planning Department had brief meeting with KABATA. Spoke with Edrie Vinson- were planning on purchasing on both Phase I and Phase II properties at the same time. Note: that is not what we have been told by KABATA. They say they are only pursuing Ph 1 at this time.

- Foster Care
 - Dire need for foster parents in Alaska. Started a mentorship program - to assist with kids that are about to graduate out of foster care
 - Collecting good late model laptops to match with foster kids.
- Next legislative session will be all about whether the Governor's oil tax plan will pass.

Representative Dan Sadler (arrived late, missing earlier conversation where he was mentioned)

- Was not aware of condemnation, appraisals, acquisition - seems it is a bit early in the process.

Heather Beattie, aide to Senator Ellis:

- Focusing on Homelessness, chronic inebriates, autism and health care.
- Film production incentives are also something that Sen. Ellis has been working on.

Knik Arm Crossing:

- Stephanie Kesler gave an update on the Friends of Government Hill's suit to intervene on the Municipality of Anchorage's suit against FHWA.
- Right of Way (ROW) acquisition process started by KABATA on 7 "full lot" properties, 2 houses on Erickson, Sourdough Lodge, Tesoro Station, and 3 vacant lots owned by AKRR S of Tesoro. Other properties that will require re-platting and splitting lots will happen later, including Subway, Defense Fuels, Port, Elmendorf, Sunset and Harvard Park, etc.
 - Melinda Gant - the renters told they will be receiving relocation monies.
 - Archie Miller: One of the property owners has met with the appraiser. Letter stated the property would have to be vacated by July of next year. An offer has been made.
 - The ROW process must comply with Federal Relocation Act: Initial appraisal, confirming audit - the two numbers have to be somewhat close. Then offer is made and negotiations start. KABATA said no offers made yet.
 - Charles Scott asked how did KABATA get approval to start process? Bob French answered: KABATA received letter from FHWA stating they have partial approval.
 - Melinda Gant wondered if KABATA was trying to use up their current allocated monies.
- Port Impacts: Steve Ribuffo:
 - Floating easement at the east side of the Port was granted back in the 70's
 - Would lose about 30 of the 60 acres that the Port built out in their N expansion.
 - Negotiations have made progress - Port would now only lose ~15 acres.
 - Road to N end of Port (separate project in STIP) would not help Port, Security Concerns.

Neighborhood Plan Update: Joni Wilm

- Kristine Bunnell will be the project manager for the Neighborhood Plan as well as the South Addition Historic Building Inventory, and the Oral History project.
- In process of hiring consultant for neighborhood plan:
 - 5 consultants responded. Picked two to interview. Negotiating contract with Winter and Company - out of Boulder.
 - Susanne DiPietro was on the committee.
- Hoping for kickoff meeting in late Sept and early October - generate ideas for public outreach
- Going to do a website for the project - want to get as many people as possible at design charrettes. Hope to involve the Port, RR, and Elmendorf
- Lots of discussion about how the bridge would influence/impact the project.

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

- Want to connect with as many people in the community as possible. One of the consultant's ideas was to try to dovetail into an existing event.
- For the Neighborhood Plan Fact Sheet and other documents, [click here](#).

Historic Preservation Plan: Kristine Bunnell

- Encompasses the four original neighborhoods, Gov Hill, Downtown, Fairview, South Addition.
- Currently have all the house and structure inventories for Gov Hill, are using the Braund Report.
- The preservation plan is "our plan" we (Government Hill) will work with the project folks to develop the plan.
- Oral History Project: Looking for 30-40 people to interview.
- For the Historic Plan Fact Sheet and other documents, [click here](#).

Parks Update: Robert Atkinson and Mavis Hancock:

- Report on Harvard Park Work Day:
 - Was held on May 21st
 - Still waiting for new park sign - not ready yet for installation
 - Tennis court nets are also in process
 - Mavis thought there would be more shrubbery near sign.
 - Pansies didn't work so well in the flower bed. Will need to try something different next year.
 - The new trail from Brown's point to Harvard Park. Will need to put in retaining walls. Downslope side of trail has some issues. But a big improvement over what we had before.
- Parks Report Card
 - The Muni likes comments on Report Cards - and photos
 - Hoping to have the report cards by middle of October
 - Shannon Coon at park's foundation 715 L street get them to Robert at 900 Brown Street
- Siberian Pea Hedge looks really good, as the "butch job haircut" grew out!

Railroad: Tim Sullivan

Tim Sullivan - new external affairs manager for the RR and will be regularly attending our meetings

Port: Steve Ribuffo

- The DOT Inspector General is visiting the Port because they're doing an evaluation on the Maritime Administration's ability to manage infrastructure projects, not to investigate problems.
- Visiting 3 projects: Hawaii, Anchorage, and Guam.

Neighborhood Concerns

Stop signs - too many? Lots of discussion at the Harvard and Erickson. Don't need all those signs, especially the one on Manor. Others don't recall any new stop signs since the "Traffic Calming" of a couple of years ago.

Melinda Gant: Report graffiti under the bridge to graffiti busters

Robert Atkinson: Reveille at 7:00 AM could it be any louder?

Robert Atkinson: Proposed moving meetings 6:30 to 8:30

Weaver Franklin – Wanted to consider asking the MOA to delete our east and west designations on Harvard, Manor and Cook. While historically interesting, it is confusing for people looking for an address.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05 PM