



# 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

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## Meeting Minutes GHCC October 20, 2011 Submitted by Stephanie Kesler

### Introductions

Marty Moore introduced himself – his family has owned a house on Elm Street for the past fifty years.

**Sept Minutes:** Unanimously approved without corrections. Seth Anderson moved and Thomas Pease seconded.

### Legislative and Assembly Updates:

#### Patrick Flynn:

#### Panoramic View Parking

- Signs stating, “No parking during snow season” were erected in front of Panoramic View.
- That ban resulted in some nasty parking challenges. Complaints were registered.
- The Muni relented. Most of the signs can come down and more parking is now available.
- A big thanks to John Aronno for pursuing the issue and Dan Southard from Street Maintenance

Budget: Go to <http://www.communitycouncils.org/download/5868.pdf> for a copy.

- First public hearing on Tuesday 10/25.
- Mayor described it as a “boring budget.”
- Parks and Rec supporters have concerns.
- Please let Patrick know about any of your concerns.
- Mayor's legislative list - need to have Government Hill input.

#### Metropolitan Transportation Plan

- The MTP draft is now out for comment.
- Document describes how we're going to spend our transportation dollars for the next five years
- Presumes that the \$150M reserve for the Knik Arm Crossing (KAC) will be approved by the Legislature, and that any “obligations of KABATA will be obligations of the State”.
- Also presumes the KAC will not have deleterious impact on other transportation project.
- Also presumes the KAC will have access to other transportation dollars.
- You can view the MTP draft at [AMATSinfo.org](http://AMATSinfo.org)
- Bob French: The public comment period for this first phase ends in a few weeks. Other chances to comment include Planning & Zoning Commission and Assembly meetings early in 2012.
- MTP open houses:
  - 10/24: City Hall Noon-4
  - Wendler 6-8

- 10/25: Eagle River 4-8.
- The MTP comments get collated, reviewed by AMATS technical committee, then goes to public for further review.

Parks:

- Robert Atkinson asked if Patrick had walked the new Brown's Point Park to Harvard Park trail. 15 minute walk it looks fabulous. Suzanne Little & Harvard Park Committee made a huge contribution.

State Senator Johnny Ellis and State Representative Les Gara

- MTP – it appears as if the MTP will attempt to make the KAC a short term priority. Others are going to be pushing to pass Linda Menard's bill \$150M reserve bill, and State Guarantee.
- Les: the public won't like it when they realize State has to foot the bill.
- Johnny - keeping faith with Government Hill. He, Kim Elton, Georgiana Lincoln voted against the original bill creating KABATA because eminent domain was granted to KABATA. Johnny thought and still thinks it is heinous.
- Letters to the Editor to ADN and Frontiersman are very valuable.
- Susanne DiPietro commented that legislators read Letters to Editors.
- KABATA is guaranteeing the Private Partner 12% interest
- knikbridgefacts.org good site for complete analysis

**Federation of Community Councils – update by Bob French**

- The FCC hosted a “State of Our City” forum.
- It attracted several presenters and many participants. Solid evening, lots of info on Title 21, Bike Commuting, different Social Safety nets, Muni Budget, etc.
- Patrick Flynn referred to it as “Speed dating for policy wonks.” ☺

**Neighborhood Plan Update: Joni Wilm**

- Kickoff meeting was last Thursday 10/13/2011. Seth Anderson is the GHCC representative
- The Neighborhood Plan is plan for our neighborhood. Developing a vision of and for our neighborhood over next 15-20 years
- Consultant: Winter and Associates from Boulder. Very experienced.
- The first public workshop will be on Sat. December 3<sup>rd</sup> at Government Hill Elementary. Food will be provided.
- The team is going to work with the Gov Hill Elementary principal on getting kids involved and excited.
- Working on web sites: Hoping to get it up by 10/21. UPDATE: The website and Facebook pages are up:
  - Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Government-Hill-Neighborhood-Plan/293153897370905>
  - Web site: <http://www.anchorageghnp.com/GHNP/Home.html>
- Diane Miller: Mentioned our previous efforts with Anchorage Neighborhood Housing and the commercial center work. Bob suggested Muni talk with KPB Architects to see if data still available.
- Seth Anderson: How are we going to advertise to the community?
- Joni - the advisory committee will play an active role in communication. Consultant provided a handout about forming an advisory committee: 10-15 people - residents, GHCC, business owners, RR, Port, JBER Will try to form next week. The advisory committee can then help determine advertising strategies...

- Winter and Associates have significant experience working with neighborhoods that have been significantly disrupted and impacted by major transportation projects
- Susanne: Plan A and Plan B – Plan A should be a positive plan for our neighborhood without a bridge, Plan B how best we can mitigate and minimize effects on the neighborhood if bridge is built.
- Marty Moore - related some negative experiences with eminent domain - we need to be prepared.
- It was suggested that we put together a one pager to leaflet the neighborhood

#### **Knik Arm Crossing:**

- Folks concerned about financial impacts of the Bridge will be presenting at most of the community councils during MTP process.
- The goal is to have the MTP plan reflect the original conditions in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP): i.e. no more local, state, federal monies, so needed transportation/safety projects are not cut.

#### **Historic Preservation Plan, for Historic 4 Neighborhoods: Kristine Bunnell**

- Focus group meetings next week. Postcards have been sent out.
- The Historic Preservation process has received money from FHWA. **BUT KABATA** does not drive the process. They're not a part of the committee. They only receive a quarterly report.
- Any project that receives federal funding has to comply with the federal preservation act - Section 106. Historic buildings, site, parks, schools, churches come under Section 106.
- Muni is excited and overjoyed to do planning. They will work with us to create the best possible plan.
- Susanne DiPietro asked, "Why are Neighborhood and Historic processes separate?" She is worried the residents will have meeting fatigue/confusion. Also concerned how the two processes will work together and coordinate.
- Kristine: There will be a combined workshop with Neighborhood plan, historic plan, and maybe even transportation plan
- Thomas Pease asked if meeting venues other than the school and been considered. i.e. Square and Round Dance, Railroad, Calvary Baptist Church.
- Kristine is very excited that the process is underway.
- Oral History - interviewed two people so far. So fun to hear stories. The first two interviews were test runs. Bobbie Bianchi and Darrell Hess, six scheduled for week of the 24th. Will end up doing about 20 interviews.
- Thomas Pease asked, "What will the historic plan do that we don't already have – like the Braun report?" Kristine answered, historic plan will provide guidance over & above other planning documents, "there will be a plan - goals and objectives of how we want to do historic preservation. Will lay the foundation for historic preservation will be treated in Anchorage. Not just an inventory a la the Braun report."
- The Historic plan web site and Facebook pages:
  - Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Anchorage-Historic-Preservation-Plan/108043889307182>
  - Website: <http://anchoragehpp.com/>

**Parks Update:** Robert Atkinson and Mavis Hancock:

- All the parks are ready to go to bed for the winter.
- Robert reported that Muni has fixed the embankment on the Harvard Park / Browns Point trail and the nets on the tennis courts.
- It was asked if fencing on the curve going to be repaired.
- Cyclecross was held on the hill two weeks ago.
- Final ask for park report cards to be turned into P&R.

#### **Land Use Enforcement**

- Daune Wyatt is our new Land Use Enforcement Officer
- If we have any complaints, concerns, questions, please contact her at:  
*Daune Wyatt*  
343-8337  
WyattDE@ci.anchorage.ak.us
- She can't imagine Anchorage without Government Hill

#### **Railroad: Tim Sullivan**

- Tim can be reached at: 265-2357
- Susanne DiPietro commented that we would like the railroad to participate in Neighborhood planning process
- Robert Atkinson asked if the engine block heaters been installed. Tim will research

#### **Port: Steve Ribuffo**

- Steve and Bob French discussed the replatting. It will incorporate the Defense Fuels site and old Anchorage-Whittier pipeline areas.
- November 2nd it goes before planning and zoning.
- Buffer zone that we negotiated back when Defense Fuels was being cleaned up is officially on the plat.
- Joni Wilm mentioned that because the RR replat abuts the neighborhood, the port will have to plant trees. We would like shrubs - low shrubs. Neighborhood should be consulted about the landscaping.
- Susanne DiPietro would like the port to participate in the neighborhood planning process .

#### **Neighborhood Concerns**

Robert Atkinson: Will bring a resolution to the November meeting proposing that our monthly meeting start time be moved from 7:00 PM until 9 PM to 6:30 PM until 8:30 PM.

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:08 PM**