



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 November 17, 2011
Taken by Melinda Gant
Transcribed and Submitted by Stephanie Kesler

Introductions

October Minutes:

Correction: Steve Ribiffo questioned why the Railroad (RR) was mentioned in the 4th bullet under the Port Update; Joni Wilm confirmed that the Railroad reference was incorrect, and it was suggested that we just delete “RR”. Brit Szmoniak moved for approval and Mavis Hancock seconded; Minutes approved with the removal of the “RR” Railroad Reference.

Legislative and Assembly Updates:

Tony Smith, aide to Representative Les Gara

- No updates, here to listen and report.

Heather Beatty, aide to Senator Ellis

- Senator Ellis and staff are monitoring the KABATA issues.
- Focusing on the upcoming legislative session, which begins on January 17th.

John Aronno aide to Patrick Flynn:

- Forwarding Muni Legislative budget program to the legislature.
- Taking testimony on the municipal budget
- Discussed the sidewalk ordinance, which will be up at upcoming meetings.
- Reminded folks of the Snow Removal form on the muni website – fill out and submit form if snow removal is late.
 - Form URL: <http://webapps1.muni.org/pdpw/streetmaint/feedback/index.cfm>
 - URL for tracking plowing progress:
<http://munimaps.muni.org/website/streetmaint/sweeping/disclaimer2.htm>
- Bob French asked about the timing of the Legislative program and when suggestions and input is needed. John confirmed that input is needed now.

Federation of Community Councils –

- No update this month. Brit Szmoniak will provide an update at December’s meeting

Municipal Budget

- Bob discussed the Ship Creek Bike Path. It needs repairs where washed out.

- The Body discussed fixing up the Water Tower.
- The Council Body discussed Government Hill's Capital Improvement requests:
 - Timing to present to the Assembly
 - The Legislative list
 - December 6th is the date the Assembly will vote on the program
 - Heather Beatty confirmed that mid-February would be the time to contact the legislature on Government Hill's Capital Improvements Priorities

Alaska Railroad: Tim Sullivan

- Tim discussed the Locomotive Emission reduction program: a key component is to reduce idling time, getting new engines & retrofitting old.
- Bob mentioned that in the past there has been a hotline number for complaints. Tim was going to get back to us on that.

Port: Steve Ribuffo

- Steve reported that they are pushing to have the USS Anchorage commissioning ceremony in Anchorage in September 2012:
 - The Secretary of the Navy will make the decision in the next three weeks, and if GHCC members would like to express their support, they can email Lindsey Whitt or fill out the postcards that Steve distributed.
 - The visit could bring 5,000 people in one day to the port
 - The Ship is a LPD16 or 17 troop carrier holding about 600 Marines
 - Bob suggested that this be presented to the Assembly so the Assembly can provide their support.
- Port Expansion:
 - Progress has been slowed, this summer they focused on determining the extent of damaged piles and necessary repairs
 - Next year there may not be any new construction in 2012, just repairs. Portions of the "new" sheet pile walls will need to be removed, and replaced.
 - Corps of Engineers will finish their design review in Winter 2012/Spring of 2013
 -
 - Dry dock is in good shape
 - Wet dock is damaged
 - Focus for new construction will be on finishing the North End

Resolution to Change Start Time of GHCC meetings

- Bob confirmed that a 6:30 PM is acceptable to the School District
- Mavis Hancock moved to change the GHCC meeting time to: 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
- Thomas Pease seconded
- Discussion:
 - The earlier time may improve attendance
 - Government Hill Elementary school principal indicated that he would prefer the earlier time
- Motion passed unanimously

Neighborhood Plan Update: Joni Wilm

- Public Workshop December 3rd

- In addition to the neighborhood meeting on December 3, Three additional Focus groups will meet in December –
 - Business entities have already signed up for the Real Estate Focus group
 - Neighboring Entities: JBER, Port, ARR, ADP, South Addition, Fairview, and AT&T
 - Technical Advisory Committee: responsible for guiding the plan. Need more people for this group.
- Joni is reaching out to neighborhood restaurants to donate food for the Public Workshop. Also asked if anyone else could contribute. Joni also asked if the Port or Railroad would like to contribute.
- Postcard invitation for December 3rd workshop will go out to all property owners on Monday 11/21.
- Joni also asked for leads on the Korean community members. The Government Hill Elementary School Principal will reach out for a contact.
- Donna stated that she saw the GHCC Neighborhood Plan on the AMATS agenda. Bob asked Joni, to confirm if or when GHCC plan will be on the AMATS agenda, as it was not on the recent e-mail alerts
- Joni confirmed that Neighborhood Plans are part of the Knik Arm Crossing mitigation and the Muni is required to go through the process.
- BUT, Joni strongly emphasized that the Neighborhood Planning Process, Historical Preservation Plan, and Oral History project are NOT under the influence of KABATA.
- Joni confirmed that one of the plan goals could be to revitalize the Commercial Center.
- The team is going to work with the Gov Hill Elementary principal on getting kids involved and excited.
- The website and Facebook pages:
 - Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Government-Hill-Neighborhood-Plan/293153897370905>
 - Web site: <http://www.anchoragehnp.com/GHNP/Home.html>

Knik Arm Crossing – Bob French:

- The Bridge is in the new draft MTP for 2035. The old LRTP dictated that the bridge receive no additional state or local funds – a funding firewall.
- Since KABATA has now asked for state money in the form of a \$150 Million “reserve fund”, the funding firewall has been removed from the new draft MTP.
- The assumption is that the reserve fund would not impact other Anchorage projects. If that assumption is not correct, the MTP will need to be updated, or projects removed from the proposed short and long term lists.
- Financial experts we have been working with estimate that the total cost of the bridge, including financing costs will rise from \$3.2B to \$5.5B.
- Concerned citizens have made presentations other community councils and those community councils have passed resolutions opposing any State funding for the project
- Bob would like draft a resolution supporting other transportation projects for GHCC approval in December
 - Timing of a December resolution would be good. In advance of the Legislative session and the Assembly MTP approval process.
 - GHCC citizens need to determine what we want to focus on in the resolution.
 - Advance notification to GHCC residents of resolution vote and encourage residents to attend the meeting

- In the advisory role that Community Councils play in our Municipal Government, it is legal, proper and permissible for GHCC to pass a resolution stating their non-support of the Bridge, as further evidenced by other Community Councils taking similar actions.

Neighborhood Concerns

- East Hollywood Parking
 - Muni had prohibited parking on Hollywood near Panoramic View during the winter, but that caused major parking headaches. So parking was proposed to be opened up on both sides of the street.
 - Residents expressed concern that it would be too crowded and only one side should be opened up for parking.
 - John Arrono will investigate and work with Transportation department.
- Thefts:
 - Snow tires were stolen out of a shed on the west side of the hill.
 - Council body discussed past occurrences
 - Melinda noted that the MOA did a good job of addressing the garbage issue at Sourdough Hotel.
- The Liquor Store: Changing the Conditional Use Permit pertaining to sale of alcohol can apparently be changed at any time by the Assembly, not just during the Liquor License renewal process.
 - The store's liquor license is up for renewal on Tuesday under the consent agenda.
 - John will look into the CUP and inform Pat.
 - Bob will forward the resolution that GHCC passed last Fall regarding the Tesoro and "The Liquor Store" to Pat.
 - Bob will also appear at the Assembly meeting.