

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 Szymoniak, FCC Representative
Mavis Hancock, Brian Fields and Melinda Gant, At-Large Board Members
Stephanie Kesler, Past President

GHCC Meeting Minutes
April 19th, 2012
Submitted by Stephanie Kesler

Introductions: Customary round-the-room introductions

Meeting Minutes

Thomas Pease moved and Melinda Gant seconded to approve the minutes. Passed unanimously.

No Legislative updates were available from Representatives Gara, Saddler or Senator Ellis, as they were still in Juneau.

Assemblyman Patrick Flynn

Budget:

- Tuesday April 24th: Assembly set the 1st quarter budget amendments. Snow removal had a significant impact
- Then will set the Mill Rate.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan:

- Passed with the language prohibiting use of additional local funds on the Knik Arm Crossing.
- Policy committee has to approve it with the amendment. Doesn't go into Muni Comprehensive Plan unless the amendment is approved.

Taxes will be lowered a tad - money coming in from legislature.

Also included a few dollars for renovations of the 556 train engine on the park strip.

Election:

- Melinda Gant: Because the election has not been certified yet, are the park projects going to be delayed? Patrick responded, that he thinks we can dip into reserve funds and those funds can be replenished by the bond sales.
- Municipality, but ultimately the Assembly, is responsible for the election
- Until the election is certified, bonds can't be sold. Mayor can't be sworn in, school board members can't be seated, etc.
- The Assembly will receive the election report on Wednesday April 25th.
- Special meeting on Thursday April 26th to take up on election report.

Federation of Community Councils (FCC): Brit Szymoniak

Recap of the April 18th FCC meeting:

- Discussed how to get local capital projects into the community councils budget - the FCC will provide some support for the CIP process.

April 19, 2012
Minutes

- CIP - projects can take four years to bring to fruition. Canvassing, signatures, etc.
- Projects can go through the FCC as the fiscal agent. The FCC takes a 2% overhead as opposed to Muni's overhead of 10%.
- FCC executive committee wants to set aside funds so that every single community council can do a mail survey every five years.
- Ron Clark asked why five years instead of two years. Brit - it's funding. Ron - we have a mobile population it would be nice to do it every two years.
- The New Seward Highway at Tudor and Dowling will be closed off and on during the construction season.
- FCC is going to do a big push to improve community council attendance across the municipality. They are bringing in a consultant to help with the project.

Resolution Supporting Equal Rights in Anchorage: Cindy Leaske

- President French: The resolution was presented and read at last month's meeting.
- Cindy Leaske - Nine other community councils have passed the resolution. Note: The resolution doesn't make reference to Proposition 5.
- Thomas Pease moves in support of the resolution and Melinda Gant seconded.
- UAA Student Government representative: UAA student government just passed something very similar.
- Passed unanimously.

The Liquor Store

- Overview by Thomas Pease
 - Two years ago Gov Hill began seeing increasing numbers of inebriates in neighborhood; parks, sidewalks, bus stop. There were regular CSP calls and litter and human waste in the green belt became a problem.
 - Based on recommendations from APD and Assemblyman, we start documenting the issues.
 - Neighbors dismantled homeless camps and started pruning heavy undergrowth.
 - Regular pedestrian traffic was also observed between the bus stop and The Liquor Store - at this time the Liquor Store was only liquor store vendor within a mile.
 - People Mover bus driver reported inebriates coming to and from Government Hill via the bus
 - At this time Tesoro came to us with a plan to open a liquor store at their gas station. Tesoro agreed to operating under specific conditions, related to times of operation, container sizes & stickers.
 - Patrick: All downtown liquor stores now operate under similar rules. Tesoro rules are a little more stringent. The downtown rules are now part of the municipal code.
 - During this period, we went to Mr. Ham and asked to him to stop selling to inebriates
 - We also stated that we would ask that the same conditions as the Tesoro Station be placed on The Liquor Store's liquor license when it comes up for renewal/
 - APD Sting 2/14/2011 - documented that the Liquor Store was selling to inebriates
 - The Government Hill Community Council reiterated in October & November 2011 the previous Tesoro Resolution asking that the same conditions be placed on The Liquor Store's liquor license.
 - However, The Liquor Store license was renewed by the Assembly despite the sting, the resolution, and President French's testimony, We were told we need to go through Public Safety Committee
 - It took us 3 1/2 months to get on Public Safety agenda in March. Thomas Pease presented but we have not yet heard back from Public Safety Committee.
 - Among the litter, we haven't found a single stickered bottle.
 - A former airman noted during Thomas' presentation that the Liquor Store's alcohol is cheaper and the store is open later than anywhere else.
- Cabaret, Hotel, Restaurant and Retailers (CHARR): - Sylvia Villamides, Executive Director and Ed O'Neil, Board member:
 - CHARR first became aware of the issue at the March Public Safety Committee meeting.
 - Sylvia was surprised by the number of proposed conditions - a lot of conditions for a small store operator.
 - The Liquor Store is a member of CHARR. Became a member two years ago.
 - Sylvia has worked with The Liquor Store since the March meeting regarding the proposed conditions. And The Liquor Store would like to be on the record that they're going to follow the conditions.
 - Patrick Flynn: Tesoro and The Liquor Store are two very different operators. Big company vs. a couple of guys.

April 19, 2012
Minutes

- The Assembly's ability to set conditions is limited. The conditions cannot be arbitrary and capricious. Tesoro agreed to the conditions. The Liquor Store could disagree. If everyone agrees, it will be a lot easier...
- CHARR would prefer that liquor license special conditions be store-by-store discussion as opposed to an overall ordinance.
- Thomas spoke up, "Just to clarify. We have reached out to the operator several times, without response." Patrick agreed.
- Mr. Ham - owner of The Liquor Store:
 - They are aware of what's going on. They are willing to work with the community. The Tesoro operation is bigger. It's harder with small operators.
 - They have stopped selling ten dollar plastic bottles of Vodka. They also pulled fortified wine one and a half years ago.
 - They want to try to work with the community
 - Melinda Gant commented that the inebriate problem shifted from downtown up to Government Hill because of pressure put on by the Muni to remove inebriates from downtown transit center.
 - Conditions that the Liquor Store objects to: cheap wine less than \$10. There are good wines less than \$10. They also want to be able to sell splits/half bottles of wine (less than 750 ml). The condition should be focused on fortified wines less than \$10.
 - They proposed that we inventory the litter and they would discontinue the product.
 - Ed O'Neil: - the overall liquor retail situation is complicated. Different retailers have different customer bases. Chronic inebriates don't drink wine - it's too low in alcohol.
 - Mr. O'Neil commented that they making big headway in cleaning up camps.
 - President French asked Mr. Ham to please bring forward changes he would like to see to the resolution. However, we will not be able to vote on it until the Fall.
 - Suggestion was made for translators, and CHARR said they would see what they could do to help.
 - The Anchorage Responsible Beverage Retailers Association, ARBRA also volunteered to adopt one of parks, and to conduct clean-up's.

Spring Parks Resolution - Mavis Hancock

Mavis presented the resolution containing the list of projects and we discussed it. Here's the link to review the resolution: <http://www.communitycouncils.org/download/6347.pdf>

The resolution will come up for a vote at the May meeting

Bob – We could see about getting benches from King Career Center. Robert Atkinson volunteered to follow up with the Career Center.

ARR - Tim Sullivan

Getting geared up for summer season. Starts on May 12th.

Just graduated class of a dozen tour guides

405,000 passengers last year, hoping for 412,000 to 415,000 passengers this summer

Could lose \$30M year in federal funding, will see what happens with Transportation Bill.

Currently trying to do what they can on congressional level regarding the funding but developing contingency plan

Ron Clark: what about asking the state. Tim replied: Not in the capital budget right now. Also, the Railroad doesn't like to ask the state for operational funding

The Railroad pays out \$16M a year in bond payments.

Mavis - thanked Tim for his regular attendance

Robert Atkinson: what's going on with all the metal screeching, etc. in the evening? Tim: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM: freight moving on the trains loaded by 7:00 PM, train leaves and arrives in FBX the next morning.

Kristine Bunnell - how can we help the Railroad with Congress? Tim responded: Write letters, etc. A bill with Railroad funding passed out of Senate. It's now in the House. Letters to Senators Murkowski and Begich, and Representative Young would be very helpful.

Port Update - no update this month

April 19, 2012
Minutes

Neighborhood Planning: Joni Wilm

Joint open house with Historic Preservation plan on May 31st from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Mailer will be coming with announcements for the open house. It will be at the Pioneer Schoolhouse.

Two well attended public workshops up to this point.

Consultants have been busy documenting and diagraming ideas that were developed in the workshops.

Reviewed the scenario diagrams.

Consultants have been working on the plan outline draft. Draft was sent to Joni last week. Government Hill representatives will review it next week, and are meeting April 25th at 6:00 PM at Ski Benny's - review of preliminary plan.

Annual KABATA Meeting on May 1st: with KABATA, SHPO, MOA, GHCC, FHWA, Tribes and other stakeholders.

Will also meet with Mayor and the City Manager to encourage support of the plan. Economic business case

Logo - Barbara LaValle is very interested in doing our logo. She would like input on the logo design – we volunteered Bobbi Bianchi to provide the input.

Historic Plan review: Kristine Bunnell

The May 31st Open House - very important day for both plans.

On May 1st the historic preservation plan draft will be available.

Two public outreaches for the plan.

Knik Arm Crossing Update – Bob French

The Legislature did not pass either of KABATA's bills, which would set up a "reserve fund", to pay for "availability payments" to KABATA's private partner, and in the other bill, to authorize \$150 million in down payment to cover the gap between incoming toll revenues and the "availability payments". KABATA says that after 9 years, income will exceed payments: Many toll roads & bridges revenue predictions by Wilbur Smith Associates across the country have had less than half actual traffic & revenue than what WSA predicted, and if that happens, KABATA's toll revenues will never exceed their "availability payments", thus, HB158, which was passed by the house, but not by the senate, would have created a "blank check" from the state to KABATA, and their Public Partner.

The Assembly actions on April 10 were good news for the Municipality in trying to keep any potential cost over-runs for KABATA from affecting the rest of the transportation projects in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Will continue to work regarding Assembly, MTP 2035 Update, the Legislature, etc. as things develop.

Adjourned at 9:00 PM