

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
December 20th, 2012
Submitted by Stephanie Kesler

President Bob French Presiding

Introductions: Customary round-the-room introductions.

November Minutes: Steve Ribuffo: Brit Szymoniak's name was spelled incorrectly. Susanne DiPietro asked about the Port Master Plan, mentioned in the Nov. Minutes. Steve Ribuffo responded that the Assembly is holding off on approving the master planning effort until the Port Expansion "way ahead" is ironed out. Steve Stehr's last name was also spelled incorrectly. Steve Stehr moved to approve the November minutes with the above noted corrections. Ron Clark seconded. Approved unanimously.

Legislative Updates:

Matt Moser, aide to Senator Johnny Ellis

- Senator Ellis sent a letter to the KABATA Executive Director requesting information on the geotechnical work and a current cost estimate.
- Matt encouraged us to sign-up for Senator Ellis' email newsletter and to follow Senator Ellis on Facebook and Twitter.

Representative Les Gara

- 3rd annual drive for used laptops to Foster youth. Cash donations are also appreciated.
- Knik Arm Crossing:
 - KABATA will be an issue in the upcoming session - only place it can get stopped is in the Senate.
 - Bert Stedman is our only known political ally other than Democrats.
 - Have to pick up two other Republicans in the Senate, since this really is not a D vs. R issue.
 - Suggested that we have a known Republican spokesman for our side
- Oil Gas - same issues as last session
- AHFC - mixed housing in Inlet View Towers.
 - AHFC did not inform the South Addition Community Council that Inlet View was going to mixed income housing.
 - Also questions about whether the restaurant and bar can continue in the Inlet Towers.
 - Les will work in the House to allow the AHFC to actually have a business in an building. i.e. Grocery Stores, Bakeries, etc.
 - Suggested that we invite AHFC for a presentation.

John Aronno for Assemblyman Patrick Flynn, who was sick.

- Last Assembly meeting - reapportionment is at a "stand-still" for now. One tweak to Chris Birch's proposal is likely to come up: 3 year terms instead of 2 year terms.
- Switch school board to district based instead of at large. Patrick was against it. It was voted down.
- Rumrunners has been closed down. Patrick had wanted the liquor license to expire. But, it is being transferred to new ownership. The intention is that will be a TGI Fridays. Restrictions were put on it. 75% food and 25% liquor.
- Thomas asked if Patrick will be attending the Assembly Work session on curbside pickup. John said that if Patrick is able to attend, he will attend. It's being held on Dec 21, in the Assembly conference room on the 1st floor at City Hall.

FCC update: Brit Szymoniak

- "State of our City" event was very successful - 125 attendees
- Brit is now the chair of the FCC. It looks as if Dick Tremaine will be the vice chair.
- The FCC is still working on the Community Patrols and the weapons carrying issue.
- Great presentation at the December FCC meeting from the School Board. The new attendance policy holding parents legally liable for poor attendance has resulted in a 48% improvement in attendance.

Solid Waste Services: Curbside and Alley Pickups - Brian Vanderwood and Paul Alcantor

- Powerpoint Presentation: showing the new automated pickup system and challenges serving alleys.
 - SWS has formed a committee with Rogers Park, South Addition, Government Hill, and Fairview
 - SWS asked for our support in working with various utilities to fix low hanging wires, alley plowing, etc.
- **Discussion:**
 - Thomas Pease: Shouldn't Planning and Code enforcement be involved. Isn't it a city responsibility?
 - Brian Vanderwood responded: the code to enforce low hanging wires is federal.
 - GCI was asked to move the low hanging cable, but they responded if the customers would call in and complain, that they would move it. But only if customers called in to GCI and the phone company and not at the request of SWS.
 - Thomas stated that because our neighborhood has alleys, as property owners, we pay a higher mill rate to get alleys maintained. So we should get our money's worth.
 - Brian: Solve the problem and then maintain for the long term. The problem has become more acute - become worse over the years and the new equipment is just enough larger.
 - Bob French asked about the size and clearance requirements for the current equipment. Brian responded that they have problems with the current equipment.
 - Bob French- can they buy smaller trucks? Brian - length and height are smaller but width is the same.
 - Stuart - The system works well for us. Why are we changing? Paul Alcantor: This has been a problem for years and it's just becoming worse.
 - Carl Fleming - what about a community drop center?
 - Joni Wilm - asked "has SWS spoken with the Municipal Planning Department"? Brian - answered yes we have.
 - Brit Szymoniak asked about the new changes to the rate system: Brian responded, the weekly service is \$19.10 month for 48 gallon trash can and recycling.
 - Another resident spoke in favor of a community dumpster.
 - Carl asked for a rate chart. It's available on the SWS website.
 - Bob French asked with all the cost savings, why aren't our costs going down. Brian - costs have gone up, gasoline, new trucks. The Assembly sets the rates - not under the RCA.

- Stuart - just wants it to be convenient.
- Ron Clark: What about leaf bag pickups in the Fall. Brian: SWS will pick it up if you call. And you will be charged extra. \$10 plus \$2 per bag. The Assembly sets the rates.
- Mavis Hancock: what happens to people who simply cannot get their trash down to the curb? Brian: you can ask for an alternate pickup, but will pay an additional fee.
- Stuart: shifting the burden from the municipality to us.
- Steve Stehr - will run into the same problem on the street as the alleys. His preference is that we should fix the alleys. And when is SWS going to pick up glass? Brian – glass is expensive, not enough to make it cost effective. Our recycling products get shipped to the L48.
- Thomas Pease: It's not really so much a solution to an existing problem in our neighborhood. But instead it's a solution to suburbia that is being imposed on us. Brian, Anchorage wanted curbside recycling. In order to provide that service, this was the most economic solution.
- Charles Scott: Where's he going to put his trash? Out in the street next to his flowers?
- Paul Alcantor: We're in support of what the community wants. We need your support in getting the obstacles pushed out of the way.

GHCC Resolution in support of continued alley refuse collection: Thomas Pease

- Ron Clark - they came up with a solution for the suburban part of Anchorage but not for existing neighborhoods with alleys.
- Thomas Pease - SWS told Rogers Park in May of 2011 that they would purchase smaller trucks for alleys. But ended up going with the biggest trucks, which reduces the number of needed trips to the dump.
- Thomas recognized Steve Stehr, Mavis Hancock and Ron Clark for their hard work on the curbside committee.
- Ron Clark - took issue with SWS stating that folks with disabilities would have to pay more. It's shifting the burden to a population that already has to pay more.
- Thomas distributed the letter from Community Councils in support of alley refuse pickup that will be the basis for a resolution, to be voted on at the January meeting.

Tank Farm Committee: Steve Gerlek and Arran Forbes

- Gave a presentation/recap of the 2002 Tank Farm Hazard study.
- Thomas Pease: Thanked Steve for putting the presentation together and its logical approach. Asked if the gallon for gallon agreement has continued to be honored after Williams sold to Flint Hills.
- Carl Fleming: mentioned the Western Insulfoam fire from a few years ago and asked if they could be included in the Stakeholders sessions.
- Bob Cox from Crowley: Presented at last month's GHCC meeting on Crowley's plans. Would be happy to participate in the proposed work sessions. Not currently working on any tanks in the buffer zone. But, Crowley does have plans to expand the use of the facility. Will comply with current codes. Steve responded that study discusses mixed use. It's a problem that we jointly need to work on. Mr. Cox also suggested a facilitator - Crowley would fund the facilitator.
- Joni Wilm - stated it would be good to insert language into the neighborhood plan.
- Bob French – we need to formalize the tank farm committee.
 - Steve Stehr moved and Charles Scott seconded - the formation of the Tank Farm subcommittee.
 - Steve Gerlek and Arran Forbes will co-chair
 - Stephanie Kesler, Susanne DiPietro, and Bob French will be on it, also served in 2002-2003!

- Steve Ribuffo suggested that we ask George Vakalis to ask that the Port to be represented on the sub committee.

Neighborhood Plan - Joni Wilm

- Hearing is before the Assembly on January 29th
- The plan was passed by Planning and Zoning Commission - received some helpful suggestions: i.e. Executive Summary, specific guidelines, Overlay District, more clarification on the three different scenarios.
- Assembly work session in mid-January
- The mayor is sponsoring an update to the Ship Creek waterfront plan
- Neighborhood Project Team
 - Next steps: Kirk Huff with JBER's community planning liaison - worked on encroachment project. Would also be interested in serving on neighborhood project team
 - The team needs to evaluate the three scenarios and then settle on the preferred scenario.
 - Joni thinks we may be able to qualify for community grants and even homeland security grants
 - The Port has the Defense Fuels Property which is included in the plan. The Government Hill Community Council boundaries need to be adjusted - will present a resolution in the January meeting.
 - Joni, Kirk, Melinda Gant, Bob French, and Brit Szymoniak volunteered to be on the committee.

Port of Anchorage – Steve Ribuffo

- USS Anchorage arrival dates are locked in, arriving in late April, with commissioning on May 4, 2013.
- Bob French asked if there was anything we can help with?
- Ron Clark – asked what kind of ship it is, Steve responded, an "Amphibious Transport Dock Ship"
- Bob French asked when the CH2MHill study will be publicly available. Steve answered that comments still need to be incorporated. Expecting a January release date.

Knik Arm Crossing - Bob French

- Letter from Senator Ellis asking for an updated cost estimate now that the engineering has changed.
- Governor stated that he will submit a budget smaller by a billion dollars this year.
- Rumor that we've heard is that they will re-introduce the \$150MM reserve fund bill again.
- \$10MM to the KABATA reserve fund was in the Governor's budget as opposed to the \$150MM they requested. Matt Moser theorized that the \$10MM was allocated just to prove the fund exists.
- Carl Fleming: What about the Sourdough Motel? There are people still there. Diane Miller stated that do have a property manager there. Carl stated that we should invite the Property Manager to next month's meeting.

Other Neighborhood business

- AWWU running mobile cameras through the sewers and surveying the pipes.
- Carl Fleming: has been clearing the Stu Hall Memorial Walk

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 PM

sak