
GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
C/O Community Councils Center • 1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99503

Stephanie Kesler, President
Melinda Gant, Vice President
Brian Fields and Arran Forbes, Co-Secretaries-Treasurers
Kyle Stevens, FCC Representative
Mavis Hancock and Donna Rymut, At-Large Board Members
Bob French, Past President

GHCC Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2014
Submitted by Brian Fields

President Stephanie Kesler Presiding

Introductions: Customary round-the-room introductions.

Stephanie opened the meeting at 6:31 pm

1. Typical round the room introductions

2. Approve April Minutes

- Minutes unanimously passed

3. Legislative Updates: Sen. Johnny Ellis

- Matt from Senator Ellis' Office was here on Senator Ellis' behalf.
- Session dubbed the, "Education Session"
- \$50K for SuZan Nightingale McKay Park improvements in the budget.
- Sen. Ellis' corrections reform omnibus bill passed this year. Idea was to reduce the number of people incarcerated without affecting public safety.
- The funding for UAA Engineering Facilities passed this year too. It was a multiyear legislative project. Opens in 2015.
- KABATA passed this year, unfortunately. Management for the project has been moved to Alaska DOT.
- Anchorage Legislative Offices are still under construction. Both Sen. Ellis and Rep. Gara have temporary offices at 475 4th Ave.

4. Assembly Update: Patrick Flynn

- Not present.

5. FCC Update: Kyle Stevens

- No update FCC meeting is later in the month.

6. Update on Historic Four Neighborhoods Interpretative Plan: Kristine Bunnell, Historic Preservation Officer

- As mitigation for KABATA \$500k was allocated for development of neighborhood plans, local histories, including oral history projects.
- The oral history was the best part of the entire mitigation.
- Just ask for a copy of the oral history and Kristine will mail you one.
- Anchorage's Legacy Interpretative Plan is available online:
[http://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Documents/Anchorage%27s 2015 Centennial Legacy Interpretive Plan/Anch 2015 Centennial Legacy Interpretive Plan.pdf](http://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Documents/Anchorage%27s%202015%20Centennial%20Legacy%20Interpretive%20Plan.pdf)
- The neighborhood can request interpretative signs or panels.
- Fairview Neighborhood Plan is also complete.

7. Update on 4/19/14 Flint Hill's fuel spill at Anchorage Port Facility: Jeff Cook, Regional Director of External Affairs, Flint Hills Resources.

- 4/19/14 the operator noticed a gasoline leak and immediately shut down the pump.
- The leak was from a filter vessel.
- The Spill was 4000 gallons, 1400 gallons were recovered by a pump truck.
- Contaminated soil was removed and will be incinerated, ~500 55 gallon drums.
- The cause of the leak were washers of improper grade.
- The leak happened outside the containment berms at their facility.

8. Update on 2012 Crowley Storm Water Violation: Bob Cox, VP Crowley

- At the end of April there was an EPA Press Release.
- Construction in 2013 resulted in contaminated soils discharging pollutants into Cook Inlet through the storm water system.
- This resulted in a \$147K fine.
- Contractor didn't follow the plan and there were some additional challenging weather events that exacerbated the situation.
- Crowley took samples of the storm water discharged during construction and self-reported these violation to the EPA.
- Crowley has engaged an environmental engineering firm to address the soil contamination from the old tank farm uphill from Crowley's facility.

9. Legislative Updates: Rep. Les Gara

- After three years of cuts the additional educational funding added this year won't fill the gap.
- Most schools needed a \$300-\$400 per student allocation to reverse the losses over the last three years.
- The funding increase passed this year includes a \$200 per student the first year, ~\$30 the second year and \$0.65 the third year.
- \$10 million a year subsidy passed for each of the Petro Star Refineries and Tesoro's Kenai Refinery. Just the subsidy given to Tesoro could have made up the gap in education funding.
- KABATA passed, unfortunately.
- KABATA doesn't include the actual cost of the project an estimate \$1.8 billion or the additional \$1 billion for feeder roads to the bridge.

- Les voted for the Gas Line Bill because he doesn't like the alternative. A bigger pipeline produces cheaper gas.
- Secured money in the budget for a technology upgrade at Government Hill Elementary.
- Secured money for a playground upgrade at Suszn Nightingale-McKay Park.
- Pushed hard on foster care reform. Minor improvements were passed.
- East High is the most diverse High School in The United States.
- Mt. View is the most diverse neighborhood in The United States.

10. Update on Government Hill Federal Housing Historic District: Stephanie Kesler

- Started in 2006 by The Alaska Historical Commission.
- This historic district is bordered by W. Cook Ave., Brown St., W. Harvard Ave. and Delaney St.
- For a house to contribute to the historic district it must retain its original/historic character. Houses with significant remodeling don't contribute to the historic district.
- The district is focused on houses built in the 1950's
- Stephanie would like to consensus to draft a letter of support for our local district.
- Susan moved that a letter be drafted in support of our local historic district. This was seconded by Bob French. Donna offered a friendly amendment that we make sure that there is no state law that impose will restrictions on historic district before a letter of support is sent.
- The motion passed unanimously.

11. Parks Committee: Quick Update on Status of 2014 Summer Parks Initiative, Mavis Hancock

- Meeting with The Parks Dept. occurred and four parks were visited.
- No money is available for replacement for the trees planted in 2010 that have died.
- Al Miller Parks wasn't visited but The Parks Dept. stated they know what needs to be fixed.
- Strong backs needed to turn over the soil in the flower beds at Harvard Park.
- The Parks Dept. has been working in Sunset Park and Harvard Park.
- The Parks Dept. is going to clean-up Alderwood Park.

12. Alaska Railroad Update: Tim Sullivan

- Tim wasn't present.

13. Anchorage Railroad Update: Steve Ribuffo

- Cruise ship season starts May 26th.
- 4 port calls from Holland America this summer.
- Holland America generally arrives on a Sunday at 7 am and departs at 11 pm
- Next year Holland America is going to make 9 port calls.

- CH2M is taking up residence in the port. The project management team should be in place within a month.
- Steve will bring CH2M's Port Project Team to a fall meeting of The GHCC.
- Sharon Walsh will be the new Deputy Port Director.
- Stephanie asked if the scrap metal operation making a tremendous amount of noise near Insulfoam was working on port property. Steve pointed out that the operation of concern was operating on railroad property.

14. KABATA Update: Bob French

- There are still a substantial number of unknowns and 5-6 years of construction before any tolls will be collected. So KABATA's immediate future as an organization is uncertain because the legislature moved financing and construction of the Bridge to AKDOT&PF.
- We are going to try and provide as much information as possible to TIFFIA about KABATA and the state's financial health and questionable traffic figures.
- New traffic data is due to be released in July.
- Our local transportation plans needs to be updated to include the \$600 million that KABATA is going to consume.
- Alaska DOT is going to have compete against other states for federal funds.
- The Federal Highways Trust Fund is going to be out of money in August.

15. Other Business & Neighborhood Concerns

- Small Boat Launch will open next week after it is dredged.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.