



GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 100018 • Anchorage, Alaska 99510-0018

Stephanie Kesler, President

Bob French and Dan Lowery, Co-Vice Presidents

Diane Miller and Mark Musial, Co-Secretary-Treasurer

Wendy Lindskoog, Mavis Hancock, and Kathleen King, At-Large Board Members

Robert Atkinson, FCC Delegate; Harriet Shaftel, Alternate Delegate;

Susanne Di Pietro and Thomas Pease, Past Co-Presidents

MEETING MINUTES

December 15, 2005

Introductions

The meeting opened at 7:10 p.m. with Stephanie Kesler presiding. Introductions were made by all those in attendance.

Minutes from the November 17, 2005 meeting were approved as distributed.

President Kesler would like to dedicate the meeting in memory of Roger Graves. Roger worked closely with Stu Hall on the Maritime Safety Committee and volunteered many community hours in the capacity of official representative for the Port of Anchorage

Legislative Report - Will not be here during the month of January as they will be in session. Concerned about education funding. Forward funding concept \$90 million increase needed to maintain all funding.

Medicare Part D Program Briefing - Daretha Tolbert of the State Health Department introduced the new Medicare Part D Program. Those interested and/or qualified must be registered for Part A & B before signing for the new program. Handouts are available for those interested. Need to receive applications by January 6, 2006. Starting age is 65 or older. If working and if you have health insurance, contact your insurance carrier and they will guide you on the best plan.

Nominating Committee - Stephanie Kesler are willing to continue on for another year as President. Bob French and Dan Lowery are willing to continue on for another year as Co-Vice Presidents. Melinda Gant would like to run as Secretary/Treasurer. The vote will occur during the January council meeting.

Stuart Hall Memorial Report - Mavis Hancock reported that Kathleen King, Tom Brennan, Bobbie Bianci, and Carl Flemming will be sitting on the committee. We are in the process of developing a brochure. Currently seeking donations for the memorial. We have come up with the following ideas for the memorial: 1. Statue of Stu and his dog (too costly), 2. Browns Park will be the 1st choice of the memorial as Stu loved the park, 3. Redoing the totem pole, 4. Bench, 5. Rename cottage with border (huh? Is this a sign or what?) etched information about Stuart. We are seeking ideas, please forward them to Mavis at the end of the meeting. Carl Flemming expressed that he has over 200 mugs that Stuart collected and thought that we could

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sell as part of the donations for Stu's memorial. Joel Neimeyer opened the donations personally donating \$50.

Upper Cook Inlet Maritime Security Committee - President Kesler expressed that there is an open slot available. Steve Pannone and Bill Claar expressed interest in this slot. Bill Claar was asked to volunteer for the open spot and Steve Pannone would act as alternate. Steve Gerlek requested for quarterly updates. President Kesler will be requesting. Bill to follow up quarterly with the council.

Assembly Report - Allen Tesche is not able to be here to talk about Albert Swanke who would like to install a cyclotron in the South Addition residential area. Mr. Swanke wants to rebuild a cyclotron being decommissioned at Johns Hopkins University to create radioactive isotopes for Alaska hospitals. The isotopes are used to treat cancer and are also used in imaging machines. President Kesler would like to move forward with a resolution opposing this device in the residential area. This should be re-written as Alan did make it there that night, just late. See below.

Knik Arm Crossing Committee Report - Bob French expressed that the Historical 4 Council met and there was a very low turnout. Several panel members cancelled. Emily Ferry, Mary Jane Michael and Cheryl Richardson were the Anchorage citizens on the panel. Questions were handed out to the panel and unfortunately the discussion was one-sided due to the no-show of several panel members.

This week (Tuesday & Wednesday), the Federal Highway Administration held contact sensitive solutions (CSS) meetings for the residents of Government Hill. Edrie Vinson mentioned that the Federal Highway has taken a more active role since KABATA did not step-forward with CSS. Bob French expressed appreciation of the effort that Edrie brought to the table and expressed concern that KABATA's initial plan is the same plan today and the public process did not have an impact. Edrie had asked us to respond to the process via a letter format. Bob French handed the letter to Edrie in which he emphasized that the letter was asking for more time. Edrie reiterated that the process was not final.

Allen Tesche expressed that he is optimistic that the \$94 million asked for by the Governor Murkowski will not be supported by the State for remaining monies. President Kesler expressed concern that the \$91 million for the Gravina Island Bridge will be funneled to the Knik Arm Bridge. Mr. Tesche stated that the capital budget will have to be approved by the legislature. There is no estimate of time when this will be voted upon. Mr. Tesche suggested that the Government Hill residents work with the constituents vs. the politicians in regards to the support of not funding the bridges. President Kesler asked how does the Assembly feel about the bridge? Mr. Tesche stated that he did not know. They did not spend a lot of time when they passed the resolution in support of the bridge. The Assembly still supports the bridge. They will only change their minds if the constituents express that they are against the bridge. Mr. Tesche suggested sending out as much information out to citizens in order to educate them.

President Kesler expressed that the Fairview Council supports the highway-highway plan.

Mr. French asked Ms. Vinson where does KABATA go with the \$94 million. Ms. Vinson replied that KABATA needs to answer this question.

Senator Johnny Ellis expressed that the process has been flawed from the beginning. Resident, Carl Flemming, asked is the \$600 million just for the bridge? Senator Ellis replied that no clarification has been given on how the monies are to be used.

Steve Pannone presented information regarding the CSS workshop. Mr. Pannone expressed that he has been to other CSS workshops and this was the best one that he has been to. 10 hours were put into this workshop. During the first day, a presentation was given by Janel Walton, President Kesler and myself. During the presentation they expressed that Government Hill was not identified as stakeholders. KABATA had removed routes without fully looking into all the information that was presented to them. Ms. Vinson scheduled an engineer meeting for Friday with the following engineers from Government Hill: Steve Gerlek, Bob French, Joel Neimeyer and myself. The representatives from Government Hill will be meeting with other engineers from the following entities: Municipality of Anchorage, Elmendorf, Alaska Railroad. During the process portion of the CSS workshop, we identified the SWOT (handout available). HDR and PND showed alternatives as well. Mr. Pannone presented diagrams to the Council with other options. Mr. Pannone expressed that the process was very overwhelming and facts introduced were shocking during the CSS workshop. On Wednesday, Government Hill residents were not ready to move forward to the next step and expressed those concerns. After expressing their concerns, they felt they were heard and concerns were addressed. All parties involved agreed to move forward and choose out 5 priorities (each individual). All individuals went thru the process and identified their priorities under the following categories: 1. Traffic & Vehicle Circulation, 2. Bisection of Neighborhood, 3. Redesign, 4. Loss of Homes/Relocation and 5. Traffic Concerns. We worked on designs and focus groups designed some concepts/ideas.

Dwayne Adams of Land Design Northern presented the design concepts. Mr. Adams expressed that the design was focused on planning issues only and that home relocation was not part of the focus as it was a legal issue. The following was identified as the top 3 priorities: 1. Circulation, 2. Interconnecting the community with the left and right side and 3. Retail/Commercial component. This was a physical planning exercise for the community. The key things that design brought together was historic structures, parks, school and the Korean gardens. Bringing all these ideas together created the town center conceptual layout. With that, the unremarkable business center and no "main" street was fixed. We used these problems to design a commercial town center that served pedestrians to help unite two sides of the community. A brick front with clock tower, Government Hill welcome sign, multi-story with mixed office and retail space with maybe a small residential space would create a real "main" street. Harvard Street would be a dead-end street and Harvard Park would be expanded. Commercial buildings would be upgraded. Harvard Avenue residents at the dead-end would have a cul-de-sac and access via the alley.

Ms. Vinson expressed that we need to come up with a mitigation enhancement plan. A question to Ms. Vinson, do we need to complete a community plan and submit before a draft EIS come out. Ms. Vinson indicated that if more routes are to come up with tomorrow draft, EIS will be continued. If not, we can get our community plan in response to the EIS. However, it must be in the Record of Decision. A question to Ms. Vinson, what percentage of these mitigation plans actually happen. Keith of the San Francisco FHWA replied, CSS is progressing and different in each case as they learn better techniques. A question to Ms. Vinson, what happens if KABATA does not do this? Ms. Vinson and K-Lynn of Atlanta FHWA expressed that they will lose the federal funding if they do not do what is on the ROD. A question to K-Lynn, what happens if it

is all built and they do not do in the mitigation. K-Lynn replied that these commitments are taken very seriously. Ms. Vinson indicated that we need to know enough of our own plan to be able to articulate.

Everyone from the Council reiterated that we wanted a qualified representative to be on the team. Ms. Vinson expressed that we must continue to be involved because no one is going to do that for us. We have stated repeatedly that whoever works with the Board should be paid. A question to Ms. Vinson, do we have to come up with a community plan on our own. Ms. Vinson replied that we have to come to her and ask her for it and she will do her best to bring a CSS team together. She reiterated, "I can not promise anything." Ms. Vinson reiterated that she "will do her best." The Council asked for the community planning template again and Mr. Tesche responded that it is no available yet. He expressed that we must not wait and to go forward.

Cyclotron – President Kesler expressed that we will pass a resolution on the cyclotron banning it from the residential area. President Kesler read the resolution to ban this into the record. The motion was moved and seconded. All in favor. None apposed. Passed.

The Council will ask Vivian Clark with HDR (right of way expert) to come to the January meeting to speak to the residents about condemnation.

Ms. Vincent reiterated that EIS is fully funded and will continue.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm

Melinda Gant

Acting Secretary-Treasurer