



GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Melinda Gant, President

Kyle Stevens, Vice President

Cassandra Buckridge, Secretary; Nate Jenkins, Treasurer

Kyle Stevens, FCC Representative

Mavis Hancock, Donna Rymut, Greg Miller At-Large Board Members

Stephanie Kesler, Past President

GHCC Meeting Minutes (draft)

April 20, 2017

Submitted by Cassandra Buckridge

President Melinda Gant, Presiding

Melinda opened the meeting at 6:32 pm.

1. Typical round the room introductions

2. Approval of April Agenda

Nate made motion to approve. Stephanie seconded. The March Minutes passed unanimously without revision.

3. Approve March Minutes

Stephanie made motion to approve. Kyle seconded. The March Minutes passed unanimously without revision.

4. Alaska Senator: Tom Begich

- Killed last \$5mm related to Knik Arm Bridge (KAB). Moved money from Capital to Operating budgets. They have been hearing different things from The Commissioner State employees. He met with them and explained that the Governor's Chief of Staff says that it's not the Governor. The Commissioner was worried about liability for the \$27mm earmarked for the KAB, but those funds have been redeployed to other DOT infrastructure so the money will not be available for the KAB. The Commissioner told Tom that they do have other projects in line, but once they are resolved, the project will be closed out completely. Tom confirmed that the transfer for the property will be complete this year.

5. Legislative Update: Representative Les Gara

- Tom explained what Les is doing and the House is doing. They've passed a complete agenda for the first time. It is holistic and the state, university budgets are wholly funded.
- Tom encouraged everyone to let their Senators know that the public voice support the proposed fiscal plan because the Senators are willing to stay in session until the issue is resolved.

6. Treasurer Update: Nate Jenkins

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- Interest has accrued since last month. Additionally, Nate is looking into different financial institutions in search of one that would provide secure, two-signature checking options.

7. FCC Update: Kyle Stevens

- They reviewed policy and procedure at the meeting yesterday. Elections are next month. The biggest changes from SB 54 is regarding the laws regulating maximum sentences. The FCC is working with the Muni and SWS to provide a medication disposal day. Kokai spoke at the FCC and would like to speak to the GHCC regarding the opportunities and struggles that are faced by immigrants who relocate to our state. This is especially relevant as we have a Refugee State.

8. Solid Waste Services: Bridgetta and Mark Spafford

- Bridgetta demonstrated the new bear-resistant containers. All that is needed to get one for your house is to call in and the new one will be brought to your home on the next service day. Mechanical and physical issue of the different models was discussed.
- The manufacturer of these containers does not produce a 48 gal container. SWS is in the process of getting a rate for these new containers. Once that is approved, it will be \$2/month more than the current cost. Until that rate is approved, anyone who is currently on the 48 gal plan will be eligible to have the 64 gal bear resistant containers for no extra charge. They currently have them in their warehouse with an additional order coming in June.
- Fish and Game representatives explained bear awareness and good wildlife hygiene. They encouraged everyone to prevent bear attractants. Fish and Game asked that they be contacted when a bear is sighted in the neighborhood. Right now, the contact by telephone but will be online soon.
- The community dumpster is in place for the summer. This week, their code enforcement official gave a fine to the high-density housing property managers due to open dumpsters.
- Citywide Cleanup and free dumpster days were noted.
- The resident bear for this year appears to be a male who is focused on the trash cans at Sunset Park.

9. State of Alaska: Vicki Checkon, DOT

- Vicki discussed the scope of the C Street Project. The initial project didn't include upgrades to the Ship Creek bridge, but once the deterioration was noted, they held the bid package and included the bridge improvements.

- Expansion joints have reached the end of their life cycle and will be changed out. The deck repair was assessed two years ago and will be reassessed this year before construction begins. Some lane closures in the evenings are to be expected during this time.
- The construction will be phased and start in June and last all summer. Curb ramps and deck repair will be done during the day and the expansion joints will be done at night. Long-term single-lane closures will be expected. The traffic patterns changes were detailed.
- Sharen Walsh of the Port of Anchorage noted that the contract should limit construction on Tuesdays and Sundays to allow commercial trucking transportation to continue on the days they are transporting cargo from the biweekly ships.
- The pedestrian access during construction was discussed. The State has increased their focus on allowing pedestrian traffic to continue and remain safe during construction projects. They intend to impeded pedestrian traffic as little as possible, and the repairs should be quick to complete.
- The rails on either side of the bridge will be repaired and not upgraded because this is a maintenance project and not a capital improvement project. These, too, will be reassessed for additional repair needs before construction begins.
- Concerns were raised regarding snow buildup on the pedestrian walkway on the bridge as it causes the surface to be raised and effectively lowering the vertical protection provided by the railing. The Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) maintains the pedestrian walkway of the bridge through a transfer of responsibility with the State. The State and Municipality representatives will meet to discuss winter maintenance on the bridge to mitigate the snow buildup.
- Steve Gerlek noted that the bridge is nearing the end of its lifecycle within the next -5-8 years and asked that we meet with whoever will be responsible for designing the bridge improvements.
- The curb ramps were discussed. They are planning to replace all of them within a five-day window in May. There will be some intermittent closures during the dig out of shallow areas during the night. Electrical work, including traffic loops on Hollywood. Next will be East Loop and Ocean Dock Road re-pavement and repair.
- If the GHCC is interested, they may file a request to open Bluff Road access during the bridge construction is made to the Port of Anchorage.

10. Municipality of Anchorage – Francis McLaughlin

- Francis discussed Title 21. Right now, our Zoning Code requires anyone storing emergency fuel at the port to also build a pump station house to fuel their trucks. Unfortunately, the current code requires extensive exemptions and permits to build that structure. This delay is prohibitive to emergency readiness and the Planning Department has drafted this Ordinance to address this issue and streamline the process.
- Steve Gerlek provided documentation and asked questions regarding the rationale behind storing such dangerous things on seismically unstable land near homes and businesses. He pointed out that there are much larger and safer areas to put these risky facilities. He requested a resolution by the GHCC in protest to this ordinance.
- Concerns were raised that the change would politicize these processes at the risk of further danger to the neighborhood. Kyle said that he would also support a resolution in opposition to this ordinance.
- Kyle Stevens moved that the GHCC pass a resolution objecting to the MOA Planning Department's proposed ordinance regarding title 21 regarding hazardous material, and the 1,000 foot variance. Susanne DePietro seconded the motion. The motion passed with 14 for, 1 against, and no abstentions.

11. Trash Committee: Thomas Pease

- The community dumpster is in place, please use it as appropriate. Tom can provide the usage agreement and combination to interested residents.

12. Wireless Buildings: Melinda Gant

- The RFP will be completed soon.

13. Other Business and Neighborhood Concerns

- No other items were noted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.