
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
Bob French, Past President

DRAFT
GHCC Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2017
Submitted by Cassandra Buckridge

President Melinda Gant, Presiding

Melinda opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

1. Typical round the room introductions

Cassandra's name change was noted.

2. Approve May 2017 Minutes

The May minutes were not available for review at this meeting.

3. Legislative Updates: Rep. Les Gara and Sen. Tom Begich

Molly Carver with Les Gara's office spoke and said that they are preparing for special session. Fall laptop drive for Foster youth is under way. New laptops or donated used laptops are welcomed.

Molly noted that Senator Begich is preparing for fall session and looking at SB91, keeping up with current events including the Climate Alliance, and future legislation preparation.

4. Assembly Update (3 minutes): Chris Constant

Chris reported the AMATS Bridge project is out of the budget entirely. He is worked on an amendment to the land use plan that includes the bridge will not come back in the near term. It was passed unanimously. He explained that the MTP plan is constantly evolving and public comment has been requested piecemeal for each separate part. The prioritization matrix is heavily weighted toward efficiency and volume of traffic versus the impact on communities.

Budgets and bonds for the fall session will be decided in the next eight weeks. Chris encouraged the Council to keep in contact and stay engaged throughout the fall session. The Municipality has released the Welcoming Anchorage Roadmap that states the Municipality's stance going forward toward immigrants and diversity in our city, and Chris will be continuing to work on that.

The Neighborhood Plans are a detail to the Land Use Plans with the Municipality. Which means that some parts of the neighborhood's plan will be sub ducted to the overarching Municipal plan, though none were noted for Government Hill specifically. Chris will be working on these Land Use issues, and encouraged our Community Council to remember that the most recent plan will take precedence, so constant monitoring of the issues would be best.

5. Treasurer Update (3 minutes): Nate Jenkins

The Treasurer's report was postponed until he next meeting.

6. FCC Update (3 minutes): Kyle Stevens

Kyle reported that the FCC has been increasing in activity and engagement. Violence within the communities was a hot topic and APD is increasing staffing as fast as reasonably possible. The FCC has been asked to decrease their budget by ten percent for the year. They will be submitting it next month. There's a \$1,000 grant for an outreach-based seminar to increase awareness about Community Councils.

Zoning Districts and Long-Range Planning were also hot topics at the FCC meeting, and the public comment period is set for October 6, but the FCC asked for an extension to Nov 6.

7. Business Update Alaska Railroad: Tim Sullivan

Passenger trains have ended for the season. Total numbers were consistent with last year, and freight was better than expected. They are buckling down for winter, and the Specialty Trains are ramping up for the winter season. The Fair Train needs sponsorship to continue to be financially viable. The sponsorships are \$3,500/day.

The upcoming rail track construction and traffic planning was discussed. Train horn regulations and usage were discussed. Tim reported that trespass was incredibly high this year. The dangers and consequences of trespassing, and how to report trespassing issues were discussed.

8. Business Update Port of Anchorage: Sharen Walsh

Sharen was not available to attend the meeting due to illness, but she sent a written report, which Melinda read into the record as follows:

The Ship Creek Small Boat Harbor Boat Launch upgrades, including to lighting and cameras should be completed

The Japan Maritime Self Defense Force will dock two ships at the Port for 3 days.

Cruise ships are done for the 2017 season.

Port has some small, miscellaneous small construction projects going.

Traffic Signal lights should be restored next week once the projects are completed.

Port/Railroad/Construction traffic was discussed. Several people commented on the level of experience of the flaggers, the confluence of lots of different types of traffic.

9. Business Update Crowley Update: Greg Miller

The Truck Rack project continues to be on schedule and is expected to be completed in January 2018. They have completed the refurbishment of their tanks, and are painting them at this time with an expected completion of October.

10. Eric Lawson, Anchorage Fire Department Station One

Encourage everyone to change their batteries in their smoke detectors.
Child car seat checks are a walk in during the day.

11. Wireless Buildings Update – Kristine Bunnell, MOA Planning Dept.

The MOA is investigating whether a replat or rezone for this property would be the best use. At this time, they are not considering re-platting the property to increase housing capacity. They are many different options for this property.

12. Harvard Park Tennis Courts - USA Pickleball Association – Kimo Hansen

Kimo was not at the meeting. Melinda explained that Kimo would like to modify part or all of our tennis courts to accommodate Pickleball.

13. Bluff Trail Extension Resolution 2017-04 – Steve Gerlek

Steve spoke on behalf of Bob French, the President of the Parks Committee. He discussed the historical trail system in our neighborhood. The current use and paths were discussed. The National Park Service has designed an extension to the current trails which would restore the trail to more closely resemble the historical pathways. They are applying for a grant to get it built for next summer, with a deadline of October, so they're asking for a Resolution in support that would help with the granting process.

The future projections would perhaps include a pedestrian bridge over Erikson, a trail loop around both the East and West sides of Government Hill, which could be connected to create a figure 8-type trail system. Traffic patterns and the positive impact of removing the "hidden" factor that encourages homeless camping. Fish and Game have not commented on the trail extension, though they are aware of the plan. Residents expressed concern that the trails would somehow increase a bear's ability to get into the neighborhood.

The proposed Resolution was read aloud. Stephanie moved that the Resolution be adopted. Kyle seconded the motion with typographical errors corrected. The motion passed with 17 for, 0 against, and 1 abstention.

14. C Street Bridge Project Update – Melinda Gant

The C Street project will not be completed this year. The contractor was not able to install expansion joints. Steve pointed out that the bridge should be begin to age out into the capital project budgets in the next 5-6 years and the Community Council should prepare design suggestions in the mid-term planning.

15. Parks Committee: Bob French

Bob was not available, but Mavis reported on the status of the mugo pine trees that are problematic and need to be trimmed. Because Mavis will be out next month, Donna will follow up on the issue.

16. Knik Arm Crossing & AMATS Committee: Bob French

Bob was not able to attend the meeting and the Committee update was moved to next month.

17. Safety Committee: Kyle Stevens

Kyle hopes to meet publicly every other Saturday to give the community the opportunity to discuss solutions to their concerns. He will advertise on NextDoor and Facebook.

He said that we do have the opportunity to join the Coalition of Community Patrols, which has received significant grants and has many resources that we could take advantage of, which could assist in increasing the safety of our neighborhood. Melinda encouraged him to ask the Coalition to have a representative complete a presentation to the Council.

18. Trash Committee: Thomas Pease

Thomas was not able to be at the meeting, but Melinda provided his comments. If residents have bear problems, they should seek the changeover because it's free for Government Hill residents right now. This is the last year for the communal dumpster, so residents should plan ahead for bear-proof containers.

19. Wireless Buildings: Steve Pannone

Update was provided by Kristine Bunnell.

20. President Update – Melinda Gant

Melinda encouraged everyone to be aware of what is in their cars that may attract thieves and how to report stolen vehicles. She also mentioned the use of porch and security lights as a helpful, passive deterrent to crime.

21. Other Business & Neighborhood Concerns

The successful progression of the Government Hill Commons project was noted and praised.

Melinda brought up whether we should adopt the updated GHCC logo officially.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.