



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 Willis, Secretary; Nate Jenkins, Treasurer
Kyle Stevens, FCC Representative
Mavis Hancock, Donna Rymut, Greg Miller, At-Large Board Members
Stephanie Kesler, Past President

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

President Melinda Gant, Presiding

Melinda opened the meeting at 6:32 pm.

1. Typical round the room introductions

2. Approve September 2017 Minutes

The September meetings were reviewed and approved unanimously with the small typographical changes noted.

3. Legislative Updates – Rep. Les Gara (Greg Tuten) and Sen. Tom Begich

Greg Tuten spoke for Les Gara and explained that the current issues at hand are a payroll tax, and the partial repeal of SB91 (SB54). Les supports SB54, which is expected to pass.

Senator Begich spoke about what is currently on the horizon for the State Senate and House. The expectation is that SB 54 will be moved through both the Senate and House very quickly because it has very strong support in both houses.

He explained that SB 91 has been blamed for the current opioid epidemic and significant increase in crime are not specifically related, as much of SB91 won't be put in force until next year, and the most recent crime data available is actually two years old. While SB91 is not perfect, it is not responsible for all of the current problems – it is concurrent but not causal.

4. Assembly Update – Chris Constant

Chris talked about the tax abatement request that is on the table. A fuel tax will be introduced but not voted on until a future date. It will be approximately \$0.10/gallon, to directly offset property taxes.

There is a motion to change the name of the Port to the Port of Alaska, to increase the branding and understanding of the port's importance to the entire state.

There is an ordinance on the agenda to change the homeless camp abatement down from 15 to 10 days. It is believed that this will comply with the settlement requirement from several years ago. Homelessness, secondary services, the number of city prosecutors, and the availability of

integrated services will be an ongoing hot topic. The abatement issue and the status of S 91 are expected to be addressed in the future after more discussion.

The budget will be submitted at the next meeting and discussion will be ongoing.

Local communication and utility providers are going back and forth regarding “undergrounding” of wires in certain areas and the reasons why the development might not be consistent throughout the city.

Chris looked at the GHCC Neighborhood Plan and did not find that the Land Use Plan did not conflict with any parts of our plan.

There is a proposal to create a fund to provide medical insurance to the dependents of people who die in service to the city and are not at fault. This would include administrative personnel who pass in the line of duty. This is an incredibly rare occurrence, but it is a humane policy to have in place.

Melinda asked Chris and Tom about why there are approximately 20 street lights out on Erickson. She has talked to the City and DOT, who both have blamed each other. Chris and Tom asked for an email to help them put pressure on the appropriate bodies.

The use of large rocks and other types of landscaping deterrents in the areas habitually used as panhandling locations for groups of vagrants was discussed, specifically the potential use of similar devices in our district.

5. **Treasurer Update – Nate Jenkins**

Melinda presented the treasury update and noted that there will be advertising spending happening over the next month.

6. **FCC Update – Kyle Stevens**

Many organizations spoke at the FCC yesterday and Kyle gave a brief overview, indicating that he could provide additional information as needed.

7. **Business Update Alaska Railroad – Tim Sullivan**

Tim reviewed the freight and transportation volumes for summer and noted that the specialty train tickets are up for sale now.

8. **Business Update Port of Anchorage – Sharen Walsh**

Sharen explained that the small boat harbor revamping is almost complete, and looks much better and should be much stronger and have a longer life than the previous setup. They also have much improved cameras and lighting. The Native Village of Eklutna will be adding installing an interpretive design and information next spring.

There have been several requests for keyed entrances and limited access, which they cannot do because it would limit access to a public facility.

Nothing big going on except the port modernization project, which is currently under design. They should break ground next spring.

Discussion was held regarding the sound of the industrial activity at the port/railroad/tank farm area. It is difficult for resident to determine what property is making noise, but the Port and Alaska Railroad work together to address these issues.

9. **Business Update Crowley Update – Greg Miller**

Four of the five tanks are painted.

GHCC asked whether the proposed new GHCC logo could be painted on a Crowley tank, just as a beatification idea. Crowley was able to price it out, but it is cost prohibitive.

10. **Fur Rendezvous Arch Update – Jim Huettl**

Jim explained the proposal of a “Mushing District” in downtown Anchorage. The proposal includes signage, banners, a mushing hall of fame, bronze disks in the shape of dog paws inlaid on the sidewalks, and construction of a permanent steel arch (dedicated to George Attla) over 4th Avenue which would mark the beginning of the Iditarod. They would install additional interpretative objects throughout the area.

The Anchorage Downtown Partnership, Downtown Community Council, Anchorage Community Development, and other stakeholders have given their support. They are actively seeking community involvement and grassroots fundraising and support. These improvements would coincide with the upgrades to downtown street lighting. The expected budget is under \$500,000.

Sarah moved that the GHCC provide a letter of support for the project. Bob seconded. 20 votes were counted for, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

11. **Harvard Park Tennis Courts – Kimo Hansen, USA Pickleball Association**

Kimo explained his background and described the game of pickleball and then played a short, three-minute video explaining pickleball rules, equipment, and play. Because the game is fast, on a small court, low entrance costs, lighter and less dangerous ball, and low-impact, it is attractive to both younger and older players. Current estimates of active players in the US is at 3 million. Kimo said that the location of Harvard Park near to the JBER entrance is strategic and positive because he and 3 other Ambassadors are working to strongly encourage this sport to military families and residents. Their goal is to have dedicated courts throughout the Municipality. For Harvard Park, they are suggesting installation of permanent lines, a sound reducing fence, and to take responsibility for the maintenance of the area both financially and with volunteer support.

Kyle moved that the GHCC provide Kimo with a letter of supporting installation of temporary pickleball lines and possibly to include sound-reducing fencing for the summer of 2018. During and after the summer season, the GHCC Parks Committee will interface with the pickleball

association and advise the GHCC on whether to pursue permanent court lines and fencing installation. The motion passed with 20 votes were in support, 0 against, and 1 abstention.

12. Greensleeves AK – Paul Dunham

Paul reviewed the corporate plan for Greensleeves Genetics LLC, and provided a handout to the GHCC. They discussed the availability of testing facilities for their product. Their current plan includes two full time employees, with as-needed temporary cultivation employees.

13. Government Hill Logo Adoption – Melinda Gant

Melinda reviewed the logo that was presented at last month's meeting. Jody moved that the GHCC adopt the new logo going forward. Kyle seconded. The motion failed with 1 for, 10 against, and 5 abstentions.

It was suggested that the proposed logo be re-presented next month, incorporating the words "Government Hill Community, Est 1919."

14. Nominating Committee – Kyle Stevens

Elections are going to be held in January. Kyle is seeking GHCC members to participate on the Committee. The positions that will need to be filled are President, Vice President, Secretary, FCC Representative, At-Large Board Members, and Treasurer.

15. Parks Committee Update – Bob French

Bob presented the GHCC Parks Prioritization Plan for review. The Parks Committee is proposing that GHCC review and then ratify during the January 2018 meeting. Bob will accept feedback at the Parks Committee email, ghccparks@gmail.com, which Melinda will distribute via NextDoor and the GH Facebook page.

16. Knik Arm Crossing & AMATS Committee – Bob French

AMATS is having a three-day conference regarding transportation. Discussion regarding the status of the Knik Arm Crossing was held. There appears to be \$12k left in the budget for the project, which is not encouraging. The GHCC would like to be informed as soon as the AMATS group has information regarding any improvements or changes to the transportation corridors or plans that impact the community.

17. Safety Committee – Kyle Stevens

Melinda noted that there is a movement to have APD officers rent properties in Government Hill. Thomas brought up that The Liquor Store has a posted notice in the Anchorage Press for the transfer of ownership for the liquor license. Melinda was not notified that there was a notice out there, but she will investigate – the current owner of the store is also the owner of the entire strip mall.

18. Trash Committee – Thomas Pease

This is the last season for the community dumpster and it will be removed on or after Monday, October 23. The abuse of it – including dumping of computers and household items was noted.

19. Other Business & Neighborhood Concerns

Jody requested that the Parks Committee look into the safety and location of the dog waste bag dispenser and power pole at the park, as they are both leaning and seem to be suffering from damage due to frost heaves.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.