

GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Stephanie Kesler, President; Bob French and Dan Lowery, Co-Vice Presidents
Diane Miller and Mark Musical, Co-Secretary-Treasurer
Wendy Lindskoog, Mavis Hancock, and Kathleen King, At-Large Board Members
Robert Atkinson, FCC Delegate and Harriet Shaftel, Alternate Delegate
Susanne DiPietro and Thomas Pease, Past Co-Presidents
P. O. Box 10018, Anchorage, AK 99510-0018

Government Hill Council Meeting
March 17, 2005

The March 17th meeting was opened at 7:05 p.m. by President Stephanie Kesler with introductions of those present. Minutes from the February 17th were approved as written and distributed.

Legislative/Assembly Report – Representative Les Gara called in from Juneau with an update on current issues in the House. The education budget has been increased by about \$70 million over last year but due to higher fuel costs in the Bush and retirement costs, it is actually a cut in revenue. House members are asking for an additional 4%.

Representative Gara and Senator Hollis French have been working on an ethics reform bill. This bill would reduce the amount of stock a legislator could own in a company that is doing business with the State from \$100,000 to \$5,000.

John Steiner, School Board candidate in the upcoming election, spoke briefly on his candidacy.

Liquor License - A motion was made by Stu Hall and seconded by Wendy Lindskoog to approve a conditional use permit for beer and wine license for the new Bridge Restaurant.

Port Security – Lt Timothy Callister discussed the makeup of the Coast Guard presence in Alaska. Besides port security the 125 members are involved in marine safety, oil spill and hazardous material response, inspections and licensing of ships, and search and rescue operations. Lt Callister advised all residents to “keep their eyes and ears open” for any activity that appears to be out of the ordinary in the neighborhood. Even though the Coast Guard routinely drives through the area, he said the residents are the ones who normally will notice any suspicious behavior. If anyone sees anything out of the ordinary they are urged to call authorities.

Anchorage Tomorrow – Jessica Semmler reviewed Propositions 4 and 5 in the upcoming elections. Proposition 4, Road Bond Projects, would provide for \$44.5 million in new roads and upgrades to existing roads including improvements at Lake Otis and Tudor, reducing traffic congestion in the Anchorage bowl, and provide for safer sidewalks and trails. Proposition 5, Public Transportation Bond, would add new buses, upgrade bus stops and provide for upgrades in customer information and reporting.

Anchorage Historical Properties – Gina Holliman, Executive Director of AHP, updated the group on the renovation work being done to the Brown Point cottages. The hardwood floors are being refurnished, paint is being stripped, and a new roof on one cottage is partially finished. She said they were very fortunate in finding some of the original hardware for the doors and windows in the attic and garage, as well as some wooden

blinds. Ms Holliman stressed that the cottages were being restored, not remodeled. Landscaping will be done this summer and the lilac bushes there will be kept.

The next project for AHP will be the wireless buildings on Manor Avenue. She is asking for ideas from the community as to the future use of this property. The use should have low impact on the neighborhood and provide income for AHP. She will return next month with a followup on the Brown Point cottages and hopefully more information on the wireless buildings.

Ms Holliman noted that AHP assisted the long-time occupant of one of the cottages, Jeanine Blankenship, in finding new housing in the Rabbit Creek area. Ms. Blankenship and her family moved this past week.

Proposed Neighborhood/District Plan – Thomas Pease has talked with Mr Charles Buki, the planning consultant, and received positive feedback. Assemblyman Allan Tesche has secured a \$25,000 grant from the municipality to help develop a plan and has offered to assist the council by speaking out to our industrial neighbors in hopes of matching this grant. Thomas is hoping to have a meeting with the city planning department either in late March or early April for discussions on our neighborhood plan.

Knik Arm Crossing Committee – Bob French led the discussion with Lindsay Holmes and Jon Isaacs (HDR Alaska) on some of the community concerns with this project. HDR Alaska, the contractor, has suggested a meeting with our subcommittee on April 5th and a second meeting on Wednesday, April 6 with the Government Hill community.

Birdsall Print – Stu Hall displayed the Bryon Birdsall print, “Moon over 255”. The Alaska Philatelic Exhibition (APEX) has authorized the printing of 25 copies. For those residents wanting one of these prints, an upfront deposit of \$50 needs to be made. It is hoped the final price would be in the \$50 to \$75 range. Stu offered to collect the money and handle the ordering. Also available are the APEX souvenir covers for \$3 each. Each one has been autographed by Byron Birdsall and Bobbi Bianchi who wrote the essay about Government Hill and our historic preservation efforts.

Neighborhood Issues/Concerns – Paul Laverty informed the council that the rental lease on the Square and Round Dance facility is up for renewal this year. He suggested that if the council is interested in using this facility, we monitor the current usage and document the times when no one is using the building.

It was noted that the Government Hill Community Council is celebrating its 30th year of existence this year. We are the third oldest council in the city.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Diane Miller
Co-Secretary/Treasurer