

GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

c/o Community Councils Center • 1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99503

Jody Sola, President

Stephanie Kesler, Vice President

Peter Partnow, Secretary

Susanne Dipietro, Treasurer

Bob French, FCC Representative

Pete Murphy, Greg Miller, Ron Clark, At-Large Board Members



GHCC Meeting Minutes February 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes Submitted by Peter Partnow

Secretary Peter Partnow

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m.

- Introduction of Attendees:** See attached sign in sheet.
- Changes in agenda announced by President Sola:**
Motion to approve agenda as revised: Bob French
Second: Tom Brennan
Motion unanimously approved.
- Election of one at large member:** Jody Sola reports recommendation of the nominating committee to elect Pete Murphy to vacant at-large seat. No additional candidates nominated. Selection of Pete Murphy to at-large seat unanimously approved by voice vote.
- Assembly Update:** **Chris Constant** presented early due to need to attend other meetings. Noted he is unopposed for re-election to his assembly seat and will champion the 2 for All campaign to amend the Anchorage Charter and provide for 6 two-member assembly districts. Chris provides handouts including envelopes to use to provide donations to support the 2 for All campaign. Chris reports the Assembly is doing first quarter budget revisions, but that Assembly action is slow as many of the Assembly members are running for reelection. Notes the April ballot will be long with numerous ballot propositions and bond issues.
- Legislative update:** **Senator Tom Begich:** Telephonic report by Tom's aide from Juneau. Reported on progress of Senate Bill 6 regarding early education and reading intensive. Also mentioned

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Senate Bill 106 which would prohibit an insurer from cancelling a policy where the insured makes a claim. Mentions work on-going regarding the budget.

Representative Zack Fields reports telephonically from Juneau. Reports actions of the House budget subcommittee to add various items such as for public media, university inflation costs and ferry system. Reports on inquiry regarding the award of a no bid contract. Reports on status of bill regarding Pioneer Home costs and action regarding sending prisoners out of state.

6. JBER Report: Lt. Ryan Goss of the Public Affairs office reports on national completion of joint bases where JBER is a finalist—information on their Facebook page. They will learn if they win in March. Notes several VIP's will be visiting including the Secretary of the Air Force and Vice Chairman to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Reports on a program where citizens can meet and learn about being an honorary commander. Information as to program and how to apply on the JBER web site, or call/ email (907 551-8996 or jber.pa@us.af.mil)

7. Anchorage School District: Andy Holleman of school board provides update on the school bond issues on the upcoming municipal election ballot and distributes a handout re same. Discusses earthquake issues, planning for Inlet View School, and Aquarian Charter School also. School District will be on a two-year cycle, so if this bond issue passes, no school bond issue next year. Because of the loss of state reimbursement, even though amount of bonded indebtedness will decrease, if the bond issue passed it would add \$6.85 per 100,000 of valuation to property tax. Discusses issues with obtaining any funding from FEMA for the earthquake damage. Notes that currently school district is not seeking bonding enough to cover deferred maintenance.

8. Parks and Trails Master Plan Update: Steve Gerlek reports on the Park Plans meeting. Passes out document showing “Urban layers” for Government Hill and how they interact. (copy attached). Notes that the issues being focused on with the Parks planning include possible use of the old defense fuel site property, completion of the trails around the Hill, particularly on the East Side, possible re-establishment on a pedestrian bridge to connect the East and West sides, deferred maintenance in the existing parks, and further build out of the Commons. Notes the need to coordinate the Parks Plan with the Neighborhood Plan and need to update the Neighborhood Plan. Also discusses continuing interest in providing a pedestrian connection from the Hill to Downtown.

9. James Smallwood: candidate for School Board, introduces himself, provides some personal background and discusses his interests in the School Board.

10. Treasurer's Report: Susanne Dipietro reports no deposits or withdrawals. Jody Sola notes we need to prepare a resolution to present to the bank to authorize Susanne.

11. Business Update: Alaska Railroad: Tim Sullivan reports things are still slow. Responds to questions regarding any slowdown in railroad business due to the Coronavirus situation—indicates some but not significant impact on the railroad but bigger impact on several of the railroad's travel partners.

Port of Alaska: Steve Ribuffo, the Port Manager, reports that he will return to be the Port representative to appear at the GHCC meetings since Sharen Walsh is so heavily involved in the Port modernization projects. A new port engineer will be hired to assume some of Sharen's past duties. Reports on the \$20 million DOT grant recently received by the Port as well as the earlier \$25 million grant. Funding for Ports generally looking up at the federal level. The next two years there is going to

be a lot of pile driving. This coming summer, in particular, 100 piles so could be significant noise on the Hill. Reports a busy summer season for cruise ship with 14 cruise ships and two visits by the QE2. Steve Gerlek inquires as to the Port's plans for the old defense fuel site, and our interest in accessing that "table land" for community purposes. Steve R has not previously dealt with this issue but expressed willingness to discuss issues with us.

12. Committee Updates: Parks Committee: Bob French reports that this work is being consumed by the Parks Master Plan work, as reported by Steve Gerlek.

FCC—Bob French reports comments period on the Metropolitan Transit Plan about to end.

13. Community: Susanne Dipietro reports attending the planning meeting for the 2 for All campaign regarding the ballot initiative to amend the Charter to provide for the 6 two member districts. Group hoping to raise \$25K to distribute information in support of the ballot measure. Next meeting this coming Monday. Discussion as to possible approaches to publicize reasons to support this ballot measure.

Steve Gerlek notes that action by the GHCC regarding the Park Plan for this coming summer may need to be taking during the summer months when GHCC does not meet.

Peter Murphy notes issues with pigeons at various locations on the Hill, perhaps created by people feeding the pigeons, or bird feeders just attracting pigeons.

Discussion regarding Municipality plowing that streets in conjunction with Fur Rendezvous Fireworks viewing.

Peter Partnow reports, in response to a question raised at the January meeting, that per existing GHCC by-laws, the sign in sheet for the GHCC board meetings are only for GHCC use such as verifying attendance, etc. at the meetings. The sign in sheet is not available to individuals or entities who may desire to contact meeting attendees for one reason or another. Individuals or entities who do wish to obtain expressions of interest and/or contact information from meeting attendees may be permitted to circulate a sign in sheet for those attendees who wish to sign up.

Meeting adjourns at 8:07 p.m.