



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, Belinda MacIntire, Ron Clark, At-Large Board Members

GHCC Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Peter Partnow

Meeting conducted via Zoom called to order at 6:31 p.m. by President Jody Sola.

1. **Introduction of Attendees:** Attendees identified via Zoom appearance and noted on the virtual sign-in sheet provided with these minutes.

2. **Approval of agenda:** Motion to approve agenda: Stephanie Kesler
Second: Bob French

Motion unanimously approved

3. **Approval of November 18, 2021 meeting minutes:** Several minor corrections noted by Peter Partnow and Jody Sola

Motion to approve the minutes: Pete Murphy

Second: Bob French

Motion unanimously approved

4. **Election of officers:**

Jody Sola, Pres

Stephanie Kesler, Vice Pres

Peter Partnow, Secretary

Susanne DiPietro, Treasurer

Bob French, FCC rep

Ron Clark, At Large

Pete Murphy, At Large

Belinda MacIntire, At Large Business rep

Stephanie Kesler introduces the slate and speaks to selection process, including request for others to consider pursuing officer positions in the future.

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Established 1915 • Anchorage's First and *Oldest* Neighborhood

Motion to approve the slate of officers as presented: Tom Brennan
Second: Pete Murphy

Motion unanimously approved

5. Legislative update: Senator Tom Begich reported on favorable progress and upcoming hearings in both House and Senate on education bills including among other things, universal pre K. Indicated support was bi-partisan. Reported that legislature is already organized, much earlier than last session. He hopes a budget will completed by April 1. He urged prompt submission of any proposed capital projects, with information and requests to be sent to Mercedes Colbert. Also discussed the calendar for addressing redistricting in light of the various lawsuits that have been filed. Hopes judicial decision could occur by mid-May.

Representative Zack Field's aide Tristan Walsh reported on the status of several bills supported by Representative Field. Also noted the start of the budget process. Noted that Zack is working with Senator Begich and the Mayor on projects for Anchorage, including funding for the Port of Alaska and a Coastal Trail/Ship Creek Trail connection.

6. Assembly update: Chris Constant noted the Municipal budget passed in November. Reported the property assessment green cards have gone out. Discussed process for appealing. Suggested that individuals consider applying to serve on the Board of Equalization.

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Clerk/Pages/BoardofAdjustment.aspx>

Discussed the process for dealing with Municipal Reapportionment including the change in various meeting dates to allow time for veto and appeal. Midnight today is deadline for third parties to submit maps. Numerous proposed maps have already been submitted. There will be town halls on the maps next Wednesday and Thursday, with proposed choice to be hashed out Friday to be heard in February or March. The reapportionment will not be effective until April. The new 12th seat which impacts Government Hill will become final when map is approved. Chris believes the special election to fill that seat must occur within 90 days of approval of the map.

www.reapportionanc.org

Also discussed Assembly efforts to formalize some matters that have previously been followed by custom, the length of time an interim mayor can serve, and further look into the water supply issue.

7. Treasurer's Report: Susanne DiPietro reports balances in savings and checking accounts and notes a \$50 deposit occurred in January.

8. JBRR Update: Joy Boston reported that Arctic Thunder open house will occur on July 30 and 31. It will include the USAF Thunderbirds. Contact her regarding possible sponsorship opportunities. joy.boston.2@us.af.mil

Pete Murphy inquired about when the Phantom Jet will be returned to its location. Joy indicated it is being rehabbed but the plan is to re-locate it inside the base gate.

9. Anchorage School District: Margo Bellamy reports the most pressing issue is superintendent search. June 30 is last day for the current superintendent. School Board is gathering information with help from Leadership Anchorage to be provided to the third-party search firm.

- Timeline: <https://www.asdk12.org/leadership>
- Community Survey (closes 2/2/22): <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/18773>

Virtual Town Halls: Saturday, January 22, 10 - 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, January 25, Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Also noted that two school board seats will be open and that there is a free leadership series available for individuals who may be interested in pursuing these seats.

Webinar ID: 923 1591 8124

Passcode: 117790

10. Community: Wildfire Mapping: Jen Schmidt (Asst. Professor of Natural Resource Management with ISER) made presentation on fire hazards and steps that can be taken to reduce hazard such as keeping gutters clean, keep propane tanks away from houses, limbing of spruce trees, etc. Noted that Government Hill is not an area of extreme risk, though certain areas possess higher risk than others. For information:

<https://uaa-geomatics.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/interactivelegend/index.html?appid=da0677ea9a03467f93fbe76fe42b37e7>

11. Old Business: Parks Master Plan Update –Jody reports there was a well-attended January 12, 2022 community meeting. Stephanie Kesler and Bob French report it was a good meeting with a large turnout. One of the main issues was desire by attendees dealt with the Coastal Trail/Ship Creek connection, and desire to improve foot/bike access from the Hill, as well as enhancements to our parks and trails. The need to address forest management, as addressed the wildfire maps, was also emphasized.

Vertical Bridge Cellular Tower: Steve Gerlek reports that from discussion and review of photo renderings, this project seems to be “background noise” – it will be pretty much hidden behind the AT&T building. Steve suggested, and

others agreed, to follow up with Vertical Bridge regarding number of trees that will be cleared from around the new tower.

12. Business Reports: Alaska Railroad: Tim Sullivan was not present but Jody reports the Railroad's five-year plan was provided by Tim and has been uploaded to the FCC website.

Port of Alaska: Steve Ribuffo reports remaining work on petroleum / cement is internal -- waiting on various items to be delivered for installation.

Steve reported the Municipality prevailed in the MARAD lawsuit, that briefing has been submitted on the damages issue and that we are awaiting the decision on damages. Indicated that the Port was proceeding with its various plans without depending on the results of the damage claims.

Steve reported that our long time Port of Alaska representative Sharen Walsh is retiring as of end of the month. Kudos all around for Sharon.

13. Committee Updates: FCC/AMATS Update: Bob French reminded of the need to appeal property assessments by February 11, and that the earlier one files an appeal, the better.

AMATS transportation improvement program (TIP) now taking nominations for projects to be included. The 30 days to nominate new projects ends February 1. Only previously authorized projects will likely be seeing money from the Federal Stimulus Funds, but still a need to get new project on to the list.

14. Other Community Comments: Jody reports the Title 21 Zone R-4a P and Z meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2022.

CAPIS due January 28, 2022. Jody has paperwork. Steve Gerlek, Margy Hughes, Bob French and Jody will work on finalizing and submitting.

Jody indicates we will be developing questions specifically related to Government Hill to be submitted to candidates for the various up-coming elections.

Jody received AWWU artwork project, and it is uploaded on the FCC web site.

Discussion by residents of desire to have the jet returned to former location outside of the Base gate. Joy indicated she will look into this.

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Motion to Adjourn: Unanimously passes.
Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.