



GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Jody Sola, President

Margy Hughes, Vice President

Peggy Wilcox, Secretary

Zoe Lowery, Treasurer

Bob French, FCC Representative

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

GHCC Monthly Meeting- November 11, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:31pm

Approval Agenda: Stephanie Kesler moves, Bob French seconds

Approval of Oct minutes: Stephanie Kesler moves, Bob French seconds

BUSINESS UPDATES:

Treasurer's report: Zoe Lowery

Checking \$775.30

Savings \$2325.46

Note: This is Zoe's last meeting as treasurer

Legislative Update: Sen. Loki Tobin & Rep. Cliff Groh

Sen. Tobin:

Post election the senate is again forming into a bipartisan coalition

Knik Arm tunnel – unsure how to approach DOT – is this study the remaining money left over from the Knik Arm Bridge efforts?

Exchange between residents in chat

- *Question to Bob French: I had thought all the money had been spent. Was there a million left behind?*
- *Response from Bob: I don't know how the original KABATA fund have been allocated. I believe that Gov Walker's 2014 freeze on the Bridges was overridden by Gov Dunleavy, but don't know how much \$ has been spent, or might be left.*

Gambell Ingra corridor options are out for public comment until mid January.

Rep. Groh:

From Sen Tobin as Rep Groh is unable to attend:

Disturbed about the reappearance of discussions about a Knik Arm crossing

Will be holding the January listening session even with the new election results

Assembly update: Dan Volland

- The Assembly passed Mayor LaFrance's budget for the coming fiscal year. Budget includes
- increased snow plow driver pay and enhanced snow communications for residents. The Mobile Crisis Team expanded to 24 hours, which allows the MCT to bill Medicare for some services. Full funding for the Anchorage Safety Patrol, and approved funding for various homeless services.

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- Parking is now free downtown for handicap vehicles
- AMATS policy committee today – Volland moved to remove “Safer Seward Highway” from the MTP highway plan due to unknown funding sources.

Port of Alaska: Steve Ribuffo

- Asks for feedback on the new lights at the Port, GHCC President reports no complaints.
- Petroleum tankers are about to start using the cement dock – fuel lines have been certified for aviation gas. Tankers are usually tied up about a day and a half.
- Received \$50M grant from Feds to go towards first cargo dock.
- The Port has included the fence for Tract J in its budget but the Assembly may need to weigh in about the land transfer as authorized in previous Assembly actions. If the Council has questions they should reach out to Mike Braniff
 - From Sen Tobin: Here is some contact info: Director of Parks and Rec, - Braniff, Michael M. michael.braniff@anchorageak.gov, Superintendent - Keegan, Taylor H taylor.keegan@anchorageak.gov

JBER: Joy Boston

The JBER Christmas star will be lit the day after Thanksgiving and will remain lit until the last musher finishes the Iditarod

ASD School Board: Dora Wilson

- Reports on the ASD right sizing schools – with Anchorage decline in working age demographic ASD has less kids and is looking at closing schools. The school closures will be introduced for action at the 12/3 ASD Board meeting and will vote on recommendations on 12/17.
- ASD decided not to roll out the full Academy programming for high schools. For now, it is only for freshmen.
- The school closures will not effect GH Elementary it is not slated to be a receiver school.
- Resident comments/questions: What is the effect of homeschooling on the school closures? Questions about Inlet View rebuild and previous low enrollment numbers for that school.

NEW BUSINESS:

ADOTPF Pedestrian Safety-Eli Kesten-Bracket

- Vision Zero Anchorage: <https://vimeo.com/1027086064>
- Getting to zero deaths on city roads.
- Safe systems approach – all of us are responsible for looking out for each other
- Safer people vehicles, roads, speeds, and good crash response. Reduce lanes for sidewalks and snow removal? Reducing speed limits? Looking for neighborhood feedback.
- Report a safety concern to DOT: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/febfdf2cb1a4cc2b46c26cda6a31f94/page/Report-a-Safety-Concern/>
- Looking for reports on lighting, potholes, needed brush clearing, non motorized needs, cracked sidewalks, etc.

Donovan Camp, used to be DOT now with the municipality – looking for resident feedback on Neighborhood Greenway Program- coming soon a GIS maps where residents can report needs/improvements.

Comment from residents – Extensive comments about speeding on the bridge, walkability, and the danger of pedestrian and bicycle routes along E Loop, the hill, and the bridge.

Introduction of Resolution 2024-005 re: council boundary

- Resolution will be introduced at January meeting.
- GHCC was asked to comment on decennial review of Community Council borders. Major changes proposed is to take the western edge of the boundary and extend it to median low tide from median high tide lines.
- Other possible changes:
- Adding the small boat harbor to the GHCC. The south boundary is Ship Creek which currently makes the facility a part of the downtown community council. Discussion indicated support for inclusion with GHCC, that it makes sense to include the small boat harbor with JBER and Port. GHCC President will confer with Downtown CC President about possible change.
- Also some discussion about including Mountain View section 14, a mostly industrial area. No sense of the Council was reached
- Bob French and Peggy Wilcox will draft a resolution after Jody hears back from the downtown community council on their thoughts about the small boat harbor.



CAPSIS funding requests

- Funding was requested for the curling club, but now the club is doing their own funding.

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- Currently hold funds for building preservation for Wireless Building
- Would like to submit planned funding request for Tract J
- Possibly the Tesoro Building?
- GHCC President will put together plan for January meeting, CAPSIS requests must be submitted by February

OLD BUSINESS:

Update: snow & driving on Richardson Vista Rd & Hollywood

There was a meeting with the City including reps from Right of Way, Code Enforcement, Operations and Maintenance, Richardson Vista managers, and GHCC. Hashed out what to do. They have kept the signs covered on Richardson Vista and will try to move cars off of Vista for snowplows.

Bears vs Humans with Garbage-update

GHCC subcommittee meeting with ADFG is slated for 12/1
Committee is made up of Thomas Pease, Daniel Saber, and Theo Graber

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

AMATS/Parks Committee: Bob French

AMATS: City ran out of money – no meetings since April

Parks: The Parks department is doing some pretty decent plowing with their mini snowblower on Loop and Hollywood roads as well as in the parks.

Wayfinding/Signage Grant Committee-Susanne

Getting numbers together for the cost of the Welcome to Government Hill sign

Wayfinding, takes 6 weeks turnaround on signs. It's a matching grant, we can use \$30/hr on labor as a match

Forestry Grant Committee-Margy/Bob

Will be recruiting people for the forestry grant next summer

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

- No meeting in December
- 2025 Board of Directors-apply by email: ghccpres@gmail.com
- Elections in January – email with interest.
- Seward Glen PEL is meeting Dec 10th 4:30-6:30 at Sr Center for comments

ADJOURN: 8:35

Margy Hughes moves, Bob French seconds

**Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Wilcox**

Deidentified and lightly edited chat from meeting RE: DOT safety

- *Separation is key*

- *Tinted windows are very problematic - as a pedestrian or cyclist, you can't make eye contact with the driver*
- [Report a Safety Concern](#)
- *Is the one in Mountain View a greenway?*
- *What about taking a lane of E Loop and converting it for bike/ped use?*
- *Huge HUGE community blowback on red light cameras. It was ugly. But now that they are much more common in the L48, maybe folks might be more accustomed to them.*
- *There is a HUGE problem in this community with red light runners. I personally know two people whose cars were totaled by red light runners just within the past 2 months.*
- *Many intersections have cameras that can record red light running?*
- *Could we also look at some sort of greenway that give us a connection to the multiuse trails (Coastal Trail, etc) from Government Hill*
 - *They're working on it with the parks & rec plan over the next couple of years. Along with a dog park!*
- *It is so narrow - two bikes can't pass each other!*
- *And many wear headphones and you can't pass, that's just a struggle anywhere though, but the tightness sure doesn't help*
 - *Agree!*
 - *Sing it sister!!!! The headphones are a real thing.*
- *The light at the top of the Hill is also very dangerous since people driving up the Hill take the right hand turn on to Hollywood without regard to whether there are pedestrians trying to cross*
 - *Yes true*
- *That is NOT a 2-person bridge*
 - *I echo you 100%*
- *It is all about maintenance! And the lack of money for maintenance versus spending millions on feasibility studies for the Knik Arm Tunnel*
- *Thank former GHCC president Stu Hall for the "move left" signs on the bridge near where the Port trucks merge*
- *Imagine how wide the road will be once they build the tunnel to Pt. McKenzie*

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Donovan Camp to Everyone 8:11 PM
Donovan Camp
Municipal Bike/Ped/Traffic Calming Coordinator
Donovan.Camp@anchorageak.gov
(907)269-8412

