



# GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 100018 • Anchorage, Alaska 99510-0018

Julie Jessal, President

Bob French and Dan Lowery, Co-Vice Presidents

Beverly Groskreutz, Secretary-Treasurer

Mike Adams and Mavis Hancock, At-Large Board Members

Vacant, FCC Delegate; Robert Atkinson, Alternate Delegate

Stephanie Kesler, Past President

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## Government Hill Community Council Minutes January 15, 2009

**Meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.**

**Introductions:** Introductions were made by all those in attendance.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** December minutes were approved.

### **Legislative/Assembly Report:**

#### **Rep Gara**

- The Legislature is considering how to address high gas prices in Alaska. It is well known that Alaska gasoline sells for 50 cents to \$1 more per gallon than in the Lower 48. The disparity arises from the mark up taken by Alaska refineries. However, this year Alaska refineries are taking a larger-than-usual mark up. As a possible response, "price gouging" legislation will be filed this session. Another possible response, which at this point is nothing more than an idea, is to build a bulk storage facility for gasoline shipped up from Washington state. Even with the additional shipping cost, the WA gas would be less expensive than AK gas. Rep. Gara will work to ensure that any such facility, should it be built, is located as far from GH as possible.
- The stimulus package: We should have hearings to determine priorities.
- Possible changes to the Tier IV employee retirement plan: Return to a defined benefit structure.

#### **Assembly Member Patrick Flynn**

- The property tax mill rate will be set in April.
- Exploring interest in a "bond holiday," which would be a decision not to put any bonds on the ballot in April.
- APD never notified the Office of Emergency Management that it had closed the A/C bridge Wednesday morning due to ice and accidents. The Port never received a request to open Bluff. Steve Rubufo of the POA told Patrick that the Port does not maintain Bluff Rd., so even if the POA had received a request and agreed to open Bluff, no traffic could have gotten through for several hours until snow had been cleared. Council members reminded Mr. Flynn of the MOA's promise when Bluff was initially closed

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that 1) the POA will maintain Bluff as an emergency route, 2) emergency responders will be aware of the Bluff emergency route and will be trained on procedures for unlocking the gate, 3) the Principal of GH Elementary keeps a key to the gate for use in the event of a student evacuation, 4) Fire Station 1 has a key to unlock the gate. Council members suggested that APD, POA, the Fire Department, OEM, and EAFB be reminded of their obligations under this agreement.

**Jim Kubitz, ARRC:**

Mr. Kubitz reported on a land swap deal to be submitted for Legislative approval this session. Under this deal, the ARRC will convey title to two parcels of land on GH to the MOA in exchange for a parcel in the parking lot on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue between A and C streets. One of the parcels that ARRC seeks to sell is next to the Hollywood Vista redevelopment project and is under lease to Jaguar Development (ultimate ownership is unknown due to litigation between Jaguar and the MOA); and the other parcel is the old gas station/detail shop.

The ARRC's historic renovation of the freight shed is scheduled to be completed this summer. Almost half the spaces are rented so far, including offices, a coffee shop and possibly a cafe. In addition, the warehouse currently occupied by Viking Cold Storage likely will become vacant and available for redevelopment in the future.

**Nominations Committee:** Nominees for co-Vice President: Bob French and Dan Lowery; nominee for At-Large Board member: Mavis Hancock. There were no potential candidates for the positions of President and Secretary/Treasurer. Nominations for co-VP and At-Large Board were accepted. After some discussion, it was decided that Julie Jessal would continue as Acting President. Julie will be the initial point of contact for GH business and will draft and submit the agenda each month. Each of the committee heads will take turns chairing meetings, and each committee head will be responsible for following up on contacts referred by Julie.

Thomas Pease will chair our Feb. meeting.

**Committee Reports:**

**Parks:** No update.

**KAB:** The council unanimously agreed to recommend Bob French for the vacant public member seat on KABATA's Board of Directors.

**Northpointe Development:** Thomas Pease will invite Mary Jane Michael to attend the Feb. meeting.

**Port:** No update.

**Traffic/Zoning:** No update.

**Neighborhood Issues/Concerns:** None.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned a little after 9 p.m.

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