

GHCC Meeting Minutes October 15, 2009

Meeting convened at 7:05 with Bob French as acting president.

Introductions

Assembly Report: Assemblyman Patrick Flynn recently attended budget work sessions on the 2010 budget. Mr. Flynn supports using municipal assistance revenue sharing from the State for tax relief, while Mayor Sullivan's proposal would use revenue sharing to pay for City operations. Our assemblyman is also working on the ASD budget and the chronic inebriate issue.

Legislative Report: Representative Les Gara verified Mr. Flynn's concern that if municipal revenue sharing is not used for tax relief, as it was intended, then it could be harder for Anchorage to secure revenue sharing funds from the legislature in the future. He believes addressing the homeless problem requires providing treatment for those who want it and suggested providing transitional housing in a dorm setting with counselors. He also seeks more funding for addiction treatment programs, as some Anchorage treatment facilities maintain patient waiting lists. Representative Gara warned that KABATA is lobbying hard to get the Knik Bridge reinstated on AMATS short-term projects list. He encouraged a neighborhood letter-writing campaign. GHCC will send out talking points and contact info to members.

Heather Beaty, with Senator Ellis' office offered assistance to the neighborhood as concerns arise. She reported Senator Ellis directed pothole and resurfacing money to Government Hill. We can now roll smoothly through the entrance to our neighborhood without spilling coffee and losing hubcaps. Thank you, Senator!

Call for Volunteers Bob French noted GHCC president and secretary positions are vacant, as may be the FCC delegate position. He asked members to consider filling these positions and to recruit new attendees. Yes it is fun!

Knik Arm Crossing Bob French updated the council on the Knik Bridge planning process. Mr. French sounded a call to action and urged everyone to testify and submit comments on the proposal to move the bridge project onto AMATS long-term project list. Edrie Vinson, former FHWA administrator, who previously worked on the bridge EIS process, now works as a private consultant for KABATA!!! Private financing to fund bridge construction appears more unlikely than ever, so KABATA has said that they may pursue state revenue bonds to fund the bridge, which would force the State of Alaska to cover cost overruns and maintenance and operations not met by tolls. KABATA still lacks critical permits to move forward with financing, including a critical permit from National Marine Fisheries. (Insert beluga smile here!) National Marine Fisheries will not consider permitting the project without major design changes that could increase bridge construction costs significantly. Nonetheless, KABATA stated that they hope to have necessary permits by 2010.

Neighborhood Parks: A huge thank you to Kathleen King, chair of the Stu Hall Memorial Committee, for directing Stu's memorial project to completion. Take a stroll through Brown's

Point Park, Stu's favorite, where a new walkway, landscaping, benches and plaque memorializing Stu and Pal, have been installed in Stu's memory. These improvements represent an impressive, four-year effort on Kathleen's part. Kathleen moved to transfer the \$1,900 remaining from the Stu Hall Memorial Fund into the GHCC bank account with a "neighborhood parks improvement" designation attached to this money. Allocating this money for local parks will become the parks committee's responsibility, working in tandem with the secretary/treasury. The motion passed with two members opposed. Dave Shaftel moved for more Parks and Rec dog deposit stations and garbage cans on the west side of the Hill. Mavis Hancock seconded. Members waved orange plastic newspaper sleeves in unanimous support for the dog doo motion. Our parks committee will submit a request from Parks and Rec and will assist in can placement. Lorraine Lindberg asked that Parks and Rec remove concrete debris dumped on the edge of Harvard Park so lawn can be mowed on the far eastern edge of the greenbelt. Mavis Hancock will alert Parks and Rec. Dave Shaftel volunteered his wife, Harriet, to chair a neighborhood sign refurbishing/replacement committee. Those interested in assisting with this project should contact Harriet Shaftel.

Hollywood Vista Redevelopment Thomas Pease reported one house nearly completed in the single family portion of the development and a second under construction. Two duplexes are completed in the multi-family portion of the development, with a third under construction. Three families have moved into these multi-family units. The redevelopment committee met with the Anchorage Community Development Authority board, pressing hard for no more Spinelli snout houses and greater design diversity in the multi-family section. The committee gained no concessions from the board, with the board's primary concern being recouping the money the City has invested. Bob French stated that the Architectural Review Committee did get some minor changes from Spinell to make the duplexes less identical. Dave Shaftel submitted a motion to present a resolution to the ACDA board requesting them to convert the front lots within the multi-family section to single family houses. The motion passed with one member opposed.

Neighborhood Concerns: Subway is moving into the old Video City store. Thomas Pease called on an abandoned vehicle in the Video City parking lot. He also notified the railroad, the owner of the property. Steve Stehr inquired about the Port's lilac restoration efforts along the old DOD property fence line. Steve Ribuffo said the Port hired an arborist to evaluate the health of the lilacs. In his expert opinion, the lilacs can be resuscitated with water, fertilizer, and vigilance, which Port maintenance diligently applied. Steve and Nina Stehr agreed to help nurse the lilacs back to life and to assist Port maintenance in distinguishing lilac from lousewort in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11.

Minutes submitted by Thomas Pease