

# GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Stephanie Kesler, President; Bob French and Dan Lowery, Co-Vice Presidents  
Diane Miller and Mark Musial, Co-Secretary-Treasurer  
Wendy Lindskoog, Mavis Hancock, and Caroline Higgins, At-Large Board Members  
Bryan Talbott-Clark, FCC Delegate; Susanne DiPietro and Thomas Pease, Past Co-Presidents  
P.O. Box 100018 Anchorage, AK 99510-0018

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## Meeting Minutes - March 18, 2004

Introductions – President Stephanie Kesler, presiding.

Previous Minutes – The minutes from the February 19, 2004 meeting were approved as distributed.

Legislative/Assembly Report – Representatives Les Gara and Nancy Dahlstrom reported from Juneau via teleconference. Representative Gara gave an update on the status on school funding. The House has passed a bill restoring some of the funding to the schools, which would prevent layoffs. This bill has gone to the Senate and is awaiting action there. He is also working on changing the way the State taxes oil. Much discussion is happening in the Senate on the permanent fund.

Representative Dahlstrom stated she is pleased with the work the House has done on the education budget. She also mentioned the discussions concerning the permanent fund and the many options that are being explored. Representative Dahlstrom, as a member of the Labor and Commerce Committee, is closely following railroad issues and the tank farm.

Assemblyman Tesche has been following the Alaska Railroad issue of whether it is subject to local planning laws. The Alaska Supreme Court made a ruling about 10 days ago and he has not yet seen the ruling. He is also involved in the Knik Arm Crossing and as a member of the Regional Transportation and Planning committee, has some serious concerns about the lack of information on the potential impacts of the project. The current bridge project covers only the area from port-to-port and has not taken into consideration the traffic impacts on both sides.

Government Hill/Ship Creek Work Group – Co-chairs Steve Gerlek and Wendy Lindskoog were not in attendance so this item is carried over to the next meeting.

Anchorage Fire Department – Chief John Fullenwider and about ten members of his department were on hand to brief the neighborhood on several items. Chief Fullenwider read the Post Incident Analysis from the Panoramic View fire on February 14<sup>th</sup> and it shows the response time of 4 minutes, 7 seconds for the first company to arrive. Dispatch was extremely busy that evening with other calls and this slowed the time a bit. He also stated that Kevin Bruce and Bill Sheffield of the Port are putting together a package for a new station to be located at the Port. The need is there. He did not have the answer as to when construction could be begin. The Fire Department does have a key to “THE BIG RED GATE” on West Bluff Road and the firemen estimated they could open it within 30 seconds if the need arrives. They also stated they had checked it the previous day to see if it was weather resistant and it is. Since the discussion rapidly turned to the situation of the road closure on West Bluff, Assemblyman Tesche suggested this might an issue we want to address again. He offered to take it up with his fellow assemblymen.

Chief Fullenwider reviewed Propositions 7 and 9 on the upcoming ballot which address the needs of the fire department and public safety. Handouts were available.

Review of Upcoming Bonds – Macon Roberts, School Board Member, and Roger of the Anchorage School District Public Relations Office, reviewed and endorsed Propositions 4, 5 and 6. Handouts were available for all residents.

Jacques Boutet representing Anchorage Tomorrow discussed and endorsed Propositions 10, 13, 14 and 15. Again handouts were available for anyone wanting more information.

Anchorage Road Coalition – A power-point presentation was given by Ann Flister on a plan to improve Anchorage's roads and streets through citizen participation and education. The plan advocates safe, cost effective and neighborhood friendly street construction. It encourages a pre-design process that considers all potential impacts to a neighborhood and its residents. Because of time restraints, this item will be taken up at the next Council meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

MOU/Government Hill Community Council and Catholic Social Services – Robert Atkinson reviewed a draft copy of the Memorandum of Understanding outlining the desires of our neighborhood that the two properties being considered for transfer to Catholic Social Services will be consistent with our residential community. He also introduced Mike Saville who is the Property Manager. Robert will be taking the draft copy door-to-door in the surrounding area to get input from all the neighbors.

Neighborhood Planning/Vision – Thomas Pease informed the Council of a recent discussion he and several other residents had with David Boehlke, a neighborhood consultant from the East Coast. The message that Mr Boehlke had for this neighborhood was that it has great potential for positive development and we should begin to develop a strategy. Again, in the interest of time, further discussion on this idea will be on the agenda for April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Neighborhood Issues/Concerns – A constituent pizza dinner will be held on March 27<sup>th</sup> at Rogers Park Elementary School beginning at 4 pm sponsored by our legislative delegation.

A thank-you note from Howard and Mavis Hancock was read thanking the neighborhood for remembering their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Stu Hall had a recent discussion with Barbara Gruenstein in the Clerk's Office concerning the two voting precincts on Government Hill. She said numerous complaints had been received about voting at the Square and Round Dance Club. She suggested letters be sent to both the City Clerk's Office and the Director of Elections asking that the two precincts be allowed to vote together in the Government Hill School. More discussion will be held on this issue.

Mike Courtney of Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Services said studies are underway at the Panoramic View fire site to determine whether the building will be restored or demolished. If the results ~~are~~ for demolition, he said it would be done in nine months.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

*Diane Miller*  
Co-Secretary-Treasurer