

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

Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2004

The May meeting of the Government Hill Community Council opened at 7:10 pm with Vice-President Bob French presiding. Introductions followed.

Previous Minutes – The minutes from the April 15, 2004 meeting were approved as corrected.

Colonel Tirevold, Commander of the 3rd Mission Support Group at Elmendorf AFB was on hand to answer questions from council members. He reviewed the Memo of Understanding between the Air Force and the Municipality of Anchorage concerning exit from our neighborhood in the event of an emergency. He stated the Elmendorf Fire Chief and the MOA Fire Chief would be Incident Commanders and Government Hill residents would be allowed to pass through the base in the event the A/C bridge was inoperable. If the need exists for an extended period of time, resident passes would be issued. Colonel Tirevold will check the wording in the MOA concerning opening the Plum Street gate in an emergency and whether it is accessible during the winter months.

Colonel Tirevold also informed the group about the Government Hill gate rehab. Construction will begin the end of June and last 45 to 60 days.

The Blue Angels will be the featured attraction at the air show on June 26th.

Residents of Elmendorf are eligible to be members of the Government Hill Community Council and we urge their participation.

Alaska Railroad Update – Wendy Lindskoog, External Affairs, and Phylis Johnson of the Legal Department, reviewed the Administrative Order on Consent recently signed between the Alaska Railroad and the Environmental Protection Agency to do a comprehensive remedial investigation and feasibility study at the Anchorage Terminal Reserve. The site includes the rail yard and adjoining properties that have been leased to other industrial and commercial businesses. The site covers approximately 600 acres and includes railroad land as well as 67 lease hold sites identified for testing out of 137 lease holdings that the Railroad owns. No residential site has been identified and Ms Johnson stated she believes the William Dam site is the only one on Government Hill. These studies will determine the nature, extent and magnitude of any contamination of soils, groundwater, surface water and fresh water and whether there is risk to human health or the environment. The first stage will be a site background report which should be completed around October 1st. The ARR and the EPA will hold public hearings and issue periodic public notices throughout the process.

Catholic Social Services – Mike Saville of Catholic Social Services and Robert Atkinson, resident, updated the council on the pending transfer of the 4A duplexes on Brown Avenue. No date has been confirmed for this transfer. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Memo of Understanding for the transfer of these two properties from the 4A's to Catholic Social Services. The motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Report – Representative Les Gara gave a wrap-up of the legislative session:

- 1) the Mark Marlow Bill extending his lease with the railroad died in the Senate;
- 2) the de-regulating of AWWU passed the House, but he didn't think it came out of the Senate;
- 3) education funding has been lagging for years but during this session there was a bipartisan effort to increase the funding by 10%. Even though class size will not decrease, he said this additional funding would prevent layoffs in the school district.

- 4) Representative Gara in the House and Senator Ellis in the Senate co-sponsored a bill asking that no voting machines be used that leave no paper trail. The bill passed.
- 5) there was a failure to close the fiscal gap and a special session might be called.

Assemblyman Allan Tesche discussed the recent move by the Anchorage School District to find a location for a new headquarters building. He said a legal opinion is pending.

Wendy Lindskoog of the Alaska Railroad reviewed the recent Supreme Court decision in which the railroad lost their appeal to be exempt from local planning and zoning laws. The case stemmed from a conditional use permit held by the railroad for many years to haul gravel from the Eklutna Quarry. After attempting to get a bill through the Legislative to exempt railroad land from P&Z laws, they ended up passing a Bill to create a Task Force made up of representatives from each affected Municipality. It is expected that another bill will be introduced during the next legislative session. Residents expressed regrets that no members of the public are on the Task Force, and asked Wendy to keep us informed about opportunities to participate.

Neighborhood Planning/Vision – Thomas Pease has discussed funding issues with Mary Jane Michaels and our desire to hire a consultant. It doesn't look like any funding will be available and it is hoped that an agreement can be made to use the current ANHS consultant who is scheduled to make several trips to Anchorage this summer to work on other projects. A task force has been formed to work on the neighborhood plan. This group of eight met Wednesday evening with the ANHS consultant.

Neighborhood Issues – Dave Shafel announced that recent changes have been made in city policy that will allow residents to clean up and care for our local parks. Mavis Hancock will be calling on park volunteers in the near future to organize the project.

Bob Atkinson suggested a thank-you letter be sent to AT&T/Alascom for the good job they did in cleaning up our neighborhood a few weeks ago. Their efforts certainly are noticeable. The secretary will send out the letter.

Howard Hancock reminded everyone there will be a meeting Tuesday evening at 7 am to look at the plans for the new addition to the museum.

A suggestion was made that we follow up with Glenda Radvansky on the traffic calming project in our neighborhood. Some of the items on the list have been completed like the stop signs on Manor, but the textured intersection scheduled for Harvard and Erickson has not been accomplished. (The traffic calming report was presented at our May 15, 2003 meeting by the Boutet Company).

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Diane Miller
Co-Secretary-Treasurer