

GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

MEETING MINUTES October 21, 2004

The October meeting of the Government Hill Community Council opened at 7 pm in the School Library with President Stephanie Kesler presiding. Introductions were made.

Minutes from the September 16th meeting were not available. No treasurer's report was given.

Legislative Report - Senator Fred Dyson was in attendance and answered questions from the members. He asked to be kept in the loop regarding the Knik Arm Bridge project. Representative Les Gara spoke on his candidacy in the upcoming election and asked people to call him if they have any questions on where he stands on the issues. Assemblyman Alan Tesche reviewed the new municipal budget. This year's proposed budget is \$330 million, about \$20 million higher than the previous budget. About \$6 million of the increase will come from property taxes, and over \$8 million from the newly passed tobacco taxes. The additional income of \$5 million will come from interest earnings, user fees, and federal and state revenues. The budget calls for hiring an additional 20 police officers and 26 new firemen. Public hearings on the budget will be October 26 and November 9, and the Assembly is expected to rule on it November 16th.

4A's Update - Trevor Storrs informed the group that Catholic Social Services has delivered their grant proposal to the Rasmusson Foundation and it is expected to rule favorably within a few weeks. All the federal paperwork is in place for the transfer of this property.

Parks Update - Mavis Hancock gave a comprehensive update on the progress made this past summer on all our neighborhood parks. Alderwood Park: picnic table has been painted and some brush removed; Sunset Park: brush has been cleaned out to help prevent any vagrancy; Harvard Greenbelt: city cleaned out brush; Browns Pt: lilac spouts were cut; Lions Park: old debris cleaned out, some greenery cleaned; Suzan Nightingale: weeds were pulled, hedges trimmed, the area around the bollards was cleaned, tall weeds were cut.

A round of applause was given to Mavis for her help in working with the city and coordinating this park effort. Bob French thanked the railroad for removing debris. Stu Hall commented on the large amount of "doggie do" in some of our parks and asked everyone to clean up after their dogs. Bob Atkinson offered to call the Skinny Raven and request their assistance in providing receptacles to place in the parks.

Bridge Salmon Bake and Grill – Ashi Samarasinghe, owner/developer of the new restaurant spanning Ship Creek, spoke on his background and his ideas for this new eating establishment scheduled to open in December.

Government Hill Redevelopment Committee – Dave Shaftel, chairman, updated the group on the efforts of this committee which is a continuance of the Hollywood Vista Task Force. The scope has been expanded to also include the business area of Government Hill. Other council members include Steve Gerlek as co-chair, Bob French, Stephanie Kesler, Dan Lowery, Pat Claar, Bob Atkinson, and Paul Laverty. The next meeting will be November 1st, at which time the group will review the consultant's report. Assemblyman Tesche will provide a "talking points" paper for the meeting.

Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority (KABATA) – Paul Laverty reported on the KABATA Board Meeting held on October 14th. Several resolutions were passed at this meeting. Resolution #3-04 provides for the establishment of a Capital Budget Plan for the bridge with a cost range of \$400 to \$600 million. Resolution #4-05 authorizes the Filing of a Notice of Intent with the Federal Highway Administration; and Resolution #05-04 authorizes the Executive Director to contract for professional services for the completion of the NEPA EIS Process, Permitting and Preliminary Engineering.

The next board meeting will be held on December 15th at 1:30 p.m. in Rm 1860 of the Atwood Building.

Several members of the Government Hill council (Stephanie Kesler, Stu Hall, and Susanne DiPietro) met in Senator Ellis' office on September 28th with the presidents of the Fairview and South Addition Councils. A letter was prepared to be sent to the U.S. Congress urging lawmakers to add language in the transportation appropriation bill emphasizing local input and involvement.

Other Neighborhood Items – President Kesler reminded everyone it is time to begin soliciting members to serve on a Nominating Committee. She asked for any volunteers to give her a call. This committee needs to be in place as soon as possible so elections can take place for 2005.

Joe Huffman of Flint Hills was introduced. When asked if he could envision any new tanks being added to their local tank farm, he said not before the 2006-2007 time frame. Then it would be due to new low sulfur fuels.

A suggestion was made to invite Captain Morris, USCG, to a future meeting to discuss port security.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Diane Miller
Co-Secretary-Treasurer