



GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

c/o Community Councils Center • 1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99503

Jody Sola, President

Stephanie Kesler, Vice President

Peter Partnow, Secretary

Susanne DiPietro, Treasurer

Bob French, FCC Representative

Pete Murphy, Greg Miller, Ron Clark, At-Large Board Members

GHCC Meeting Minutes February 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes Submitted by Peter Partnow

Meeting conducted via Zoom called to order at 6:32 p.m. by President Jody Sola.

1. **Introduction of Attendees:** Attendees identified via Zoom appearance and noted on the virtual sign-in sheet provided with these minutes.

2. **Zoom protocol:** Stephanie Kesler explains the protocol required due to zoom bombing—she can mute and turn off video if bad behavior after warning.

2. **Approval of agenda:**
Motion to approve agenda: Pete Murphy
Second: Stephanie Kesler
Motion unanimously approved.

3. **Approval of January 21, 2020 meeting minutes**

Motion to approve: Pete Murphy
Second: Bob French
Motion unanimously approved.

4. **Legislative update:** **Senator Tom Begich** reports on Governor's strong letter re Senator Reinbold. Notes the judiciary committee has been stuck with COVID "issues" and proposed bill re revising the court system. Notes that Zack is in the new House majority and that Zack was instrumental in getting the 21st vote. Tom reports on various bills he is supporting. The essential workers bill had 4 of 5 members recommend "do pass" to labor and bill on to the next committee. This bill provides for educational benefits. Tom reports disappointment re Senate Bill 8 dealing with kindergarten and reading. Apparently, committee chairman is releasing the bill with no recommendation so Tom will have to vote against that bill which he supports as a "fake promise." Tom says the bill is nonpartisan. He is disappointed. Maybe finance committee will restore the funding. Two other bills—oil and gas tax on properties. Industry wants something that is predictable which this bill would provide. Funds from the tax would be designated. Tom also has a bill re retrofitting state funded building up to 5000 square feet.

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Susanne asks about the problem with the pre k bill. Tom reports that committee chair objects to anything that has a new cost attached to it. Tom explains why it should not be a problem. Says the finance committee should deal with the money, this committee should just deal with policy.

Chris Constant reinforces concern re governor's letter to Senator Reinbold.

Representative Zack Fields: New majority established as of today.

Organization has been very hard. The new majority is sensible and moderate. Zack will be co- chair of labor and commerce and on other committees. Looking for a fiscally responsible budget. Working on disaster declaration.

Susanne thanks Zach for his work and suggests we owe Rep. Kelly Merrick a vote of gratitude. **Tristan** supports letter of thanks to Kelly.

5. **Assembly Update:** **Chris Constant** notes assembly considering mask mandate, plastic bag ban, etc. Notes that COVID vaccines are becoming more plentiful. Notes that municipal election is coming. Sample ballots have released and can be found at

<https://muniorg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a598b0522a3d434cafb93f20c5ce1a6>

Jody reports a significant list of capital project was prepared by her, Peggy and Steve and transmitted to Chris. Chris reports a likely a delay on any action as in the past.

Susanne thanks Chris for his hard work noting it has gotten difficult and that he tries to not take things personally. **Jody** commended Chris on speedy action relating to information she provided to Chris regarding speeding issue on Harvard Avenue.

Melinda reports that construction work will be done on 4th Avenue this summer including electric plug-ins on the light polls. Discussion on support for steps to improve activities in downtown, such as street fair, etc.

6. **Treasurer's Report:** **Susanne** no spending. \$2366.68 in savings. **Melinda** suggests Amazon Smile program as a possible way to raise money for the community council or the Commons.

7. **Community:** **Mayoral Candidate Bill Falsey** does not appear for Q & A.

1% Arts Project Donna Mears (out of order)—Northeast Community Council has picked the trail bridge on ship creek trail for a project. She asks for suggestions. Her contact information is : Mearsdonna @alaska.net, 632-6382

8. **Old Business:** Update re Dog Park on Tract J : Steve Ribuffo introduces **Joy Boston** to comment from perspective of the Base re requirements of the quick claim deed. Joy says she is community partnership liaison for the Base. Her contact information is Joy Boston, 673 ABW Community Partnerships, joy.boston.2@us.af.mil. She hopes to attend our meetings regularly in the future. Re the dog park, information has been forwarded to the Corp of Engineers. They want conditions to negotiate the deed. **Steve R.** still wants DEC to view the property once spring allows. Steve also reports there has been some positive movement regarding the solar farm with Chugach Electric and the Department of Energy having expressed some interest. Notes the DOE may have some funding available.

9. **JBER Update:** **Denny Hostetter** discusses the movement of the jet at the gate. Joy notes the plane is being repainted and refreshed and will be returned later this year. Denny discusses the iSportman program (isportsman.net or call 552-8609) Denny advised that people with questions or concerns regarding JBER should email: jber.pa@us.af.mil

10. **Business Reports:** **Alaska Railroad--Tim Sullivan** indicates continued concerns regarding level of business this coming summer. The Canadian announcement re cruise ships is troublesome. Reports that midweek winter service won't happen. Some discussion regarding freight service. Tim reports current issues relate to the Passenger Service Act, the position of the Canadian Government and position of the CDC.

Crowley: Greg Miller not present.

Port of Alaska: Steve Ribuffo discusses the start last Tuesday of the Municipality's lawsuit against MARAD regarding the Port of Alaska construction project and reviews some of the issues. Trial is planned for around 3 weeks. Judge trial only. Decision not likely any time soon.

Steve posts a picture of the work done at the Port this past summer.

Steve G. inquires re airborne emissions and recovery at the dock. Steve R indicates he will check and report back, but is unaware that this has been a problem.

11. **Committee Updates:** **FCC/AMATS Update: Bob French** reports that at the FCC meeting last night there was discussion of zoom meeting problems. **AMATS** open house tonight for the non- motorized plan—still open out for comments until March 5 for comments. Also discussed Parks, where work on the masterplan which has been on hold is starting up again. Question re what parks are “designated.” **Chris** indicates he will get a list of the parks on the Hill that are “designated.”

12. **Other Community Comments:**

Election information: Forum Propositions/candidates:

Jody has discussed some type of joint candidate forum, but the group decided to bow out given the amount of work involved in hosting a candidate forum and that several forums will be occurring.

Muni Climate Control Action Plan: Jody reports zoom meeting 2/25/21 from 7-8:30.

Speeding on Harvard Avenue: Jody received a citizen complaint. Chris followed up on this. APD rep indicated they are doing a traffic survey over the next few days and that they will issuing tickets (including use of unmarked vehicles) to mitigate some of the speeding.

Carl Jacobs-School board candidate for Seat G (one of two candidates for that seat) Carl makes presentation. Information regarding Carl can be found at <https://www.carl4anchorage.com/>

Pat Higgins –School Board candidate for Seat E, makes presentation. There are 5 other candidates for that seat. Pat notes he was previously on the school board.

Thomas Pease recognizes death of long time Government Hill resident Dianne Miller late last year.

Steve Gerlek discusses possible re spruce bark beetle campaign similar to what he has organized in the past, noting residents can obtain a favorable group rate through Great Land Services, and requests the GHCC or someone take responsibility to honcho this effort for the coming summer. **Melinda** says she will post on social media and **Jody** will announce of Next Door.

Melinda reminds the review of the Downtown Plan which extends to the Ship Creek area and the desire for biking/pedestrian connection. Anyone interested can sign up at ourdowntownanchorage.com. The next meeting in April and subcommittees in March.

Motion to Adjourn: Stephanie Kesler
Second: Ron Clark

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.