

REPORT ON 1st MEETING
of
THE TITLE 21 COMMITTEE
(FOR POSTING ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE)

From: Dan Coffey, Chair
To: Committee Members Ossiander & Traini, Assembly Members
& Planning Department Staff
Date: 7-23-05

The first meeting of the Title 21 Committee was held on Friday, July 22 at 2:00 p.m. Two of the three Committee members were present along with some other Assembly members and staff from the Planning Department. Also present was a representative from the Mayor's office.

The purpose of the initial Committee meeting was two fold. First, to determine how to insure that the public and all Assembly members will be kept informed of both the process in general as well as the Committee's work. Secondly, to establish the Committee process.

One the issue of keeping the public informed, the Committee was advised that the Mayor's office is conducting an "outreach" effort with Heather Rauch being the Mayor's representative in this endeavor. All Assembly members will be advised as to the time, date and place at which public presentations will be made so that individual Assembly members can, if they so desire, attend these presentations. The Administration is also being assisted by the firm of Rise Alaska.

The schedule for completing the public review and adoption of a new Title 21, which the Assembly adopted by Resolution several months ago, calls for another draft of Title 21 to be produced by November, 2005 after the current round of public input based on the June, 2005 draft. The November, 2005 revised draft will also go through another public process. The final draft, called the Public Hearing draft, is to be ready in February, 2006. Then the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Assembly will hold joint hearings using the Public Hearing draft. The Planning and Zoning Commission will then make recommendations to the Assembly based on the public hearing(s) and the Public Hearing draft. This draft will come to the Assembly with public comments and Planning and Zoning Recommendations. The goal is to enact final legislation in September, 2006.

The Committee was also informed that Planning Department Staff is maintaining the existing Website on the Rewrite process. The City's home page has a link to the site which has a Project Information Center, Related Links, links to departments, external links and current news. The intent of the Administration and the Committee is that this link should be as comprehensive as possible. All Assembly members are urged to go to this site for information.

Any Assembly Members wishing to have materials they receive or that they themselves generate put on the Website should send the same either electronically to title21@muni.org or fax the materials to the Planning Department at 343-7927. Also, Assembly staff can be directed to provide materials received by or generated by individual Assembly Members to be distributed to other Assembly Members, the Planning Department Staff, the Mayor's Staff and placed on the Website.

The Committee spent considerable time discussing the process it will use during its work. The Committee will endeavor to complete its initial review of the entire code in time for its comments and concerns to be incorporated in the next draft of the Rewrite which is due out in November. This means that been now and the end of September, when the public comment period on this draft ends, the Committee will be very busy.

The Committee will publish an agenda for each of its subsequent meetings sufficiently in advance of its next meeting so as to inform all concerned of the materials that the Committee will be considering. Staff will distribute the agenda widely so that those who are interested in specific items on the agenda can attend the Committee meeting. A copy of the Agenda for the next (July 29th) meeting is attached.

The Committee will do its work on a chapter by chapter review of the Title 21 Rewrite June, 2005 draft. For example, at the next Committee meeting on July 29th (at the Planning Department from 9-11 a.m.), the Committee will review Chapters 1 & 2 of the June, 2005 draft. Discussion will be limited to those two Chapters. Further agendas will deal with additional Chapters or portions thereof.

The Committee will not take public testimony, but individual Committee members may make inquiry of those in attendance on the agenda topics.

The Committee deferred any decision on dividing its work load further by making assignments of specific topics within the Code to individual Committee Members. However, this question will be considered as the Committee process continues.

During the course of the initial Committee meeting, the Mayor's representative raised the question of what the Committee intended to accomplish during this process as the Administration views the Rewriting process as being the purview of the Administration.

The answers, provided by the Committee, are as follows:

- 1) The Title 21 Rewrite project is of such an order of magnitude that if the Assembly, through the Committee and through the interest of individual Assembly Members, is not engaged and informed during this rewrite process this project will, in all likelihood, be substantially delayed.
- 2) The Administration needs to hear the concerns, comments and issues of importance from the Assembly through its Committee and from individual Assembly Members so that it can, to the extent there is agreement on changes incorporate these matters into the draft and, to the extent there is disagreement, discuss those disagreements in hopes of finding common ground or, if that is not possible, refine the issues for debate and deliberation.

In conclusion, as the author of this Report, I will take the liberty of making two personal comments.

First, this is a hugely important piece of legislation for our City. When adopted, the rewritten Title 21 will affect all of our citizens for years to come. The effort that the Committee and individual Assembly Members put into this process will be well worth it.

Second, it is important that we stay on the established schedule. There will be efforts to postpone and delay this project. These efforts, well intended or not, should be rebuffed. There are 14 months left between now and final action of this legislation. That is sufficient time for the Committee, the Staff, the Assembly and the Public to read, understand, comment and amend this proposal. While it will undoubtedly require a lot of effort to meet this goal, it

is my strong intention to complete our work so that this goal can be met. I urge the active participation and cooperation of my fellow Committee members and individual Assembly members in achieving this goal.

Respectfully submitted this _____ day of July, 2005

Dan K. Coffey