



Municipality of Anchorage

Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

Mayor's Conference Room
City Hall
632 West 6th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska

ACTION SUMMARY

12:00 Noon
Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Regular Meeting

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present: Daniel Billman
Dan Bosch
Tamás Deák
Heather Dean
Brett Jokela
Holly Kent
Bill Rice
Rick Sinnott

Excused: David Nyman

Staff: Thede Tobish, Senior Planner, MOA-Planning Department
Linda Brooks, Administration, MOA-Planning Department

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:10 p.m.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Commission Administration and Housekeeping

Thede Tobish, as Planning Department representative, welcomed the commissioners to this newly formed Commission. He outlined the general rules of operation, etc. as outlined in Title 4 of the Anchorage Municipal Code. He made sure all members had received the outline of general duties.

Linda Brooks, as Planning Department Administration staff, introduced the Commission to the remuneration issues of serving on a Municipal Board or Commission, which entitles each member to a stipend of \$20 per meeting. Each member must decide if they wish to receive this money. If so, they must fill out appropriate municipal and federal paperwork. If they choose to decline, they must fill out a waiver sheet.

Commissioner Deák moved to set the fourth Wednesday of each month as the regular meeting date, to be held in the Mayor's Conference Room in City Hall, subject to the room's availability.

Commissioner Billman seconded.

All voted in favor of the motion that sets the regular meeting time and location.

B. Disclosures

Commissioner Deák noted that he worked on earlier drafts of the Hillside District Plan.

Commissioner Billman also worked on the earlier draft and on research of various elements of the Hillside District Plan.

Since today's review of the Hillside District Plan was for discussion purposes only, all felt that there was no conflict of interest for either member.

C. Hillside District Plan Discussion

The Commission had been asked to review and possibly provide comment on the Public Review Draft of the Hillside District Plan's Drainage Chapter (3). *Commissioner Billman* offered to field questions since his firm assisted in drafting the text and gathering field data.

Commissioner Rice asked about the proposed changes in the drainage schemes outlined for the area above the Goldenview School. How was it handled in the draft?

Commissioner Billman, on behalf of his firm and as part author, noted that the plan recommends routing channels and tributaries mainly to the channels that lead to Little Survival Creek, which flows to the south end of Potter Marsh. The smaller roadside drainages and a lesser number of local tributaries east and uphill of the school were recommended for routing towards the school channel. These flows were limited because of the capacity issues and subsequent flooding in that system. This is considered marginal because there is no Hillside drainage jurisdiction to manage these flows directions.

Commissioner Rice asked about how the draft plan analyzed a new drainage utility, i.e. would it work for the entire Bowl or for a smaller area like the Hillside. Considerable discussion followed on the logistics and pros and cons and the reality of undertaking such a public utility. *Commissioner Jokela* asked if the drainage issues were mapped over the LRSAs. *Commissioner Billman* added that the drainage boundaries are currently on road/LRSA boundaries and the new utility would create actual drainage areas and/or watershed boundaries along physical drainage

boundary features. He noted that the majority of Hillside drainage problems are focused on the south end of the Hillside planning area. There was also shared discussion about creek setbacks and pros and cons of the proposed 50' vs. others and smaller distances for smaller channels. The Draft Plan appears to conflict with proposed Title 21 setbacks.

The Commission decided to table the discussion until members can review the full plan document. They asked staff to submit to them the upcoming schedule for the Public Hearing Draft at which time they will review and provide formal comments to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

D. Ship Creek Mitigation Feasibility Study Discussion

Commissioner Billman was asked, as a representative for his firm that has a contract with the Port of Anchorage to undertake a Ship Creek Mitigation Feasibility study, to present an overview of the project. His firm is soliciting input and ideas of any and all potential projects that could be done in the study area (lower Ship Creek, the general estuary from Cairn Point to 5th Avenue) as a mitigation project to offset debits associated with the Port's long-term fill expansion. His firm is working with the existing Salmon Restoration Project database. They will produce a full list of all projects mentioned or existing in the database. He suggested that the Port attend the March Commission meeting and present a project update. The Commission could also submit ideas at that time.

E. Persons to Be Heard (none)

IV. OLD BUSINESS (none)

VII. OTHER BUSINESS (none)

VIII. STAFF REPORT (none)

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission agreed to adjourn as a whole.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.