



Municipality of Anchorage

Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

Room 830 - Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall
632 West 6th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska

ACTION SUMMARY

12:00 Noon
Wednesday, August 18, 2010

Regular Meeting

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present: Dan Billman
Dan Bosch
Tamás Deák
Holly Kent
David Nyman
Captain Bob Pawlowski
Rick Sinnott

Excused: Brett Jokela

Staff: Thede Tobish, Senior Planner, MOA-Planning Department

Guests: David Wigglesworth, USFWS

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:05 p.m.

Chair Deák moved to add an agenda item concerning the Campbell Creek Estuary purchase.
Commissioner Billman seconded.

The addition to the agenda passed unanimously.

III. ACTION SUMMARY

A. Regular Meeting of May 26, 2010

Commissioner Billman moved to approve the May 26, 2010 minutes. *Commissioner Nyman* seconded.

The May 26, 2010 minutes were passed unanimously as written.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Rover's Run Trail Closure

Commissioner Sinnott provided background on this issue about closing the Rover's Run trail (now known as Mellen's Way). The Parks and Recreation Department has done seasonal closures on this trail over the last two summers, 2008 and 2009. State Fish and Game biologists had worked with the previous Administration and the Parks and Recreation Department to close the trail in the salmon season and eventually rebuild this trail section south and away from the creek. The recent trails master plan for Far North Bicentennial Park included these recommendations. The current Administration decided not to do seasonal closures of this trail, but the Parks and Recreation Commission remains open to considering future trail closures because of bear conflicts. There is local support, including findings from recent public surveys, for seasonal closures of trails as a method to minimize bear encounters. The Anchorage Bear Committee adopted guidelines support and recommend trail closures in these cases. The *Living with Wildlife* joint agency plan also recommends trail closures. *Commissioner Sinnott* offered a draft resolution, but it was determined that the issue would be continued at the next meeting.

Several Commissioners asked questions on the details and timing of various aspects of how this was handled by the Administration. *Commissioner Sinnott* was asked if there was much public input at locally held bear awareness events, and he said turnout was very limited. Several Commissioners offered changes, clarifications, and additions to the draft resolution; and it was agreed that these would be reviewed and adjusted by *Commissioner Sinnott* for the next regular meeting.

B. Campbell Creek Estuary Acquisition Update

Commissioner Billman asked about the status of this purchase by the Great Land Trust. *Staff* provided a basic update on the project. *Commissioner Billman* asked if the Commission should provide additional comment or support of this project.

Commissioner Billman moved to have staff resend the original Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission resolution (WNRC Resolution No. 2010-02) to the Mayor, the Assembly, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission with a cover letter from the Commission Chair.

Commissioner Nyman seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS (none)

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (none)

VII. OTHER BUSINESS (none)

VIII. STAFF REPORT (none)

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Billman moved to adjourn. *Commissioner Nyman* seconded.

The motion passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.