



Municipality of Anchorage
Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

Room 155 - City Hall
632 West 6th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska

ACTION SUMMARY

12:00 Noon
Wednesday, November 23, 2011

Regular Meeting

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present: Dan Billman
Dan Bosch, Vice Chair
Tamás Deák
Brett Jokela
Holly Kent
David Nyman
Captain Bob Pawlowski
Rick Sinnott
One Vacant Seat

Staff: Thede Tobish, Senior Planner, MOA-Community Development Department,
Planning Division, Long-Range Planning Section

Guests: Erika McConnell, Senior Planner, MOA-Community Development
Department, Transportation Planning Section

Lori Schanche, MOA-Public Works Department, Project Management and
Engineering Division

Isabelle Roy, MOA-Public Works Department, Project Management and
Engineering Division

Linda Harter, Anchorage 2020

Kathy Burke-Parker, Consultant to MOA- Public Works Department, Project
Management and Engineering Division

II. CALL TO ORDER

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

III. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Election of Officers

The Election of Officers was postponed to the latter part of the meeting.

IV. ACTION SUMMARY

A. Regular Meeting of August 24, 2011

Commissioner Billman moved to approve the August 24, 2011 minutes as written. *Commissioner Pawlowski* seconded.

The August 24, 2011 minutes were passed as written.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. WNRC 11-03, Anch 2020 Keep Anchorage Fireworks Free – Presentation, Possible Request for Support Concerning Fireworks in Anchorage

Linda Harter from the advocacy group Anchorage 2020 gave an overview of the fireworks issue, including the current state of an Assembly ordinance to extend the use of fireworks in the Bowl, and the potential impacts of fireworks on water quality, etc.

Ms. Harter's group is interested in banning fireworks because of safety issues, noise and disturbance issues, and perchlorates, which are potentially hazardous materials. She feels that municipal commissions with certain relevant responsibilities should review the details of the perchlorates and weigh in on these and the noise/disturbance issues, including those related to wildlife.

So far the Assembly has not solicited nor heard from municipal commissions. The Chair asked that the Commission, with staff, adopt a letter in support of the Municipality (MOA) obtaining and analyzing more information on perchlorates and fireworks hazards in general to provide to the Assembly. Staff offered to draft a letter with assistance from Commissioners.

(Note: A letter dated November 28, 2011, was drafted, signed by the Commission Chair, and sent to Assembly Chair Osslander (via Assembly/Clerk's Office) for the December 13, 2011 continued public hearing on the issue. Copies were also sent for the other Assemblymembers through the Clerk, and a separate copy was sent to the Municipal Manager.)

B. WNRC 11-04, Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Overview and Action to Consider

MOA Transportation Planning Staff *Erika McConnell* provided an overview of the Public Review Draft Plan, which combines long-range transportation planning for the Anchorage Bowl and Chugiak-Eagle River. This draft includes new or updated transportation and road goals, policies, objectives, and certain essential road projects. She asked that the Commission consider reviewing and commenting specifically on relevant policies, objectives, and projects.

Commissioner Billman recommended that the WNRC adopt a resolution in support of the Plan that should reflect comments in support of or with additions to certain policies and objectives

relative to water quality, habitats, drainage, and streams as receiving waters. Staff agreed to work with Commissioner Billman to draft such a resolution. There was agreement that the WNRC supports certain comments reflected in the Plan at page 29, as submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Plan should also use traffic accident data and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) maps to account for design and location efforts to minimize and mitigate impacts to fish and wildlife as well as to water quality and stream channels.

C. Lower Ship Creek Enhancement Program – Presentation, Request for Ideas and Support.

Lori Schanche from Project Management and Engineering has been charged with promoting, planning for, and developing projects to upgrade and enhance lower Ship Creek. Projects include actions to enhance the stream corridor habitat, water quality, and angler access. She is soliciting project ideas and related items from the WNRC. The MOA is working with the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC), who is the primary landowner, to come up with a suite of projects that could benefit from several possible funding sources. These include a new fishing platform for 2012, storm drain upgrades, and a possible viewing platform and semi-permanent toilets near the fishing areas. Commissioners noted that storm drain pipe and outfall ownership and maintenance responsibilities vary within the corridor and should be clarified and understood during this planning stage. They also wanted the MOA team to account for utility corridors and easements in their plans to assure future utility access and maintenance. The Commissioner will forward additional items as these may come forward.

D. Discussion about MOA and State Signage on Streets at Stream Crossings

Item postponed to another time.

III. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS (postponed from earlier in meeting)

B. Election of Officers

Commissioner Kent nominated Rick Sinnott for Chair. *Commissioner Billman* seconded.

Commissioner Sinnott declined to be considered.

Commissioner Pawlowski nominated Rick Sinnott for Vice-Chair. *Commissioner Billman* seconded.

***Commissioner Sinnott* was approved unanimously as Vice-Chair.**

Commissioner Nyman nominated Tamás Deák as Chair. *Commissioner Pawlowski* seconded.

***Commissioner Deák* was approved unanimously for Chair.**

VI. OTHER BUSINESS/STAFF REPORT (none)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.