



Municipality of Anchorage

Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

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

ACTION SUMMARY

12:00 Noon
Wednesday, August 22, 2012

Regular Meeting

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present: Dan Billman
Brett Jokela
Holly Kent
Cherie Northon
David Nyman
Captain Bob Pawlowski
Rick Sinnott, Vice Chair

Excused: Dan Bosch
Tamás Deák, Chair

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

Guests: Monica Alvarez, Planner, State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources,
Division of State Parks

Amanda Hults, Planner, State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources,
Division of State Parks

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:06 p.m.

Vice Chair Sinnott presided.

III. ACTION SUMMARY

A. Regular Meeting of July 25, 2012

Commissioner Jokela moved to approve the July 25, 2012 minutes as written. *Commissioner Billman* seconded.

The July 25, 2012 minutes were passed as written.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Chugach Access Plan – Alaska Department of Natural Resources

State of Alaska Planner, *Monica Alvarez*, and MOA Long-Range Planning Division Planner, *Thede Tobish*, presented background and details about the State's *Chugach Access Plan*. This plan offers background information and details of existing and potential future public access opportunities for Chugach State Park. The State had long ago begun work on this access and detail-oriented plan as a means of recognizing where and how future public access can be added to the State Park, with a goal of providing some sort of public access at approximately every quarter mile along the Park interface. The intent is for this Plan to present details and locations of potential future public access and to use the municipal platting process to reserve these access sites via trail or other dedications.

As opportunities arise, the Plan could serve to provide direction for future acquisitions by the State, the Municipality, or the local land trust. The Municipality determined via a Legal Department legal opinion that the ideal use of the Plan will be as a planning resource on which to base future platting decisions and future public access dedications. The legal opinion determined that the Municipality must adopt this Plan as an element of the Anchorage Comprehensive Plan. In so doing, this Plan becomes the key implementation tool for numerous MOA policies found in *Anchorage 2020*, the *Hillside District Plan*, the *Anchorage Bowl Park, Natural Resource, and Recreation Facility Plan*, and the *Areawide Trails Plan*.

The Commission asked questions relative to how the Plan addresses parking. The Plan calls for certain future access locations to be developed to accommodate small, medium, or large parking lots, all to be constructed inside the Park boundary. There was also concern about how the Plan addresses compatibility conflicts with certain uses; for example, equestrian access. The State noted that this is more of a policy issue to be addressed later in the Park's overall management plan and/or the Park Trails Plan. The State's Trails Plan will identify future trail priorities and needs. This current Plan is simply a location of secured, existing, and potential future access sites, which are currently not secured. It provides the locations for future access sites that might be formalized and secured in future dedications during municipal platting actions.

Commissioner Billman moved that the staff work with the Commission to draft a resolution in support of this state Plan to be adopted as an element of the municipal Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Northon recommended that the resolution reflect the fact that page 19 of the Plan include reference to stream corridors and drainage ways to the list of potential access acquisitions to enhance and protect public access.

The Commission also recommended that the resolution include a section that directs state planning staff to coordinate with ADFG on future acquisitions (also at page 19). *Commissioner Billman* accepted these recommendations.

Commissioner Kent seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

[Note: The staff circulated a draft resolution that was agreed to by Commissioners present at the meeting. It was signed and forwarded to the Planning and Zoning Commission.]

V. OLD BUSINESS

Trails Plan Policy Recommendation - Tabled

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.