



## **Municipality of Anchorage**

### **Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission**

Room 525 - City Hall  
632 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska

#### ***ACTION SUMMARY***

12:00 Noon  
Wednesday, March 30, 2016

#### ***Regular Meeting***

### **I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

*Present:* Dan Billman  
Dan Bosch  
Tamás Deák, Chair  
Holly Kent  
Cherie Northon  
David Nyman  
Rick Sinnott, Vice Chair

*Excused:* Brett Jokela  
Stephanie Schmidt

*Staff:* Thede Tobish, Senior Planner, MOA Planning Department,  
Long-Range Planning Division

*Guests:* Elvi Gray-Jackson, Anchorage Assembly  
Dick Traini, Anchorage Assembly  
Melinda Grant, Stephanie Kesler, & others, Government Hill  
Community Council  
Iris Mathews & others, Rogers Park Community Council  
Albert Whitehead, South Addition Community Council

### **II. CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **III. ACTION SUMMARY**

#### **A. Regular Meeting of February 24, 2016**

*Commissioner Sinnott* moved to approve the February 24, 2016 minutes as written.

*Commissioner Northon* seconded.

**The minutes for the February 24, 2016 meeting were approved as written.**

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS (none)**

### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. Government Hill Bear-Garbage WNRC Resolution No. 2015-01**

At the February 24, 2016 regular meeting, the Commission reopened discussion about WNRC Resolution No. 2015-01 after concerns raised from community councils and members of the Assembly. At issue was the resolution's recommendation A., which recommended that Government Hill residents place garbage cans at the front curb. The Chair offered general background on the issues surrounding bears and garbage and how this issue played out on Government Hill over the previous two years.

The Chair described the process of how the Commission reached its findings in Resolution No. 2015-01 and that the intent was to address the issue both generally and specifically to address the issue on Government Hill. The Commission worked with and heard from both Alaska Waste and Solid Waste Services (SWS) ahead of its resolution. The Chair opened the floor to discussion and community council representatives spoke on the issues of most concern to them.

All three councils (Government Hill, South Addition, and Rogers Park) were concerned that the Commission took action with Resolution No. 2015-01 without reaching out to or coordinating with the councils. Government Hill council members offered considerable background on the issue for their area and on their attempts to coordinate with SWS. They generally feel that the main issue of bears and garbage, aside from finding an acceptable bear-proof container, is enforcement of the garbage collections code section. None of the councils believe that requiring curbside pickup will resolve the problem. In fact, the alleys in these traditional neighborhoods are very important and provide easier access for residents to store and place cans for pickup.

Government Hill reps felt that their compromise solution employed last year, which incorporated a community overflow dumpster, was working and appropriate and should be considered elsewhere. Four community councils have passed previous resolutions that had supported alleys pickup of garbage. Some councils continue to spend efforts on educating their residents about bear-garbage conflicts. Assemblymembers Gray-Jackson and Traini echoed the councils' concerns and asked that the Commission reconsider its resolution and resubmit, or modify the Commission's findings via an Assembly Informational Memorandum.

The Commission offered explanations on their approach with Resolution No. 2015-01 and apologized for not reaching out better to councils. The Commission agreed that it would reconsider elements of Resolution No. 2015-01 and possibly revise it with an upgraded draft that better recognized the community councils and their previous concerns and ongoing efforts to address bear conflicts. One consideration included reviewing the enforcement section of the code related to garbage collection, AMC 26.70.050E.

Additional discussion on the floor included recognition that the Municipality may end up needing an areawide ordinance that address garbage and bears, similar to what was adopted in Juneau. This included consideration of requiring bear proof containers in areas of high bear habitats and travel corridors. The Commission will review this approach and address at one of its next regular meetings.

## **VI. OTHER BUSINESS/STAFF REPORT**

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**The motion passed without objection.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.