



Municipality of Anchorage

Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

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

ACTION SUMMARY

12:00 Noon
Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Regular Meeting

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present: Dan Billman
Tamás Deák, Chair
Brett Jokela
Holly Kent
David Nyman
Stephanie Quinn-Davidson

Excused: Dan Bosch
Cherie Northon
Rick Sinnott, Vice Chair

Staff: Thede Tobish, Tom Davis, Senior Planners, MOA Planning Department,
Long-Range Planning Division

Guests: Brian Baus, Mark Cosentino, AWWU
Tim Sullivan, Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC)

II. CALL TO ORDER

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

III. ACTION SUMMARY

A. Regular Meeting of April 27, 2016

Commissioner Billman moved to approve the April 27, 2016 minutes as written.
Commissioner Kent seconded.

The minutes for the April 27, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. AWWU Fish Creek Sewer Trunk Project Fencing Discussion

Mark Cosentino, AWWU Project Manager for the Fish Creek Sewer Trunk Rehab Project, offered an outline of the activities, project schedule and milestones, and final actions checklist. Chief among these items and of most interest to the Commission is the final fencing requirements planned for the project area. As part of its use agreement with the ARRC, AWWU agreed to fence the project area alignment where the utility easement abuts or crosses the ARRC right-of-way. Because of longstanding concerns and experiences with trespass, public safety, and wildlife conflicts, the ARRC standards required AWWU to construct a new fence along the alignment from the south end of the estuary where AWWU accessed the work area to points north.

Tim Sullivan from the ARRC discussed the railroad's historic trespass and safety issues with their Anchorage corridor. There had been considerable public concern that the new fence would end public access to the Fish Creek estuary, which is preserved in a conservation easement as a municipal natural area. The new fence might complicate the future alignment of a planned trail shown in the *Anchorage Trails Plan*, which is a north-south feature conceptually located at the edge of or on the ARRC right-of-way.

There was also concern raised that in combination with existing fencing in the ARRC corridor, wildlife movements in the area might be adversely affected. The ARRC and AWWU have met with the Turnagain Community Council, trails groups, and local Assemblymembers about the fencing and how to accommodate the future planned trail. Possibilities exist for the trail even with the new fencing, but it will take considerable coordination.

The Commission noted that linear fencing projects of this nature have been an ongoing concern for the Commission in regards to public safety and wildlife conflicts. Some felt the Municipality needs to adopt an overall, area-specific fencing policy to guide large-scale fence projects like this.

The Commission agreed to consider making recommendations at its June meeting on the Fish Creek fencing project relative to placement ideas and ways to mitigate public concerns and potential wildlife issues. AWWU will consider comments and possibly share them with the ARRC.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Anchorage Bowl Land Use Plan Map

Tom Davis, Project Manager from the Long-Range Planning Division, asked the Commission to consider offering a resolution in support of the Land Use Plan Map. In particular, he asked the Commission's input and recommendations for the Plan's Greenway Supportive Development concept, which focuses future growth and redevelopment around a preserved or restored stream

channel. Tom also asked for support for the map's details on the Community Natural Assets map and the Public Facility/Natural Area designation. Tom will follow up at the June meeting with some specific questions and subject items to generate support and edit suggestions for the Commission.

V. OTHER BUSINESS/STAFF REPORT (none)

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kent moved to adjourn. Commissioner Billman seconded.

The motion passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.