



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 24, 2016

Regular Meeting

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present: Dan Bosch
Dan Billman
Tamás Deák, Chair
Cherie Northon
David Nyman
Stephanie Quinn-Davidson
Rick Sinnott, Vice Chair

Absent: Brett Jokela
Holly Kent

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

Guests: Birgitta Kytte and Travis Smith, Solid Waste Services

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:08 p.m.

III. ACTION SUMMARY

A. Regular Meeting of June 22, 2016

Commissioner Bosch moved to approve the June 22, 2016 minutes as written.

Commissioner Sinnott seconded.

The minutes for the June 22, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

IV. NEW BUSINESS (none)

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. AIM 95-216 – Solid Waste Services Practices Relative to Bears and Garbage

The Commission discussed their Resolution (WNRC 2016-01), which had modified the Commission's findings on the original Government Hill bear-garbage resolution with two staff members from Solid Waste Services (SWS). SWS had some concerns about the issues as this newer resolution had just gone to the Assembly as an information item (AIM 95-216).

The SWS Director asked for this time to update the Commission on the department's progress addressing bear-garbage conflicts. SWS has made good strides in the bear-garbage conflicts on Government Hill since summer 2015. They operated the public dumpster, which was downsized to accommodate more people; and they ordered and made available 200 new bear-resistant containers.

SWS initiated a pilot program to provide tote carts to interested customers with a specialized rear mechanism that is not a gravity system. SWS is working with the community council to see if the public can make a change from the locking public dumpster to the new bear-resistant carts. They have also stepped up field enforcement of open cans or cans left on the street at the wrong times. They sent a letter to certain areas of Government Hill to encourage people to sign up for bear-resistant carts but there is no decision on whether these will require new charges.

So far, they've had minimum feedback from drivers on the ease of use or impacts from the bear-resistant carts. They did not use two drivers to accommodate the carts. Next steps include continued education and outreach with residents, monitoring condition of tipper carts, and placement of the public dumpster in summer season.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS/STAFF REPORT (none)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Billman moved to adjourn. Commissioner Bosch seconded.

The motion passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.