



Municipality of Anchorage

Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

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

ACTION SUMMARY

12:00 Noon
Wednesday, September 26, 2018

Regular Meeting

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present: Tamás Deák, Chair
Brett Jokela
Holly Kent (phone)
David Nyman
Stephanie Quinn-Davidson
Rick Sinnott, Vice Chair

Three Vacancies

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

Guests: Marc Grober, General Public from Northeast Community Council
Jay Stange, Spenard Community Council

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:07 p.m.

III. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A Election of Officers

Election of Officers was moved to end of the meeting for action. (*Meeting then ran over so postponed to next meeting.*)

IV. ACTION SUMMARY

A. Regular Meeting of August 22, 2018

Commissioner Jokela moved to approve the August 22, 2018 minutes. *Commissioner Quinn-Davidson* seconded.

The minutes for the August 22, 2018 Regular Meeting were approved as written.

NOTE: The agenda order was changed to take up VI. New Business first, and Old Business was taken up after.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. WNRC Case No. 2018-01, Fish Creek Restoration

Jay Stange, Spenard Community Council President, introduced details on the concept for a long-term goal of daylighting Fish Creek. There are numerous areas in the watershed where the creek could be daylighted, reconstructed, or otherwise redirected throughout its length. The sections in Midtown and across Spenard especially offer plenty of opportunity for channel restoration or recreation. Jay offered an overview of the history of the creek, details on the existing conditions, and the biological, water quality and quantity, and economic benefits of a large-scale restoration action.

Roughly 75% of the Fish Creek flows have been diverted and/or buried, often under paved ROWs. The long-term goal is to restore the stream to a gravity-fed natural system, if and where feasible, from Cuddy Midtown Park to the archival channel at Minnesota Drive. Mr. Stange hopes to receive the Commission's support and technical expertise as the restoration project comes to fruition. The Commission offered their support.

B. Northeast Community Council – Request for Consideration of Processing Input on Commission Reviews (Russian Jack Park Trail Project Example)

Marc Grober spoke of his interest in working with the Commission to make sure that the Parks and Recreation Department develop, with public input, a Natural Resources Plan for Russian Jack Park. He provided the Commission with two example concept resolutions to potentially address outstanding concerns about both the lack of a natural resource plan for Russian Jack Park and on the process of getting Parks and Recreation staff to solicit input and incorporate public comment and Watershed Commission expertise into park plans and project reviews.

Mr. Grober and the Northeast Community Council would like to resolve what they see as an impasse situation relative to Russian Jack Park issues and the process of planning for this park. The Commission discussed the two concept resolutions. From a previous meeting, the Commission agreed they wish to participate in resolving this issue. The Commission agreed they and/or staff should review these issues and concerns with Parks and Recreation staff prior to considering and drafting a future resolution(s) about the process of park planning or project reviews. Collaboration with Parks and Recreation is the goal.

C. Persons to Be Heard (none)

NOTE: The remaining agenda resumed from here.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. WNRC Case No. 2015-03, Stream Protection Ordinance – Resolution No. 2018-01

The Commission discussed the draft resolution. Near the end of the third WHEREAS, the Commission agreed to add “ecological,” after *floodplain*, and before *and related....*

Commissioner Nyman moved to approve WNRC Resolution No. 2018-01 with the noted amendment. *Commissioner Sinnott* seconded.

The resolution was approved as amended.

B. WNRC Case No. 2015-02, Bears-Garbage Conflicts – Solid Waste, Garbage Proposed Standards, New Concepts

Discussion on this item was postponed to the next meeting.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS/STAFF REPORT (none)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Nyman moved to adjourn. *Commissioner Quinn-Davidson* seconded.

The motion passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.