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**Minutes of the Public Hearing
Denali Borough Planning Commission
Tri-Valley Community Center
June 18, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Presiding Officer Kesslyn TENCH called the Public Hearing to order at 6:35pm.

ROLL CALL

Planning Commissioners present were: Lee LIGHTFOOT, Robert SNYDER, Erik HAUGEN, Kesslyn TENCH, Susan BRAUN and Baxter MERCER. Absent: Steve JONES, Mark MENKE and James Greg WILLIAMSON. Mayor Clay Walker was also present.

1. Borough Wide Addressing System

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Presiding Officer Kesslyn TENCH adjourned the Public Hearing at 6:36pm.

APPROVED: _____


Lee Lightfoot, Deputy Presiding Officer

ATTEST: _____


Connie MacMaster, Deputy Clerk

Date Approved: _____



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**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Denali Borough Planning Commission
Tri-Valley Community Center
June 18, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Presiding Officer Kesslyn TENCH called the regular meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

ROLL CALL

Planning commissioners present were: Lee LIGHTFOOT, Robert SNYDER, Erik HAUGEN, Kesslyn TENCH, Susan BRAUN and Baxter MERCER. Absent: Steve JONES, Mark MENKE and James WILLIAMSON. Mayor Clay Walker was also present.

Kesslyn TENCH MOVED to excuse Steve JONES, Mark MENKE and James WILLIAMSON. The motion was carried by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tammany George from Cantwell said she appreciates the live streaming of the meetings. She asked if there is a way to have public comment while watching via the internet. She thanked the borough for making the live stream possible.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Lee LIGHTFOOT MOVED to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lee LIGHTFOOT MOVED to approve the March 19, 2019 public hearing and regular meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded.

It was noted to make a spelling correction and to correct a commissioner comment.

The VOTE to approve the amended minutes by show of hands was unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

PLATS AND CONDITIONAL USES

There were no plats or conditional uses.

REPORTS

MAYOR

Mayor Clay Walker verbally highlighted information provided in a written report. He noted some additional information added to the report after it was originally posted. The updated written report is attached. He also spoke to:

A Community Transportation Program application that will be on the July agenda for the Planning Commission in regard to pedestrian safety and trails along the Healy Spur and Healy School roads. Mayor Walker proposed a new tax initiative to the Assembly this month. Looking ahead to reduced state funding to the borough and to the upcoming needs, a 5% alcohol and marijuana tax was

1 proposed to take effect in 2021. Some of the needs that have been identified are: street addressing,
2 Parks and Recreation Department, applications for transportation and trail funding programs that
3 require a 9% match, boundary survey costs and planning for potential land sales. It will continue to
4 be on the Assembly agenda for more discussion and to see if a tax proposal will be put on the ballot
5 in November.

6
7 Discussion followed regarding:

8 The aerial maps will be available through the borough website once the project is completed.

9 A rough figure of income the proposed tax might bring in is \$430,000.00.

10 The beacon crosswalk at the Healy Spur/Parks Highway intersection and a reduced speed limit - a
11 limit lower than 45 miles per hour will change the highway status and it needs to be kept as a
12 highway.

13 14 **BOROUGH PLANNER**

15 Denali Borough Planner Marsha Lambert reported the following:

- 16 • Land management plans will be on your next month's meeting agenda.
- 17 • We received survey instructions for our priority areas of Otto Lake, which is about 644 acres,
18 and Anderson, which is about 827 acres
- 19 • We are working on submitting to DNR, in their public and charitable lands program, to get up to
20 5,000 cubic yards of gravel for the Kobe Farm Community grant to assist them with getting
21 gravel from the state. It's something that we might be able to do for others in the future.

22 23 **PLANNING COMMISSIONER REPORT FROM THE ASSEMBLY MEETING**

24 There was no commissioner report from the assembly meeting. Mayor Clay Walker reported that the
25 Assembly passed the street naming section of code at their last meeting, Ordinance 19-09. At their
26 June meeting they passed the budget and reviewed the subdivision section of code, Ordinance 19-
27 10.

28 29 **LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)**

30 Chris Noel, Emergency Planning and Projects Coordinator and LEPC Chair, reported the
31 recommendation from the LEPC's recent Special Meeting regarding the borough wide addressing
32 system. The recommendation is regarding the two options being presented today. The LEPC voted
33 to support the street length-based system as opposed to the baseline system.

34 35 **COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUEST**

36 There was no communication or appearance request.

37 38 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

39 There was no unfinished business.

40 41 **NEW BUSINESS**

42 **BOROUGH WIDE ADDRESSING SYSTEM**

43 Borough Planner Marsha Lambert and Emergency Planner and Projects Coordinator Chris Noel
44 reviewed maps and a power point presentation explaining the process borough staff have gone
45 through to develop two systems for addressing the Denali Borough. The baseline system and the
46 street length system were explained along with benefits and disadvantages of each.

47
48 Discussion included:

- 1 • what the trigger will be for assigning an address
- 2 • the degree of contact information needed for a determination of an address reassignment
- 3 • the desire for emergency response to find a homeowner's location
- 4 • size of address numbers
- 5 • addressing based on already constructed roads or platted roads
- 6 • rules and exceptions to the rules
- 7 • road naming
- 8 • EMS and Fire dispatch system
- 9 • Trooper dispatch system
- 10 • road name signs with address ranges displayed
- 11 • requirement to post signs and addresses or incentivize
- 12 • costs involved, maintenance responsibilities
- 13 • possible initial borough project to put up street signs
- 14 • house number signs, standards

15
16 Presiding Officer Kesslyn TENCH called a break at 8:33 PM. The meeting resumed at
17 8:45 PM.

18
19 Lee LIGHTFOOT MOVED to send the Borough Wide Addressing System to the Assembly with the
20 recommendation for the baseline system. The motion was seconded.

21
22 Discussion followed regarding the recommendation:

- 23 • consistent for future growth
- 24 • the need for a system to help with finding places in the Canyon
- 25 • street length system easier in the beginning, anything is better than what we have now, better
26 to start with something we can keep
- 27 • the reason addressing is being initiated is for emergency response and they recommend the
28 street length system
- 29 • ease for visitors with the street length system
- 30 • the need for both systems to be presented to the Assembly

31
32 The VOTE by show of hands failed 4 – 2.

33
34 Erik HAUGEN MOVED to send to the assembly both options of the borough wide addressing system
35 for further public comment. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was
36 unanimous.

37 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

38 Alaska State Trooper Sgt. Miner, representing the LEPC, supported the motion to send both of the
39 systems to the assembly for further public process and public buy-in.

40 **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

- 41 • Lee LIGHTFOOT stated that he now gets off work earlier and would like to move the Planning
42 Commission meetings to 6:00 PM
- 43 • Kesslyn TENCH mentioned the mileage reimbursement forms deadline for the commissioners
- 44 • Baxter MERCER thanked borough staff for a very interesting presentation

- 1 • Erik HAUGEN thanked everyone for the engaging conversation and thanked borough staff for
2 their hard work on addressing
- 3 • Robert SNYDER announced that he is moving and will be resigning his seat after July and
4 stated that he is thankful for the opportunity and enjoyed working with everyone

5
6 **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT TO THE ASSEMBLY**

7 Select Commissioner to provide the Planning Commission Report to the Assembly on Wednesday,
8 July 10th, 2019 at 6:00 PM at the Cantwell community center.

9
10 Lee LIGHTFOOT offered to attend the Wednesday, July 10th, 2019 Denali Borough Assembly
11 meeting and provide the Planning Commission report.

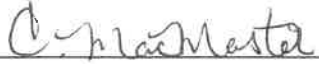
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13 **TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

14 The next regularly scheduled meeting time is Tuesday, July 16th, 2019: Public Hearing at 6:00 PM;
15 Regular Meeting following the Public Hearing, at the Tri-Valley Community Center.

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17 **ADJOURNMENT**

18 Presiding Officer Kesslyn TENCH adjourned the meeting at 9:23pm.

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24 APPROVED: 
25 Lee Lightfoot, Deputy Presiding Officer

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29 ATTEST: 
30 Connie MacMaster, Deputy Clerk

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33 Date Approved: 
34

DENALI BOROUGH

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Clay Walker, Mayor

June 2019 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Planning Commission

It's been a little while since our last meeting, so there are a fair number of items upon which to report:

Community Mapping Project

- Taking advantage of an opportunity to utilize state funding for fifty percent of the project cost, the borough entered into an agreement with the State to undertake an aerial mapping project which will capture the borough's communities as well as borough owned lands.
- The imagery will result in high quality maps useful for planning, emergency response and other purposes.

Temporary Use Permit granted to Texas A&M Archeological Department

- Following the previous issuance of three one-year use permits, the group has requested and been issued a four year permit to continue archeological exploration on borough managed land near Little Panguingue Creek.

University of Illinois Study Kick-Off

- These researchers, who have worked in the borough previously, recently kicked off a new five year study by holding Community Conversations in Cantwell and McKinley Village. They plan on engaging all borough communities and communities outside the borough. From their study summary, they are working to "build strategies for how the public land management agencies can focus policy in response to community needs and conservation objectives". The borough will be interested in their findings of residents' preferences regarding different future growth scenarios

Anderson Community Fire Resilient Landscape Project approved by Division of Forestry

- Goals of the project are to protect and educate the community through the Anderson Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and Alaska Division of Forestry – Alaska Forest Action Plan.
- Over the course of two field seasons, the project will create 80 acres of shaded fuel breaks on state lands effectively surrounding the community of Anderson. Community meetings and Firewise workshops will also be convened - - to pass out information on techniques residents can use to protect their home from wildfire risk.
- Fuel wood greater than 4 inches will be set aside and free for public use.
- This is the first CWPP in the borough and hopefully not the last. Getting to this stage takes a local champion. The borough will support efforts, but the project needs a local point person(s). Kudos to Anderson for taking this important step in a fire-prone environment.

Expanded Parking Area at Kobe Road

- The expanded parking area, which was identified in our Transportation Needs List, has been completed by the Alaska Department of Transportation.

Department Of Transportation Updates

- Healy Spur/Parks Highway Intersection

- In response to concerns regarding confusion and limited stopping distance, the DOT Safety Engineer shared that sight lines are more than sufficient in this area to stop at posted speeds. The borough wants to encourage pedestrians to use the signal and make drivers aware to stop for pedestrians within the crosswalk.
- McKinley Village Speed Limit
 - For the second consecutive season, the DOT has dropped the speed limit from 65 to 55 for a four mile section of the McKinley Village commercial and community driveway area. The borough thanks DOT for this safety measure.
- Healy Transfer Station Signage
 - The borough is working toward installing highway side notice signs for the facility.

2020 U.S. Census

- Properly apportioning our representative republic (and the funding provided thereby) through a decennial census count is mandated in the Section One of the United States Constitution.
- In the 2010 Census, Alaska had the lowest participation rate of the 50 states. Of Alaska's organized borough's, the Denali Borough had the second lowest participation rate – with only a 37% participation rate. The Denali Borough will be considering outreach efforts to bolster the level of participation.

Draft ordinances relating to Title 9 Land Use section of Code went to legal

- Both the Conditional Use Permit and Local Option Zoning drafts are in legal review currently

Denali Park Road

- Along with borough admin asst., Trena Haugen, I attended a portion of the National Park Service's Scenario Planning Session specific to the potential of loss of a section of the Denali Park Road. This intra-governmental session, which included Federal Highways, Alaska Department of Transportation, and the Denali Borough, focused on pre-event, event, and post-event planning and recommended actions. From a borough perspective, I shared the importance of the Denali Park Road, which is the longest road in the Denali Borough, to the regional and state economy. I shared my appreciation and support of work towards keeping the Park Road a safe and spectacular viewing corridor.

Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Applications

- In partnership with the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Denali National Park, the Denali Borough submitted an application for grant funding to plan and construct a new west-side Bison Gulch Trailhead Parking Facility. The estimated total project cost is \$424,082. The FLAP funding request is for \$385,788. The National Park Service is providing the required 9% match, which amounts to \$28,294 and the borough has agreed to commit \$10,000, should the project be accepted and funded.
- The State of Alaska Department of Transportation, in partnership with Denali National Park and the Denali Borough, submitted another FLAP application for a "Planning and Environmental Linkage Study" spanning from Cantwell to Ferry. Through community outreach, this study would identify needs and potential projects within the corridor and set the planning and environmental table for projects to qualify for available funding. The project cost is \$1.5 million with no borough contribution.
- This is the first time the Denali Borough has ever submitted an application through this program. With a scarcity of state funding sources, it appears that other municipalities are also looking toward these federal funds. We hear there are a total of 27 applications requesting over \$30 million, with just \$7 million available.

Happy June, happy peak of the light cycle. As always, feel free to contact me or staff with any questions.

- Clay