

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION

MINUTES
February 23, 2021

A regular meeting of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Planning Commission was held via Zoom from the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers, Juanita Helms Administration Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by John Perreault, Chair.

A. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chris Guinn Savannah Fletcher
John Perreault Mike Kenna
Eric Muehling Kerynn Fisher
Doug Sims Jason McComas-Roe

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT (A) & EXCUSED (E): Shane Koester (E) Sandra Mota (E)

OTHERS PRESENT: Christine Nelson, Director of Community Planning
Kellen Spillman, Deputy Director of Community Planning
Annmarie Billingsley, Asst. Borough Attorney
Sharon Wittenkeller, Recording Clerk

B. MESSAGES

1. Communications to the Planning Commission

Ms. Nelson gave an update on the current COVID-19 status for FNSB. She further noted that the JHAC first floor is open to the public and appointments are still required for entry to the second floor due to social distancing requirements. She explained that meetings are still being held via Zoom but expected that to change within the next month and that the Assembly will be reviewing the FNSB Disaster Declaration and Chambers Mitigation Plan.

Mr. Spillman discussed the case load for the upcoming meetings in March and April and noted that the March 23, 2021 meeting would likely be cancelled due to lack of items. He further discussed the APA online commissioner training that took place the prior Sunday and that there will be a March session scheduled. Staff and some commissioners are currently attending the APA online conference. He gave a reminder to commissioners to file their final POFD with APOC. He highlighted the Comprehensive Road Plan update and

Commissioner Guinn and Commissioner Fisher volunteered to represent the Planning Commission during Road Plan work sessions.

2. Citizen's Comments – limited to three (3) minutes

Barret Goodale of Fairbanks inquired about and spoke of AMCO's response to what is needed for an exemption by local government concerning Cannabis odor emissions.

Ms. Nelson responded that no other jurisdiction in the state has yet adopted a marijuana odor control exemption process and that there has not been any other inquires about an odor exemption in the last six years. She further stated that the FNSB Administration declined to proceed with an odor exemption procedure at this time due to other workload priorities.

Dave Fischer with AK DOT & PF gave a brief update on the consent agenda item HP2021-002 Rosie Creek Road Improvements and answered commissioner questions.

Commissioner Guinn inquired whether the intersection at Rosie Creek and Chena Ridge Road will be improved and future timelines of project updates in regard to paved shoulders.

Commissioner Muehling inquired about the two-foot paved driveway apron onto Rosie Creek, driveways with steep approaches to the road, the two-foot paved shoulders and bike pedestrian safety.

3. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest – None.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda and consent agenda made by **Commissioner Sims** and seconded by **Commissioner McComas-Roe**. Carried without objection or roll call vote.

D. MINUTES

Minutes from February 9, 2021.

E. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. **HP2021-002 Rosie Creek Road Improvements:** A request by the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (AK DOT&PF) for local planning authority approval of the Rosie Creek Road Improvement project. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB), proposes to upgrade 2.4 miles of Rosie Creek Road from Chena Pump Road to Becker Ridge Road with new paving and safety improvements including guardrail and approach intersections.

F. EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES

The absences of Commissioner Sims for the March meetings and Commissioner McComas-Roe for the April meetings are excused.

G. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Fisher thanked the staff for sponsoring the commissioners who attended the APA commissioner training, extended kudos to Ms. Billingsley for her helpful and concise legal overview in the new commissioner orientation she attended in 2019 and suggested her as a future presenter for APA conferences.

Commissioner Muehling noted his concerns for DOT to expand safe non-motorized routes for the health and safety of the community.

Commissioner Sims inquired about the status of the Downtown Plan.

Commissioner Perreault echoed Commissioner Muehling's concern for DOT to continue to develop non-motorized travel and plan development.

H. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.