

DENALI BOROUGH

PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICATION

Application for Seat ____

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Physical Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone: (Daytime) _____ (Evening) _____

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Approximate number of hours per month you are available to work on Commission business:

____ 2 HRS

____ 5 HR

____ 10 HRS

Check the main reason(s) you wish to be a Planning Commissioner:

_____ I have expertise and want to contribute.

_____ I am interested in the topics handled by the Planning Commission.

_____ I want to participate in local government.

_____ I want to learn more about my local government.

_____ Other _____

Are you registered to vote in the Denali Borough? Yes _____ No _____

Please provide a brief synopsis of your education, work, and/or volunteer experiences.

Please feel free to use the back of this application or a supplemental sheet.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this application. The Denali Borough Administrator will review it and contact you if there are questions or clarifications that are needed.

Denali Borough Mayor

Following is a synopsis of information that hopefully will assist a potential candidate in determining what is involved in being on the Denali Borough Planning Commission.

Denali Borough

THE PLANNING COMMISSION

The Denali Borough Planning Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by Borough Assembly. The commission is tasked with overseeing Municipal Land Entitlements (MLE's) and reviews and makes recommendations for changes to the Comprehensive Plan to the Borough Assembly. When appropriate, the Commission will formulate enabling documents such as Subdivision and Zoning ordinances. The Planning Commission also acts as the platting board and handles requests for variances and conditional uses.

The Planning Commission is a public advisory board and its purpose is to review and advise the Borough Assembly on public and private activities involving the physical, social, and economic development of the borough and to review and make a comprehensive plan for the physical development of the borough. The Commission also reviews and advises the assembly on matters concerning long range planning for land within the borough boundaries.

The Commission receives direction, from and is responsible to the Borough Assembly, and is supported by the planning staff.

ORGANIZATION

The Denali Borough Planning Commission consists of nine (9) members, from the same districts and in the same proportion as the Assembly. Planning Commission members shall serve terms of three (3) years, and their terms shall be staggered so that the terms of no more than three (3) members of the planning commission shall expire at any one time.

The chairperson and vice-chairperson are elected annually by the Commission during the first meeting of the year. Regular meetings are currently held once a month.

Ex-officio Member: The ex-officio, non-voting member shall be the Denali Borough Mayor.

MEMBER ROLES

The Commission's work covers a wide range of issues within the Borough. While some issues must be acted on quickly (due to time requirements), other projects involve a significant time commitment to reach completion. Dedication and a sense of obligation to seeing these items progress and become finalized are valued attributes for a Commissioner. Perhaps the most significant responsibility the members have is to maintain an open mind to all matters that come before the commission; listening, learning, and debating the issues in a non-confrontational fashion are essential.

In the preparation of plans, the Commission has the authority to conduct open public hearings, investigations, studies, surveys, prepare maps, charts, exhibits, reports, and to perform all other acts and duties necessary to the promotion of public interest and understanding of the Commission's programs and plans.

Decision-making should be based on information gathered and what can be seen as working toward the betterment of the borough or working toward the Bill of Rights as adopted in the Comprehensive Plan. Maintaining objectivity in the face of special interest groups is often difficult, but necessary in order to achieve a balanced approach to economic development. Both long-term objectives and short-term benefits should be considered on all issues.

Although the Commission acts as a group, it is expected that debate and divergent viewpoints are present among the commissioners. However, personal viewpoints are not to be represented to outside organizations or individuals as being of the Commission or Borough. Integrity regarding conflicts of interest is essential.

STAFF

The Planning staff is responsible for the general administration of the business and affairs of the Commission. It is the responsibility of the staff to advise the Commission regarding all matters relating to planning, zoning, and subdivision of land or land development within the Borough. Planning staff will attend all regularly scheduled and special meetings and maintain all records of the Commission. Staff will assist the chairperson in preparation of the agenda.

The Planning staff shall also prepare the recommendations of the commission to be presented to the assembly on all land use matters. All recommendations will be approved by the chairperson or vice-chairperson of the commission before submittal to the assembly.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

Applicants may be interviewed by the Mayor and/or the Assembly. Some points to ponder:

1. What are the purposes and goals of the Planning Commission?
2. Are you familiar with the Denali Borough Comprehensive Plan and the role it serves in guiding the future of our borough?
3. What government and citizen groups should be involved in the planning process?
4. Why do you want to be a Planning Commissioner?
5. What skills and talents do you bring to the Commission?
6. What is your "vision" for the future of the Denali Borough?
7. What is the role of planning in achieving this vision?