Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Denali Borough Planning Commission
Tri-Valley Community Center
November 10, 2015

Call to Order

Presiding officer Sid MICHAELS called the regular meeting to order at 7:18 PM.

Roll Call

Planning commissioners present were: Sid MICHAELS, Kesslyn TENCH, Barbara BREASE, Baxter MERCER, Anne CAPISTRANT, Mark MENKE, Steve Jones, and Susan BRAUN. Absent: Lee Lightfoot. Mayor Clay Walker was also present.

Public Comments

Greg Lahaie, Denali Borough resident and business owner, expressed his support for establishing a commercial use permit on Denali Borough land. As a resident, business owner, and pilot he has seen the degradation of roads and trails in our borough, specifically in the Otto Lake area, in recent years. With a commercial use permit the borough could monitor the activity in and on our borough lands as well as be able to provide basic rules and regulations to provide protection for our borough lands.

Ivana Haverlikova, Denali Borough resident and business owner, encouraged the Planning Commission to adopt a commercial use permit similar to the State of Alaska commercial use permit to help protect borough lands. She also expressed her appreciation for the borough land planning efforts with the help of the consulting firm Agnew::Beck.

Approval of Agenda

Baxter MERCER MOVED to approve the agenda as presented. Kesslyn TENCH seconded. The commission removed item D. Resource Extraction Permit Application from the agenda by unanimous consent. The VOTE to approve the amended agenda was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes

Anne CAPISTRANT MOVED to approve the September 15, 2015 public hearing and regular meeting minutes as presented. Baxter MERCER seconded. The VOTE to approve the public hearing and regular meeting minutes was unanimous.

Correspondence

Email correspondence was received from Susan and James Gauvin regarding their concerns about the road and trail conditions in the Otto Lake area.

Plats and Conditional Uses

Reports

Mayor

Mayor Clay Walker reported on the following items: The 2015 Denali Borough election occurred on November 3, 2015. All Assembly and School Board seats are filled. Three Planning Commission seats will end their term the end of November, 2015. The commissioners currently filling those seats have all expressed a desire to continue to serve on the planning commission and will be recommended for approval at the next assembly meeting. Election of Officers will be on the January Planning Commission agenda. The Healy Transportation and Pedestrian Safety committee is reaching the final stages of their safety report. This report will come to the Planning Commission and Assembly when completed. The intersection of the Healy Spur Road and George Parks Highway is slated to receive flashing beacon signage to alert drivers of pedestrian traffic. Denali National Park will be hosting an open house regarding trails and waysides in the entrance area of Denali National Park on November 18, 2015.

Borough Planner

No report

Communication and Appearance Requests

PC Resolution 09-06 Update

No update was provided. The commission postponed PC Resolution 09-06 Update to the next regular meeting by unanimous consent.

Unfinished Business

Healy Transfer Station Location and Draft Community Survey

Kesslyn TENCH moved to postpone indefinitely the Healy Transfer Station Draft Community Survey. Barbara BREASE seconded the motion. The VOTE to postpone indefinately the Healy Transfer Station Draft Community Survey was unanimous.

PC Resolution 15-04 Healy Transfer Station Location

Steve JONES made a motion to adopt PC Resolution 15-04. Kesslyn TENCH seconded. The roll call VOTE to adopt PC Resolution 15-04 was unanimous.

Planning services provided by Agnew::Beck

Baxter MERCER moved to postpone Agnew::Beck planning services to the next meeting. Mark MENKE seconded. The VOTE to postpone was unanimous.

New Business

State Mapping Opportunity

By unanimous consent, the planning commission determined that the cost of mapping portions of the Denali Borough were too high and made a recommendation to not move forward with the mapping project. The commission asked Mayor Walker to inform the Assembly and the State Department of their recommendation.

Land Management; Roles and Responsibilities
The commission acknowledged that the roles and responsibilities of borough land management will be better defined working through the planning process with Agnew::Beck.

Otto Lake Land Management Discussion
The commission discussed a variety of ways to address the road and trail conditions on borough lands in the Otto Lake area including meeting with current operators to develop best practices guidelines for the area and updating Borough Code to provide additional land management options. Kesslyn TENCH and Anne CAPISTRANT offered to develop a PC Resolution recommending the adoption of a commercial use permit by the assembly. This item was postponed to the next work session, public hearing and regular meeting by unanimous consent.

Public Comments
Greg Lahaie suggested that current use behavior could be considered when approving future use permits.

Commissioner Comments
Barbara BREASE thanked the audience for their attendance and participation.

Susan BRAUN thanked the audience and reported she will not be able to attend the January meeting.

Baxter MERCER stated that he does not agree with borough wide voting and would like to see that changed.

Kesslyn TENCH offered that she feels encouraged that the commission is making progress.

Anne CAPISTRANT commented that she would like to see faster progress with some of our land management issues but is encouraged that progress is being made.

Mayor Walker stated he is happy to see progress on a number of agenda items.

Borough Planner Marsha Lambert reported that she will be unable to attend the January meeting.

Time and Place of Next Meeting
January 19, 2016: Work Session at 6:15 PM; Public Hearing at 7:15 PM; Regular Meeting to follow the Public Hearing, at the Tri-Valley Community Center

Adjournment
The presiding officer adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.

APPROVED: _____

Sid MICHAELS, Presiding Officer

ATTEST: _____

Amber Renshaw, Deputy Clerk

Date Approved:_____