



Haines Borough
Planning Commission Meeting
February 11, 2010
MINUTES

Approved

1. **CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG** –Chairman **Heinmiller** called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. in Assembly Chambers and led the pledge to the flag.
2. **ROLL CALL – Present:** Chairman Lee **Heinmiller**, Commissioners Rob **Goldberg**, Robert **Venables**, Roger **Maynard**, Donnie **Turner** and Andy **Hedden**. **Absent:** Pete **Lapham**
Staff Present: Steve **Ritzinger** – Planning and Zoning Technician, Brad **Maynard** – Director of Public Facilities and Jamie **Heinz** – Deputy Clerk.
Visitors Present: Tom **Morphet**/CVN, Bill & Libby **Kurz**, Barbara **Lewis**, Dave **Rickey** and others.
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Motion: **Goldberg** moved to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – January 14, 2010 Regular Meeting
Suggestions for amendments to items 10E1 and 10E2 were made. It was suggested that if there were no objection, commissioner **Venables** would work with the deputy clerk to amend the minutes accordingly. [There was no objection.]
Motion: **Turner** moved to approve the January 14, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – **Kurz** talked about Alaska being self-sufficient and the possibilities for shipping goods out of the state via the port here in Haines. He suggested the concept could be included in the Comprehensive Plan.
Rickey sought clarification regarding the Nelson accreted plat proposal. Tide data regarding the highest high tide was discussed and **Rickey** suggested that data be put on the plat and included in the calculation of the mean high tide. **Ritzinger** explained that several affected residents had expressed concern and he clarified that the Nelson's intended to allow residents access. He also explained that it had been suggested to the affected residents that they come up with cleaner language to be included on the plat. **Goldberg** said he interpreted it as a moving easement 50 feet above the current high tide. It was pointed out that there will be a public hearing when the plat was submitted for approval.
6. **CHARIMAN'S REPORT** – Chairman **Heinmiller** said a Downtown Planning Report would be given by Commissioner **Goldberg** during Commission Comments.
7. **STAFF REPORTS**
 - A. **Planning & Zoning Report** – **Ritzinger** summarized his written report that provided an update on recent permits, activities and projects.
8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS** – None
9. **OLD BUSINESS** – None

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. **ACMP Consistency Review** – None

B. **Haines Borough Code Amendments** – None

C. **Historic District/Building Review**

1. **Business sign in Fort Seward**

Heinmiller declared a conflict, stated his relationship to the company and handed the gavel to Vice Chairman **Goldberg**.

Code requirements pertaining to historic buildings, impacts of installing signs on the door relative to historical aspects of the door and the alternative option of installing a sign next to the door leaving the option of tagging more signs below it were topics discussed.

Motion: **Turner** moved to “Approve signage on the wall, alongside the door.” The motion carried with **Heinmiller** abstaining.

D. **Project Updates** – None

E. **Other New Business**

1. **Renaming a portion of Beach Road South**

The need for an effective numbering system and the current convention of Main Street being the breaking point between North and South were topics discussed. It was suggested that the different entities concerned with building numbering be consulted. It was recommended that staff take a more comprehensive look at Beach Road South, Haines Highway and Old Haines Highway and provide comments at the next meeting.

2. **Guidelines for Memorials on Borough Property – Discussion Item**

Ritzinger explained that recent state legislation set guidelines for memorials along state roads, and with that in mind, the manager suggested that before a memorial was approved in the office, that the Planning Commission have a chance to comment since this could set a precedent within the borough. A description of what the plaque would look like and explanation of where in the park it would be placed was given. It was pointed out that this memorial is going in a park that is already dedicated by the assembly. It was decided that the planning commission would look at the code as it relates to memorials on borough roads in the future. It was recommended that staff approve the George Mark memorial request.

11. **COMMISSION COMMENTS** – **Goldberg** was pleased with the turnout at the meeting with MRV Architects. He pointed out that signage and sight lines were the big topics of discussion. Additional topics discussed were wider sidewalks, the controversial planters, covered awnings, our walker friendly downtown area, as well as empty buildings and empty lots. **Hedden** explained the next step was to work toward implementation. **Heinmiller** talked about uniform signage possibilities. **Turner** said he thought there would be more work done on the schools and assessment of the downtown and that wasn't really addressed. He also talked about the possibility of the borough matching funds to paint the buildings et cetera to create incentive to make the businesses look better. **R. Maynard** talked about the existing awnings in town and the need for winter shoveling or avalanche signs. **B. Maynard** pointed out that the borough is currently paving streets and putting utilities and could be behind the curve so the downtown plan is great as a master plan for him to look at to save money in redoing streets. He also suggested canvas awnings and planters that could be out in the summer and removed in the winter. **Venables** said he liked the idea of wider sidewalks but

expressed that he is not in favor of renovating the school into convention center with the availability of the Chilkat Center. **Goldberg** asked if “safe routes to schools” funds were available to create paths to school. **Turner** suggested moving the flashing lights to Haines Highway from downtown to create a flashing reference to where the school is. **B. Maynard** talked more about the school signs and conversations with state. He pointed out that the borough needs to put a request in to state. **Hedden** said the Downtown Planning project merited more attention, discussion and public participation.

12. COMMUNICATION – None

13. SET MEETING DATES – The next Regular Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 11th.

14. ADJOURNMENT – 7:48 p.m.