

DILLINGHAM CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

May 22, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Dillingham City Planning Commission was held on May 22, 2025, at the Dillingham City Council Chambers and via video conferencing, in Dillingham, Alaska. Chair Kaleb Westfall called the meeting to order at 5:35 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

- Kaleb Westfall, Chair (Seat A)
- Gregg Marxmiller (Seat C)
- Jenniffer DeWinne (Seat D)
- Susan Isaacs (Seat E)
- Michael Bennett (Seat F)
- Misa Webber (Seat G)
- Cade Woods (Seat B) - arrived late

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the previous meeting were considered. Commissioner DeWinne moved to approve the minutes with amendments to include Michael Bennett's complete commissioner comments regarding welcoming new and returning commissioners and adding corrections to spelling (adding 'T' to Bennett and 'G' to Gregg on page 3). Commissioner Isaacs seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner DeWinne moved for an open agenda. Commissioner Isaacs seconded. A prior motion by Commissioner Marxmiller to move elections to new business and seat new officers at the next meeting was approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Planning Director Chris Maines provided an oral report covering:

- Agnew Beck visit scheduled for first week of June to discuss comprehensive plan
- Walkability Action Institute project for safer pedestrian walkways and bike paths
- Downtown traffic configuration experiments including potential D Street modifications
- Population data: Dillingham currently at 2,048 residents (declined 4% since 2000)
- Housing survey indicating need for 100 additional units despite population decline
- Fish tax status: 2.5% tax remains in code but unenforced since annexation ruling overturn

Follow-up Actions:

- Staff to email commissioners about Agnew Beck meeting details
- Staff to prepare freight traffic solution for harbor area
- Staff to coordinate comprehensive plan public outreach

CITIZEN COMMENTS

No citizens were present for public comment.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 1: Comprehensive Plan Discussion

Staff presented the seventh version executive summary of the comprehensive plan. Discussion focused on public outreach strategies including:

- Public meetings after fishing season
- Survey tools and QR codes
- Community event information boards
- Lunch and learn sessions

No formal motion was made. Staff will coordinate public feedback collection.

Item 2: Election of Planning Commission Officers

Motion to elect Cade Woods as Chair: Nominated and seconded (nominees not clearly identified in record). **Vote:** 6 Yes (Webber, Bennett, Isaacs, DeWinne, Marxmiller, Woods), 1 No (Westfall) **Motion carried.**

Motion to elect Gregg Marxmiller as Deputy Chair: Nominated and seconded (nominees not clearly identified in record). Commissioner Webber was initially nominated but declined. **Vote:** Unanimous approval **Motion carried.**

Note: Newly elected officers will assume positions at the next meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- Commissioner Isaacs thanked Chair Westfall for outstanding leadership
- Commissioner Marxmiller expressed appreciation for diverse perspectives
- Commissioner DeWinne offered community health needs assessment materials
- Commissioner Webber thanked staff for comprehensive plan information
- Commissioner Woods expressed appreciation for opportunity to serve
- Commissioner Bennett had no comments

CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Chair Westfall thanked commissioners for their volunteer service and acknowledged the significant time commitment required. He emphasized the unique opportunity to shape Dillingham's future growth, address community needs, and execute the will of the people through planning work.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Westfall adjourned the meeting at 6:52 P.M.

NEXT MEETING

Date to be determined - discussion of June meeting before fishing season or July/August meeting after fishing season. Staff will coordinate schedules.