ASSEMBLY LANDS HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MINUTES



December 19, 2022 at 5:00 PM

Assembly Chambers/Zoom Webinar

https://juneau.zoom.us/j/94215342992 or 1-253-215-8782 Webinar ID: 942 1534 2992

- A. CALL TO ORDER Chair Hughes-Skandijs called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.
- B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

C. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chair Alicia Hughes-Skandijs, Wade Bryson, Christine Woll Members Absent: Wáahlaal Gíidaak

Liaisons Present: Mandy Cole, Planning Commission

Liaisons Absent: Lacey Derr, Docks and Harbors; Chris Mertl, Parks and Recreation

Staff Present: Dan Bleidorn, Lands Manager; Roxie Duckworth, Lands & Resources Specialist; Jill Maclean, CDD Director; Carl Uchytil, Port Director; Rorie Watt, City Manager; Dave Scanlan, Eaglecrest General Manager

- D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA approved as presented, no changes
- E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES November 28, 2022 Draft Minutes, approved as presented, no changes

F. AGENDA TOPICS

2. Goldbelt and CP Marine Application for a Land Trade

Mr. Bleidorn discussed this topic. Mr. Bryson commented that he has been on the assembly long enough that this is second time he has seen this. We did a similar land swap with the Archipelago lot, and we failed to take into consideration parking in the land trade. I was wondering if we could talk with Goldbelt to make sure that they have the right understanding. We did a trade, CBJ got the land they wanted, the other party got the land that they thought they wanted, and it ended up not working out, and we do not have a project built. I would like to ask Goldbelt a question or two, so that we can prevent that same scenario from happening, because it looks like we are doing almost identical type of land swap. Mr. Bleidorn replied that as this goes through the Planning Commission process, we would make sure that parking is considered and that negotiation would take place after we have the initial motion of support from the assembly to work on this. This is definitely noted, and something we want to keep in mind.

Mr. Bryson asked if there are any other zoning or waterfront issues that the Archipelago lot ran into when they that stopped their development because it was the design phase that they were stopped in. I want all that on the record to benefit Goldbelt so that we do not make the same errors again. Ms. Maclean replied that she did speak to Goldbelt and in those discussions; there is a lot of complexity to this site, their ability to use their building or reconstruct a rehab, because it is cited closely to the property lines, as one cannot cross those or come so close to them. That spurred this on for them on how to best use their land and the buildings that they have. We can look at those issues when the applicants come in for their pre-application conference. Other than that, I am not aware of any other challenges aside from how the lots are laid out and they cannot proceed as is.

Ms. Woll asked if we are losing any control of the waterfront, with CBJ owning the property where the gangway is from the dock-to-shore. Mr. Uchytil replied that the applicant is proposing renovating the existing Seadrome building over the water, adjoining the seawalks. As far as having access to the Seadrome dock, it is on CBJ owned tidelands but Goldbelt owns the dock. Control of the Seadrome dock would remain with Goldbelt unless they elect to do something else with it.

PC Cole asked when the assembly approves moving forward by direct negotiation with a particular party, in this case Goldbelt, does that signal that no other parties can be considered until negotiations

are concluded in either the affirmative or the negative. Mr. Bleidorn replied that once we have that initial motion of support from the assembly, staff works specifically with them. It does not mean that somebody else cannot apply but then the assembly would have to reevaluate it as they have already given us direction, and to work with somebody else, or to look for other applicants would be a change of direction. We would need another motion and something from the full assembly to move that forward.

Chair Hughes-Skandijs noted that she shares Ms. Woll's sentiment and is a little wary about trading tidelands for uplands but sees the benefit in this, and approves of the motion of support at this time.

Ms. Woll moved that the Lands, Housing, and Economic Development Committee provide a motion of support to negotiate with Goldbelt and CP Marine on a land trade. Motion passed no objections.

3. Ordinance 2023-03 An Ordinance Amending the Private Shared Access Requirements of the Land Use Code, Title 49, Related to Maximizing Residential Density.

Ms. Maclean discussed this topic. Mr. Bryson asked how this ordinance helps with infill, putting a neighborhood next to a neighborhood that did not have one before, and some of the "you are coming into my backyard," situations. Ms. Maclean replied that she is not certain that we will ever have a great answer for "I have enjoyed this undeveloped property that is nice and treed for 30 years, and now they want to develop that." A planning board member from back East would say, "You should be happy that you got to enjoy that nature as long as you did, because you did not buy it, nor do you pay taxes on it either." I know that is difficult for people. First, I would urge homeowners, property owners, and buyers, to educate yourselves on what your area is zoned, what zoning it allows, and what the neighboring properties are zoned as they may not be the same, even though you are side by side. As far as this helping with shared access and infill development, this ordinance does not go quite as far as the Title 49 Committee was looking it, but it is a start on improving the ordinance, and one of the unintended consequences, which was a 90 acre property being developed into 12 lots, which was D3 or D5 zoning. I think this should alleviate that challenge given the language in the purpose statement as well as the other verbiage that the city attorney added. Those areas are underlined in your packet, with it limiting acreage. We did have some discussion back and forth, which was the best approach to that. It is difficult, because I am always concerned about in Juneau, specifically the lots that are left, they are not the same, and it is tricky to apply code that would be flexible enough for everyone. We were trying to obtain as much discretion as we can to address the individual situations. For instance, you will notice that some of it was left to the director to look at a particular site. That would go a long ways and overall this is moving in the right direction, and the direction that the title 49 Committee was also looking for.

PC Cole commented that she was surprised to see this, because the Title 49 Committee did look at this and made some suggestions, which are not in here, and some that are different intentions that are in here. I think Director Maclean is correct in that it is moving in that direction, but I would not say that what is before you would be what the Title 49 Committee would want to send to the full assembly for adoption. I feel confident in saying that because it does not contain some of the pieces that we felt would make the most impact. My hope is that this goes back to the PC before it goes to the full assembly. Chair Hughes-Skandijs asked if that is part of the process with the staff recommendations. Ms. Maclean replied and made a correction; that the bottom of the memo said that it was to go to the full assembly. It will go to the full assembly, but through the usual process of kicking it back to Title 49 through the Planning Commission and up to assembly for full adoption.

Mr. Bryson asked for elaboration on what was missing. Chair Hughes-Skandijs replied that we would let that work through the process given that the items remaining on tonight is agenda. I do not think we will go into a joint Title 49 – Lands meeting.