

Mayor
John K. Handeland

City Manager
Glen Steckman

Deputy City Clerk
vacant



Nome Planning Commission
Kenneth Hughes III, Chair
Mathew Michels
Sara Lizak
John Odden
Gregory Smith
Carol Piscoya
Colleen Deighton

**NOME PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 06, 2021 at 7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL**

102 Division St. • P.O. Box 281 • Nome, Alaska 99762 • Phone (907) 443-6663 • Fax (907) 443-5345

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Colleen Deighton; Mathew Michels; Sara Lizak; Gregory Smith.

Members Absent: Ken Hughes (excused); Carol Piscoya (excused); John Odden (excused)

Also Present: Glenn Steckman, City Manager; Bryant Hammond, City Clerk; Eileen Bechtol, City Planner; Jeremy Jacobson, Clerk's Office Administrative Assistant

In the audience: James Mason, Nome Nugget; Gary Gillette (telephonic)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by C. Smith and seconded by C. Michels to approve the agenda as presented.

At the roll call:

Aye: Michels; Lizak; Smith; Deighton

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 2, 2021 Nome Planning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

B. March 2, 2021 Nome Planning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by C. Michels and seconded by C. Smith to approve the February 2, 2021 and March 2, 2021

minutes.

Discussion:

- Commissioner Deighton noted that Sue Steinacher was still listed as present in the February minutes.

At the roll call:

Aye: Michels; Lizak; Smith; Deighton

Nay:

Abstain:

The motion **CARRIED**.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

A. Historic Preservation Plan for Nome Alaska.

- Gary Gillette presented the draft Historic Preservation Plan, noting the plan was currently in the public comment period.
- The Commission requested and Mr. Gillette delivered a basic overview of the plan, giving a synopsis of each of the major sections of the plan.
- Planner Bechtol explained the plan for dissemination and public comment, noting the desire for an open house in May.
- Acting Chair Lizak complimented the draft, noting the introduction pedagogic value.
- Commissioner Deighton asked if the property owners knew they were on the historic properties list.
- Commissioner Michels opined it was a great start to the plan and noting current events and suggested the Spanish Flu should be included in the historic events section.
- Commissioner Smith noted the historic list was an old list and might need updating.
- Planner Bechtol explained the final plan needs to be delivered to SHPO by June 30th and approved by the Commission at the June 1st meeting.
- Commissioner Michels suggested using track changes to stay on the same page as to edits and to discuss the plan at the May meeting.
- Planner Bechtol expressed concern over using track changes in real time.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Letter of March 25, 2021 from AK DOT&PF re: Nome Center Creek Road Rehabilitation.

- Commissioner Deighton expressed concern over the proposed realignment cutting into the cemetery.
- Commissioner Smith opined it would only eliminate a single access point and not disturb any graves.
- Commissioner Michels opined the realignment made sense in terms of public safety and reducing potential accidents.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

none given

NEW BUSINESS**A. Discussion on the Location of a Community Garden.**

- Clerk Hammond gave a brief explanation of the Council directive.
- Manager Steckman noted the assumption was that it would be on a City owned lot and would need to be planned out in detail, including soil development and water access. He noted realistic implementation wouldn't be until 2022.
- Acting Chair Lizak asked if the City had the financial and volunteer capacity to take on such a project.
- Commissioner Michels asked if there was enough interest to take on the physical labor, noting the water is the trickiest part. He suggested possibly by East End Park where there was a natural lake already present.
- Commissioner Smith noted a previous project at Pilgrim Hot Springs, which dovetailed nicely with the Historic Preservation Plan. He agreed East End Park was an adequate location if implemented in town.

B. 2020 Building Worksheet Discussion.

- Clerk Hammond suggested the Commission study the properties individually and bring notes back to the Commission to discuss potential action.
- The Planning Commission discussed a potential timeline for action and decided upon taking up the matter again at the July Regular Meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**STAFF REPORTS****A. City Planner's Report.**

- Planner Bechtol presented her written report, noting she was waiting on clarification on when she could travel to Nome for an open house.
- Manager Steckman gave an update on Nome travel restrictions, explaining the City was getting ready to reopen to more normal operations on June 1. He noted the City would be able to set up streaming for the open house to serve those still concerned about the virus.

B. Permit Summaries.

- Clerk Hammond introduced Jeremy Jacobson, who has been coordinating the permitting process since Deputy Clerk Piscoya's resignation.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

1. Commissioner Deighton expressed excitement over the Historic Preservation Plan and explained she was happy the Commission made quorum this evening.

2. Commissioner Michels opined it was good to see the Historic Preservation Plan coming together and seeing some movement towards working on the building worksheet. He noted he was looking forward to the open house and that it was great to hear that Nome is 71% vaccinated and looking to open up again.
3. Commissioner Lizak agreed with other commissioners, especially with respect to the high vaccination percentage. She thanked City Staff for their hard work.
4. Commissioner Smith echoed the rest of the commission's sentiments and thanked the staff for putting everything together. He opined it would be nice to be fully open and welcomed Mr. Jacobson.

SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 4, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by C. Michels and seconded by C. Smith to adjourn.

Hearing no objections, the Nome Planning Commission adjourned at 8:33 PM.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 4th day of May, 2021.

KENNETH HUGHES III
Chair

ATTEST:

BRYANT HAMMOND
City Clerk