
Health Needs and Human Services Commission Minutes

Tuesday, February 9, 2016 12:00PM

Sealing Cove Business Center

Commission Members: Doug Osborne, Dr. Myron Fribush, Lauren Hughey,
Loyd Platson, Jeff Arndt, Clara Gray, Brian Richardson
Tristan Guevin (Assembly Liaison)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Osborne called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Doug Osborne, Lauren Hughey, Loyd Platson, Clara Gray, Dr. Myron Fribush (arrived at 12:05PM), Jeff Arndt, Brian Richardson (excused)

III. AGENDA CHANGES

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M - Platson/S - Gray moved to approve the minutes from January 12, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE

Edie Leghorn presented on Alaska water quality standards campaign. Jay Coughenour introduced himself, he works for Sitka Community Hospital on behavioral health.

VI. REPORTS

Chair - None.

Commissioners - None.

City Staff - None.

Assembly Liaison - None.

Other(s) - None.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Safe Driving Ordinance Update

Chair Osborne told of history for this item stating that the Legal Department made changes for state regulations and statues. The Commission read through the ordinance. Discussion occurred around other places that enforce no hand held devices, personal stories of experience with drivers using hand held devices while driving, statistics, hands free mode, taxi drivers, police exemption, and changes.

M - Fribush/S - Platson moved to recommend approval of the Ordinance to the Assembly. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Osborne told of next steps for the process including a 10 minute presentation to the Assembly at their February 23rd meeting. Guevin cautioned the Commission on speaking as an individual public citizen with regards to Commission business and encouraged the Commission to write a memo to the Assembly to accompany the ordinance. Discussion occurred around writing to the Assembly as a Commissioner or as a member of the public.

B. 2015 Goals: 1) Wellness Coalition, 2) Support MAPP, 3) Public Health Policy

- 1) Hughey gave an overview of the February 19, 2016 quarterly networking luncheon

from Noon to 1:30PM in UAS Room 229. Chair Osborne stated there would be another on June 3rd.

M – Platson/S – Fribush moved to co-sponsor the February 19, 2016 quarterly networking luncheon. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Osborne encouraged all members to invite at least one person to the event. Platson agreed to represent with Hughey as a member for a radio ad with Arndt as a backup if Platson is unable to attend.

M – Fribush/S – Platson moved to co-sponsor the June 3, 2016 quarterly networking meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion occurred around supporting all future meetings.

2) None.

3) None.

C. Drug Free Communities Grant

Platson gave an update, told of sections, that regular meetings have occurred, noted that the due date was March 18, and told of his goal of a draft by March 1.

D. 2016 Goals

Chair Osborne made a proposal to keep similar goals as last year. Gray thought the grant was important and working with other coalitions. Discussion occurred around broad goals. General consensus of the Commission was that goals would be:

1. Work with other community partners to cohost two or more networking gatherings in 2016 that will bring people together.
2. Support at least one public health initiative in Sitka.
3. Research and develop at least one public health policy designed to improve the health of Sitkans.

M – Arndt/S – Fribush moved to approve the 2016 goals. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Three Foot Bike Rule Ordinance

Chair Osborne told of Jeff Budd's difficulty attending the meeting to discuss this item.

M – Hughey/S – Platson moved to postpone this item until Jeff Budd could attend the meeting or have a draft to the Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sugar Sweetened Beverage Excise Tax

Hughey gave a background and told of main points. She stated sections had been cut from the previous draft, there are added definitions, and the need for more definitions to be included. She proposed that Commissioners recommend types of beverages to be included or not. Discussion occurred around outcome, leaving the current sales tax on if the grand bargain goes through, based upon WIC approved foods, approval process of excise taxes, timing, and where the funds would be distributed. Consensus was that Hughey would do a presentation on health benefits and impacts at the next regular meeting. Guevin gave a suggestion of considering this as a goal as a considerable amount of time may be spent on this and have action items to engage the public. Gray confirmed that artificial sweeteners would not be included.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A. Agenda items for next meeting.

- Sweetened Beverage Excise Tax
- Goals

B. Set next meeting date.

The next regular meeting was set for March 8, 2016 at noon.

M - Hughey/S - Gray moved to adjourn at approximately 1:39PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Attest:
Melissa Henshaw, Deputy Clerk