
Health Needs and Human Services Commission Minutes

Wednesday, July 13, 2016 12:00 p.m.
Sealing Cove Business Center, 601 Alice Loop

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Doug Osborne, Lloyd Platson, Myron Fribush, Clara Gray

Absent and Excused: Lauren Hughey, Brian Richardson

III. AGENDA CHANGES

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M - Platson/S - Fribush moved to approve the June 24, 2016 meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE

Emmett Williams introduced himself stating that he is interested in being a member of this commission.

VI. REPORTS

Chair - Osborne told of upcoming vacancies.

Commissioners - Platson relayed that a grant was applied for and received to deal with heroin and opioid use in Sitka. Gray apologized for missing meetings, she had been travelling. She stated she was conflicted of being a member. Fribush told of travels and concerns of health in his travels and in Sitka.

City Staff - None.

Assembly Liaison - Guevin updated the commission on the grand bargain, ballot initiative to increase the mill rate cap, eliminate sales tax on groceries, and the homestead exemption.

Other(s) - None.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Sugar Sweetened Beverage Excise Tax Ordinance

This item was postponed until the August meeting when Commissioner Hughey would be in attendance.

B. 2016 Goals

1) Chair Osborne updated that the Sitka Health Summit would be held October 21. 2) Not discussed. 3) Chair Osborne reported a follow up on his survey of distracted drivers.

C. Banning Plastic Bag Ordinance

This item was postponed until the next meeting when Commissioner Arndt would be in attendance.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of a Resolution in Support of Removing Sales Tax from Food/Support the Grand Bargain

Osborne told about this item and asked members of their thoughts. Guevin stated that it was good for the Assembly to hear from Commissions, information that could go out to the public would be helpful, and told of the lobbying that would be pursued. Discussion occurred around the type of food that would be exempted. Fribush liked the idea of supporting to allow Sitka's current quality of life to be maintained such as schools, roads, and services especially since the State was decreasing the amount of money to Sitka. Chair Osborne thought that this would be good for health. Public comment: Emmett Williams stated that Sitka was an expensive place to live and was in support of this if it would help with the cost of living. Guevin asked the commission the question of what was the type of community you would like to live in and told of concerns of what the community would look like if this does not pass. Platson was in support of this resolution.

M - Osborne/S - Fribush moved to add to the 2016 goals: 4. Support the Grand Bargain including outreach/contact with local media and other Health Needs and Human Services Organizations. The motion passed by the following roll call vote.

Yes - Osborne, Platson, Fribush, and Gray.

B. Sample Ordinance of Minimum Legal Sales Age of 21 for Tobacco Products

Chair Osborne gave a presentation on reasons to increase the age to 21 for tobacco sales. Platson was in favor. Fribush thought it would cut use drastically. Gray believed this would be good to put into regulation. Chair Osborne clarified that an ID must be checked and those vendors selling would be fined if sold to under age persons. Public Comment: Emmett Williams was in support. Osborne told of a possible exemption for military personnel. Guevin had mixed views on this item. Platson supported the higher age.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A. Agenda items for next meeting.

There was no new business to place on the next agenda.

B. Set next meeting date.

The next regular meeting was set for Wednesday, August 10, 2016.

M - Platson/S - Fribush moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 1:25 p.m.

Attest:
Melissa Henshaw, Deputy Clerk