SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Meeting Minutes - December 14, 2015

MEETING NO. 2015-31: The Special Assembly "Retreat" Meeting of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly, held in the Assembly Chambers of the Municipal Building, was called to order at Noon by Mayor Mary Becker.

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Assembly Present: Mary Becker, Karen Crane, Maria Gladziszewski, Loren Jones, Jesse Kiehl, Jerry Nankervis, Kate Troll and Debbie White.

Assembly Absent: None.

Staff Present: Kim Kiefer, City Manager; Rob Steedle, Deputy City Manager; Amy Mead, Municipal Attorney; Laurie Sica, Municipal Clerk; Mila Cosgrove, HRRM Director; Beth McEwen, Deputy Clerk; Susan Phillips, Executive Assistant III; Brent Fischer, Facilities, Parks and Landscape Supt.; Lindsey Brown, P&R Admin Officer II; Gary Gillette, Port Engineer; Dan Bleidorn, Deputy Land Manager; Rorie Watt, Engineering and Public Works Director; Bob Bartholomew, Finance Director; Bryce Johnson, JPD Chief; Rich Etheridge, CCFR Chief; David Borg, Harbormaster; Robert Barr, Library Director; Greg Chaney, Lands and Resources Manager; Matt Lillard, Eaglecrest Ski Area Manager; Beth McKibben, Planning Manager; Chuck Bil, Bartlett Regional Hospital CEO.

Others Present: Bruce Denton, Mike Clemmons, Karla Hart, Samantha Dye.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

III. AGENDA TOPICS

A. Strategic Planning

After calling the meeting to order, Mayor Becker noted that Karen Crane would serve as Deputy Mayor while Mayor Becker would be out of town for a week.

Samantha Dye of Dynamic Consulting, introduced herself and said that Greg Fisk had contacted her because he wanted to conduct the Assembly Retreat in a new way. He planned a path and the Assembly would take it today. She said he spoke about the combination of big picture and the details. He wanted to identify a vision for the community and then the "sidewalk" to get there. This is a "potential based approach" - to think about what could be, and then think about the objectives and the subsequent actions. Why - what - how or potential, possibilities and outcomes.

A framing question for the discussion was, "How do you envision Juneau in 2025?"

The Assembly and others present were invited to share, in pairs, their vision for Juneau, taking turns to listen to one another. The Assemblymembers took turns sharing their visions. A few members said that the community had spent time on a vision in the past and it was included in the comprehensive plan and this exercise was repetitive.

Ms. Dye reviewed the vision from the Comprehensive Plan and asked what were some of the opportunities in Juneau that helped to achieve the vision. Some shared were the natural environment, recreation, renewable power, engaged citizens/volunteers, education from early childhood to University, a good portion of the economy was built on sustainable resources, state capital, arts, family oriented, easy to get around, talented human resources, and a variety of cultures.

Ms. Dye asked about the greatest obstacles and some items shared were housing, economic diversity, high cost of freight/transportation, transient workforce, seasonal industries, keeping the capital, high cost of living, aging infrastructure, childcare, demographics, poverty, and need for a sustainable budget in light of declining state and federal funding.

She asked the Assembly to find the opportunities in the obstacles and they listed those.

Ms. Kiefer referred to the list of accomplishments on the goals in the past year provided in the packet. There were a variety of ordinances that were adopted regarding housing. She said this was a time to celebrate successes and thanked the staff in the room for their work to help achieve them.

Mr. Nankervis asked if there was still a spin-off ordinance from the subdivision ordinance underway and Ms. Kiefer said yes.

Ms. Crane congratulated staff - when the list is before them it is obvious there was a lot done.

Mr. Kiehl asked about the eligibility on the hardship exemption tax status. Mr. Bartholomew said the discussion was part of the pending discussions on budget and would come before the Finance Committee.

Mr. Nankervis said he would like to see parking prioritized higher than a solution in 2019. Ms. Kiefer said she understood and staff was working on a proposal for the Assembly to be discussed in the next month.

Ms. Troll said there had been progress on the waterfront development plan that was not listed on this list.

Mr. Kiehl asked about Salmon Creek Water supply and if there was any issue from water quality regulators. Ms. Kiefer said the water was not being used at this time of year and once it was on-line the quality would be correct.

Mr. Nankervis asked about on-line payments and Ms. Crane said Mr. Bartholomew had someone working on this issue and would provide information to Finance. Ms. Kiefer's understanding was that there could be an implementation at the end of next year, Ms. Crane thought it was sometime earlier. Mr. Bartholomew said the spring of 2017 was the goal but he would like to make it sooner.

Ms. Troll asked about transit routes and improvements and about tracking of those. Ms. Kiefer responded.

Mr. Kiehl asked about asset management and deferred maintenance. Ms. Kiefer said CBJ was looking at a software called Lucity to see how beneficial it would be to develop a comprehensive list and to see if it would a a one size fits all program. The starting point was Treadwell Arena.

Ms. Dye said the discussion would now move from the why, and the what, into the how, to craft 3-4 big picture objectives, with specific action steps under those four objectives.

Mr. Kiehl spoke about working with the public and adopting the Housing Action Plan and by this time next year the community will start implementing the objectives.

Ms. White said nothing else would move forward until housing was solved.

Focus items included housing, childcare, downtown revitalization, economic development plan implementation, Lemon Creek neighborhood plan, filling critical staff positions, including the Assembly, a sustainable budget in light of state budget issues, biosolids, marijuana industry regulations / implementation, parking, fireworks.

Ms. Dye asked for big buckets to put those in, which were: Housing, Economic Development, and Sustainable Budget. There was group agreement that plans are in place for all three topics and are continuing forward.

Other priorities added to the previous list included transit, Gastineau Apartment site decisions, mining ordinance, sales tax re-authorization - 3% in 2016 and 1% in 2017, NOAA job attraction to Juneau, identifying land for industrial use, school district facility funding, solid waste, homelessness, heroin and other drug use.

Ms. Gladziszewski said there were many items on the current goals list that were included in the economic development plan and the housing action plan.

Ms. Dye asked the Assembly to prioritize the list of items. The Assembly then had a discussion about the list and prioritizing the items.

The Assembly agreed that housing, economic development and a sustainable budget were the top priorities and the rest of the items were important actions but not prioritized. It was noted that JEDC is working on the economic development plan, along with the city, and that the housing development manager would be hired to work on the housing action plan. There was a year's scope of work in the economic development plan.

Ms. Troll said one item that was not added to the list was the issue of local improvement districts, financing, and process, in light of the changes to Title 49.

Ms. Dye asked each Assembly what role would they play in moving items discussed today forward.

Mr. Nankervis said he will do his job as Assembly, get input from the community, process the information, and communicate that to staff that these are the things we want to work on.

Mayor Becker said the Assemblymembers were not working alone, but as a group.

Mr. Jones said part of the role was to provide feedback to staff regarding the impact of action on the goals and to ask if the actions move us forward.

Ms. Troll said she would pay particular attention to the NOAA jobs issue, her assignment was the Affordable Housing Commission, and she wanted to do a little extra lifting in those areas, those and downtown revitalization and childcare.

Ms. Gladziszewski said he agreed with Mr. Nankervis and she would put her focus on housing.

Ms. Becker said the Assembly's role was to be receptive to the public.

Ms. Gladziszewski asked about the solicitation for Assembly District 1. The Assembly agreed to discuss the matter at the December 21 Regular Assembly Meeting.

The Assembly thanked the staff for their participation, Ms. Dye for her facilitation, and Ms. Mercer for coordination of the refreshments for the meeting.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Assembly, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Signed:__________________________ Laurie Sica, Municipal Clerk

Signed:______________________________ Mary E. Becker, Mayor