

AERDAC Meeting Minutes – 8/8/22 @ 4:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Chairman Mike Robbins, Co-Chairman Paul Landes, Hugh Ashlock, Lori Brewer, Craig Campbell, Larry Cash, Melanie Lucas-Conwell, David Hoffman, Caren Mathis, Shane Rinner, Evelyn Rousso, Brandon Spoerhase, Bill Taylor, Jonathon Taylor, and Brian Mentzer

Members Absent: Alan Erickson, Bill Popp, Julie Sande, and Shawn Williams

1) Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm.

2) Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting: The Minutes of the July 25th, 2022 meeting were distributed electronically in advance of the meeting. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and the motion carried.

3) Chairman's Comments: Chairman Mike Robbins welcomed the committee members to the meeting. He mentioned that it had been a busy and productive week with the AEDC 3-Year Outlook Luncheon featuring Destination Development Expert Roger Brooks on Wednesday, August 3, and his detailed report covering his suggestions for the Municipality of Anchorage on Thursday, August 4. A number of AERDAC members attended the events. The Mayor has planned an exploratory meeting to form a "Destination Anchorage Team" to work through the numerous suggestions offered by Brooks.

4) Old Business – Top Initiatives:

a.) The Planning, Zoning and Permitting Subcommittee: Caren Mathis, Craig Campbell, Larry Cash, Bill Taylor, and Michelle Klouda / The subcommittee has been working on moving their draft report towards a final version. Within the past week, the draft report has been updated twice with edits from the members of the subcommittee. A meeting with Adam Trombly is being set as a next step towards finalizing the report. The Bendon Adams, Municipality of Anchorage Streamlining Development Process Report 2017/2018 was discussed. As it has been over four years since the report was presented to the previous administration, having the Bendon Adams Report updated concurrently with taking the necessary steps to fix the urgent issues with the permitting process would be prudent.

b.) The Infrastructure (IIJA) Subcommittee: Mike Robbins, Shawn Williams, Melanie Lucas-Conwell, Evelyn Rousso and Shane Rinner / The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is over 5,000 pages long. The subcommittee has two strategic recommendations at this time: 1.) the Muni needs to hire a IIJA Navigator to maximize funding for numerous projects in Anchorage; 2.) the initial focus needs to be on the top initiatives made by AERDAC. A meeting with Miles Baker in the Governor's Office will be scheduled to discuss further opportunities in this regard.

c.) The Tourism and Downtown Beautification Subcommittee: Lori Brewer, Raquele Edelen, Jonathon Taylor, and Brian Mentzer / Most of the subcommittee attended the AEDC 3-Year Outlook Luncheon with keynote speaker Roger Brooks on August 3, as well as a presentation of his detailed report on August 4. The Mayor was also present for most of the discussions both days. Brooks spoke extensively about wayfinding and the numerous activities Anchorage has to offer within 45 miles of the city. The subcommittee will be adding David Hoffman, Julie Saupe (President & CEO, Visit Anchorage), Cyrus Aldeman (President, Anchorage Trolley), Char McClelland (President, Alaska Destination Specialists), and Jacob Lyons to work through the almost 80 suggestions offered by Brooks in his report.

5) New Business: It was suggested that updates on initiatives from the Mayor's office be a regular part of the Chairman's comments at the beginning of each meeting. Projects like Block 41, affordable housing, Girdwood development, plans for unused Muni property, Port of Alaska, homeless housing, etc. are at the forefront of public discourse and updates would be helpful. It was suggested that the Mayor be invited to

attend the August 22 meeting to share with us. The committee should also discuss the 4th Avenue Theatre at a future AERDAC meeting.

6) Public Comments: There were no public comments.

7) Next Meeting: The next meeting of AERDAC will be on 8/22/22 at 4:00 pm.

8) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brian Mentzer