

## Regular Meeting Minutes

# City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.  
Valdez, AK 99686



## Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, July 17, 2019**

**7:00 PM**

**Regular Meeting**

**Council Chambers**

**Economic Diversification Commission**

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### REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Wade called the meeting to order 7:02 PM in the Council Chambers.

#### II. ROLL CALL

Present - 5 - Commission Chair Rhonda Wade  
Commission Member Keith Thomas  
Commission Member Richard Long  
Commission Member Jamie Berg  
Commission Member Katharine Adams

Excused –2- Commission Member Brandon Reid  
Commission Member Colleen Stephens

Also Present – 2 – Economic Development Director, Martha Barberio  
Executive Assistant, Debra Roberts  
Members in the audience

#### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### 1. Approval of Minutes for the Economic Diversification Meeting June 19, 2019.

MOTION: Commissioner Richard Long moved to Approve, Second by Commissioner Keith Thomas to approve minutes for June 19 2019. The motion carried by the following vote.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yeas: 5 – Commissioner Wade, Commissioner Thomas, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Berg, Commissioner Adams.

Excused: 2 – Commissioner Reid and Commissioner Stephens.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

##### 1. Discussion Item: Daycare

Commissioner Thomas asked what the status of the Daycare was and where it was supposed to be located. Economic Director, Martha Barberio explained where we were to date and turned it over to Parks and Recreation Director, Nick Farline. Commissioner Long asked if it was a Non Profit or a for Profit business. Commissioner Wade stated that this is a business and the City should stay out of it that they should be able to get funding as a Non Profit. Discussion continued. Commissioner Long stated that this is a viable business and has been in the past, he wanted to support Economic growth with new businesses and wanted to know where we are with that. Director Farline addressed the Commission to give some background of Daycare and how it was involved with the Recreation Center. The City Council will have a work session on July 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the options of relocation of Stepping Stones. Discussion continued regarding locations of Recreation center and impacts of moving staff and programs and location of Stepping Stones. Director Farline gave statistics on the Recreation center and how many would be impacted

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by the Recreation Center closing. Organizations would also be impacted by the loss of the Recreation Center, about 1500 people have rented the Recreation Center. Kelly Brown addressed the Commission on behalf of Stepping Stones. She stated that they did not have money to purchase land or a building to relocate the Daycare. They were looking at renting a building at the airport but they can't afford it at this time. At this time Stepping Stones only has 30 children in the program due to space restrictions, they have a waiting list with more. Discussion continued on previous locations and the problems involved with them. Stepping Stones representatives stated the buildings that they have looked at and what they have done to up to this point. Director Barberio stated that there will be a work session on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and that these issues being discussed should be discussed at the work session. Stepping Stones explained the fire that put them in their current situation. General Consensus from the Commission was to support the concept of the Daycare but did not agree with the City competing with private industry. Numerous ideas were presented to help Stepping Stones and other businesses. Discussion continued. Modular buildings, Atco structures and the building out by the airport were also discussed.

### V. REPORTS

#### 1. Report: Economic Development Department Staff Report - 2nd Quarter 2019

Commission Member Long asked about the housing projects. Economic Director, Martha Barberio met with Dave Cortis who developed Sound View Apartments. He provided her with a wealth of information. The RFP was postponed by the interim City Manager so it could be revised. Mr. Cortis is very interested in developing the Woodside land to expand the Sound view Apartment complex. She discussed the information that he gave her and discussed the changes to the RFP. Discussion continued on the housing issues and types of housing. Economic Director, Barberio stated that she also met with the McDowell Group to discuss housing. Commissioner Wade brought up numerous issues dealing with the Planning department and stated that we need to make the process easier or we will never get a builder to build in town. Commissioner Thomas reiterated this concern. Discussion continued.

### VI. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Commission Member Thomas asked about Kimley Horn and was informed that their contract was terminated. Commission Member Wade commented that the New Boat Harbor looked nice but complained about the terns attacking people. She also commented on the signage. She also brought up Robe Lake and the lack of portable toilets. Discussion continued on how to correct this problem.

### VII.ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commission Chair Rhonda Wade adjourned the meeting at 8:43 PM.