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## SITKA COMMISSION ON HEALTH NEEDS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Regular Commission Meeting Minutes

**DRAFT** October 17, 2006

3<sup>RD</sup> Floor Conference Room of the SEARHC Community Health Building

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### A. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson, Pat Alexander, called the meeting to order at 12:10.

### B. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Pat Alexander, Stephen Warren, Kelly Ferguson, Somer Cox, and Cliff Tincher.

Members Excused: Willow Griffin and Quinn Sharkey.

### C. WELCOME MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Pat welcomed all members present. Arrangements for anticipated guest, Grace Brooks, were not accomplished for today's meeting.

### D. PRESENTATION – NONE

### E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 19, 2006

MOTION: M/S Kelly/Tincher moved to approve minutes for the September 19, 2006 meeting, as corrected.

ACTION: Minutes were approved.

### F. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA - NONE

### G. COMMUNICATIONS – NONE

### H. REPORTS

#### 1. CHAIR – NO WRITTEN REPORT AVAILABLE

#### 2. VICE CHAIR

Pat reiterated the Commission has been working on trying to get a better process to help the Assembly in its distribution of non-profit grants. She reflected: the Rasmuson grant process the City of Juneau uses was transplanted and used in Sitka last year because the City Administrator liked it so much. However, there were no targets for funding nor criteria in place to use for judging the applications which is one of the reasons the Commission is now in the process of working with the City. Pat continued the City does not have substantial funding to hire facilitators to attend public meetings. She emphasized the Commission feels it should hold a public meeting to determine what the community wants in terms of funding for non-profit grants.

On the advice of the City Administrator, Quinn called the Rasmuson Foundation to request its support and help. Pat continued that she, Quinn, Willow, and guest, Althea Buckingham, a member of the Sitka Community Hospital Board, had met with Diane Kaplan from the Rasmuson Foundation on Sunday. Pat exclaimed it was a very upbeat and positive meeting. She reported that Diane mentioned the Rasmuson Foundation has worked with other communities on this process and that she suggested she would send a letter of support and probably assign a person from the Foraker group to facilitate a public meeting and to help formulate the Commission's recommendations to the Assembly. She elaborated the Rasmuson is doing this all over the state and she spoke of working with us to set up a

community foundation that will meet some of the longer term needs of these organizations and that the Rasmuson Foundation would put money into that each year. Pat suggested, to Diane, that ideally, the public meeting process should be accomplished by December so the City will have enough time to change its forums by spring. She said Diane did not seem to find this to be a problem. Pat reflected the committee would continue to work with Diane on the particulars.

Pat passed on that Quinn suggested the early meetings should be restricted to members of the Commission until it hears otherwise from the City Attorney. He had also brought up that something for the Commission to think about is whether or not it would want to fund the same thing year after year or what might be its intentions.

Cliff wondered, beyond criteria by which to judge grant proposals, if this Commission has any other goals in terms of rationalizing the process for how it should work in the future. Pat shared the Commission had talked about suggesting reporting formats for the grantees. Pat felt, whatever pressure could be removed from the City, the Commission should do so by providing it an intact package, being careful not to choose un-measurable criteria nor choose something it wouldn't take a half a day to sit down and figure out whether criteria is met. She suggested it should talk about Sitka's needs. Cliff felt this new proposal might not necessarily provide a guaranteed budget. Pat felt it could if the Commission recommended criteria should be in place for two or three years before it was reviewed again. She pointed out there are some organizations which do get funding each year. At present, she reasoned, there seems to be no rationality in discernment nor any process as to whom is funded. She indicated that some organizations even get funded midyear. Pat stressed the Commission would have the strength of the Rasmuson Foundation behind it.

Stephen liked the idea of bringing the Assembly into the process early so it felt an ownership and a buy-in into the process and into making it fair.

**3. ASSEMBLY LIAISON - NONE**

**4. SEARHC UPDATE**

Pat reported the "Mock Survey" is coming on Friday and the hospital is making ready for that.

**5. SCH UPDATE – NONE**

**I. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE**

**J. OLD BUSINESS**

**1) Public Health Fair**

Steve reported there have been no formal moves nor has a date been set yet because of the situation with possibly working with the newly forming wellness committees. He reported the people on the committees have been given heads up that we are planning a big community Health Fair so they can be planning for that. He continued the initial plan was for it to be held the end of this next month but is now putting it off for a month or two so all wellness committees will have had a chance to form. Steve feels it will have good participation. He related there would be a big meeting early in February having to do with Primara Blue Cross wellness teams in each work place and he would like their presence at the Health Fair. Kelly voiced her opinion the Commission should put out a survey for time and date of the Health Fair. She expressed the first of year might be a good time for a health fair because of new years resolutions.

Pat expressed her concern over vending machine products. Pat suggested recommendations be provided to Robert Jones and that he would follow through and make changes in the vending machines. Steve mentioned, in other community changes, SEARHC has a led the way in paradigm shifts. He felt it might be best to talk with Robert and see what his plans are and then, through a PR, inform what change was made. He suggested that may be a gentle way to get the community to think about it... it would be one of those things, rather than the Commission being the instigator of changes, more pointing out that change is being made. Pat feels, also, if names of vendors and products that don't cost as much money could be provided they might finally say, "O.K., we will try it". Kelly reported a compromise had come about for their vending machine within the past month and now there are more healthful selections.

Cliff wondered when the new federal mandates take affect to which Pat informed him they already have. Cliff wondered if the school has met those guidelines? He also questioned whether HNCS has any involvement in the school lunch program? Steve responded the Commission was prepared to form a committee involving parents as advisory body to that program but an in-school committee was formed quickly while it was being planned. He feels the Commission could or should collaborate with that committee or form a committee involving more parents. Steve wondered if anyone had inquired into the school's nutrition committee on their guidelines compliance? Pat responded it was still on the list of "things to do". Steve requested approval of the Commission to attend one of the in-school nutritional meetings and report back on what they have done or as to what they are doing. He suggested he would ask for a verbal or written report on where they are going or whether or not they are planning on complying with the federal guidelines. Permission was granted.

**2) Grant Allocation Process – See Vice Chairs report above**

**K. NEW BUSINESS - NONE**

**L. NEXT MEETING – NOVEMBER 21, 2006 AT SCH FISCAL SERVICES CONFERENCE ROOM**

**M. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: M/S Sommer/Kelly moved to adjourn the meeting.

ACTION: The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Weaver,  
Secretary