

Step 1

Comments from sponsors and
Assembly discussion.

Step 2

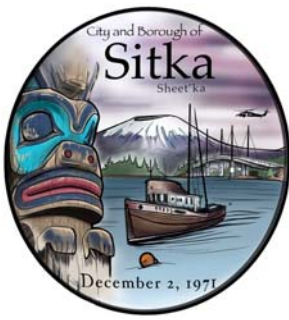
Possible Motion

I MOVE TO request the Health Needs and Human Services Commission provide recommendations on how snow removal can be improved in Sitka and then refer to the Police and Fire Commission for further review and recommendations.

Step 3

Possible Motion

I MOVE TO request the Health Needs and Human Services Commission provide recommendations on how to improve childcare availability and program services in Sitka.



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members

From: **Assembly Members Himschoot and Knox**

Date: April 5, 2022

Subject: Discussion/Direction Health Needs and Human Services Commission and Police and Fire Commission

Background

In reviewing the work of the City's boards and commissions the assembly has heard presentations from the chairpersons of Parks and Recreation, the Historic Preservation Commission, and the Police and Fire Commission so far. Dozens of Sitkans volunteer their time to fill these boards and commissions with community voice, advice, and guidance for the Assembly.

On the city website "Boards and Commissions" page the purpose of the advisory bodies reads: The City and Borough of Sitka has various boards, commissions and committees comprised of volunteer citizens who are interested in helping to shape the future of Sitka. By participating on one of these advisory bodies, volunteers make an important contribution to the community. Their input and recommendations to the Assembly on programs and issues ensure a strong public voice. Volunteers are one of Sitka's most valuable assets."

Analysis

According to the general code, the role of the Health Needs and Human Services Commission is "Annually identify goals developed through the collection and consolidation of vital and current information on human service trends as well as public input; perform other activities which are necessary and proper to carry out the previously mentioned and any other actions determined by the Assembly to be beneficial to carry out the health and human service goals necessary in the City and Borough of Sitka; coordinate with local entities such as the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Sitka Community Hospital, SEARHC as well as applicable nonprofits and local businesses providing health/human services to identify human service needs as well as to best streamline the collection and consolidation of vital and current information on human

service needs.” (SGC 2.13)

Sitka General Code and the Charter of the City and Borough of Sitka also outlines the duties of Police and Fire Commission to “Advise the Assembly concerning police and fire department matters, make recommendations concerning public safety, and undertake such other duties as the Assembly may assign.” (Charter Article VII, Sec 7.01) (SGC 2.19)

Over the coming year the Assembly would like to receive recommendations on the following topics: revisions to Sitka’s code surrounding snow removal coupled with a community action plan and a review of best practices and/or suggestions about childcare from other communities.

Snow removal: Sitka’s winters have become unpredictable and current code does not adequately address the need for snow removal around the community. While there is likely room for improvement in the code using other communities as models, there is a longstanding tradition of volunteerism among many Sitka organizations (Boy Scouts, ATV riders, Rotary, high school sports teams, etc). Along with suggesting updates to the code perhaps a coalition of volunteers to assist elders and the disabled with snow removal would help solve the problems for future winters.

Daycare: Multiple news sources describe a crisis in childcare nationally, statewide, and here in Sitka. The Assembly would like the HNHS Commission to investigate how other communities are handling the shortage of available, high-quality childcare and make recommendations.

Fiscal Note

This valuable work by the Health Needs and Human Services Commissioners and the Police and Fire Commission has no expense initially, however their recommendations may require funds if they are adopted.

Recommendation

The Assembly should request the Health Needs and Human Services Commission and the Police and Fire Commission to provide recommendations on how snow removal can be improved in Sitka.

The Assembly should request the Health Needs and Human Services Commission to provide recommendations on how to improve childcare availability and program services in Sitka.