DRAFT

MINUTES
Heli-Ski Map Committee
Meeting Date: October 17, 2016

Date of Approval: _____

Call to Order: A meeting of the Haines Borough Heli-skiing Map Committee was held at Assembly Chambers on October 13, 2016. The meeting convened at 6:04 p.m. This is was the inaugural meeting so there is no chair yet.

Members in Attendance: Ron Jackson, Sean Brownell, Meredith Pochardt, Lori Smith, Bill Seward, Scott Sundberg. Ron Jackson as Assembly Liaison was also in attendance.

Members Not in Attendance: None.

Others in Attendance: Diana Lapham, George Figdor, Holly Smith (Borough Planner), Alekka Fullerton (Borough Deputy Clerk), Leslie Ross, and Heidi Robichaud.

Approval of Agenda: The informal agenda was adopted. The main goal of tonight's meeting is to elect a Chair and Vice Chair; lay groundwork and ground-rules; and to decide how the committee's work will proceed.

Approval of Minutes: None.

Introduction by William Seward, Borough Manager:

Thank you all for your willingness to serve on this committee. The purpose of the committee is to talk about the heli-ski map area- the area allocated to the industry. There are three main precepts which should lead the discussions: **Safety, Commerce and Environmental Stewardship**.

Safety: There are two helicopter pilots on this panel. Use their information. We don't want accidents. We want to make any decisions and rules we can to help avoid accidents. The area can create some high power demands on aircraft (I am a former Coast Guard helicopter pilot). Ask the pilots to explain the maneuver that they are trying to do in order to facilitate the skiing. Drop off and pick up are the most important. The approach path will be dictated by the suitability of the area (wind, slope, approach path, etc.) to drop of their customer at the drop site. Pick-ups will be mostly from valleys, so some other things to think about are reconnaissance of the area, think about turn radiance of the aircraft. I don't think that was taken into consideration in the old map. Look at using veils to provide maneuvering air space to ensure a safe landing or takeoff. Think 3-D. At the outside of that boundary- set up the area they are allowed to maneuver in a circle. An aircraft doing 100 knots- has about a 1% turning radius—will need 1 knot mile to turn. There are pluses and minuses so we want to build in a buffer. Think about that when you are talking about safety.

Commerce—it brings in money to our community. They provide a big chunk of that. We want to promote the industry but we want to do it responsibily.

Environmental Stewardship- Noise pollution from the aircraft is our primary concern. We want to acknowledge there are wildlife, residents and other recreational users out there. We need to be respectful of them all.

If we use those three tenants to guide your discussions, I think we will be where we need to be. When you are discussing sensitive issues and there is disagreement, Bill suggests putting the issue in the "parking lot" and moving on to another issue. That will give you more time to reflect on the disagreement, create ways to move forward and get more information or formulate data if that would be helpful. It is also acceptable to make two different proposals coming back to him. They could say that ½ of the committee believes this should happen for these reasons and the other ½ believes something else for other reasons. Bill will then take all of that information into account when making his recommendations. Bill will be guided by the same three principles the committee is guided by.

Documents: Bill passed out the three proposals from the industry. They are attached to the minutes. Another document was a "job aids" document -- one with ideas of how to proceed and ground rules to adopt. There is a white board for the committee's use. Bill suggests the IDA format-- Issues, Decisions, and Actions. List each one.

Ground-rules: After review of the disseminated proposed ground-rules, the committee agreed to adopt them. Please remember that you are all here for the same purpose, respect each other, ok to disagree, share all relevant information, xxx, listen as an ally, everyone participates, share responsibility, honor time limits, start on time, make decisions with data where possible, choose right decision over quick decisions, strive for consensus. No other ground rules were suggested. The committee chose to proceed informally and adopt a discussion format. Lori asked what the controversy surrounding the committee was. Bill explained that people objected to Sunny being the at-large community member since he is in the industry as well. Bill commented that he believes that Sunny will be objective and so long as everyone follows the principle and the ground rules, he has worries.

Chair Election: After looking through the Code, it appears that a Chair and Vice Chair needs to be selected by the committee. Ron is a voting member of the committee. Alekka Fullerton, the Borough Deputy Clerk will be the parliamentarian for the committee. Meredith nominated Ron Jackson as Chair of the committee, Sean Brownell seconded the nomination, and it passed unanimously. The committee agreed that it will need a quorum to act. Meredith asked about the time lines for the committee. The committee is to report back by November 30. There is a short timeline so we can get this done before the season starts. At this point, Bill left and turned the meeting over to Ron.

Vice Chair- Ron asked if Sean Brownell would be willing to be the Vice Chair, he said he would and Meredith seconded it, it passed unanimously. Ron would like the meetings to be more free-flowing rather than rigid and structured. The committee agreed.

Meeting dates and times- Sean would like the meetings to be while basketball practice is taking place since he comes from 35 mile. The next meeting will be Thursday 10/27 at 5:00 in Assembly chambers.

Proposals: Holly has two proposals- from Heli-ski Alaska and one from SEABA. These were included in the assembly packet from August 23, 2016. Holly has had projection problems with boundary layers- problems with the map. She is working with Meredith to get the shape files. Meredith knows how to submit changes. Google Earth polygon makes it easier to use and makes the information clear. Ron commented that Maps are difficult for him. Sunny mentioned that it should be as user friendly as possible. GIS files are more accurate within 30 feet—increases the perception of an infraction. We want

to make sure everyone is on the same page with the mapping programs. Meredith suggested that all of the information should be in a KMZ or KML file. Then everyone will be utilizing the same information in the same way. All information needs to be accurately transferred into the system. The committee discussed the various systems – GIS is more capable for contours but KMZ is easier. We need a good base map. SEABA's proposal was sent in KMZ files. We could probably do Alaska's quickly- within a day. Sunny moved that the Alaska Heliski proposal be transcribed into KMZ or KML files so that they can accurately be portrayed for discussion. Meredith seconded the proposal. The motion passed unanimously.

Further, the committee recommends that all proposals be submitted in KMZ or KML format. If this was the standard for the Borough, changes would be easily submitted and considered.

Going Forward: Meredith asked how they should go forward. Sunny suggested that they look at each numbered are. They can consider one area at a time and fit them into the rubric that the manager gave us. The ones that require the most consideration should be separated early so we can get the easy stuff done first. We should talk to ADF&G once we have a proposal. The Goat map comes out in 2017 but Meredith opined that they have their data and know where they are going with their report already. Kevin will weigh in on this along the way—they don't need to wait until the "formal" report comes out. We can incorporate his data into their recommendation.

Code Discussion- Diana Lapham asked if we have to wait until 2019 to review all proposals (when the map is reviewed) or if new proposals can be reviewed before then so long as they are received between May 1 –May 31. The consensus was that the proposals would be considered every three years like the map.

Public Comments: George asked how the committee will be addressing public comments- At the beginning, or the end, or throughout. The committee indicated that they will accept public comments at the end of each area discussion. They will publicize which areas they will be discussing at each meeting then take public comments as they discuss each area. The committee acknowledged that the public will be interested but that they also have a short time frame to accomplish their task. At the next meeting, the committee will have a big map with everything on it. They will put each area on the agenda so that people know before-hand which areas they will be talking about each meeting. At the next meeting they will outline meeting the schedules and Agendas. They will be as specific as possible to help manage the public comments while being cognizant of their very short time frame.

BLM Discussion: Ron asked where BLM fits into their considerations. It was agreed that we should let them know when they are meeting so that they can participate if wanted. We cannot infringe or add any layers of regulation on the BLM. They do their own permitting- they will probably have their own opinions. Ron will arrange a call in opportunity for them too.

Next Meeting: October 27, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in Assembly Chambers.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm.

DRAFT

_____

Alekka Fullerton, Deputy Clerk