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# City of Bethel, Alaska

## --- Planning Commission Minutes

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May 8, 2008

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

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### CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Bethel Planning Commission was held on May 8, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Manager's Office, Bethel, Alaska.

John Guinn called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

Comprising a quorum of the Commission, the following were present:

Mike Walter    Hugh Dymont    Sharon Lindley  
Joy Shantz    John Guinn

Excused absence(s): Thor Williams

Unexcused absence(s):

Also in attendance were the following:

City Planner Richard Abboud  
Planning Clerk Betsy Jumper

**PEOPLE TO BE HEARD** – none

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Joy Shantz	To approve the agenda for the May 8, 2008 Planning Commission Meeting.
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Hugh Dymont	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	5 yes 0 no motion carried
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### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Mike Walter	To approve the minutes from the April. 10, 2008 Planning Commission Meeting as amended.
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Joy Shantz	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	5 yes 0 no motion carried
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**COMMUNICATIONS-** none

**PLANNERS REPORT:**

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

Mike Walter: None

Joy Shantz: We need the Planning Dept. to have an effective Planning Commission. According to the BMC, the Commission has a lot of responsibilities, and it's not the Planning Department's responsibility to do all these things listed here, it's the Commission's, and the only way we can do it is to have a Planning Dept to guide us, to make our decisions. We don't get training, we need it. We just need it. And the other thing I have to say I was so surprised that a councilmember took a cell phone call and wasn't even listening to the People to be Heard. They were talking on the phone, and that totally appalls me. Is that a common practice of the Council? Is there some kind of ordinance prohibiting the use of cell phones?

Sharon Lindley: Thinks that the Code Enforcement activities should continue as always, and not just small stuff, but the big stuff as well. The burden is on the City Council to maintain the staff attorney; shouldn't lessen the responsibility of the Planning Dept. just because of City's lack of not thinking before firing the staff attorney. I don't think we should lessen our accountability; each Dept. should carry on and the burden is on the City. That's how I feel.

Hugh Dymont: Doesn't make sense to cut the Planning Dept. in a town this size. I don't think that there's any support on the Council for that.

John Guinn: Well I agree that we need a Planning Department. The Planning Commission does have a lot of responsibilities but without professional guidance, we're not going to be able to do it. We can make some huge mistakes without the professional guidance of the Planning Department -I would have to resign if that happens. It's crazy, it really is.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS-tabled**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ITEM A:**

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Joy Shantz	To table Item A to next Planning Commission Meeting.
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Hugh Dymont	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	5 yes 0 no motion carried
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**ITEM B:**

A general discussion of plats and abbreviated plats and the procedures that need to be done was reviewed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Joy Shantz	To adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm. May 8, 2008.
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Hugh Dymont	

**VOTE ON MOTION**

5 Yes 0 No Meeting Adjourned

APPROVED THIS 12 day of June 2008.

ATTEST:



John Guinn, Chair