




CITY OF WASILLA

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COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

NO. 97-69

From: Dan Kelly, Acting Planning Commission Chair 

To: Wasilla City Council

Date: August 14, 1997

Subject: Amendment to COW Comprehensive Plan to Recognize Master Plan for the Old Airport Site

In an April 30, 1997 letter, the Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission (WPRC) requested approval from the Wasilla Planning Commission (WPC) of the August 26, 1996 concept drawing, provided by Jonathon Schilk, for development of the old Wasilla airport. The WPRC also requested some changes (subsequently withdrawn) be made to the concept drawing and, in a separate letter, expressed concerns about the potential set aside of five acres for a Public Safety Building on the site.

The two drawings, one approved with the 1996 Wasilla Comprehensive Plan (WCP) and the August 26, 1996 drawing, presented significantly different pictures of proposed development. The WCP drawing included green space and trails, but also depicted a proposed Community Center, a Veteran's Memorial, a Firehouse and a Library at the site. The August concept drawing contained primarily green space with no public buildings. Also, the WCP seemed to leave the issue of the placing of public buildings at the site essentially unresolved, referencing "a recent trend away from developing permanent structures at the site". At the June 3, 1997 Regular Meeting, the WPC determined the proposed concept represented a significant enough change to the WCP to warrant a public hearing.

An open house relating the history of the site and inviting public questions and comments was held on August 6, 1997. Many members of the public, as well as Council members and members of both Commissions, attended. The public hearing was held at the Regular Planning Commission Meeting on August 12, 1997. All comments and recommendations were considered by the WPC.

The WPC and the WPRC have worked with community members and other support staff to develop a plan for the Old Wasilla Airport site that meets the perceived needs of the community. The WPC now wishes to forward a recommendation to the City Council that the 1996 Wasilla Comprehensive Plan be amended to adopt the August 26, 1996 concept drawing, as provided by Jonathon Schilk, as the Master Plan for the site. The WPC further recommends that the Old Airport site be dedicated as a green space, for recreational use only, with no civic buildings to be placed thereon. This amendment will be incorporated into the WCP during the 1998 review.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

Should the Council concur with this recommendation, the following motion is provided:

Motion to amend the Wasilla Comprehensive Plan to adopt the August 26, 1997 concept drawing, as provided by Jonathon Schilk, as the Master Plan for the Old Airport site; and further, to dedicate the Old Airport site as a green space, for recreational purposes only, with no civic buildings to be placed thereon.

APPROVED

DATE: 8/25/97

BY: [Signature]