Juneau Annexation Study Commission

Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 5, 2006
Assembly Chambers, 1:30 PM

The Commission meeting was convened at 1:33 PM by Chair George Davidson. The meeting was tape recorded.

All members of the Commission were in attendance: George Davidson, chair; Sandy Williams, vice-chair; Caren Robinson; Erroll Champion; and Steve Sorensen. Commission staff Peter Freer, CDD Planning Supervisor, and Barbara Ritchie, Assistant City Attorney, were also present. Approximately 30 members of the public attended, Many of them property owners at Horse and Colt Islands and Funter Bay.

Chair Davidson introduced the members of the Commission to the public.

The minutes of the December 21 meeting were approved.

Peter Freer gave a brief overview of the Commission’s purpose and delineated the borough’s existing and model borough boundaries on a large wall map.

Dan Bockhorst, Local Government Specialist for the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development and lead staff to the Local Boundary Commission, gave a presentation on boroughs that included constitutional history, the 1961 voluntary borough act, the 1963 mandatory borough act and subsequent voluntary borough incorporations. He provided an overview of current borough boundary activity in Southeast Alaska, including the Ketchikan Gateway Borough’s petition to annex 4,700 square miles; a borough feasibility study sponsored by the City of Hoonah for the Icy Straits region; and interest in borough formation expressed by the City of Petersburg.

Following the presentation, Mr. Bockhorst responded to questions from Commission members, staff, and the public. Generally, Commission members inquired about procedures and standards for annexation and the model borough boundaries. Members of the public inquired about the model borough boundaries, service delivery, taxation, and the effects of annexation on subsistence rights.

Staff members Freer and Ritchie will examine two questions: whether the building code can be applied on a non-areawide basis, and whether inclusion in the City and Borough of Juneau would adversely affect the subsistence rights of Funter Bay or other residents in the area annexed. Responses will be prepared for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission on February 1 at 5 PM.

Chair Davidson adjourned the meeting at 3:30 PM.