



Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive
Petersburg AK, 99833

Meeting Minutes Local Marijuana Regulation Advisory Committee

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

6:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Vice-Chairperson Kevin Clark called the meeting to order at approximately 6:10 p.m.

Present 10 - Committee Member Brian Richards, Committee Member Charles Rose, Committee Member David Burleigh, Chairperson Jeigh Stanton-Gregor, Committee Member Kelly P. Swihart, Committee Member Kevin Clark, Committee Member Kurt L. Wohlhueter, Committee Member Nancy C. Strand, Committee Member Rick Dormer, and Committee Member Thomas Kojima

Absent 7 - Committee Member Anthony Taiber, Committee Member Elizabeth Amanecer, Committee Member Elizabeth Bacom, Committee Member Jim Demko, Committee Member Kathy Holtzinger, Committee Member Mitch Eide, and Committee Member Pamela Van Houten

2. Approval of the Minutes

A. May 27, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [LMRA Committee Minutes 5-27-2015.pdf](#)

The minutes were approved, as submitted.

3. Amendment & Approval of Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved, as submitted.

4. Visitors Views Unrelated to Agenda

Teresa Streuli, representing herself, spoke regarding her desire to see the committee address license restrictions for certain areas in Petersburg, especially near certified daycare facilities. The committee explained to Ms. Streuli that childcare facilities were already addressed in the statutes and that we can be more restrictive but not less than these State regulations.

5. Visitors Views Related to Agenda

Teresa Streuli, representing herself, expressed her personal opposition to the legalization of marijuana. She explained that she is specifically concerned about the health risks associated with smoking marijuana and also the educational concerns. Ms. Streuli mentioned that, in her opinion, the health risks, which are greater than smoking cigarettes, the issue of impaired driving, and the continued federal legal issues surrounding marijuana use all outweigh any potential benefit to Petersburg from taxation.

Committee Chairperson Jeigh Stanton Gregor arrived at 6:21 p.m.

6. Committee Reports

A. Subcommittee Reports/Updates

No subcommittee reports.

7. Unfinished Business

A. State of Alaska Regulations

Attachments: [3 AAC Chapter 306 - Regulation of the Marijuana Industry.pdf](#)

Chairperson Stanton Gregor asked if everyone had read and understood the new State regulations. Not many committee members had had that opportunity. Mr. Stanton Gregor expressed his opinion that some of the definitions of terms used in the State regulations were unclear to him. He stated that he'd like the committee members to read the regulations before the next meeting and submit to Borough Clerk Debra Thompson any questions they would like to have answered by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. It was decided that the deadline to contact Clerk Thompson will be February 1, 2016.

There was discussion among the committee members regarding the 500 foot radius from the specifically listed facilities. Many members expressed their opinion that this particular buffer zone size is more appropriate for larger cities, not small communities like Petersburg. Although some members stated that they believe marijuana based establishments should be right downtown so that they are easier to monitor, others did not like the idea of them being where children frequently walk by. The idea of seeking to exempt the business district from the buffer zone was discussed. Ultimately, a motion passed authorizing the committee to draft a letter to the Control Board asking that the State regulations maximize municipality rights, allowing the individual municipalities to decide where the boundaries will be located and what buffer zones are needed, based on their individual needs. Members Kelly Swihart and Kevin Clark will work with Clerk Thompson to draft the letter.

It was decided that each subcommittee should meet to discuss the regulations before the next full committee meeting.

A motion passed with an 8 to 2 vote authorizing the committee to draft a letter to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board asking that the State regulations maximize municipality rights, allowing the individual municipalities to decide where the boundaries will be located and what buffer zones are needed, based on their individual needs.

8. New Business

A. Recent Decisions by the Ketchikan City Council

Attachments: [Ketchikan Retail Marijuana Stores Articles.pdf](#)

The committee members discussed the situation in Ketchikan. Many members expressed the need to move forward carefully, listen to the community's desires, and not to make rash or premature decisions.

9. Communication

10. Discussion Items

Several committee members discussed their belief that law enforcement will become less strict on illegal marijuana dealers and State restrictions so tight on legal distribution, it will encourage continued black market marijuana sales.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.