

Planners Seek Public Input on Code Changes

Thursday, 10 March 2011

{audio}/images/stories/mp3/110309.zoning_code.mp3{/audio}

Jay Barrett/KMXT

Residents

in the Kodiak Island Borough will be seeing some changes to zoning laws in the near future, as the borough continues its long, hard look at the code.

Borough

associate planner Duane Dvorak and private consultant Val Lazdins of L-S-L Planning in Grand Rapids, Michigan, were on KMXT's Talk of the Rock last week with Maggie Wall. Dvorak says Titles 16, 17 and 18 of the borough code, dealing with subdivisions, zoning and land management, respectively, are under scrutiny for a good reason: many of them date to the 1960s and 70s.

The first zoning workshop is tonight (Thursday) at 6 p.m. at Kodiak High School, with the second Friday at 6:30 at the Chiniak School.

-- (Zoning 1 45
sec "It's
been updated ... zoning, and how we do that.")

Lazdins

says the zoning code is the backbone for good public planning:

-- (Zoning 2 31
sec "The
zoning ordinance and ... we've had with the public.")

In addition
to seeking comments one-on-one from individuals, Lazdins has also talked
with
various interest groups:

-- (Zoning 3 36
sec "We've
also done a series ... like to see implemented.")

Dvorak says
clarification is especially needed in the codes for lodging and resource
extraction. He says rezoning may have to be considered in some areas to
better
separate industrial activities from homes. Regulating and defining
bed-and-breakfasts and lodges has long been an issue before the borough:

-- (Zoning 4 32
sec "It's
not only something ... that really aren't clear.")

To help
make the codes clearer, Dvorak is inviting the public to a pair of

workshops.