

Alaska Association of REALTORS®

Legislative Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Dave Feeken.

Present:

Dave Feeken

Janice Strong

Art Clark

Debra Leisek

Perry Underwood

Bonnie Aulabaugh

Wendy Chamberlain

Bill to Sunset the Alaska Real Estate Commission – Dave Feeken reported that there is a bill to extend the Alaska Real Estate Commission to the year 2012. This bill is getting little attention because the focus in Juneau this session is the gas pipeline. If this bill does not pass, the Commission could be terminated.

The committee agreed to attach this bill to the Alaska Association of REALTORS® mandatory e & o insurance bill, HB 357. Wendy Chamberlain will check to see if this is feasible.

HB 357 – Mandatory E & O Insurance Bill – This bill would require all real estate licensees to be covered by e & o insurance. Sharon Walsh, AREC Executive Director will provide the information on the cost of premiums, cancellation policies, riders, etc.

The following will be available to testify on the bill, Sharon Walsh, Linda Hall, representative from the AG's office and Marc Davis.

HB 349 – Frivolous Lawsuit Bill – This bill will reduce the number of frivolous lawsuits filed in Alaska. The attorney that files the frivolous lawsuit will be liable for attorney fees for the prevailing party. In addition, the committee would like to have double or triple damages included in the bill. This provision will need to be included in the committee process.

This bill is controversial and will need the support of other groups in the community who are in favor of this bill.

It will be helpful to present what it costs a small business to defend a frivolous lawsuit, emphasizing the cost and time involved.

Dave will write talking points for the committee to use. He encouraged the members to generate letters of support for this bill.

Eminent Domain Bill – This bill has no opposition but is not moving through committees.

Clean Water Initiative – The Association is opposed to this initiative because it affects watersheds in Alaska, which include residential subdivisions.

This issue will be voted on in August, 2008. The Association will recommend to the Board of Directors that we seek help and funding from the National Association of REALTORS® Issues Mobilization Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.