

Session 13-07 a Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Sarno at 6:00 p.m. on July 9, 2013 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONER BARTH, KRISINTU, ROSS, SARNO, WAGNER

STAFF: COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR KOESTER
DEPUTY CITY CLERK JACOBSEN

AGENDA APPROVAL

BARTH/WAGNER MOVED TO MOVE TO SWITCH THE ORDER OF THE NEW BUSINESS ITEMS SO THE BYLAW AMENDMENT WILL BE ITEM A.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

The amended agenda was approved by consensus of the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Monte Davis, Executive Director of the Homer Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, commented in support of the proposed bylaw amendment. The Chamber Board is very excited about the idea of having a seat at the EDC's table for the Chamber Executive. The CEDS includes action items listed for the Chamber to do, and having seats with each group will help ensure the communication lines are open back and forth between the two groups; also having that person available to offer feedback to the ability to carry things out will be helpful. These changes have full support from the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce. , and recognizing they want to become more integrated with the economic development plans for the community, they hope to help look out and down the road

Jim Lavrakas, incoming Executive Director of the Homer Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, agreed with Mr. Davis' comments. At the last Chamber Board meeting they created a non-voting seat for whoever is selected to sit in that role. He agrees that communication between the City and Chamber is paramount in dealing back and forth, because it lets everyone know what the expectations are, and it will help facilitate how they work together.

RECONSIDERATION

There was no reconsideration scheduled.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 11, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes

WAGNER/ROSS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS WRITTEN.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS

STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A. EDC Bylaw Review and Amendment to Include the Chamber Director as a Non -Voting Member

Question was raised whether the Open Meetings Act will pose a problem when having discussions outside of the meeting. Mr. Davis said in his research, as long as they are ex officio it isn't an issue. The law is directed toward voting members.

Community and Economic Development Coordinator Koester commented that the Commission would need to make a recommendation to the City Manager that she be permitted to serve on the Chamber Board as it is a staff allocation decision. She noted that City Manager Wrede is hesitant because there are a lot of staff time commitments and we are stretched very thin. She encouraged they have discussion supporting their recommendation.

Mr. Davis explained the Chamber Board meetings are the third Thursday of each month at noon. There was discussion that if Mrs. Koester is unable to attend an EDC member could go in her place. Mr. Davis added that she wouldn't have to come to every meeting because there will be times when their business isn't specific to the City. Mr. Lavrakas said that telephonic participation is allowed when needed.

BARTH/WAGNER MOVED TO SEND A MEMORANDUM TO THE CITY MANAGER REQUESTING THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR BE PERMITTED TO SERVE AS A NON-VOTING MEMBER OF THE CHAMBER BOARD.

The Commission agreed that it is important to have the communication between the City and Chamber for the purpose of carrying out the plans and projects that the two work together on. They also acknowledged Mr. Davis's points regarding attendance not being necessary at every meeting.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 9, 2013

WAGNER/BARTH MOVED TO ACCEPT THE THE CHANGE IN THE BYLAWS TO INCLUDE THE CHAMBER DIRECTOR AS AN EX-OFFICIO MEMBER OF THE EDC.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

B. 2014-2019 Capital Improvement Plan

The Commissioners took time to review the projects in the 2014-2019 Capital Improvement Plan and discuss them with Community and Economic Development Coordinator Koester.

The Commission discussed the significance of harbor projects as they are important for the marine trades and jobs in the industry, which are key to economic development in Homer. Consideration was also given to the importance of road projects for connectivity and safety. The Commission further recognized that with climate change and warmer dryer temperatures there is the need to continue to improve the City's firefighting capabilities.

The Commissioner's individual rankings were as follows:

Barth- Marine Ways, Deep Water Dock Expansion, East Boat Harbor, Main Street Reconstruction, and Aerial Truck

Ross- Marine Ways, Deep Water Dock, Fire Cart Replacement, Kachemak Drive Rehabilitation/Pathway, and Mariner Park Restroom

Sarno- HERC, Kachemak Drive Rehabilitation/Pathway, Town Center, Fire Cart Replacement, and Aerial Truck

Wagner- Pratt Museum, Marine Ways, Main Street Construction, Deep Water Dock, and Aerial Truck

Staff tallied the rankings; the Commission discussed the items and decided on the following five projects:

1. Marine Ways Large Vessel Haul Out Facility
2. Deep Water Dock Expansion
3. Kachemak Drive Rehabilitation/Pathway
4. Main Street Reconstruction/Intersection
5. Firefighting Enhancement/Aerial Truck

There was consensus of the Economic Development Advisory Commission to forward these recommendations to City Council.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

None

COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF

Community and Economic Development Coordinator Koester advised the Commission she will be absent for the August 8th meeting. She will check with Chair Sarno closer to meeting time to determine if there is a need to hold a meeting in August.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER

None

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Sarno commented that she is hoping to get off the Commission soon, but doesn't want to leave them without a quorum. She has personal obligations she would like to focus her time on. This was a good meeting and the smoothest CIP meeting in her time on the Commission.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Wagner agreed that it was a good meeting. It was good to review the information and get reconnected.

Commissioner Barth thanked everyone for a good meeting. It was good to put some thought into the projects and discuss them.

Commissioner Ross said it was a good meeting tonight.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 8, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: _____