

Session 16-01 Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order on January 21, 2016 at 5:50 pm by Acting Chair Deb Lowney at the Cowles Council Chambers City Hall located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS LOWNEY, ROEDL, ASHMUN, AND HART

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS ARCHIBALD, STEFFY AND BRANN (EXCUSED)

STAFF: JULIE ENGBRETSSEN, DEPUTY CITY PLANNER
RENEE KRAUSE, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Acting Chair Lowney called for a motion to approve the agenda.

ROEDL/HART- MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Beth Cumming, city resident, commented on activities of the Woodard Creek Coalition and their efforts to put in a trail along Woodard Creek that is also bordering/in Karen Hornaday Park which has been a almost 10 year effort. She requested being a visitor at the February meeting to provide more detailed information on the plans.

Ms. Cumming was advised to contact Ms. Krause after the meeting.

VISITORS

RECONSIDERATION

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes for the regular meeting of November 19, 2015

Acting Chair Lowney called for a motion to adopt the consent agenda.

ASHMUN/HART - MOVED TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Staff Report – Julie Engebretsen, Deputy City Planner

Ms. Engebretsen reviewed her report briefly covering the plans for the Comprehensive Plan update, clarification of Parks Reserves and what that is use for and inquired if the Commission would like to be involved in the cemetery expansion. She explained that she has not received any responses back from her request for status on the purchase of the Roger’s Loop property.

The commission declined taking any action or involvement unless directed by Council.

The commission provided direction on staff’s request on where they wanted the funds from the “caps” to be placed once they were sold.

C. Community Recreation Report – Mike Illg

Recreation Specialist Illg was not present and did not provide a written report for the meeting.

D. Parks Report – Angie Otteson

Ms. Otteson was not in attendance and did not provide a written report.

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Additional Trash Cans on the Spit Trail

Acting Chair Lowney read the title into the record and stated that this item has been a concern of hers. She believes that there is a need to place additional trash receptacles along the Spit and also in various places around town. She provided verbal accounting of her experiences at various places around town and that there are a number of trash cans in town, whether they are in the appropriate spot she is not sure, she has viewed placement of some cans that appear to her in an appropriate place only to observe that trash is thrown on the ground 30 feet away. However, her concern is on the Spit, she has noticed that there are very few trash receptacles along where people walk.

Discussion ensued with Commissioners relating experience and interest by businesses to sponsor or support additional trash receptacles, concern was voiced on the undertaking of placing more trash cans and adding to the staff’s workload, proper placement and responsibility. Commissioner Lowney will confer with Ms. Otteson regarding the current number of trash receptacles, placement and will forward the information to Ms. Engebretsen to forward to the commission members before the next meeting in response to a request to have the commission do some of the legwork prior to submitting a recommendation for more trash cans being placed.

This item will be on the February agenda.

NEW BUSINESS
INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Commission Annual Calendar 2016
- B. Commissioner Attendance at City Council Meetings 2016
- C. Beaches, Vehicles, and Dogs: Pictures and Comments
- D. Mat-Su Gazette Article: Money Grows on Trees and Trails
- E. Reappointment to the Commission: Steffy and Archibald
- F. Telluride Mountain Film Festival Flyer

The Commission offered comments on the issues with vehicles on the beach and the damage it is doing, also Commissioner Lowney appreciated the comments that were submitted by Commissioners Steffy and Archibald. She advocated for attendance at the Council meeting on Monday since there was a resolution/ordinance being introduced on the issue by Councilmember Reynolds.

Commissioner Hart expressed concern over the signage which was confusing at Bishops Beach and needed clarification on what exactly was a berm because in her opinion when she visited the beach today and saw all the cars, approximately 10 of them, she felt they were all parked on the berm.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Kathy Hill, resident, commented on the request at the last meeting to have her chair a citizen committee to present a recommendation to Council on how to make the HERC more sustainable during its use. She was unsure if a committee was really necessary with her experience noting the support among some of the councilmembers.

The commission and staff provided additional background information on their request for a citizen committee to be formed to address the continued use of the HERC. They explained that while the commission has supported its use they have been directed by Council to drop the issue. There is nothing further that can be done. Further discussion included the reinspection by the Fire Marshal to upgrade the capacity of the facility. Staff cannot pursue that issue and even residents cannot request or argue that point since the city at the direction of Council has determined the extent of the use of the facility.

Staff provided information that with the resolution and depending on Council action at the meeting on Monday will also determine the further status of the facility. Ms. Hill, and several commissioners agreed, that even if the project were to start this year there is still a lot of time in her opinion that the HERC could be used to make additional revenues for the city until it is demolished.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER *(If one is present)*

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Ashmun is concerned about the beach issues and encouraged everyone to round up their friends and neighbors to comment on the issues that are affecting the beach. There are lots of issues and processes and we are adding some big ones down there. She related a recent experience while down on Bishops Beach counting birds and there was a large truck filled with coal who commented that

the best coal was to the west.

Commissioner Roedl had no further comments.

Commissioner Hart commented on the number of pedestrians on Main St and believed that they needed to discuss addressing that issue. She would also like to have clear signage at the beach and specific deterrents to prohibit vehicles along the left.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Commissioner Lowney apologized for being late and appreciated the fact that Matt and Robert were reappointed. She has been trying to focus on a few things. Commissioner Lowney stated that she has been trying to work with the Chamber to see the revenue aspects to the city of various events. She believes that this shows recreational support to the city and that it will help them; on Feb 24th at 5-7pm at the Pratt a celebration of Woodard Creek to celebrate the creek, land purchase, arts and culture complex, that will be built, there will be more information available soon and encouraged attendance to provide feedback. She would really encourage creative thinking on the budget issues, and agreed with Commissioner Hart on the Main Street pedestrian safety issues and noted that there are groups in town working on making the city more walkable, they meet monthly to work on making Homer more non-motorized and user friendly. She mentioned the Trails conference idea and asked if the Commission wants to do it again and if so when....in reference to the logs and rocks the property owner has access to the necessary equipment to do that...he has put a lot of repetitive efforts into protecting his property year after year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Acting Chair Lowney adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m. The next **REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016** at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk

Approved: _____