

Session 16-11 Regular Meeting of the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission was called to order on November 17, 2016 at 5:32 pm by Chair Matt Steffy at the Cowles Council Chambers City Hall located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS FAIR, SHARPE, ARCHIBALD, ROEDL, HART,
LOWNEY, ASHMUN AND STEFFY

STAFF: DEPUTY CITY PLANNER ENGBRETSSEN
DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

STEFFY/LOWNEY - MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADDRESS COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL MEMBER RIGHT AFTER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

There was a brief discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilmember Lewis stated that the reason he was before the commission was after his visit to Teshio there were a few things that he noticed and he wanted the Commission to flesh them out here before bringing it before the Council or anything else. One of the things was that he noticed was in the museum in Teshio they have a whole section dedicated to the sister city relationship. All of the gifts that Homer has given Teshio was on display in the museum along with an audio message from Mayor Calhoun. He would like to explore the idea of doing that here with the gifts given to Homer that are upstairs and not on display to the public, secondly they have a game there called park golf and his understanding is that the City of Homer has a set of park golf clubs, this a game that is a cross between croquet and golf where you hit the ball using one club with the goal to get the ball into the hole with the fewest strokes. All ages play this game. He would like the commission to explore installing a course in a park.

Councilmember Lewis responded to questions from the Commission regarding location for placement of art at the museum or city owned site and size of the course was a par three.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

VISITORS

RECONSIDERATION

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes for the regular meeting of October 20, 2016
- B. Letter to the Editor

LOWNEY/ARCHIBALD - MOVE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

There was a brief discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Community Recreation Report – Mike Illg

B. Parks Management Report – Angie Otteson

C. Staff Report – Julie Engebretsen

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen reported receiving emails regarding the vandalism at Jack Gist Park and Karen Hornaday Park and reminded the Commissioners that Parks Maintenance should be contacted directly. Commissioner Lowney indicated that she had tried but the emails would not go through. Deputy City Planner Engebretsen noted that the first email had several people most whom are not the appropriate persons to contact. First point of contact should be the police department to document the vandalism then the parks department at Public Works.

The Commission approved the expenditure of \$500 and inquired who the point person was on the expenditure. Commissioner Lowney responded that she is the point person for this item and the media campaign. She will meet with Deputy City Planner Engebretsen at another time to discuss both issues.

The membership for Alaska Recreation and Parks Association is paid for through 2018.

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen reported triple checking with the City Planner and due to the fact that Mariner Park is in a flood plain they cannot build standard bathrooms due to the flood plain issues. She recommended putting this on the February agenda to discuss a mini improvement plan that addresses **what they can do that won't break the bank**.

City Manager Koester still has the matter on her desk regarding the hours at Jack Gist Park so that issue is still pending.

Regarding a media campaign Commissioner Lowney will be working on that and according to Chief Robl the new shelter manager is interested in working on that over the winter.

Commissioner Lowney asked about damage on Jack Gist park and staff was not aware of any damage, Commissioner Lowney responded that the lock was cut and a car drove through the fields, Commissioner Fair noted that he did not see the scoreboard but the lock has already been replaced and the field was driven on but in his opinion not damaged extremely bad. Commissioner Lowney added that the scoreboard has a cover and Nomar has offered to replace it but the discussion on Facebook is that with the vandalism at Karen Hornaday and now Jack Gist plus continuing vandalism at Ben Walters they should consider putting cameras up.

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen will contact Chief Robl over the winter and look into the feasibility of cameras.

Chair Steffy commented on the public comment against changing the hours and asked if the city has received any additional comments in protest to the proposed changes. Deputy City Planner Engebretsen would not know about that.

Commissioner Archibald inquired about portable toilets and sewer connection or with holding tanks. Deputy City Planner Engebretsen can look into that, Commissioner Roedl stated that he has done some research and they can run up to \$35,000 for a completely self-contained. He did not know how much waste that they would collect during the season and the costs of maintenance. Such as how many units, number of times pumped, etc.

Commissioner Lowney stated that when she spoke with Dr. Bell, he indicated that the time change would not impact him and he added that having the Disc Golf players discouraged the drug users and vagrants in those areas of the park.

The Commission held a brief discussion on the location of park boundaries and the rundown buildings that are being inhabited by homeless people and arranging a date to inspect the area with city staff.

Deputy City Clerk Krause called for a point of order. This item can be on the February agenda for further discussion

Chair Steffy apologized and then noted that he will be making a concerted effort to stick to the agenda and adhere to **Robert's Rules in conducting the meetings** from now on.

D. Reports of Commissioner Findings for the Fall Park, Beach, Trail Walk Through

Commissioner Sharpe reported contacting everyone and met with Commissioner Lowney and Archibald. They visited Karen Hornaday Park, spent an hour or so and he will revisit the master plan, visited many places out on the spit and Mariner Park then a beach access point off of Kachemak Drive. Super Fun and would love to do it again.

Commissioner Lowney felt that the interesting part going through Karen Hornaday Park was there were still several issues outstanding that have not been addressed to her satisfaction. One of them is drainage, can they put it on the agenda to discuss the issues at the park. They have provided many options and solutions and nothing has been done such as those end caps that were dumped up there and clearing the areas in the campground.

Commissioner Hart reported walking Poopdeck Trail and during the summer is littered with bodies and trash, pretty messed up by the Grogshop; and Calhoun Trail has drainage issues at the lower end but the upper end is just fine. She then visited Karen Hornaday Park and discovered the graffiti. She reported that to Angie.

Chair Steffy reported on Coal Point Park, new signage, walked Bishops Beach, very evident on the gains made in one growing season; toured all the spit sites; Mariner Park is in dire need of parking delineation; End of the Road Park, he noticed new interpretive signage. He did visit the campground in Karen Hornaday Park, and agreed with thinning the trees and brush around the campsites. It is one of the parks that they have put a large amount of money into improving.

Commissioner Archibald agreed and added that there is also a lack of level tent sites and RV sites; he

noted that the drainage is horrible; Mariner Park needs delineation where to park as he witnessed that vehicles are still be driven into the grass. Louie's Lagoon was under water; there was a significant amount of terra firma moved from these tides; the new interpretive signage out on the spit is really nice.

Commissioner Fair stated that he walked the Woodard Creek trail and was impressed that for a tiny little space bounded by private property actually had a lot going on; he visited Reber Trail and did not see any signage at the lower end; Ben Walters Park the gazebo needs some care, leaning pretty bad and looking very sad, very scenic; visited Bishop's Beach; Mariner Park and the pedestrian crossing is a potentially dangerous crossing; he spoke at length with Jim Hornaday and he realizes that a lot more needs to be done. He also visited Jack Gist Park and specifically to view the area of concern around tees 1 & 2 and noted that unless people are yelling and screaming and raising all kinds of fuss back there he cannot see how the game of disc golf can make that much noise that it makes that much difference. Unless someone is deliberately throwing the disc over the large debris pile into his yard, he acknowledged that there may be more drunken revelry than he knows about.

Commissioner Roedl also visited Jack Gist park and agreed with Commissioner Fair; he actually threw some discs as hard as he could to hit the chains and the property owner needs to get his dogs a bark collar if he can't handle it; because of the noise complaints there then they need to close Main Street down because in the evening after Alice's closes the people walking up that street are making more noise than that and making dogs bark; he also contacted several people who were playing disc golf at the time of his visit and they stated that the loud music comes from the property owner and apparently turns on 2 or 3 stations and turns it up as loud as they can; so the impression he received is that the trouble maker is the property owner and there is two sides to every story and he is not believing the property owners side any longer. He also visited Mariner Park and agreed with the other observations made tonight; he is not sure if they can install a fence and put a gate where they can access the beach or what.

Commissioner Ashmun reported that Calhoun Trail still needs some repair lot of mud there, drainage is a big issue in Homer; Reber Trail maintains quite well, there are 1 or 2 spots that get a drainage issues, one of the best scenic trails you can visit. Bishops Beach to the west is working great however she noticed that people are parking on the beach in front of the private property line between the driveway in and his rocks; there are still vehicles that are going around the rocks to the left.

Commissioner Lowney wanted to give a huge thank you to Dave Brann and Robert Archibald and crew regarding the Pavilion that was erected, big thanks; Bishops Beach, sad to see the tire tracks that go off to the left up on the berm; and signage can't stress the need enough. The Beach Policy regarding signage road name should match the signage that has been installed recently.

Commissioner Lowney departed the meeting at 6:11 p.m.

Commissioner Sharpe commented on the equipment access at Bishops Beach and if that was going to be blocked off in the future. Staff responded that they were not aware of that issue. Commissioner Archibald commented on getting motion activated game cams that they can use for Karen Hornaday and Jack Gist. Staff will look into that aspect as well.

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Acceptance of the Office of Vice Chair

Commissioner Lowney accepted the office of Vice Chair and appreciated the confidence expressed by the Commissioners in electing her during her absence last month.

B. Draft Beach Policy – Review

Chair Steffy requested clarification regarding the edits and the significance of the colors. Deputy City Planner Engebretsen was unsure which color represented which edits were done by whom at this point.

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen reviewed the updates recommended by the commission during the October meeting and had the following concerns:

1. **Could not support renaming the Airport Beach Access Road the “Emergency Access Road” unless a formal naming process was conducted** citing residents knew the road by that name and renaming it may cause confusion especially where Public Safety and first responders may be involved. It was not the proper place to do a name change. Commissioner Ashmun noted that in some places it was capitalized denoting a name of a road and others it was lower case being a descriptor and opined that it needs to be consistent.
2. In section 2, page 4 of the beach policy, line 66 cannot be changed since that is language directly from Homer City Code.
3. Clarification was provided on Line 140, page 6 of the policy regarding burning driftwood, adding a few extra words specific to that removing driftwood from berms.
4. Commissioner Ashmun provided clarification for Lines 218-224, recommending that they be removed since it was relocated to page 1, it is unnecessary in this location of the policy.
5. Clarification was provided by Chair Steffy that this was a typographical error and should read USFW (US Fish and Wildlife)
6. Did the commission want to speak more about the recommendation on leashes; Council has not taken up the issue to act on so the Commission needs to lobby Council members to get it in the policy. Commissioner Ashmun did slip in some language regarding proper pet control in Section 3, item 2 on page 5 of the Beach Policy. Staff was okay with the language as printed since there are existing rules regarding control of your pets.

Commissioner Archibald requested information on what was recently passed which regarding containment and restraint of animals. Staff will provide informational items at the next meeting.

Commissioner Ashmun recommended changing the language on page 2 of the Beach policy, line 76, since there is now a gate at one access point. She also noted that Kachemak Bay Research Reserve is in the process of developing educational programming for that section of beach adding more protection. The gate belongs to Fish & Game but Department of Transportation has a key. Staff did not believe that the issue of gates was finished.

Commissioner Archibald requested clarification on vehicle access for Mariner Park Beach. Staff responded that it is the east end so that vehicles cannot go in front of the seawall.

C. Regulatory Signage – Parks & Beaches

Chair Steffy read the title into record and he requested this on the agenda since Commissioner Lowney

was not present last month and at an earlier meeting she had requested this item to be on the agenda. He was not aware if there was any preliminary drafts of interpretive signage and what new signage that **they would see at Bishop's Beach.**

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen responded that this was one of the main reasons that the City Manager Koester is allocating the funding for signage since no money was previously allocated. She is not aware of any progress on the signage and requested a commissioner to work with her on getting a plan in place. Chair Steffy volunteered to work with her on this issue. Deputy City Planner Engebretsen explained the intent on the signage and also the issue of a gate for vehicle access to Mariner Park.

Chair Steffy reported that concerns were expressed by Commissioner Lowney for Jack Gist Park and Mariner Park for signage in particular.

Commissioner Sharpe inquired if there were regulations in place on what can be included in regulatory signage such as in regards to drinking. Deputy City Planner Engebretsen explained that signage must reflect what is in city code, state law and/or federal law.

Further discussion ensued regarding the actual signage and placement for Mariner Park, Bishops Beach and Jack Gist Park and the use of interpretive signage that can explain why the rules are in place. Staff will refine what it actually happening and report back at the February meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Draft Project Review Form

Chair Steffy reviewed the discussion the commission had from the October meeting and appreciated the efforts of staff in taking that discussion and creating the form for their review and approval.

Clarification was provided on the following:

- ceiling limits on grants for the Land and Water Conservation Grant
- the two grants mentioned are not the only grants available but just the most common used by municipalities and the city on previous projects.

There were no additional comments. The commission was satisfied with the form as presented.

B. Review and Update on the Strategic Plan

Chair Steffy introduced the item and requested input from Deputy City Planner Engebretsen.

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen noted that staff collaborated on incorporating the materials and relevant goals from the former Public Arts Committee strategic plan into this draft. The following items were commented upon or discussed, removed or added to the plan draft. This will on the February agenda for further review.

Under General Goals

- One letter to the editor per year to be relevant about public art
- Add To encourage and include art in public spaces in Homer
- **Add To educate the Council and Public about the mission and projects of the City's public art program**
- Add To advocate with the City of Homer's City Council, City Manager and Staff to include public art when planning all city upgrades, renovations and new projects.
- Add Encourage and Promote ADA Compliance of City Parks and Facilities

- Oversee execution of Public arts projects, RFPs and selection committees

Under 1-2 Year Projects

- Remove first bullet point on the kayak launch
- Diamond Creek Recreational Improvement Plan – Add to March meeting agenda
- Clarification that Woodard Creek Trail is the Karen Hornaday Park portion of the original intent to put a trail along the creek – Add clarification to begin work on this portion of the trail and keep under the 1-2 year projects
- Improvement is needed still, regarding better signage and road marking to ensure safety – Staff will research status on this item for the next step (Pedestrian and Cyclist access on Ocean Drive Loop and Spit Road)
- Move HERC to General Goals and encourage continued use as allowed
- Advocate and increase the Commission budget line item by \$500 to accommodate all aspects and responsibilities of the combined commission
- Add Sister City Art Collection project, increase public awareness by considering relocating and/or displaying the project in a new location such as Library, museum, etc. Consideration to keep the collection together provides the intrinsic value of the collection and the importance of it being protected.
- Remove interpretive signage Coal Point Park, keep on the list - Organize parking at Coal Point Park, identify spaces for park users only
- Uniform sign installation at all city parks, trails and campgrounds – keep
- Beach Signage – keep

Under 3+ Year Projects

- remove second bullet point on consolidation
- Keep support efforts for a multi-use recreational facility (SPARC) 1 additional year or until completed
- Remove fourth item regarding increasing programming for seniors, et al as it is not appropriate under the auspices of a strategic plan.
 - Staff will try to have additional information on the compliance issue at a future meeting

It was determined that the current mission statement could use some work, commissioners are requested to email suggestions to Deputy City Planner Engebretsen and she will prepare a draft for the February meeting.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. Commission Annual Calendar 2016/2017

Add to Calendar for March or April Annual Public Art report to Council, Chair Steffy reviewed the items for the February meeting agenda.

B. Commissioner Attendance at City Council Meetings 2016/2017

Chair Steffy will attend the November 21st meeting and Commissioner Archibald will attend the December 5th Council meeting. Commissioner Ashmun will attend a meeting in January pending email from staff and Commissioner Sharpe will attend February 27th Council meeting.

C. Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Strategic Plan 2016

There were no comments on this item.

D. Email received on changes within the Homer Area Trail organization

A brief discussion on the HAT group and the Trails group joining forces and Commissioner Ashmun will mention this idea to Commissioner Lowney.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen thanked the commissioners for all the hard work they will be done on time tonight and welcomed the new commissioners.

Deputy City Clerk Krause commented on her training that she received during the annual conference this past week regarding parliamentary procedure intends to implement what she has learned and the location of where to find current animal control and action taken this year by Council. She complimented the commission on getting through a full agenda in a reasonable time and staying focused tonight.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Ashmun commented on missing the last meeting and not quite as prepared as she should be for this meeting and her new granddaughter is really cute.

Commissioner Roedl commented it was a good meeting, thank you for being here.

Commissioner Fair commented on signage being important especially placing it near the entrances and being large enough to see it. He referred to Jack Gist park and described the entrance noting there is no delineation of where the park property begins.

Commissioner Archibald commented on dogs and leash laws and cleaning up after their pets on the beach; he also mentioned that the Pratt wants to get a hold of some of those doggie bags; he suggested bringing back their recommendations for the new commissioners.

Commissioner Hart thanked staff and commented on the Clerk's working the elections and how busy it was; she then mentioned putting security cameras up at Ben Walters Park too since that bathroom always get graphitized.

Commissioner Sharpe commented the fun he had meeting up with other commissioners and visiting the parks and trails and looks forward to doing it again.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Steffy commented that it was an excellent meeting and they accomplished quite a bit tonight. He related an incident recently with a gentleman who also commented on the beach policies and he was

concerned that the signage for the outfall line was not in a very visible spot. He also updated the commission on the new pathways project, purpose and provided a summary of what that group worked on at the second meeting.

A brief discussion ensued on being similar to the needs assessment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Steffy adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m. The next REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk

Approved:_____