

Session 11-04, a Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Bremicker at 5:45 p.m. on May 19, 2011 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS BREMICKER, HARRALD, BRANN, CUMMING, LILLIBRIDGE

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER CARLINSCHAUER (EXCUSED)

TELEPHONIC: COMMISSIONER ARCHIBALD

STAFF: PARKS MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR ANGIE OTTESON
SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR ANNE MARIE HOLEN
RECREATION SPECIALIST MIKE ILLG
DEPUTY CITY CLERK I RENEE KRAUSE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

HARRALD/BRANN - MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES *(Minutes are approved during Regular Meetings.)*

A. Meeting Minutes for the March 17, 2011 Regular Meeting

HARRALD/BRANN -MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

There was no discussion.

The Minutes for March 17, 2011 were approved by consensus.

B. Meeting Minutes for the April 19, 2011 Special Meeting

LILLIBRIDGE/HARRALD – MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

There was no discussion.

The minutes were approved by consensus of the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no comments from the public present.

VISITORS

Eden Badajos – Representing the Disc Golf players in Homer and a member of the Jack Gist Park Association. He is very excited about establishing a Disc Golf Course in Homer. There are a number of local players and looking for a permanent place to play. He stated that Jack Gist Park is a perfect location. The game of disc golf is open to all ages and skill levels. It can be done on a casual level or professional level. He has a list of various individuals who have volunteered to help install the course. He does have a number of local businesses that have expressed a desire to sponsor the game.

A location behind the ball fields has already been selected and a proposed course tentatively selected when they are able to perform the actual construction. There are approximately 40-50 persons in town that currently play the game. This has a potential of growing quickly once there is an established course.

Mr. Badajos went on to explain the possible future growth of the sport and its benefit as a probable economic engine. He provided information on the popularity of this sport throughout the state and that Anchorage actually has several courses available. He pinpointed more specifically the area they are looking at within Jack Gist Park.

Commissioner Cumming noted for the record that the idea was previously approved by the Commission and Council a few years ago. She further inquired if the equipment that will be used will be approved equipment, if the installation is of a permanent nature and if the group will be seeking or has grants.

Mr. Badajos stated that the equipment will be official professional equipment and it is to be installed as a semi-permanent fixture. They are PDAG approved targets. The bases will set in concrete and the baskets will be able to remove as needed. The T- pads will be constructed out of concrete also. Trails to each target will be created comprised of a walk-able dirt and/or gravel pathway through the existing landscape. His group is looking for sponsors for each basket with the intent to have a plaque with the name(s) of the sponsor at each target basket. The cost of the equipment is \$350.00 plus shipping from the Lower 48 and installation so they are seeking \$500.00 sponsorship for each basket. The target will be padlocked to the bases for security measures.

The time period to obtain the equipment all depends on the fundraising efforts and the group is hopeful to have all the funding in place prior to the end of summer. It is the goal to have the equipment purchased and installed before the end of summer but it all depends on how long it takes to raise the funds needed.

Commissioner Harrald inquired how other small cities funded their courses such as Girdwood. Mr. Badajos explained that with Girdwood it is actually part of the City of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department and the equipment was provided by the City but the course was created/installed through volunteer labor.

Commissioner Lillibridge commented that she approved the idea that the Disc Golf Course doubled as a trail so it had a dual use.

Mr. Badajos responded to a question about interaction between ball players and the disc golf participants such as being hit by a stray softball. He noted that they would work in concert with the Softball Association and try not to schedule events on the same day as a game and they would definitely work with folks to take every precaution necessary to ensure players of their safety.

Jessica Marx, city resident, president of the Homer Softball Association – Adult League and a member of the Jack Gist User Association. She explained the size and location of the two usable fields being used by adults and high school teams. She stated that earlier a project was awarded to fix issues at the park. She noted that currently on the wish list is to have three workable fields, one primarily for the high School student, restroom facilities, a snack shack, a score board, more parking away from foul ball territory and a playground area. The short term is to have a playground for the kids to play and be out of the way. Drainage is the biggest problem to date. Some of this will be taken care this summer. Responding to Commissioner Harrald she stated that they currently have approximately 10 registered teams with 14 or 15 members which amount to as many as 140 to 150 volunteers plus the spectators that attend the games.

Ms. Marx stated that they currently have a connex that will be a large storage. They have a work party planned to paint, etc. this weekend. She is looking forward to seeing the fields next year after the

professional hydroseeding has been done. It was suggested that the Red Shed to be removed from Karen Hornaday Park and this could be salvaged and reused as a Storage Shed/Snack Shed. Commissioner Brann noted that it is quite large. As it stands now she has been told from Public Works that water and sewer is a few years off. Ms. Marx stated that they did purchase a 2000 gallon water tank but it was destroyed. She further confirmed that there are three sets of bleachers for spectators. The scoreboard is maintained by the children.

Commissioner Lillibridge asked what the Commission could do for them in the next couple of months. Ms. Marx responded that the most important is a safe play area for the children. She noted that the contractor working on the fields now would have extra materials to place some sand in that area it could be arranged. She felt the only concern was finding the most appropriate place. Ms. Marx suggested that if the parking is relocated to an area preferred by the Public Works Director then that would leave an area away from everything including the mud.

Ms. Marx stated the Homer Softball Association (HSA) is a certified non-profit and each member is charged an annual \$45.00 fee. Each team is charged an annual fee of \$650.00. This goes towards insurance. The Jack Gist Park Association has approximately \$4000-5000.00. This was/is combined with the HAS and is to be used to take care of a few things that they need to be addressed. The city will be conducting some projects and this funding came from the stimulus funding in the amount of \$55,000.00.

Ms. Marx thanked the Commissioners for allowing her to speak. She stated the game schedule for the season and invited the Commissioners to attend any and all games.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items scheduled for reconsideration.

STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Recreation Report – Mike Illg

Mr. Illg reviewed his report summary for the Commissioners. The following items were discussed briefly:

- Update on the Adopt a Park program – It was under new business and it is a very good idea. This is being fast tracked to council to get it implemented. The Clerk noted the updated documents were included in the laydowns the commissioners received.

- Jack Gist Memorandum of Agreement – waiting on a decision on who the responsible person would be to sign the agreement. The Jack Gist Park Association was required to obtain insurance. He noted that this document was needed to get the Disc Golf off the ground. There were a few outstanding items that were required from Mr. Badajos and those have now been provided. He suggested a work party to get things started on this course. - Support for establishing a Disc Golf Course benefits the community in that it is a great economic engine with the potential for tournaments to be held in Homer. He would also like to encourage the Commission to donate to sponsor a basket and he personally will start the fund off at \$50.00.

- He attended a meeting between the Kenai Peninsula School board and the City of Homer with City Manager Wrede on partnering to support artificial turf for a soccer field and putting this on the CIP list.

- The Spit Run will be held this year after all. South Peninsula Hospital, Parks and Recreation Department and the Homer News will be involved with it a little bit. It will be a fund raiser for the Homer High School runners with a suggested ten dollar entry fee.

- The Homer Education Recreation Center (HERC) Update – A Request for Proposals was advertised and two proposals were received. He stated it was not appropriate for a city entity to submit a bid. He acknowledged that the building would be perfect. Two proposals were received from Fireweed Academy and Boys and Girls Club. There was no recommendation to council as there were a few items of business to clear up. The Committee directed the City Manager to meet with the proposers to flesh out their

proposals and to also look into returning the building back to the Borough. Discussion ensued on the commission submitting a letter of support to City Council members. It was noted that a few of the city departments would be relocating on a temporary basis during construction and renovation.

HARRALD/BRANN - MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION SEND A MEMORANDUM EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER USING THE HOMER RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL CENTER FOR CITY OPERATED RECREATIONAL ENDEAVORS, STAFF AND PROGRAMS.

There was discussion that sending a recommendation to council may encourage them to include the in the use of the building community recreation programs, greenhouse, programs and staff. It is hoped that a sharing of the building with all interested parties could be developed.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Further discussion continued on the need for a soccer field, use of school fields, a city owned field, the difference in school fields and borough fields and the cost of artificial turf. Mr. Illg was advocating for developing a partnership with defined uses for public and school uses. Right now they have permission to use the field but if the Maintenance Department Staff decides even last minute the use of the field can be denied. It would definitely benefit the community if a soccer field was put on a focus list or priority goal as the popularity of the sport increases throughout the age groups each year. It was noted that Commissioner CarlinSchauer was absent due to regional games today. He further noted that the most difficult part of his job was scheduling the use of the fields and what made it difficult was the fields are Borough fields not School District Fields and the Borough takes unique ownership and cancelled events at the drop of a hat. This summer will be a trial period where there will be no one scheduling the fields. He further noted that community use is very limited so a designated soccer field city owned would be very beneficial. He does not believe there is much that can be done by the Commission. He further clarified the problems with the fields and what fields are available for public use. He stated that the need for a soccer field would benefit one of the largest area user groups.

Commissioner Lillibridge summarized the number one choice was a partnership with the school district and borough to use the existing fields in a harmonious manner and then find land where it would be appropriate to establish a soccer field. Her question was whether this was a realistic goal.

Mr. Illg responded that it boiled down to money. He said it would be great but at this time the City does not have the means to take on maintenance and the other requirements at this time. It was further noted that none of the existing ball fields could be used or changed to a soccer field and he would support Commissioner CarlinSchauer in that if you are going to do that then you should do it right. He would have to further review the Land Allocation Plan to determine the best spot for a field in response to a question posed by Commissioner Cumming.

Mr. Illg stated that other fields throughout the State have received funding from the State. He believes it would enhance the relationship between the School District and the City.

Commissioner Harrauld expressed agreement with a shared concept between all parties and believes this would encourage more buy-in and be economically advantageous.

Mr. Illg noted the benefits of artificial turf – lower maintenance costs, remove the need of indoor facility use, remove use of other fields at the elementary schools, make recreation more accessible. The amount of money needed would be over a million dollars. This discussion has been going on for five to six years. The life span on an artificial turf is twenty years. There are artificial turf fields in larger populated areas in

Alaska. It was noted that \$0.82 of every dollar goes to the district schools so it is a good time to address this need. Mr. Illg stated that at this time no action is requested from the Commission.

There was no further discussion.

B. Parks & Campgrounds – Angie Otteson

Ms. Otteson encouraged the Commissioners to express their support for the Adopt A Park program and Amending the Homer City Code to allow them to accept donations. She commented that Ms. Holen did a wonderful job on the Adopt A Park Program information.

Ms. Otteson indicated that there was a Work day scheduled at Karen Hornaday Park playground on Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. She invited the Commissioners to attend. She thanked Commissioner Brann for being volunteer extraordinaire. They will be repairing, painting, and cleaning up.

Ms. Otteson noted that the Bayview Park has received a boat donation from Mako Haggerty with the only stipulation that it is painted orange and white. It is not in ready condition and will need some sanding and the like in order to be usable and safe for the children. This will be a great feature for the playground. Work at Bayview Park is tentatively scheduled for June, no date as yet. The concept is a natural playground using logs, trails, etc.

June 4, 2011 is Homer Beautification Day and they have about 10,000 plants that they are getting ready for planting.

Commissioner Harrald thanked staff for the research and the efforts that has gone into the Adopt A Park Program information.

Ms. Otteson stated she believes that this will really benefit the Parks Department since the budget has been cut so that even regular maintenance is difficult to keep up on with the reduced staff. It will also help with the volunteer efforts too.

There was no further discussion.

C. General Report – Renee Krause

Ms. Krause stated that the Park Day on the agenda under new business and the Commission was required to make a decision if it wanted to have a park day this year. A Saturday, normally in August is selected and at which park they would like to have it.

There was a brief discussion on selecting Jack Gist Park, dedication ceremony, games of disc golf, etc. Ms. Krause stated that further discussion on this can be addressed under New Business.

Commissioner Harrald expressed surprise that the Spit Committee has only held one meeting. She thought it was timely when the Commission agreed to create this sub-committee since the Spit Comprehensive Plan was being reviewed and approved. She inquired who was appointed from the Commission. It was noted that Commissioner CarlinSchauer, Archibald, and Lillibridge. Commissioner Lillibridge stated that due to personal schedules they have not met. Commissioner Harrald opined that they have lost the reason the committee was formed. Commissioner Lillibridge expressed a strong response that they have not lost the reason to meet. She did not want to lose focus on the parks and recreation on the Spit. She believed the Spit Parks Walk held last month to be part of that committee work.

There was further dialogue between Commissioners Lillibridge and Harrald on the understanding of the original intent and creation of the Spit Parks Recreation Committee and that the Spring Park Walk Through conducted last month was not applicable.

Chair Bremicker interposed that Commissioner Lillibridge should be allowed to establish a meeting of the Spit Parks and Recreation Committee before the July 21, 2011 meeting of the full commission. She can then submit a final report and recommendations to the Commission. He added that he has a bit of leeway with these committees. If it apparent that the Spit Parks Committee has items they will be addressing they can still meet as long as it is on a regular basis. Commissioner Lillibridge stated that she could do this.

Chair Bremicker requested if there were any additional questions from the Commission on the report.

There was no further discussion.

Commissioner Brann left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

D. Kachemak Drive Path Committee – Ingrid Harrald

Commissioner Harrald stated that the committee has two recommendations for commission. The following was reported to the Commission

- Two routes have been determined so far for Kachemak Drive.

- the first one a more recreational route from the base of the spit to the Airport Access Road.

It follows along the bluff just above the high tide line. The access road is on the right side heading eastward across from the other state offices. This is approximately ½ mile in length. The Committee has already removed brush to offer what the path would be like when approval is received. Commissioner Brann is submitting a proposal to the Park Service for trail design funding which was encouraged by a representative of the Department.

The Kachemak Drive Path Committee recommends approval by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission the formal proposal for a Level I or Level II non-motorized recreational trail starting at the base of the Spit following the base of the bluff paralleling Kachemak Drive eastward and ending at the Airport Access Road to the Beach.

It is the wish of the Committee that the Commission discusses this and then forwards a request of support from City Council. She stated that there will be Open House on June 23, 2011. Commissioner Harrald was not sure what the next step should be on this matter. Commissioner Cumming did not believe all things were discussed and this was not ready to be submitted to the City Council. Commissioner Harrald agreed that this was not ready to be submitted to Council yet.

- This will be on the Commission agenda for the June meeting.

- The Committee will be hosting the Open House to be held in Council Chambers from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. There will be three proposals presented to the public for input.

- The second route solution is to have shoulders designated for cyclists.

Ms. Krause interrupted the discussion to declare that time was running short and if they continued on this agenda item there were four items on the agenda that would not be addressed and would possibly create problems if not addressed during this meeting since Commissioner Lillibridge announced that she must leave early. Further discussion was terminated due to time constraints.

E. Spit Parks and Recreation Committee

There was no meeting held the past month.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

No public hearings were scheduled.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Changing the Frequency of the Regular Meetings

Chair Bremicker summarized the memorandum for the record. Clarification was made regarding the need to make a decision on it at this meeting since they were running short of time. Ms. Krause explained that this item was on the agenda and discussed during the March regular meeting and this is the second review and hearing on changing the meeting frequency to monthly year round. It was noted that it could be postponed to the June meeting.

The Commission agreed to postpone this item to the June meeting.

B. Findings and Report on Spring Walk Through for Spit Parks and Recreation Areas –
Commissioner Harrald

Commissioner Harrald apologized as she has not been able to submit the notes from the Spit Park Spring Walk Through. It was requested due to time constraints to postpone this item to the June meeting.

The Commission agreed by consensus to postpone this item.

C. Further Discussion on Karen Hornaday Park Funding for Road Re-Alignment and Issues
Commissioner Cumming

The emails received as a laydown were resulting from questions and concerns received from Commissioner Archibald regarding the funding and recommendations that were made regarding the funds received for Karen Hornaday Park.

It was agreed by consensus to postpone this item until the June meeting. Commissioner Cumming distributed a handout and this will be included in the packet.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Adopt-A-Park Program

1. Memorandum from Anne Marie Holen dated May 9, 2011 Re: Proposed Adopt a Park Program

Chair Bremicker invited Ms. Holen to speak to the Commission.

Ms. Holen stated that there was no additional information on the program. She acknowledged the input from various staff members and expressed that the City Manager would like to take this to the next meeting of City Council with the support of the Commission. She informed the Commissioners that with the assistance of Ms. Otteson, and research on how other cities implemented their program the wheel did not need to be re-invented. They designed the program to give Ms. Otteson a bit more latitude in working with the various donors and groups.

HARRALD/LILLIBRIDGE - MOVED TO SEND A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE ADOPT A PARK PROGRAM.

The commissioners expressed how great having a program like this would provide a way for someone to help out the parks and recreation. This allowed a donor to provide items that were needed also.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Holen for all the work that she put into this document and program.

- B. Amending Homer City Code 1.74, Allowing the Commission to Accept Donations and Establish a Fund to Deposit the Donations.
 - 1. Memorandum from Deputy City Clerk Krause dated May 11, 2011

Chair Bremicker summarized the memorandum and requested input from staff on the process. Ms. Krause explained that this was on the agenda to introduce. She explained that a request for an ordinance was required to start the process. It would be great to have this presented the same time as the Adopt A Park program but there are steps that need to be followed since City Code requires change.

HARRALD/LILLIBRIDGE -MOVED TO REQUEST A DRAFT ORDINANCE AMENDING HOMER CITY CODE 1.74 ALLOWING THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND THE COMMISSION TO SOLICIT FOR AND ACCEPT DONATIONS AND ESTABLISH A FUND TO DEPOSIT THOSE DONATIONS.

A brief discussion on the process that was required and what steps the Commission needed to take to allow them to accept donations. It was stated that the Adopt A Program was a good venue but this changed the City Code allowing the Commission and Department accept donations following the examples for the Library and Public Arts Committee. The request will be sent through the City Clerk to the City Attorney to draft the Ordinance. It will be on the June agenda.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion.

- C. Park Day

LILLIBRIDGE/HARRALD – MOVED TO ESTABLISH AUGUST 20, 2011 AS A PARK DAY – WORK DAY AT JACK GIST PARK.

A brief discussion was held on what they could do during and it was noted that details can be worked out at the next meeting.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION, UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Strategic Plan 2011
- B. Commissioner Attendance Schedule for City Council Meetings
- C. Above the Grade – Is Your Playground Safe? Article from The Bridge, a Service of the Alaska Municipal League.
- D. Emails and Information on User Group Advocates for the Karen Hornaday Playground
- E. Emails and Correspondence Received from the Public and Alaska Department of Transportation on the proposed Kachemak Drive Pedestrian Bike Path.
- F. Commission Annual Calendar of Events

There was no discussion on the informational materials.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

There were no audience comments.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL MEMBER *(if one is assigned)*

None.

COMMENTS OF STAFF MEMBERS

There were no staff comments.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Cumming distributed a lay down on her understanding of what has been recommended by the Commission. She requested clarification on the monies that was allocated for the projects at Karen Hornaday Park. Chair Bremicker and Commissioner Harrald confirmed that this is what was agreed at the Special meeting in April and the Ordinance reflects those decisions.

Commissioner Harrald requested the Soccer Association people as visitors at the next meeting. She will invite them.

Commissioner Lillibridge commented that she will familiarize herself with the information that has been presented and that this was a great meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Bremicker apologized for the disjointed meeting tonight. There was a lot to discuss and a lot of information.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission Chair Bremicker adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The next regular meeting is **THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2011** at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

Approved: _____