

Session 12-03, a Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Bumpo Bremicker at 5:38 p.m. on February 16, 2012 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

**PRESENT:** COMMISSIONERS BRANN, BREMICKER, ARCHIBALD, LILLIBRIDGE

**TELEPHONIC:** COMMISSIONER LONEY

**STAFF:** PARKS MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR ANGIE OTTESON  
COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR KATIE KOESTER  
RECREATION SPECIALIST MIKE ILLG  
DEPUTY CITY CLERK I RENEE KRAUSE

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Chair Bremicker called for a motion to approve the agenda.

LILLIBRIDGE/BRANN – MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

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

A. Meeting Minutes for January 19, 2012 Regular Meeting

Chair Bremicker requested a motion to approve the minutes.

BRANN/ARCHIBALD – MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS WRITTEN.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Wayne Aderhold, city resident, commented on the Campground Host Volunteer Program and that he is in favor of any kind of citizen involvement and protecting the campgrounds and even trails. He believes that if you don't get control in the beginning and take care of the problems they can spiral out of control. He is all for it and he would gladly be involved if it came to the Library Trail. He acknowledged the Police are busy and agreed that setting up a program similar to a Neighborhood Watch would be beneficial to the community. He supports the Commission fully in these efforts.

Phil Needham, representing the Little League, advocated for funding to conduct improvements to the ballfields and amenities. Mr. Needham provided some history on the buildings, the number of kids that participate yearly in Little League; scholarships are given each season too. There are approximately 20 teams and at one time they had nine teams in town. As time goes by P.E. is not as important in the schools anymore and kids today are getting less exercise and play than they used to; he listed the benefits to playing baseball. He provided a prioritized list of the estimated repairs needed.

Chris Donatch, former president of the Little League, commented on the need for funding and the service that the Little League provides. She noted that they try to keep the cost low; they have interest from teams to come to Homer but have refused to come down and play due to safety hazards. She noted that they have 32 businesses supporting the association. Each year there are always costs for equipment and travel. The repairs have been piecemeal. These fields are in use for eight weeks in the season. They have sought grants as well but have not received any. They even started an afterschool program.

Mike Hayes, current President, Little League, commented that the Homer Little League Constitution is the local league shall be implant firmly into the minds of the children of the community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and respect for authority, so that they may be well adjusted, stronger and happier children and will grow to be good, decent, healthy and trustworthy citizens. All directors, officers and members shall bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the winning of games is secondary in the molding of future citizens is of prior importance.

Angie Otteson responded to questions from the commissioners regarding a formal agreement between the City of Homer and Little League. Mr. Illg commented on an agreement process with outside users groups starting with Jack Gist Park and that it is still a work in progress with the Attorney and the Public Works Director. There are some outstanding concerns between neighboring property owners and the park.

Commissioner Archibald reminded those present that the Parks and Recreation maintenance budget in miniscule in comparison to the overall needs and that it was nice to hear from the Little League folks.

Beth Cumming, resident, commented on Karen Hornaday Park and implementation of Phase I, she broke it down into three sections, first - \$90,000 for Day Use Area, she recalled a comment that the restroom does not need to be replaced, but the roof needs to be repaired and should be addressed in the next few months; the picnic shelter roof needs repairs also; she did not know where the \$90,000 amount came from; she believes everyone should be on the same page; she hopes they don't vote to distribute anymore funds because there needs to be more conversation; she opined that Phase I came about from city employees and Mayor Hornaday and she appreciates the recent Commission involvement but thinks there should be a round table approach; the \$55,000 for northern parking improvements she believed addressed the area between the picnic shelter and red shed and that this area should be grassed in, called Homer Break up and lived with; She commented on \$50,000 for preliminary engineering and what the commission previously designated it for.

There were no further comments from the audience.

## **VISITORS**

### **A. Devony Lehner, Homer Soil & Water Conservation District, Diamond Creek Management Plan**

Ms. Lehner provided a laydown of information and status update on the development of the Management Plan for Diamond Creek. Homer Soil & Water has been tasked with developing this management plan over this summer. She noted that there will be numerous opportunities for public and city input on the plan. She provided a history on how this recreational area started and how the City of Homer was involved and what will be included in the management plan.

Ms. Lehner responded that the plan must be completed by the federal fiscal year, a draft will be provided to the City for refinement in accordance with the public input the city receives down the road. It was noted that the property is owned by the City but not within the City Limits. Ms. Lehner will make sure the commission is informed on the progress of Homer Soil & Water. She responded that she was not aware of a formal agreement between the City of Homer and Homer Soil & Water.

There was no further discussion.

**B. Mike Illg, Recreational Coordinator - Recreational Needs Assessment & Presentation**

Mr. Illg provided a PowerPoint presentation on the benefits of recreation to a community. He noted that the Community Recreation program is currently operating in partnership with the High school and there are more and more restrictions being placed on the availability of school facilities for Community Recreation uses.

Mr. Illg informed the Commission that recreation, parks, and leisure services have become important social institutions in contemporary North America. It is important to develop adequate mission statements, identify goals plan, organize, and carry out programs and develop and maintain facilities. Some ways to fund recreation is the following:

- General Taxes: Basic General Fund from property/sales taxes
- Special Taxes: Specific taxes to support Parks & Rec, ex. taxes on alcohol, bed tax, fuel tax, etc.
- Millage tax: Specific tax leveled against assessed value of residential or commercial property.
- Bonds: Used for major capital purchases such as land or facility. Allows deferred payments to be spread out over a certain number of years.
- Government Grants: Federal and State grants such as Land & Water Conservation, Community Development Block Grants or state trails grants.
- Foundation Grants: Grants from non-profit charitable foundations to support specific programs/goals/projects; ex. Rasmussen Foundation, Homer Foundation.
- Fees & Charges: Provides an important source of income to support Parks & Rec. It includes: entrance fees, admission fees, rental fees, user fees, license/permit fees and special service fees.

Mr. Illg explained that a Recreational Needs Assessment, as related to a recreation program planning, deals with the recreational needs and wants of the local population. A needs assessment considers the physical or natural resources and the balance in supporting the criteria for passive and active recreation types. An example of the recreation standard is one soccer field per 10,000 people. Needs assessment is a process of adopting a standard, take an inventory of areas and facilities, determining population and Then looking at existing and future needs areas and facilities. Briefly defined, needs represent the physical, emotional, social, intellectual, and other drives or other duties that individuals may have that can be met through leisure activities. Needs assessments contribute to the efficient delivery of services to the people in the community or region by an organization. Organization personnel may have a good grasp of the needs and desires of the residents. Every few years studies should be conducted to obtain demand data from client and potential clients.

The use of various strategies and techniques include focus groups, citizen advisory boards, key communicators, survey forms, individual and household surveys, program/service evaluation by participants and participation patterns. Mr. Illg provided a draft Step by Step process to conduct a Needs Assessment.

Mr. Illg responded to commissioners questions regarding future use of the HERC building in a recreational capacity. He did not hit on the economic benefits to a city when they have a great recreational program. He stated that the Commission requesting a Needs Assessment be performed and that will require some funding as he doesn't have the expertise and experience in gathering and disseminating information.

There was a brief discussion on the HERC building and possible future uses, summer use, existing problems and inviting user groups to inform the Commissioners on their progress. The commission requested data from Mr. Illg regarding cancelling programs because of School District priorities.

There was no further discussion.

**RECONSIDERATION**

There were no items scheduled for reconsideration.

## **STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS**

### A. Community Recreation Report – Mike Illg

Mr. Illg reported that they are working with some groups to sponsor some recreational programs for youth, and requests to use the HERC for private parties.

### B. Spit Parks and Recreation Committee Report – Tricia Lillibridge

Commissioner Lillibridge distributed a Draft Flyer for the proposed “Meet the Trucks” event at Mariner Park and the next Spit Parks and Recreation meeting is scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. in the conference room at City Hall. She welcomed the audience to attend as they were looking for additional members for the committee.

### C. Kachemak Drive Path Committee Report – Dave Brann

Commissioner Brann reported that there was still work being done on preparing for a path design and information packet that he is working on with Kevin Walker; he is still pursuing signage along Kachemak Drive and permission to cross airport property. He is working with the City Manager on getting letters sent to the Property Owners regarding input on the proposed path. He has had a teleconference with Ms. Biloon on the proposed path.

### D. Karen Hornaday Park Committee Report – Robert Archibald

Commissioner Archibald reported that at the recent meeting the discussed the improvements and needs of Little League, Vice Chair, Ralph Broshes was elected; discussed the Camp Host Program that there are negatives and positives; the Committee passed a recommendation which is included in the packet tonight, that there should be no additional improvements until engineering and design services are procured specifically for the road, parking, creek trail and drainage issues directly affecting those areas. The committee did discuss funding and the participation of all the user groups it was noted the funding is out there and managing the parks takes money;

Commissioner Lillibridge requested the Little League submit their stats on letterhead so it can be used to by the commission in support of the needed funding.

Commissioner Lowney recommended a copy of the Park Master Plan be displayed on a bulletin board during the HoPP build week, this will let the public know what needs to be done, what benefits there are, and what more is planned for the park.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

No public hearings were scheduled.

## **PENDING BUSINESS**

### A. Recommendation to City Council to Establish a Campground Host Program

Chair Bremicker introduced the item into the record.

The commission entertained a brief discussion on the benefits of having this program and getting it implemented this year at Karen Hornaday Park.

BRANN/LILLIBRIDGE – MOVED TO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL ESTABLISH THE VOLUNTEER HOST PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF HOMER PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS WITH THE FIRST HOST TO BE ESTABLISHED AT KAREN HORNADAY PARK CAMPGROUND NO LATER THAN THE 2013 SEASON AND SOONER IF POSSIBLE.

There was a brief discussion on changing the motion to have it implemented this year and why that may be too restrictive and not get council approval. It was additionally noted by staff that there were multiple considerations and liabilities to consider including compensation or stipend. It was agreed that they may be able to have camp hosts without offering any compensation. Staff commented that the preferred time period would be the whole season or a minimum of four week commitment especially if there was a required training to be conducted.

VOTE. YES. BRANN, ARCHIBLAD, LILLIBRIDGE, LOWNEY, BREMICKER

Motion carried.

B. Review and Recommendations to Council on Additional Funding Allocations for Karen Hornaday Park

Chair Bremicker introduced the item by title and opened the floor for discussion.

Discussion proceeded and included an explanation of the recommendations presented to the commission at the January 5, 2012 special meeting by Ms. Koester; a laydown consisting of priority listed improvements submitted by Mr. Needham on behalf of the Little League organization for the ball fields and dugouts; and input from the commissioners. After lengthy discussion the following motions were made and passed by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Lillibridge had to leave the meeting at 7:50 p.m. for work.

BREMICKER/BRANN - MOVED TO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL ALLOCATES \$40,000 TO LITTLE LEAGUE FOR NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS TO FIELDS AND DUGOUTS AT KAREN HORNADAY PARK AND THAT ALL IMPROVEMENTS FOLLOW THE MASTER PLAN.

Brief discussion ensued on allocating the funds, recommending that the Little League seeks out grants to stretch this money; that the expenditures follow the master plan. It was acknowledged that this amount should give the organization on getting a good start on completing the list. The Commissioners requested that the Little League keep in communication with the commission through the committee.

VOTE. YES. BRANN, ARCHIBALD, LOWNEY, BREMICKER

Motion carried.

Mr. Needham thanked the Commissioners and will definitely keep in communication with the Commission.

Chair Bremicker next opened discussion on the parking lot improvements. He noted that it may be a tad time consuming addressing each recommendation separately but he opined that it was easier to address concerns, questions and possible comments on each item than as a whole.

Commissioner Archibald brought up the question of saving some of the funds for matching grants and what assurance did the Commission have that City Council will match the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Ms. Koester stated she was assured by the City Manager that they will be able to get additional match funding from Council and in the interest of assisting the Commission in allocating these funds, it was believed that this would give them more money in the end. The City Council and State Legislative body would like to see this existing funding used and as time goes by there may be more demands on these funds by other user groups.

BRANN/BREMICKER - MOVED TO ALLOCATE \$55,000 FOR NORTHERN PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MASTER PLAN.

Discussion clarified the \$50,000 originally allocated by Ordinance 11-22; concerns that there is nothing addressing the road alignment and removal of fill by the creek area; if the parking lot is changed, how would the city proceed with the road change. It was noted that if the road is relocated it would be moved further east and that area would need more improvements; using removed materials for future use. Further clarification was given on the location of the improvements in question.

VOTE. YES. BRANN, ARCHIBALD, LOWNEY, BREMICKER.

Motion carried.

Chair Bremicker next asked about recommending an allocation for Day Use Area. He read from the staff recommendation proposed by Ms. Koester, Repair and Improve Existing Shelter, Add Amenities, Turf Area and Drainage, etc.

BREMICKER/BRANN - MOVE TO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL ALLOCATE \$90,000 FOR DAY USE IMPROVEMENTS AS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MASTER PLAN.

A discussion on what the improvements entailed and clarification on the use of the funds and how staff developed their recommendation ensued.

VOTE. YES. BRANN, ARCHIBALD, LOWNEY, BREMICKER

Motion carried

Chair Bremicker wanted to address planning for the Trail along Woodard Creek and the Bridge over Woodard Creek. If the Commission or City is to go after more funding then they need to know the costs. Commissioners commented on the road realignment, the bridge over Woodard Creek and the proposed trail along the same creek. It was noted that the group that advocated for the bridge was not in the forefront any longer but that did not rule out they would return, there are alternatives to building a trail and building a bridge other than conventional methods. It was acknowledged that there was not enough money to cover all components too. Staff further commented that the Legislative grant did not include the road realignment and the trail would be a perfect fit for the Soil & Water Conservation grant.

BREMICKER/BRANN - MOVED TO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL ENCOURAGE CITY STAFF TO PERFORM THE RECOMMENDATIONS OUTLINED IN ORDINANCE 11-22 IN RELATION TO THE ROAD REALIGNMENT, BRIDGE OVER WOODARD CREEK AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS.

Discussion ensued on the purpose of forwarding this recommendation to Council.

VOTE. YES. BRANN, ARCHIBALD, LOWNEY, BREMICKER.

Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Archibald requested the Commission suspend the rules to reverse the order of items due to the late hour.

The commission agreed by consensus to suspend the rules.

A. Review and Recommendations for the 2012 Land Allocation Plan

Chair Bremicker thanked staff for including directions on how to proceed with the recommendations.

Staff provided a brief summary of what action the commission need to take and that there will be a Joint Worksession at 4:00 p.m. with City Council and Commissions, Committees and Board on the 2012 Land Allocation Plan.

Discussion ensued on various city owned parcels and made the following recommendations:

BRANN/LOWNEY - MOVED TO RECOMMEND PARCEL NUMBER 17719209, PAGE C-5, BE RETAINED FOR GREEN SPACE RECREATIONAL USES AND NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR LAND TRADE AND CHANGE THE ZONING AS REQUIRED.

There was a brief discussion that this would be a good spot for soccer fields or some similar sports field.

VOTE. YES. BRANN, LOWNEY, BREMICKER, ARCHIBALD

Motion carried.

BRANN/ARCHIBALD - MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT PARCEL NUMBER 18103117, PAGE B-5, BE IMPROVED AS RECOMMENDED IN THE SPIT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, THAT THE CAMPGROUND BE UPGRADED AND IMPROVED AND PROHIBIT DREDGE SPOILS FROM BEING PLACED ON THE PARCEL.

There was a brief discussion.

VOTE. YES. LOWNEY, ARCHIBALD, BREMICKER, BRANN

Motion carried.

LOWNEY/BREMICKER - MOVED TO FURTHER RECOMMEND THAT PARCELS USED FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES OR INTENT ON THE HOMER SPIT HAVE THE ZONING CHANGED FROM MARINE INDUSTRIAL TO OPEN SPACE RECREATIONAL, TO INCREASE THE DIVERSITY OF THE HOMER SPIT.

There was a brief discussion on the possible opposition and the value that recreation brings to the Spit and the City as a whole.

VOTE. YES. LOWNEY, BREMICKER, BRANN, ARCHIBALD

Motion carried.

BREMICKER/ARCHIBALD - MOVED TO RECOMMEND PARCEL NUMBER 17910001, 17911005 PAGE E-25 BE OFFERED FOR SALE TO A CONSERVATION GROUP OR SIMILAR PURPOSE AND THE FUNDS RECEIVED DESIGNATED FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

There was a brief discussion.

VOTE. YES. BRANN, ARCHIBALD, BREMICKER, LOWNEY

Motion carried.

ARCHIBALD/BRANN – MOVED TO RECOMMEND PARCEL NUMBERS 18101030, 18101032 AND 17940107, PAGE E-25 REMAINS AS PREVIOUSLY DESIGNATED.

There was a brief discussion on the benefits that the proposed Pedestrian Bike path would be for part of this area.

VOTE. YES. BRANN, ARCHIBALD, LOWNEY, BREMICKER

Motion carried.

MOVED TO RECOMMEND PARCEL NUMBERS 1810108 AND 1810114, PAGE C-11, HAVE CLARIFICATION ON DESIGNATION FOR APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATION TO BE MADE.

There was a brief discussion.

VOTE. YES. BRANN, ARCHIBALD, BREMICKER, LOWNEY

Motion carried.

BRANN/ARCHIBALD – MOVED TO RECOMMEND PARCEL 17717406 AND 17717407, PAGE C-10, BE RETAINED AS OPEN VIEW SPACE AND PUBLIC BEACH ACCESS AND NOT BE SOLD.

There was a brief discussion on the lack of beach access in this area.

VOTE. YES. BRANN, ARCHIBALD, LOWNEY, BREMICKER

Motion carried.

BREMICKER/BRANN – MOVED TO SELL PARCEL NUMBER 17908050, PAGE C-8, TO A CONSERVATION GROUP OR SIMILAR PURPOSE AND RETAIN FUNDS FOR USE IMPROVEING EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

There was a brief discussion.

VOTE. YES. BREMICKER, LOWNEY, BRANN, ARCHIBALD

Motion carried.

BRANN/ARCHIBALD - MOVED TO RECOMMEND PARCEL NUMBER 17520009, PAGE C-6, BE MAINTAINED AND DESIGNATED AS A PUBLIC TRAIL AND BEACH ACCESS ROUTE.

There was a brief discussion.

VOTE. YES. ARCHIBALD, LOWNEY, BREMICKER, BRANN

Motion carried.

ARCHIBALD/LOWNEY – MOVED TO RETAIN PARCEL 17504003, PAGE E-8, FOR FUTURE PARK EXPANSION.

There was a brief discussion .

VOTE. YES. ARCHIBALD, BRANN, LOWNEY, BREMICKER



Motion carried.

B. Review and Recommendations for a Pocket Park on the Corner of Klondike and Kachemak Way

Chair Bremicker introduced the item for discussion.

Commissioner Archibald was concerned that the property owner is not aware of the proposal. Discussion was entertained on inviting the property owner to comment at a future meeting.

Chair Bremicker stated he has looked at the location and it would be a nice spot for a bench, in front of the spruce trees but anything more than that or on the other side would be intrusive to the property owner. The commission made comments on contacting the Property owner; getting the actual property lines; installing a nice cedar fence; concerns on acceptability; maintenance and access to that property. There is potential for public use with the college, city hall, and galleries nearby. Consideration should be given to requesting the college to consider maintenance if created.

BREMICKER/BRANN - MOVED TO RECOMMEND INVITING THE LANDOWNER AND STAFF TO ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF THE COMMISSION ON CREATING A POCKET PARK ON THE CORNER OF KLONDIKE AND KACHEMAK WAY.

There was no further discussion.

The motion was approved by consensus of the commission.

**INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

A. Memorandum dated January 25, 2012 Re: Recommendation to Approve Resolution Expressing Support for the Homer Playground Project

B. Memorandum dated January 25, 2012 Re: Recommendation to Approve a Request from Homer Playground Project for Additional Funding

There was no discussion on the informational materials.

**COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

Lindianne Sarno, resident, hopes that whatever happens to the creek that the commission keeps looking at preserving the creek and watershed and that there is no erosion and that it is protected.

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

None.

**COMMENTS OF STAFF MEMBERS**

Mike Illg thanked the commissioners for their time and efforts.

Ms. Krause praised the commissioners on their expediency through a very long agenda.

**COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Brann thanked Ms. Krause for the motions it really saved time in word-smithing and appreciated Commissioner Lowney for hanging in there on the phone for the whole meeting and he appreciated hearing about the Diamond Creek property.

Commissioner Archibald commented it was a really interesting evening, Bumpo runs a tight ship and earlier he was a little deflated since he was involved in the beginning with the Woodard Creek project, you just have to move on and there are more funds out there.

Commissioner Lowney commented that she was getting familiar with the operations of the commission, she is glad to be a part of it and the commissioners are very supportive, in reference to being a little deflated, she is totally amazed at the levels of dedication of the user groups, she doesn't feel that anyone is giving up and that they stick with the master plan and see it through to completion and restore Woodard Creek and no one has lost momentum even without the funds.

Commissioner Lowney would like to see the needs assessment, and information on the HART funds for the road realignment for the March agenda and thanked the Chair.

### **COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Bremicker thanked the commissioners for their hard work; lots of things dealt with tonight and praised the Staff for all their assistance and contributions.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Commission Chair Bremicker adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m. The next regular meeting is THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

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RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

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Approved: