

Session 12-13 a Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order on September 20, 2012 at 5:34 pm by Chair Bumpo Bremicker at the Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS ARCHIBALD, LILLIBRIDGE, BRANN, BELL, LOWNEY, BREMICKER

STAFF: JULIE ENGBRETSSEN, GIS/PLANNING TECHNICIAN
MIKE ILLG, RECREATION SPECIALIST
CAREY MEYER, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
DEPUTY CITY CLERK RENEE KRAUSE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Bremicker requested a motion to approve the agenda.

BRANN/LOWNEY – MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

LILLIBRIDGE/ BRANN – MOVED TO POSTPONE NEW BUSINESS ITEM ON THE DOG PARK.

There was a brief discussion.

Approved the postponement by consensus of the commission.

LILLIBRIDGE/BRANN - MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Jack Wiles, city resident, commented on getting the survey work completed before too long. He noted that the individual groups were able to get work done but when it came to the City it was at a dead stop. He commented on the need of engineering and design work for the road and day use area and has prepared two ideas for them to consider. Mr. Wiles further commented on the Master Plan that was adopted and developing a plan to use the \$90,000 allocated for the Day Use Improvements.

Commissioner Lowney commented on the window of opportunity that Mr. Meyer had talked about to get the survey completed before snowfall and this has been tasked to the Karen Hornaday Park Committee to figure out what to do with the \$90,000 and recommended Mr. Wiles take this information to the Committee and that this Commission should not address the issues that he has brought forth.

Commissioner Lillibridge commented on an amount that was allocated for engineering and did not see it addressed in his figures and recommendations. Mr. Wiles responded that that amount would be used solely for the road realignment.

A Point of Order was called by the Clerk.

Beth Cumming, city resident, thanked the Commission for passing the Resolution 12-079(S) on Kachemak Drive, with the assistance of Councilmember Beth Wythe she was able to provide the words the Committee was seeking; Ms. Cumming commented on using the ramp for Woodard Creek and the Committee had already voted against the use of the ramp for a bridge; She further commented that as a

member of the Kachemak Drive Committee she has her eye on that ramp; She recommended using \$50,000 from the Day Use Improvements to address the needs of parking on the right hand side of the road.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items for reconsideration.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES *(Minutes are approved during regular meetings only)*

A. Meeting Minutes for the Regular Meeting on August 16, 2012

Chair Bremicker requested approval of the minutes.

LOWNEY/BELL – SO MOVED.

The minutes were approved as amended by consensus of the Commission.

VISITORS

A. Jocelyn Bilon, AK DOT Area Planner

B. David Post, AK DOT Safe Routes to School

Jocelyn Bilon thanked the commission for inviting her to speak. She explained her position as the Area Planner. She is responsible for Kenai and Kodiak regions. She noted that it makes their work much easier when they have communication with the community. She aides in getting Federal Funding on projects that are state facilities.

They have a part in the STIP nominations. Update to that is this fall they will not have a nominations this fall. A new program is MAPP 21, starting October 1st. There is a lot of policy information but not implementation. So they are on hold with the STIP. They are still accepting nominations for new projects but they will not be starting any new projects. From the federal information is that States will have more discretion in where they apply funds. The state will look for more local contribution. Homer is ahead of the game since it has a mechanism in place for local match contributions. Many municipalities do not and will be a bit behind on that aspect.

Ms. Bilon explained that currently the Safe Routes to School is a 90-10 program but will be changed to an 80-10-10. It is unknown at this time if it is a game changer. She noted that there is a time of great uncertainty and that time is now. The newest grant round is due October 1st. Ms. Bilon also noted that this is much different that the last transportation bill.

Ms. Bilon responded that the state would be paying its 10 percent match by legislative appropriation. She noted that unfortunately they do not have a pot of money but have to wait each year to see if the State will fund them the 10 percent each year.

Ms. Bilon answered questions from the Commissioners on Kachemak Drive, Soundview Avenue and funding for sidewalks. Ms. Bilon also offered some advice on local match funding.

Ms. Bilon reported that they did Pedestrian and non-motorized counts this summer and as soon as they have the information they will forward this to the city so they can use it to assist in getting their project approved.

C. Todd Schroder, Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, Diamond Creek Plan

Mr. Schroder had a family emergency and will not be able to present tonight. This was postponed until October.

STAFF & COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS/ AND BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Community Recreation – Mike Illg

Mr. Illg provided a summary of his report and commented on the following:

- Application to have a booth at the Rotary Health Fair
- He encouraged attendance at the Alaska Recreation and Park Association Annual Conference, October 10-12, 2012 in Anchorage due to the submittal of the Parks and Recreation and KHP and hopefully Homer will take away an award.
- On September 30th they should be having a grand celebration of the new Homer High School Track; some rules will be implemented regarding changes to protect the track. KPB has put in a request for artificial turf; support is requested from the city.
- Establishing a PR dept may be a bit premature, there is currently no place to house it and he recommended postponing until next year on advice from the City Manager. There are many positions that are vacant in the city that will not be funded again this year.
- Met with Megan Murphy, MAPP will be advantageous, recommended the PRC have a booth at the Health Fair, November 10, 2012, Homer High School
- HoPP Work Party on Saturday 10-2:00
- Sunday September 30, 2012 there will be a celebration on the new track; there are some new rules such as no dogs and bikes on the new track. A request was submitted by the borough for Artificial Turf for the lower field.

Mr. Illg answered a few questions from the commissioners on clarification of the HERC building, the borough and developing the Needs Assessment. Commissioner Lowney felt that further development of the Needs Assessment being a conflict of interest for Mr. Illg.

B. Staff Report – Julie Engebretsen, Planning Technician/GIS

Ms. Engebretsen commented on the completion of Mariner Park Entrance relocation and paving. The Beluga Slough project is underway and the Red Shed Removal has been awarded and will be gone soon. She noted that the commission will be meeting on the fourth Thursday in October since Alaska Day which is observed as a State Holiday falls on the normal meeting day.

C. Parks Maintenance – Angie Otteson

There was no report for this meeting.

D. Kachemak Drive Path Committee Report – Dave Brann

Commissioner Brann provided no update other than the Resolution which is on the agenda.

F. Karen Hornaday Park Committee – Robert Archibald

Commissioner Archibald explained that the next meeting will start as a worksession and start at the Park at 5:30 p.m. then continue the meeting in Council Chambers. He provided a brief summary of his report for September 6, 2012. He stated that the focus was on the day use area and there were several concerns and questions posed by the commissioners. He noted that it is hard to discuss the issues with not everyone concerned present. Mr. Archibald noted that it was the intent to come up with a tangible plan after the next meeting to present to the Commission.

Commissioner Lowney felt that it would be really great to have Mr. Wiles attend the committee meeting. She noted the following was discussed: earthen bleachers; drainage, the picnic shelter, backside of the playground, keeping as much green space as possible and a new playground structure. She brought up a concern regarding the survey work and thought it was a done deal and wanted to know about an

update on the fire ring.

Mr. Meyer took a moment to explain all the projects he was involved in and that the city was advertising for a project manager. He went on to elaborate on some of his possible plans for reusing materials and addressing drainage issues, design, surveying, etc.

Commissioner Lowney requested Chair Bremicker to appoint her to the Park Committee as an additional commissioner since Tricia and Robert are frequently out of town and unable to attend meetings. Chair Bremicker appointed Commissioner Lowney to the Karen Hornaday Park Committee.

LILLIBRIDGE/BELL – MOVED TO REQUEST THE CHAIR SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADDRESS PENDING BUSINESS ITEM D. KACHEMAK DRIVE TRAIL RESOLUTION 12-079(S) AS SHE HAD TO LEAVE FOR ANOTHER ENGAGEMENT.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Bremicker called for a break at 7:10 p.m. The meeting was called back to order 7:15 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no items for public hearing.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. HERC Building Discussion

Mr. Illg reported that this is a wait and see what Council does to the budget. He provided letters from the different organizations that support the HERC and would be interested in using some space within the building.

He went on to further note that the HERC building could be a great alternative since the space granted to the community recreation program is getting very minimal at best.

Mr. Illg felt that the concept and central location is a great asset even though there may be a large negative impact with the requirement to refurbish the building. It was commented that the heating costs would be substantially less when the natural gas was installed.

There was a brief discussion and clarification on a duplicate line item reflected in the 2013 budget, changing the use of the building, code violations, having organizations of similar outreach in the building.

Staff responded to questions posed by commissioners regarding the purpose of the study requested by council.

There was no further discussion.

B. Parks & Recreation Department – Budget Update

Ms. Engebretsen did not have a further updates and this can be included in the October agenda. Commissioner Brann stated that they need additional staff needed such as a maintenance man and someone for Carey.

Staff noted that was the Project Manager position that was being advertised.

The next meeting might not be the best one to advocate for additional personnel and parks and recreation related items since there are no budget related items in front of the Council they won't have anything to relate it to.

C. Park Signage – Uniform Theme

Discussion ensued regarding the Public Arts Committee will be meeting on September 25, 2012 and will be submitting a budget request for developing a design for uniform signage since this item has been on their Strategic Plan for a number of years. Staff relayed the information that Commissioner Lowney expressed the desire to work with them as a liaison with the commission.

There was no further action or discussion needed at this time.

D. Kachemak Drive Trail – Resolution 12-079(S)

Chair Bremicker introduced the item.

Commissioner Brann noted that there should be a correction from one third to one half mile.

BRANN/LILLIBRIDGE – MOVED TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION TO CHANGE “ONE THIRD MILE TO ONE HALF MILE.

The commission reviewed the resolution and amended lines 11, 37, 41, 46 and 51 from “one-third mile” to “one half mile” to represent the correct distance of the proposed Kachemak Drive Non-Motorized Trail requested to be surveyed.

This amendment was approved by consensus of the Commission.

LILLIBRIDGE/LOWNEY – MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 12-079(S) AS AMENDED AND FORWARD TO CITY COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL AT THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

E. Fall Clean Up Day at Karen Hornaday Park

Chair Bremicker introduced the item for discussion.

Commissioner Lowney commented that she has been working with Angie Otteson and they have tentatively scheduled October 6, 2012.

Discussion ensued by the commissioners on the time and what was being planned, things to be accomplished and the parties involved such as Little League and HoPP. They also discussed feeding of the volunteers and that it should be before the snow flies.

LOWNEY/BELL - MOVED THAT THEY HAVE A FALL CLEAN UP ON OCTOBER 6, 2012 AT 10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M. PROVIDING FOOD AND REFRESHMENT.

There was a discussion regarding using equipment, feeding volunteers and setting time limit.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

BREMICKER/ARCHIBALD - MOVED TO SPEND UP TO \$100 TO PROVIDE FOOD FOR VOLUNTEERS.

Discussion ensued on providing food other than spicy hot dogs and not including that food will be provided in the advertisement.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Memorandum from Harbormaster Hawkins re: Recommendation for Proposed Use of Gangway for Woodard Creek

Chair Bremicker read the title into the record and opened discussion on the item. He requested confirmation of the committee not wanting to use the gangway for a bridge. Commissioner Archibald confirmed that at one time the original committee established by private citizens did not want to use this gangway.

Discussion ensued on the pros and cons with using this bridge and if the commission wanted to approve expending the funds to use this gangway when there was still a question of whether it would be appropriate for the area even on the Kachemak Drive Pathway.

Ms. Engebretsen requested a motion that the Parks and Recreation did not want the gangway.

BELL/LOWNEY - MOVED THAT STAFF INFORM THE HARBORMASTER THAT THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION CANNOT USE AND DOES NOT WANT THE GANGWAY.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. Diamond Creek Plan

There was a brief discussion on the item.

C. Staff Report from Rick Abboud, City Planner, re: Pier One Theater/Campground

Ms. Engebretsen provided some insight on this subject.

Discussion ensued and the commissioners offered some suggestions on some of the best uses for the parcel and agreed by consensus that the road into the parcel requires improvements and that the campground should be redesigned. The area used for day use and bar-b-que need to be maintained. The

picnic shelter could be relocated but definitely needed improvements. Reconfiguring the road next to the area where dredge spoils are dumped and reconfigure the land gained for the campground.

D. Dog Park

This item was postponed until the October meeting.

E. Soundview Sidewalk

Chair Bremicker introduced the item for discussion.

Commissioner Lowney had requested this item on the agenda and spoke about it with Jocelyn Biloon who recommended getting with the School.

Ms. Engebretsen requested Commissioner Lowney talk with her first before proceeding on this topic.

Commissioner Brann requested if Spruceview could be included since the trail exists except the last two blocks to Mullikin.

Chair Bremicker stated that his son commented that Homer is at the point that all roads should be built with sidewalks as a requirement not put in after the fact.

F. Park Walkthrough Wrap-up

Chair Bremicker brought the item up for discussion. He acknowledged that he did not attend the walk through this time around.

Ms. Engebretsen commented on the discussions held as follows:

Jack Gist Park - parking improvements, drainage, mowing, maintenance issues, how close the northern field is to the parking lot

Mud Bay Trail – Could you build a bike trail, what would it take, funding request before Council

Ms. Engebretsen will forward the commission comments and recommendations to the City Manager, Carey Meyer and Angie Otteson.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. Memorandum from Carey Meyer & Julie Engebretsen re: Homer Spit Trail and Cruise Ship Improvements

B. 2012 Homer City Council Meeting Attendance

C. PRAC Annual Calendar

There was no discussion on the informational materials.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Wayne Aderhold, city resident, commented on the problem of glaciation on the Poopdeck Trail below Bonanza, there is bleeding and causes a pretty bad icefall on the steep stretch of trail that could use some ditching and on the Lucky Shot Trail there is a pretty good blockage and ices over so bad that you cannot walk over it even with cleats; the lower two thirds of the Poopdeck Trail needs to be rebuilt. He is willing along with some other volunteers would be glad to help get this done.

There was a brief discussion on the materials needed and equipment required and how long it would take to complete all the repairs.

Commissioner Lowney commented that Mr. Aderhold brought up a good point and the Commission should take on the maintenance and updating of the in town trails.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Mr. Illg had no additional comments.

Ms. Engebretsen expressed thanks for a great job.

Ms. Krause expressed the Commissioners were awesome as always.

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

There was no councilmember present.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Bremicker commented it was great to have the entrance to Mariner Park relocated and do hope they plan to remove the old entrance and fill in the "water hole" filled in and can't wait to see the pedestrian crossing and reduction in speed limit too. He stated it was nice to get something accomplished.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Lowney commented that the tank you cards went out and there were a few more. She did recommend a Trail walk thru reviewing the trails in town for maintenance and safety issues. In Old Town there is a group who is focusing on the trails, paths and believes that this commission should have some information on who and what they do.

Julie will invite them to present to the commission at a future meeting.

Commissioner Bell great meeting and thank everybody for their time and is amazing input and getting through the number of items on their agenda tonight.

Commissioner Archibald inquired if there were any issues to bring before Council. There were none.

Commissioner Brann commented on the efforts provided by Angie Otteson and Carey Meyer and the other two commissioners who were there; there is a group of people on Maddox Street who are involved with safety and improvements and are reaching a level of frustrations since they haven't been able to get council attention.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission Chair Bremicker adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2012 at 5:30 pm at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I

Approved: _____