

Session 15-04 a Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order on March 2, 2015 at 5:35 pm by Chair Matt Steffy at the Cowles Council Chambers City Hall located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS LILLIBRIDGE, LOWNEY, ARCHIBALD, STEFFY, MACCAMPBELL, BRANN, AND ROEDL

STAFF: RICK ABBOUD, CITY PLANNER
MARK ROBL, CHIEF OF POLICE, HOMER
RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Steffy requested a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

MACCAMPBELL/BRANN - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Chair Steffy invited the public to comment and requested them to please sign in they will have 3 minutes.

Robert Townsend, coal gatherer, provided a bucket of coal as an example of what he is able to gather from the Bishop's Beach/Beluga Slough area of the beach. He advocated for allowing coal gatherers to continue this practice and supported the seasonal opening or permitting system. Mr. Townsend did not want to be penalized for someone else's bad behavior. He depends on the free coal to heat his home since he lives on a very limited income.

Roberta Highland, city resident, requested clarification on the motions made at the February 19th meeting regarding vehicle restrictions and seasonal opening. Chair Steffy responded with the information.

At the February 19th meeting the following recommendation was made:

"Recommend prohibiting vehicles annually in area 7 and allowing seasonal opening for vehicles in the area of Beluga Slough East to Mariner Park and the spit from October 1st to March 1st and no restrictions in the area to the right or west of the park.

Ms. Highland supported those recommendations advocating for an area strictly for pedestrians where there was no fear of being threatened by a vehicle of any type. She commented that coal as a fuel is a negative experience for those breathing those fumes and she thought it was illegal to burn coal in city limits. There is a mixed opinion for those that need or use the coal and those adversely affected by its use. She also advocated for enforcement of behavior for vehicles to the west because that can and will get out of control too.

Bumpo Bremicker, city resident, former member of the commission and chair of the Beach Policy Committee. At that time and now, the problems are enforcement. If there is someone breaking rules it requires the public to get involved. Most people have cell phones and could take pictures or make a call if they saw someone endangering people or breaking the rules. Bust enough people and the behavior will stop. He hasn't seen anyone busted for speeding on the beach. He is a frequent user of that area, not that he is there every day, but he has not ever seen anyone endanger anyone else; not that that means it doesn't happen, but he did not believe that there was that much bad behavior going on; he found nothing wrong with someone doing donuts in the sand, they were recreating. Mr. Bremicker commented on the coal gathering activity he felt people could live without access to the area around the mouth of the slough and that the efforts to protect the berm and re-vegetation efforts

are working. He advocated for the commission to be reasonable in their recommendations and to be fair to everyone and to address enforcement.

Don McNamara, resident and property owner on Oscar Munson Point, he believes the direction they are going is good, he commented in favor of more enforcement the city could add funds to the city coffers by issuing more tickets if people are driving erratically or dangerously. He stated coal was good, besides the smell, as long as people have a way to burn cleaner. He swims frequently there and a lot of guys drive their car to the edge of the slough outlet and so it is nice to be able to jump in a warm car when you're done. Otherwise it will make more traffic to the right of way between Bell's and Ann Margaret's house. He thanked the commission and wished them luck with this one.

Ted Schmidt, city resident, spends time at the beach, in the same camp that he believes it is a few people who abuse and over use and disregards other people's rights to mental atmosphere. He sees a lot of different things when people drive out there. The sand berms shift all the time. He sees the commission trying to close off the area and create a habitat which is good and he doesn't think that as long as people's use is respectful they should not be chased from the area. He uses the outfall area to train his dog. Many times there are ducks in the outfall. He hunts waterfowl and he disciplines and teaches his dog not to chase certain ducks and dogs on the beach. He notices many people don't discipline their dogs. It keeps coming back to where they pit users against other users. He can understand people wanting to go and take a walk along the beach and the annoyance of having someone come and spin donuts on the beach disrupting their quiet. He requested the commission to be reasonable in their decisions.

Chair Steffy summarized the public comment received by Scott Adams via email expressing concern with proposed vehicle restrictions and targeting certain groups and noted the letter received by Mr. Townsend.

Chair Steffy advised the audience the ability to send written comment via email or dropping them off prior to the meetings if they are unable to attend a meeting.

Commissioner Archibald also provided input for the audience that the areas people are driving and using are actually private property and they are also trying to consider those rights within the issues.

VISITORS

A. Mark Robl, Chief of Police, Homer

Chair Steffy invited Chief Robl to come up and asked if he had a presentation or will just be talking to them. Chief Robl stated he received a list of questions from Julie Engebretsen and he will try to address the concerns and questions expressed by commission. He was asked to initiate the discussion with a background on the creation of the Beach Policy and first Beach Patrol.

Chief Robl showed the literature that all officers use in enforcement on the beaches. That included a bound copy of the beach enforcement regulations - this is a summarized version of all the regulations for enforcement; and a map, they still use these documents to distribute to the public which is color coded and assists the public informing them where they are allowed to do certain activities.

Chief Robl stated that the last couple of years they have increased the directed beach patrols. In 2014 they did almost 300 direct beach patrol; most of those calls were to Bishop's Beach. They issue very few citations due to the fact that the people can see them coming. They do prefer to give a warning first time offenders. In 2014 they issued 1 citation on the beach and 12 in the area of Bishop's Beach for various reasons. They issued several verbal warnings to drivers in the pedestrian preferred zone.

When it comes to issuing citations they require a positive identification of the offender that they can use. A young kid in a blue jacket is not a definitive description. There is no basis to issue a citation.

The Airport Access Road had more issues in the late 1990's - early 2000's; placement of large boulders were very effective and rarely see anyone driving vehicles around those boulders. This is not a high priority area or concern for the Police Department.

The rest of the spit they have received no complaints and most of the violators are tourists and when stopped and confronted were unaware and comply with all the rules for the remainder of their stay.

- Beach Patrols did not have the authority to write citations; they would contact an officer who would handle the matter. Chief Robl did not feel that it would be a problem having temporary employees authorized to write citations. He supported bringing back the Beach Patrols to address some of these problems and felt it would be very useful.

The idea of having a Park Host placed at the park and available would be helpful for tourists and other users of the park and beach area. Chief Robl recommended that one of the responsibilities of the person(s) selected to be a host would be required to provide an appearance in court in needed. He elaborated that most times they receive a complaint from the property owner and they want to remain anonymous and that does not help not having a cooperative witness.

Vehicles on the beach do not have to be licensed. It is off the road way. In some ways it is like taking a vehicle out in the hills hunting or a snow machine. However, the beaches are city property and located within the city limits and can be regulated by ordinance if they decide. Depending on how the ordinance is written you can address the issue of allowing government vehicles on the beaches.

- Changing 19.16.030 - to control Segways or golf carts. They could expand the description of vehicles prohibited to address this issue. His recommendation is that it is not needed. He believes the language, motorized recreational vehicle, is flexible enough that they can use existing code if there is a problem.

- "Prudent and Safe" is also used in several areas of State law and it is very flexible and recommends leaving that language alone.

- Cutting trees, using coal in fires, driftwood removal these actions are already addressed in code

- General Penalty - Anyone violating an ordinance in the city code that does not have a specific fine structure would fall under the general penalty. If someone is cited 3 times in one day for the same offense the offender will have to pay \$300 per citation. If the person commits an offense 7 days in a row he will be given a citation each day. This also allows the city to go after a civil penalty if someone for example starts a fire and it damages several properties, the city could recoup those costs.

- Bailable Offense - These are usually misdemeanors and if you were to write an ordinance with a bailable offense the city would bear the cost of defense if the offender wanted to contest the citation. If the offender was indigent the city would then be required to bear the costs of a public defender for that offender and court costs. The real benefit to leaving the more serious behavior violations under state statutes is so that the burden of prosecution and defense falls to the state. He strongly recommends against bailable offenses anywhere in city code.

- Private Property Enforcement - This is simple. Ideally the city would like a complaint by the property owner or a neighbor but then they need to contact the actual and owner to make sure they did not authorize the act or behavior. They do not necessarily need to have a victim present in order to move a case forward, but it really helps. Another issue to consider is if they do not see the violation or crime and the person that did is not willing to testify in court they cannot charge the individual unless there is clear and convincing evidence providing the Nexis Connection of the violator to the act.

- Holiday Weekends - Not necessarily worse. There is no clear pattern. They tend to see the bad behavior because there are more people around to watch them. He tends to schedule more officers on the holiday weekend especially 4th of July and the week or two proceeding and after is busier.

- Authority and Side by Side ATV's - They are sworn police officers and can enforce the statutes and violations whenever they see them occur. These statutes do apply to off road vehicles when they are on the roadway. If they do brodie on the roadway they will be charged with negligent driving it changes when they go off the road onto the beach. There is the difficulty of proof on the beach, there has to be a person endangered on the beach and willing to testify they were in danger of harm. Anyone operating an ATV under the influence on or off the road can be cited for a DUI.

- Closure of the Beach to the East - Chief Robl opined that the behavior will move further west. He does not feel it would move to another location such as Airport Access.

In response to Questions posed by Commissioners Chief Robl provided the following responses:

- The Police Department has a Side by Side 6 wheeler that can be deployed as needed and is stored on a trailer at the Station. There are a few vehicles that have 4 x 4 and can navigate the beach but regular patrol cars are not taken on the beach.

- The equipment is already on hand if the Beach Patrol is reinstated and funded by Council. It will only require hiring the temporary personnel.

- Chief Robl would support a limited permit system in conjunction with seasonal closures. He envisioned if someone came to the Police Department and stated the purpose for being on the beach, provide a description of their vehicle and tag number, and days permitted, dispatch would keep a list and when officers called in to confirm the vehicle were permitted to be on the beach dispatch would be able to review the list and provide the information to the officer who could respond appropriately. He would not support a general recreational permit. It would add some additional work for staff but as long as it is very narrowly focused. He will not support a permit system if they wanted to open it to coal picking since that would make it too cumbersome. His understanding was that coal was going to be done during the seasonal opening of the area October - March.

- Addressing reckless and inappropriate driving on the beach via ordinance could be accomplished. The city did have at one time an ordinance address, improper acceleration which was used for folks who took off too fast from a stop sign spray everybody with gravel and breaking traction and spinning brodies. This was removed in the late 1980's or early 1990's. It could be rewritten and brought back to address the problem on the beaches.

- Reckless Driving regulations are strictly based on off road or on road.

- Private property and protection of that property presents issues with regards to historical access but it would take a lawsuit to figure out if they can restrict access

- Alaska State Troopers can act on violations of regulations inside or outside city limits; however it is usually restricted to vehicles on the Sterling Highway and out on the Spit. As fa as a municipal officer's authority they have the authority to act on any violations against the law throughout the state of Alaska.

- Homer Police can enforce all city regulations on private property, but if the intent is to enforce private property rights on that beach front portion of the private property they could do that but not sure of the outcomes and if there is an interest in having an Memorandum of Understanding or agreement between the Private property owners and the city they should bring the City Attorney into the conversation before the discussion even begins to see what the options are or even there.

- Chief Robl would be willing to assist with the crafting of any ordinance and further recommended making adding an additional zone just to the west of the access to Bishops' Beach that has the increased usage more restrictive and allow the kids to go further west.

- The police respond to all calls they receive, all calls are prioritized depending on circumstances. Sometimes the violators are long gone by the time they get there though.

- There was not a good feel for establishing a closing time for the beach or parking Lot. Having a bon fire on the beach and having fun is not a bad thing. If they become too restrictive then the bad behavior just moves to another location but never really goes away.

- Beach Patrol shift in the season is 4:00 p.m. to Midnight and the funding required would be \$20-25,000 per position to start with.

- There are no complaints of dogs off leash to the Police Department that he is aware of and he feels that education would be the best approach. They can include language regarding animal control on the literature that they use and distribute to the beach users. It may be possible to modify the contract of the Animal Shelter contractor since they recently started a new 3 year contract but that will come with a cost to the budget which as everyone knows is really tight.
- A copy of the brochure they use will be provided to the commissioners.
- He would support having the Beach patrol address the dog /leash issues.
- The Refuge has an enforcement officer and can enforce all regulations on Federal land. Homer Police can enforce city regulations on federal owned land but Chief Robl would feel more comfortable with an agreement in place.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items for reconsideration.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes for the special meeting of February 19, 2015

Chair Steffy requested any comments, questions or corrections regarding the items on the consent agenda. Hearing none he requested a motion for adoption of the consent agenda.

BRANN/ARCHIBALD - MOVED TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Staff Report re: Recap of the February 19, 2015 Meeting

There were no reports for this meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no items scheduled for this meeting.

PENDING BUSINESS

There was no pending business on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Legal Access, Existing Regulations, Enforcement - Discussion and Recommendations

Chair Steffy commented that he would like a recommendation to council to reinstate the Beach Patrol. He opined that the presence of the Beach Patrol would do a lot to accomplish what they want, even if they do not have citation issuing authority. He envisioned they could distribute literature, doggie bags, etc. Commissioner MacCampbell supported that and installing a Park Host position on a Volunteer basis of course.

Commissioner Lillibridge would like to see getting Animal Control involved in the issues with dogs on Bishop's Beach.

A discussion evolved regarding what the Animal Shelter contractor was contractually obligated for, a copy of the contract will be provided for the commission's review along with the following:

- Beach Patrol would address these items: Leash Law, Education, Vehicles, Driftwood Regulations, Beach Fires - where and how, Environmental Aspects (Doggie Bags)
- Interpretive and Improved signage
- Drafting an ordinance for enforcement of reckless driving
 - Safe and prudent language
 - Comfort zones
 - Awareness of existing regulations
 - Call and report the unlawful behavior
- Close and protect the area to the left to dogs and vehicles but would like to hear from the Fish & Wildlife
- Interest in establishing another zone to the west as suggested by Chief Robl for vehicular traffic
- Land owner concerns to the west - visual indication where their property is
- Average vehicles parked to the east is 10 at any time, there is heavy and varied use of the beach, visually the message received is that all this is "okay"
- Would like participation from the property owners before they can determine what can be done
- Allowing areas to accommodate specific activities
- Restricting certain activities only during high use periods
- Not sure that rocks are as effective barriers as used on other areas, example was provided that not working at the airport access location.

ARCHIBALD/LOWNEY - MOVED TO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL ALLOCATES THE FUNDING NECESSARY TO HIRE TWO SEASONAL BEACH PATROL EMPLOYEES.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Steffy then reiterate the necessity to have the Beach Patrol and they will also serve in an outreach capacity providing the articulation and enforcement of the regulation. A brief discussion on implementing the recommendation if it does get the green light from Council and that the Beach Patrol will cover all beaches within city limits.

Brief question and answer on how to move the UTV from beach to beach.

Commissioner MacCampbell was wrestling with potential language for a draft ordinance on addressing reckless driving on the beaches. Chair Steffy inquired if he was thinking about Chief Robl's recommendation to allow vehicles to the west and Commissioner MacCampbell concern was how far to extend that, he would like to add this to the agenda since the major concern is the people who come down to the beach and spin brodies, and he is thinking it would apply to all vehicles. They would be allowed to park past a certain area. He requested this to be on the next agenda. Commissioner Archibald expressed concern regarding the property owners and proximity to the bluff. He felt they would have to designate an area father west than Dr. Marley's property.

Commissioner MacCampbell responded that you would then make a recommendation to make Zone 6-7-8 all vehicles must be under control at all time and no reckless driving. He would like to hear some public input on that, if they are parking they are under control.

There have been many comments from families and that would still allow that.

Point was made that there a plenty of people who go tide pooling in that area.

Commissioner Brann requested a large map that shows the zones so the audience knows what areas the commission is referring to. He then explained that past a certain point it is very narrow and not much of a "playground" for vehicles.

Chair Steffy suggested leaving the defining of the language to Chief Robl.

MACCAMPBELL/LOWNEY - MOVE TO RECOMMEND DRAFTING AN ORDINANCE TO DEFINE AND BAN RECKLESS DRIVING AS IT WOULD BE APPLIED TO ALL CITY OF HOMER BEACHES.

There was a brief discussion that the commission does not favor vehicles driving recklessly on the beach, spinning brodies and throwing up rocks on the beach. Further clarification on what the ordinance would ban and how it would be applied.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Commissioner comments on the process:

Commissioner Archibald expressed concern regarding the recommendations still on the table regarding vehicular access and people needing a place to recreate.

Commissioner Lillibridge stated that they have heard “always been able to do this” and “always been free to do these things” the whole point is that Homer has changed, we are growing and things have changed and Homer is changing and the behavior needs to change too. They are trying not to be punitive. It is the community that is changing.

Commissioner Brann commented on the “why punish me” comments; he doesn’t like the soft language and he would like to see it very defined and clear. He does not want to see a blanket rule such as one size fits all but does not want to see many exceptions either.

Commissioner Archibald requested a Review of the Recommendations:

Chair Steffy read the following:

- Permanent Closure of Area 7 to Vehicles from Bishop’s Beach Parking Access East to below Beluga Slough with seasonal closures for Area 6 and or Area 4
- Prohibit vehicles seasonally in Areas 6 and 4 October 1st - March 1st (Area to be used for access not recreation)
- Placement of a natural not man-made barrier to the left to block immediate access to the area
- Essentially the area to be used for access not actions is to be irresponsible

The following was provided for the benefit of the audience present:

- provided a brief description of barrier for the audience present.
- related that the information on coal access was provided by a coal gather at the February 19, 2015 meeting.
- Explained the comment process and the opportunity for additional comments at future meetings

Commissioner Lowney would like a recommendation from the commission on purchasing the Doggie Bags that Julie presented to them at the last meeting and to have a discussion on signage for the beach. She would like to see an effort made to have more artistic signage not just the typical regulatory signage. She wanted to see signage along the lines of the signs that were at the park now along their beaches to make them more inviting.

Ms. Krause requested input on signage regulations from City Planner Abboud since he was present in regards to having an artistic sign layout. Mr. Abboud responded that if the sign was not viewable from the roadway or right of way they do have exceptions for that and if it was interpretive and depending on the property it is installed on. He further stated in response to inquiry that the budget for signage would not come from the Planning Department.

Discussion then continued on the requirement of Council needing to allocate funding for signage, issuing a request for bids, the creativity of signage proposed by the group working on walkable Homer, bringing in and providing samples of signage from around the country.

Chair Steffy requested confirmation on the topics for the March 19th meeting agenda. Ms. Krause noted that it was a regular meeting with several visitors and dogs, birds and habitat. The following meeting is April 2nd and it is scheduled as the first public Hearing and as an overflow.

LOWNEY/ - MOVED THAT THE COMMISSION PURCHASE UP TO 1000 DOGGIE WASTE DISPENSERS AND SPARE BAGS.

There was no second to the motion.

There was a question on the cost to purchase the dispensers and if the commission could receive assistance from additional groups. Commissioner Lowney will provide the information on costs for the March 19th meeting.

ARCHIBALD/ - MOVED TO REPLACE THE SIGNAGE AT BISHOP'S BEACH.

Discussion on too many, inadequate and unclear existing signage and options on improvement of said signage ensued without a second to the motion.

STEFFY/BRANN - MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO READ THE SIGNAGE IS INADEQUATE AND NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED AT BISHOP'S BEACH.

Discussion continued on what they are going to do with the signage at Bishop's Beach and it was determined that they will have to have that conversation before the document is sent to Council and a reminder that the Commission previously came up with a sign design so that allowed some creativity but was all similar; it was argued that that was for identifying the parks and it already has a sign and this is an opportunity to take regulatory signage and making it more creative, simplify them and draw attention to them.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. Next Meeting Deliverables and Discussion Topics

Chair Steffy believed that the next meeting is already pretty much carved out and asked if anyone wanted to add something.

There was no discussion.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Commission Annual Calendar 2015
- B. Commissioner Attendance at City Council Meetings 2015

Commissioner Brann will attend March 9th Council meeting
Commissioner Steffy will attend March 23rd
Commissioner Lowney will attend April 13th
Commissioner Lillibridge will attend April 27th

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Chair Steffy invited the audience to comment on any subject.

Ginny Espenshade commented on the group of young people who met today and are scheduled to come and present to the commission. She has also spoken to a group of High School government students who are also interested in speaking before the commission. They are intending to present a short PowerPoint Presentation There are actually 3 groups and two of them will not be available to present as scheduled at the March 19th meeting and will need a later date in April. However one group may still be ready to present at that meeting. Ms. Espenshade then addressed her personal views on the issue. She appreciated Commissioner Lilli bridge's sentiments about change but there are many aspects of Homer that many of them do not want to change. She has adult daughters who went to school on the East Coast and that beach provides a touchstone for them. For their 10 year reunion the first thing they agreed on was to have a bon fire at Bishop's Beach. These are 28 year old adults, these are the kids coming back, finding jobs, raising their families and she hopes there is some way to preserve that quality of the beach.

Robert Townsend, city resident requested clarification on the proposed closures referencing the map on the wall; he indicated the area that he accesses for coal and that it would be very inconvenient and difficult to carry the coal for the distance since it can get quite heavy. He advocated for inclusion of Area 7 in the seasonal closure option.

There was a brief discussion on including it in the permit system and the effect of installing the barrier and signage to deter regular vehicular access.

Bill Ostwald, city resident, commented on Chief Robl's testimony and wished that the following question on effective enforcement to the existing regulations and any new regulations that are put into effect. He has seen guys doing brodies and as Commissioner Lowney stated the vehicles that drive to the left. It is not just the people who go to the beach but to those that live on the beach hearing all the dirt bikes, and back in the day there were not a lot of people on the beach, today there is and everybody needs to be able to enjoy a beautiful area.

Roberta Highland, advocated establishing an area specifically for pedestrians, she can understand the need for the coal gatherers but she has witnessed the vehicles that come roaring out of the access to the beach as she was standing right there with her dog and she has seen the vehicles roaring out onto the beach with little 2 year old running around and it is scary. She commented on leaving all driftwood in that area on the beach, not just the embedded driftwood; the preservation of the berm and that that area is very important. She then mentioned that vehicles have been seen traveling through the habitat area. It is time to make changes to preserve what they still have.

Louise Ashmun, commented on the Beach Patrol and the person they would hire to fill that position with all the requirements and skills necessary; she then commented on a person doing wheelies on their ATV right next to the entrance to the beach and if they restrict that activity they need to consider where those people will move to next because they are not going away; third they need to protect Area 7 for the habitat and for the birds. It should be the highest priority and need to figure that out. Speaking about the new Beach Policy they need to be explicit rather than implicit. In the area designated as a Pedestrian Preferred Zone they need to be explicit and state no vehicles making it a Pedestrian Only Zone. Thank you for all your work.

Asia Freeman, commented on her experience living and fishing from that beach; she was discouraged that they would have to consider designated an area for the safety of people wanting to walk along that beach; she supported permitted use only for that beach; she commented on preserving the historical uses of the beach for coaling, fishing and personal enjoyment; she is heartbroken over the changes to that beach over the last 20 years and the accelerated so rapidly in the last 2 years; she fears that if they do not get the enforcement this summer it will be like the Girdwood Forest Faire having to shut down; she agreed with Ms. Ashmun regarding the viability of having effective enforcement between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and midnight and hiring an evolved and effective individual. Ms. Freeman stated they need to be more realistic and she is very attached to the beach and respect the traditions of the area and that beaches are not meant for driving.

Chair Steffy thanked and encouraged the audience to participate and comment.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Ms. Krause had no comments.

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

There were no council members present.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Lowney appreciated the audience comments and coming out and it helped the Commission form their recommendations. She encouraged the commissioners to visit the beach and view those issues that occur on the beach around midday.

Commissioner MacCampbell appreciated the public coming out and bearing with his stumbling about to get the wording out; they are listening and believes the commission is making progress.

Commissioner Archibald commented his appreciation for the public input received and that the commission cannot make a good decision without their input and thanked staff.

Commissioner Brann agreed with those sentiments and remarked that he enjoys the input and is learning a lot with the progress going back and forth and the educational progress and hopes the public is too. He thanked the efforts of staff also.

Commissioner Roedl thanked everyone.

Commissioner Lillibridge echoed the thanks for the input from the public and thanked the audience for staying, the commission appreciates everything they have to say and requested they encourage people to come and provide comment at the meeting on the 19th.

Commissioner Lowney appreciated the passion felt during the comments from everyone present and that it makes the task more difficult but she appreciates that.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Steffy appreciated all the comments, listening and appreciated the people that were coming out but realizes that there are user groups they are not hearing from and looks forward to hearing from the different groups of young people and two of his kids are involved which has sparked conversations at his house and he is sure in other homes as well. Thanks to everyone again for coming out.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Steffy adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m. The next **REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2015** at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I

Approved: _____