

Session 15-14, a Regular Meeting of the Homer Advisory Planning Commission was called to order by Acting Chair Bos at 6:30 p.m. on September 16, 2015 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS BOS, BRADLEY, ERICKSON, HIGHLAND, VENUTI

ABSENT: STEAD, STROOZAS

STAFF: DEPUTY CITY PLANNER ENGBRETSSEN
DEPUTY CITY CLERK JACOBSEN

Approval of Agenda

Acting Chair Bos asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

HIGHLAND/BRADLEY SO MOVED.

Commissioner Erickson suggested amending the agenda to move New Business item A after Presentations. After discussion no motion was made to amend.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Public Comment

The public may speak to the Planning Commission regarding matters on the agenda that are not scheduled for public hearing or plat consideration. (3 minute time limit).

There was no public comment.

Reconsideration

Adoption of Consent Agenda

All items on the consent agenda are considered routine and non-controversial by the Planning Commission and are approved in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a Planning Commissioner or someone from the public, in which case the item will be moved to the regular agenda and considered in normal sequence.

A. Approval of Minutes of August 19, 2015

Acting Chair Bos asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

VENUTI/BRADLEY SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Presentations

A. Adele Person on Walkability and the Homer Accelerated Road and Trails Program

Adele Person presented to the Commission about Homer Safe Routes. She addressed challenges the city faces with disconnected trails, unpleasant and unsafe places to walk, and the need for transportation options. She also referenced city plans and documents that support a walkable and bike friendly community in Homer; the Comprehensive plan chapters 5 and 7, 2004 Non-Motorized Transportation and Trails Plan (NMTTP), 2005 Transportation Plan, Economic Development Strategy, Climate Action Plan, MAPP Health Needs assessment, PARC needs assessment, and the City Council's Strategic Doing. Ms. Person talked about funds available to work on trails through the HART fund and the need to proposed projects to utilize funds as outlined in Resolution 13-078. Proposed projects from the NMTTP include walking trails at Soundveiw Avenue near West Homer Elementary, W.R. Bell trail, Greatland Street, Main Street, Bartlett Street, West Hill Road, the Town Center area, and Old Town. Steps that have been taken include Safe Route to School Grant, Homer Parks and Trails Symposium, Homer Cycling Club campaign, and trail group efforts. Next steps include HART fund request in October 2015 for priority projects, commit to fulfilling the NMTTP using HART, solicit and empower community groups, DOT rehabilitation of Pioneer Avenue, partnerships like Schoolyard Habitat, SVT's 10,000 steps, and getting out and enjoying the community.

Reports

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen reported there will be a Town Hall meeting for revenue solutions on September 23rd at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Public Hearings

Testimony limited to 3 minutes per speaker. The Commission conducts Public Hearings by hearing a staff report, presentation by the applicant, hearing public testimony and then acting on the Public Hearing items. The Commission may question the public. Once the public hearing is closed the Commission cannot hear additional comments on the topic. The applicant is not held to the 3 minute time limit.

A. Staff Report PL 15-66, CUP 15-04 Slavin Dr. for more than one building on a lot in the Rural Residential District.

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen reviewed the staff report.

Fred Pfiel, applicant, thanked the Commission for their work and said he was available to answer questions.

Acting Chair Bos opened the public hearing. There were no public comments and the hearing was closed.

VENUTI/BRADLEY MOVED TO APPROVE STAFF REPORT PL 15-66 AN APPLICATION TO BUILD A THIRD DWELLING UNIT ON THE PROPERTY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Plat Consideration

Pending Business

New Business

A. Staff Report 15-65 2016 Trail Project Recommendations

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen commented to the Commission about trail costs. A lot of trails can be built for \$100,000, but the trick is it takes a lot of staff time to acquire easements, plan, and do the leg work. When building roads, an engineer is hired to do the leg work. Trails don't require engineering the way roads do. She reviewed the staff report in the packet that includes the recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission.

Acting Chair Bos commented in support of completing the sidewalks that end at the schools is a good place to start. Deputy City Planner Engebretsen commented that there have been times when the city has worked with the school district in the past but it can be challenging. It is good when community groups get involved as well to address issues and concerns to the district.

Commissioner Erickson supports striping on the roads, particularly in time for winter driving when it is difficult to see the shoulder and bike lanes. Deputy City Planner Engebretsen explained the process the city uses for striping. There are things done with HART money like the striping on Bunnell when they paved the shoulder. Typically the striping is part of operations. The recommendation can be that we need to do a better job with striping than the City Manager and Council can address where the money comes from and how to better maintain striping.

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen noted Ms. Person's recommendation to work on the walkability loop between West Homer Elementary, Homer Middle School, and Bartlett. There are a lot of other connections that have been built and we could fill in some of the gaps and complete the loop. It's an easier part of town to address.

Commissioner Erickson supports including extending the sidewalk on Soundview in the Commission's recommendation.

Commissioner Bradley added comments of support for the loop around the schools; she feels it's a great opportunity.

HIGHLAND/VENUTI MOVED THAT THEY SUPPORT THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION IN THE THREE PROJECTS, CALHOUN TRAIL WORK, PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE IMPROVEMENT, AND SOUNDVIEW SIDEWALK EXTENSION.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Acting Chair Bos commented about a photograph in Ms. Person's presentation that had a newer subdivision with a rolled curb. He suggested painting the rolled curb, as he has seen done in other areas.

Commissioner Venuti added additional crosswalks across the bypass near the Chamber of Commerce, requesting the state to stripe more frequently, and improving the access on the west side of Svedlund near the Senior Center.

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen will prepare a memorandum with their recommendations for their next meeting.

B. 2015 Commissioner Attendance at City Council Meetings

The Commission reviewed the schedule of the remaining City Council meetings. Acting Chair Bos said he would attend on October 12th.

There was discussion that the schedule will be included in their packets and others can sign up.

Informational Materials

- A. City Manager's Report September 14, 2015
- B. KBP Planning Commission-High Tide Replat decision

Comments of the Audience

Members of the audience may address the Commission on any subject. (3 minute time limit)

Adele Person thanked the Commission for their time tonight. She noted on page 57 of the NMTTP lists the near term projects for completion and read through some of them. She is excited the group appreciates what's been done and is excited about taking it farther.

Comments of Staff

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen thanked Ms. Person for her presentation. She said the NMTTP is her favorite city plan and is happy to say we have accomplished most, if not all of the policy statements the documents. What we haven't accomplished is as much construction as we would like to, but there

is money in the bank to do some projects. It's a matter of the city having it be a priority and hearing from citizens that they want the improvements.

Deputy City Clerk Jacobsen commented about early voting starting. She also noted that election workers are needed for Election Day, October 6th.

Comments of the Commission

Commissioner Highland commented trails are near to her heart and she is glad Ms. Person and her group is working on that. There has always been the comment, Homer the city connected by trails, is one of the dreams.

Commissioner Bradley thanked Ms. Person for her presentation. It brought up several topics that have been on her mind lately, including the depressed downtown district and pedestrian crossings. We all need to do our part to lead by example and help support safe pedestrian and bicycle crossing. She's impressed with the changes she has seen since she was going to school.

Commissioner Erickson thanked everyone for their work. She is concerned about safety, not only pedestrians and bicyclists, but also for the drivers. Whatever we can do to make it safe along the sides of the roads is where she's at with the striping.

Commissioner Venuti said it was an interesting meeting. Business after hours is at the Pratt Mueseum and he encouraged people to attend. He also noted Commissioner Stroozas is running for City Council so there may be a seat open on the Commission soon.

Acting Chair Bos thanked Ms. Person for the presentation. He recognized one of the people driving one of the buggies with wheels in the pictures she displayed. She is staying in one of his cabins and navigating Main Street is a nightmare for her and there is nothing else she can do. That street isn't going to get better anytime soon. He thanked everyone for a good meeting.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers. A worksession will be held at 5:30 p.m.

MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: _____