

**CALL TO ORDER**

Session 24-05 a Regular Meeting of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee was called to order by Chair Kathy Carssow at 9:00 a.m. on March 29, 2024 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: COMMITTEE MEMBERS CARSSOW, DAVIS, ERICKSON, & KIM

ABSENT: COMMITTEE MEMBER BARNWELL

STAFF: DEPUTY CITY CLERK PETTIT

CONSULTING: CITY PLANNER FOSTER & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR ENGBRETSSEN

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

CARSSOW/DAVIS MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA BY ADDING AGNEW::BECK'S VISITING SCHEDULE TO THE AGENDA UNDER **NEW BUSINESS ITEM D.**

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

CARSSOW/DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA**

Mayor Castner shared his concerns that there are decisions being made behind closed doors that will shape the future of Homer without soliciting the comprehensive advice of the City. Specifically, he spoke to the closures taking place at the airport starting in April, stating that the decisions the City wants to make are being made by other people in other places. He explained to the Committee that the City can only do what the City can actually do. He emphasized the need to incorporate the Spit Comprehensive Plan into the City's new Comprehensive Plan in order to achieve an all-encompassing plan. He assured the Committee that he is going to do what he can in the background to ensure that the City achieves what it can achieve given the governance that surrounds the City and living in the shadow of Anchorage.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Steering Committee Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2024

ERICKSON/DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 18, 2024 STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

## **VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**

### **REPORTS**

### **PENDING BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### A. Community Visit #1 – Debrief

Shelly Wade of Agnew::Beck thanked Committee Members Carssow and Erickson for their contributions during the initial meeting this past Monday, adding that it really set the tone and gave her a feeling that they were off and running. She touched on the productive discussion that she had with Public Works Staff that was led by Meg Friedenauer of Agnew::Beck and Luke Rubalcava of RESPEC. She also thanked Mayor Caster for the dialogue that he facilitated at the Joint Work Session with the Planning Commission and City Council. Other discussion topics included:

- An opportunity to meet with the Chamber of Commerce, and the Chamber's agreement to assist with a business survey.
- Back-to-back engagements with the Guiding Growth Group and the Storm Water Working Group.
- Summarized recap of the open house event at Islands & Oceans Visitor Center.
- Various opportunities for youth engagement.

#### B. Community Survey – Draft Framework

Ms. Wade reviewed the draft framework for the Community Survey while explaining the changes that had been implemented since the last time the group reviewed the document. Changes included, but were not limited to:

- Adding a "Health & Safety" suite of items.
- Adding a category of items under "Infrastructure & Economic Development."
- Adding a broader category of "Quality of Life."
  - Childcare and Early Childhood Development were added to this section.
- Per the Committee's suggestion, a section was added where individuals taking the survey will indicate their preferred level of growth for some key economic sectors (marine trades, visitor industry, healthcare, government, construction, etc.).
- There is also a plan to include a question regarding residency to find out how long folks have lived in Homer/if they live in Homer full-time or seasonally, etc.

Committee Member Davis suggested changing the survey to read that it's open to "Homer area residents" instead of just "Homer residents." He also suggested making parks and trails one category under "Quality of Life" as opposed to having them included with outdoor recreational opportunities. Also discussed was the idea of creating a livable, walkable, vibrant downtown area. Committee Member Kim recommended including a question regarding indigeneity, stating that this is a question that is often left out in terms of how long a people has lived in an area.

#### C. Discuss April Steering Committee Meeting Schedule

KIM/ERICKSON MOVED TO APPROVE APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup> AT 3:30 P.M. AND APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup> AT 3:30 P.M. FOR THE NEXT TWO SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

D. Agnew::Beck Visiting Schedule

Ms. Wade noted that May becomes very busy, including Shorebird Festival and Taste of Homer that are back-to-back, big community events. City Planner Foster suggested taking a look at the scope of the project to help to determine what the activities are in the May time period, and then try to put something together.

**INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

**COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

**COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**

**COMMENTS OF THE TASK FORCE**

Committee Member Kim thanked the Committee for the work that they are handling together. He asked the Committee to keep in mind the people that don't attend the meetings and those that are hard for the group to relate to. He added that as the "token" member of the group, he feels it is imperative that he speaks on behalf of Alaskan natives, indigenous people and minority groups.

Committee Member Erickson said that it's been a really interesting week and that it's been fun to watch everything come together. She shared her appreciation for Agnew::Beck's participation in the activities throughout the week.

Chair Carsow thanked Agnew::Beck for a wonderful start to the kickoff of the comprehensive plan.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Carsow adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m. The next regular meeting is Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. All meetings are scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers and via Zoom Webinar.

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ZACH PETTIT, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

Approved:\_\_\_\_\_