

Session 18-03 a Regular Meeting of the Homer Education and Recreation Complex Task Force was called to order by Chair Slone at at 3:00 p.m. on July 24, 2018 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: Task Force Members Derry, Haines, Knight, Lowney, Marks, Matthews, Reiss, Slone

STAFF: Special Projects and Communication Coordinator Carroll
City Clerk Jacobsen Jacobsen

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

LOWNEY/KNIGHT MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

DERRY/LOWNEY MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA AND MOVE ITEM 10 TO FOLLOW ITEM 2.

There was brief discussion.

VOTE: YES: DERRY, MARKS, KNIGHT
NO: SLONE, REISS, HAINES, MATTHEWS, LOWNEY

Motion to amend failed.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE (main motion): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

The Audience may comment on matters on the agenda not scheduled for public hearing 3 minute time limit

RECONSIDERATION

SYNOPSIS APPROVAL

A. July 10, 2018

DERRY/MARKS MOVED TO APPROVE THE SYNOPSIS

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS (15 minutes each)

- A. MAPP of the Southern Kenai Peninsula Health Coalition – Hannah Gustafson, Coordinator; Derotha Ferraro, South Peninsula Hospital, MAPP Steering Committee; Bonita Banks, RN, South Peninsula Hospital, MAPP Resilience Coalition

Hannah Gustafson, MAPP Coordinator, explained MAPP is a framework for working together to improve community health. That has been employed in Homer for 10 years. She touched on the eight dimensions of health and wellness, including cultural, economic, educational, emotional, environmental, physical, social and spiritual. MAPP is guided by a steering committee and their vision is a proactive, resilient, and innovative community and ways they work to improve health in the community are by conducting assessments, convening meetings, facilitating conversations, fostering stake holder engagement, mobilizing entities and individuals, monitoring, and celebrating.

Derotha Ferraro, South Peninsula Hospital, MAPP Steering Committee, reviewed the findings from two of the four areas of the Community Health Needs Assessment. First she addressed the Community Themes and Strengths Assessment Respondent information which included:

- Five greatest community strengths
- Community aspects most needing to be improved
- Top five issues preventing personal use of services or activities
- Top three factors most negatively affecting the respondents or their families
- Top three factors most negatively affecting the community
- Five services respondents found most lacking

Second was the Community Health Status Assessment portion of the assessment and Ms. Ferraro addressed key demographic findings for the Southern Kenai Peninsula relating to population and age, leading causes of death, high school students and binge drinking, and residents living above poverty level.

Bonita Banks, RN, South Peninsula Hospital, MAPP Resilience Coalition, reported on adverse childhood experiences (ACE's), also called tough times, and research that has shown a direct correlation between the number of tough times and increase risk for chronic disease. She referenced graphs showing how Alaska compares to ten different states and across the board and in every type of ACE's, Alaskans rate higher. Support systems, and being involved and engaged in their community are ways that help youth who experience ACE's. Unfortunately youth who have the highest number of ACE's are the ones who don't participate in after school activities. Ms. Banks explained a focus of the community is building family resilience,

and as the task force looks at the materials provided, she encouraged them to keep in mind this is something the HERC building could possibly help with.

In response to questions about prioritizing issues and what should be a focus of the task force, Ms. Ferraro and Ms. Banks commented about the stories and key findings in the Community Health Needs Assessment. They noted the need to help build resilience in our children so they don't reach the point of chronic disease, and at the same time support and encourage healthy activities for our seniors. There are opportunities to address both ends of the spectrum, and people in between.

Chair Slone thanked the presenters, noted their time was up and that they need to move on to the next item.

MARKS/LOWNEY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ALLOW FOR QUESTIONS.

There was brief discussion that each member should be able to ask a question while the presenters are here.

VOTE: YES: MARKS, REISS, LOWNEY, HAINES, MATTHEWS, DERRY KNIGHT
NO: SLONE

Motion carried.

In response to further questions, there was discussion on being able to break down some of the data specific to our area, but not all of it. Ms. Gustafson noted some of the information from the Youth Risk Behavioral Survey that done statewide with school aged children can be pulled based on zip code. She will provide that information in a hand out when the localized information is available. There was an additional request for more information on cost factors and transportation issues that hinder people's ability to get involved and participate in programs.

B. Q&A Re: Community Recreation – Mike Illg, Recreation Manager

Mike Illg, Recreation Manager, provided the task force with an overview of the Community Recreation Program. The program was established in 1972 as Homer Community Schools Program and was created to support accessibility to school facilities beyond the school hours in order to provide recreational and educational opportunities. The operation & administration moved from KPBSD to City of Homer in 2006 and is a division in the Administration Department. The mission statement is:

The City of Homer Community Recreation will promote community involvement and life-long learning through educational and recreational opportunities for people of all ages.

This will be accomplished through maximizing usage of all community facilities and resources, while utilizing, expanding and uniting local business and school resources and expertise. Our program shall be designed to recognize cultural diversity and to address social and community concerns.

The program relies heavily on volunteer efforts. Mr. Illg explained that in addition to himself there are three recreation assistants who are temporary employees that fill in for him, 33 contracted instructors, and 90 volunteers. The 2016 estimated program visits were 23,769. Locations for programs includes the Homer High School, Homer Middle School, and the HERC. The high school is the primary location, the cost is \$4,000 annually, and it can be challenging to schedule because he has to work around school events. The middle school is the secondary location at a cost of \$2,000 annually and the same scheduling challenges apply there as well. The HERC downstairs is the only area used currently, primarily the gym. It's an older building with limited space and limited maintenance.

Mr. Illg reviewed the programs and activities that are available through Community Recreation, fees, and he highlighted the importance of municipal recreation in the community.

Questions and discussion followed. Mr. Illg explained over time the community recreation fees have been established at the standard fee of \$3 per visit, \$2 per visit for youth. There is a soft policy that youth won't be turned away if they can't pay. Attendance has remained steady, it can fluctuate based on what programs are available from year to year, and there is a growing demand for recreation, but there are limitations on available time and space. The high school and middle school are the first and second choices for scheduling because they have the best gyms and available class room spaces. Also, his office is at the high school so he is better able to provide general supervision of activities at that location. The HERC is not as well maintained as the schools. He doesn't strategically want to put things there to make it look like we're overloading the facility and trying to create a demand. Benefits of bringing it on line and having the space available as a municipality are that it brings in about \$14,000 in revenue, the location, and being away from school activities and scheduling conflicts would open more times for activities.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Julie Engebretsen, Deputy City Planner

Mrs. Marks noted Deputy City Planner Engebretsen's information in the staff report on available dates for another worksession, and thinks it would be worthwhile to have another one.

Ms. Lowney asked Special Projects and Communication Coordinator Carroll if she had information on funding for renovations or refurbishing as opposed to building something new. Ms. Carroll said she would note the question and look into some possibilities.

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

A. New Recreation Facility – Discussion by Michael Haines

Mr. Haines reported he's still working on steps 1-3 in his project work plan overview. He commented on his visit to the Sterling Recreation Center, explaining it was built in 2013, it's a beautiful building with a wonderful gym, full workout room, commercial kitchen, activity room, 50 car parking lot, and a baseball diamond. The unfortunate thing there is very little usage, the only real interest they are getting is for pickle ball and roller derby. There are concerns about financial problems for the center in the long term.

Mr. Haines said he feels like the task force is doing the right things in coming up with a viable plan for the HERC building. He plans to visit the Kenai Rec Center and work with Mike Illg on line with the National Association and find two or three models together to look at and try to come up with a really good HERC building, whether new or reconstructive. He's meeting with Mrs. Marks and Ms. Lowney to discuss information related to facilities, he's working on preparing a data base of local facilities and activities in the community.

In response to questions about management of the Sterling Center, Mr. Haines explained it's a 501c3 and is overseen by a Board of Directors. There is a Facilities Director who manages the programs.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of Chair

Mr. Derry asked for confirmation that Chair Slone is declining to be Chair at this point. Chair Slone said he is declining to accept any nomination.

Mr. Derry nominated Mrs. Marks for chair and Ms. Lowney nominated Mrs. Matthews for chair.

Both nominees accepted the nomination and staff handed out paper to allow the task force members to vote.

Mrs. Matthews was elected as Chair and assumed the gavel.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

The Audience may comment on any item. 3 minute time limit

Mike Illg, city resident and Kenai Peninsula Borough School Board Member, commented that bussing is a challenge and the Board is working on working on an MOU's between SPARK, Kachemak Swim Club, and the School District to come up with an agreement to establish designated bus stops during the school year. The Board is also looking at after school programs in the schools at Paul Banks and West Homer Elementary.

Tim Joyce, non-resident, encouraged the task force to look at the economic benefits of activities that occur in the community, not just at the HERC and the schools. He noted the youth wrestling that brought in 700 families last year, and those families spend money in the community while they are here. Same with the turnout for the recent Pickle Ball Tournament, they all have an economic impact on Homer.

Kathy Hill, city resident, thanked the group for their work. She noted another community need along with recreation and a community center, is the need for an evacuation center. In looking back at the earthquake and tsunami warnings back in January, the Fire Chief spoke about the need for an evacuation center and to look at the HERC as a possible location.

COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE TASK FORCE

Ms. Lowney thanks Mrs. Matthews for serving as Chair. She also noted she's planning to attend the next Brown Bag Lunch on August 6th.

Chair Matthews asked about scheduling a worksession. There was brief discussion about dates and times, but nothing was finalized, and she will work with Deputy City Planner Engebretsen to work with on a date and topic.

Mr. Reiss commented he thinks a worksession is premature at this time and he'd like to propose inviting Public Works including Director Meyer, the mechanical, architectural and electrical person to the next session. There is a big issue with the mechanical aspect and he'd like to work with Mr. Meyer on that. He proposes half an hour with them. He'd like to start focusing on the facility. Chair Matthews suggested a worksession might be a good platform for this type of discussion.

Mr. Slone commented at the next meeting he'd like to propose a model motion to select a particular use, in terms of a charter school, K-6th grade and use it as test case, and focus the

technical information as a basis for applying the information to see if it works for that particular use. That will help inform them in respect to giving them a focus on how to utilize all this information, then branch out from that point.

Mrs. Marks suggested two areas to cover in an upcoming worksession and/or regular meeting. One is information from Fireweed Academy regarding interest. The other is documentation about the educational requirement of the building being relinquished along with the original documentation of the land was given over for education and recreational requirements.

Mr. Derry congratulated Mrs. Matthews for serving as Chair and thanked Mr. Slone for his service as Chair. He noted he left early last time due to the tide, as the power had been out for a few days across the bay and he needed to get back with a generator. He commented that he thinks the group needs more time at the meetings to get through the agendas and suggested they consider starting their meetings at 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Task Force the meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. at the City Hall Conference Room located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Approved: _____