

CANNABIS ADVISORY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 26, 2017

Session 17-01, a Regular Meeting of the Cannabis Advisory Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Don Stead at 5:35 p.m. on January 26, 2017 in the Cowles Council Chambers located at City Hall 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS HARRIS, REYNOLDS, LEWIS, ROBL, STEAD AND YOUNG  
COMMISSIONER CLARK

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS CARROLL

STAFF: DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

Commissioner Clark arrived at 5:50 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Vice Chair Stead requested a motion to approve the agenda.

LEWIS/YOUNG - MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**

A. Ryan Walker, Red Run Cannabis Company

The scheduled visitor was unable to attend the meeting.

**RECONSIDERATION**

**ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Meeting Minutes for the October 27, 2016 Regular Meeting

Vice Chair Stead called for adoption of the Consent agenda containing the minutes from the October 27, 2016 regular meeting.

LEWIS/YOUNG - MOVED TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**REPORTS**

City Planner Abboud had only one brief comment regarding potential applicant considering a retail operation with city limits that he has been assisting the last several weeks.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**PENDING BUSINESS**

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. Marijuana Seeds

Vice Chair Stead read the title into the record and inquired if Commissioner Lewis had any additional information to provide. Commissioner Lewis responded he did not but questioned City Planner Abboud on the legality of a person wanting to sell the seeds.

City Planner Abboud reiterated the information contained in his memo to the City Manager that the marijuana seeds would be considered the same as seedlings. The sale is illegal under the guidelines of the Federal Government. While seeds may contain a trace amount of THC it is an aspect that is not given much thought. The seeds in his opinion would be regulated the same as the plant is for the State. He recommended that it be checked with the Marijuana Board.

General discussion and comment ensued by the commission on the status of seeds and consensus was gained on this being an item of interest to keep an ear open for further discussions.

### B. Declaring a Vacancy on the Commission

Vice Chair Stead read the title into the record and noted that according to the Commission Bylaws that after three unexcused absences the Commission is to review and determine if the seat is vacated.

Commissioner Young requested clarification on Commissioner Carroll's ability to reapply for the seat. Deputy City Clerk Krause informed the commission that according to her knowledge and understanding there was nothing barring Ms. Carroll from reapplying to be on the commission.

Commissioner Harris expressed a preference for Commissioner Carroll submit a resignation.

Commissioner Lewis advocated for postponing the decision to vacate the seat until the next meeting and then if Commissioner Carroll does not show or call they take action.

Commissioner Young expressed that she would be a proponent of vacating the seat noting that Commissioner Carroll has provided value to the commission, so that any other interested parties wanting to serve on the commission get a chance. She additionally noted that Commissioner Carroll can always reapply.

Vice Chair Stead agreed with Commissioner Young's statements also noting that it is a courtesy to the commission to inform us of absences allowing the commission to move forward.

LEWIS/YOUNG - MOVED TO DECLARE THE SEAT VACANT AND REQUEST THE CITY CLERK TO ADVERTISE THE VACANCY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

### C. Amending the Bylaws to Reflect the Change in Meeting Frequency

Vice Chair Stead read the title into the record and requested a motion.

LEWIS/YOUNG - MOVED TO AMEND THE BYLAWS TO REFLECT A QUARTERLY MEETING SCHEDULE OF THE FOURTH THURSDAY OF JANUARY, APRIL, AUGUST AND THE SECOND THURSDAY OF DECEMBER AND ADD THIS ITEM TO THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

#### D. Distances - Churches and Schools

Chair Clark requested this item for discussion and consideration because of a concern that it could be preventing retail businesses from starting up in Homer. He is concerned that they have had no applications to start a business in the city and was wondering if there was something else that they could do to make it more appealing. It is also one of the reasons he invited Red Run Cannabis to come speak to the commission regarding what it takes to operate a business. He was unsure why they were not here tonight but opined that it was probably weather related.

The commissioners discussed the following:

- this business is very difficult, banks have canceled existing accounts whether personal or other business related accounts such as mortgages.
- This is already in City code and the distances established and supported were to be considered safer for children and businesses
- Federal memo on recommended distances strongly advised to minimize the possibility of raids and that raids that were conducted in recent times were because the businesses did not follow the recommendations
- How the application process could deter an applicant and possibly establishing a pre-approval process for the City that could be done prior to the State application process
- It was unlikely to receive support from Council on relaxing the distances from schools

Commissioner Lewis called for a Point of Order noting that they have veered off the topic of distances.

There was no further discussion or comments.

#### INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

##### A. 2017 Meeting Schedule and Packet Processing Deadlines

###### 1. Resolution 16-124, Establishing the Regular 2017 Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Reynolds noted an error on the document. She noted that the dates were incorrect. They were actually transposed under the columns of packet processing date and meeting date.

##### B. 2017 Commission Attendance at Council Meetings

Commissioner Lewis will make the report at the next meeting.

##### C. New Regulations - State of Alaska

Commissioner Reynolds noted the inopportune meeting schedule did not allow the Commission to comment on these regulations.

#### COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Krystal Hunter, resident of Diamond Ridge area, 50% partner in a future cultivation, commented on the difficulties and expense in regards to establishing a business. She looks forward to having a retail facility in Homer in the future and in response to question from the Commission doesn't have any concern over the next Borough vote on marijuana in October. She believes that it will pass the borough vote as many of the residents may not smoke but do not mind that others do. Ms. Hunter relocated here from Anchorage and noted that you can smoke here in Homer while in Anchorage you cannot smoke in many areas of the city let alone any restaurant or bar.

Larry Slone, city resident, commented on promoting sales of marijuana to conservative institutions such as banks it would be best to comply with the strictest entity and take a conservative approach. He advocated for following the federal recommendations and work within the State guidelines and approval to get mainstream acceptance.

#### **COMMENTS OF STAFF**

#### **COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Clark apologized once more for his tardiness and was sorry that their scheduled visitor did not come tonight. He was looking forward to hearing them.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Robl echoed the Chair's comment, looking forward to hear from the visitor tonight.

Commissioner Harris thinks it's great that the State has collected such a high amount of sales taxes on a small amount of pot and believes that the City of Homer brings in cultivation would do a lot of good for the city.

Commissioner Stead welcomed everyone and wished everyone happy New Year

Commissioner Young was looking forward to the presentation as well and would like to have them rescheduled.

Commissioner Reynolds commented on the opportunity for folks to offer input and hopes that they come in April.

#### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Clark adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

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Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I

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