

Session 14-01 a Special Meeting of the Public Arts Committee was called to order on January 9, 2014 at 5:04 pm by Vice Chair Michele Miller at the Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMITTEE MEMBERS APLIN, MILLER AND FELLOWS  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSIONER DEB LOWNEY

TELEPHONIC: COMMITTEE MEMBER NEWBY

ABESENT: COMMITTEE MEMBER GRONING

STAFF: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I  
ANGIE OTTESON, PARKS MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Vice Chair Miller requested a motion to approve the agenda.

APLIN/NEWBY – MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Committee.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Ken Landfield, city resident commented on the Art Donation and placement in WKFL Park to memorialize Brother Asaiah Bates. He commented against the placement of a statue of Brother Asaiah for the following reasons: the little park is getting cluttered especially since the addition of the new restroom. He opined that a more appropriate location for a statue would be the museum or the old Barefooters property at the head of the bay. He commented that he was not convinced that Brother Asaiah would have necessarily wanted a statue of himself as he recalled a sentiment expressed by Brother Asaiah as, "Throw me in a paper sack, walk away and don't look back."

He went on to further comment that a more fitting memorial would be to endow an annual lecture to the dissemination and propagation of the principles Brother Asaiah held dear, peace and communication and the respectful exchange of ideas. A recurring annual event perhaps on Martin Luther King Jr Day or (/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance might be a more dynamic, vital memorial and testimonial to our dear departed friend. He opined it could be called "The Brother Asaiah Bates WKFL Memorial Lecture Series". Mr. Landfield believed he would have liked that. Mr. Landfield thanked the committee for their time.

### **RECONSIDERATION**

There were no items for reconsideration.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** *(Minutes are approved during regular or special meetings only)*

A. Meeting Minutes for Regular Meeting of November 14, 2013

Vice Chair Miller requested a motion to approve the minutes.

NEWBY/APPLIN – MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

There was a brief discussion on approving minutes at a special meeting.

The minutes were approved as presented by consensus of the Committee.

## **VISITORS**

There were no visitors scheduled.

## **STAFF & COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS/ AND BOROUGH REPORTS**

There was no written staff report. Ms. Krause stated she could answer questions if there were any on the items in the packet.

Vice Chair Miller stated she would prefer to address questions when they discussed the agenda items.

The committee did not voice objection to that decision.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

There were no items for public hearing.

## **PENDING BUSINESS**

### **A. Uniform Signage Design**

Vice Chair Miller read the title into the record and invited Ms. Krause to lead the discussion.

Ms. Krause explained for the record that the committee discussed and approved issuing a quote request to three local sign design companies and one designer/artist. This was done in November and proposals were due on December 19, 2013. Each proposer was given the criteria that was determined and agreed upon by the joint committee which comprised of Commissioner Lowney from the Parks and Recreation Commission; Parks Maintenance Coordinator, Angie Otteson and the Public Arts Committee.

They received two responses. Those were included in the packet. Ms. Krause provided a brief description of the proposal received from the proposers. Due to the time requirements outlined in the Request for a Quote that is the reason why this was added to agenda.

The following comments were noted:

- Liked to word "Welcome" on the signs
- Posts are included on each proposal
- Prices are broken out by each proposer
- Installation is included for each
- The RFQ stated the amount available
- Installation may be accomplished by city personnel

Comments made strictly on the aesthetics of the proposals received:

Proposed by Lost Things Designs

Liked the "Welcome to" on the signage  
Liked the indications on what kind of amenities are at the park, too busy depending on the location, miniscule city logo, silhouettes may become dated sooner

Handpainted by Dan Coe

Strong City Logo  
Clean Design  
Timeless design  
Lettering stands out  
Warranty against peeling, fading and material design for 5 years

APLIN/LOWNEY - MOVED TO SUBMIT TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR RECOMMENDATION ON DESIGN TO BE INCLUDED IN RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL.

There was a brief discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

APLIN/NEWBY - MOVED TO SUBMIT RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL TO AWARD HANDPAINTED DESIGNS BY DAN COE OF ANCHOR POINT, ALASKA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,650.00 FOR THE SMALLER SIGN DESIGN FOR JEFFREY PARK, BAYVIEW PARK AND LOUIE'S LAGOON AND LOST THINGS DESIGNS OF HOMER, ALASKA, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,360.00 FOR THE LARGER UNIQUE PARK DESIGN FOR JACK GIST PARK AND FURTHER RECOMMEND COUNCIL APPROVE THESE DESIGNS AS THE STANDARDS FOR CITY PARKS, TRAILS, BEACHES AND RECREATIONAL AREAS.

There was a brief discussion on the decision to split the design choices and that it followed along with their design criteria.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. Re-advertised 1% for Art on the Homer Spit

Vice Chair Miller introduced the item into the record and asked Ms. Krause if there was any action needed.

Ms. Krause explained that it was informational in nature and unless there was any questions on the enclosed materials no action or discussion was required. The Request for Proposals was re-advertised and two proposers are on the plan holder's list. It was noted that the RFP closes on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The same members of the selection committee have agreed to continue and will meet on February 4, 2014 to review the proposals received.

There were a few comments from the committee on their dismay that Mooserun Metalsmiths were not able to accept the award.

There was no further discussion.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Donation of Commissioned Artwork for Placement within WKFL Park

1. Gift proposal form
2. Pictures of proposed art donation
3. Resume of artist
4. Artist previous works
5. Photos of asaiah bates
6. Letters of support

Vice Chair Miller read the title into the record. Ms. Krause noted this started with an inquiry from Ms. Otteson.

Ms. Otteson stated that Leo Vait, local artist, contacted her regarding his commissioned sculpture, stating that he wanted approval before further work was done on the sculpture and submittal to the foundry. Ms.

Otteson felt that it should go before the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission since it was being requested to be placed in a city park. She contacted Ms. Krause who notified her about the process in place for donating works of art to the city.

Chair Newby expressed appreciation for Ms. Otteson and the city manager for their support of the protocols; she stated that she received emails with photos from Mr. Will Files.

Discussion ensued on the cost of the artwork and what the procedure was regarding the donation application. Chair Newby provided a summary explanation on the background of the application and recalled the donation of the bench as a memorial for the eagle lady. Vice Chair Miller stated that it still did not explain the procedure on what the committee should do now. Ms. Aplin stated that while the idea of the donation is acceptable, it is apparent that the venue may not be acceptable.

Commissioner Lowney was permitted to offer her comment stating that this item was on the Parks and Recreation Commission agenda next week and she believed that due to the conflict on the appropriateness of the suggested placement in WKFL Park that they provide more opportunity for the public to weigh in, she further opined that she understood the concern expressed by Mr. Landfield regarding the overcrowding of the park but she had less concern on that since it would be installed on top of an existing rock, technically it is not taking up space.

The committee discussed the need for further opportunity for a public hearing; that Brother Asaiah was a very unassuming man; why this project needed fast tracking through the process and making a quick decision. The committee expressed concern on the venue being appropriate. It was determined that council was the appropriate forum to get the word out to the public.

Vice Chair Miller requested a motion. Ms. Krause requested a few minutes to draft the appropriate motion for the committee.

APLIN/NEWBY - MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE DONATION OF THE SCULPTURE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO ADD TO THE MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION HOWEVER THERE IS A QUESTION REGARDING THE LOCATION BEING APPROPRIATE AND THEREFORE RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ISSUE. FURTHERMORE, THE COMMITTEE WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL INCLUDE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING ON JANUARY 16, 2014 IN THEIR DELIBERATIONS.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

### **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

A. Memorandum dated November 21, 2013 Re: 2014 Regular Meeting Schedule

Vice Chair Miller inquired if there was any discussion or question on the memorandum. There was a brief discussion on the error in the meeting dates.

### **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

Mike Kennedy, resident, stated he was the person in some of the pictures that were included in the packet, although he did not know why; he stated that Brother Asaiah did not want anyone to know where he was buried and did not want a head stone. Brother Asaiah did not want the park known by his name either. Brother Asaiah did not want to be held on this plane, he believed that his soul, energy and or vibration to travel to other planes. He wanted to be free to keep going and not get sucked back. Mr.

Kennedy had no idea about this sculpture. He does know Leo Vat Will Files and Martha; and he has seen John Nazarian this past summer.

Mr. Kennedy stated that he held conversations with others who knew Brother Asaiah and they all agreed that Brother Asaiah would not want to be memorialized like this. He has called and spoke to the City Manager who was not aware of that information. To put what is basically a tombstone in the center of town is not what Asaiah wanted. Mr. Kennedy felt that it would be wrong to accept this as Public Art and Brother Asaiah would not want everyone fighting about it either. He additionally questioned why it was being fast-tracked too. It was being paid for and would be done with or without the city.

Mr. Kennedy opined that you have to acknowledge that Public Art has a bad reputation being vandalized; every piece of public art has been vandalized; he additionally consulted with his friend and local artist, Brad Hughes who commented that the medium being used, bronze, was an old people thing and most bronze statues have been stolen, cut up and turned in as scrap metal by drug addicts.

Mr. Kennedy strongly opposed the city accepting the sculpture into their collection based on his personal knowledge that Brother Asaiah would not have wanted to be memorialized and tied to this earth. He believed that it would be more important to carry on the message Asaiah tried to impart.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**

Ms. Krause commented that Mr. Kennedy was very young in the picture.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER** *(If one is assigned)*

No councilmembers were present.

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

There were no comments from the chair.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

There were no comments from members of the committee.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee Vice Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m. **A WORKSESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR 4:00 P.M. PRIOR TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 13, 2014 AT 5:00 P.M. at City Hall Conference Room Upstairs, 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.**

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Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I

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