

Session 14-02 a Regular Meeting of the Public Arts Committee was called to order on February 13, 2014 at 5:00 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, PERSONS AND FELLOWS

TELEPHONIC: COMMITTEE MEMBER NEWBY

STAFF: CAREY MEYER, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR  
RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Vice Chair Miller requested a motion to approve the agenda.

NEWBY/APLIN – 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**

There were no comments from the public.

### **RECONSIDERATION**

There were no items for reconsideration.

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

A. Meeting Minutes for Special Meeting of January 9, 2014

Vice Chair Miller requested a motion to approve the minutes.

APLIN/FELLOWS – MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

Vice Chair Miller noted an unfinished sentence on page 1 of the minutes under Visitors, second paragraph. Ms. Aplin noted her name misspelled in the motion on the same page.

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

### **VISITORS**

There were no visitors scheduled.

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

Ms. Krause provided a written report and stated that she would entertain questions on the report if any. Vice Chair Miller inquired about the recommendation to work on a mid-year budget request. Ms. Krause explained that the committee could discuss what they wanted to accomplish for the remainder of the year during a worksession before the next meeting in May which would help determine if they needed to submit a budget request since the remaining funds of \$108 did not allow for much to be done.

Chair Miller also confirmed that they had the review of the Strategic Plan on their agenda tonight.

Ms. Newby lost connection at 5:15 p.m.

Ms. Krause confirmed that the signs were awarded and there was a minor hiccup in the startup with the signs being done by Dan Coe but that was straightened out and both artists should be starting production on the signs shortly. Installation is expected to be accomplished by the end of May.

#### B. Homer Arts and Culture Alliance Meeting Report

Ms. Persons reported that the group HACA has been involved as a participant in the PARC, which stands for Parks Arts Recreation and Culture group which is working on the Needs Assessment. These meetings are not open to the public but are a working group meeting which will bring the work product to the various groups for input. The Parks and Recreation Commission will be addressing the public aspect or component of the Needs Assessment.

Ms. Newby connected back to the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

There were no items for public hearing.

### **PENDING BUSINESS**

#### A. Art for the Spit Trail – 1% for Art and Interpretive Signage

Ms. Aplin stated she requested this on the agenda to get some input from the committee. She listed the members of the committee that have participated so far on the interpretative signage on the Spit Trail. Some ideas mentioned were to use Haiku, First Voices, and a giant tide gauge that unveils a poem at different levels of the tide; how select or solicit for a call for artists or poetry instead of the formal RFP, not limit creativity, but there is a need to get something on the ground. Some members of the committee were questioning the interpretive text that teaches or provides information. She wanted to get the input from Carey Meyer and the Public Arts Committee regarding the content and direction that she should take. The project is not a 1% for Art Project it is actually outside of the purview of the committee; the budget is \$40,000.

Mr. Meyer related the outcome of the Beluga Slough Trail signage and how it was developed to provide an idea of what they were driving for on the Spit Trail. Ms. Aplin conveyed what she envisioned the information portion then a small poem related to the information on the sign. They are looking at 8-9 signs one at the End of the Road Park, the Deep Water Dock, the intersection of the Spit Road and Freightdock Road, Fishdock Overlook plus 4 additional locations around the harbor.

Mr. Meyer also noted that they had re-advertised for the 1% for Art in the amount of \$11,000 since they did not get any submittals he was granted permission by the City Manager to contact Mooserun Metalsmiths to see what it would take to encourage them to create the sculpture that was initially proposed. This was done on the further information that one of the main reasons Mooserun declined the award was the amount of the award was not enough. They needed more money. Mr. Meyer stated that if they wanted a few thousand dollars more he could probably swing that but if the amount was greater than it was not happening. Since all the requirements in the Procurement Policy have been followed they are at liberty to hire someone to construct or design and art piece for the location if the second attempt to get the Mooserun sculpture.

Vice Chair Miller asked what they were looking for from this committee if it wasn't really part of their responsibility. Ms. Aplin stated she was looking for some guidance. Mr. Meyer said he felt uncomfortable looking at it strictly from the engineering perspective. He further noted that the funding is coming from the Cruise Ship Head Tax funding.

The committee was appreciative of being included and one suggestion was to alternate the information signs with artistic poetic signage. The committee was really supportive of the incorporation of poetry and art into the information signs. The idea can incorporate and tie all the elements together.

Mr. Meyer questioned how you could write that into the RFP to include all those aspects plus still leave it open to any additional ideas that may be submitted.

It was questioned if the public process was really necessary if they had the resources already. Mr. Meyer stated that they really did not have to go public with a RFP. They could just establish guidelines on requesting submissions of poetry along the themes. The committee agreed that would be fun and include the whole community.

Ms. Aplin thanked the committee for their assistance and input.

Mr. Meyer commented that it provides some similarity with poetry up at Baycrest and poetry at Beluga Slough then Poetry out on the Spit.

#### B. Establishing a Date for A Public Hearing

Ms. Krause noted that by consensus that February 27, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers is the best available. Ms. Aplin will not be able to attend. Ms. Newby can attend but we need to have three members present just in case you lose connection. There was a brief discussion on the urgency to have the meeting this month. Ms. Fellows will be able to notify staff if she will be unable to attend this meeting.

There was no further discussion.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### A. Memorandum to Advisory Bodies from the City Clerk Re: Meeting Schedules

Ms. Krause explained the purpose of the memorandum and how it affects this committee regarding the Special meetings. It was noted that they agreed to have quarterly meetings but then there are things that come up so they have been having quite a few special meetings. Discussion ensued on the need to meet more than the scheduled quarterly meetings especially since they had no budgets. It was noted that they would have to meet to form the various selection committees and that might need a special meeting if they cannot have a timely meeting to establish that selection committee.

Chair Newby argued the need for flexibility to have Special meetings when the need comes up such as the various projects.

Discussion ensued regarding the necessity of having more than the regularly scheduled quarterly committee meetings; they have plenty of notice for projects and they can conduct all required committee work at a regular meeting. Since they really do not have a budget there was no justification on having Special Meetings. It was recommended not to have as many special meetings as they have been.

NEWBY/MILLER - MOVED TO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL ALLOW THE PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT SPECIAL MEETINGS ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF COUNCIL.

There was a brief discussion regarding the need to schedule meetings when the need arises without having to wait the time it would take to have Council approve the special meeting. A perfect example was the Public Hearing for the Art Donation. The Committee felt that they did not abuse the ability to have Special Meetings and only did so as needed.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

#### B. Memorandum Reviewing the 2014 Strategic Plan – What Next for Action!

Vice Chair Miller stated that they will address this item at the May regular meeting.

## **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

### **A. Citizens Academy Advertisement**

Ms. Krause commented that this was open to public and if they did not get a few more enrollees then it will be postponed until a later date. She stated that there were 15-20 spots. A comment from committee members noted they may get more interest if it wasn't so long.

There were no further comments.

## **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

Kathy Hill, city resident, stated she was at the meeting tonight to read a statement that was printed in the Homer News, February 6, 2014 and written by Lee Post at the request of Leo Vait. She will be out of town on February 27, 2014 and Ms. Krause stated she should attend tonight, it will be included in the packet of information for the Public Hearing.

"Something is as upside down as the weather. We have somebody funding one of the state's best sculptors to create a sculpture of Asaiah Bates who was one of Homer's most famous and beloved residents in his life. We have a public park that Asaiah donated the land for in the middle of town. We are a town that values the arts and is well known for the quality and quantity of art that comes out of it. Asaiah himself was known to pose for local artists. And we have individuals wishing to stop the creation or display of this public sculpture because? They seem to be saying that Asaiah wouldn't want to be portrayed as a sculpture. They seem to be saying that he wouldn't want this art in the parkland he donated to the public. Someone is saying this might make him a religious figure and thus shouldn't be on public land. That same someone seems to be saying, as a libertarian, that art shouldn't be put in public places.

First, I won't pretend to have a direct line to what Asaiah might or might not have said if he were alive. That's too close to what many religions do with iconic dead people. I can't imagine Brother Asaiah saying he wanted to be depicted as a statue in a local park. But then I can't imagine Abraham Lincoln or Martin Luther King or Nelson Mandela saying that either. They are now all subjects of great public sculptures. Portrait art is not for the dead. They gave up the right to object when they left. It is for the living and for future generations. It is a way to honor and remember great people and an image of the individual can do that way more effectively than a memorial fund.

Second, shouldn't a libertarian be thrilled that public tax money isn't being used to fund this and even better that it could go onto land that wasn't paid for by public tax funds but was a private donation? Shouldn't they be all about individuals supporting and creating art that is for the public in public places without having the government (or anyone else) put constrictive restrictions on it?

Third, Brother Asaiah was not exactly a private recluse. He wrote many letters to the editor of this paper than probably anyone. He spoke at more council meetings than anyone else ever has. He was kind and gentle and calming and I think we can all agree that the last thing he would have wanted was to have his friends arguing about what he would have said. If he truly felt strongly about this when he was alive, he certainly had opportunities to say something.

What's left is out memories of a great man, and an opportunity to leave something the next generation can appreciate."

## **COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**

Mr. Meyer commented on the need for a Selection Committee for the Harbormasters office. There was a brief discussion on waiting until the May regular meeting agenda. Ms. Aplin commented that this was another example of the ability to schedule a special meeting. Mr. Meyer went on to describe a submittal from the Bishop's Beach project. He will try to have a draft Request for Proposal ready for the May meeting. He then spoke about the Public Safety Building project that will offer another opportunity. He would expect to have that project at a point by the end of summer. Mr. Carey explained it would be separate buildings but one project.

Vice Chair Miller noted that a Selection Committee can be discussed at the August or November regular meeting.

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

No councilmembers were present.

**COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Newby asked if establishing a Selection Committee could be added to the agenda for the Special Meeting on February 27, 2014. Vice Chair Miller stressed her desire to keep the agenda for that meeting strictly focused on the subject.

**COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

Ms. Person (Groning) requested that she be noted by her married name now.

There were no other comments from committee members.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee Vice Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m. **A SPECIAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2014 AT 5:30 P.M. TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE DONATION OF ART TO THE CITY. A WORKSESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR 4:00 P.M. PRIOR TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 8, 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: \_\_\_\_\_