

Session 13-04 a Regular Meeting of the Public Arts Committee was called to order on August 9, 2013 at 5:05 pm by Chair Angie Newby at the Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMITTEE MEMBERS APLIN, FELLOW, NEWBY AND GRONING

ABSENT: COMMITTEE MEMBER MILLER (EXCUSED)

STAFF: DEPUTY CITY CLERK RENEE KRAUSE

The committee met in worksession prior to the regular meeting with Commissioner Lowney from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission and Angie Otteson, Parks Maintenance Coordinator, Public Works to discuss uniform signage design and need for the city trails and parks; budget items were also discussed.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Newby requested a motion to approve the agenda.

GRONING/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

Beth Cummings, city resident, commented on the flower beds and signage at Baycrest Overlook Pullout. She mentioned a sign that was installed in that area years ago and was removed. She did find a picture of this sign that was captured in a photo contained in Ray Kranich collection that is being displayed at the museum. She was not sure that it was timely to include this sign into the plan.

Ms. Cumming also said that the Garden Club will hopefully be re-doing the flower beds.

The next subject she commented on was the sign regarding Halibut Capital of the World, she opined the sign was inappropriate and should be relocated somewhere else.

Chair Newby commented on the attempts of the committee to relocate the sign at the base of the Spit or further down on the Spit where the fisheries are located. It was mentioned that the Chamber was instrumental in placing that sign. She noted that the committee is working diligently to have a more appropriate sign to welcome visitors to Homer.

Chair Newby thanked Ms. Cumming for her comments.

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 on May 9, 2013

GRONING/APLIN - MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

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

VISITORS

There were no visitors scheduled.

STAFF & COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS/ AND BOROUGH REPORTS

- A. Staff Report 13-04
 - 1. Receipt for Artwork Donated to the City for Display

Ms. Krause reviewed her staff report. Discussion ensued on obtaining additional artwork to replace pieces that are sold or removed, liability, and public traffic to view the displayed artwork.

Ms. Groning stated she would look into replacement loaner pieces.

Chair Newby commented that they could ask local galleries or the museum for donor pieces since they definitely have a lack of display space. She will follow up with the Pratt.

Ms. Krause stated that the new picnic pavilion for Karen Hornaday Park was not suitable or qualified for the 1% for Art Program. She explained that there was no budget remaining.

There was no further discussion or comments.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no items for public hearing.

PENDING BUSINESS

- A. Memorandum dated July 29, 2013 Re: Elections

Chair Newby introduced the item into the record and suggested other members take advantage of the opportunity to chair the committee. Ms. Newby wanted to make sure that the members were okay with her remaining as chair.

Ms. Aplin nominated Ms. Newby. Nominations were closed. All members were in agreement for Ms. Newby to remain as chair.

There was a brief discussion on vice chair nominations.

Ms. Aplin nominated Ms. Miller as Vice Chair with the caveat that if she did not want to be vice chair that she would accept the position.

All members were in consensus to have Ms. Miller as Vice Chair.

- B. Initial Design and Discussion on Uniform Signage for the City of Homer Parks, Trails and Campgrounds

Chair Newby summarized the discussion held during the worksession. She noted that Ms. Krause will contact the sign companies to obtain estimates on design costs for signage that includes the new City logo in color. It was agreed that directional signage from DOT that was required should come from the Parks Maintenance Budget. Ms. Otteson will speak with personnel in the Planning Department on obtaining signage for Jack Gist Park.

Ms. Otteson will compile a list from the discussion on the top parks and or trails that require signage and present those in a report to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission at the next meeting.

Ms. Lowney will also advocate for the commission to advocate some of their unused funds towards the purchase of signage.

The committee entertained the pros and cons of being a commission as compared to a committee.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Memorandum dated July 29, 2013 Re: Budget 2014
1. Worksheet

Chair Newby opened this item for discussion by stating that she wanted to request serious money for Baycrest Hill Overlook Improvement Project. She wanted to request \$100,000. If Council says no then they can request it to be included on the CIP.

Ms. Groning noted that this was a large project and why the dire need or push to get this done. She noted that what might have started with signage now includes new restrooms, picnic tables, etc.

Ms. Krause explained that the restrooms do not need to be replaced or could wait until additional funding was obtained since they are adequate however it was noted that there are better facilities that are more economical and eco-friendly.

Ms. Fellows commented on the Fisherman's Wall and if they were still going to renovate this mural. She opined that it is beginning to look really bad. She would contact the artist to see if she was still interested. Ms. Groning offered that Murals should change after time and believes that would offer something instead of keeping it the same all the time.

Ms. Krause suggested commissioning a mural since as far as she knew they still had close to \$3000 + remaining in the account. The committee had already delegated \$1000 to renovate/repaint the existing mural.

Discussion ensued on the murals in Seward, and participation in Artrageous August, which is was too late this year, but getting involved in that event on an annual basis.

Ms. Fellows asked if the committee would have to pay to have the mural painted. Chair Newby responded that it was one of the committee's projects, so yes they would pay for the paint.

Ms. Krause stated that she would need to get permission from the City Manager and double check the funding situation. She explained that she wanted to make sure that the balance remaining did not include the \$2000 for uniform signage since there appeared to be a discrepancy in the balance reported.

Ms. Groning expressed concern that there is not an Arts Commission since Homer does state it is an art town and they support the arts.

Discussion centered then on the City not supporting or fully embracing the Arts Community; the purpose of the committee and why it was created; earning the respect of the various leaders in the community and on the City Council.

The committee also discussed the mural content if a new mural was commissioned. It was agreed that it should be representative of Homer and not just charter fishing. The committee members agreed that the community is so different and would you offend one group over the other if focus is made on one particular area or the other. Further discussion on the advertising costs being about \$300; the amount that would actually be available to pay the artist after supplies is minimal and likened to the artist giving their labor for free.

Chair Newby recommended that the proposers can submit the subject and whoever was chosen would be the one and that they will have to go through the selection process like any other project.

APLIN/FELLOWS – MOVED TO REQUEST STAFF TO VERIFY THE AVAILABLE FUNDS, IF APPROVED BY THE CITY MANAGER, ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR A NEW MURAL ON THE WALL ON HEATH STREET LOCATED AT THE KACHEMAK CENTER.

There was a brief discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Ms. Krause will verify the funding and get permission from the City Manager. She will then draft the RFP and submit for advertising if everything is in order.

Chair Newby re-directed the committee to the 2014 Budget items discussion.

After further discussion regarding submission of a budget request for 2014 the committee agreed to submit two requests, one for the annual budget request in the amount of \$5000 for the following:

1. Additional cataloguing and identification of city owned artwork
2. Uniform Signage for the City Parks and Recreation areas that do not have existing signage as identified by Public Works personnel.
3. Commissioning a New Mural for Heath Street wall at Kachemak Center
4. Participation in Multiple City Events such as "ArtRageous" August and Homer Street Faire, etc., and miscellaneous committee expenses such as advertising requirements, hardware for displaying artwork, etc.

Chair Newby stated she wanted to submit a budget request in the amount of \$100,000 to start implementing the Baycrest Overlook Improvement Plan. She opined that they have a plan and doesn't want it to sit on a shelf. If council does not approve the request she is going to ask that it be included on the CIP.

There was a brief discussion on the likelihood that council will fund this request and that if Council cannot fund the full amount requested if they would accept a lower amount; locating possible grants before submission to council; and state and federal agency funding sources having deeper pockets. It was once more noted that they have a plan and did not want it to be put on shelf, that the committee wanted to get this project completed as it would be beneficial to the whole of Homer.

Chair Newby requested a motion to approve the budget requests for 2014.

APLIN/GRONING – SO MOVED.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. Meeting Schedules and Agendas

Chair Newby opened discussion on the next meetings and agendas.

The committee discussed meeting on September 12, 2013 at 5:00 to discuss the Budget request for 2014 and uniform signage updates.

Ms. Krause stated that Julie Engebretsen mentioned possible funding opportunities through the scenic byways and two other options. She will try to get more information on availability of funding. They would like to look into commissioning other murals around the city and adding to that budget request.

Discussion on using the budget request for the 2014 goals for the strategic plan, upcoming projects for the 1% for the Arts Program and maybe having no scheduled meetings during the summer months.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. 2013 Strategic Plan Revised and Approved May 9, 2013
- B. Resolution 13-064, Awarding the Art Work Contracts for the Homer Spit Trail Phase II
- C. Memorandum to Mayor and Council dated July 7, 2013 Re: recommendation to Award
- D. Resolution 13-043, Accept and Approved the Baycrest Overlook Interpretive Master Plan
- E. July 2013 ASCA News

There was no discussion on the informational materials.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

No audience was present.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Ms. Krause had no comments.

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

No councilmembers were present.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Ms. Newby commented she glad that everyone could get together and they will plan to have a great September meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Ms. Fellows commented that she appreciated Ms. Cumming coming to the meeting and offered her comments on Baycrest Improvement project.

Ms. Groning commented on the benefits of having an active Arts Council referring to the visit by Mr. Seaton, Homer thinking of itself as an Art Town and losing that perception. She noted that even Soldotna was becoming more amenable to art.

Ms. Aplin had no comments.

There was a discussion on having a blanket budget request in the amount of \$5000 and requesting the amount for Baycrest less the amounts available for grants, etc. in response to a question posed by Ms. Groning.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee Chair Newby adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m. The next Special Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2013 at 5:00 pm and the Next regular Meeting is Schedule for November 14, 2013 at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I

Approved: _____