

Session 17-09 a Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Karin Marks at 6:01 p.m. on November 7, 2017 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS MARKS, SANSOM, BROWN, KEISEL

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS EVANS, GUSTAFSON, RICHARDSON, SPECIAL PROJECTS AND COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR CARROLL (EXCUSED)

STAFF: COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH
DEPUTY CITY CLERK SMITH

AGENDA APPROVAL

MARKS/SANSOM- MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADDRESS PENDING BUSINESS AFTER NEW BUSINESS AND TO CHANGE THE ORDER OF NEW BUSINESS ITEMS TO A. WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER, B. APPOINTING CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR, AND C. MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2018.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

KEISEL/SANSOM- MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED

There was no discussion

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

RECONSIDERATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 12, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

SANSOM/KEISEL- MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS

REPORTS

- A. Marine Trades Association Report
- B. Chamber Director Report
- C. Pioneer Avenue Task Force Report

Chair Marks reported that she is a member of the Pioneer Avenue Task Force. She explained that the Pioneer Avenue Task Force will be coinciding with the Homer Chamber of Commerce in their clean up weekend specifically looking at garden maintenance. Chair Marks stated they are in need of volunteers to take on this responsibility throughout the summer. The Task Force will not be meeting for the winter months.

- D. Staff Report

Chair Marks stated that Special Projects and Communication Director, Jenny Carroll, is on her vacation in Africa. However, she did provide a staff report that will mostly be discussed in the BR&E Survey portion of the Agenda, under Pending Business.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Welcome New Board Member

Chair Marks welcomed Deborah Brown to the EDC Commission and offered Deborah to speak a few words if she wished. Deborah declined the offer.

- B. Appointing Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Marks opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair.

SANSOM/KEISEL- MOVED TO APPOINT KARIN MARKS TO REMAIN CHAIR

There was no discussion

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion Carried

Chair Marks opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chair.

MARKS/KEISEL- MOVED TO APPOINT ANNA SANSOM TO REMAIN VICE CHAIR

There was no discussion

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion Carried.

C. Meeting Schedule for 2018

Chair Marks brought attention to the Draft Resolution provided in the Meeting Packet. She explained the Economic Development Commission is scheduled to meet the second Tuesday of every month, but every year July and December become especially hard to gather a quorum. Her suggestion is to cancel the meetings in July and December, but leave all of the other meetings as are.

Commissioner Keisel offered her opinion that July and December are the most difficult times to get together, so she agrees with Chair Marks about cancelling the July and December meetings.

Commissioner Brown stated that she thinks it would be a good idea to cancel the July and December Meetings.

Commissioner Sansom explained that she also believes it would be a good idea to cancel now rather than later. She also wanted the commission to recognize that work sessions are very beneficial and if the commission needed to meet, a work session may be a way to do so.

SANSOM/BROWN- MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2018 MEETING SCHEDULE TO MEET EVERY SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 6:00PM EXCEPT FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY AND DECEMBER, IN WHICH THERE WILL BE NO REGULAR MEETINGS.

There was no discussion

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion Carried

Chair Marks commented that the Economic Development Committee will not be able to gain a quorum for the December meeting for 2017. She suggested that the Commission cancel the December meeting and plan a work session instead.

SANSOM/KEISEL- MOVED TO CANCEL THE DECEMBER 12TH REGULAR MEETING DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM.

There was no discussion

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion Carried

PENDING BUSINESS

A. BR&E Survey

Chair Marks brought attention to Jenny Carroll's staff report and explained the procedure Jenny used during the narrative portion of the survey. She explained that it is very critical that the Commissioners look at each individual narrative answer and gather their own interpretations of them. Their goal is to

gather the three or four most important issues that the City can work on to improve Economic Development. When reporting the findings to City Council in January the goal is to have a one page written document with as much information as possible, but “red flag” certain issues that the Economic Development Commission would like to try and pursue.

Chair Marks commended Jenny Carroll for her hard work and her simplicity with combining the narrative data. Her understanding when she read through all of the answers was that town appearance was one of the biggest issues, but after looking at Jenny’s data she sees that town appearance is number three on the list and that sales tax was the biggest issue among the responders.

Commissioner Sansom asked if we could group town appearance and accessibility/ green space into the same category. She explained that if we grouped those two issues together, there would be room for another issue on the final report.

Chair Marks feels that grouping is a big portion of what still needs to be done, which can be done at the next work session. She went on to explain the data and the way it was collected, giving a brief overview of the survey.

Commissioner Sansom reiterated her belief that if the commission starts grouping together like issues, they will be able to fit more issues onto the report for the Council Meeting.

Council Member Smith commented that he had a chance to sit down with Jenny and discuss the BR&E Survey before she left. He explained that Jenny was surprise that quality of life was such a big issue. He cautioned the Commission to go through the issues carefully to make sure the issues being brought up are something that the City can feasibly try to accomplish and what is within the City’s power to do. He also suggested that the issues outside of the City’s power, be suggested as a Community project.

Commissioner Sansom responded that in the last work session there was copious amount of talk about what the way they would present their data to City Council. They want to make sure they specify what the City can try to accomplish and what is outside of the City’s power.

Council Member Smith also stated that Jenny mentioned to him before she left that this data analysis was through her eyes. He feels it is important to read through the narrative answers and get your own interpretation of the data.

The Commission briefly discussed background of the BR&E Survey and the process moving forward.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. City Managers Report

B. Commissioner Attendance at City Council Meetings

Chair Marks said she could try to be at the meeting on November 27, 2017 since the rest of the Commission will be absent. She urged the rest of the Commission to come forward and volunteer to go to City Council Meetings starting in the New Year.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 6:52p.m. The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR Tuesday, January 9th, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.** at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

HAYLEY SMITH, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: _____