

Session 20-04 a Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Karin Marks at 6:02 p.m. on March 10, 2020 at the Cowles Council Chambers, City Hall located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska via Zoom webinar, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. One seat still remains vacant.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS MARKS, BROWN, RICHARDSON, AREVALO, JOHNSON, MINK

STAFF: DEPUTY CITY CLERK TUSSEY

The Economic Development Advisory Commission held a Worksession prior to their regular meeting from 5:00-5:50 p.m. to discuss Bylaws, Purpose, Strategic Plan and the 2021-2026 Capital Improvement Plan.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Marks called for a motion to approve the agenda.

RICHARDSON/JOHNSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

RECONSIDERATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. EDC March 10 & June 9, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Chair Marks called for a motion to approve both sets of meeting minutes.

AREVALO/RICHARDSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH AND JUNE MINUTES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Special Projects & Communications Coordinator Staff Report
- B. Chamber Director Report
- C. Homer Marine Trades Association Report
- D. Pioneer Avenue Task Force Report

Chair Marks reported that the task force, along with other community partners, was able to present a peony celebration this year in July. She commented that it was very well received and looks forward to have additional meetings this fall to plan for another celebration next year.

- E. KPEDD Report

Chair Marks reported another Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District quarterly meeting is coming up and that they have gotten the funds to cover the marketing and education for the various Alaska CARE programs KPEDD is assisting the community with. Tim Dillon has been working with Homer and Kachemak City with their grant programs. Chair Marks spoke to a grant that was received for a resilience package to establish materials documenting what we learned from this pandemic, and what KPEDD can do if this were to ever occur again.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PENDING BUSINESS

- A. EDC Bylaws & Commission Purpose
 - i. Compilation Chart of Correspondence between Chair Marks & Commissioners Arevalo & Richardson with Email Correspondence Backup
 - ii. Proposed EDC Bylaw Amendments

Chair Marks introduced the item by reading the title and asked for a motion to approve the bylaw amendments that were discussed at their worksession.

MINK/JOHNSON MOVED TO AMEND ARTICLE I AND II OF THE EDC BYLAWS WITH THE PROPOSED STRIKETHROUGHS AND HOLD A FINAL READING AT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING.

Commissioner Arevalo inquired on if Zoom meetings and participating telephonically is allowed since their bylaws say otherwise. Deputy City Clerk Tussey explained the emergency resolutions and ordinances that were passed by City Council at the beginning of the pandemic allowed the council, commissions, and boards to meet virtually/telephonically.

VOTE: YES: MARKS, MINK, AREVALO, BROWN, JOHNSON, RICHARDSON

Motion carried.

- B. EDC Strategic Plan/Goals Update
 - i. EDC Strategic Plan/Goals, Revised August 2019

Chair Marks introduced the item by reading the title and provided a briefing of what the commission discussed during their worksession. The recap included taking action to revise their 2021 strategic plan/goals, have commissioners send in their suggestions and ideas to the City Clerk to compile in a draft plan, and would hold another worksession on September 8th before the next regular meeting.

The commission voiced their agreement.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. City of Homer Draft 2021-26 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
 - i. Q&A Info for City of Homer CIP
 - ii. DRAFT City of Homer 2021-2026 CIP

Chair Marks introduced the item by reading the title and opened the floor for discussion. She requested comments from City Staff on the CIP process and what the commission should know for discussion.

Deputy City Clerk Tussey noted that it is normally the Special Projects and Communications Coordinator that walks them through the process, so if the commission was unsure they could postpone their decision until the next meeting. Ms. Tussey explained that the CIP process is the same one they go through every year, what amendments are being proposed by staff (marked in red), and what actions are being requested of the EDC.

Chair Marks spoke to and facilitated discussion on the Main Street Sidewalk Facility: Pioneer Avenue North project, how it was included in the legislative list last year, and work that was done by the Public Works Director to get portions of that funded by City Council.

The Commission discussed what the CIP does, its purpose of recognizing projects, and how they plan to select their top two legislative picks. Commissioners then took turns sharing their selections and the reasons for their picks:

- Commissioner Brown – #1 Homer Harbor Cathodic Protection; #2 Barge Mooring and Large Vessel Haul Out Repair Facility
- Commissioner Richardson – #1 Barge Mooring and Large Vessel Haul Out Repair Facility; #2 New Large Vessel Harbor; #3 Main Street Sidewalk Facility
- Commissioner Mink – #1 Barge Mooring and Large Vessel Haul Out Repair Facility; #2 New Large Vessel Harbor; #3 Storm Water Master Plan
- Commissioner Johnson – #1 Barge Mooring and Large Vessel Haul Out Repair Facility; #2 New Large Vessel Harbor; #3 Main Street Sidewalk Facility
- Commissioner Arevalo – #1 Storm Water Master Plan; #2 Homer Harbor Cathodic Protection; #3 Ice Plant Upgrade

- Chair Marks – #1 Barge Mooring and Large Vessel Haul Out Repair Facility; #2 New Large Vessel Harbor; #3 any sidewalks and storm water projects

Discussion ensued on commissioner selections. It was agreed to have the New Large Vessel Harbor as the #1 priority, and Barge Mooring and Large Vessel Haul Out Repair Facility as #2.

MARKS/MINK MOVED TO PRIORITIZE THE PORT OF HOMER NEW LARGE VESSEL HARBOR AS #1 PRIORITY, BARGE MOORING AND LARGE VESSEL HAUL OUT REPAIR FACILITY AS #2 PRIORITY, AND RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL FOR INCLUSION IN THE LEGISLATIVE REQUEST SECTION.

Commissioner Arevalo inquired on if the motion should include the EDC's honorable mentions. Deputy City Clerk Tussey noted that the only required action at this time was for the commission to select two legislative recommendations for City Council. She explained that if the commission wished to make another motion they could do so, or hold discussion for the record.

The Commission requested that the meeting minutes reflect two other projects the EDC would like to see prioritized by City Council: the Storm Water Master Plan and the Homer Harbor Cathodic Protection.

VOTE: YES: RICHARDSON, JOHNSON, AREVALO, BROWN, MARKS, MINK

Motion carried.

There was discussion on the importance of other projects listed in the CIP. Commissioner Johnson spoke to the difficulty of ranking such projects but wanted to ensure focus was given to sustainability-type projects for the health of the local community, such as sidewalk and proper drainage projects.

In response to a question from Commissioner Brown regarding Integration of the CIP with Comprehensive Goals, Deputy City Clerk Tussey clarified that "town center" was listed as a general goal to select projects that accomplish a community focal point, not as the Town Center/City Hall project that had previously been on the CIP.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. City Manager's Report for February 24, 2020
- B. EDC 2020 Meeting Calendar
- C. Commissioner Attendance at 2020 City Council Meetings

Chair Marks facilitated discussion on informational materials, noting the following:

- Worksession scheduled on September 8th before the regular meeting at 5:00 p.m.
- 2020 meeting schedule – Deputy City Clerk Tussey confirmed the EDC's approved schedule consists of regular meeting each month through the rest of the year, which will be held via Zoom Webinar for the time being.
- Commissioner Mink will provide the EDC report at the August 24th City Council meeting; that report would entail the EDC's work on their bylaws and need for a councilmember to work with them on revising City Code to amend the commission's purpose.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF

Deputy City Clerk Tussey thanked the commission for a good meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Marks thanked everyone for how the meeting went and the work done by the commission. She commented that the Wayfinding-Streetscape Plan is moving forward; there are plans for 2021 to get a consultant and ways to get public input during COVID-19. She also noted that the sign code ordinance Commissioner Richardson had helped the Planning Commission with passed at the last City Council meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Johnson commented it was nice to see everyone.

Commissioner Arevalo asked Chair Marks if she could elaborate on the KPEDD's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and where they were in the 2021 revision process. Chair Marks explained that if they could get the Homer City Code amended to better reflect how the EDC is to interact with KPEDD, that when the time came to make those amendments later this fall that they would be in a position to co-host public input events for feedback. Ms. Arevalo suggested that in the future perhaps the commission could refresh/educate themselves on the Homer CEDS for cross-comparison with the Borough's CEDS. Chair Marks agreed and recommended that be an agenda item for October.

Ms. Arevalo shared that she had recorded an entire segment with the Homer Grown radio show describing all the events of the peony festival, but due to technical issues it missed getting air-time yet is available on the KBBI website.

Commissioner Brown agreed with Ms. Arevalo's suggestion that the EDC review the CEDS when that time comes. She commented on her appreciation that we are still here and are a productive group, making a difference in the field of economic development for our community.

Commissioner Richardson had no comments. Chair Marks thanked him for his work on the sign code ordinance that passed.

Commissioner Mink opined on how encouraging it's been that Homer has still been able to satisfy the needs of tourism while also, for the most part, practicing COVID-safe measures. He spoke to his experiences visiting other communities and the impression of strained relations between tourism and the locals, but has not gotten that same impression with Homer.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Marks adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m. A Worksession is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. and the Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held via Zoom webinar in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

RACHEL TUSSEY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

Approved: _____