



City of Homer

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Memorandum 13-135

TO: Mayor Wythe and Homer City Council
THROUGH: Julie Engebretsen, Planning Technician
FROM: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
DATE: September 20, 2013
SUBJECT: Resolution 13-040

At the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meeting of September 19, 2013, the Commission made the following recommendation:

Moved to recommend the City Council fail Resolution 13-040.

Motion passed with unanimous approval.

Below is an excerpt of the minutes of the meeting:

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion on Resolution 13-040, Directing City Administration to Terminate All Survey, Design, and Cost Estimating Work on the Kachemak Drive Pathway

Chair Bremicker read the title into the record.

Chair Bremicker commented that the committee was disbanded. The outside group was formed. The trail has not been removed from multiple plans. The City Manager has noted the safety aspects in a memo to the Airport Manager regarding removal of trees hampering sight lines for the runway approach. Chair Bremicker believes that to have the City cut it off was the wrong direction. He stated it was one of the main reasons he joined this commission. Further he believes that there are funds for trails that could be used. Chair Bremicker believed that with the city's backing and the use of volunteer efforts this trail could be done. He cited as an example the ski trails.

Chair Bremicker stated that Council should get behind this and it should be made a priority. He wanted City Council to say "yes, it's a good idea what do we need to do to get this done what can we do to help." He is not sure where the antagonism has come from. He stated that the people of Homer want this trail.

Commissioner Brann agreed with the key points of the trail being in the plans; but by Council stating that the commission cannot talk about the trail is negating those approved plans; he is not asking them to fund it, but to allow the commission to speak with and a work with the non-profit group on the trail. He believes that volunteers can do what the city won't.

Commissioner Lillibridge commented on removing or recommending amending the last two whereas's to state they will not fund it at this time.

Mr. Illg stated that this is both symbolic and would set precedent and passing this Resolution would stonewall additional future efforts for parks and recreation.

Ms. Engebretsen stated the commission can make a recommendation that City Council fail this resolution.

Further discussion on what direction the commission would like to have Council take for Resolution 13-040 was held with points made on safety concerns, hampering funding options, postponement, the resolution containing non-specific other issues; non-support from the City.

Chair Bremicker stated that this resolution does not have the majority support of Council. It is supported by the mayor but she doesn't vote. They are not asking for funds right now. They don't need this to cut off future help from the city.

Chair Bremicker requested a motion. He opined strongly that the motion should be voted down.

Additional comments on commenting on the Resolution during the Council meeting.

BREMICKER/BRANN - MOVED TO REQUEST CITY COUNCIL DO NOT PASS RESOLUTION 13-040.

Commissioner Archibald asked to amend the motion to include the wording "or postpone". The commissioners then entertained discussion on the motion.

VOTE. YES. LOWNEY, STEFFY, LILLIBRIDGE, ARCHIBALD, BRANN.

Motion carried