



City of Homer

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Memorandum 22-166

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND HOMER CITY COUNCIL
FROM: PARKS ART RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION
THRU: ROB DUMOUCHEL, CITY MANAGER
DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2022
SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS ON ORDINANCE 22-42

Background:

City Council referred Ordinance 22-42 to the Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture (PARC) Advisory Commission for input at their regular meeting of July 25, 2022.

Ordinance 22-42 came before the PARC Advisory Commission at their regular meeting on August 18, 2022. City Planner Abboud presented his informed analysis on Ordinance 22-42 and how it applied to current standards and regulations. The Commission held a lengthy and robust discussion on the subject and made the following recommendation:

PARC Advisory Commission requests that the City Council extend the time the Commission has to provide recommendation(s) until after the Trails Symposium scheduled for October 1, 2022 so the Commission has more information available to provide quality recommendations.

The excerpt of the approved meeting minutes have been included for review.

August 18, 2022
Regular Meeting Minutes

NEW BUSINESS

D. Memorandum from City Planner re: Ordinance 22-42, Sidewalks

Chari Lewis introduced the item and thanking City Planner Abboud for his patience, invited him to speak to the Commission.

City Planner Abboud commented on the memorandum in the packet and his review of Ordinance 22-42. He noted the following points for consideration:

- There is only one parcel that this may apply
- Transportation Plan Update
- Requires additional work
- Brad Parsons will be attending the next worksession regarding Non-motorized Transportation options
- removing conflicts in city code
- Criteria needed for requiring sidewalks and where they are required
- Does not apply to existing agreements

City Planner Abboud facilitated comments and questions from the Commission regarding:

- Review is written through a vehicular viewpoint when transportation covers all forms of transportation and should include animal as well as pedestrian, cyclists, etc.
- Not all roads need sidewalks as currently all main through streets have sidewalks which may not be the safest place to through pedestrians
- No access from a cul-de-sac to these non-motorized corridors, navigable green spaces

Commissioner Harrald noted the time and if they were to continue, the Commission would need to extend the meeting time.

Chair Lewis requested a motion and second.

HARRALD/LOWNEY MOVED TO EXTEND THE MEETING TIME BY TWENTY MINUTES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

City Planner Abboud continued his facilitation of the discussion and responding to Commission questions on the following points:

- Walkability
- Prioritization
- Limitation on City actions outside city limits and that is where it needs to be addressed
- Existing subdivisions development

- Addressing the density in Rural Residential zoning and rezone issues in Urban Residential zoning
- Results of the kickoff meeting with the transportation planner
 - o Public input on the level of service such as walkability
 - o Ability to make changes in the update
 - o Borough is constrained on the regulations and policies established by the City
- Pedestrian Access does not need to focus solely on sidewalks
- Previous developers stated that they will include green space and walkability but then no access or green space was provided
 - o No enforcement or lack of enforcement
 - o Incentives to developers including these features
- Review of remaining land that could be subdivided or include access and green space for walkability

Chair Lewis requested a motion and second.

Commissioners express some uncertainty on what recommendations they were expected to provide or action that they were to take on the ordinance.

City Planner Abboud provided clarification in response to numerous questions from the Commission on what action is being requested from the Commission.

Public Works Director Keiser stated that it is clear by the ordinance and amendments offered by City Council, they are well meaning, but would not be effective and possibly unenforceable. They are also slightly premature since the City is just starting review and update of the transportation planning which will address many of these issues. She suggested the Commission consider a recommendation to Council that the Commission fully supports the idea behind the ordinance but it is not timely. Additional work, research and drafting is required before the Commission can make sensible recommendation.

City Planner Abboud concurred with Public Works Director Keiser's suggestion.

HARRALD/LOWNEY MOVED THAT THE COMMISSION FULLY SUPPORTS THE IDEA BEHIND THE ORDINANCE BUT IT IS NOT TIMELY AS ADDITIONAL WORK AND RESEARCH IS REQUIRED BEFORE THE COMMISSION CAN MAKE A SENSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL.

Discussion ensued on including stronger language to include a time period or date as requested by Councilmember Erickson and clarification when the ordinance was scheduled to be before the Council with the Commission's recommendations.

HARRALD MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO POSTPONE THIS ITEM TO THE NEXT MEETING UNTIL MORE INFORMATION CAN BE PROVIDED.

Amendment died for lack of a second.

LOWNEY MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO AFTER THE TRAILS SYMPOSIUM ON OCTOBER 1ST.

Amendment died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Harrald stated that she could pull her motion that is on the floor.

Chair Lewis requested clarification on the motions on the floor if any.

Deputy City Clerk Krause stated that no second was offered on the two proposed amendments. The main motion is on the floor but Commissioner Harrald has offered to pull her motion. It could be voted down since it was seconded.

City Planner Abboud reported that this ordinance was going before the Planning Commission at their September 7th meeting and Brad Parsons has been invited to the worksession to speak to the Commission on transportation planning and that at this time he did not have a definitive recommendation for Council.

ARCHIBALD/ MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL THAT THE COMMISSION HAS RESERVATIONS ON THE LANGUAGE IN ORDINANCE 22-42 AS IT ONLY ADDRESSES SIDEWALKS NOT WALKABILITY AND THE COMMISSION IS REQUESTING ADDITIONAL TIME IN LIGHT OF ALL THE PLANS BEING DEVELOPED.

Commissioner Archibald pulled his amendment from the floor for consideration upon hearing comments by Public Works Director Keiser and Commissioner Lowney on preference for waiting until after the Trails Symposium for any action on non-motorized transportation.

LOWNEY/ARCHIBALD MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO REQUEST CITY COUNCIL EXTEND THE TIME TO ALLOW THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE A RECOMMENDATION UNTIL AFTER THE SCHEDULED TRAILS SYMPOSIUM HAS BEEN CONDUCTED SO THE COMMISSION HAS MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE QUALITY RECOMMENDATIONS.

There was a brief discussion on including a statement of support for more walkability. She did not want to provide the impression that the Commission did not want sidewalks.

There was a brief discussion on Council receiving a copy of the minutes and they will be aware of the Commissions opinions on sidewalks.

VOTE. (Amendment).NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE.(Main Motion as Amended)) NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

City Planner Abboud provided input on how the PARC Commission should interact with the Planning Commission in response to Commissioner Archibald, stating that the Planning Commission will address in city code how to respond to this subject.