

Session 17-03 Regular Meeting of the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission was called to order on April 20, 2017 at 5:33 pm by Chair Matt Steffy at the Cowles Council Chambers City Hall located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS FAIR, SHARPE, ARCHIBALD, ROEDL, LOWNEY, STEFFY

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS HART, HARRALD (EXCUSED)

STAFF: DEPUTY CITY PLANNER ENGBRETSSEN
DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Steffy called for a motion to approve the agenda.

LOWNEY/ARCHIBALD - SO MOVED.

There was a no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

VISITORS

RECONSIDERATION

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes for the Regular Meeting on March 16, 2017
- B. Memorandum PARC 17-15 Draft Letter to the Editor Submission

Chair Steffy requested a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

ASHMUN/LOWNEY – MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

- A. Community Recreation Report – Mike Illg

Mr. Illg presented a laydown of the PowerPoint Presentation that was given to City Council last month regarding the community benefits received and the revenues provided to fund the program were highlighted by Mr. Illg.

Mr. Illg responded to a few questions regarding the program, the presentation, local upcoming events and the SPARC facility.

B. Parks Management Report – Angie Otteson

Staff was not in attendance and did not provide a written report.

C. April PARC SR 17-11 – Julie Engebretsen

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen provided a summary review of her report. She requested a volunteer for the second Letter to the Editor and volunteer to report to the Council at the second meeting

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Memorandum PARC 17-16 re: Mariner Park Signage and Plan

Chair Steffy read the title into the record. Commissioner Sharpe reported that he met with Ms. Otteson and he then provided a large copy of the new sign design created by the staff at Islands and Ocean. The commission expressed by mutual consent that they approved of the new design.

Chair Steffy recommended that due to the size of the park they could use additional regulatory signage placed at the entrance to the park in addition to the following:

- Gate for access to the beach and blocking access to the beach
- Rocks to prohibit vehicular access
- Review signage during walk through
- Use of Camp Fee Building
- Pictures of New Signage

There was further discussion on keeping the vehicles from creeping out onto the vegetation at the campsites and delineating the sites even more to offer separation of the day use area and the camping area.

This item can be on the May agenda for further discussion and findings from the walk through.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Memorandum PARC 17-13 re: Recommendation of Support for Proclamation Kids to Parks Day

Chair Steffy read the title into the record and inquired if the Commission was interested in combining the Parks Day with the Kids to Parks Day.

Discussion was entertained on the various and numerous activities being conducted that same weekend

and the lack of availability on the commissioner's part to participate. They agreed by consensus that it was a great idea and concept just needed to be another weekend.

ARCHIBALD/LOWNEY – MOVED TO SEND TO CITY COUNCIL A RECOMMENDATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE PROCLAMATION KIDS TO PARKS DAY.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. Memorandum PARC 17-14 re: Establishing the 2017 Spring Beach Park Walk through Inspection

Chair Steffy read the title into the record and stated that he discussed this with Ms. Engebretsen and they decided that with all the concern on Mariner Park that they will conduct the walk through there.

The commission discussed individual availability and determined that Monday, May 8, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. was the best date and time for Staff and Commissioners to perform the Walk through. This meeting will be advertised. Chair Steffy noted that commissioners could pick another park to perform a walk-through of their choice and to be prepared to provide a brief report at the May commission meeting.

C. Memorandum PARC 17-12 re: Review of the Homer Non-Motorized Trail and Transportation Plan

Chair Steffy read the title into the record and invited Ms. Engebretsen to speak to the commission.

Ms. Engebretsen provided the following points for the commission on the Homer Non-Motorized Trail and Transportation Plan:

- Provided a history on how and why the Plan was created
- The policies and concepts that were included
- Changes within City Code
- Amending HART program to fund Trails
- The plan is scanned so there are no links to the maps in the document
 - o Three main maps which are outdated and require updating
- To redo the Plan would be an estimated cost of \$75,000
- The Policy is still good they need to build projects

Discussion ensued on making the document a living breathing document that the commission follows and that could be accomplished through the process of budget requests and the capital improvement plan. Many of the Trails such as the Carmen Field trail has been a goal since 1992.

Further discussion on the following points ensued:

- How to advocate for trails or sidewalks
- Connecting the bits and pieces of trails and prioritizing to making the plan a living breathing document.
- The plan is not an action plan
- Solving serious safety issues such as the need to solve the pedestrian safety on Main Street to

make is a safe and walkable street.

- Previous points on putting a sidewalk along Main Street were the costs, drainage, engineering, right of ways, lack of funding
- Another avenue to get the Safety issues regarding addressed
 - Prioritize the projects and get them on the CIP
 - Be more proactive with applying for grants for trails
 - Once they obtain certain requirements such as the Rogers Trailhead then move forward
 - When the economy gets better start addressing these issues
 - Submit the requests to City Council for the projects using HART Funds
 - Submit recommendation to change streets to one ways

The commission entertained a discussion on drainage issues when the work is being conducted on the Sterling Highway and Main Street improvements; support recommendation that addresses this issue; Federal Highway grant program regarding sidewalk construction; extending shoulders along right of way on one side of Main Street due to the potential of increased traffic; looking at the requirements and regulations for creating one streets within the city to accommodate safety issues; process and how is prioritize one road over the other such as the new road by the Post Office compared to Main Street.

Establishing a worksession to discuss the plan in a less formal manner to address each of the issues brought forward tonight such as leveraging funding, grants, trails, sidewalks, etc.

Speaking with Council members regarding the priorities and even scheduling worksessions with multiple Councilmembers for a specific time and date that is convenient for a couple of commissioners to meet with them over these projects.

Further points were made on the desire to use HART funds to build additional roads over sidewalks on Main Street and even Svedlund that have been on the CIP for several years which are a great safety concern. How can the commission advocate for what the city really needs from a safety standpoint and how can they leverage and politically can they even do this since the people voted for a specific use. Staff recommended that the Commissioners consider speaking to Council on the sidewalks issue, and Council will direct Administration to find funding opportunities for sidewalks.

Commissioner Lowney inquired about including new developments into the plan. Ms. Engebretsen using the maps in the plan, she explained how a contractor/developer would come in and how they would get an easement for trails, etc. within the development.

Chair Steffy commented on the WHOMP trail and SPARC trails. Staff recommended that the Commission remember there are different set of concerns regarding trails on schools and public access.

Deputy City Clerk called for a Point of Order that the discussion between staff and the Chair are not relative to the topic.

Commissioner Archibald inquired about sidewalks and trails in the Lillian Walli subdivision and Ms. Engebretsen stated that she could research that issue and report back to the commission. Commissioner Archibald recommended that they have a worksession on trails and prioritizing projects. Ms. Engebretsen responded that they could open the discussion on trail grants after Council has approved the process. Commissioner Lowney wanted to include leveraging funds from roads into the worksession discussion.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. Commission Annual Calendar 2017

Chair Steffy reviewed the calendar and the items for the May meeting and that the Budget has been postpone to June. The Finance Director has been on the job for a month and focused on the Budget.

B. Commissioner Attendance at City Council Meetings 2017

Chair Steffy apologized for missing the meeting on the 13th since he “Ulued” his foot. He reviewed the commissioner commitment to attend Council meetings. Chair Steffy committed to the June 12th meeting.

Councilmember Reynolds inquired why the commission attended every meeting and Chair Steffy stated that they committed to have a representative attend each council meeting and thank Council even if there was nothing to report.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Abrahm Salzman, resident, high school student, stated that he will be submitting his application to become a member of the commission. He is currently in the 10th grade and really looking forward to becoming part of the commission. He inquired how he can provide assistance to the commission.

Chair Steffy responded that he could provide the youth prospective on the goals of the commission related to parks, art, and recreation including budgeting. Chair Steffy jokingly referred to Abrahm’s application as a contract and the commission has him until he graduates.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen had no comments.

Deputy City Clerk Krause commented that it was good to see everyone, there were a lot of great discussions and it was a good meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Fair had no comments.

Commissioner Lowney questioned scheduling a worksession that they discussed but did not take it anywhere and are they looking at the near future or 6 months. Thanks

Discussion ensued on scheduling a worksession and the commission agreed by consensus on August 17, 2017 @ 4:00 p.m. prior to the regular meeting.

Commissioner Archibald commented on the project to designate the two closet campsites as ADA next to the Water Trail.

Commissioner Sharp will not be here June and July he will be in Juneau and down south, appreciates

working around his schedule; there are circus auditions Fri-Sat, Jubilee performance and on Saturday there will be a work party at Jack Gist Park for litter pick up moving gravel around and trail improvement. The work party at Karen Hornaday Park, he noted that many other projects could be done with those volunteers, he will there to help out. He has been involved in following the budget for the schools and any support for the HERC he believes will be great especially if they can offer the HERC for the Boys and Girls Club since school time changes really affect the community. Commissioner Sharp questioned the work be done to steam the culverts. He is really interested in talking about the strategic plan and CIP and keeping that priority list. There is so much information out there. He appreciated Julie and Angie's time spent discussing things. And there is no "e" in his last name.

Commissioner Roedl commented it has been great.

Commissioner Ashmun commented on the heavy machinery being used to open the mouth of the slough, Dr. Eneboe has a permit and the contractor was dropped on the vegetated berm, then proceeded to drive across the berm and also left it parked on the berm when the job was completed. She took pictures and first showed the pictures to City Public Works who informed her that there was nothing they could do since he had a permit issued by the Corps of Engineers. She sent pictures the Corps and they replied that a permit does not allow the person to break any local regulations. She wanted to have the city enforce the regulations when it relates to Bishops Beach.

Commissioner Archibald stated that he also spoke to Fish & Wildlife property and they were unaware that was under their jurisdiction and he opined that they should be made aware of it, the contractor should be made aware and Dr. Eneboe also informed about their responsibility.

Commissioner Ashmun was disappointed in the response to this and hopes that it could be addressed in the future. The city can enforce their regulations on Federal entities.

Chair Steffy thanked everyone, great meeting, thanked Mr. Salzman for his patience and tolerance to attend the meeting to the end. He regrets not being in attendance at the 2017 Trails Conference. One of the issues he was going to speak was on sharing trails and believes that this needs to be addressed in some areas more so than others. The city does not have such problems but there are some others borough trails that periodically have user conflict. He mentioned the 2017 conference in Valdez and invited the Commissioners to attend and visit Valdez for the weekend.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Vice Chair Lowney adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m. The next **REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2017** at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk

Approved: _____