

Session 12-02, a Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Bumpo Bremicker at 5:38 p.m. on January 19, 2012 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS BRANN, BREMICKER, LOWNEY, LILLIBRIDGE

TELEPHONIC: COMMISSIONER ARCHIBALD

STAFF: CITY MANAGER WALT WREDE
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR CAREY MEYER
COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR KATIE KOESTER
RECREATION SPECIALIST MIKE ILLG
DEPUTY CITY CLERK I RENEE KRAUSE

The Commission held a joint worksession with representatives from Friends of Woodard Creek in Karen Hornaday Park, Homer Playground Project (HoPP) and Little League Association from 4:30 p.m. to 5:38 p.m. to discuss a request from HoPP for additional funding.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Bremicker called for a motion to approve the agenda.

LOWNEY/BRANN – MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (*Minutes are approved during Regular Meetings.*)

- A. Meeting Minutes for November 17, 2011 Regular Meeting
- B. Meeting Minutes for December 8, 2011 Special Meeting
- C. Meeting Minutes for January 5, 2012 Special Meeting

Chair Bremicker requested a motion to approve the minutes as a whole.

BRANN/LILLIBRIDGE – MOVED TO APPROVE ALL MINUTES AS WRITTEN.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Clint Lillibridge, retired pediatrician, commented on the importance of play in a child's life in support of the new playground.

Erik Niebuhr, resident, commented in support of the proposed playground and as a parent of two he has a vested interest in the city playgrounds.

Rebekah Pearson and son, resident, commented on the importance of a playground in development of a child's cognitive and motor skills through play.

Michael Hayes, president of the Little League Association, commented on the condition of the ball fields and facilities. He stated how improvements would actually lengthen the season, bring more tournaments and people to the town adding to the success of the city and area businesses. He requested the commissioner's support for these improvements.

Tolya Stonorov, resident and architect, commented in support of the project and how much could be gained in the community by supporting the request of additional funding.

Glenna Shirts, resident and bookkeeper for HoPP, commented in support of the playground that it will provide an age appropriate area for families with children of all ages.

Cheryl Illg, resident, thanked the commissioners for their time and efforts in support of recreation in the community and related experiences visiting the new playground in Soldotna and would like to provide the same opportunities in Homer.

Larry Shirts, resident, commented in support of the playground and the benefits to the whole community it would bring.

Beth Cumming, resident and member of Friends, commented on the current status of the \$305,000 funding for Phase I of the Master Plan; she noted that as with HoPP, the Friends and Little League have been sole project focused, and she advocated for the area to the right of the road to be fixed with the existing funding.

Jonathan Walker, resident and Pastor of a local church, commented in support of the playground and explained that the congregation actively pursues projects to be involved with that are shovel ready. They are actively behind this project and offer not only manpower, but financial support for this project that will benefit the entire community.

Todd Steiner, resident and local contractor, commented in support of the playground that the volunteer labor would equal approximately \$140,000 in one week with the requirements associated with a government project so HoPP and the volunteers are bringing much more value than the amount requested.

Lindianne Sarno, resident and a commissioner on the Economic Development Advisory Commission and member of the Kachemak Drive Path Committee commented on the apparent and assumed competing interests of individuals groups and spoke in regards to the value of the watershed to the residents and users of the park and the importance of restoration of the watershed to the community.

Morgan Sicilia, resident, commented in support of the playground and the value of a safe environment for kids to play and bringing people of all ages and walks of life together to work on this project.

There were no further comments.

VISITORS

A. Wayne Aderhold, Proposed City Hall Pocket Park

Mr. Aderhold explained that he was an advocate for walkable Homer and the reason for his proposal of putting a pocket park on a forgotten piece of city owned land. The location was part of Kachemak Way back in the 1980's when it curved into Klondike. Kachemak Way was relocated and brought to a T intersection. He advocated for a trail to cross the property to lessen the potential for vehicle/pedestrian

interaction and there would also be a good spot for a picnic table and/or bench. He has spoken with a member of council about his proposal and it was commented that this may fall within the guidelines for HART funding.

There was a brief discussion on the appearance that it was owned by the adjacent property owner and that no contact was made with the owner. The commission thanked him for bringing this idea forward. Mr. Aderhold offered any assistance he could provide if the commissioners decided to look further into this idea.

There was no further discussion.

B. Miranda Weiss, Homer Playground Project (HoPP)

Miranda Weiss, acknowledged members of the group and their roles they have within the project. Ms. Weiss stated that the group intends for a long term commitment, that as a whole they are supportive of the entire Master Plan for the park, and HoPP is supportive of ongoing maintenance. Ms. Weiss further explained the enormity of the proposed playground project and what the recommendation from the commission to City Council would provide for the proposed project and community alike. She emphasized that Build Week would be a kick-off for implementing the Master Plan and it would be an asset to the commission in the future to be in the forefront of this project today.

There were no further questions or comments.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items scheduled for reconsideration.

STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Community Recreation Report – Mike Illg

There were no discussions or questions on the information provided in the packet.

B. Spit Parks and Recreation Committee Report – Tricia Lillibridge

Commissioner Lillibridge reported that the committee has not met due to personal schedules and the holidays. She explained to those present the purpose of the committee and named the current recreational areas and parks that are located on the Homer Spit and pointed out a few issues with some of the more used areas.

There was a brief discussion on relocating the access to Marina Park due to line of sight issues and that Carey Meyer is currently drafting some numbers on relocating the entrance.

Commissioner Lillibridge announced the plan to hold a Meet the Trucks event on May 5, 2012 at Mariner Park which will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

C. Kachemak Drive Path Committee Report – Dave Brann

Commissioner Brann reported the progress made so far by the Committee in getting a proposed pedestrian bicycle path along Kachemak Drive. He has received a call from AKDOT personnel and will be talking with the City Manager on that discussion that was held.

D. Karen Hornaday Park Committee Report – Robert Archibald

Commissioner Archibald reported that the committee has met and discussed several issues and recommended removal of the red shed and several other issues that are before the Commission this evening. He was happy that they finally received the cost estimates from Mr. Meyer and looks forward to reviewing that estimate and setting priorities at the next meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

No public hearings were scheduled.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Review and Recommendations on Updates to the Strategic Plan for 2012-2013

Chair Bremicker introduced the item into the record.

There was a brief discussion on the action taken at the meeting on December 8, 2011.

BRANN/LILLIBRIDGE – MOVED TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2012.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. Review and Recommendation on a Request for Additional Monies Submitted by Homer Playground Project (HoPP)

Chair Bremicker introduced the item by title and opened the floor for discussion.

LILLIBRIDGE/LOWNEY – MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION APPROVE THE FULL REQUEST FOR \$50,000 FROM HOPP SO THE KAREN HORNADAY PARK PLAYGROUND CAN BE BUILT THIS YEAR AS PROPOSED.

Discussion ensued on submitting recommendations piece-meal to Council and then getting it remanded back because Council did not understand; withholding a recommendation to support the HoPP request would possibly delay the start of the project this year; approving the request will not impede further recommendations to Council on how to spend the remaining funds; the implication that the Commission recommended \$50,000 to be used in preliminary engineering and this money was not spent as it was accomplished in house by Mr. Meyer so those funds could be used to fund the playground request; completing this playground would encourage possible funding in the future from other sources.

After consultation and deliberation on the best possible path staff recommended submitting a recommendation to council to amend the project budget approving the request for an additional \$50,000 to be allocated to HoPP for the project. An ordinance could be introduced and on the agenda for first reading at the February 13, 2012 Council meeting and then on the February 27, 2012 Council meeting the second and final reading and approval. It was noted that even if it was delayed to the first meeting in March it would be timely for HoPP to receive the funding for material purchase requirements.

Staff stated that in the memorandum to Council the Commission can include the concerns they have with future recommendations on disbursement of the remaining funds for the project.

Chair Bremicker wanted to amend the motion to include that the commission is working on amendments to allocate funding to other groups or similar wording.

Staff stated that a straight forward ordinance will be submitted if the Commission approves the request for the \$50,000 and they will add to the ordinance that future amendments to the project budget will be able to be done by resolution. Staff was asked to read the amended motion with the new information.

Chair Bremicker called for a break at 7:05 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

Ms. Krause read the new amended motion into the record.

LILLIBRIDGE/LOWNEY-MOVED THAT THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION SUPPORTS THE REQUEST FROM THE HOMER PLAYGROUND PROJECT (HoPP) FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$50,000.00 AND FURTHER RECOMMENDS THAT ADDITIONAL BUDGETARY AMENDMENTS FOR PHASE I IMPROVEMENTS TO KAREN HORNADAY PARK BE ALLOWED BY RESOLUTION.

There was no discussion.

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

Motion carried.

Commissioner Archibald and Chair Bremicker commented on looking forward to working with the interested groups and that this will results in a forward motion on implementing the Master Plan that many individuals worked on.

C. Review and Recommendation to Submit a Memorandum of Support for HoPP to City Council.

Chair Bremicker opened discussion on this item.

LOWNEY/LILLIBRIDGE - MOVE TO SUBMIT A RECOMMENDATION OF TO CITY COUNCIL ENDORSING THE HOMER PLAYGROUND PROJECT AND ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECT.

There was brief discussion on using the language submitted in resolution form from the group HoPP.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Bremicker thanked staff for including directions on how to proceed with the elections and opened the floor for nominations of Vice Chair.

Commissioner Brann and Lowney were nominated. Chair Bremicker closed the nominations and called for a voice vote.

VOTE. BRANN. LILLIBRIDGE, ARCHIBALD, LOWNEY AND BREMICKER

Commissioner Brann accepted the position of Vice Chair with good humor and commented that it did not mean the next step was Chair. Chair Bremicker passed the gavel to Vice Chair Brann who requested nominations for Chair.

Commissioner Bremicker was nominated and unanimously voted for Chair.

Vice Chair Brann returned the gavel to Chair Bremicker.

B. Recommendation to City Council to Approve Removal of the Red Shed

After review and discussion and input from City Manager Wrede it was determined that a formal recommendation to City Council was not needed at this time. Staff has met and discussed this issue and there was interest in the red shed from the Kachemak Bay Wooden Boat Society and arrangement for its subsequent removal after its use by the group HoPP was completed.

C. Recommendation to Establish an Annual Fall Clean Up Day at Karen Hornaday Park

Chair Bremicker opened discussion on this agenda item. Commissioner Archibald explained the reason for passing on this recommendation to the commission to submit to City Council.

BRANN/LILLIBRIDGE - MOVED TO ESTABLISH THE ANNUAL KAREN HORNADAY PARK FALL CLEAN-UP AND WITH THE COMMISSION PROVIDING A BAR B QUE LUNCH FOR THE VOLUNTEERS AND CITY STAFF WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE EVENT.

There was a brief discussion why the Karen Hornaday Park Committee members thought making this an annual event at the park was important.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

D. Review and Recommendation to Establish a Park Camp Host Program

Chair Bremicker opened discussion on this agenda item.

Commissioner Archibald stated that the committee had discussed this option and noted that there would be expenses to implement this program. He noted the Homer Police Department agreed it would be a good deterrent and promote safety and help prohibit vandalism if a camp host program was implemented.

City Manager Wrede stated a recommendation from the Commission to Council would be good but that there were several details that needed to be addressed such as rate of compensation or type since they will be allowed to camp and will be providing services.

Ms. Krause stated she included the information on the State of Alaska camp host programs and several other states plus the forms they use as reference and if the commission will refer to her recommendation included in the packet.

BRANN/ARCHIBALD – MOVED TO ESTABLISH A CAMP HOST PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF HOMER CAMPGROUNDS AND DIRECT STAFF TO PROVIDE A DRAFT PROGRAM USING THE INFORMATION PROVIDED AS A GUIDELINE AND BRING BACK TO THE FEBRUARY MEETING.

City Manager Wrede noted that the city attorney and administration will need to review the draft before submitting for council approval.

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

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Memorandum dated December 7, 2011 Re: Transient Camping on City Owned Property
- B. Memorandum dated December 7, 2011 Re: Recommendation to Approve Budget Request of Additional Seasonal Maintenance Personnel for Public Works Department.

There was no discussion on the informational materials.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Beth Cumming, resident, had several comments: 1. She believed tonight that in her 33 years in Homer she has seen more pregnant women collected in one spot than in previous years, it kind of damages her belief that not enough incredible women – motivated, enthusiastic, capable, involved – are having babies these days; she is a worrier and she has worried that the gene pool is being damaged and it is reassuring to see all those women tonight; 2. She is not on the commissioner any more but she is addressing this to Trish – she thought that it was discussed by the commission on keeping the speed limit from the base of the spit to just after the entrance to the 35 mph speed limit she remembered that they were going to send a memo to D.O.T. and asked if the Spit Committee was addressing that issue.

There was a brief discussion on the issue and it was noted that there was additional information that staff could provide Ms. Cumming.

Ms. Cumming had one last comment regarding selecting a vice chair for the Karen Hornaday Park Committee and if that person was appointed by Chair Bremicker or the committee. Chair Bremicker responded that is handled at the committee level. Ms. Cumming last comment was to recommend that the red shed be removed in April and the HoPP group can rent tents for equipment.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL MEMBER (if one is assigned)

None.

COMMENTS OF STAFF MEMBERS

Walt Wrede commented that it was a great meeting and thanked the commissioners for all their hard work. He stated he did not want to go into details but in response to the questions regarding the speed limit and adding on to what Ms. Krause said, the city does have a new MOU with DOT in regards to the ROW, parking and speed limits on the Spit he can provide a copy of that agreement, maps and a report for the next meeting of the commission.

Ms. Krause complimented the commissioners on a accomplishing everything on the agenda in a timely manner that it was a lot to get through and she will start each meeting stating they will finish by a certain time since they proved her wrong and finished much earlier than she anticipated.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Lillibridge thanked Mr. Wrede for attending the meeting and providing answers that they would not have had if he did not attend. She thanked Mr. Illg and commented on a report that was given at the last Spit meeting and they invited Mr. Illg to attend the Commission meeting in February and provide a report to the commission and inquired from Mr. Wrede if that would be allowed and if Mr. Illg had spoken to him about that time. Mr. Wrede responded that he was aware of that and it also brought up that the commission could play a role in repurposing the old school building. There is quite a movement to create a Parks and Recreation Department and house it in that old building. Council has not totally bought off on that because of the expense; but that is another issue the commission should be involved in. Commissioner Lillibridge thanked the commission for a great meeting did a great job tonight,

they had more people here than ever before; she thanked Commissioner Lowney for coming aboard. She appreciates being on the commission.

Commissioner Brann also appreciate the break in December from meetings, he thought that the meeting went very well tonight; he thanked Ms. Krause for her recommendations on the agenda items and the motions has it helped streamlined the meeting time and super helpful; he will continue to work hard to complete Phase I, Phase II Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan including all parts that we are at the beginning of the process and there is a lot to get done.

Commissioner Archibald commented that this was good time to end as he had to get back to work; he was glad to get this under their belt tonight; was looking forward to working with Ms. Koester and pursuing more financial aid for improvements, there will be something out there, it will take a little bit to get it done; he noted that the Parks and Rec Department was on the commission's Strategic Plan and he was glad it has been talked about and believes it is time for Homer to have a department.

Commissioner Lowney commented that she was excited to be here and part of the commission; she is a doer; her greatest fear is getting nothing done; she likes having plans and organization, plowing through things; tonight's meeting went very well; in reference to her letter it was to spur conversation and to offer an alternate plan; conversation was good and cleared up a lot of questions as a new member without dragging through all the information; she believes it served that purpose; the park has a tender spot with her too for a number of reason; her commitment to parks; she opined that the master plan is an incredible one. She had a list of items for future agenda – She understands that the \$50,000 is in the budget but has not been spent and she would like on the February agenda to look into spending that money. She inquired about and that the Friends also have \$8000 for that purpose if that would be available. Ms. Krause explained that would be a conversation to hold with the Friends. There was a brief comment/explanation from Ms. Cumming regarding those funds. Chair Bremicker asked if they could generalize the request as Discussion on Further Funding for Karen Hornaday Park.

Commissioner Lowney asked if Staff can provide a report on using HART funds for the road and what steps would be needed to implement. Mr. Wrede responded that can be provided. Commissioner Lowney requested to have a discussion about the status of the existing equipment – what will be done with it.

A brief discussion on what has already been discussed and recommended on the equipment and how it will be removed from the playground by staff and HoPP ensued.

Commissioner Lowney then wanted to make sure that a discussion on implementing the proposed pocket park and that during build week there will be a display with the Master Plan plastered all over it.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Bremicker thanked Commissioner Lowney for her input. He thanked everyone and confidence in his role as Chair and their patience. He does try to keep everything rolling along. He noted that they still are two members short. He noted any recommendation and asked Ms. Cumming for any help in that direction that she could provide. A brief discussion on a potential commissioner who was to apply before the holidays and that she has not submitted an application as yet. One of the commissioners agreed to contact her to see if she was still interested. Chair Bremicker thanked the staff and all their hard work for the commission.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission Chair Bremicker adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m. The next regular meeting is THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

Approved: