

Session 13-03 a Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order on March 21, 2013 at 5:35 pm by Chair Bumpo Bremicker at the Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS ARCHIBALD, BELL, LOWNEY, BREMICKER, BRANN

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER LILLIBRIDGE (EXCUSED)

STAFF: JULIE ENGBRETSSEN, GIS/PLANNING TECHNICIAN
MIKE ILLG, RECREATION SPECIALIST
CAREY MEYER, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS
RENEE KRAUSE, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Bremicker requested a motion to approve the agenda.

LOWNEY/BRANN - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Commission.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (*Minutes are approved during regular meetings only*)

A. Meeting Minutes for the regular meeting on February 21, 2013

Chair Bremicker requested approval of the minutes.

LOWNEY/BELL - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

The minutes were approved by consensus of the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Phil Needham, city resident, Karen Hornaday Park committee member, commented on the proposed design for the new park pavilion. He opined that the proposed design is cool but has lost its functionality and it should be brought back and thought out a little more. He next commented on the connexes and while he agreed they are not beautiful they are functional and if they are removed another storage option must be offered.

Chair Bremicker inquired if as a builder he would offer his recommendations. Mr. Needham stated that due to the weather conditions a shed roof would not be good and he imagined a larger structure to accommodate more people. He recommended the new pavilion that was built by the Baptist Church as a good example.

A brief discussion on the current status of this project and that there will be one more opportunity to review the design from the engineer with approximate costs. Staff noted that this information should be available for the April meeting.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items for reconsideration.

VISITORS

Katie Koester, Economic and Community Development Coordinator

1. Legislative Processes

Ms. Koester presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Capital Improvement Plan, Capital Budget timeline, and how everything affects the City of Homer and its projects. She touched on the following:

- How projects get on the City of Homer top 15 listing
- What makes it a Good Project for the Legislature to Fund
- Has it already been partially funded or well vetted?
- Getting the Project in the Governor's Budget
- Starting to work on the Capital Budget
- Visits to Juneau to Lobby for Projects
- The House is the Last Chance to get a Project Funded
- If the Governor Doesn't Veto the Project it is funded in July

Ms. Koester also provided examples of current projects that hit most if not all the points to be a preferred project to be funded by the legislature and one on the opposite end that has not been well planned and has been on the top 15 and off again.

Chair Bremicker thanked Ms. Koester for her presentation. Ms. Koester answered questions from the commission on future funding for Karen Hornaday Park.

STAFF & COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS/ AND BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Community Recreation - Mike Illg

Mr. Illg provided a brief summary of his written report and commented on a flow chart he provided on the HERC building. He also noted that the City Manager was getting a cost estimate to demolish the building; City Council has stated that there is no money to fund the operating costs for the building, and they are still waiting on the Fire Marshall's report.

He wanted to recommend that the commission schedule a worksession on this subject.

Commissioner Lowney questioned whether they should pursue further discussion without more input and comment from the building. Mr. Illg had the same dilemma since he receives the comments and feedback from user groups and the public and he keeps telling them that they need to go to the council and submit their comments to the Council. He cannot do it as staff.

Chair Bremicker stated it would be nice to know what their intent was. He questioned when they will get the report. Ms. Engebretsen commented that they haven't had a public forum on this issue and they cannot as the staff schedule this that is up to the commission. Ms. Krause reported that Council has scheduled a worksession on the building for 5:15 p.m. on April 15, 2013 to discuss these pending issues according to the City Manager earlier in the day.

Further discussion on scheduling a worksession, obtaining a favorable report from the Fire Marshall, getting a report on the possibilities, concerns on the costs to run operate the building should be presented to the public also, concerns that the path of least resistance will be taken to tear it down when it can be used for other purposes and the community recreation program which fills a really need for the average users, the benefits of installing/converting the building to natural gas as a potential savings, and if the decision is to demolish the building that a plan be implemented immediately for a new community recreation center. Staff encouraged the commission to plan a worksession the following week to discuss what Council addressed at this worksession.

The commission established April 22, 2013 at Noon. It was noted that no quorum was needed and Commissioner Archibald could be telephonic.

Mr. Illg continued his report and explained what “pickle ball” was and that it was a new and popular sport that was fun for all ages. He noted all the upcoming events for April.

B. Staff Report - Julie Engebretsen, Planning Technician/GIS

Ms. Engebretsen noted her report was included in the packet. She noted that it was on the Strategic plan to receive more information on the cemetery and recommended adding this to the annual calendar and Staff will provide an update on the cemetery at the March commission meetings. She noted that the staff met with the Carey Meyer and the new project manager Dan Nelson, he is very knowledgeable and provided some good insight on the proposed picnic pavilion design. He noted that the stone bench around the fire pit would be a very costly item, suggested some alternatives in lieu of more expensive recommendations. This has been submitted to the contracted engineer for some drawings and costs estimates which will come back to this commission for final approval.

Additional items noted for the commissioners was a reminder for the Land Allocation Plan worksession with Council, there is no funding for upgrades this year at Mariner Park and she recommended that they put this on the June or July agenda for timely discussion to submit a recommendation for the budget. The commissioners requested the June agenda.

She will not be present for the April meeting and once again urged the commissioners to consider establishing worksession to discuss these larger issues.

Chair Bremicker added a comment on the relocation of the Mariner Park entrance and questioned the reduction of speed limit.

Ms. Engebretsen explained that she believed this was included in the city agreement with the State and a search is on for the executed copy.

C. Parks Maintenance - Angie Otteson

Chair Bremicker introduced the item and requested Ms. Otteson to provide her report.

Ms. Otteson provided an update on the status of the following:

- Greenhouse/summer flowers are being transplanted
- Winter king tournament, sea to ski, camping
- Clean-ups scheduled in the campground at Karen Hornaday Park
- removing the old shelter on the Pier One parcel and building a new one nearer to the Fishing Hole, another budget item for discussion. She noted a reference to the Spit Comprehensive Plan
- Rotary is again adopting Ben Walters Park
- Church on the Rock is adopting Karen Hornaday Park and Bishops Beach. They will be doing a site visit on April 12th and a work party on May 4th for Karen Hornaday. HoPP will be joining them on April 12th also
- Bayview Park is being adopted by Best Beginnings
- It is the second day of spring
- An outstanding couple has applied and the application period closes April 30th but so far they are the only applicants. They would like to come May 15th but that may be a bit too early. The proposed location is where the two connexes are located. They are scheduled to be removed before the road thaws too much.
- The proposed relocation of the picnic shelter
- Clean-up day for removal of the alders is March 27th 10 a.m.

D. Kachemak Drive Path Committee Report - Dave Brann

Chair Bremicker introduced the item for the record and asked if Commissioner Brann would like to provide the report.

Commissioner Brann noted that the committee has requested money from the HART fund to complete a survey and cost report on the proposed trail up the hill from the Homer Spit Road to first half mile.

There was some confusion and it was determined that this would be too costly by the engineers so an alternate survey was done on the Mud Bay Trail. He further noted that the committee decided to focus on the Mud Bay Trail and that more can be accomplished in a shorter amount of time and using volunteer time to upgrade this trail in accordance with the city requirements. He noted that Carey Meyer had mentioned over time it could even be upgraded possibly to a paved trail.

After that meeting he personally met with Walt Wrede and Carey Meyer and Walt felt that if they focused more on the Mud Bay Trail as a separate issue the Council may take a closer look and perhaps supporting it more than the whole project. Commissioner Brann reported that the committee is still intent on getting the whole proposed Kachemak Drive Trail.

The committee passed a motion to support improving the Mud Bay Trail from the Homer Spit Road to the Airport Road.

During his meeting with Walt and Carey He stated that he had asked what had to be done to get it recognized as an official city trail. He was told that they needed to get it listed in the Homer Non-motorized Transportation Plan. They felt that an amendment could be made to the plan.

Commissioner Brann further outlined additional points of his discussion with Walt Wrede and Carey Meyer regarding the Mud Bay Trail and upgrade. He requested further direction from Staff.

Ms. Engebretsen explained it was not that easy and disagreed with the City Manager and Public Works Director on amending the Homer Non-Motorized Transportation Plan or the Comprehensive Plan. This was a long term expensive process.

She provided another way to add the trail and the process that could be used once a recommendation has been received from the committee.

It was noted that the potential recommendation was reconsidered so this would not come before the commission until the April or May meeting.

Chair Bremicker commented on the satisfaction of the different cyclists that would use the proposed trail. He noted that the Mud Bay Trail would be more for the recreational user.

Commissioner Brann started to comment on the installation of signage along Kachemak Drive and it was noted that that item could be discussed later on the agenda.

F. Karen Hornaday Park Committee - Robert Archibald

Chair Bremicker introduced the item for the record and asked Commissioners Lowney and Archibald for their report.

Commissioner Archibald stated that Mr. Meyer was in attendance and provided a report on the engineering of the day use areas was quoted at \$10,000. He reported that the whole \$90,000 was available but hydro-seeding hasn't been completed and additional topsoil may be needed which would be taken from that money.

The committee had a discussion regarding the proposed design for the new picnic pavilion and that some aspects were more costly. There were comments noting that the partitions may present obstacles to larger parties. A brief discussion on using volunteers to construct the fire pit area was considered and noted as possible by Mr. Meyer. It was opined by Commissioner Lowney that if they used volunteers they needed a volunteer leader otherwise let the city handle it. Mr. Meyer also reported that the relocation of the existing shelter would probably be done by a solicitation for a bid from "on file" contractors. It would be best to move the shelter when the new concrete pad was in place but since the new shelters footprint overlaps the existing that may not be possible.

There was a proposal for a new piece of playground equipment by HoPP but it may be too large so further research is being conducted by HoPP, the committee had a discussion on connexes used by Little League and a recommendation to remove and ban all connexes was made and forwarded to the Commission. They discussed the following items briefly:

- Camp Host site preparation
- Cutting Back Alders
- Drainage
- Restroom Improvements

- Adopt a Park Program
- Playground Work Party
- Snack Shack repairs
- Little League Storage Connex appearance/replacement

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no items for public hearing.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Diamond Creek Recreation Area

1. Adding the Recreation Area to the Map on the Website
2. Discussion and Request for Non-motorized Signs
3. Approval of the Diamond Creek Recreation Area Plan

Chair Bremicker introduced the item for discussion.

Commissioner Brann stated that he was unable to meet with Tom on some of a few minor concerns he had with the proposed plan. After a brief discussion with staff it was determined that is minor suggestions did not change the overall plan and he did not want to postpone approval any longer on the longer.

LOWNEY/BRANN - MOVED TO FORWARD THE DIAMOND CREEK RECREATION AREA MULTI-RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. Pier One Campground - Update - Commissioner Brann

Commissioner Brann had requested this item on the agenda since he was concerned what was going to be done with the campground for the summer.

Chair Bremicker opined that the City should be careful on how the area is cleaned up and that it is cleaned up appropriately. Commissioner Brann wanted to make sure that the campground was put back since it was a good source of revenue. Commissioner Lowney expressed concern and requested this item on the agenda and to not forget about it.

Mr. Illg reminded the Commission that the Port & Harbor owned the property.

Ms. Engebretsen stated that there is no immediate concern on the campground and that between Ms. Otteson, the Harbormaster and the contractor they are dealing with the issues of the campground. She further noted that keeping this item on the agenda is fine; but if the commissioners want something on the agenda it should be an action item since this has been discussed several times.

The commissioners were interested in seeing what the new layout for the campground would be and would be satisfied with progress reports.

C. Kachemak Drive Trail - Commissioner Brann

1. Bicycles on the Road Signage and Right of Way Permit Application
2. Update on the Engineering & Survey

Commissioner Brann reported his conversation with Walt Wrede and Carey Meyer, he reported the requirement for permits by the DOT and that DOT needs a permit filed to get 4 yellow signs, Dottie Harness-Foster in Planning Department has been assigned this task and Dave can work with her.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Scheduling a Spring Park Walk Through

Chair Bremicker asked for a suggestion of a date that the commissioners would like to perform this walk through and where. The commissioners discussed the Town Center area. Commissioner Archibald suggested that they also walk through the current list of parks so they can view what they do have such as Ben Walters Park, Bayview Park, etc. Commissioner Lowney agreed with Commissioner Archibald.

Commissioner Lowney suggested May 22, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. The commissioners agreed by consensus.

B. Homer Education and Recreation Center - Setting a Worksession for Discussion

This was accomplished previous under the Community Recreation Report.

A worksession is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. April 22, 2013 in Council Chambers.

C. Karen Hornaday Park

1. Recommendations from the Committee

*Recommendation to Parks and Recreation Commission,
Remove all Connex Type storage Containers from Karen Hornaday Park and ban any further use of
Connex type Units.*

*As soon as possible, determine the feasibility of removing the roof of the existing snack shack to
facilitate adding additional courses of cinder blocks to provide adequate head room and replace roof.
The existing floor area is to be engineered and new design is to be above water table, to be poured
cement. This could be accomplished at same time as pavilion replacement.*

LOWNEY/BRANN - MOVED TO FORWARD THE RECOMMENDATION TO BAN CONNEXES AND FACILITATE
REPAIRS TO COUNCIL.

Discussion ensued regarding public comment and the precedence that banning connexes would set for not only this park but all other parks. Also language should be included that would provide alternative storage.

The committee discussed the removal of the connexes, repurposing the snack shack with remodeling it to make it suitable for storage; who will pay for the repairs, and is the city liable for providing storage since there is no formal agreement.

Further discussion on the junk laying around next to the connex, the drainage issues around the shed located behind the "snack shack" recommend immediate solutions.

Ms. Engebretsen stated that there was no immediate concern over the next few months. She further recommended not passing this motion until more discussion with Little League regarding the storage needs.

Commissioner Lowney withdrew her motion from the floor. Commissioner Brann agreed.

Staff recommended that the Chair or a member of the Committee meet with Angie Otteson and a representative from Little League to discuss the issues presented and report back to the commission at the next meeting.

Commissioner Archibald as the Chair of the Committee will meet with Ms. Otteson and Ms. Beachy, president of Little League.

D. Mud Bay Trail - Commissioner Bremicker

Commissioner Brann reported that a recommendation from the Kachemak Drive Path Committee to have a bon fire and serve hot chocolate during Shorebird festival was made at the last meeting. They are checking on the feasibility. If gets approved he will set up a plan to get that done.

Staff will try to have options available for the commission to make their recommendation to City Council.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. Commissioner Attendance at Council Meetings 2013

Commissioner Lowney asked for items to report to Council for the next meeting. The Commissioners recommended the following:

- Passing the Diamond Creek Management Plan
- Concerned about the Campground at the Pier 1 Parcel
- Making Progress with the Day Use Area and should have a new pavilion designed and constructed this summer
- The positive feedback on the Mariner Park entrance. That needed improvements will continue.
- A camp host applicant for KHP
- The Land and Water Conservation Grant
- The Adopt of Park program is working and very successful

B. Commission Annual Calendar 2013

C. Strategic Plan 2013

Commissioner Lowney wanted to ask about having a discussion or directing the committee to handle the problem of Concert on the Lawn being held somewhere else. Commissioner Archibald provided a brief outline regarding the issues at hand and reasons for relocating the event. Chair Bremicker stated they should put that on the agenda for another meeting for discussion. Ms. Engebretsen advised staff that once they discussed it and any recommendations from that discussion should be directed to the City Manager. She additionally advised that nothing would be changed this year but maybe for next year.

D. Notification of Award Land and Water Conservation Fund Re: Karen Hornaday Park

E. Memorandum 13-XX Mayor Wythe and City Council re: Recommendations for the 2013 Land Allocation Plan

Chair Bremicker read the titles into the record there was no discussion. Ms. Engebretsen provided a brief outline on the process for the worksession on the Land Allocation Plan.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Kathy Beachy, apologized for arriving late, she is the new president of the Little League since October, trying to figure how everything works and she looks forward to working with the commission as her passion is cleaning up messes; she has been busy organizing and cleaning up the dust and piles that have accumulated over the years in the building that Little League has been meeting in over the years; has been involved with Little League for 10 years and will be for another 10 years; Phil Needham has been a wonderful advocate for Little League and hard worker and appreciates all his efforts to communicate with the city and commission; Ms. Beachy looks forward to working with the commission and improved communications with staff and the commissioners.

The commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

Commissioner Lowney informed Ms. Beachy about the upcoming worksession if she knew of some Little League folks who would like to come and help out at the next clean-up.

Commissioner Archibald inquired if it would be appropriate to ask the Commission approve expending some funds for lunch for the volunteers.

The commission approved by consensus to expend up to \$100 for lunch on March 27, 2013 for the Karen Hornaday Park Clean up.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Ms. Krause thanked the commission for a good meeting she apologized for being a stickler for the rules but it seemed to be expedient in keeping the commissioners focused to the task at hand.

Ms. Engebretsen agreed that it was a good meeting lots was accomplished and volunteered to arrange lunch if someone would like to call her that day, she would be more than happy to see it done. She commented that the city has a process on dedications and the like and she has been in touch with persons already. These issues will come before the commission at a later meeting.

Mr. Illg commented on recruiting a Council member to be an ad hoc member of the commission and meet quarterly with the commission. He has presented that to Jo Johnson, City Clerk who will be bringing it to the Mayor's attention; He also stated that he attended a meeting today with Commissioner Lowney and other members of the public that are redoing the comprehensive trails and parks map. They are really excited and it looks pretty promising. The group is researching the costs for production and he will keep the commissioners advised on their progress.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER *(If one is assigned)*

There was no councilmember present.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Bremicker's comments were inaudible or unrecorded and therefore not available for transcribing.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Lowney stated kudos to Mike for getting the group together on the trails map; she was concerned about getting the uniform signage meeting going; worksessions on the park projects with outside groups and keeping a list of those projects or needs; reminded the commissioners about the possibility of using the group of young people from Ginny; last thing she received a call about naming a ballfield in Homer after Paula Setterquist.

Commissioner Archibald commented that this past weekend there was not a room available in this town due to recreation whether it was hockey, the Epic or racing. He would be curious to know the economic impact and believes that in the future it will become even more important to this town. He thanked Commissioner Lowney for putting up with him.

Commissioner Brann commented and thanked staff for all their help. He congratulated Julie on her anniversary. He also thought that when he appears before Council he believes that he should provide a list of the recreational aspects to our community that there is more than just fishing.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission Chair Bremicker adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2013 at 5:30 pm at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I

Approved: _____