

Session 13-04 a Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order on April 18, 2013 at 5:39 pm by Chair Bumpo Bremicker at the Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS ARCHIBALD, LOWNEY, BREMICKER, BRANN

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER BELL (EXCUSED), COMMISSIONER LILLIBRIDGE

STAFF: ANGIE OTTESON, PARKS MAINTENANCE/COORDINATOR
MIKE ILLG, RECREATION SPECIALIST
JULIE ENGBRETSSEN, PLANNING TECHNICIAN
RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Bremicker requested a motion to approve the agenda.

BRANN/LOWNEY - 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 April 18, 2013

Chair Bremicker requested approval of the minutes.

LOWNEY/BRANN - MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

There was once correction requested.

The minutes were approved by consensus of the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA *(Three minute time limit)*

Kevin Walker, not a city resident, described himself as working closely for the past 2 ½ years with the members of the now private group of citizens continuing the work that the Kachemak Drive Path Committee started and plan to keep it going. He has contacted a surveyor friend to get better data than was available on the Borough website. He reported that she has done a fair bit of work for them and came up with the fact that the City of Homer does not own the property located between the state road and Aviation Leasing which is located from the end of the existing bike path to the upper end of that gully. Mr. Walker reported being forwarded a 25 page document containing information from 1965 when the Federal Government turned the land over to the state and the state made it an airport and he indicated many changes since that time concerning the property. He finally reached Gary Nelsen with Abilities Survey who commented that he was not sure about that either and was glad someone was looking into that and Mr. Nelsen recommended that Mr. Walker contact Sam Best at the Borough. Mr. Walker indicated he would be following up on that the next day. Mr. Walker stated that however it doesn't matter who owns the property since no one, State or City, wants to pay to put in the trail; it has been on the state STIP list forever. The group is going to get this trail created in the HoPP fashion using local volunteer labor, getting materials and equipment where they can; and with donations and grants wherever they can; they are going to use local materials. The termination day has been postponed until September and they plan to do as much as they can this summer to show that there is still strong interest. Mr. Walker stated he hates the hill and thinks everybody else hates the hill too; with the heavy traffic on the road they would like a trail beside it. Mr. Walker stated are going to make it happen one way or another.

Lynn Burt, city resident, commented in favor of dedicating a ballfield to Paula Setterquist. In response to a question on which field she stated she expected a few others to be present who could present a preference if there was one.

Jessica Marx provided a brief report on the status and progress on the Association. She noted that they are still waiting for the major improvements to start to address the serious drainage issues at the park. She noted that the smaller field on the right is used by the High School teams and would be appropriate for the dedication. She also commented on the volunteer labor that has been expended it would be great to see some improvements by the city to enhance that third field. She noted too that it would be very appropriate to approve the dedication.

Commissioner Lowney commented that they did receive some funding for signage and it would be nice to have some input from the Softball Association regarding the sign for the park.

Ms. Marx further elaborated that they currently are practicing on the fields in response to a query from Chair Bremicker.

There was a brief discussion on signage for Jack Gist Park.

There were no further comments.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items for reconsideration.

VISITORS

There were no visitors scheduled.

STAFF & COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS/ AND BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Camp Ground Host - Andrea Petersen, Personnel Director

Ms. Petersen provided a status update on the position being advertised for a Campground Host. The potential applicants that were reported during the March meeting accepted a position at another location. The commissioners expressed dismay that there was a delay in advertising the position and it was not done more aggressively. Ms. Petersen noted that advice from the first applicants indicated that getting someone may be difficult since certain amenities were not being offered.

The commission was encouraged to spread the word regarding the opportunity but that all applicants would have to complete the application located under jobs on the city's website and they must pass a standard background check. This is paid for by the City and conducted by the Homer Police Department or the State Troopers.

B. Community Recreation - Mike Illg

Mr. Illg provided a brief report on following items:

- Progress is being made on the new trails map and Todd Schroeder is the missing link to success
- consulting with a local community group regarding the possibility of creating a recreational service area and the timeline would be fall 2014
- Annual iconic run to the base of the Spit will be June 29, 2013 there will be an after-party at the End of the Road Park
- He will be on coffee table at KBBI on May 22, 2013 to speak on recreational activities and parks so if the commissioners would like to provide him some ideas please let him know.
- He will be on vacation for most of the month of June traveling with his family

C. Parks Maintenance - Angie Otteson

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

- The potential camp ground host applicants provided several obstacles and pointers
- The Fishing Hole shelter is gone
- Logs have been received and are being placed to define the campground
- 18,000 plants are ready to be transplanted
- she has physically inspected the ballfield to look for the reported damage and did not see anything she also noted that while there is no MOU KBBI does complete a Special Event permit each year and they are responsible to repair any damages that may be the result of the event.
- The gazebo at Mariner Park is scheduled to be relocated the week of May 20, 2013
- The Karen Hornaday Park clean-up has been rescheduled to Saturday, May 18, 2013

There was a brief discussion on the possibility of fitting the stage and Concert on the lawn in the area known as the t-ball field.

Chair Bremicker inquired if Ms. Otteson knew what the status of all the boats on shore at the Pier One parcel. Ms. Otteson responded that she did not have information on that and it was a day to day update.

Commissioner Archibald commented that there were numerous activities being held on that parcel and questioned the capacity to adequately provide for all the activities being conducted there.

D. Staff Report - Julie Engebretsen

Ms. Engebretsen stated her report was included in the packet and asked if there were any questions. She requested clarifications on the parks that the commission planned on visiting next Wednesday during the worksession. It was noted that Bayview, Jeffrey and Ben Walters Parks along with a tour inspection of the area known as Town Center. If time and weather permits they will visit Jack Gist Park.

PUBLIC HEARING

A. Public Hearing on request to Dedicate a Ballfield at Jack Gist Park and Request to Recognize the Donation of Land for Karen Hornaday Park

Chair Bremicker opened the Public Hearing for Dedicating a Ballfield.

Mr. Kevin Walker commented on the need for a crosswalk from the trail to the park to safely cross East End Road. Commissioner Brann commented on the requirements DOT has for installing crosswalks and Ms. Engebretsen noted that previous inquiry to installing a cross walk in that area was denied due to sight limitations, the 45 mph speed limit and noted it was unlikely to be approved now. Further discussion and comments ensued regarding access and egress to the park and Cottonwood Horse Park and a request to put this on the next agenda to take action on this matter in reducing the speed limit.

There were two who testified in support of the dedication.

Chair Bremicker requesting clarification regarding signage and payment from staff. Ms. Engebretsen explained any previous dedications.

Commissioner Brann requested clarification on the process stating he thought the commission approved this at their last meeting. Ms. Krause explained the process that this was introduced at the April meeting but required a Public Hearing and approval at a second meeting. In essence the commissioners approve twice or the requests.

A brief discussion noted that there was no one present to offer testimony for the Request to Recognize the Donation of Land

There was no further discussion.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Memorandum dated April 23, 2013 re: Dissolving the Kachemak Drive Path Committee

Chair Bremicker asked if there was discussion on this item and noted he did not want to discuss it himself. He believed that they voted to create a committee that all they have to do is vote to dissolve it. Chair Bremicker request a motion.

LOWNEY/BRANN - MOVED TO DISSOLVE THE KACHEMAK DRIVE PATH COMMITTEE

Commissioner Archibald commented that it would interesting to know who actually owns that property, that it may do better in the private sector and it has been tough. Chair Bremicker stated that to clarify some things but the thing that went before City Council was not just to disband this committee but to stop all work on the trail; which was a quite a bit beyond what the commission is talking about right now; he believed that the discussion by Council was that they wanted more information and having a private group getting more information and costs is a good thing and having the committee disband will not stop it from going forward.

VOTE. YES. BRANN, ARCHIBALD, LOWNEY, BREMICKER

Motion carried.

Commissioner Lowney commented on tightening up on the committees that are formed by this commission determining when and how they meet and providing direction to them; providing the committees with an agenda instead of having them work on what they think they should be working on is the best way of utilizing the committees. She commented on the instances with the Karen Hornaday Park Committee. She believed it was the commission's duty to outline that and if the committees don't need to meet then that's okay too. Chair Bremicker agreed that when committees are established the commission should be provided with specific tasks and a mission statement.

Commissioner Archibald stated that the committees are provided tasks but over two years period without revisiting that specific agenda they lose sight of why they were established in the first place.

Commissioner Lowney suggested having it on the commission calendar to review the purposes the committees were established and re-tasking them thanking them they are done. Chair Bremicker opined it would be difficult to create an agenda for the committees. It was noted that the only committee now is the park committee.

Ms. Engebretsen suggested putting this on the agenda next month under By Laws along with meeting time limits. Chair Bremicker questioned the purpose and noted previous questions on who did what with the committees.

The commissioners agreed by consensus.

B. Warning Signage for Bicyclists on Kachemak Drive - Update

Staff provided a brief update that the permit was approved by the state but that Ms. Harness-Foster was involved with this and currently she was out town until May 24, 2013. Commissioner Brann commented on the funding, himself and Chair Bremicker for one sign, the Bicycle Club will pay for one sign and Eric Sloth will pay for the third sign. He will contact Ms. Harness-Foster after the holiday regarding payment for the signs.

Commissioner Brann provided the sign location along Kachemak Drive for a member of the audience.

C. Request for a Plaque to recognize the Donation of Land by Mae Harrington at Karen Hornaday Park and a Request to Dedicate a Ballfield at Jack Gist Park

Chair Bremicker read the title into the record and requested a motion.

LOWNEY/BRANN - MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE PARKS AND RECREATION SUPPORTS THE REQUESTS TO DEDICATE A BALLFIELD AT JACK GIST PARK TO PAULA SETTERQUIST AND RECOGNITION OF THE DONATION OF LAND BY MAE HARRINGTON.

There was a brief discussion on the placement and funding of the plaques and a request to be part of the further discussion on placement of the plaque at Karen Hornaday Park by Commissioner Lowney.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Fishing Hole Campground Site Plan (Kachemak Bay Water Trail)

Chair Bremicker read the title into the record and requested additional information from staff.

Ms. Engebretsen explained the changes regarding placement of the kayak launch, a resolution before Council on June 10, 2013 for this location and the proposed planning for the parcel. She noted that they are not making good use of the parcel and there are some steps that need to be taken. There were further comments on the proposed shelter which the City Manager wanted to include in next year's budget. Commissioner Brann pointed on numerous unplanned revenue sources such as the windfall from Buccaneer and the Barges being parked, that could fund a professional plan for that area. Staff explained that her department did not have the available funds and a professional plan which would cost around \$5200.

LOWNEY/BREMICKER - MOVED TO SEND A MEMORANDUM FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE CITY MANAGER SUPPORTING AND REQUESTING A PLAN BE DONE FOR THE PIER ONE PARCEL.

There was further discussion on the funding and advocating for the plan.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Bremicker questioned the relocation of the Campground Office and the proposed area for leasing to the Wooden Boat Society. Ms. Engebretsen stated that area was to be designated next to the proposed location for the campground office. That is why we need a plan. She feels very strongly that is what funding is needed to be expended. Commissioner Brann recited his take on the worksession held by Council on an area to be included in the RFP.

B. Request to Support the Installation of Telephone Poles in Karen Hornaday Park for the Highland Games and other activities

Chair Bremicker read the title into the record and requested Commissioner Archibald to offer some further information.

Commissioner Archibald explained the purpose and reason for installation of the poles.

Ms. Krause stated that there may be a problem due to a presumed Conflict of interest.

Chair Bremicker stated that Commissioner Archibald did not have a financial gain from this request and moved he did not have a conflict. Commissioner Brann seconded his motion.

The commission agreed by consensus he did not have a conflict.

Commissioner Lowney voiced some concern regarding safety and opposition on the placement of the poles within the field since the field was being used for t-ball now. She voiced that her experience

teaching and kids are running around, that the poles had to be padded. Staff noted that Ms. Otteson was certified in playground safety and would address any potential safety issues.

Chair Bremicker requested a motion.

BRANN/ARCHIBALD - MOVED THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVES THE REQUEST TO PURSUE INSTALLATION OF TELEPHONE POLES.

Commissioner Lowney stated that she would vote in favor but wanted the t-ball people included in the discussion and placement of the poles.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

C. Karen Hornaday Park and Day Use Improvements, Pavilion

Ms. Engebretsen provided an update on the drawings received and that no cost estimate was received. It was noted that the concrete bench was going to be costly but could be done at a later time. Commissioner Lowney informed that alternative funding source may be available to build those benches. Another discussion by the committee on the proposed dividing walls concerning the placement is preferred to be on the outside since the people of Homer can picnic together and there has been more concern with having a windbreak. She is flexible. Commissioner Lowney felt though that if they were to make a recommendation it should be included now. Further discussion on the partition placement and value to the structural integrity; direction of the pavilion; placement on the site; roof angle and using timbers and beach rock to tie into the playground.

Further details on the benches were noted by Commissioners Brann and Lowney.

Ms. Engebretsen clarified that the benches will be taken care of by outside parties, partitions moved to the outside to serve as windbreaks, removing the supports from the inside the pavilion if not needed and relocating to the outside for shear strength and accessing beach rock instead of brick. She will forward the commission's recommendations.

D. Karen Hornaday Park and Concert on the Lawn

Chair Bremicker noted that he was on the Board of Directors for KBBI. He stated that he does not have a financial gain from this position and did not feel he had a conflict of interest. His potential conflict of interest was not addressed.

A discussion on the potential or presumed damage to the ballfield by the annual event, the road completion, whether the event could be held in the same field as the Highland Games and placement of the stage in that area, also access to that lower field using the grass ramp was brought up by the commissioners. It was also noted that the road will be completed and looped around the pavilion when it is relocated by next year however it was not known if this would be before the 2014 Concert on the Lawn event. Chair Bremicker stated that the long term goal will be having the Concert on the Lawn back in Town Center.

Ms. Engebretsen will have Ms. Otteson report back on her discussion with KBBI although she is not sure how soon that will occur.

Commissioner Lowney inquired about the agreement with the Little League. Commissioner Brann reported what he stated the commission's concerns at the recent Council meeting. Ms. Engebretsen stated that a memo was forwarded to the City Manager from the last meeting, so the ball is in his court. Commissioner Archibald pointed out that there are several decisions waiting on the determination of whose responsibility it is such as the snack shack repairs and renovations; the removal of the old refrigeration trailer, etc.

Further discourse regarding the specific issues regarding the day use area, acknowledging that there are more issues that need to be addressed ensued; liability concerns, safety issues and who is doing the work are the top concerns and the commissioners believed would impede progress on the work to complete the day use area improvements.

Staff will forward those specific concerns to the City Manager via memorandum.

E. Park Day - Time to Start Planning

Chair Bremicker introduced the item for discussion.

There was a brief discussion on establishing August 17, 2013 at Ben Walters Park for this year's Park Day event.

The commissioners agreed by consensus on the following:

When: Saturday August 17, 2013

Time: Noon - 2:00 p.m.

What: Recognizing the work performed by the Rotary Club and Adopting the Park and Promoting the Adopt a Park Adopt a Trail Program

What to Serve: Ice Cream, Hot Dogs, TBD

The commissioners also discussed having the Mayor issue a proclamation designating the day as Park Day and extending an invitation to members of Council to attend the event. It was noted that they did not have to make all the decisions tonight. Commissioner Brann will let the Rotary know and see if they have any recommendations regarding food, etc.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. Commissioner Attendance at Council Meetings 2013

B. Commission Annual Calendar 2013

C. Strategic Plan 2013

D. Recommendation to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Little League at Karen Hornaday Park to City Manager dated April 23, 2013

E. Request to Monitor and Enforce Speed Limit on Kachemak Drive to City Manager dated April 23, 2013

F. Request for Consideration of Proposed Sculpture "Squid versus Whale" to Public Arts Committee dated April 23, 2013

G. Memorandum 13-059 dated April 22, 2013 to Mayor Wythe and City Council Re: Proposed Resolution 13-040

There was no discussion on the informational materials.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Lindianne Sarno, member of the Kachemak Drive Path Steering Committee, the private citizens group that has formed to take over the work completed by the bike path committee. She stated that they are really happy to be working independently now; Ms. Sarno commented on the members of the committee are happy, the mayor is happier, she noted that the clerk was happy now. She believes that there will be a lot of progress this summer, they are now focusing on the catching and listing the names of the many people that have expressed strong support in the community, creating committees, appointing leaders to those committees in the same model as HoPP and fundraising. She noted it is very promising working on this very important project. On the Campground Host position if the advertise for someone expert in living without utilities there might be a different response to the ad compared to the normal applicant to a city job used to working in an office atmosphere.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Ms. Engebretsen commented that it was a great meeting, awesome work; she stated that Mariner Park and layout is the next project the commissioners requested to be on the agenda but she is very busy and they are too and in the spirit of keeping things going forward if they can visit the park, keeping an

eye on various goings on, she will even try to get some pictures at various period throughout the summer then they can review and address it this fall.

Ms. Krause commented that it was a good meeting and it will be nice to get home early this time and it is still daylight.

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

There was no councilmember present.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Bremicker commented that it was a good meeting and it was nice to have most everyone there. He echoed the sentiments of the commission regarding staff assistance.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Brann agreed it was a good short meeting he thanked staff for the packet and materials. Thanked the commissioners for attending the meeting. He also noted that Ben Walters Park would be closed this Saturday for some work.

Commissioner Lowney expressed concern regarding the Karen Hornaday Park Committee and the direction of where they are going; she was not sure what more they need to do and providing them some direction, other than to keep pushing on the outstanding issues that remain at the park. Commissioner Lowney reminded them about the Cleanup day this coming Saturday. Commissioner Archibald offered no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Bremicker adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m. The next meeting is a Worksession Wednesday May 22, 2013 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. and the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for June 20, 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: _____