

Session 14-01 a Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order on January 16, 2014 at 5:32 pm by Chair Matt Steffy at the Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS STEFFY, LOWNEY, BRANN, MACCAMPBELL AND LILLIBRIDGE

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER ARCHIBALD (EXCUSED)

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Steffy requested a motion to approve the agenda.

MACCAMPBELL/LOWNEY - MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

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 November 21, 2013

Chair Steffy requested approval of the minutes from the November meeting.

BRANN/LOWNEY - SO MOVED.

There was a brief discussion on succinctness.

The minutes were approved by consensus of the Commission.

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

Chair Steffy invited the audience to offer comments on items on the agenda.

Ken Landfield, city resident, read his written comment into the record. This was provided as a lay-down to the commissioners. He related the reaction from other residents in the community. He stated that if Leo Vait builds this statue it will be great. He also noted that Mr. Vait has stated that Brother Asaiah sat for him to create a bust and this may change others opinions however he still does not believe that Brother Asaiah would approve of that. He believes that the community should be made aware of the proposal and should be able to comment on it. He is not sure that this is the way Brother Asaiah would have wanted to be remembered.

Chair Steffy reiterated the three minute time limit and requested the clerk to use the timer.

Kate Crowley, city resident, commented on the Needs Assessment and was just attending for the discussion and to assist if needed. She looked forward to a lively discussion.

Gail Edgerly, representing the Homer Arts and Culture Alliance (HACA) and is requesting that the HACA be considered for a seat on the steering committee and they believe that arts and culture are as vital and important as recreation and when put together makes it more inclusive of the community.

Michael Kennedy, city resident, was a friend of Asaiah Bates. He has worked with Leo Vait and there is nothing but good to say about his art; he has done projects with Leo before and he's a good guy. Mr.

Kennedy stated he was a little blindsided by this thing; he was one of the people who buried Brother Asaiah; Mr. Kennedy commented that he'd like to think he knew Brother Asaiah pretty well, used to rent a place from him where the park is now. Mr. Kennedy stated that Brother Asaiah did not want the park named after him, he was very adamant about that. If he wanted a bust of himself he would have done it then. He believed that Brother Asaiah would not have wanted the lights on the tree but they do it now and he's not sure what Asaiah would have said about the bathrooms in the park. Mr. Kennedy went on to further state that Brother Asaiah did not want a head stone and did not want anyone to know where he was buried. Brother Asaiah said to "put him in the ground and don't look back." Mr. Kennedy stated Asaiah wanted to be done with this plane and go on, he did not want to be tied to this plane; because of this Mr. Kennedy felt he had to comment against placing a bust on public land and he felt that more discussion should be held. He asked if anyone spoke to Brother Asaiah's daughter to get her opinion. Mr. Kennedy believed Asaiah would be happier if they went out and stopped some war somewhere and he definitely would not want to have the community fight about this. But they should talk to people who knew him and suggested people read his last letters.

Mr. Larry Slone, city resident, he agreed that Brother Asaiah would not have wanted a bust, the physical representation of himself placing (comment indiscernible) city here; on the other hand those of us who knew him knew also that he was the epitome of these timeless values that we all espouse: openness, fairness, respect for each individual community service, all these values were incorporated into this man and his personality. He was a unique person in that sense and the type of values he represented would be extremely beneficial to espouse throughout the populace of the town. Mr. Sloan believed that the values incorporated into this man's personality should somehow be reflected into wider and broader sense and become timeless throughout the future and the area and one way would be to commemorate him in such a fashion as proposed. He believed in some sense Brother Asaiah would appreciate it. Mr. Slone stated that these beneficial values would be exposed throughout the community and visitors would see the statue and inquire what was so special about him. How it is done he is not sure but something needs to be done to commemorate the man and the values he had. Mr. Slone further advocated for talking with the people who knew him and promote the concept if they knew about it.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items for reconsideration.

VISITORS

A. Leo Vait, Donation of a Commissioned Bust of Brother Asaiah for WKFL Park

Leo Vait, artist, was commissioned to create a bust of Brother Asaiah. Mr. Vait showed a photo of Brother Asaiah sitting for him that was on his phone. Mr. Vait stated that brother Asaiah knew he was sitting for a public statue. Mr. Vait stated he has heard testimony against this commissioned statue. Mr. Vait then asked if there were any questions.

Chair Steffy asked for specific questions regarding the donation and placement of the bust.

Commissioner Lowney questioned the time frame for this project and if it was necessary to get this approved right away due to the apparent recommendation and desire to have a public vetting of this donation. Mr. Vait responded that he was trying to get it to the Foundry by February 12th, but there was no real deadline to have it completed. He asked if the commission thought it would be too quick to allow the public process. Commissioner Lowney stated that they would need two weeks to notice but even then it would have to go before Council.

Chair Steffy requested confirmation on procedural processes from staff. Ms. Engebretsen responded on the process for a resolution but would defer further comment on the process from Ms. Krause.

Ms. Krause explained how it came before the commission and the recommendation from Public Arts Committee.

Commissioner Lowney commented on the commission performing due diligence and supported the additional public comment regarding the location.

Commissioner MacCampbell asked if there were any other sites that would be suitable for the bust. Mr. Vait replied this was one site chosen based on Martha's input in her book. There are a number of sites that are appropriate. He did not believe it would hold up the process much, but depending on the amount of public comment he may wait.

There was a brief discussion on acceptance by Council into the Municipal Art Collection and placement in or on city owned property, lighting and cameras to deter vandalism, if the benefactor would pay for those in addition to what is being funded.

There was no further discussion.

STAFF & COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS/ AND BOROUGH REPORTS

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

Ms. Engebretsen had no items this month to report on.

Commissioner Lowney inquired about the discussion regarding the HERC building. Ms. Engebretsen stated that was scheduled for the February agenda.

Chair Steffy commented that it worked for him.

There was no further discussion.

B. Parks Maintenance Report - Angie Otteson

Ms. Otteson provided a laydown for the commission reflecting the Campground Fee Collection for 2011-2013.

Ms. Otteson reported that she attended the recent Public Arts Committee on January 9, 2014 and the joint committee reviewed two proposals received from Dan Coe and Lost Things Designs. The committee decided after careful review to split the award by giving Dan Coe the three smaller signs since the committee appreciated the clean design and felt that they would be perfect to represent the smaller parks in the city and Lost Things Designs for the Jack Gist Park since the committee previously had decided Jack Gist fell within the committee's description of a keystone park and thus having a unique sign. This design will also complement the Bishop's Beach signage. It is the intent to forward this to council for their approval.

Ms. Otteson requested a recommendation from the commission supporting the choices and the design.

Ms. Otteson commented on the donation and supported further discussion on placement of the statue.

The next item was the Camp Fee Building; this area has been eroded away again and they have lined up a crane to relocate it closer to road at the beginning of February as a temporary solution.

Ms. Otteson then focused on the laydown. She noted that at the last meeting Commissioner MacCampbell asked for the amount of revenues collected for the campgrounds. She noted previously she did not track the number of nights but now she does.

Next Ms. Otteson updated the commission on the status of the new restrooms and that they were almost ready to be opened for public use. They plan to only open one side for now in each of the restrooms that are located in town until mid-May. Then depending on numbers they will open the other side and the restrooms on the Spit. She then requested comments or questions from the commissioners.

Chair Steffy commented on the uniform sign design and that he liked the compromise. He also appreciated and confirmed with staff that they can split the award. He liked the designs chosen. On statistics, Chair Steffy questioned if the number of tents or RV's are tracked for each campsite. Ms. Otteson replied that it is only tracked per Tent or RV not by campsite.

Commissioner Brann asked what the future was for the campsites and campground on the Pier One parcel for this summer. He expressed some concern with the opening of the Kayak Launch. Ms. Otteson replied that she was not sure what was going to happen. She noted the tug boat was also placed in the campground area along with the barge. That was one of the reasons she stated her preference to relocate the building to the Mariner Park location which also allows the RV's to pull off the roadway with plenty of opportunity and space to exit safely back on to the roadway and proceed down the spit. Ms. Otteson would prefer this location than placement on the Pier One lot just because if the uncertainty of what will be happening there in the future. Mariner is a beautiful park and there would be benefits to improving that park.

Commissioner Lillibridge commented on entrance to the park being relocated and the benefits. She then commented on the fees collected were up in 2011 then went down substantially in 2012 and now 2013 reflects an increase; is there any indication what the cause is and if she had a demographics on who uses the park.

Ms. Otteson responded that she actually went back to 2000 and noted that each year varied and was probably dependent on the weather so the warmer, drier summers were busier; she did note that there was a substantial drop in 2008-2009 and in 2012 they did have a pretty cold, wet summer season. Ms. Otteson stated at this time they do not track where people are from.

C. Community Recreation - Mike Illg

Mr. Illg apologized for being long winded but there is a lot to report. He noted that he has contacted the Chamber regarding promotion of the Adopt-A-Park Program and the Director will bring that up to the Board.

Mr. Illg distributed a sample of the new trails map for the commission to review and commented that it was going to be larger but was almost completed. The commissioners expressed appreciation at the document and thanked Mr. Illg for his work on this project.

Next on Mr. Illg list was the Telluride Film Festival, this will be on January 23, 25, 2014. He looked forward to seeing the commissioners attend and stated it was going to be a great event as always.

He has assisted the Boys & Girls Club remove equipment from the HERC building and the recreation program has acquired some equipment that the Boys & Girls Club did not want to transport.

There will be some new programs at the HERC such as summer program of hockey, a fitness/exercise class, wrestling is being relocated from the High School to the HERC building also. Mr. Illg responded to a commissioner that the building is being used very frequently for lots of different classes.

Mr. Illg provided a laydown on legislation that is being presented on the federal level called PHIT which would allow tax incentives to include qualified sports and fitness expenses. He commented that this was the best he has ever seen as an incentive to get people active and to reduce costs. He encouraged the commissioners to contact our legislative representatives to support this legislation.

Commissioner Lowney inquired about promoting the Adopt a Program at the Telluride Festival. Mr. Illg responded that he would have an opportunity at the beginning and say a small piece about the program.

Commissioner Brann inquired the costs for advertising in the catalog in response to Mr. Illg's statement that the new Spring Summer edition was almost ready and if they could get the word out he has some additional room remaining for advertisers. Mr. Illg stated that the rates typically are ¼ page ad is \$100.00; ½ page ad is \$200.00 and full page ad is \$400.00. He also works with reciprocal advertising such as displaying a banner at events, consecutive ads can get a 10% discount or buy one get one free. The program or catalog is distributed in the Homer News and at various outlets throughout the city. He has approximately 3500 printed. This is also available on the city website. This year they will be emailing to all those that listed an email address on their registration form. He is working on creating a database to accomplish this task.

Chair Steffy inquired about any assistance provided on sanding and shoveling at the HERC building. Mr. Illg responded that he has provided shoveling and has talked with Mr. Meyer at Public Works regarding sanding the parking lot. A comment was made regarding the liability to the city.

D. Karen Hornaday Park Committee - Synopsis from the December 5, 2013 Meeting

There was a brief discussion on the reduced size of the pavilion. No clarification was made on why the pavilion ended up smaller. Ms. Otteson responded to questions regarding what work remained for completion stating there was a pile of dirt, stone to be used on the pavilion and drainage. Staff will try to have that answer at the next meeting regarding the size reduction.

Chair Steffy asked if any action was needed on this item.

Staff responded that no action was required.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no public hearings scheduled.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Action Plan to Thank Parks and Recreation Volunteers

LOWNEY/LILLIBRIDGE - MOVED TO EXPEND COMMISSION FUNDS ON SEMI-ANNUAL ADVERTISEMENTS TO RUN IN LOCAL PAPERS IN JULY AND DECEMBER AND PURCHASE THANK YOU CARDS FOR PERSONAL RECOGNITION OF APPRECIATION TO INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO VOLUNTEER AT CITY PARKS, TRAILS, BEACHES AND RECREATIONAL AREAS.

Commissioner Lowney wanted to go with staff recommendation and she volunteered to arrange that and work with Angie Otteson on who should receive them.

Chair Steffy inquired if the commission wanted to expend all the commission's funds on one line item since the costs for two ads is approximately \$1000. Personally he added he did not want to expend all their funds on one line item.

Commissioner Lillibridge agreed with the chair and expressed the commission's goals for the community to be able to offer various options regarding recreational opportunities such as parks, pickle ball, etc.

Chair Steffy reiterated the previous decision made by the commission to advertise in each paper twice a year which uses up all the commission's funding. He did not advocate expending funds for print advertisement.

The commissioners and staff proceeded to brain storm and came up with the following recommendations:

- Recognize the volunteers in the Community Recreation Catalog
- Letters to the Editor
- take advantage of the Council Proclamation of July as Parks and Rec Month
- use City of Homer card stock that is available
- personal delivery by commissioners
- print two ads per year with letter to the editor in the other paper
- Submit an article on the need of volunteers to the papers

LOWNEY/LILLIBRIDGE - MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO EXPEND COMMISSION FUNDS TO PURCHASE THANK YOU CARDS FOR PERSONALIZED RECOGNITION OF APPRECIATION TO INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO VOLUNTEER.

There was a brief discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Brann suggested that they use the annual proclamation regarding Parks and Recreation Month in July to their advantage this year.

B. Review of the Recommended Updates to the Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan

Chair Steffy asked if there were any comments or questions on the recommendations from the committee.

The following comments were made by the commission

- Inspection of individual campsites to list the necessary action required to open the views up for each site.
- Update size of each campsite or group of sites to accommodate RV's
- Leveling each campsite
- Reduce the size of campsites that are oversized
- Discuss the work plan at future meeting for the camp host site

Commissioner MacCampbell inquired if a training and communication program for the camp host program had been developed. Ms. Otteson explained that all those details have been developed and provided some background on what was required from a camp host and how they initially advertised it last year. They only received one applicant last year but he reconsidered his application. That person did advise them on a number of amenities to offer the camp host that may help them in the future but also cautioned them to not expect any interest either. Ms. Otteson noted that they will advertise probably starting in April for the camp host. Commissioner MacCampbell wished Ms. Otteson luck and offered to assist in any way he could.

Chair Steffy commented on his last park in Fairbanks recalling the details and amenities they incorporated into the camp host site and how difficult it was to get a qualified camp host. He stated that most camp hosts are paid a stipend along with utilities and the other amenities as camp host.

There was a brief discussion on paying the camp host and how much and that this position was a competitive job market. Chair Steffy emphasized the need to select the right person to be a camp host. Further discussion on some details of the position and the personality requirements regarding the camp host position ensued.

There was no further action or discussion by the commission on the recommendations by the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Recommendation for Support of Placement of Commissioned Sculpture in WKFL Park

Chair Steffy read the title into the record and inquired if more discussion was needed on the subject or if there were additional comments from the commissioners.

Commissioner Brann commented on the statements and comments received on both sides of the issue and he believed a continued discussion would be appreciated. He agreed that no one wanted to fight about the decision but a good discussion would be valuable to making a decision. He appreciated people coming tonight.

Chair Steffy opined on the memorialization of an individual and the contrasts between what the individuals want and what the individual being memorialized might have wanted done. He further stated that there are two questions to ask -

1. Are you memorializing the individual for the sake of the individual?
2. Are you memorializing the individual for the sake of the people he influenced.

Chair Steffy stated he believed the commission heard that during the public comments tonight. He opined that it would be appropriate for a public hearing to be held by City Council regarding this issue to get more public input on the placement. Chair Steffy requested a motion.

LOWNEY/BRANN - MOVED TO SUPPORT THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE DONATION OF THE ART PIECE TO THE CITY COLLECTION BUT RECOMMEND A PUBLIC FORUM TO FURTHER DISCUSS THE PLACEMENT ON THAT PIECE.

Chair Steffy stated he will attend that meeting to answer any questions regarding the Commission recommendation.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

C. Recreational Needs Assessment - Discussion on Implementation

Chair Steffy read the title into the record and noted that the City Manager was present and invited him up to open the discussion on the item.

Mr. Wrede thanked the Chair and Commission for inviting him to the meeting. He also thanked Commissioner Brann for directing him to a YouTube Video on how Russians remove a vehicle from the water in reference to the incidence at Beluga Lake recently.

Mr. Wrede stated he has been thinking about how to approach this needs assessment. He has spoken with City Council with the question and was provided the following feedback:

- Be Efficient
- Be Quick
- Pick a Committee Administratively
- Use the Commission

Mr. Wrede informed the commission that the City Council intends to reduce the Commissions, Boards and Committees to alleviate staff burnout, redundancy, and bureaucracy. So they are making the efforts to use the existing commissions. He does agree with moving quickly but wants to be thorough. He would like to have results before the Election so if Council member Burgess' ordinance is approved they will have some information to provide the voters.

He has decided on the creation of a small working group preferably no more than seven members:

- Julie Engebretsen and himself as staff
- Matt Steffy acting as liaison to the Commission
- Kate Crowley, representing ReCreate Rec and performing outreach to other user groups
- Mike Illg
-

These are the initial members and requested suggestions from the Commission on others to fill the remaining seats. Mr. Wrede responded to Commissioner Brann's question that since this is an administrative committee or work group it is not subject to the Open Meetings Act and Notification requirements. He also noted that having too large a group invites too many personal agendas and has a tendency to slow down progress and results. However he doesn't want to leave anyone group or sport out.

Some points that he expects this work group to address were:

- What research methodology should be used
- How to reach out to the different user groups
- How to get results that are actionable by Council
- Drafting the Request for Proposals (RFP)
- Who are the stakeholders
- How to get people involved that normally does not attend meetings, etc.
- Form the basics that can be used to draft the RFP
- Review and select the proposals that are received
- Portions that could be performed in house
- Perform research on the existing data
- Using information by MAPP

Mr. Wrede recommends using the Commission as a sounding board and to provide feedback on the work product. The commission can hold public hearings or town hall meetings to conduct the broader outreach efforts.

He also noted that he can request Council allow the Commission to conduct special meetings in response to a comment from staff regarding the upcoming change.

Mr. Wrede then requested suggestions or recommendations of other members to invite to the work group. Commissioner Lowney commented that the Homer Arts and Culture Alliance has requested a seat on any steering group and has advocated for this assessment very strongly from the start. She also commented that the work group would appear too city driven. Mr. Wrede responded that he would be acting in a staff capacity not as a "voting member" of the committee, along with other staff.

Discussion briefly ensued on the time needed and getting this accomplished before election just in case the ordinance that was introduced from Council member Burgess is approved and is on the ballot this October. Further comments on having a good cross section of representation on the work group and that every commission meeting will probably have a full house from now on. Further points made were that the recreational facilities were not used just by city residents only so they will have to make sure to get the opinion of non-residents and how would they achieve factoring that in to the assessment. The attendance of all the fishermen at the recent council meeting was noted by Commissioner Lillibridge and she suggested that careful wording of the questions would be required.

Further comments made covered the following subjects:

- Other Needs Assessment Surveys completed by Cities in Alaska
- Contacting Behavioral Health and the Hockey Association for a member
- Electing a Chair for the Work group/committee if desired (Chair Steffy volunteered to fulfill the roll of chair or as a lead for the work group) initial contact point.
- Establishing meeting times day or after work hours - first initial meetings to be after working hours
- Not all product will be vetted by the commission only major items
- How much time will a contractor actually need to produce the assessment

Chair Steffy advocated for the smaller work group to expedite the process. Realistically to allow the proper time 12 months would be needed to produce an accurate document.

Mr. Wrede will send out notification to establish the first meeting of the work group for next week. He then noted that staff or the chair can bring the results back to the commission at the next meeting.

There was no further discussion.

D. Recommendation to Join Alaska Recreation and Parks Association

Chair Steffy introduced the item into the record and proceeded to explain the options available to the commission. He thanked staff for providing the information.

LOWNEY/BRANN - MOVED TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP EXPENSE OF \$150 FOR THE ALASKA RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION FROM COMMISSION FUNDS AND ANY ADDITIONAL SPECIAL INTEREST AFFILIATIONS THE COMMISSION WOULD LIKE TO ADD.

There was a brief discussion on what the types of memberships were and then the additional options available. This commission would be under the Citizen Board Section. However once the city membership is applied then each person can select additional special interest sections such as he belongs to the Recreation Services Section and Wildlands. He elaborated that these are groups of like-minded people and these groups have meetings and a mini conferences within the conference to focus on that aspect of recreation.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

E. Kachemak Bay Water Trail - Grand Opening

Commissioner Brann announced the grand opening date of Friday, June 5, 2014, 5:00-8:00 p.m.; they have just started planning the event and have decided to use it as the kick off to the Trails Weekend. They are talking about various formats with dignitaries present, maybe not speeches, etc. Council, Commissions and staff will be receiving invitations to the event. He is not sure if this will be personal invitations or blanket invite funneled through Ms. Krause.

Chair Steffy stated "Kudos" to the committee and Tom on the website for the Water Trail. Commissioner Brann provided a plug for the Trails Weekend.

Commissioner MacCampbell provided a brief summary of what he is planning for June 7-8, 2014. Commissioner MacCampbell communicated his plan about leasing a bus to bring people down from Anchorage in response to the competition between the offices; forming a committee to do Evelyn an overnight trip across the bay; and work on Diamond Creek. He is looking to have the most number in attendance.

F. Recommendation to Establish and Execute a Memorandum of Agreement with Little League

Chair Steffy opened the item and commented that this was pretty straight forward he noted that these are usually boiler plate legal documents that are issued by the city. Chair Steffy then commented that in the Little League constitution, Article 9, Section 5 outlines a grounds subcommittee whose responsibility is grounds maintenance so he does not believe there will be any issues in getting this agreement executed. He also opined that Ms. Otteson and Mr. Illg will work out the details with Little League.

Chair Steffy requested a motion to recommend the City Manager execute a Memorandum of Agreement with Homer Little League for the use and maintenance of facilities at Karen Hornaday Park.

BRANN/MACCAMPBELL - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

G. Commissioner Attendance at Council Meetings for 2014

Chair Steffy read the title into the record and requested volunteers from the commission. He then stated that if the commissioners would volunteer to go to one meeting in the month he would commit to attend the other scheduled meeting.

The following was agreed upon for commissioner attendance at City Council meetings through May 2014:

Commissioner Brann	January 27, 2014		
Commissioner Lillibridge	February 10, 2014	Commissioner Steffy	February 24, 2014
Commissioner Lowney	March		
Commissioner MacCampbell	April 14, 2014	Commissioner Steffy	April 28, 2014
Commissioner Brann	May 12, 2014	Commissioner Steffy	May 27, 2014

Chair Steffy thanked everyone for stepping up they have a lot on the agenda to accomplish in the next several months and it will be a great benefit to attend each meeting.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. 2013 Strategic Plan

Chair Steffy asked if there were any questions or comments on the informational items.

Commissioner Lowney stated she wanted to check off creates an overall uniform sign design; she wanted to add a goal to raise funds or promote more funds to continue upgrading and installing signs.

Chair Steffy commented on the Ocean Drive Bike Path

Ms. Engebretsen suggested that the commission address this at the next meeting or the one after that since there are several items to revise on the plan.

Chair Steffy requested the commissioners to review the plan and note any changes or additions they would like to make to the plan and they will address it at the next meeting.

There was a brief discussion on the first item under 3-5 year projects - Advocate for a Parks and Recreation Department, voting for sales tax on the ballot in October again and what that would provide for recreation and the arts, the impact of the needs assessment and there is still one more time before council so it is not a done deal.

B. Commission Annual Calendar

C. Memorandum Approving the 2014 Meeting Schedule

D. 2014 Approved Parks and Recreation Budget

Chair Steffy inquired what memberships are paid for out of this budget. Mr. Illg attempted to respond to the chair since Ms. Otteson had left the meeting earlier. He assumed that it may be for ARPA membership. It also could be for Trails membership.

Commissioner MacCampbell asked if there was any other strictly recreational revenue. A brief discussion on the fees for the cemetery ensued.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Ken Landfield commented that he felt the need to comment on behalf of his friend and what he would have wanted. He acknowledged what other people may want but he did not care; he was only concerned on what his friend may have wanted. He tries to picture the statue on top of this rock and how will this change the city landscape and what effect will it have; he went on to further comment on the various places he could picture the statue in the Council Chambers, in this building, at the library but not in the park. Brother Asaiah did not want to be associated with the park; he did not want his name on it; he could still picture the statue placed out in the tall grass at the head of the Fox River. Mr. Landfield continued to describe the pastoral image of hiking near the river and coming to a statue in the middle of nowhere. He went on further to encourage allowing the people who knew him to comment on this thing. If the consensus is to do this thing then he will get on board with it.

Mike Kennedy agreed with Ken that the placement in the park is not the right place. He has known Leo a long time and has no reason to doubt what he says but there is one thing about Asaiah he was very non-confrontational; and if people would ask Asaiah about something he would encourage people even if he did not agree or believe it; like about his book, Mr. Kennedy did not believe Asaiah wanted a book written about him and when Martha said something about having a book written Asaiah probably responded with something like you should write a book then. That is the kind of interaction he had with people. Mr. Kennedy stated that Brother had very specific directions for when he died and how he wanted things done after he died and he was one of the people charged with carry that out. He believed that it should happen the way he wanted to and there is no reason to change it. He commented on making a tombstone and believes it bled over into this memorial. He opined that if this issue came up a few years after he died there would have been more people commenting about it. There are a few people here that were around. Mr. Kennedy also agreed with Asaiah not wanting the park named after him, Asaiah belonged to a group of barefooters which was called the World Kingdom

Fountain of Light (WKFL) which also was Wisdom Faith Knowledge and Light. Mr. Kennedy believed if Asaiah could he would have a statue of Krishna Venta who was the leader of their group. Asaiah was a sub-leader. Mr. Kennedy noted that the members walked around barefoot and that's how they came to call the barefooters. Mr. Kennedy also commented against lighting and cameras on the statue; vandalism to artwork in Homer; drug addicts stealing bronze statues; large statue stolen and cut up for drug money and that's happening in Homer too which would have to be contended with; he then commented on the Parks and Rec being allied with the seasonal food sales tax as a source of funding and strongly urged the commission not to support a tax on the backs of poor people. He went on further to opine that the people have voted twice to keep the seasonal sales tax exception and its working. He would hate to see the commission go down that road and align themselves since the funds would go into the general fund and then piecemealed back to them. He suggested requesting a separate tax specifically for parks and rec. Mr. Kennedy recalled years ago a tax for the Fire department. He said if they go with council suggestion they will find it will backfire on them. Tax other things such as tires or building supplies, not food. He then commented on the \$15 million dollars for fire and police station for 5000 people, he commented it doesn't work in other small towns and then provided an example using Town Center. He said it was wrong to try to get money off the backs of poor people who need to buy food.

Chair Steffy asked if the audience could remember the public response to the dedication of February 14th as Brother Asaiah Day.

Ken Landfield commented from the audience that was just a Mayoral Proclamation and a different thing or projection of the man. That is why he thought if anyone wanted to spend \$20,000 or whatever they could establish a lecture series as a continuing memorial which could represent Brother's idea. A statue wouldn't mean anything to people who come to the city; he didn't believe that it would make people think about the man.

Leo Vait commented that it was a slippery slope to talk about what Asaiah would have wanted. He sat for him and knew that it would be a public statue. Mr. Vait it would be more important to know if the City is going to accept it. There is some issue where it should go; it doesn't matter where it goes to him. He is going to make it if he still gets the funding. He just believes it to be a slippery slope to try to determine what Asaiah would have wanted.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Mr. Illg and Ms. Engebretsen had no comments.

Ms. Krause commented that if people wanted to comment on the placement and could not attend the meeting they could submit them to the Clerk's office. She further stated the importance on if the Ordinance passed and was going to be on the ballot the information from the needs assessment would be needed no later than July and there is only one council meeting in July; especially if they wanted to use the information for informing the public since they would need it for absentee voting in September.

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

There was no councilmember present.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Steffy again thanked the audience for coming out and providing the information for them. He himself is a history buff and has ordered his book. Chair Steffy commented on the public process at the council meetings and he looks forward to the next meeting. He asked them to get the word out about the meeting and then also commented about the mention on KBBi regarding the scarcity of commissioners and board members.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Lillibridge thanked them for allowing her to request reappointment. She missed a little bit trying to catch up; this was a good meeting and she appreciated the gentlemen coming in and providing the information for them to help make their decision. It was a good meeting.

Commissioner Brann thanked staff once again for providing the information necessary and the audience for coming and telling them what to think. He is looking forward to the opening of the water trail and on the lighter side he mentioned the YouTube Video showing how the Russians remove a vehicle from the ice. They really know what they are doing. It was a good meeting.

Commissioner MacCampbell commented on missing Brother Asaiah, who was one of the good guys and always told him he loved him no matter what uniform he was wearing. Commissioner MacCampbell recalled a meeting in the height of the oil spill at the Elks Club, there was a representatives of the whole spectrum of the residents of Homer and a couple of five star admirals, the head of Exxon and Martec all sitting at the table and giving one excuse and political statement and Brother Asaiah stood up and immediately stereo-typed him and he asked, "How do you feel?" The panel immediately dismissed him but the whole audience demanded that they answer his question. It was a perfect example how Brother Asaiah was able to bring people together.

Commissioner Lowney thanked Commissioner MacCampbell for the story and stated it was perfect. She additionally thanked the members of the audience that feedback was critical and being patient sitting through the meeting. She thanked Chair Steffy for a good meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Steffy adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m. The next **REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2014** at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I

Approved: _____