

Session 14-06 a Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order on May 15, 2014 at 5:30 pm by Vice Chair Dave Brann at the Homer City Hall Upstairs Conference Room located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS LOWNEY, BRANN, ARCHIBALD, LILLIBRIDGE, ROEDL

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS MACCAMPBELL, STEFFY, OCHOA(EXCUSED)

STAFF: CAREY MEYER, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
MIKE ILLG, RECREATION SPECIALIST
JULIE ENGBRETSSEN, DEPUTY CITY PLANNER
RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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 17, 2014

Vice Chair Brann requested approval of the minutes from the April 17, 2014 meeting.

LOWNEY/ROEDL - SO MOVED.

The minutes were approved by consensus of the Commission.

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

Beth Cumming, city resident, distributed maps showing possible public access to beach and trails. She additionally handed out her printed comments on Karen Hornaday Park access road, parking, Woodard Creek Trail, and encroachments onto park property.

Adele Person, city resident, commented on safe routes to school and trail connectivity.

VISITORS

There were no visitors scheduled.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Staff Report - Julie Engebretsen, Deputy City Planner

Ms. Engebretsen was not in attendance.

B. Parks Maintenance - Angie Otteson

Ms. Otteson was not in attendance.

C. Community Recreation - Mike Illg

Mr. Illg reported that he attended a meeting on establishing a folk school in Homer, very interesting; there are many new classes being offered this summer; Hersey Track & Field event is this weekend; the Homer track will be closed this summer for installation of the artificial turf; they are doing the final draft on the trails map and it should be ready for distribution early June.

D. PARC Status Update Report - Matt Steffy

Ms. Krause provided a status update on receipt of five proposals one from Colorado and one from North Carolina. She reported that Ms. Engebretsen was very happy to receive so many submittals. It was hoped for three four would be great and we received five. So it is all good. She was unable to report when a decision would be forthcoming from the committee.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were none.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Traffic Calming and Safety Measures in Karen Hornaday Park

The commissioners discussed the feasibility of installing speed bumps on the entrance road into the park, crosswalks, and signage. Mr. Meyer explained that Planning Staff was working on a policy for speed bumps.

Discussion continued on the various alternatives to stop the speeders - installation of signage, accommodating pedestrians from Fairview into the park and adequate parking for any visitors and residents to the park. Vice Chair Brann encouraged the commissioners to research inexpensive traffic calming measures that can get this accomplished in short time and bring the information to the June meeting.

The commissioners requested flyers that state the following to be put on vehicle windshields since the baseball games will be starting the week of May 20, 2014. The flyer will read:

PLEASE FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN AND OTHER PEDESTRIANS

NO PARKING ON THE ROAD

Thank You

City of Homer Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Mr. Meyer responded that Public Works staff could address the grading of the overflow parking areas in the park in the very near future.

Signage discussed was the following:

- No Parking Violators Will be Towed
- Overflow Parking
- Crosswalk

Vice Chair Brann inquired how they could establish this policy of no parking on the road. Ms. Krause responded that she will research the requirements to establish this policy but it would probably have to apply to all parks to be uniform.

Mr. Meyer will review the budget to determine signage purchase, staff can print up flyers. Vice Chair Brann will contact user groups to fund signage he would prefer not to take money from Ms. Otteson budget.

B. Woodard Creek Trail

1. Proposed Trail location(s) and Funding
2. Proposed Draft for Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan

Commissioner Lowney read her proposed paragraph into the record regarding the footbridge over Woodard Creek.

It is the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission that the proposed plan bridge Woodard Creek with an ADA Accessible bridge be removed from the proposed plan at this time. Documents referring to Phase II of Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan and Woodard Creek Trail Bridge should note this change and the cost of this portion of the project should reflect the change.

The commission would like it footnoted that a footbridge across Woodard Creek can at any time be added to the Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan if a need for this structure arises and funds become available.

The commissioners offered comments on the inclusion of the paragraph into the Master Plan for the park.

The paragraph was approved by consensus of the commission at the April 17, 2014 meeting.

Vice Chair Brann commented on expending the funds raised by the Friends of Woodard Creek and how the trail should be built without being held hostage by this funding.

Additional discussion on installation of a trail next to or near Woodard Creek was entertained by the commission. Some items covered were:

- Expending any funds of the Friends of Woodard Creek should be addressed by the Friends.
- Any trail that is built should be according to trail building best practices
- Recommendations from the friends on a proposed trail would be beneficial
- Many suggestions on starting that trail
- Sustainability
- Questioned if it is practical to have a trail from the campground to Fairview Avenue

There was a discussion on setting a date to stake out a trail. Preference was noted that Commissioner MacCampbell be in attendance and that if four or more commissioners attended or walked the proposed trail then it would require the visit to be advertised.

C. Park Day Event - Confirmation of Time and Date and Discussion on Planning the Event

The commissioners discussed the event and the following was determined.

- The event will be held on August 9, 2014, Saturday at 2:00 pm
- Will start at Coal Point Park, Fish Dock Road, Homer Spit, Homer
- Commissioner Brann will seek agreement and permission from the harbormaster to approach vendors and retailers regarding participation.
- recommend they address offering food or discounts in recognition of the event
- Urge visitors to walk the new boardwalk and view the sights appreciate the artwork and new restroom facilities while soaking up the little known History of the Spit
- Vendors across the street if unable to have a table can provide a "sign" to their businesses
- Story leading up to the event - use of the coal car that was at Wildberry
- Staff will provide information to the clerk on historical information about the park

Commissioner Lillibridge will obtain a piece of art to use in the advertising of the event.

Commissioner Lowney will contact Michael Armstrong regarding an article in the Homer News.

There was a brief discussion on the status of interpretative signage and public art along the trail.

D. Safe Routes to School - Status Update and Discussion

Commissioner Lowney stated a motion was needed to postpone until the August meeting.

LOWNEY/LILLIBRIDGE - MOVE TO POSTPONE THIS ITEM UNTIL THE AUGUST MEETING.

There was a brief discussion on information that will be presented to the discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Karen Hornaday Park - Discussion on Park Boundaries and relocation of Park Entrance and Feasibility and Continuation of Fill Placement in the Park

The commission discussed the issue of continuation of dumping in the park and provided pictures they had taken during the recent clean-up day. Staff was unaware of any projects that had excess materials to be disposed of and will look into the issue. The sentiment was expressed that the culprit be found and made to remove the materials.

Commissioner Brann will be addressing the issue of steel caps that were removed from the docks in the harbor and placed in the park. Some of these were re-purposed but there are several more that need to be removed. The commission would like permission to sell the remaining caps and use the monies for additional improvements at the park.

Staff informed the commission that it was highly unlikely the corners had been marked with present day markers, Beth Cumming offered information on the east side boundary markers and where an old shed is encroaching on the park property as she had Kenton Bloom out several years ago. This may be something that they address in the future. Staff further noted it may be something that they need to hire a surveyor to complete.

A brief discussion on the driveway easement provided to the property owners north and adjacent to the park property. This easement is granted in perpetuity.

Next the commission discussed the feasibility of changing or adding an entrance from Danview into the park. Staff advised that they would need to request funding from Council to hire someone to look at that project since it would be more entailed than Carey drawing on a napkin. It was requested to put this on the June agenda to provide additional information on what would be necessary to design, construct and implement a project.

B. Discussion on Trails and Beach Access Trails using Right of Ways, Easements and Section Lines

The commission reviewed the maps provided by Ms. Cumming.

The commission entertained discussion on the benefits to addressing all the accesses noted on the maps and that some would be more problematic than others. It was noted that it would be very beneficial to pursue the Shelford Street as a priority trail access. Staff confirmed that the future plans for Danview, Shelford, and others to be through streets.

Vice Chair Brann requested the commissioners to review and prioritize the accesses so they can be discussed at the August meeting.

There was a brief discussion on some easements do not allow a practical way to access the beach and or allow for parking.

C. Discussion on Public Acknowledgement of Park Clean Up and City Wide HOWL at a Council Meeting

Commissioner Brann recognized the efforts of the two groups at the recent Council meeting during the commission report. He then asked if the commission would like further recognition of the efforts of these groups. Commissioner Lowney brought up the previous acknowledgment of sports teams by Council so she felt that these groups deserve the same.

Staff will check on the process to issue a proclamation or recognition from Council.

Commissioner Lowney will obtain the necessary information.

D. Welcome New Student Member!

The commissioners expressed pleasure at the prospect of having a young person attending the meetings even for a short time.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Commission Annual Calendar
- B. Commissioner Attendance Schedule at Council Meetings

The commissioner briefly reviewed the schedule for attendance. Commissioner Lillibridge volunteered for the first meeting in August. Commissioner Roedl commented on being assigned the July meeting. He promised not to miss another meeting.

- C. Kenai Peninsula Events Calendar for June 2014
- D. Anchorage: Party to Support Our Parks and Trails
- E. Memorandum to Council re: Bylaws Amendments to Meeting Schedules and Creating Committees

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Ms. Cumming stated that her comments reflected strictly her opinion. She commented on the monies raised by the Friends of Woodard Creek.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Ms. Krause informed the commissioners about an upcoming public hearing on Public Art being installed in Bishop's Beach Park.

Mr. Meyer informed the commission on the project status for Spit Trail, Bishop's Beach Park, trail along Charles Way and Greatland trail; the bids will be in hand for the relocation of the existing pavilion in the area between the upper fields, bringing the access road around the shelter also.

Mr. Illg reported attending the recent meeting of a Folk School and suggested inviting Chad Jones to the September or October meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Archibald commented the proposed location of the existing location interfering with other planned events.

Commissioner Brann commented on the improvements at Mariner Park. He thanked staff for all they provide the commission.

Commissioner Lowney commented on the sweeping that was done, kudos on the parks and trails improvements, thanked Carey and Angie for all their hard work.

Commissioner Lillibridge great meeting, proud of all the work that was completed this month already, expressed concern over the safety issues with cyclists and pedestrians.

Commissioner Roedl expressed it was a great meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Steffy adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m. The next **REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY JUNE 19, 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: _____