

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 19, 2014

Session 14-07 a Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order on June 19, 2014 at 5:30 pm by Chair Matt Steffy at the Cowles Council Chambers City Hall located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS LOWNEY, BRANN, ARCHIBALD, STEFFY, MACCAMPBELL, ROEDL

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS LILLIBRIDGE, OCHOA(EXCUSED)

STAFF: ANGIE OTTESON, PARKS COORDINATOR
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 May 15, 2014

Chair Steffy requested approval of the minutes from the May 15, 2014 meeting.

LOWNEY/ - SO MOVED.

The minutes were approved by consensus of the Commission.

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

Ryjil Christianson, Pratt Museum, commented on the work being done to daylight the lower portion of Woodard Creek.

Gail Edgerly, resident, commented on the benefits to clearing out the area surrounding Woodard Creek and the sloughing of trees into the creek bed.

Asia Freeman, resident, commented on the Woodard Creek project.

VISITORS

Asia Freeman, Bunnell Street Art Gallery, spoke on the proposed art donations to be placed in Bishop's Beach Park and requested the Commission's support and recommendation on placement in the park at the recommended locations.

Kate Crowley, representing the committee from Best Beginnings working on the improvements at Bayview Park, presented the Draft Master Plan for Bayview Park. She was requesting the support and approval of the proposed plan for the park.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Staff Report - Julie Engebretsen, Deputy City Planner

Ms. Engebretsen informed the commissioners that during the Public Comments on the Agenda it is not the time for a question and answer or to offer opinions on the comments offered. She reminded them that it is the time for the public to comment on the items on the agenda. She stated that the commission can request the item for a later agenda.

She provided a quick summary of her staff report. There were no questions or comments from the commission.

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B. Parks Maintenance - Angie Otteson

Ms. Otteson provided a verbal status update to the commission on the city beautification project, they planted over 17,000 plants, parks and campgrounds. Ms. Otteson stated that Dan Coe has agreed to create the new sign for Coal Point Park for \$375 and it will be ready for the Park Day event. She expressed concern having the art attached to the new windscreen on the pavilion at Bishop's Beach Park. She would prefer installation in front of the windscreen instead on it. Ms. Otteson further commented that the location of the End of the Road Park for the sculpture currently at the Bunnell Art Gallery is not appropriate for that park and there is another art piece that will be placed in the space within the circle.

C. Community Recreation - Mike Illg

Mr. Illg reviewed his report that was presented as a laydown.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were none.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Karen Hornaday Park - Discussion on the Park's Entrance Road Relocation, Parking Issues, and National parks Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

Ms. Engebretsen provided the information on the cost of fixing a culvert on a similar crossing and stated that it would be double that cost plus \$500,000 and that it did not address the construction of the road into the park just crossing the creek and improving that section of Danview.

B. Recommendation to Advance the Date and Establish a Budget for the Park Day Celebration

Chair Steffy read the title into the record.

Commissioner Brann explained the reason for advancing the date of the event.

The commissioners reviewed their schedules and for the most part everyone would be able to attend. The outline of events is to have the event start at Coal point Park with a 30 minute historical presentation them to proceed and walk up the new boardwalk.

The commission agreed by consensus to move the date to Saturday, July 26, 2014 2:00-4:00 p.m.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the purchase of wooden trail whistles.

LOWNEY/ARCHIBALD - MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION TO PURCHASE FOUR DOZEN WOODEN WHISTLES FROM A SOURCE CHOSEN BY STAFF AND FURTHER APPROVED EXPENDITURE OF COMMISSION FUNDS FOR ADVERTISING IN BOTH LOCAL PAPERS.

The commissioners agreed that they did not want children to attend that event and walk away without a whistle just because they did not get there in time. Extra can be provided to the Pratt. Commissioner Lowney can stamp the whistles to commemorate the event. The commission also talked about advertising for the event.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Brann inquired where Ms. Krause located the information provided on page 107 of the paper about the coal fields since he never knew that information. Ms. Krause explained that she located a few blogs that covered the railroads in Alaska.

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There was a brief discussion on clean up and sprucing up the park before the event. Commissioner Brann is intending to repair the bench before the event with Commissioner Archibald assistance. He further added what was planned as a temporary fix for the interpretive signage.

Commissioner Brann responded to Commissioner Lowney's request regarding the recommendations made during the walk through that was recently conducted.

C. Recommendation to Approve Expending Commission Funds to Construct and Install a Sign at Coal Point Park

Chair Steffy read the title into the record. He requested clarification on the comment made in Angie Otteson staff report.

LOWNEY/BRANN - MOVED TO APPROVE EXPENDING THE FUNDS.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Recommendation for Placement of a Donation of Art created by Rachelle Dowdy in Bishop's Beach Park

Chair Steffy read the title into the record. He requested discussion before making a recommendation.

Commissioner Archibald stated he has received several comments from the public regarding the artwork and it was not favorable. Commissioner Lowney offered favorable comments on the previous work of the artist.

Ms. Krause provided information on placement next to the boardwalk from the Pubic Arts Committee. It was recommended to place in an area away from the boardwalk.

A discussion ensued surrounding the location and that it should involve more public input on the sculpture.

Chair Steffy requested a motion.

LOWNEY/BRANN - MOVED TO APPROVE AND RECOMMEND PLACEMENT OF THE SCULPTURE IN THE SECOND LOCATION RECOMMENDED BY PUBLIC WORKS.

Further discussion on visiting the park and reviewing the sites suggested. The commission expressed concern with placement in the park due to soil conditions. Commissioners MacCampbell, Archibald and Roedl wanted to visit the site. Commissioner Roedl felt location #3 would be better. Commissioner MacCampbell suggested another park would be appropriate such as Karen Hornaday. He expressed concern regarding the placement of such as heavy piece in that environment.

VOTE. YES. LOWNEY. BRANN.

VOTE. NO. MACCAMPBELL, ARCHIBALD, ROEDL

VOTE. ABSTAIN. STEFFY

Motion failed.

B. Recommendation for Placement of a Donation of Art created by Lynn Naden on the Windscreen of the Pavilion at Bishop's Beach Park

Chair Steffy read the title into the record. He reminded the commissioners of the concern expressed by Ms. Otteson with placement of the art on the windscreen. Some concern for the placement of the net

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to collect trash was expressed regarding the typical trash that is removed from that beach would not be appropriate for children.

Ms. Krause provided information that the discussion and the recommendation from the Public Arts Committee were favorable.

Discussion ensued regarding the permanent attachment to the windscreen and also putting junk from the beach in it.

LOWNEY/BRANN - MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION TO PLACE THE DONATION OF THE SILVER SALMON ON THE WINDSCREEN AT BISHOPS BEACH AND FURTHER RECOMMEND THAT TRASH BE REMOVED ONCE EACH WEEK.

There was a brief discussion regarding future removal if they trash removal was not kept up.

VOTE. YES. LOWNEY, ROEDL, ARCHIBALD, MACCAMPBELL, STEFFY, BRANN

Motion carried

C. Recommendation on an Art Sculpture, Buoys and Barrels, created by Artist Jarod Charzewski for Placement in End of the Road Park as a Permanent Feature

Chair Steffy read the title into the record.

There was consensus among the commissioners that it was not appropriate for the End of the Road Park and that the gallery may find another location somewhere within the city that will be better suited for it.

MACCAMPBELL/ARCHIBALD - MOVED NOT TO RECOMMEND PLACEMENT IN THE END OF THE ROAD PARK OF THE SCULPTURE BUOYS AND BARRELS .

There was a brief discussion regarding inclusion of not expending any park funds on purchase of art and it was explained that the Public Arts Committee has forwarded a recommendation not to include in the city art collection so it was determine that was enough direction to Council.

VOTE. YES. LOWNEY, MACCAMPBELL, ROEDL, ARCHIBALD, BRANN, STEFFY

Motion carried.

D. Recommendation for the Draft Bayview Park Master Plan as Presented by the Best Beginnings Playspaces

LOWNEY/ARCHIBALD - MOVED TO APPROVE THE DRAFT BAYVIEW PARK MASTER PLAN AS PRESENTED BY THE BEST BEGINNINGS PLAYSPACES COMMITTEE.

There was a brief discussion on the plan presented and the scheduled implementation.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

E. Recommendation for New or Amended Projects for Inclusion in the 2015-2020 Capital Improvement Plan

The commission entertained an in depth discussion with staff on amending the Karen Hornaday Park Phase II project to be rewritten to address the relocation of the road, parking and pedestrian safety plus Woodard Creek. They were not inclined to include the new storage request for the Little League in

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the project focusing on the approved master plan. They also considered the request to change the HERC project to focus on the gym only and that project to include addressing accessibility issues, heating, new flooring and bringing that section of the building up to the required code; Jack Gist Park project - to redefine the description to simplify the project; Mariner Park Restroom project to be amended to vault restrooms instead of plumbed and including the advisory comments from Commissioner MacCampbell regarding the water table and a maze like entry.

Commissioner Lowney informed the commission on the complaints she has heard from parents attending ball games regarding the alders lining the road; suspicious persons from the campground going into the playground; frequent visitations from police regarding improper behavior; more trash cans are needed; the HoPP over expansion leaving the playground footprint; parking on and the use of the service road to the relocated pavilion.

Ms. Engebretsen asked about the request from Best Beginnings for support in recommending their project of implementing the Bayview Park master plan. The commissioners were agreeable to recommend support.

Commissioner Brann requested adding the purchase of land at the Rogers Loop for access to the Diamond Creek Recreation Area stating it was the only access point within the city. Chair Steffy agreed that would be a good project to request funding for, Ms. Engebretsen asked if Commissioner Brann could check with the Ski Club since currently this project was under Non-profits.

Chair Steffy asked for a motion to move the projects forward after confirming that they could request more than one from staff.

LOWNEY/ARCHIBALD - MOVE TO NOMINATE THE BAYVIEW PARK MASTER PLAN TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

LOWNEY/BRANN - MOVE TO NOMINATE THE H.E.R.C. GYM IMPROVEMENTS - TO INCLUDE ISOLATING FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND MINIMUM CODE REQUIREMENTS AS REQUIRED FOR THE GYM FACILITY

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Commission Annual Calendar
- B. Commissioner Attendance Schedule at Council Meeting
- C. Resolution 14-065, Approving Regulations Promulgated by the City Manager Which Establish a Speed Limit and Prohibit Parking Along the Roadway at Karen Hornaday Park
- D. Resolution 14-061(A), Requesting AKDOT/PF to Extend the 35 MPH Speed Limit on East End Road Past the Equestrian Park and Jack Gist Park to the Western Intersection of Bear Creek Drive and East End Road and Place a Crosswalk in the Area to Access the Bike Trail and Install Signage Indicating to Motorists the Presence of the Horse Park
- E. Uniform Park Signage Project Phase I: Jack Gist Park, Bayview Park, Jeffrey Park and Louie's Lagoon
- F. Resolution 14-067(S), Awarding the Contract for the Parks, Art, Culture and Recreation (PARC) Needs Assessment to the Firm of Agnew::Beck Consulting, LLC of Anchorage, Alaska

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G. Resolution 14-056, Amending the Commission Bylaws, Regular Meetings, Establishing a Regular Meeting Schedule of February through June, and August through November; Committees, Requiring City Council Approval to Form a Special Committee, and Special Meetings to be Scheduled only when Required to Complete Time Sensitive Business

H. Information on Cook Inlet Coal Fields, Certificate of Interest to Handout and an Information Flyer that was created to distribute to vendors on the Homer Spit

There was a brief discussion on commissioner attendance at Council meetings. It was noted that the July commission meeting was canceled due to the approved bylaws changes. Commissioner Roedl can speak about the Park Day event. Chair Steffy requested adding him for the August 25th and September 8th Commissioner Lowney will attend the September 22nd meeting.

Chair Steffy briefly summarized the remaining items. He elaborated on the award of the contract to Agnew::Beck and stated that it could be on the August agenda when more information has been obtained.

Staff will produce copies for Commissioner Brann to pick up on Friday for distribution. Certificates need to be on a heavier paper stock approximately 40-50 copies would be good.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

There were none.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Ms. Engebretsen commented it was a good meeting.

Ms. Krause had no comments.

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

There were no council members present.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Brann commented that he is excited about Parks Day it should be a lot of fun, and hoping that there will be a lot of interest and people using the boardwalk. Looking through the packet regarding the information supplied on the projects and the high costs that are represented, he would like to see more realistic costs by using local companies and do better on those costs.

Commissioner Archibald second that request and went on to comment that there were several construction people that the job could be done cheaper. Thanks to staff. July 5th is the Highland Games gates open at 9:30 p.m. This will be judged by Officials from Idaho. Need volunteers to assist judges.

Commissioner MacCampbell commented that he will have some very large guys with red beards participating and three of his trail crew is distance runners so they will be running the Kilted Mile.

Commissioner Lowney commented on the amount of work that has been accomplished around town. She recommended visiting the park and seeing the placement of the new pavilion. She is not sure where to go to address these little issues and she calls them little but they are not really; need to continue applying the Band-Aid regarding parking until the official signs are up and those will hopefully make a difference; she will deal with getting the garbage cans taken care of, etc. That park needs to be dealt with; she will work on the River Trails application and believes that they need to continue working on Woodard Creek and offer help wherever they can; she appreciates the recognition given to HOWL and Church on the Rock; when she contacted them they were absolutely thrilled; she wants to continue to pat those people on the back and get those folks the recognition they deserve including the

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groups that help out at the parks. Thank you staff for all your work too. Kudos to Commissioner Brann on the Water Trail and she knows that Commissioner Archibald helped on that too. Good job.

Commissioner Roedl had no comments.

Chair Steffy thanked Commissioner Brann for his work and efforts on Park Day. He noted that he has a utility kilt but believes it belongs to a former waistline. He reminded everyone that the week of June 23rd is Invasive Species Week. He himself has spent several hours today pulling vetch. Thanks to staff for all the materials and the work in the background and for working through this long meeting, they covered a lot tonight, now go home.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Steffy adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m. **THE ANNUAL PARK DAY CELEBRATION IS SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2014 2:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M. AT COAL POINT PARK.** The next **REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY AUGUST 21, 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: _____