

Session 14-13 a Special Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order on December 16, 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 LILLIBRIDGE, ARCHIBALD, STEFFY, MACCAMPBELL, BRANN, AND ROEDL

STUDENT REP: PEDRO OCHOA

STAFF: JULIE ENGBRETSSEN, DEPUTY CITY PLANNER
RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Steffy requested a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

BRANN/ARCHIBALD - MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

George Matz, city resident, commented on lighting for the parking lot would only result in a big CIP project and positive signage for Bishops Beach listing what can be done in the area east of the parking lot.

Marianne Aplin, thanked the commission reported that her manager has asked her to make herself available to assist the commission as a speaker, visitor or member of the committee.

Commissioner Brann clarified that Council did not create a committee and remanded it back to the commission to address.

VISITORS

There were no visitors scheduled.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items for reconsideration.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes for the special meeting of November 6, 2014

Chair Steffy requested a motion for adoption of the consent agenda.

ARCHIBALD/MACCAMPBELL - MOVED TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

Chair Steffy asked if Ms. Engebretsen had anything to report to the commission. Ms. Engebretsen provided information that the City Manager has agreed to allow the services of the City Attorney for the legal issues. She also noted that there will be a webpage established for this project and all documents and minutes will be posted to that webpage along with a meeting schedule.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no items scheduled for this meeting.

PENDING BUSINESS

There was no pending business on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Memorandum from Deputy City Planner Re: Organizational Meeting for Beach Discussion

The commission discussed and established the first Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m. with the exception of January there will only be a meeting on the 4th Thursday, and March and May will be the first Mondays due to scheduling conflicts.

Commissioner MacCampbell recommended that everyone review and familiarize themselves with the Beach Policy from now until the January 22nd meeting which they will also review and discuss the current management strategies, Title 19.16 & Parks Regulations

February 5th Thursday - Legal Access Issues and Land Ownership

March 2nd, Monday - Birds, Habitat and Dogs - Visitor to be scheduled - George Matz and Marianne Aplin
March 19th, Thursday - Continuation

April 2nd - Thursday

April 16th - Thursday -

May 4th - Monday - Public Hearing (Tentative) -

May 21st - Thursday - Public Hearing (Tentative) Finalize recommendations and any Budget Requests to Council

Commissioner Lillibridge commented on the myriad of problems and the recommendation to review other established laws, she also noted the extensive problems with dogs ranging from behavior to feces.

Ms. Engebretsen responded that reviewing other states case law only is relative to those situations it would not apply to Alaska. The commission will be able to avail the city attorney's expertise so it would be a waste of staff time.

The commission offered comments on the following:

- listing problems & solutions
- using the expertise of the city attorney
- being site specific, Alaska specific
- The commissioners will be allowed to teleconference as long as a quorum is physically present

Staff will be creating and distributing a 3 ring notebook for each commissioner that will include the existing State and City codes and laws, Beach Policy and any additional information that is received and may be pertinent to the planned discussion.

This binder should be brought to every meeting; all materials distributed can then be kept accessible for the commissioner's use throughout this process.

The commission then performed an exercise listing topics that were to be discussed or solutions that can be recommended to Council.

Problems or Areas of Concern		Solutions or Remedial Actions	
Vehicle Access	Habitat Destruction - Tide pools, Berms, Water	Limiting Beach Access - Hours of Operation	Trash Cans
Alcohol Use	Driftwood, Coal Collecting	Lighting	Additional Restroom Facilities
Land Ownership & Legal Accesses	Camping	Permitting - Beach Access & Usage, Camping, Fires	More parking
Beach Fires	Trespass - camping and fires	Remote Video Monitoring of Parking Areas	Reinstating Beach Patrol During High Peak Usage
Habitat - Birds, Wildlife (stranded)	Parking at Bishop's Beach (Additional areas)	Campground Host	Public Education
Hazardous/Reckless Driving - Vehicles/ATVs	Driving - Where, How Fast, inappropriate	Neighborhood Watch	Co-op Partnership between City/Business/Land Owners (Private, Federal, State)
ATV Use at Mariner Park	Property Line Signage	Designate/Establish Fire Pits - Campfire Rings	Allow Firewood Concession
Beach Access from Main Street	Identifying City Limits on Beaches	Seasonal Allowances of Certain Specific Behaviors	Berm Education - New Berms
Dogs - Habitat - Feces - Leash	Accessing or climbing the bluffs	Signage - Universal with Pictures - Positive Signage (What can you do)	

It was determined that Birds Habitat and Dogs would be appropriately scheduled for the first meeting in March and then can carry over to the second meeting if required.

The Draft Schedule of Topics below was discussed briefly:

Meeting Date	Topics	Possible Speakers/Visitors
January 22, 2015	Review of existing management strategies, current beach policy, existing State, Federal and City laws	Angie Otteson, City of Homer Parks Manager
February 5, 2015	Legal Access and Land Ownership	Julie Engebretsen with Information from the City Attorney
February 19, 2015	Safety Issues and Enforcement	Chief Robl/HVFD Staff or Chief Painter
March 2, 2015	Birds, Habitat, Dogs, Wildlife	George Matz, Marianne Aplin
March 19, 2015	Birds, Habitat and Dogs cont	
April 2, 2015	Review of Recommendation, Draft Document Possible Public Hearing	

April 16, 2015	Review, Public Hearing	
May 4, 2015	TBD	
May 21, 2015	Final Review and Forward to City Council for May 26, 2015 Meeting	

Staff will coordinate the topics with the visitor schedule; Ms. Engebretsen will do this after the first of the year. The above is a draft representation of the proposed schedule.

The commission noted the following and entertained brief discussion on:

- That funding the recommendations such as the Beach Patrol is up to Council
- That they do not want to establish regulations that cannot be enforced
- Encourage citizens to report unlawful activities to the police
- Preventing damage and unwanted behaviors before they happen
- Allowing public comment for the established time of 3 minutes only is recommended but encouraging written comments. Allowing all public present to speak and encourage those who want to comment on the same issue to appoint one spokesperson, remind the audience to be mindful of the time.
- Establishing tables with subject matter for the next meeting and allowing audience to write down comments and using those for the following meeting and reading into the record
- Chair will prepare a statement prior to every meeting regarding public comment efficiency
- Establish a statement on the website regarding written comments being preferred on issues to be discussed at the scheduled meeting and submitted prior to packet distribution
- Storm berms, formation of new berms, and the importance of maintaining the integrity of these berms
- A discussion will have to be had on other areas because what they decide to do for one area will have an effect on other areas with similar activities.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. Commissioner Lowney's comments on Beaches and Bishop's Beach

The commission referenced and acknowledged Commissioner Lowney's comments during the meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

There were no additional comments from the public.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Ms. Engebretsen had no additional comments.

Ms. Krause thanked the commission for their expedience.

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

There were no council members present.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Student Commissioner Ochoa stated that this was his last meeting. He was going to Georgia until June 2015. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner MacCampbell wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Archibald thanked Renee and Julie and Merry Christmas everyone.

Commissioner Brann stated that being on the first Beach Policy committee he is looking forward to doing this again and offered to put a few pictures together of various beaches and signage from his visits around the country.

Commissioner Roedl thanked staff for providing the binders and getting those less organized more organized. He is looking forward to getting his.

Commissioner Lillibridge commented that this topic seems daunting but doable; this is the shortest meeting she has attended; Commissioner Lillibridge would like to just put a gate up and be done but if this is the process that they have to do then she appreciates the organization efforts from staff. Merry Christmas everyone.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Steffy commented that he appreciates everyone coming in and attending an additional meeting and for the members of the public for their comments. He thanked staff for their efforts and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Steffy adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m. The next **SPECIAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2015** 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: _____