

Session 20-06, a Regular Meeting of the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair David Lewis at 5:40 p.m. on August 20, 2020 via Zoom Webinar from the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS ARCHIBALD, FAIR, HARRALD, AND LEWIS

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER LOWNEY, BARNWELL, ROEDL (EXCUSED)

STAFF: DEPUTY CITY PLANNER ENGBRETSSEN
DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE
PARKS MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR STEFFY
COMMUNITY RECREATION MANAGER ILLG
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KEISER

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Lewis called for a motion to approve the agenda.

FAIR/HARRALD MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

RECONSIDERATION

CONSENT AGENDA All items on the consent agenda are considered routine and non-controversial by the Parks Art Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission and are approved in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a Commissioner or someone from the public, in which case the item will be moved to the regular agenda and considered in normal sequence.

- A. Minutes from the June 18, 2020 Regular Meeting

Chair Lewis called for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

ARCHIBALD/FAIR - MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Staff Report - Deputy City Planner Engebretsen

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen reviewed her staff report that was included in the packet.

B. Parks Maintenance Report - Matt Steffy, Parks Coordinator

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy provided a brief summary of his staff report to the commission. He noted the following:

- Camping revenues were lower due to lack of out of state campers
- Reduction in parks staff
- Registration process and issues with the Special Use campers
- Bench donation from Rotary in process which will be on a future agenda
- Youth soccer is now using Jack Gist Park
- Comprehensive Trails inventory completed
- Restrooms are still a hurdle
- Burning Basket event is still in planning stages
- Development on the Skate Park
- Many groups using the parks effectively
- ADA Parking spot has created a non-compliant grade from the parking lot to the trail, a proposal was received to correct the approach.
- Revised Jack Gist Park Master Plan is needed due to the new subdivision

Commissioners and Staff discussed the following items:

- concerns expressed on conducting large gatherings such as the Burning Basket event with acknowledgement towards conducting familiar events;
- using CARES Act funding and what those funds are allowed to be used for such as equipment services and supplies
- Research by entities being conducted on how they can use Federal Funding to replace lost revenue
- Economically disadvantaged guidelines and transitioning those campers from Karen Hornaday Park to the Spit at the end of the season
- The difficulties in hiring janitorial staff was due to low pay range in comparison to unemployment received

C. Recreation Report – Mike Illg, Recreation Manager

Recreation Manager Illg reported on the following:

- Programming is challenging during COVID

- The recreation program lost all access to school facilities for the summer and that included the artificial turf. The School District closed them due to liability issues.
- Meeting with the school principal and working on a mitigation plan to try to get things going again indoors as they are currently in green status (related to COVID cases).
- Available recreational opportunities that are conducted in the HERC and information gathered on participants to make sure that programs stay COVID free
- Employing the social distancing guidelines and wearing of masks during all recreational events
- Working on a program for recreational bubbles, where families who have interacted can recreate together.
- Working on Native Youth Olympics guidelines during COVID
- Annual Parks Conference virtually and information will be forwarded to the Clerk for distribution to the Commission.
- The Great Outdoors Act was signed by the President and the Land and Water Conservation organization is the mechanism for funding.

Commissioner and Staff commented and discussed the following:

- Appreciated efforts to conduct recreational activities
- Will not be closely following the same protocols but wanting to stay in the green
- Loss of revenue approximately \$20,000

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A. Parks Proposed CIP Projects 2020

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title.

Acting City Planner Engebretsen provided input and action requested from the Commission. She then noted the revisions to some of the projects plus the new Parks CIP document.

Acting City Planner Engebretsen reported that in the previous years the Commission has selected Karen Hornaday Park as number one project and if the Commissioners agreed they would keep it as their number one priority project.

The Commission agreed by consensus to keep Karen Hornaday Park as their number one project recommendation.

Commissioners and Staff discussed and recommended the following:

- Main Street Sidewalk Facility: Pioneer Avenue North
- Selecting the second project can be from any project contained in the CIP document
- The Main Street Sidewalk Project was supported by the Planning Commission

- Input from Public Works Director how valuable the project selection assists them and benefits the city having “shovel ready” projects
- Commissioners recommended Main Street Sidewalk

ARCHIBALD/FAIR MOVED THAT THE PARKS ART RECREATION & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMENDS TO CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CIP KAREN HORNADAY PARK IMPROVEMENTS AS NUMBER ONE AND MAIN STREET SIDEWALK FACILITY: PIONEER AVENUE NORTH AS NUMBER TWO

There was a brief discussion on the Karen Hornaday Park Improvements and expressed appreciation to the interest from the Public Works Director.

VOTE. YES. ARCHIBALD, FAIR, HARRALD, LEWIS

Motion carried.

B. Letter to the Editor – Topic Discussion

There was a brief discussion on selecting Poopdeck Trail completion and submitting to the Clerk.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Memorandum from Acting City Planner re: Donation of Sculptural Art for Placement on Bishop's Beach
- i. Donation Application from Bunnell Art Gallery
 - ii. Letter from the Ninilchik Traditional Council

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title and invited staff to provide input on the topic.

Acting City Planner Engebretsen reviewed the application noting that this was a large project and would be placed next year.

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy reported that the Commission could visit the Bunnell's website and view additional information on the proposed project.

Commissioners and Staff discussed the following:

- Appreciation for the project and being included in the opportunity
- Expressed concerns on vandalism proof, site location and lighting for the placement of the sculpture

- Lighting was in the development stage and may be solar and interior
ARCHIBALD/HARRALD MOVED THAT THE PARKS ART RECREATION AND CULTURE RECOMMENDS ACCEPTANCE OF THE DONATION OF THE SCULPTURE ENTITLED "TUYANITUM" TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION FOR PLACEMENT ON OR NEAR BISHOP'S BEACH.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- B. Camping on the Homer Spit - Discussion on Issues and Possible Solutions
- Memorandum from Acting City Planner re: Camping on the Homer Spit

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title.

Acting City Planner Engebretsen noted that this item was requested by Commissioner Lowney to be on the agenda and since she was not in attendance it would be appropriate to postpone to a following meeting.

It was agreed by consensus of the Commission to postpone this item to a future meeting.

- C. City Wide Public Restrooms – Discussion on Issues and Solutions

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title. He invited Public Works Director Keiser and Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy to provide input.

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy provided clarification that this discussion is primarily focused on the Karen Hornaday Park and Campground, Ben Walters, Fishing Hole, Bishops' Beach Park, Baycrest Overlook Restrooms. He then reviewed the conditions and proposed solutions of each facility and currently that many of these facilities have been closed and the use of portable toilets and hand wash stations are being used. Mr. Steffy also noted the costs and projected costs for the use of those portable toilets for the remainder of the year.

Public Works Director Keiser added that if the Commission agrees with the strategies put forth the goal would be to demolish the existing facilities so that there is no more continuing health hazards and be attractive nuisances, continue to use the portable toilets by requesting City Council double the budget for professional services for the parks for these extra toilets that comes from CARES Act Funding.

A brief discussion was held between Commissioners and Staff on the following:

- The vaulted toilets vaults although concrete are deteriorated beyond use as they contain the ambience of the odors
- Difference between the city restrooms and the newer restrooms at State parks and pullouts
- Additional issues that hinders repairs or replacement of faulty parts such as toilet seats attached to the riser
- No longer able to keep sanitary and functioning to public standards and expectations
- Cost to have a plumbed restroom for Bishop's Beach is in the works currently
- Using the campground fees that are collected annually or a portion thereof be directed to a fund for replacement and or repair of park amenities
- The development of new policies and criteria for using HAWSP Funds by City Council
- Land & Water Conservation Fund and Great American Outdoor grant funds for these projects

HARRALD/FAIR MOVED THAT THE PARKS ART RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION SUPPORTS THE RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTED BY STAFF FOR THE BISHOPS BEACH PARK, KAREN HORNADAY PARK AND BAYCREST OVERLOOK PUBLIC RESTROOM ISSUES AND CONCERNS AND FURTHER RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL COMMENCE DISCUSSION WITH THE STATE ON NEW RESTROOMS FOR THE BAYCREST OVERLOOK, PROCEED WITH THE CIP PROJECT TO REPLACE RESTROOMS AT KAREN HORNADAY PARK AND AUTHORIZE THE DESIGN AND PLANNING FOR FACILTIES AT BISHOP'S BEACH PARK.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

D. Memorandum from Acting City Planner re: Poopdeck Trail – Funding Request

Chair Lewis introduced the item and requested input from Acting City Planner Engebretsen

Acting City Planner Engebretsen provided a summary of the memorandum requesting a recommendation to Council in support of expenditure of the funds requested.

There was a brief discussion on the funding would be from HART – Trail Funds.

FAIR/ARCHIBALD MOVED THAT THE PARKS, ART, RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION SUPPORTS THE EXPENDITURE OF HART TRAIL FUNDS TO COMPLETE THE POOPDECK TRAIL IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$45,000.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- E. Memorandum from Acting City Planner Engebretsen re: Bishop's Beach Land Purchase Opportunity

Chair Lewis introduced the item on the agenda by reading of the title.

Acting City Planner Engebretsen reviewed her staff report for the Commission.

Extensive discussion ensued between Acting City Planner Engebretsen and the Commission on the following:

- Location and zoning is in the Central Business District
- Opportunity to add to parks land few and far between
- Use of land reserves over the parks reserves since that funding source covers repairs and maintenance is preferred
- Would be appropriate location for a new restroom
- Recommendation could include a combination of the funding sources
- Land Trust is interested in larger 5 acres or more plus habitat
- Availability of additional land in this area

HARRALD/ARCHIBALD MOVED THAT PARKS, ART, RECREATION AND CULTURE SUPPORTS THE PURCHASE OF THE ADJACENT PROPERTY AND RECOMMENDS CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS TO PURCHASE THE PORTION OF LAND IDENTIFIED AS T 6S R 13W SEC 20 SEWARD MERIDIAN HM PTN GL 2 BEGIN S 1/16 CORNER SECS 19 & 20 & NW CORNER OF GL 2 TH S 89 DEG 57'30" E 1094.3 FT TO PT TH S 38 DEG 0' W 310 FT TO ROB TH 90 DEG W 75 FT TO CORNER 2 TH S 38 DEG W 75 FT TO CORNER 3 TH 90 DEG E 75 FT TO CORNER 4 TH N 38 DEG E 75 FT TO POB PARCEL #17714011 AND FURTHER RECOMMEND THAT THE PURCHASE PRICE NOT TO EXCEED \$35,000 AND FUNDING SHOULD COME FROM THE LAND RESERVES ACCOUNT.

There was a brief discussion on negotiating the price down from the \$35,000.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

F. Memorandum from Acting City Planner Engebretsen re: Jack Gist Park Planning

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title.

Acting City Planner Engebretsen provided a summary of the memorandum and requested action of the Commission.

FAIR/ARCHIBALD MOVED THAT PARKS ART RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT CITY COUNCIL AMEND THE 2021 BUDGET LINE ITEM PARKS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES UP TO \$10,000 TO PAY FOR A LONG TERM PARK PLANNING FOR JACK GIST PARK AND FURTHER RECOMMEND THAT PARKS RESERVES BE USED TO FUND THE BUDGET AMENDMENT.

Comment was expressed on the increased use in Jack Gist Park and that the time and money invested into the planning of the park will be well spent and a betterment to the community.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

G. Trails Small Works Maintenance Program

- i. Memorandum from Public Works Director and Parks Maintenance Coordinator as backup

Chair Lewis introduced the item into the record by reading of the title.

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy reviewed the memorandum for the Commission. This final document will demonstrate when and what funds will be used for and can be updated on an annual basis.

Public Works Director Keiser noted that this was a precursor to the update for the Homer Non-Motorized Trails and Transportation Plan. She explained that the plan can be used to require developers to include trail easements and if the trail is not included in the plan then the city cannot request those easements and or requirements.

The Commission did not have any amendments or recommendations for the draft document and were in agreement with the strategies outlined.

H. Baycrest Overlook Project – Implementation Strategy

- i. Memorandum from Public Works Director as backup

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title.

Public Works Director Keiser provided background on refreshing the Baycrest Overlook. She reviewed the recommendations included in the approved plan that was developed by a variety of groups.

Discussion and points made by Staff and Commissioners were as follows:

- Signage be coordinated with wayfinding
- Including the indigenous aspect in the improvements
- The information building does not fit and lacks something
- Interpretive signage to be more relevant and not as maintenance intensive
- Gateway into the community and deserves continuity with the wayfinding efforts
- Wayfinding is more directional and interpretive is related more to description or identification
- Consistency can be included in the size, colors and materials used
- Contacting Adele Person at Bunnell to get their input on the themes included in the plan for wayfinding
- Improvements and repairs are needed since this a first impression for visitors to Homer and that there is time to incorporate the wayfinding aspects.
- Interpretive signage around the harbor as example was done by staff with no public input working with State and Harbor personnel
- Staff will approach the State on what is intended and will then bring back what is planned to the Commission.

ARCHIBALD/FAIR MOVED THAT THE PARKS ART RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION ENDORSES IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM AND REQUEST CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZE CITY STAFF TO BEGIN IMPLEMENTING THOSE STRATEGIES.

HARRALD/FAIR MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INCLUDE WAYFINDING, WORKING WITH BUNNEL ART GALLERY AND PUBLIC INPUT.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. (Amendment). NON-OBJECTION. UANNIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Discussion ensued on inclusion of indigenous names in interpretive signage.

ARCHIBALD/FAIR MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INCLUDE INDIGENOUS NAMES IN THE NEW INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE CREATED.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. (Secondary Amendment). NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VOTE. (Main as amended) NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. PARC Commission Annual Calendar 2020
- B. PARC Commissioner Attendance at Council Meetings 2020

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Acting City Planner Engebretsen complimented the Commission on the expediency in getting through a long agenda.

Recreation Manager Illg thanked the Commissioners for their service and wished good luck to Julie for her upcoming trip outside and requested the Commission to keep the HERC on their radar and the multi-use facility as he doesn't know where it may go but wanted to put a plug in for it.

Public Works Director Keiser thanked the Commission for their service and thanked them for their support.

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy thanked the Commission for the ninja like performance getting through the agenda and maintaining the time line. He is impressed.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCILMEMBER

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Lewis reported this was his first official Zoom meeting and it was fun. They have possibly spent a lot of money tonight and he enjoys spending money. He reminded everyone to practice social distancing.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Harrald commented on seeing the amount of work that Jan and Matt have done was very impressive. She really appreciates all the efforts and the energy and the staff may be small but they are mighty.

Commissioner Fair echoed Commissioner Harrald's sentiments and hopes to never see another 192 page packet for a while. Thank you.

Commissioner Archibald commented about the lack of appropriate signage regarding vehicles on the beach, encounters with vehicles on the beach recently and Police responding to those violators.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: _____