

Session 11-03, a Special Meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee was called to order by Chair Roberts at 5:42 p.m. on August 16, 2011 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Highland, Roberts, Venuti
ABSENT: Smith, Velsko
STAFF: Public Works Director Meyer
Deputy City Clerk Jacobsen

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no public comments.

RECONSIDERATION

No items were scheduled for reconsideration.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting Synopsis of May 15, 2011

The Synopsis was approved by consensus of the Committee.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

No visitors or presentations were scheduled.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

Public Works Director Meyer said he would comment during pending business.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no public hearings scheduled.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Recommendations for Expending HART Funds for Local Road Improvements

Public Works Director Meyer reviewed the information in his draft memorandum. He explained that HEA spent the money for remediation on their lot and the site has been closed, noting that it doesn't mean there might not be some contamination. HEA understands that at some point they need to dedicate some right-of-way in this area.

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The memorandum recommends an ordinance that identifies where funds are coming from and initiates planning to identify, negotiate, and purchase the right-of-way, and complete the design. A realistic timeline would be about 3 years. He explained that it has been suggested that when the State comes in to do the work on Lake Street they include the intersection improvement as part of their project to help minimize some cost. It has also been requested the State extend the water stub out to get it outside of Lake Street.

There was discussion about the concept and concerns of using an LID process for funding. It was noted that there are only the two property owners and not sure what the reaction will be from them. Public Works Director Meyer suggested there could be other options to consider negotiating like the City purchasing portions of the property and offering no assessment or a reduced assessment in exchange. He explained that there is currently no right-of-way between Waddell and Heath Street. The lines delineated in the aerial photo are in line with the Transportation Plan modeled extension. The next steps are to determine a reasonable scenario of what cost would be, get council to authorize the City Manager to execute appropriate documents to negotiate and design, and scheduling public meetings. The TAC could be the group to lead the public process. There are a lot of potential benefits beyond just a road connection for example the pedestrian access and open space corridor.

Chair Roberts suggested that the memo should go before Council first and if they are supportive then propose an ordinance.

The group discussed the information provided in the transportation plan and reviewed the drawing provided by Public Director Meyer.

VENUTI/HIGHLAND MOVED TO FORWARD THE DRAFT MEMORANDUM TO CITY COUNCIL.

There was brief discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Capital Improvement Plan 2012-2017

The Committee reviewed the list of recommended projects from last year and road related projects included in the plan. They discussed consideration for other innovative solutions besides stop lights for intersections; the Karen Hornaday Phase I park improvements, which includes trails; safety concerns for the Ocean Drive area; and land acquisition includes the Waddell area discussed earlier. They recommended the following projects:

Land Acquisition for New Roads
Ocean Drive Reconstruction (new project)
Pioneer Avenue Upgrade
Homer Intersection Improvements (Innovative Solutions)
Karen Hornaday Park Improvement Phase 1

VENUTI/HIGHLAND MOVED TO FORWARD THIS LIST TO CITY COUNCIL.

There was brief discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

B. Kachemak Drive Bike Path

Chair Roberts explained that there is a Committee working to try to accomplish a bike path along Kachemak Drive. She wanted them to see this since trails are in the Committee's purview. Chair Roberts asked that additional information regarding the progress of the Path Committee be included in the TAC packets.

There was discussion about challenges of getting easements in the Kachemak Drive area for the water and sewer project, and the property owner's resistance to having a trail along the easement.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Resolutions 84-71, 86-68, 06-36(A), and Memo 06-47 Re: TAC History

There was brief discussion about the Committee's history.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

There were no audience comments.

COMMENTS OF THE STAFF

Public Works Director Meyer commented about funding that is available for the spit trail, and also cruise ship money that will take the spit trail around the back side of the small boat harbor.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Roberts commented that enjoyed working with the group tonight, they got a lot done, and their conversation was focused.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs. Venuti expressed her concern about the overflow parking from Cosmic Kitchen. She said she isn't familiar with parking requirements but when their parking lot is full people park on the side of the road on Kachemak Way and it is difficult to see people on bikes, pedestrians, and on coming traffic when trying to turn on to Pioneer. Public Works Director Meyer commented about people parking on the road at Two Sisters. He suggested sending her concerns to the Police and Fire Department. Mrs. Venuti said she enjoys being on the Committee.

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Ms. Highland commented that it is great that businesses are doing well and she is interested in the Committee coming up with a solution for parking issues. She would like to have some discussion of creative ideas scheduled on the next agenda. We need to get cooperation between other entities to help with parking. We are at the stage where we have to come up with some innovative solutions so that we aren't telling businesses and owners that people will get tickets for parking. It isn't a pleasant solution. We need to recognize that Homer is growing and we need better solutions.

ADJOURN

There being no more business to come before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: _____