

Session 12-01, a Regular Meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee was called to order at 5:32 p.m. on May 15, 2012 by Chair Francie Roberts at the Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMITTEEMEMBERS HIGHLAND, ROBERTS, SMITH, VENUTI

ABSENT: COMMITTEE MEMBER VELSKO (EXCUSED)

STAFF: DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR MEYER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Roberts requested for a motion to approve the agenda.

SMITH/HIGHLAND – MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no public comments.

RECONSIDERATION

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting Synopsis of November 15, 2011

SMITH/HIGHLAND – MOVED TO APPROVE AS PRESENTED.

There was a brief discussion.

The minutes were approved by consensus of the committee.¹

VISITORS

A. Homer Ocean Park, Dr. Bill Marley

Dr. Marley made a presentation to the committee on his concept of a park, performing arts center, cultural center and beach access on the property located along the Sterling Highway from West Hill to Soundview (approximately) down to the water. He was proposing the city purchase the property and use it for the purposes as outlined in his presentation. He was seeking the support and recommendation of the Transportation Advisory Committee to City Council.

There were brief comments and questions on the presentation.

¹ The meeting synopsis included in the May packet was correct as shown on the agenda and not the August 2011 meeting synopsis as stated.
Clerk's Office 5/24/2012 rk

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

Mr. Meyer reported on the following projects:

- Cruise Passenger Enhancement Project which encompasses trails and restrooms on the Spit and two restrooms downtown on Pioneer Avenue.
- Road & Paving Special Assessment Districts being formed in Ocean Drive Loop, Crittenden, Waddell Way, and
- Spit Trail Completion
- HART Program details
- Road Paving projects consists of Klondike Ave; Smokey Bay Way; Fairview Avenue – Bartlett – Mulligan; Fairview Avenue – Main to Hohe; Town Heights; Greatland St; and Airport Road.

PUBLIC HEARING

There are no items for public hearing.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Update on Waddell Way

Chair Roberts summarized the item for the committee.

Mr. Meyer provided an update he admitted that there is little information to relay. There are now two firms under contract for design. There has been some initial contact with the owner and some right of way or easement issues. He stated that he is behind on the schedule and will provide project details and budget information at the August meeting.

A brief discussion ensued to clarify the location of Waddell Way and Waddell Street off of Crittenden and the issue regarding property purchase, conceptual designs dealing with the right of way issues; and the state working on Lake Street; and issues with power lines.

B. Update on Main Street and Bypass Progress

Chair Roberts brought this item to the floor.

Mr. Meyer stated that he did not have much to report on this project and he noted that the city is still waiting on the Department of Transportation. He added that he would love to tell them that if the state could not get this going they have the engineers now that the City could get this project started and done quicker.

Chair Roberts noted the article included in the packet under informational materials.

The committee commented on previous attempts to lighten the traffic congestion at Main and the Sterling Highway, and reducing the speed limit on the Sterling Highway through town. Further discussion by the committee on reducing the speed limit and what benefits would be gained; making a recommendation to council to reduce the speed to 25 mph through town and how successful that would be with the residents; impact on the DOT; renaming the Sterling Highway would lend itself to a lower speed limit also; the design of the road lends itself to speed.

Chair Roberts inquired if the committee was agreeable to have a discussion and recommendation on the August agenda and send a resolution to Council.

Further discussion was entertained on having public input on the reduction of the speed limit and writing articles as a private citizen that the committee will be having this on the August agenda. Those interested can submit emails to Clerk's office instead of attending the meeting; and why the city is very limited on put articles in the paper on an issue.

SMITH/HIGHLAND - MOVED TO PUT ON THE AGENDA A DISCUSSION ON REDUCTION OF SPEED LIMIT ON THE STERLING HIGHWAY AND THAT THE CITY SHOULD ADVERTISE OR PUT AN ARTICLE IN THE PAPER THAT THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS POTENTIALLY ASKING THE STATE TO REDUCE THE SPEED LIMIT TO 25 MPH.

HIGHLAND/SMITH - MOVED TO AMEND TO HAVE A DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ATTEND THE MEETING VIA SKYPE.

There was a brief discussion.

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

There was no further discussion on the amended motion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Roberts clarified for the record the following:

- Discussion and recommendation to Council to Reduce the Speed Limit on the Sterling Highway
- Public will be encouraged to submit comment
- Forward a Resolution to Council

C. Update on Kachemak Drive Bike Path

Chair Roberts provided a summary of events on the resolution that was approved by City Council at the May 14, 2012 meeting.

A discussion centered on the proposed path along Kachemak Drive. Some important items of concerns pointed out were the following:

- Right of Way and Easement issues
- Mitigating the Wetlands
- Recommendation from Transportation Committee
- HART funds currently do not have the amount needed to construct this trail
- Construction costs and other project related costs

This will be on the August agenda for the trail committee to present information to this committee and the Clerk will extend the invitation to attend the meeting and forward the minutes to the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

A. HART Fund and Gas Line Project

Chair Roberts provided a brief summary on this item and noted that the Governor did include the Gas Line in his budget. Ms. Roberts further referenced the Ordinances that City Council has already approved in preparation of the gas line.

Mr. Meyer stated that they are in the early stages of the project and as far as he knew the gas line is not included as a use in the HART program. He believed that would require a vote of the people.

The committee entertained a discussion on the proposed gas line through Homer. It was noted that a worksession discussion on the project is scheduled for June 4, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

A majority of the committee voiced they did not approve of using the HART program for the proposed project.

A member of the committee started to express concern over the project and inquired about having it on a future agenda. Mr. Meyer noted that there were other venues that this project could be discussed and that this committee needed to concern themselves on the application of the HART program in relation to the gas line project. That is why it was on the agenda to get the committee's input on a suggestion to use the HART program for this project.

B. Homer Ocean Park

Chair Roberts noted that she missed this item on the agenda when Dr. Marley was present and inquired if the committee would like to postpone making a recommendation until the August meeting.

A brief discussion ensued on issuing a recommendation on the project. Some comments made were:

- eventual erosion of the bluff
- added traffic confusion to existing problems
- favorable to have park over condos, hotels, or storefronts being developed
- focus on what parks they have before adopting another
- the price tag is way too high in comparison to the usable land
- location is not supportive of a park

Chair Roberts inquired if the members would agree to recommend support of the concept.

Mr. Smith stated they should focus on Karen Hornaday Park and the other existing trails.

Ms. Venuti did not support the location and felt that it would add to the existing traffic problems.

Ms. Highland was supportive of the concept and location but could not agree with the City expending almost \$4 million dollars.

Chair Roberts did not voice any opinions on the proposed project.

The committee was split on making any recommendation of support for the project at this time. No recommendation will be issued from the committee but agreed that a letter thanking Dr. Marley for presenting his concept will be sent.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. City Manager's Report 4-23-12
- B. Acting City Manager's Report 5-14-12
- C. Ordinance 12-15 Re: Special Assessment Districts
- D. Ordinance 12-13 Re: Utility Use Rights-of-way
- E. Homer Tribune Article "Lower Speed Limits Could Save Tax Payers"

Chair Roberts summarized the informational materials for the record.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Mr. Slone commented on the presentation and proposed project by Dr. Marley; he further commented on the LID process for the natural gas pipeline; difficulty in lowering the speed limit on the "ByPass" too hard for people to slow down, he has a hard time doing 25 mph on Pioneer as others do. Thank you.

COMMENTS OF THE STAFF

Deputy City Clerk Krause commented on the informational packet that was provided to Council on the proposed Bike Pedestrian Path along Kachemak Drive and will inform the Path Committee that this will be on the August agenda and reducing the speed limit on the Sterling Highway through town.

Mr. Meyer commented that the City Council and community do not really care what the committee feels about parks or about gas lines and we should focus on transportation. The speed limit issue is far more appropriate than gas LID and where parks ought to be. He also noted that he gets frustrated with speed limits too on his trips to the dump and he goes really fast on Spruce wood Drive.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER/CHAIR

Chair Roberts responded that she should have not allowed the park item on the agenda and will convey that to Dr. Marley also. The gas line topic was in relation to using HART funds for the project not the project itself. She noted that the meeting time is a standard they try to stick to but it is not mandatory.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Smith concurred with Mr. Meyers comments.

Ms. Venuti requested to have the One Way Map and discussion on the August agenda.

Ms. Highland noted that the gas line and the park were on the agenda and inquired if they should not have been in response to Mr. Meyer's comments. She also commented on the meeting length being limited to two hours when they only meet four times a year and may have a lot of things on the agenda that takes them over that time limit.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Committee Chair Roberts adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Next regular meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I

Approved: _____