

Session 13-15, a Regular Meeting of the Homer Advisory Planning Commission was called to order by Chair Venuti at 6:30 p.m. on October 16, 2013 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS HIGHLAND, SLONE, SONNEBORN, VENUTI

ABSENT: BOS, STEAD

STAFF: PLANNING TECHNICIAN ENGBRETSSEN
DEPUTY CITY CLERK JACOBSEN

Approval of Agenda

HIGHLAND/SLONE SO MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Public Comment

The public may speak to the Planning Commission regarding matters on the agenda that are not scheduled for public hearing or plat consideration. (3 minute time limit).

None

Reconsideration

Adoption of Consent Agenda

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

A. Approval of Minutes of October 2, 2013 meeting

HIGHLAND/SLONE SO MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Presentations

Reports

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- A. Staff Report PL 13-79, City Planner's Report

Acting City Planner Engebretsen reviewed the staff report.

There was brief discussion of the upcoming Planning Commissioner Training in Anchorage in November. They also talked about scheduling speakers starting in December to present to the Commission.

Public Hearings

Testimony limited to 3 minutes per speaker. The Commission conducts Public Hearings by hearing a staff report, presentation by the applicant, hearing public testimony and then acting on the Public Hearing items. The Commission may question the public. Once the public hearing is closed the Commission cannot hear additional comments on the topic. The applicant is not held to the 3 minute time limit.

- A. Staff Report PL 13-80, CUP 13-12 Request to build a 160" communications tower at 5700 Easy Street

SLONE/HIGHLAND MOVED TO POSTPONE ACTION TO THE NOVEMBER 6TH REGULAR MEETING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Plat Consideration

- A. Staff Report Stream Hill Park Unit 2, Resubdivision of lots 35 and 45

This item was pulled at the request of the applicant.

Pending Business

- A. Staff Report PL 13-82 Comprehensive Plan Review

Acting City Planner Engebretsen reviewed the staff report and said that she will prepare a new list with the comments from the worksession.

Commissioner Sonneborn expressed interest in establishing a way for neighborhood property to be able to have pedestrian zones, speed bumps, and narrower lanes. Her focus for the top five commission work list items is to make Homer more pedestrian friendly. Acting City Planner Engebretsen said she will have more information when the Commission discusses the safe street standards.

There was brief discussion regarding an Old Town overlay district. Mrs. Engebretsen explained that she shared information about establishing a district if they want to in the future and they can talk to Ms. Allen when she comes to present to the Commission after the first of the year.

The group agreed to continue discussion on the comp plan priorities when there is a full Commission.

New Business

A. Staff Report PL 13-83 Safe Street Standards

Acting City Planner Engebretsen said she will have more information to provide to the Commission at their next meeting and they agreed to take it up at that time.

There was brief discussion about the City's Special Assessment District process for road improvements, a process that was recently used to improve Crittenden Road and is an option for the Mattox Street neighborhood. Mrs. Engebretsen encouraged the group to take notice of those improvements when they are passing by.

Commissioner Highland and Mrs. Engebretsen agreed to talk about this prior to the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting to have some information for the Committee to discuss.

Informational Materials

- A. KPB Planning Commission Notice of Decision to vacate the west half of the 80-foot wide public use easement that extends through the east portion of Lot 38 Bunnell's Subdivision
- B. KPB Plat Committee Notice of Decision for the following Preliminary Plats:
 - Rumley-Collie Subdivision Eight Preliminary Plat
 - Harrington Heights 2013 Replat Preliminary Plat
- C. Good Neighbor Lighting
- D. City Manager's Report for Oct. 14, 2013 City Council Meeting
- E. Budget Message for Fiscal Year 2014 from City Manager
- F. Memorandum 13-138 from Fire Chief, Re: Fire Department Budget Requests

Comments of the Audience

Members of the audience may address the Commission on any subject. (3 minute time limit)

None

Comments of Staff

None

Comments of the Commission

Commissioner Sonneborn commented there have been several meetings where they have tried to talk about what direction they are going to take with their time and she would really like to see them choose something and start working on it. If it is within their role, work on how they can work to make Homer more pedestrian friendly and non-motorized vehicle friendly town.

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There was discussion among the group about the Commission's role and the Transportation Advisory Committee's role in this concept. It was noted that since the Committee meets quarterly, it might be better for the Commission to pursue it, if it is appropriate since they meet regularly, and a joint meeting was suggested for the November committee meeting. Deputy City Clerk Jacobsen said she would give this feedback to the committee Chair to see how she would like to proceed.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: _____