

Session 13-03, a Regular Meeting of the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Chair Cathy Ulmer on March 27, 2013 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONER HARTLEY, STOCKBURGER, HOWARD, ULMER

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER WEDIN, ZIMMERMAN (EXCUSED)

STAFF: HARBORMASTER HAWKINS
DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved by consensus of the commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA *(3 Minute Time Limit)*

Brad Faulkner, city resident, commented on the final design for the completion of the Spit Trail. He expressed one concern for drainage but during a conversation with Mr. Meyer before the meeting has alleviated any concerns he had; he additionally stated that it would be nice to have a kiosk next to the Seafarer's Memorial or End of the Road Park for the Water Trail an up and coming project.

Mr. Meyer, Public Works Director, commented that they did not intend to solve any drainage problems but that they would create any either.

Mr. Robert Archibald, Parks and Recreation Commissioner and a member of the Water Trail Committee, he commented that the Commission is very excited to see the completion of this trail and it has been a long time in coming. The Commission would like to express that they are very excited to see more opportunities to see recreation on the Spit. AS a member of the steering committee he wanted to let the commission know that they are working hard to get this Trail established and there is a lot more work still to do, they are working on the other side of the bay and trying to establish places to stay; this is just the beginning.

Rick Malley, city resident, works at the Independent Living Center (ILC) he is the ADA Specialist for the Kenai Peninsula and works from the ILC; he wanted to comment on the ADA requirements for the Spit Trail and provided some information for the commission on accessibility for new and renovation projects. He was reviewing the plans and notices that one of the ramps was being reconstructed and noted that would require ADA regulations to be implemented. He wanted to ensure that accessibility was included in the renovations of the dock. He noted that in 2010 the laws regarding ADA were amended to include Harbors, Trails, boat slips and such.

There were no further comments.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items for reconsideration.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting Minutes for February 27

The minutes were approved as presented by consensus of the Commission.

VISITORS

A. Juneau Harbor Slide Show – Commission Wedin

Commissioner Wedin was not in attendance. The presentation was postponed until the next meeting.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

(Chair set time limit not to exceed 5 minutes)

A. Port & Harbor Director's Staff Report – March 2013

Harbormaster Hawkins provided a verbal briefing on his staff report. He commented on the review and update to the Emergency Operations Plan. He elaborated on the corner fenders at the Deep Water Dock and one of the pin piles breaking off under floor level; he noted that the bill on Derelict Vessels seems to have some legs and has made it through various committees; the System 5 Upgrade is at 95% complete, this is part of the Harbor Improvement List; he had a long discussion with Senator Micciche on harbor projects big and small; Alaska Industrial Export Authority sent some folks to Homer headed up by the First National Bank folks, provided a Harbor 101 and tour of the merchants around town, they were unaware on how important the marine trades impacted Homer's economy. They were very impressed especially how one project may impact so many businesses locally. He noted that once the state's budget is passed they could receive funding for projects in July so they are trying to be ready. Mr. Hawkins commented on the science collaborative meeting which was focused on land level rise and sea level rise how it affects the city and the spit or not and if they will need taller boots, we will not.

Chair Ulmer questioned the removal of the animal feces on the docks and getting that enforced. Mr. Hawkins noted that bags are supplied but if they are going to enforce one thing then all other laws regarding leashes should be enforced too.

PUBLIC HEARING *(3 minute time limit)*

There were no public hearings scheduled.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. 2013 Proposed Improvements for the Homer Spit

Mr. Carey Meyer, Public Works Director, provided the commissioners with updates on proposed projects for the Spit. He wanted to make sure that the commissioners were aware of the locations for the proposed improvements and provided a map with all the locations highlighted. Some of the key issues are as follows:

- Homer Spit Trail
 - replacing the Boardwalk instead of installation of asphalt will be done. The new boardwalk will be two feet wider than the existing; the turnouts will also be two feet deeper.
 - Benches will be placed along the Trail along with a Shelter with seating at the entrance to the docks to accommodate passengers and residents
 - Overlooks placed at the corner of Freightdock Road and Homer Spit Road will also have benches.
 - The parking lot at the End of the Road park will be paved and have appropriate drainage and landscaping in place. The parking will be striped to allow for maximum capacity also allowing for buses to use as a turn-around if needed.

In response to Commissioner Hartley regarding project timelines Mr. Meyer expected the improvements to the Spit Trail and at the Deep Water Dock should be bidding in June with contractor starting in July through September and completion would be the beginning of the 2014 season. The restrooms will be let for bidding in the next couple of weeks and should be completed this construction season.

Mr. Meyer continued to elaborate on some of the landscaping and interpretive signage that may be installed along the Spit Trail.

Commissioner Stockburger inquired about installation of any shelters at the Overlook areas. In response Mr. Meyer stated they had not but will examine the project carefully and see if the budget may allow for a shelter to be constructed. He also acknowledged that all the projects will be in accordance with the ADA requirements including the restrooms.

Mr. Meyer also noted that they will be contacting all leaseholders who may be impacted for their input on this project.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business on the agenda.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. Monthly Statistical & Performance Report for January 2013

Chair Ulmer noted for the record that the report enclosed was for February.

Commissioner Hartley inquired about the reduction in numbers on the fish docks and fuel. He was wondering if there was a direct reason for the lesser amounts.

B. Weekly Crane and Ice Report

C. Deep Water Dock Report

D. Pioneer Dock Report & Ferry Landings Report

E. Water Usage Report

F. 2013 Council Meeting Attendance Schedule

G. Memorandum from Lisa Ellington to Bryan Hawkins dated March 13, 2013 Re: Seward Site Visit

There was a brief discussion on the Homer Port & Harbor Administrative Staff visit to the City of Seward's Port & Harbor.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Nancy Hillstrand, owner of Coal Point, commented on the installation of shelters that the view shed is taken into consideration.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Harbormaster Hawkins commented on a handout of information regarding percentages of leaseholders by zip code. He noted that 52% of the Leaseholders are from Homer, 17% are from Anchorage, 24% from the peninsula, 5% from out of state.

Ms. Krause commented it was nice to visit with the Commissioners.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER *(If one has been assigned)*

There were no council members present.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Ulmer thanked everyone for all the good work. A lot was done. She welcomed Commissioner Howard back.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Hartley had no comments.

Commissioner Howard commented that it was good to be back and really great to see the progress being made on these projects, if we get the dollars, let's make it happen and get it all done. It's really exciting over the next 24 months to watch this all come together.

Commissioner Stockburger agreed with Commissioner Howard's sentiments and noted a comment made before the meeting he acknowledged the efforts made by Bryan Hawkins to get these projects going and that it was good to be in this position to help that process out.

ADJOURN

There being no more business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned by Chair Ulmer at 6:00 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

Approved: _____