

Session 13-02 a Regular Meeting of the Port and Harbor Building Task Force was called to order by Chair Howard at 3:30 p.m. on September 20, 2013 at the City Hall Conference Room located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: Ellington, Hartley, Hawkins, Howard, Lewis

STAFF: Project Manager Dan Nelsen  
Deputy City Clerk Jacobsen  
IT Manager Poolos

### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Chair Howard requested item C be moved to a future agenda.

The amended agenda was approved by consensus of the Task Force.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None

### **RECONSIDERATION**

### **APPROVAL OF SYNOPSIS**

A. August 29, 2013 Meeting Synopsis

The synopsis was approved by consensus of the Task Force.

### **VISITORS**

### **STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS**

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **PENDING BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Discussion of User Groups to Focus on Getting Information to and Feedback From

The group brainstormed harbor user groups and compiled the following list:

Charter Associations	Commercial Fishers
Marine Trades Association	Recreational Harbor Users
ACOE	Fish Processors
Fish & Game	Water Taxi Operators
NOAA	Longshoremens
F&W	Chamber of Commerce

PORT AND HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2013

United States Coast Guard & Marine Safety  
Detachment  
Active Lease Holders  
Public Art Committee  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission  
Wooden Boat Society  
State Parks

Homer Yacht Club  
Tug and Barge Customers  
Marine Pilots Association  
Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies  
Museum and Universities  
North Pacific Fisherman's Association  
Tour Boats and Ferry

They talked about what information they are looking for in this process. They identified the need to provide information about why they are building a new Port and Harbor Building, and get the users take on what is happening.

Harbormaster Hawkins suggested just working with the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission as they represent a broad spectrum of user groups with the harbor and with their networking they can bring in comments. It wouldn't necessarily encompass the governmental agencies but informational packets could be provided to those groups.

There was discussion about developing a functional building where users do business and meetings and trainings take place. Another line of thinking is developing it in a way that it could also be an interpretive site for visitors and there was brief discussion about other funding opportunities to go that route. Point was raised that it is a place of business with high daily traffic numbers, and inviting people in like that could take up time from staff. On the other hand it is appealing to have space to display the history, and perhaps having space available outside the building is feasible. It is also an area the Public Arts Committee to could consider for their contribution to the building. It would be good to see if user groups have feedback about the art, and they can be invited to that committee.

Chair Howard said she could work with Bryan and perhaps Katie to prepare the informational packet.

B. Duties and Responsibilities of the Harbormaster's Office (Harbor Staff)

The task force reviewed the list provided by the harbor staff and recognized the significance of the harbor building and the amount of responsibility on the staff.

C. Consideration of the Spit Comprehensive Plan relating to the lot the old harbor building

This was postponed to a future meeting.

D. Timeline and proposed meeting schedule for consideration (Public Works)

The task force reviewed the meeting schedule provided by Project Manager Nelsen.

They recommended a meeting on October 21 to view the 25% design, attend the October 23 Port and Harbor Advisory Commission, public hearing on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m., and a second public hearing on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

E. Further discussion of room data sheets.

The task force reviewed the room data sheets. Mr. Hawkins and Mrs. Ellington said that harbor staff has provided their feedback to the architect and engineer. Chair Howard recommended that any negative references, such as space being used for disciplining officers, be removed from any future submissions.

IT Manager Poolos offered feedback relating to communication equipment that will be housed at the port and harbor building.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

#### **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

Carl Nostrand, city resident, said he works with renewable energy and has studied architecture for a very long time, and passed around an informational sheet of a building design suggestion for the port and harbor building. He explained it is a thin shelled concrete structure that is very strong for earthquakes, and tsunamis. It can be built up high so the waves flow underneath. It has an R50, is the strongest structure imaginable, and is cost effective to build. It could be built on the overslope for a 360 degree view around the harbor, and parking underneath. He commented briefly about his time as a commercial fisherman, having weathered rogue waves and capsized boats. Being prepared for the next event like volcano eruption or earthquake is important because it could happen anytime. The structure can be built with air infiltration systems in house with renewable back up energy systems so loss of power isn't an issue. He suggested a presentation from the architect at a reasonable cost. He reviewed some of the different options available with the structure. He is totally supportive of the harbor expansion and thinks this is a great opportunity.

#### **COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF**

None

#### **COMMENTS OF THE TASK FORCE**

Mr. Hawkins, Mrs. Ellington, and Chair Howard briefly reviewed the to do list of working on a packet of information to provide to user groups.

#### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Task Force the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2013 at 3:30 p.m. at the City Hall Conference Room located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

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MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_