

PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2015

Session 15-04 a Regular Meeting of the Public Arts Committee was called to order on August 13, 2015 at 5:05 pm by Chair Michele Miller at the Homer City Hall Upstairs Conference Room located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMITTEE MEMBERS MILLER, PERSON, AND PETERSEN

ABSENT: COMMITTEE MEMBER HOLLOWELL (EXCUSED)

STAFF: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

The Committee met in a worksession from 4:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The Committee members discussed the Our Town Grant Application versus an ArtPlace Grant application, what would be an appropriate project, attendance at an Economic Development Commission meeting and Budget Requests for 2016.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Miller requested a motion to approve the agenda

PERSON/PETERSEN – MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

The agenda was approved by consensus of the committee.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES *(Minutes are approved during regular or special meetings only)*

A. Meeting Minutes for regular meeting of May 14, 2015.

Chair Miller requested a motion to approve the minutes.

PERSON/PETERSEN – SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

The minutes were approved by consensus of the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

There was no public present.

VISITORS

A. Austin Parkhill, Mural on Wall at Heath Street and Pioneer Avenue

Mr. Parkhill was unable to attend.

STAFF & COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS/ AND BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Staff Report 15-04

Ms. Krause reviewed her report on the Spit Trail interpretive signage project, status of the municipal art cataloguing project and provided an update on the financial severity and possible outcome of any budget requests.

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

A. A. Our Town Grant for the Pioneer Avenue Revitalization Project

1. Application Calendar
2. How to Prepare and Submit an Application
3. Review of the Application

Chair Miller introduced the item and reviewed the discussion held during the worksession regarding two action items discussed on the Pioneer Avenue project. Committee member Person stated that she would be attending the next meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Commission. Chair Miller reminded her that they discussed sending an invitation to a meeting with the Pioneer Avenue businesses. Committee member Person did not feel that unless there was a carrot to offer the businesses as a reason to attend. Chair Miller restated the discussion held at the worksession that they would have a meeting to present the businesses along Pioneer Avenue to see if there was buy-in for the project.

Chair Miller requested a motion to have Staff invite the Pioneer Avenue businesses to discuss an Arts Led Pioneer Avenue Revitalization project to be conducted in mid to late September.

PERSON/PETERSEN – MOVED TO HAVE STAFF TO INVESTIGATE THE FEASIBILITY OF INVITING PIONEER AVENUE BUSINESSES TO GATHER INPUT ON AN ARTS LED PIONEER AVENUE REVITALIZATION PROJECT.

There was further discussion on collaborating with the Economic Development Advisory Commission and businesses to use forms of art to revitalize Pioneer Avenue and the meeting would be “Arts Led”

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Miller noted that the committee discussed that they required a project first before applying for a grant and a special meeting could be called to address application.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Capital Improvement Plan 2016 & FY2017 Legislative Requests

Chair Miller reviewed the discussion regarding recommendations for the CIP. Staff responded that they can recommend no more than two projects this year and it is the committee’s choice whether to submit a recommendation for a city project or other. Further discussion on the committee showing support for an arts related project ensued.

Chair Miller favored the Ben Walters Project since it already had support and also was a small amount.

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Committee member Person recommended Bayview Park Improvements since it also had support from a group. Chair Miller noted that it was a smaller project also and was safety related.

PERSON/PETERSEN – MOVED TO RECOMMEND SUPPORT OF THE PRATT MUSEUM NEW FACILITY AND SITE DESIGN.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. 2016 Budget Process and Request for Funding

Chair Miller introduced the item and covered the discussion entertained at the worksession regarding the possibilities of not receiving any funding this budget cycle. She noted that they were going to request \$5000 to match funding for Arts Led Revitalization efforts along Pioneer Avenue and requested a motion.

PERSON/PETERSEN - MOVED TO REQUEST STAFF TO PREPARE A BUDGET REQUEST FOR \$5000 WHICH WOULD BE USED AS MATCHING FUNDS FOR AN ARTS LED, PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE THE AESTHETICS AND START OF REVITALIZATION EFFORTS ON PIONEER AVENUE.

Committee discussion noted that this project would involve matching funds for art related improvements along Pioneer Avenue from Lake Street to the Sterling Highway. It was for business properties not residential and would be similar to the Storefront Program, only art related improvements would qualify. The committee discussed amounts matched would not be large, such as \$500 since the amount they were requesting was small. It was preferred to wait for input from the business owners and to see if the Economic Development Advisory Commission would be interested in partnering up before establishing an amount required on the business side. This money could be used to add sculpture, employ a vacant building for theater performances, murals, etc. Not just painting a building. This would also work with a possible ArtPlace grant which could be applied for in January.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

C. Creation of a Combined Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Commission

Chair Miller introduced the item and commented in favor of Committee member Person's idea on combining the Committee with Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. She noted that at the beginning she did not favor the idea.

Committee member Person stated that after the results of Needs Assessment was completed, one of the items she read was improved coordination, improved sharing of resources, and advocating for the creation of a Parks & Recreation Department. What she has always found with the Public Arts Committee is the lack of a budget, meeting quarterly it is hard to sustain momentum, without capital projects or no access to resources such as the community recreation program which has a budget. Ms.

Person also acknowledged the increasing budget issues within the city. There are some that state the Arts is just as important as Police, Fire and Roads but that is not true since it is not reflected in the budget; there is support for the Pratt, Hockey, and the Library. Ms. Person then stated that she is interested in looking at what would be the outcome if you combined the Library, Parks & Rec and Public Art, you would kind of de-silo, since the Library has programs, Community Rec has programs, and have a bigger game. Perception of the Committee has changed but the importance of the Committee since the committee does not actually choose but appoint committees for the 1%.

Further discussion ensued pointing out the benefits to having staff and existing programs that are art related. That combining the groups could start to increase the impact, increase the voice of the Committee, and possibly make the committee stronger. The issue may be how to form or re-vamp the existing commission. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission may not be receptive to the change. It was noted that the commission already has an aggressive schedule.

Committee member Person would like to have a discussion with the other entities regarding the possibility and does not want to “freak out” the Parks & Rec Commission by bringing a motion or recommendation to them before they have had a chance to discuss the idea. She can mention the idea at the commission meeting next week as she is scheduled to be a visitor at their meeting.

Committee member Petersen commented that he was in favor of combining the committee believing that it would make the efforts of the committee stronger within the community and agreed with Chair Miller that it would provide a stronger voice before Council for arts in the community.

Staff advised that the committee would have to make some kind of motion to support the combining of the Committee with the Commission, but it can be postponed to the next regular meeting which would also allow Committee member Hollowell the chance to comment on the proposition. Staff also noted that this idea will be on the September Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission agenda and postponement will allow Staff to add it to the Library Advisory Board September agenda.

PERSON/PETERSEN – MOVE TO POSTPONE TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

D. Next Meeting Agenda Items

The committee reviewed the annual calendar and deleted the grant application item, added status update of Economic Development Advisory Commission meeting, notice or invitation to Pioneer Avenue business owners regarding a Neighborhood Meeting in mid to late September, Results of Parks and Recreation Commission opinion on combining and Changing to PARC and Review and approval of the Draft Catalogue

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. 2015 Annual Calendar

B. 2015 Committee Attendance at Council Meetings

The Committee entertained a brief discussion on which member would attend meetings. Chair Miller and Committee member Person will both attend the October 26th meeting and present the budget request and the results of the meeting on the proposed project.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

There was no audience present to comment.

COMMENTS OF THE STAFF

Deputy City Clerk Krause commented it was a great meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Committee member Petersen commented that pursuing the merging with Parks and Rec and the Library is a no brainer and combined that they would be more effective and as soon as they can look into what that would take to get it done they should.

Committee member Person commented that she really appreciates the worksession and happy that they hammered it all out.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m. **A WORKSESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR 4:00 P.M. PRIOR TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015 AT 5:00 P.M. at City Hall Conference Room Upstairs, 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.**

Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I

Approved: _____