

Session 11-05, a Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Bremicker at 5:36 p.m. on June 16, 2011 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS BREMICKER, HARRALD, BRANN, CUMMING
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER CARLINSCHAUER
COMMISSIONER ARCHIBALD (EXCUSED)

TELEPHONIC: COMMISSIONER LILLIBRIDGE

STAFF: RECREATION SPECIALIST MIKE ILLG
DEPUTY CITY CLERK I RENEE KRAUSE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Bremicker requested a motion to approve the agenda.

BRANN/HARRALD - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES *(Minutes are approved during Regular Meetings.)*

A. Meeting Minutes for the May 19, 2011 Regular Meeting

BRANN/HARRALD -MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

There was no discussion.

The minutes were approved by consensus of the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no public comments.

VISITORS

A. Soccer Association Representative

Commissioner Harrald apologized to those present but she did not get around to inviting a representative to attend the meeting.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items scheduled for reconsideration.

STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Recreation Report – Mike Illg

Mr. Illg reviewed his report for the Commission. The following items were discussed briefly:

The summer recreation programs are picking up. There are a few extra events scheduled; a second evening for basketball and table tennis on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

- He has met a few people interested in tennis so he will be networking with them later on to get this going.

- The Homer Spit Run is seeking volunteers to hand out water to the runners along the course. If they are interested or would pass along the information it would be appreciated. They can contact him at 235-6090 for more information. This will be on June 25, 2011.

- The Adopt A Park/Trail was approved by City Council and he is waiting to meet with the City Manager to get the details on implementing this program.

- There is a disc golf course work party at Jack Gist Park on Sunday, June 19, 2011. Volunteers will not be using weed-whackers or chainsaws, but there is plenty to do.

- There has been community group created to work on the Karen Hornaday Park Playground. It is called Homer Playground Projects (HoPP). This is an enthusiastic, energetic group with a goal to raise \$250,000 to create and install a playground that is consistent with the Karen Hornaday Master Plan. The group is planning a website, looking for sponsors, and planning on numerous fundraising events. The City will be appropriating the \$5000.00 the Commission designated for the playground and issuing the funds to the Homer Foundation to distribute. The group is fully aware that the money is to be used strictly for playground equipment. Mr. Illg explained that this was a diverse group of residents and not just moms. He recommended that a member of the group be invited to attend the July meeting to give an update on their efforts. He will contact representatives for the commission. Another meeting for HoPP has been scheduled for June 21, 2011, Tuesday in the Homer High School Library at 3:30 p.m.

There was no further discussion.

B. Parks & Campgrounds – Angie Otteson

Ms. Krause reported that Ms. Otteson called prior to the meeting and informed her that something came up and she was unable to attend the meeting.

There was no further discussion.

C. General Report – Renee Krause

Ms. Krause stated there was no written report this month. She entertained questions from the commissioners on the funds available for Park Day. She reported that there were no funds this year. Each year the Commission received funding through the budget but the past budget period there really was no commission or requests for support/funding to Council and the prior year it had dropped too, so if they would like to provide food for the Annual Park Day the commissioners will have to provide it themselves or get someone to make a donation. She further explained in response to a question that this was a line item in the budget under Parks and Recreation not a specific fund that rolled over each year such as Public Arts Committee has established.

Commissioner Brann asked how and if they could as private citizens make a donations to purchase a basket for the proposed disc golf course to be installed at Jack Gist Park. He stated he would like to donate personally but like to see the plaque show that the basket was sponsored by the Parks and Recreation.

Ms. Krause proceeded to explain the process and did not see why they could not make a donation on their own and they would have to make the designation that the funds were to be applied to a basket in the Disc Golf Course to be installed at Jack Gist Park.

Comments made were that donations from Commissioners were voluntary and no council or city approval was required but they would need to have the consensus of the Commission such as at a meeting make a motion and vote on it.

She will confirm the process on making a donation. Commissioner Harrald will check with Eden Badajos too.

There was no further discussion.

D. Kachemak Drive Path Committee – Ingrid Harrald

Commissioner Brann stated he is in the process of obtaining 2 more letters of reference before submitting the grant request for design assistance. He has progressed no further on anything additional with

Commissioner Harrald stated that the committee will be having an open house on Thursday, June 23, 2011 in the Council Chambers 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. She outlined the proposed agenda for the evening. Commissioner Cumming would like to have a summary proposal of the entire project as interpreted by the Committee approximately 30 minutes into the start of the Open House. She pointed out that this is not three individual proposals for the project but three sections of one project.

Commissioner Lillibridge suggested having a story in the paper to bring additional attention to the Open House. Discussion ensued on the different avenues of advertising and making the public aware of the Open House on the proposed path.

Chair Bremicker will contact the Homer News; the Clerk's Report on Monday mornings will announce it too. The Clerk stated that doing a specific add in the paper outside the normal posting of City Events and meetings would not be in the Budget so she did not think that they could advertise separately. Commissioner Harrald stated she would check with KBBI, but she could not do anything since she works there. She has already put it on the Community Calendar. She will write a one paragraph regarding the Open House to submit to the Tribune.

Commissioner Lillibridge requested they suspend the rules to address Pending Business Item D. Park Day at Jack Gist.

BRANN/HARRALD – MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADDRESS PENDING BUSINESS ITEM D. PARK DAY AT JACK GIST PARK.

There was a brief discussion on having the discussion at this time.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

E. Spit Parks and Recreation Committee

There was no meeting held the past month.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

No public hearings were scheduled.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Changing the Frequency of the Regular Meetings

Chair Bremicker introduced the agenda item and provided a summary history of the changes and request to revert back to monthly meetings.

CUMMING/HARRALD – MOVED TO RESUME REGULARLY SCHEDULED MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF DECEMBER THERE WOULD BE NO MEETING AND THESE MEETINGS WILL BE ON THE THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH.

Commissioner Cumming reminded the Commissioners present on the previous discussions and that they have so many things to address and not meeting monthly they will fall behind. She pointed out further the value of meeting monthly year round. This will have to go before Council for approval. Commissioner Harrald brought attention to unexcused absences. Chair Bremicker explained absences and the removal from the Commission. Commissioner Harrald stated that this was off topic and apologized to the Commissioners present. There was no further discussion or comments.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion.

B. Findings and Report on Spring Walk Through for Spit Parks and Recreation Areas –
Commissioner Harrald

Commissioner Harrald apologized she did not have the findings and conditions of the walk through conducted on the recreational areas and parks of the Homer Spit. She assured the Commissioners present that this will be completed and forwarded to Ms. Krause for the July meeting.

Commissioner Cumming commented that she did not believe it would be missed at this time and maybe the Spit Parks & Recreation Committee can have their meeting and it will add to their recommendations.

There was no further discussion.

C. Further Discussion on Karen Hornaday Park Funding for Road Re-Alignment and Issues
Commissioner Cumming

Commissioner Cumming wanted to discuss creating a committee of the Commission to address some outstanding issues. She stated that nothing has been done at the park and she is concerned that not much will get done in the Commission due to the many things the Commission is involved in and the multiple issues at the park. She noted the HoPP citizen group that is very enthusiastic and she opined that their decisions should go through the Commission for approval. She hopes that this doesn't dampen their spirits. She addressed the four issues identified by the Commission as top priority drainage, road realignment and planned parking. Commissioner Cumming did not elaborate on the other two top priorities.

Discussion ensued regarding the commission priorities listed for Karen Hornaday Park that was to be addressed this summer. Those designations were Preliminary Engineering up to and not to exceed \$50,000; Ballfield Improvements not to exceed \$10,000 and \$5,000 for Playground Improvements.

Commissioner Lilibridge came back on telephonically at 6:27 p.m. Chair Bremicker informed her that Ms. Krause relayed her idea for Park Day and the commissioners present discussed the idea, made some

decisions and she could speak with Ms. Krause after the meeting to find out the content of their discussion. He did not feel they should take the time to review the points of that discussion at this time since they still had a lot on the agenda to address. Commissioner Lillibridge acquiesced.

Commissioner Cumming made her argument for establishing a committee to address the issues with Karen Hornaday Park, the Master Plan and the other issues surrounding this park.

Discussions centered on having the engineering done in-house by Mr. Meyer, the delay in getting this done, when it would be done this summer, the delays if it had to be sent out to bid. Mr. Illg made comments on the involvement of HoPP and getting things done quicker outside the City and in the best scenario it would be better to have an outside source perform the engineering and drainage work required however there is the issue of cost which is a trump card.

Further discussions convened on the following:

- Road Realignment
- Advocacy Group Involvement
- Importance of completing the engineering for information before decisions can be made.
- Alternatives that have not been discussed
- Some improvements have been completed already on the ball fields and dugouts.
- Dismantling and relocating the red shed building to Jack Gist Park
 - A specific group of volunteers can dismantle, relocate and rebuild the building in one week
 - Materials can be reused for a number of uses within Karen Hornaday Park and should be discussed before relocating them to Jack Gist.

Chair Bremicker requested a motion to form the Karen Hornaday Park Committee.

LILLIBRIDGE/CUMMING - MOVED TO FORM A COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES RELATED TO KAREN HORNDAY PARK PRETAINING TO THE RECENT RECOMMENDATIONS MADE AND APPROVED BY COUNCIL TO INCLUDE RELOCATING THE RED SHED AND WORKING WITH OTHER GROUPS.

After a lengthy discussion regarding the need, creation and purpose of this committee Chair Bremicker stated the task of this committee will be to help foster the approved master plan and assist in getting this plan implemented. They will also be required to report back to the Commission on the progress being made monthly.

Chair Bremicker stated that there was no further discussion needed on the monetary amounts that were designated previously by the Commission and approved by Council. It was a done deal and served no purpose.

Commissioner Brann stated he would support forming a committee as long as there are two commissioners involved that would attend and hold regular meetings.

Commissioner Harrald still opined that the commission as a whole should be involved in Karen Hornaday Park, otherwise it would be just adding another level of bureaucracy. She provided the step example of the Committee works on issues and recommendations to the commission then the commission would have discussions and make their recommendations to council. This would add to the time.

Commissioner Cumming requested the motion to be read again.

Chair Bremicker offered a friendly amendment to strike the specific language about the red shed as he felt it was not needed in the motion. The maker of the motion and second were agreeable.

Ms. Krause read the motion as amended:

LILLIBRIDGE/CUMMING - MOVED TO FORM A COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES RELATED TO KAREN HORNDAY PARK PERTAINING TO THE RECENT RECOMMENDATIONS MADE AND APPROVED BY COUNCIL.

VOTE. YES. BRANN, CUMMING, LILLIBRIDGE, BREMICKER
NO. HARRALD

Motion carried.

Chair Bremicker stated the following from the Commission By-Laws on Committees:

1. The Chair shall appoint committees for such specific purposes as the business of the Commission may require. Committee membership shall include at least two Commissioners. Other Committee members may be appointed from the public.
2. One Committee member shall be appointed Chair and be responsible for creating an agenda and notifying the Clerk of meetings so they may be advertised in accordance with Alaska State Law and Homer City Code.
3. One Committee member shall be appointed responsible for furnishing summary notes of all Committee meetings to the Clerk.
4. Committees shall meet in accordance with Commission bylaws and Robert's Rules.
5. All committees shall make a progress report at each Commission meeting.
6. No committee shall have other than advisory powers.
7. Per Roberts Rules, upon giving a final report, the Committee is disbanded.

Commissioners Cumming and Lillibridge were appointed to the Karen Hornaday Park Committee. Ms. Krause explained that they could speak to each other to determine a date to schedule the meeting and add items to the agenda. She will perform the same staffing support as she does for the other committees.

Staff explained that the Commission was not required to approve the expenditures from the designated funds for playground improvements or actions of HoPP. They will be guided by Staff from Public Works and the approved Master Plan. Staff commented that it would be good if a member of the Homer Playground Project group would volunteer to be on the committee. This would enable them to work in conjunction with the city efforts and the Commissioners plus keep everyone up to date on their groups' efforts.

Commissioner Lillibridge will contact Ms. Krause to see what dates are available and then consult with Commissioner Cumming on a mutually agreeable date to hold the first meeting of the committee.

There was no further discussion.

D. Park Day

Commissioner Lillibridge lost telephonic connection at 5:58 p.m.

Ms. Krause explained that the idea Commissioner Lillibridge requested consideration was having a "Meet the Trucks" which showcases the fleet that keeps the city running; such as an ambulance, fire truck, police cruiser, a dump truck, grader, a snow plow, and a street cleaner. Kids can touch, explore and honk the horns of the big machines. Commissioner Lillibridge attended a function where they provided this and the kids loved it.

Commissioner Harrald commented that she was not enthused about that idea and that Park Day should be focused on the park and it is supposed to be a work party too and dedication of a basket. She said it sounds like a fun idea but maybe not as a main focus or in addition to the other events.

There were no other comments regarding the suggestion proposed by Commissioner Lillibridge.

Commissioner Brann stated that he wanted to address the items noted in the staff memo in the packet on page 25.

The Commissioners made the following decisions for Park Day:

- The time will be from Noon- 4:00 p.m.
- The Volunteer Fire Association will be asked to provide the hotdogs and beverage. It was noted they would do it for minimal donations.
- Multi-generational games such as softball, volleyball and badminton will be set up.
- A work party will be conducted on clearing the Disc Golf Course, Park Cleanup, and constructing a sandbox for the playground area. Bring your wheelbarrows and garden tools. No chainsaws though.
- Eden Badajos will be contacted to put on a demonstration of Disc Golf and possibly setting up a demonstration course that people and children can play.
- Flyers will be needed. These can be posted at various places and on the City Website.
- Arrange to have notice on the Clerk's Calendar, Coffee Table on KBBI and the Community Calendar too.

There was no further discussion.

Commissioner Lilibridge rejoined the meeting at 6:32 p.m. She apologized for the loss of connection.

NEW BUSINESS

Prior to discussion on the New Business Item A, Kachemak Drive Pedestrian & Bike Path a brief discussion was conducted and clarification on if a private citizen or group was required to report their recommendations to the Commission and get their approval first before presenting to City Council or implementation, specifically the City involvement with the HoPP group. It was further noted that the commission indicated when designating the monies to the playground it was the commission's hopes that a group would take over. It was noted that this was an offshoot from the Group involved with the improvements conducted at Bayview Park and it will not be limited to just Karen Hornaday Park and playgrounds.

There was no further discussion.

- A. Kachemak Drive Pedestrian & Bike Path
 1. Discussion on open House and mock presentations
 2. What and When to propose to Council?
 3. Estimated project Costs and Funding Sources?

Discussion on developing an outline for the open house ensued. It was noted that people will be coming and going as their schedules permit so presentations may be required a number of times. It was suggested that the committee could print out the high points of their presentation on 3 x 5 cards for each member of the committee to have so everyone will have the same information. It was suggested to have an introduction on the overall reason for holding the open house too.

Commissioner Harrald stated she is having Ms. Krause finalize a survey that will be distributed for comments at the meeting tomorrow. The public input is and will be critical for political support as well. Commissioner Cumming noted that it must be specified that these are components of the overall proposed path not three or four separate ideas. She would like to have a summary of each part presented by individuals who worked on that section.

Mr. Illg commented that having a colored map with the proposed path noted would be very beneficial in showing the proposed locations of this trail or path.

In response to Commissioner Lilibridge Chair Bremicker stated that the event will be in the Council Chambers June 23, next Thursday at 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

A brief discussion was entertained on providing cookies and coffee for the event. Commissioner Harrald felt she could get some cookies donated by one of the local businesses.

Commissioner Brann stated that since those present were on the Kachemak Drive committee it really was un-necessary to have further discussion on the open house or do a mock presentation since there were no other commissioners present. He felt they discussed the details needed under the reports section. Chair Bremicker agreed and stated if more discussion was needed it was on the agenda for the committee meeting scheduled for tomorrow (Friday, June 17, 2011).

There was no further discussion.

B. Proposed Homer Ocean Park by William J. Marley of Dell Group

BRANN/BREMICKER-MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADDRESS ITEM B, PROPOSED HOMER OCEAN PARK UNDER NEW BUSINESS.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Bremicker invited Dr. Marley to sign in and speak to the commission.

Dr. William J Marley, resident of Homer. He stated that great communities have great parks. He related that the three owners of the Dell property wish to propose the 31.3 acres fronting the Sterling Highway and the beach be developed into a park and cultural center. He stated that this would be a very positive punctuation point for the end of the road concept that is Homer. They are currently calling this proposal, Homer Ocean Park but noted another name such as "Punctuation Park" might fit better.

Dr. Marley outlined the proposal for establishing park land, native cultural center, year round performing arts center, tennis courts, walking trails and pavilions for picnics, parties, etc. There would also be beach access and a viewing area. The sewer and water in readily accessible making the installation of facilities that require these facilities easier to include in the design. He continued by passing around a drawing of the proposed park and location which is the land across from Soundview Avenue and to the right of the Episcopal Church. The Dell group would like to offer the property for consideration by the City to purchase for the purpose of creating this park option.

Dr. Marley responded to questions posed by the Commission regarding a current appraisal; if the concept is to be a privately owned or city owned park; if the property was offered for sale to the public prior to this proposal; Dr. Marley stated it was previously listed for \$4.9 million and are offering it for \$3.75 million to the City; he noted that the appraisal came as restricted this might be because it is in the Gateway Zoning Area; he noted that the bluff would not be there if there was no erosion which is a normal and expected occurrence; the cost for developing this land would be hard to pinpoint depending on the details; he noted that the benefits of having a performing arts center or convention center in town would be very beneficial and not as affected by inclement weather. Dr. Marley stated that the Dell Group is seeking the Commission's support of the idea. They would take this support to present to the community. He was not ready for presentation to Council at this time. His group is aware that outright

purchase of the property would be very slim and funds would have to be raised to do this but he would prefer to see this idea implemented and not another subdivision.

Commissioner Brann commented that he would offer the support of the concept at this time. But as was stated the funds to purchase this property is not available and not sure how they could raise such an amount either. But he was really "for" the idea. Chair Bremicker echoed Commissioner Brann's sentiments but was not sure if it would happen with the financial side of things. Dr. Marley responded that you don't know unless you try.

BRANN/HARRALD – MOVED TO SUPPORT THE CONCEPT OF THE PROPOSAL FOR THE HOMER OCEAN PARK ON THE PROPERTY IDENTIFIED IN LETTER FROM DR. MARLEY WITH THE DELL GROUP.

A brief discussion concerning the size of the project and the cost ensued with it being a great vision for the area and appropriate for the location and appearance/perception of Homer. That support for increasing the parks and land designated for parks was encouraged.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Dr. Marley thanked the commission for their motion and support.

There was no further discussion.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Memorandum dated May 19, 2011 Re: Expressing Support for the City Parks and Recreation Department Use of the Homer Education and Recreation Center
- B. Memorandum dated May 19, 2011 Re: Expressing Support for the Adopt a Park Program
- C. Memorandum dated May 19, 2011 Re: Amending Homer City Code 1.74, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, Allowing the Commission to Accept Donations and Establish a Fund to Deposit those Donations

There was no discussion on the informational materials.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

There were no audience comments.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL MEMBER *(if one is assigned)*

None.

COMMENTS OF STAFF MEMBERS

Mrs. Krause commented on the minor changes on the flyer announcing the Open House and expressed that the Commissioners were doing a good job; she suggested a course on telephonic procedures for the agenda. She commented on a personal endeavor that the commissioners had expressed some interest in the status of the Highland Games Event earlier and she informed them of the website they could visit for additional information.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Cumming expressed that she hopes that they are glad they have a committee and does not curse the day that she got her committee. Her biggest feat will be getting delivery of sand for the first couple hundred feet of the Kachemak Trail of course going through all the right channels takes a long time.

Commissioner Harrald restated her objectives for the Open House for the Path Committee and the next meeting of the commission. She stated Commissioner Cumming could request Deb Cox to attend the next Commission meeting to give a progress report on the HoPP. She thanked Ms. Krause for all her work and efforts on the documents requested for the Open House. She expressed that it was apparent the Council members did not seem to understand what the Commission was doing, she has heard comments and it is apparent that the Commission is not clear on expressing their intent. She was wondering if they could invite the Councilmembers or personally inform them on what the Commission is doing. Commissioner Cumming volunteered to contact the Council members and the Mayor. She did not guarantee results. Ms. Harrald will not be at the July meeting.

Commissioner Lillibridge stated that it sounds like this was a long meeting with lots of discussion and it is really good to be able to participate when you are out of town.

Commissioner Brann commented good job and thanked everyone. He also noted he would not be working on the trail until after Monday. He did not want to do anything more on that until walking it with someone and the campers would have to be removed also.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Bremicker congratulated Commissioner Cumming on her Karen Hornaday Park committee and reminded her that she and Commissioner Lillibridge needed to contact the Ms. Krause on a meeting date and time and that once they had the other members of the committee lined up to let him know and they could be appointed. He thanked everyone for their time and efforts and thanked Ms. Krause for all her help and efforts.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission Chair Bremicker adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The next regular meeting is **THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2011** at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

Approved: _____