

Session 11-06, a Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order by Acting Chair Archibald at 5:40 p.m. on July 21, 2011 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS CUMMING, ARCHIBALD, LILLIBRIDGE, AND BREMICKER

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER CARLINSCHAUER  
COMMISSIONER HARRALD (EXCUSED)

TELEPHONIC: COMMISSIONER BRANN

STAFF: PARKS MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR ANGIE OTTESON  
DEPUTY CITY CLERK I RENEE KRAUSE

Chair Bremicker arrived at 6:50 p.m.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Acting Chair Archibald requested a motion to approve the agenda.

LILLIBRIDGE/CUMMING - MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADDRESS THE KAREN HORNADAY PARK COMMITTEE REPORT AFTER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND TO ALLOW A MEMBER OF HOPP TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE TO THE COMMISSION DURING THAT REPORT.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

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

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

LILLIBRIDGE/CUMMING -MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

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

There were no public comments regarding items on the agenda.

### **VISITORS**

A. Sharon Whytal, Making Homer a Let's Move! City

The scheduled visitor was a no show.

## RECONSIDERATION

There were no items scheduled for reconsideration.

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

### A. Spit Parks and Recreation Committee – Commissioner Lillibridge

Commissioner Lillibridge summarized her report which she explained was part of a combined meeting of the Spring Park Walk Through and Spit Committee. She noted the pros and cons for Mariner Park and asked for additional comments from the commission. The following was noted:

- Incredible ocean views
- established campground
- Steady source of income in season
- large area for parking and maneuvering  
For large RV, campers, etc.
- Dangerous entrance/exit from main road
- untidy Day Use area – green areas and gravel
- Gazebo and picnic area combined
- Camp spaces too close together
- Firepits

Commissioner Brann commented on adding the extension of the Bike Path to Mariner Park on the same side of the Road. Chair Bremicker commented on relocation of the entrance and extending the 35 MPH speed past the curve in the road. It was noted by Commissioner Brann that at one time in the CIP a tunnel was recommended but has since fallen out of favor as an alternative Pedestrian Crossing to Mariner Park. This was not recommended due to the feasibility and costs involved. Making a more noticeably marked and relocated pedestrian crossing would be sufficient and more cost effective. Further comments on Mariner Park were issues involving ownership, restrooms, and the campgrounds.

#### The Pier One Campground

- Ocean views in choice location
- Location of Pier 1 is an asset
- Shelter with tables for functions
- Central location on the Spit
- Ample parking
- Campgrounds are untidy along the sides of the Pier ! building
- Pier 1 building in need of paint, and repairs
- Shelter has rotten timbers, safety issues
- fire pits are inadequate
- Needs an overall facelift

#### Seafarer's Memorial

- Well Known Landmark
- Parking
- Easy access to the beach
- History and Location for Memorials and ceremonies
- Could tidy it up a bit
- Install more benches for seating

#### End of the Road Park

- Parking Area accessing fishing at the end of the spit
- Small Sign indicating it is a park
- very popular spot besides lagoon for fishing
- just a gravel parking lot
- cannot read existing signage
- needs some improvements, amenities

#### Coal Point Park

- Lovely little hideaway park that is complete
- landscaping and picnic tables
- extremely difficult to locate
- better signage to locate this park

Ms. Otteson submitted a written report to the Commissioners as a laydown item.

She noted that an area was walked that has been requested by the Wooden Boat Society to lease from the City. It was reiterated that this was Port & harbor property and that the Parks has use of this space for a campground . It was discussed that application of dredge spoils could create a boundary between the existing campground and the day use area with the picnic shelter, plant some spruce trees. Update: Commissioner Brann has located and acquired logs to replace the vertical supports of the shelter.

An improvement suggested for the Coal Point park was adding a walkway extension to the west as a viewing platform and adding a continuation of the Spit Trail to the park.

Additional recommendations for Mariner Park were to add Plexiglas wind walls and relocating it to the northwest corner of the park where the Kite Surfing Festival and the Basket Burning.

Chair Bremicker noted that since there is a committee formed specifically to address the parks and recreation on the Spit he did not believe any additional action was required from the commission at this time.

Commissioner Lillibridge requested to be allowed to postpone setting a meeting date as required at the last commission meeting until another member is appointed. Chair Bremicker commented that another commissioner was not needed it would be preferable to have additional persons from the public appointed to the committee.

Further discussion determined that a meeting date could be established after the next commission meeting with the goal to recruit additional interested members.

There was no further discussion.

B. Karen Hornaday Park Committee – Commissioner Archibald  
1. Synopsis of July 7, 2011 Meeting

Miranda Weiss, member of Homer Playground Project (HoPP), thanked the Commissioners for allowing her the opportunity to update the Commission on the progress of the community group. Ms. Weiss commented on the following:

- Community Built, Community Designed Playground
- Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Homer and HoPP
- The Homer Foundation will be serving as the fiscal sponsor
- They have a nest egg of approximately \$18,000
- A professional playground design firm whose principals have experience working in Alaska but the company is based in Ithaca, New York has been hired.
- Design Day in the Schools Friday, September 9, 2011
- Saturday, September 10, 2011 will be the kickoff event with food, fun and a draft concept of the Playground presented by the designers.

Commissioner Lillibridge thanked Ms. Weiss for coming and giving the update to them. She regaled them commission on the extreme energy of this group that has committed to this project. She was really energized after attending the last meeting the group held.

Ms. Weiss inquired if children would be okay to bring to the committee meeting since most of the members do have small children. Chair Bremicker stated he did not think it would be a problem but deferred to Commissioner Archibald as he was the Chair of that committee. Commissioner Archibald did not see a problem with that request, he additionally commented on the possibility of losing continuity if there are a variety of people attending the meetings. Ms. Weiss explained that at this time Deb Cox and herself as co-chairs of HoPP would be attending meetings until such a time that a permanent member

could be found to volunteer. Commissioner Cummings echoed the sentiments of Commissioner Archibald on having a committed member of the HoPP group attend each and every committee meeting.

Commissioner Lillibridge and Archibald responded to a query from Ms. Weiss on the purpose of the Karen Hornaday Park Committee over the next 12 months. Commissioner Lillibridge response included the following:

- look at the master plan and look at the goals of the park
- make sure the funds received are spent on the park
- make sure that all stakeholders are heard
- better updated facilities

Commissioner Archibald added

- stay within the confines without losing momentum
- get public input
- coordinate between all groups and work together

Chair Bremicker questioned if additional members have been recruited for the committee. Commissioner Lillibridge offered the name of Phil Needham, with the Little League folks, desired to be on the committee. Chair Bremicker recognized that the committee is comprised of Commissioner Archibald as Chair, Commissioners Cumming and Lillibridge; Miranda Weiss and Deb Cox, HoPP; Phil Needham, Little League; Jack Wiles, Friends of Woodard Creek; and Ralph Broshes.

It was determined that these people would be ample bodies to make up the committee and were appointed as members by Chair Bremicker.

Commissioner Cumming commented on the aesthetics of the park, and retaining the beauty must be considered during any decisions made, there should be planned parking with considerations to kid safety as well. Chair Bremicker agreed and added that he did not want to overlook the campground. He further recommended to work closely with city personnel.

Commissioner Archibald firmly stated that he did not want to have the committee meetings run to long discussions, he intended to stay focused and stick to the agenda and conduct efficient meetings. He wanted to get things done. He would appreciate the guidance of city personnel to keep them in line.

Chair Bremicker requested clarification on where they were on the agenda and confirmation on Commissioner Lillibridge needing to leave early. Commissioner Lillibridge stated she needed to leave by 6:45 p.m. It was clarified that the agenda was amended and the Visitor scheduled did not show.

There was a further report on the first meeting of the Committee. It was noted that discussion started on the Master Plan and it was agreed that it was premature and the committee should stay focused on the expenditure of the funds in hand and to make sure that it is spent as recommended by the approved master plan.

Commissioner Lillibridge stated that she has received questions from folks associated with the Little League on how the funds designated for the improvements to the ball fields are to be dispersed. Commissioner Brann stated that in earlier conversations with the Little League he recommended that the group prepare a list of priorities regarding safety and maintenance and make a presentation to the Committee/Commission.

Commissioner Archibald stated that it would be beneficial to know the mechanics of how the monies are to be expended. Commissioner Cumming expressed concern that a MOU should be Ms. Otteson commented that the monies were given to the City to use on the park for Phase I improvements in compliance with the Master Plan. She stated that the Little League would not get this money directly. She agreed with the idea of submitting a list to the city with a priority order of items to repair and replace.

Further discussion on whether a MOU with the Little League should be executed such as was done with the HoPP group; submitting things through the committee first; that additional city involvement was not required; not putting up roadblocks but trying to expedite access to the monies; requesting staff to research and come back with the proper channels on how the money will be "doled" out; get a list of priorities, create and issue request for proposals, then hire to appropriate entity; the list from the baseball people may not require a RFP to be issued.

Staff was directed to have the process to Commissioner Archibald for dissemination at the Tuesday, July 26, 2011 committee meeting.

There was no further discussion.

- C. Kachemak Drive Path Committee – Commissioner Harrald
1. Synopsis of the June 17, 2011 Meeting
  2. Synopsis if Surveys Received as of July 13, 2011
  3. Survey received as of July 1, 2011
  4. Recommendations to the Commission
  5. Memorandum dated July 14, 2011 Discussion on Recommendations to Council from the Committee

Chair Bremicker requested a motion and read the motion submitted by the Committee into the record as follows:

THE KACHEMAK DRIVE PATH COMMITTEE OF THE HOMER PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT THE FOLLOWING BE PASSED AND SUBMITTED TO CITY COUNCIL:

TO SUPPORT THE ACTIONS INCREASING THE SAFETY FOR MOTORIZED AND NON-MOTORIZED USERS ALONG KACHEMAK DRIVE IN ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- ALTERATION OF THE EXISTING KACHEMAK DRIVE AND SHOULDER
- A SEPARATED PATH PARALLELING KACHEMAK DRIVE USING THE UTILITY EASEMENTS
- LOWERING THE SPEED LIMIT AND INCREASING THE USE OF SIGNAGE
- THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION WILL WORK IN COOPERATION WITH THE CITY OF HOMER IN THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION PHASES.

BRANN/ARCHIBALD – SO MOVED.

CUMMING/LILLIBRIDGE – MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO READ "TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF PATHS ALONG KACHEMAK DRIVE FOR NON-MOTORIZED USERS INCLUDING WALKERS, RUNNERS AND BICYCLISTS TO INCREASE SAFETY FOR BOTH MOTORIZED AND NON-MOTORIZED USERS IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS.

Discussion proceeded on the wording changes and that the word flow and intent of the motion was the same and the original recommendation was appropriate. The maker and second of the amend pulled the amendment from consideration. Chair Bremicker commented that the motion was acceptable as written.

Commissioner Lillibridge re-read the motion as written for clarification.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Ms. Krause responded to questions regarding the process and what happens when they submit the recommendations to City Council. She informed the commissioners that since this item was not and has

not been on the council agenda, the recommendation can be verbally presented at the August 8, 2011 Council meeting during Commission Reports, a memorandum from the Commission could be submitted for inclusion in the packet. It will be up to the Council if they would like to proceed further on the recommendation and it must have Council support for the recommendation to have anything further done. The commissioners must realize that the recommendation could be presented to council and that is it nothing more happens even with support of councilmembers. The issue will then be finished and the job of the Committee may then be complete. She recommended contacting council members to try to gain support for further action and implementation of the recommendations that will be forwarded by this commission. She confirmed that Council has the option to request a resolution to express support also.

Commissioner Cumming commented that she would like to do as much as possible to ensure that the council supports the recommendation. She expounded on her reasons for having this approved by council.

Chair Bremicker then read the second recommendation into record as follows:

THE KACHEMAK DRIVE PATH COMMITTEE OF THE HOMER PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT THE COMMISSION PASS THE FOLLOWING AND SEND IT ON TO THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL FOR THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WHICH RELATES TO THE MUD BAY SEGMENT GOING FROM THE BASE OF THE SPIT TO AIRPORT BEACH ACCESS ROAD:

AUTHORIZATION TO SUPPORT VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION WORKING WITH APPOINTED CITY ADVISORS TO ESTABLISH THE FIRST PORTION OF THE KACHEMAK DRIVE CORRIDOR, WHICH IN THE NEAR FUTURE WOULD EXIST AS A LEVEL TWO PEDESTRIAN TRAIL PARALLELING KACHEMAK DRIVE STARTING FROM THE BASE OF THE SPIT BICYCLE TRAIL PROCEEDING ALONG KACHEMAK DRIVE AT THE TOW OF THE ROAD BANK AND THEN CHANGING TO THE TOE OF THE BLUFF AND GOING APPROXIMATELY ½ MILE AND ENDING AT THE AIRPORT BEACH ACCESS ROAD.

THE DECRPTION OF THIS SEGMENT AS PROPOSED:

A LEVEL TWO PEDESTRIAN TRAIL CONSISTING OF THREE KINDS OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY - THE FIRST SEGMENT GOING 300 FEET FROM THE END OF THE SPIT BICYCLE TRAIL TO THE BEGINNING OF THE TREES WILL BE COMPOSED IF AN EIGHT INCH BASE OF HOMER HARBOR DREDGED MATERIAL. THE TRAIL WILL PROCEED AT THE TOW OF THE BLUFF ABOVE THE 26 FOOT TIDE LINE (EXCEPT WHERE IMPRACTICAL). THE REMAINDER OF THE TRAIL WILL REQUIRE CUTTING TREE BRANCES TO APPROXIMATELY EIGHT FOOT HEIGHT AND REMOVAL OF DOWNED TREES. WHERE THE TOW OF THE BLUFF MEETS THE TOP OF THE BEACH THERE WOULD BE CUTTING AND REMOVAL OF LOGS AND OTHER DEBRIS. THIS PLAN WOULD NEED DOT PERMISSION WITHIN THE ROAD RIGHT OF WAY, APPROVAL FROM THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND APPROXIMATELY \$5,000 FOR COMPLETION.

Commissioner Cumming wanted to postpone submitting the recommendation to change her focus from pedestrian to bicyclists.

Commissioner Brann commented that the last discussion included comments about upgrading this to a level three trail so he agreed that more discussion was needed before submitting this recommendation and he believes it would encompass the issues for bicyclists.

Chair Bremicker cut discussion short as out of order and that it belongs at the Committee level since the recommendation was pulled.

There was no further discussion.

D. Parks & Campgrounds – Angie Otteson

Ms. Otteson stated that there was a work party at Bayview Park on June 25<sup>th</sup> with Family First. Equipment was installed, painted, built and Alder Stick Fort which was a big hit with the kids. The following week a large group of volunteers built picnic tables, painted bleachers, mowed, re-did the logs to keep the sand in the sand box at Karen Hornaday Park playground. The summer intern has been put to work performing general parks maintenance. There are several events coming up Concert on the Lawn and the Highland Games. The campgrounds have been busy.

Comments from the commissioners were on the flowers and a group of wheel chair bound folks using the picnic tables at Karen Hornaday, plus how well used these areas were ensued.

There was no further discussion.

E. Community Schools & Recreation Report – Mike Illg

There was no report submitted. He was not in attendance.

There was no discussion.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

No public hearings were scheduled.

**PENDING BUSINESS**

- A. Findings and Report on Spring Walk Through for Spit Parks and Recreation Areas
1. Submittal from Commissioner Lillibridge
  2. Report from Commissioner Harrald
  3. Report from Angie Otteson, Parks Maintenance Coordinator

There was no further discussion on this topic it was address under the Spit Parks Committee Report

B. Park Day – Discussion and Final Decisions on What, Where, When, and Activities

The Commissioners reviewed and established the following decisions for Park Day:

- The time will be from Noon- 4:00 p.m. Jack Gist Park
- Chair Bremicker will bring a couple of personal BBQ grills he owns since that park does not cooking facilities.
- Multi-generational games such as softball, volleyball and badminton will be set up. Staff will send a reminder to Mr. Illg.
- 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.
- 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. Staff will send a reminder to Commissioner Harrald on making contact with Mr. Badajos.
- Commissioner Brann will donate 200 pennies. He stated that there was question as to who would provide the sand. The Commission can confer with Ms. Otteson.
- 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.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. Commissioner Absences and Absences and Removal from Seat for Non-Appearance

This item was not discussed as it was noted that the Commissioner submitted his resignation to the Clerk this morning via email. Chair Bremicker expressed relief at not having to deal with this issue.

There was no further discussion.

B. Recommendation to Express Support for the Interagency Land Management Assignment

Commissioner Brann and Archibald explained the purpose of including this on their agenda tonight and explained that even though the official comment period expired on Wednesday, July 20, 2011 all letters, emails and resolution expressing support of issuing the Interagency Land Management Assignment (ILMA) that will authorize the Homer Demonstration Forest for educational purposes for another 25 years it was still very important that as a community they should express support of continuing the agreement. All letters of support should be sent to [jusdi.mcdonald@alaska.gov](mailto:jusdi.mcdonald@alaska.gov) or 5550 W.7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Suite 900C Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3577.

BRANN/ARCHIBALD - MOVED TO SEND A LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMMISSION ON RENEWING THE INTERAGENCY LAND MANAGEMENT ASSIGNMENT(ILMA) THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR ANOTHER 25 YEAR PERIOD AND TO INCLUDE THIS AGREEMENT IN THE DIAMOND CREEK MASTER PLAN.

Discussion included the importance to renew this agreement as it affected the Diamond Creek trail project and the Homer Demonstration Forest.

ARCHIBALD/CUMMING – MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO REQUEST A RECOMMENDATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL.

There was not discussion.

VOTE. (AMEND) YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VOTE.(MAIN) YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion.

C. 2012-2017 Capital Improvement Plan Recommendations

Chair Bremicker explained the progress and recommended that the try to stick to Parks and recreational related projects. He recommended they each take turns recommending and project then they can select the top five out of those and then prioritize them if required.

After an interval reviewing and each commissioner suggesting projects the commission by consensus agreed to submit a recommendation to city Council on following:

MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS IN PRIORITY ORDER FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2012 -2017 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT LISTING.

1. KAREN HORNADAY PARK IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE I
2. KACHEMAK DRIVE REHABILITATION/PATHWAY
3. MARINER PARK IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE I
4. CONSTRUCTION OF CITY SOCCER FIELDS AND BASKETBALL COURTS FOR PUBLIC USE
5. TOWN CENTER PARKS AND TRAILS
6. JACK GIST PARK IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE I

There was a brief discussion on the inclusion of Town Center and changing it to concentrate on the park and trails within the Town Center area. The old project about building a new city hall was not approved by the residents. The commission additionally discussed constructing soccer fields and basketball courts for public use as a new project to add to the wish list.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

#### **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**

There were no staff comments.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Cumming stated the Chair is tactful but stern.

Commissioner Archibald thanked everyone for all the hard work they have expended.

Commissioner Brann commented good job and thanked everyone. He additionally noted that he would be contacting the Homer News to see about putting a column in the paper the next 4-5 weeks on share the road and he has looked in the costs funding and obtaining driver reminder signs. He commented that one of those pieces of traffic monitoring equipment costs approximately \$2900.00

**COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Bremicker apologized for the delay in his arrival and reminded everyone to pass on the information about having a new vacancy.

**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, AUGUST 18, 2011** at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

---

RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

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