

*Karen Hornaday Park
Committee*



Thursday
December 6, 2012
Regular Meeting 5:30 p.m.



City Hall Cowles Council Chambers
491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

**MEETING NOTICE
REGULAR MEETING**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. AGENDA APPROVAL**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA**
- 4. RECONSIDERATION**
- 5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** *(Minutes are only approved during regular meetings.)*
There were no minutes presented for this meeting. Memorandum submitted to Commission during the October 25, 2012 meeting included in lieu of a submitted synopsis of October meeting. Page 5
- 6. VISITORS**
- 7. STAFF REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**
- 8. PENDING BUSINESS**
A. Continuing Discussions and Recommendations on Improvements to the Day Use Area
Memorandum from Julie Engebretsen dated November 29, 2012 Page 7
- 9. NEW BUSINESS**
A. Land and Water Conservation Fund grant recommendations Page 9
 1. Memorandum from Planning Technician , Julie Engebretsen
- 10. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**
- 11. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**
- 12. COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF** *(If present)*
- 13. COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE**
- 14. ADJOURNMENT/NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 3, 2013 AT 5:30 P.M.** All meetings scheduled to be held in the Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Karen Hornaday Park Committee Recommendations – Round 1

Short Term Day Use Area Recommendations

1. Place topsoil and hydro-seed lawn area, where the dirt work was recently completed. May need to be fenced off for a season to keep people off the new lawn.
2. Build a new picnic shelter, north of the existing shelter.
 - Big enough for 6 picnic tables
 - Divide the space, so there is room for two groups to use the area at a time, maybe 4 tables on one side and 2 on the other
 - Needs a wind break
 - Include a fire pit or fire place
 - Build on a concrete slab so its not so muddy
3. Relocate existing picnic shelter
 - Move to a location between the two upper fields
 - Place on a concrete slab, and install rain gutters
 - Replace roof, paint fascia boards
 - Reconfigure the grill set up
4. Paint the restrooms, repair the roof as needed, replace fascia boards
5. Continue landscaping efforts so the park looks a little more loved
6. Continue working on drainage concerns
7. Allocate some money for a camp host location
8. Clean out the ditches along the north side of the baseball fields
9. Clean out the drainage ditch north of the playground
10. Clean up the exterior of the connex between the baseball fields
11. Explore options for Little League storage. At minimum, paint the concrete block building.

Long term, consider finding a new location for Concert on the Lawn so its not held on a ball field. A lot of work has gone in to improving those fields and the event is very hard on the turf. We would never hold a community event of that size on the new high school track. Maybe the revamped day use area could be used for Concert on the Lawn.

Next steps: The Committee will continue to work on ideas for the area between the playground and the picnic shelter. HoPP has funds for another piece of play equipment. Public Works is arranging for basic drainage surveying to be done, and the parking lot improvements were just completed. The Committee will meet again and may have another round of recommendations in time for the January P&R Commission meeting for this area. This will allow the Public Works Department time to work with the ideas, for the 2013 construction season.

To: Karen Hornaday Park Committee
From: Julie Engebretsen, Planning Technician
Date: December 6, 2012 Meeting
RE: Day Use Area

Updates:

- Dirt work between playground & parking lot is done.
- Ability Surveys is completing an as-built survey of park, including elevations. We should have this any day now....hopefully we'll have a copy at the meeting!
- Nelson Engineering will use the survey to do a road layout & parking design, and a basic cost estimate, say 35%. (Not bid ready documents). This will probably be completed in January, and includes the day use area, overall drainage plan, and how the dirt would be moved around the site.

Day Use area, next decisions:

1. Need input on picnic shelter ideas/style
2. Where will the new picnic shelter be located?
3. Need to set aside a space for one more play equipment piece from HoPP.

Next Steps/Future meeting(s)

- Forward a style and location ideas for the shelter and proposed play equipment to the Commission
- Look at Nelson Engineer's site design work...February? Discuss road alignment, parking, and longer term view of the park. Identify the next set of priorities.
- Feb/March? Look at proposed budget and plans for day use area construction; decide how committee/interested citizens will work with public works.

Attachments

Day Use Recommendations, already made and accepted by the Commission



City of Homer

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To: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
From: Julie Engebretsen, Planning Technician
Date: November 29, 2012

Subject: Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant

Action requested: Forward a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission to apply for the grant, and pursue funding for projects 1-4 (page 2).

Introduction

Land and water conservation fund grant

The City has the opportunity to apply for a grant for more improvements at the park. The City applied the last time funding was available, but was not successful. We asked for a large amount of money, and there just wasn't a lot of money available to spread around. Only three communities were funded last time, and Homer came in fourth.

This time, Katie Koester's strategy is to ask for less money. She recommends asking for \$75,000, and the Administration thinks Council will agree to come up with a new \$75,000 in matching funds. So, this grant and the match are all pretty much new money that is not related to the grants and city funds already in place.

Grant details:

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant program can provide up to 50% matching assistance for land acquisition and development of public outdoor recreational facilities.

For this open competitive grant cycle, the state anticipates distributing \$360,911. Applications must request no less than \$50,000 and no more than \$125,000 in LWCF grant assistance. Since this is a 50-50 reimbursable matching program, an applicant's total project costs would be at least double the grant request. **Application Deadline:** Preliminary applications must be received by 5:00 PM on Friday, Feb 1, 2013

Timing

- KH Park Committee recommendation, December 6th
- P&R Commission recommendation, December 20th
- City Council Resolution, January 14th, and 28th if needed
- January 29th, grant mailed, must be received by Feb 1st!
- Money will not be available until late 2013 or spring 2014

Staff input

Myself, Katie, Angie and Carey have discussed some project ideas. We still have funding for and are working on the day use area, and engineering. This new grant money would not be available probably until the 2014 construction season. So, we think it would be best to use this grant to pay for improvements that are not already underway, and that we have not identified funding for. Specifically, this grant favors campgrounds, and high use facilities. Considering the projects, funding, and timing of what is already happening, we recommend the following:

Possible Projects (several or all):

1. Access Road extension to back ball field, loop around new picnic shelter location
2. Drainage along the back side of the ball fields
3. Create a camp host site. Provide electricity.
4. Level campsites, improve drainage, and improve access road

Things we can think about, but might not fit well in the application and project timing at the park.....

- Walking trail along ball fields
- Little league storage area, get rid of coach connex, TLC to block building

Projects 1-4 are not tied to the other things we have going. No other projects will be delayed or affected if we do or don't get the grant.

Woodard Creek Trail

Staff also discussed the Woodard Creek trail. If the City decides to move the road and change the parking lot elevation, that could have a big impact on an ADA trail. (The grant requires ADA facilities). We won't have answers to those questions in the next 6 weeks. We recommend focusing on projects 1-4 for this grant application. There are other funding opportunities for the trail.

Action requested: Forward a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission to apply for the grant, and pursue funding for projects 1-4 (page 2).

