

Session 14-09 a Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order on September 18, 2014 at 5:30 pm by Chair Matt Steffy at the Cowles Council Chambers City Hall located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS LOWNEY, ARCHIBALD, STEFFY, MACCAMPBELL, AND LILLIBRIDGE

STUDENT REP: PEDRO OCHOA

TELEPHONIC: COMMISSIONER BRANN

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER ROEDL (EXCUSED)

STAFF: CAREY MEYER, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR  
JULIE ENGBRETSSEN, DEPUTY CITY PLANNER  
RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Commission.

### PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Adele Persons, city resident, reported on the actions taken at the recent Public Arts Committee meeting in support of the placement of the Loon Sculpture in Bishop's Beach Park.

Asia Freeman, resident, Bunnell Arts Center is providing this sculpture as a gift to the city, she described the construction process and materials, explained that the artist has been working over 10 years using and improving this process of Ferro concrete over steel mesh with steel armatures, the paint can be power-washed to remove any graffiti, easily mitigating the instances of vandalism. Ms. Freeman assured the commission of the integrity of the sculpture and noted that the Bunnell Arts Center will be donating \$1000 towards maintenance costs.

Michele Miller, speaking on behalf of the Public Arts Committee stated that the committee voted unanimously for acceptance the second time and Asia Freeman and Michael told the committee about the maintenance commitment of the sculpture but the committee left the placement to the experts.

Bill Ostwald, city resident, commented on the wonderful work and changes that have been implemented. Mr. Ostwald spoke about the improvements and enjoyment living in Old Town. He spoke in support of placing the sculpture at Bishops Beach. He expressed concern that vandalism would be a deterrent to the placement of the sculpture or any improvements. Mr. Ostwald stated he believe changes for good will change the environment. He further suggested changes to the environment to create good will chase away the bad guys and making changes to the rules regarding the parks will be needed otherwise you will end up with the monkeys running the zoo.

Tom Zitzman, city resident, commented on the beauty of the area and stated that the sculpture would add enhancement. There are many uses that do lend to compatibility but unfortunately there are uses that are incompatible. Do not be fearful of vandalism. This is making a statement of what we are trying to encourage in the community.

Lori Zitzman, city resident, commented on the art that has been placed and was in favor of placing the sculpture in the park. She wanted the commissioners to think about protecting the art and the park in that area so everyone can enjoy it. What is going on now on the beach with the trash, trespassing and the noise she believes it is time for a curfew and a gate. What is happening on the beach now is not compatible.

**VISITORS**

A. Beth Cumming, Trail Connections

Ms. Cumming presented a request to the commission to build trail connections and include these in the 2015 Budget Request. Following is a summary of her request and reasons:

- Connecting Bartlett and Hohe using a dedicated but undeveloped street right of way on Danview
- connect Lee Street and Pioneer Avenue using a dedicated but partly undeveloped street right of way of Shelford
- Both connections would be Level 1 Trails
- use HART funding for construction
- Both connections could be completed in minimal time frames
- These connections would allow pedestrians to bypass busy streets such as Bartlett and Main
- would offer a way to travel by foot to businesses on Pioneer Avenue

There was a brief discussion regarding motion for the request and determination of the amount to request could be done under Pending Business. Staff has provided a map in the memorandum that will be addressed under pending business.

**RECONSIDERATION**

There were no items for reconsideration.

**ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Minutes for the regular meeting of August 21, 2014

Chair Steffy requested a motion for adoption of the consent agenda.

LILLIBRIDGE/LOWNEY - MOVED TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS**

A. Staff Report - Julie Engebretsen, Deputy City Planner

Ms. Engebretsen stated that Ms. Marianne Aplin, manager of Islands & Ocean Visitor center has requested to be a visitor for the next meeting regarding Bishop's Beach, habitat restoration and a bit about what has been commented on tonight. She wanted to give the commission a heads up so it is not a surprise. Problems at Bishop's Beach will be brought up during the City Manager's Report at the Council meeting on Monday.

Moving forward with the PARC Needs Assessment, she will email Commissioner Lowney with some facts to report to Council. They are working on the survey and some advertising and have targeted the week of October 6<sup>th</sup> they will go live. A public meeting has been scheduled for November 13<sup>th</sup> at Islands and Ocean Visitor Center, no time has been designated yet for the event but it will be in the evening hours.

Commissioner Lowney inquired about incentives and Ms. Engebretsen commented that is later on the agenda under new business.

B. Parks Maintenance - Angie Otteson

Ms. Otteson was not in attendance.

C. Community Recreation - Mike Illg

Mr. Illg was unable to attend in person. He contacted the Clerk via email and has recommended the commission schedule a "Recreation Walk Through" for a Monday night.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

There were no items scheduled for this meeting.

**PENDING BUSINESS**

A. Budget 2015

Chair Steffy read over the approved budget requests. Ms. Engebretsen explained the new request for the trails and that they will need to make a motion.

Discussion ensued and covered the following points:

- funding sources
- Safety Issues with proximity to Kharacters and no lighting
- Current use of trails by the community
- Removal of an existing fence across Shelford from current project
- Improved safety to pedestrians along Bartlett and Main streets

Chair Steffy requested a motion to add Shelford Trail and Danview Trail connections.

MACCAMPBELL/LOWNEY - MOVED TO APPROVE THE SHELFORD AND DANVIEW TRAIL CONNECTIONS AND ADD TO THE 2015 BUDGET REQUEST

There was a brief discussion.

VOTE. YES. LOWNEY, MACCAMPBELL, ARCHIBALD, BRANN, LILLIBRIDGE, STEFFY

Motion carried.

Student Commissioner Ochoa voted in favor of the action.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. Donation from Bunnell Street Art Center of a Loon Sculpture Created by Rachelle Dowdy for Bishop's Beach Park

Chair Steffy brought the item to the floor and asked for comments or concerns from the commission.

Commissioner Archibald commented on the sculpture noting his previous concerns and seeing it completed has changed his opinion somewhat but that he favored support for the sculpture being placed in the park.

Commissioner MacCampbell concurred.

Chair Steffy requested a motion to approve the placement of the sculpture in Bishop's Beach Park.

MACCAMPBELL/LOWNEY - SO MOVED.

Commissioner Archibald asked for a report from Carey Meyer, Public Works Director/City Engineer on his findings regarding soil conditions in the preferred locations within the park. Mr. Meyer stated that there were two test holes dug. He followed with the conditions found at each hole. The first one was unsuitable due to water. He expressed confidence that they will be able to construct a foundation that will disperse the load on the fill in the preferred area.

Commissioner Lillibridge showing an aerial view of the area requested Mr. Meyer to indicate where he is recommending the installation. Commissioner MacCampbell opined that the farther away from the parking lot the better commenting that vandals typically want access to a quick get-a-way. Commissioner Lowney reported that she has re-visited the Anchorage museum to view previous works of art from the artist and supported the location recommended by staff.

VOTE. YES. BRANN, ARCHIBALD, LILLIBRIDGE, STEFFY, MACCAMPBELL, LOWNEY

Motion carried.

Student Commissioner Ochoa voted in favor of the action.

#### B. Establishing a Fall Park/Recreation Walk through Date & Time

Chair Steffy introduced the item for discussion recommending the commission select a Monday at Mr. Illg's recommendation. Suggestions by the commissioners were the following Mondays: October 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>.

It was agreed by consensus of the commission to schedule a recreation walk through for Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup> since the majority of the commission will be available. Commissioner MacCampbell will be out of town after the 11<sup>th</sup> but Commissioner Brann will be arriving in town that day however he could not commit his attendance.

Staff will contact Mr. Illg to confirm the best time and starting location for the visits.

#### C. Elections

Chair Steffy introduced the item and there was a brief commentary from several commissioners on the necessity to hold elections. Staff provided direction.

LOWNEY/LILLIBRIDGE - MOVED TO KEEP COMMISSIONER STEFFY AS CHAIR AND COMMISSIONER BRANN AS VICE CHAIR.

There was a brief discussion and compliments on the efforts of Commissioner Steffy and Brann.

VOTE. YES. LILLIBRIDGE, ARCHIBALD, MACCAMPBELL, LOWNEY, STEFFY, AND BRANN

Motion carried.

Student commissioner Ochoa voted in favor of the action.

#### D. Establishing a Karen Hornaday Park Fall Clean up Date & Time

Chair Steffy introduced the item to the floor for discussion and requested clarification from the Clerk on clean up. Ms. Krause explained that a year or two ago the commission established the annual fall cleanup for the park to "put it to bed for the winter."

Chair Steffy called for recommendations.

After a brief discussion on availability the commission agreed with Saturday, October 11, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Staff will contact Angie Otteson to determine what the volunteers should plan to focus their energy on at the park.

Commissioner MacCampbell offered Angie the use of trailers and 4 wheelers if needed to contact him at her convenience.

E. Budget 2014: Discussion on Expenditures for the Remaining Balance of Commission Funds

Chair Steffy read the title into the record and inquired what the fund balance was at this time. Ms. Engebretsen stated that it was \$1634.

LOWNEY/ARCHIBALD - MOVED THAT AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$800 BE EXPENDED FROM THE COMMISSION FUNDS TO PURCHASE DOOR PRIZES AND INCENTIVES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REGARDING THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT.

There was a brief discussion regarding funding for advertising in the paper, on the radio and postcards.

VOTE: YES. BRANN, STEFFY, LILLIBRIDGE, MACCAMELL, ARCHIBALD, LOWNEY

Motion carried.

Student Commissioner Ochoa voted in favor of the commission action.

The commissioners discussed additional expenditures they would like see for the remainder of the year as follows:

- Thank yous to volunteers - City has note cards that are suitable - No expenditure needed.
  - Need listing of names and organization but this can be on the October agenda
- Signage for parks as recommended from staff
  - Coal Point has a new sign
  - Which parks are in high need of signage
  - would like to do two signs if possible
  - Staff will contact Angie Otteson and have further information for the October meeting
- Interpretive signage at Coal Point Park
  - Staff will contact Carey Meyer regarding budget allowances from Spit Trail project and other sources of funding
- Providing Lunch to volunteers and staff at the park clean-up day

ARCHIBALD/LILLIBRIDGE - MOVED TO APPROVE EXPENDING UP TO \$150 AT SUBWAY FOR SANDWICH PLATTERS FOR THE FALL PARK CLEAN-UP ON OCTOBER 11, 2014

There was a brief discussion on the expenditure for sandwiches over pizza.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

A. Commission Annual Calendar

Chair Steffy noted that they have scheduled the KHP fall clean up, they will be approving the annual meeting schedule for 2015 and will be finalizing the thank yous at the next meeting.

B. Commissioner Attendance Schedule at Council Meeting

There was a brief discussion on commissioner attendance at council meetings for the remainder of the year.

Commissioner Lowney will attend Monday, September 22nd

Commissioner Steffy will attend Monday October 13th

Commissioner Archibald will attend Monday October 27th

Commissioner Lillibridge will attend Monday November 24th  
Commissioner MacCampbell will attend Monday December 8<sup>th</sup>

Commissioner Lillibridge left the meeting at 7:15 p.m. after she made her comments for the record.

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

Ms. Person commented on the proximity of the trail to Kharacters and the benefits to getting people off of Main Street.

Beth Cumming, commented on the purpose for creating the two short connective paths. She described the connection of trails from Reber Trail to Pioneer Avenue and then to the library and the banks.

Tom Zitzman thanked the commission for serving and commented on the vandalism potential and related the terrible problems that are experienced from trash, loud parties and trespassers. He described that they endure each night from loud noise from parties to discharging of firearms. Today the characters that are enjoying the beach are such that the residents are too afraid to approach them. He has been told that he would have to press charges. He asked for the commissions help in dealing with this problem. He wants intervention and he hopes that something can be done to help with this matter. Thank you. Mr. Zitzman also commented on the signage he has installed and was taken down by those trespassers in response to Commissioners Lowney and MacCampbell statements/responses about posting signage and whose responsibility it would be regarding private beach property.

Chair Steffy asked for the Clerk to invite the Chief or his representative since he doesn't want to attempt to address these issues without some guidance. Commissioner MacCampbell commented in favor of the discussion also. Commissioner Lowney brought up the issue of access trails and do they want to create more spaces like this and if they do what are they going to do to stop this from happening in other areas.

Ms. Engebretsen commented that the commission can work on this issue all winter long and she believed that there are multiple places within City Code that this needs to be addressed. There is an element that is being pushed out of town center and they are going to places like the area by the airport and Bishop's Beach and also the Spit.

There was additional comments and discussion on the problems of vagrants and vandals, neighborhood watches, alternatives to putting up a gate, curfews, inviting neighbors to attend the next meeting or waiting to speak with the Chief and Administration. Staff advised waiting to discuss this before sending out an official invitation but of course the community can attend the meetings at any time.

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

Ms. Krause reminded the commissioners about the Volunteer Appreciation Party on Thursday September 25, 2014 6-8:00 p.m. and to please RSVP to Melissa or even to her.

Ms. Engebretsen had no additional comments.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER *(If one is present)***

There were no council members present.

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

Commissioner Lillibridge requested adding to the October agenda Bishop's Beach Park regarding implementing changes to park regulations. She went on to provide a detailed incident involving an abandoned and trashed truck that was left in the parking lot. She added that something can be done. She called and reported this to the police and the truck was gone the next day. She understood the feeling of being afraid she has been in the same situation. They have to discuss this and approach the different parameters of the situation and involve the public in the discussion too. They can make

change happen. It is unbelievable that there are people who think they do not have to follow the rules and there are many who carry weapons.

Commissioner Archibald would like to invite Chief Robl to see what the commission can do to assist them do their jobs better down there. He thanked the audience for coming and commented on Loon and after much review and comment he now believes he is kind of cool. Good job tonight.

Commissioner Lowney encouraged the community to participate and comment on what they think will fix the situation before the next meeting. She requested for the October or the following agenda a discussion on the proposed roads through Town Center. She believed they as a commission should speak on that issue. Commissioner Lowney also stated that the Open House for the Needs Assessment should be on the Events Calendar too.

Commissioner MacCampbell agreed with speaking with the Chief to find out what the regulations are and how they can effectively address the situation. It has been his experience that if you create a law there will be lawbreakers. He also stated that if you put up a gate it will only get torn down, so they need to find out what is happening a determine the best route to solving the problems. He appreciates everything that folks are doing and welcomed Pedro to the table.

Student commissioner Ochoa commented on the sculpture and thinks people will like it. It definitely caught his eye.

Commissioner Brann thanked the audience and believes it is important that the public let the commission know what is going on in the community. He also would like to see on the agenda the expansion of the parking lot on the spit in the grassy area next to Boardwalk Fish & Chips. He would hate to see the last bit of grassy area paved over and quoted a refrain from a popular song. Commissioner Brann also wanted to let folks know that while most Alaskans don't care how they do it down in the Lower 48, where he is at in California they are dealing with the same issues. He is enjoying some really nice trails and paved walk ways too.

#### COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Steffy agreed that the discussion on the Bishop's Beach will be a long one but necessary and agreed also with Commissioner Archibald that they need to review what are the existing rules and boundaries. Then figure out how to best fix or enforce them. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting and providing the comments and suggestions.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Steffy adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m. The next **REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY OCTOBER 16, 2014** at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

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Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I

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