

Session 15-08 a Special Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order on May 4, 2015 at 5:35 pm by Chair Matt Steffy at the Cowles Council Chambers City Hall located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

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

TELEPHONIC: COMMISSIONERS BRANN

STAFF: JULIE ENGBRETSSEN, DEPUTY CITY PLANNER
RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Steffy requested a motion to approve the agenda.

LOWNEY/ARCHIBALD - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Chair Steffy invited the public to comment and requested them to please sign in they will have 3 minutes.

Roberta Highland, city resident, requested the commissioners to reconsider the seasonal motorized vehicles on the beach in Area 7. Ms. Highland complimented the recommendations of the Jack Wiles' group on code amendments. She commented on the commission being proactive, and exhibiting the courage and perseverance to make these hard changes due the likelihood of someone getting killed. She wants the commission to think of safety over all. Ms. Highland commented on the eradication of the drug use, establishing a permitting system for land owners, the handicapped and coal collectors. She requested the commission to do their best when it comes to the safety of the public.

George Matz, commented on speaking to the Commission approximately 6 weeks ago, responded that the commission misunderstood him regarding the seasonal disturbance to the migratory birds and permanent damage to their habitat by vehicles whether allowed only seasonal or not.

Don Lane, resident, thanked the commissioners for putting in all the time on the subject for the community, commented on the issues of dogs on and off leash and establishing rules with no enforcement of existing rules, how they can differentiate between property owners and the general public, not easy to understand and making sure they have verifiable/substantiated claims of drug dealing.

Chair Steffy clarified the term landowner as they were referenced in the proposed changes to the policy.

Barb Brodowski, resident, commented on the garbage she removes while walking each and every day on the beaches and the Spit Trail. She provided comment on incidents on the Spit where she collects trash with a 3 foot grabber and was approached two different times by large, unleashed dogs and that pet owners do not pick up after their pets. Ms. Brodowski stated that dog owners are migrating to other areas where there are no regulations regarding dogs. This area is the most visited by tourists and is disgusting with the amount of dog poop along those paved paths around the harbor. She believes that there should be no unleashed dogs in public areas anywhere in the city.

Kathryn Carssow, resident, reinforced her previous comments to the commission on protecting the ecology, expressed her concern about the Beluga Slough and really enjoyed walking with her dog but willing to give that up to protect that habitat. She advocated for a barrier to keep vehicles from that

berm area. It is not supposed to be a road, she has proof of vehicles traveling into areas that they are not supposed to plus taking and burning the wood.

Rika Mouw, city resident, lives along the coastline in Area 1, wanted to thank the staff for their efforts in providing the materials for the public, she supports the reconsideration of Area 7, she commented on the ecological value of the beaches and noted that the commissioners have not addressed Area 1 which is a very fragile habitat area and currently allows vehicles and dogs off leash. To access the beach you must travel over a berm area and you must travel on private property and they have birds in this area year round due to the nutrient rich feeding ground and will nest in this area. Currently there is no viable access except through the wetlands or private property. This is a relatively quiet area that people can walk safely and quietly. The worst area is at the bottom of the Airport Access. You can see where people have driven through this area. She advocated for a barrier similar to Louie's lagoon.

James Spearin, resident and property owner in Area 1, commented that they have put up signage, posts and rocks, but people have pulled them down and moved the rocks, a new berm that has formed has timber collected on top of it, they have had numerous problems with young people having parties and fires down there which is more of a concern with fires burning near that timber. He has no problem with people walking their dogs but those that are doing damage he is not sure how to control them without putting a fence that allows pedestrians only not vehicles. Property owners can have access. He has discussed the issue with the Airport Manager but they have no control over that access.

Chair Steffy requested Mr. Spearin to locate his property on the map. It is located at the corner of Area 5 and Area 1 on the map.

Marianne Aplin, USFW, thanked the Commissioners and noted that a letter has been submitted but wanted to reiterate that they support a year round ban on vehicles, leash law and clean up rules in Area 7. In response to Commissioner Lowney Ms. Aplin clarified that they don't support driving on the beach in general, as well as driving through the tidal areas, but the berms are very important for protecting the habitat.

Paul Eneboe, resident, lives on the point, to the east of Bishops Beach, they along with the Lance and Barbara Petersen own approximately 34 acres, he commented in support what the commissioners are trying to do. They purchased the land in order to prohibit future building they heard about. They do have a big issue that they face every few years with the mouth wanting to drift towards the end of the spit and have been doing it since the 1940's. He purchased land in 1969 and they had to perform that cut every two years. He noted that they are in the process of speaking with the Corps of Engineers to perform the cut again. This will be a twice each decade more or less activity that needs to be done with that channel. He wanted to provide a heads up that this is an ongoing issue that is taken care of in the fall. He does not believe it is particularly damaging. He asked if the commission had any questions of him as a property owner.

Commissioner Lillibridge asked for Dr. Eneboe to point out his property on the map.

Commissioner Lowney asked for clarification on the collection of coal in that area from Mariner Park or accessed the coal from the road that comes down from that area. Dr. Eneboe responded that they have always welcomed the coal collectors and spoke about the pocket where coal collects. He stated in his opinion that driving below the tide line does little if no damage but doesn't believe anyone should drive on the berm or lower on the beach.

Barb Petersen, city resident, requested the location of the "road" that Commissioner Lowney inquired about and explained that that road was on Tillion property and was very well maintained. She noted there were three parcels that are private property that is in the slough and gets covered with high water.

Nancy Hillstrand, city resident, advocated for no vehicles in Area 7, they cannot have utilities unless above ground due to the wetlands in that area, she also recommended the use of "Doggie Dooley's" to compost the dog poop. Ms. Hillstrand owns property in Area 1 also and advocated for the commission to listen to the property owners. She commented on the compaction caused by vehicles as being

implicated in the razor clams issue. She further advocated for protection of the wildlife and pedestrian use of the beaches.

Chair Steffy requested Ms. Hillstrand to provide clarification on ownership of property and private property owners feelings on the public using that land. He would like to get their input on those issues.

Kate Finn, Anchor Point resident, driving in area 7 is unconscionable and unreasonable, and has gotten progressively worse. She is not aware of the quality of the coal, maybe it is really high quality, but there is a ton of coal at Diamond Creek towards Anchor Point. There is coal in other places.

Chair Steffy thanked everyone for coming out and commenting. He encouraged people to submit comments in writing and the more input the commission receives the better recommendations they will be able to make. He encouraged those present to talk to their neighbors too.

VISITORS

There were no visitors scheduled for tonight.

RECONSIDERATION

A. Memorandum from Deputy City Clerk re: Request to Reconsider A Motion on the Subject of Vehicles in Area 7

Chair Steffy read the title into the record and noted that this is not where the commission will discuss the motion but are required to vote to reconsider the motion if it is favorable then it will be moved to the first item under Pending Business.

ARCHIBALD/LOWNEY - MOVED TO RECONSIDER THE MOTION TO MAKE AREA 7 AS SEASONAL ACCESS OCTOBER TO MARCH 31 WITH PLACEMENT OF ROCKS TO BLOCK ACCESS TO THE BERM AREA.

There was no discussion.

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

Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes for the regular meeting of April 16, 2015

Chair Steffy requested any comments, questions or corrections regarding the items on the consent agenda. Hearing none he requested a motion for adoption of the consent agenda.

LILLIBRIDGE/LOWNEY - MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 16, 2015 AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Recommendations Recap - Julie Engebretsen, Deputy City Planner

Ms. Engebretsen recognized page 55 in the packet, this was the notice sent to property owners and that a similar notice will be sent out for the Public Hearing scheduled for the May 21st meeting. She inquired if the commission wanted to include Area 1 property owners. Ms. Engebretsen further indicated that the website has been updated and will be updated again with any recommendations the commission makes tonight.

Staff provided clarification on a recommendation for Area 7 regarding animals in relation to the map provided.

B. Parks & Recreation Trails Symposium Report - Deb Lowney

Commissioner Lowney provided a brief report on the positive response and attendance at the first symposium. MAPP put together a survey which the results are included in the packet. Not tonight but a follow-up was requested during maybe the annual conference this year. Maybe if the commission could discuss at a future meeting would be good. Chair Steffy thanked Commissioner Lowney for organizing.

C. Spring Beach/Park Walk Through Report - Julie Engebretsen

Staff reported they visited Bishop's Beach, Mariner Park and the area of Airport Access and they discussed some items that maybe Park Maintenance can address. Ms. Engebretsen stated that they need to start taking pictures so that they have a photo history of the areas when that can be viewed to see what is working and what more could be done. She was amazed at the changes in the area of the Airport access.

Chair Steffy commented on the Kachemak Heritage Land trust uses GPS to take photos at the same position each year. He advocated for the F.B. I. (Fledgling Bird Investigators) to take on that project and it could then be passed on to the next classes.

Staff explained that if the Commission would like to suspend the rules to entertain a casual conversation with the audience present on the recommendations made to date. However they do not have to suspend the rules either.

STEFFY/MACCAMPBELL - MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ENTERTAIN DISCUSSION WITH THE AUDIENCE ON RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BEACH POLICY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTIONS. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no items scheduled for this meeting.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Map Depicting the Existing Areas and Proposed Areas

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1. Recommendations to Define a Pedestrian Only Area
2. Recommendations Regarding Motorized and Non-Motorized Traffic Areas
3. Recommendation to Establish a Limited Permitting System
4. Recommendation to Designate a New Area
 - a. Boundaries
 - b. Allowable Activities

Ms. Carssow commented on the vehicles parking down below the berm right up on the slough outfall and there is no reason to park there, other than to be out of sight. There is no view there. She admitted to taking their pictures and getting funny looks but she does not observe them doing anything or getting out of their vehicles. She also reported vehicles speeding towards the water driving across the berm really fast and spinning out near the water. This does damage to the berm and the toe of the berm and should stop.

Roberta Highland further commented on the signage indicating a pedestrian zone and the amount of vehicles that park and travel on the beach. The days are gone that require people to travel on the beach and she further advocated for closing Area 7 to vehicles period.

Chair Steffy asked if there were any additional public comments. There were none.

A. Request to Reconsider a Motion on the Subject of Vehicles in Area 7 Page 53

Chair Steffy read the title into the record and turned the floor over to Commissioner Archibald.

Commissioner Archibald stated that he initially proposed a motion that would close the area to vehicles but it was apparent that it would not pass that meeting so he amended it. He would like to propose the following motion:

BRANN/LOWNEY - MOVED TO MAKE THE AREA DESCRIBED AS BISHOP'S BEACH ACCESS TO BELUGA SLOUGH MOUTH IN AREA AS SEASONAL ACCESS OCTOBER 1 TO MARCH 31 WITH PLACEMENT OF ROCKS TO BLOCK ACCESS TO THE BERM AREA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NO. LOWNEY, MACCAMPBELL, STEFFY, ARCHIBALD, BRANN, LILLIBRIDGE
VOTE. ABSTAINED. ROEDL

Motion carried.

ARCHIBALD/LILLIBRIDGE - MOVED TO CLOSE AREA 7 TO VEHICLES ANNUALLY.

The Commissioners offered comment on strong enforcement, working with US Fish & Wildlife, vehicles are not benign and they need to take a stand, this area needs the protection and should have delineations to protect this area, and the economic impact to the city from visitors to the beaches. It was noted that closing the area would in effect close the Bishop's Beach access since no vehicles would be allowed. Concern was expressed on dealing with the lack of parking already in Old Town and adding to the issues by closing the ability to park in the beach.

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

Motion carried.

B. Recommendations to the Beach Policy

1. Beach Policy Review 2015 - City Website
2. Map Related to Recommendations for Dogs On and Off Leash Areas
3. Map Related to Recommendations for Motorized Vehicles

Chair Steffy approves that vehicles banned on area 8a, 8B and Area 7. He has concerns that Council will not approve this overall ban. Commissioner Lowney suggested providing Council two options which she doesn't like to do that. Commissioner Lillibridge recommended keeping the ban in place she stated that if they provide options that backpedalling before they get out of this room and are showing non-confidence to Council in their recommendations. Council submitted the issue to the commission so the commission should stand their ground. They have received plenty of testimony regarding these issues and they should listen to the community.

Commissioner Roedl commented on the increase in population of the area and the eventuality of closing the beach in all areas but strongly recommended that they consider parking options for pedestrians that are convenient because they are going to need to provide that service since they will be closing the beaches.

Further discussion on parking issues that closing the beach to vehicles will create in area 8A & 8B ensued.

Staff recommended that over \$700,000 was spent to improve Beluga Slough Trail and there is plenty of parking at Islands and Ocean that could be used.

Further comments on the city purchasing land, filling land in to make additional parking, turning the recreational grassy area in Bishop's Beach Park, which is a heavily used area, into parking, make walking on the beach safer by banning all vehicular traffic, providing trolley transportation from the Islands and Ocean parking lot to the beach.

Chair Steffy thanked Commissioner Roedl for bringing the issue of parking to the attention of the commission.

Commissioner Archibald commented on one last point that delineation of the park boundaries would maybe allow a few additional cars to park without allowing travel to the right or left onto the beach.

Chair Steffy approached the map to point out the area that Commissioner Archibald was speaking about and would then require the commission to revisit the recommendation made on vehicles in Area 8A towards the west but could be discussed at a later date.

Chair Steffy inserted that they are not going to be able to solve the parking problem until the resolve the Beach use problems. He next introduced the subject of vehicles and Area 1 and asked if the commission would like to address that area at this time.

Commissioner Lowney next commented that she had previously made a motion and would be willing to bring that back to the floor; staff recommended that she should just make the motion.

LOWNEY/MACCAMPBELL - MOVED TO PLACE A BARRIER AT THE BOTTOM OF AIRPORT ACCESS ROAD THE PREVENTS VEHICLES FROM LEAVING THAT PARKING LOT.

Discussion ensued regarding vehicular traffic being prohibited from Area 1.

MACCAMPBELL/LOWNEY - MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INSTALL A GATE AT THE TOP OF THE BEACH ACCESS ROAD.

There was a brief discussion on ownership of the right of way. Staff suggested just making the recommendations that the commission wanted.

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

Motion carried.

LOWNEY/LILLIBRIDGE - MOVED TO CLOSE AREA 1 TO MOTORIZED TRAFFIC.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Steffy asked if the commission had any additional recommendations or questions.

Commissioner Lillibridge requested clarifications on the recommendations shown on page 57 of the packet regarding approval. Staff explained that all the bullet points have been approved by the commission. Chair Steffy provided further clarifications on the monetary requirements for the beach patrol. Commissioner Lillibridge expressed concerned with enforcement of the new recommendations. Staff noted that if these new recommendations are approved then there will be no vehicles allowed on the beaches.

Commissioner Lowney would like to entertain discussion on the kiosk suggestion from the students and implement this at each beach location. Discussion on having this done and whether they contract the

opportunity out and offer it for free or for a minimum price they should recommend this for all the city beach accesses. Chair Steffy commented in favor of this idea also. Further comments regarding the provision of information, firewood, and signage along with a display of maps would be a great opportunity to also offer explanation of the closure of beaches for the benefits of the community. Recommendations to install a park host can be done at a later date depending on how the current recommendations are accepted citing the difficulties in obtaining a Camp/Park Host for Karen Hornaday it was preferred to have one there before Bishop's Beach. Further comments were noted on the requirement that all camp/park hosts must be willing to testify in court.

BRANN/LOWNEY - MOVED TO BAN ALL GLASS CONTAINERS FROM THE CITY OF HOMER BEACHES.

Discussion followed that this makes sense as a safety issue and the difficulties in dealing with the hazards of broken glass even within the fire pits.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

LOWNEY/LILLIBRIDGE - MOVED TO ALLOW THE BURNING OF PALLETS BY PERMIT ON THE BEACH.

Discussion ensued on the safety hazards with the nails remaining, offering exceptions by permit to special events such as the burning basket. This can be allowing at the discretion of Park Staff. Further discussion on installation of a large enough fire pits ensued. Commissioner MacCampbell could not support the burning of pallets for a number of reasons including theft and safety.

MACCAMPBELL/ARCHIBALD - MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO BAN THE USE OF PALLETS IN FIRES ON THE BEACH.

There was further discussion on the dangers burning pallets, inefficient clean-up methods and the fact that most pallets are stolen.

VOTE. (Amendment) YES. LOWNEY, MACCAMPBELL, STEFFY, ARCHIBALD, BRANN, LILLIBRIDGE
VOTE. NO. ROEDL

Motion carried.

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

Commissioner Lillibridge commented on submitting their recommendations to Council on changes to the Beach Policy and she is afraid that Council will not consider the vetting that the Commission has done listening to all the months of public comments. Chair Steffy related that he envisions providing council with a presentation on the background, how and what took place to reach the recommendations that will be presented to them. He will present it in a way that is responsive to the people. Commissioner MacCampbell questioned if someone has been keeping track of the number of public that has been attending each meeting which is quite a bit than those who have commented. Commissioner Archibald inquired if they would be able to have a worksession with Council on the draft recommendation.

Staff indicated that June 8th and June 22nd are the next Council meetings and depending on the next meeting of May 21st the meeting on the 8th would be a short turnaround time since the City Clerk needs the packet materials no later than June 3rd. Staff expressed it is doable but tight depending on the possible changes or additions to the recommendations.

Chair Steffy did not want to rush since they have spent a lot of time on this issue. He would advocate for waiting to see how the May 21st meeting went. Staff explained that they could lose the opportunity to speak with Council so she suggested having a worksession, this could be 4:00 p.m. on June 8th which would be approximately 45 minutes of Council's time or if that is not available approximately 25 minutes at 5:00 p.m. Chair Steffy advocated for the more time the better. They could then have a presentation to Council on June 22nd.

Ms. Krause requested clarification on the content of the meeting for June 22nd, such as approving the Beach Policy. Staff explained that she is planning to have the actionable items ready for Council by that time such as Resolutions or introduction of ordinances. She noted that she will begin working with the City Attorney on these items.

C. Comments or Recommendations to City Council on the P.A.R.C. Needs Assessment

Chair Steffy introduced the item and commented on the value of comments or recommendations to Council and extended his thanks Ms. Engebretsen for her guidance and assistance during the whole process.

Commissioner Archibald inquired how this will work with the possible establishment of a service area.

Ms. Engebretsen responded that if ReCreate Rec wanted to start a service area that City staff would be able to assist to best of the limits established by being employed by the City. She further explained that the information is still being digested by the groups so nothing will be done right away. Chair Steffy added that with the offer of the Pratt with the space potential in the old building plus other unused spaces around town will also be looked at. Commissioner Archibald also commented on the volunteer aspect from those who want that particular sport or activity.

Ms. Engebretsen also commented in response to the Pratts offer of usable space because if they could have a building that would accommodate all the uses the building would be huge. So the more other existing space that can be accessed the smaller the community recreation center requirement needs are for the community.

Commissioner Lowney commented on the responses from the older and families without small or young children and if the non-responses were tracked would have offered some information. Ms. Engebretsen explained that the survey was statistically valid because realistically they do not have that many families with young children living within the city limits.

Chair Steffy commented on the Council's comments regarding the use of zip codes was misunderstood. He noted the commissioners who attended the presentation that was given to Council by Agnew::Beck. He noted some Council members had digested some of the information and some had not. He did note that the presentation was a bit dry while the material was good.

Ms. Engebretsen will inquire about the additional "web clicks" information at the next meeting with Agnew::Beck.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business on the agenda.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. Commission Annual Calendar 2015

Chair Steffy reviewed the calendar and mentioned the review of Budget items for next year.

B. Commissioner Attendance at City Council Meetings 2015

Chair Steffy confirmed attendance at Council meeting on May 26 by Commissioner Lillibridge and the May 11th meeting will be attended by Commissioner Archibald.

C. Memorandum from Public Works Director re: Condition of Spit Camp Fee Building

Ms. Engebretsen will provide a confirmation of what was decided.

D. New ATV Rules in Wasilla - ADN News Article dated April 28, 2015

Chair Steffy commented that it was interesting aspect that they are making changes in the valley, not quite beaches but a similar long time use of ATV's.

E. Informational Research Conducted by Commissioner Lowney (Various organizations research on vehicular impact to the habitats on and around beaches.)

Chair Steffy commented that this was very informative and appreciated the time and effort expended by Commissioner Lowney for providing this information to the commission.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Mike Illg, city resident and employee, He complimented the work that Ms. Engebretsen and commented on the recreation program and the importance of the needs assessment. He encouraged the commission to focus on the nucleus of the driving force of why this Needs Assessment was conducted in the first place. Summertime is gorgeous and people are getting outside, there is still a need for indoor recreation space in the winter. The HERC building is temporary solution but they still do not know how long they will be able to be there. They still do not have general maintenance or custodial service for that facility. They are on a shoestring budget that uses a lot of volunteer help which is great. (At this time the Mission Impossible theme started to play over the speakers.) Mr. Illg continued by stating that there are many people who access the indoor recreation programs which provides for the young families that do not have the time, money or voice; so please do not lose sight of the indoor space needs for a lot of things. He further stated that City Council is interested in the funding options and a service district is one of those options. He offered that maybe another statically viable survey could be done for city residents.

Bill Ostwald, resident, thanked the commissioners for their efforts and encouraged them to stay focused on what they are trying to accomplish here. He appreciated Commissioner Lillibridge's comment on concerns regarding presenting the recommendations to Council as the commission sees them, not as they think Council may want it. He felt strongly that if they do not close the beach to vehicles they will not see the drugs and other behaviors stop. It may go someplace else but he did not care if it did. The city wants to attract families and visitors not speeding trucks and remnants of drug use to that area. Mr. Ostwald commented on the rationalization by the general public but guess it will be dealt with in its own way.

Roberta Highland, commented on public safety issues regarding the recommendations the commission is making and recognizing that it is difficult to accept change but that it can be done.

Jack Wiles, commented on signage that stats you cannot burn materials on the berm or remove from the berm and he tried to find it in the code. He questioned whether the existing signage is backed up in the Homer City Code or by Ordinance. Will the Beach Policy be adopted by ordinance? If they have recommendations adopted by ordinance how is that enforceable? How will that be easily located on the Homer website? They submitted one recommendation to change in code was to make signage in general enforceable so if you have signage it is enforceable. He commented on submitting it to the city attorney and then the cost that is incurred to the city for his work.

Nancy Hillstrand, she stated that she submitted information regarding the amount of money that is spent in the United States by people who viewed wildlife and visited parks, etc. She felt that it should be used in the commission presentation to Council. Ms. Hillstrand also commented on the usage of the school facilities since they pay the taxes we should be able to access the facilities. She further noted that they may need to be reminded who pays for the facility since there are taxpayers who don't have kids who pay for their facility.

Chair Steffy explained the great working relationship that Mr. Illg has managed to facilitate between the School District and the City recreation program but the School District requirements for come first and foremost.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Ms. Engebretsen commented on how the Beach Policy will be adopted and how the ordinances work along with enforcement. She also clarified that city laws may not be enforceable on private property. She will be submitting the recommendations to the City attorney and working with them

Ms. Krause commented on some information that was shared by the Chair of the Public Safety Building Committee relative to tax payers and service areas and the aging population in regards to comments on funding recreation.

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

There were no council members present.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Lillibridge thanked the audience for speaking and commented on the impressive garbage collection by Ms. Brodowski and applauded her personal efforts. Commissioner Lillibridge recalled the phrase, "Change is inevitable, Growth is optional" she would like to see that as the headline on the presentation. So many people that have attended these meetings understand that the growth of Homer is part of an equation and that they are trying to do the things that will protect the city and beaches now and in the future. Homer is a changing city just as it is a changing planet. If they do not step forward and make a plan now it will be very easy to lose that voice, and having those that would rather keeping the ability to keep doing the activities that will eventually destroy our beaches and she is all for making that growth a fact, not optional.

Commissioner Roedl commented on the meeting and liked the idea of limiting the vehicles on the beach but expressed concerns about limiting the access to the beach, he believed they needed to improve pedestrian accesses to the beach so that they will be able to park their cars and walk to the beach.

Commissioner Archibald is happy about what they accomplished tonight and hopes they are too. He hopes the public keeps coming out and thanked the staff and public. It was a great meeting.

Commissioner MacCampbell commented on the difference today compared to 30 years ago with the use of 4 wheelers and UTV's. He commented on experience in Santa Cruz Mountains in California that even driving to the beach is bumper to bumper and you cannot drive on the beach since there are too many people. He appreciated the efforts of Ms. Brodowski and agreed that owners need to be more responsible. He agreed that it is unreal with the amount of dog poop on the docks. He was under the assumption, the wrong assumption, that if they make a recommendation or resolution that it will be developed into an ordinance and an ordinance needs someone behind it that can say we have tried this number of things it did not work so here is your citation.

Commissioner Lowney thanked the public for sticking to end with them and thanked the staff and their efforts for walking them through this process because without them she does not know where they will be; Commissioner Lowney further advocated that they look into beach front purchases to increase parking areas for beaches and to also view the beach. She also wanted to make sure that better enforcement was conducted in the Day Use areas to make sure it is utilized appropriately, another area to look at is curfews on the beaches may help, she would also like to collect some data specific to the beaches and how it feeds the economy which allows residents to exist here with an income. She would like to add the Trails Symposium to a fall agenda preferably to coincide with the Fall Conference. She would really appreciate the information on the Land and Water Conservation grant for Karen Hornaday Park.

Commissioner Brann thanked everyone for attending and staff.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Steffy commented on his visits to Bishops Beach and the number of people who pull out and park on the berm, he was curious if they would park in the parking lot or would they go somewhere else. He understands the draw of parking on the beach besides the better view of the water you are not looking at the butt end of a truck. Chair Steffy likewise advocated having the meeting outside if it is nice and sunny!

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Steffy adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m. The next **REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2015** at 5:30 p.m. A **PUBLIC HEARING IS ALSO SCHEDULED DURING THAT MEETING ON ALL THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES TO THE BEACH POLICY** at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I

Approved: _____