

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Session 24-10, a Regular Meeting of the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair David Lewis at 5:30 p.m. on October 17, 2024 from the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

**PRESENT:** COMMISSIONERS HARRALD, LEWIS, ARCHIBALD, PARSLEY AND KEISER

**ABSENT:** COMMISSIONERS ROEDL (EXCUSED), STEFANO (EXCUSED)

**STAFF:** DEPUTY CITY CLERK APPEL  
CITY MANAGER JACOBSEN  
RECREATION MANAGER ILLG  
PARKS MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR FELICE  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KORT

## **AGENDA APPROVAL**

ARCHIBALD/PARSLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA** (3 minute time limit)

### **VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS** (10 minute time limit)

- A. Budget Development FY26/FY27 with Elizabeth Fischer, Finance Director

Ms. Fischer presented the budget development schedule to the Commission as well as the budget process itself. She stated a budget worksheet would be sent out to each department and commission to provide input and feedback moving into the next fiscal year. She noted the City Manager would be presenting the proposed budget to the City Council in February 2025, then the budget would be adopted in April 2025.

## **RECONSIDERATION**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Unapproved Meeting Minutes for Regular Meeting on September 19, 2024

ARCHIBALD/PARSLEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 REGULAR MEETING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS** (5 minute time limit)

- A. Parks & Trails Report for September 2024  
Memorandum from Parks Maintenance Coordinator as backup.

Parks Coordinator Felice reviewed his report for the Commission noting the following:

- Maintenance on the road up to Karen Hornaday Park to help with rain and drainage
- Trail maintenance in preparation for winter including cutting back brush on trails
- West lot, Lucky Shot, and Story Trail are completed
- Bayview Park: Walkway to be paved by East Road Services, playground and swing set are installed, concrete is set
- Jack Gist: Water and sewer hookups are in place for restrooms, fall cleanup on fields
- Winter prep around the city: transplanted peonies, wrapped flower beds and barrels, ditching alongside Ben Walters Trail

- B. Community Recreation Report for October 2024  
Memorandum from Recreation Manager as backup.

Recreation Manager Illg reported on the following:

- Purchase of score clock console at Homer High School for Adult Basketball League
- Rec Champions met to talk about the multi-use community center. Investigating HEA property, city's town center property, borough land behind Homer Middle School, focusing on cost for water, sewer, and electric for each site.
- Local community members working with the Homer Foundation to potentially start a 'Friend of the Community Center' organization
- Update on attendance to National Recreation Parks Association Conference in Atlanta, Georgia

Mr. Illg responded to questions on the potential lots for the Community Center and if assessment of each lot is allowing for future growth.

- C. Staff Report for September 2024  
Memorandum from Recreation Manager as backup

Recreation Manager Illg reviewed his report for the Commission noting the upcoming City Council worksession on October 28 to talk about the Land Allocation Plan. He noted the Commission had made some recommendations, as well as the Port and Harbor Commission. Mr. Illg concluded with indication of a potential worksession in 2025 to discuss the property more specifically.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**PENDING BUSINESS** (15 minute time limit)

- A. Beach Policy Review  
Memorandum from Recreation Manager as backup

Chair Lewis introduced the topic and deferred to Recreation Manager Illg.

Mr. Illg reported reaching out to multiple staff from different departments to review the beach policy for potential proposals and changes. Mr. Illg received feedback from Police Chief Robl including a recommendation to consider changing the access dates from October 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>. He noted there were conversations with staff to strike audit and review of beach access points and documentation from 'every 3 years' to 'as needed.' Mr. Illg also reminded the Commission of any proposed changes brought forward would need final approval by City Council due to changes needed in city code.

Chair Lewis opened discussion of Beach Policy.

Commissioner Archibald brought up concern over 'as needed' wording of audit and review of beach access points and documentation.

Commissioner Harrauld agreed with this point, expressing concerns that the beach policy review would turn into a monthly discussion issue.

Commissioner Parsley asked the last time the beach policy was reviewed since being created; discussion followed including last amendment date.

ARCHIBALD/KEISER MOVED TO CHANGE THE DATES OF OPEN VEHICLE ACCESS TO SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>.

There was a brief discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

KEISER/ARCHIBALD MOVED TO CHANGE THE AUDIT REVIEW OF UPDATES TO THE BEACH POLICY FROM 'EVERY 3 YEARS' TO 'AS NEEDED' TO ADDRESS CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES.

There was no discussion

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. City of Homer PARC SWOT Analysis- Review and Discussion

Chair Lewis introduced topic for discussion.

Commission agreed analysis was time well spent and information gathered will be helpful in forward thinking for the City. The Commission noted the information will be utilized creatively to build capacity and funding in the future with further discussion revolved around the term 'underlying contradictions' in terms of budget challenges and scale back, possible existing revenue streams, and organizational structure.

KEISER/ARCHIBALD MOVED TO ACCEPT THE SWOT ANALYSIS DATED AUGUST 15, 2024 AND FORWARD TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

There was no discussion

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS** (15-20 minute time limit)

- A. 2025 Advisory Bodies Meeting Schedule- Review and Approval  
Memorandum from City Clerk as backup

Chair Lewis opened topic for discussion.

Commissioner Keiser asked for clarification on meeting dates, after noticing the Commission doesn't meet three months out of the year.

PARSLEY/ARCHIBALD MOVED TO ADOPT AND RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE 2025 ADVISORY BODY MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- B. Budget Development

Chair Lewis introduced topic for discussion.

Chair Lewis requested the Clerk to assign this topic to the November 21st meeting agenda for further discussion.

Mr. Illg noted himself, Parks Coordinator Felice, and Public Works Director Kort would be working on a memo of budget items for the Commission to consider for the November 21st meeting. Commissioner Keiser mentioned possible opportunities for both grants and nonprofit participation that would enhance funding.

There was no further discussion.

**INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

- A. City Manager's Report for City Council Meeting October 14, 2024
- B. City Newsletter – Fall 2024 Edition

**COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE** (3 minute time limit)

Eden Badajos, city resident, started commentary about the Jack Gist Park disc golf course. He stated the course is a great resource for outdoor recreation for the city. He mentioned a team of volunteers that continuously improve and maintain the course but accessibility is limited during the summer months due to the amount of grass growing on the course and no equipment to cut it back. Mr. Badajos stated that in the past, the city had been allowing the utilization of city equipment up until this year. He asked the Commission for help and ideas on better utilizing city maintenance energy, possibly using the new tractor or mowing the softball fields and the disc golf course on alternating weeks.

Carl Nostrint, Kachemak City resident, owner of a business called Alaska Sports Services, made a presentation in support of building a small field pitch and asked for recommendations from the Commission on where a field could be built. He stated he doesn't want the city to pay for it and asked if the city could allow for outside funding. He noted FIFA wants to see soccer or FUTSAL to take off in Alaska due to the location between Asia and Europe, to allow for more high end international play.

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

Deputy City Clerk Appel thanked the Commission for the fun meeting

City Manager Jacobsen stated she came to the meeting to sit in and listen to the Commission's comments about the budget.

Chair Lewis asked Park Maintenance Coordinator Felice about the volunteers maintaining the disc golf course and why they were no longer allowed to utilize the city's equipment. Mr. Felice responded the city's attorney had advised against the utilization of city equipment by non-employees.

Recreation Manager Illg reminded the Commission of the Comprehensive Plan Worksession at Islands and Oceans Center on Tuesday, October 22nd. He encouraged all the Commissioners to attend.

### **COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL**

### **COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Harrauld commented on Jack Gist Park and the volunteers who maintain the parks throughout the city. She stated enthusiasm for finding ways to work with partnering organizations to help make the parks more accessible and usable.

Commissioner Keiser suggested making an agenda item to have Mr. Badajos come back to discuss the disc golf course issue as a presenter.

Commissioner Archibald commented about underlying contradictions mentioned in the SWOT Analysis and what the facilitator meant by that term. He also commented on the disc golf course.

Commissioner Parsley discussed the disc golf course and agreed there needs to be a longer conversation about keeping it accessible all year round.

Chair Lewis commented about how recreation brings in money and sales tax.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission Chair Lewis adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m. The next regular meeting is **Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.** All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

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Ashley Appel, Deputy City Clerk I

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