

Session 20-04, a Regular Meeting of the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Robert Archibald at 5:35 p.m. on April 15, 2021 via Zoom Webinar from the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

**PRESENT:** COMMISSIONERS ARCHIBALD, ROEDL, LOWNEY, HARRALD, GALBRAITH, FAIR

**ABSENT:** COMMISSIONER LEWIS, AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE BLANTON-YOURKOWSKI

**STAFF:** PARKS SUPERINTENDENT STEFFY  
DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KEISER

### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Vice Chair Archibald requested a motion to approve the agenda.

FAIR/HARRALD MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA**

Asia Freeman, city resident, commented on the partnership between organizations in Homer to form the Homer Drawdown Committee, to bring awareness on the importance of peat conservation through art. The first will be an artist in residency program and the second will be working with the city to bring an educational and inspiring mural on the importance of peat. They are interested in aligning with the city's upcoming investment in airport renovations and improvements by integrating murals into the exterior of the main terminal building. She then noted that the Commission will be hearing more in the coming months as the discussion unfolds around the airport renovation and they define the scope of that project.

### **VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Homer Council on the Arts, Executive Director Scott Bartlett – Public Private Partnerships for Art Murals

Scott Bartlett, Executive Director for Homer Council on the Arts (HCOA) spoke to the Commission regarding the opportunity brought to him by Parks Superintendent Steffy a few weeks ago to partner with the City on a public call for art murals for placement on the retaining walls that were constructed by the Alaska State Department of Transportation (AKDOT) at the Sterling Highway and Main Street and Pioneer Avenue and Svedlund. He proceeded to state that HCOA has been looking at the process that

would outline that partnership to encourage local submission for public comment and feedback. He stated that there were many different options on how that could be arranged. Mr. Bartlett further stated that Parks Superintendent Steffy and he have spoken about the potential of funding that would be available to frame this so it is a project that is rewarding to the artist as well as the community. He then referred to pictures showing the locations and measurements of the space and comparing to recent murals, the artist's fees would start in the ballpark of \$3,000-\$5,000. The HCOA is very interested in partnering with the city on this opportunity.

Parks Superintendent Steffy reported that he has reached out to Pete Johnson with the State Department of Transportation (AKDOT) central office on the best way to handle this and will be working on the details with him. He then reported that he felt this was the best way to handle it as he knows the Commission could do it but recommended that they let the HCOA do the advertising, selection and bring their recommendation to the Commission who would then submit their support to the City Council to move the recommendation up the line.

Mr. Bartlett stated that it was important to have a multiagency stakeholder panel to review but the bigger question was if they wanted to have public comment on the mural selection before approval. He further stated that they discussed the proposed timeline in issuing the call for proposals for four weeks, initial review and shortlisting, public comment, then final review would be 10 weeks from when they would put paint on the walls and adding public comment would bring that to mid-July if they issued the call by end of May.

## **RECONSIDERATION**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Minutes for the regular meeting on March 18, 2021

Vice Chair Archibald introduced items on the Consent Agenda and requested a motion to approve.

FAIR/LOWNEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA CONTAINING THE MARCH 18, 2021 MINUTES.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

## **STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Parks Report - Parks Superintendent Steffy

Vice Chair Archibald invited Parks Superintendent Steffy to provide his report.

Parks Superintendent Steffy noted his written report in the supplemental packet and apologized for the lateness but noted that it has been very busy. He highlighted the following items:

- Lot of good strategies on how to approach special projects and tasks this year
- Recruitment is open for the summer temporary positions
- This Saturday will be the last vaccination clinic that Parks Staff will be supporting
- He has been attending the Alaska State Trails Annual Conference by Zoom
  - o Some discussions on the creative use of COVID Funding and COVID impacts on trails
  - o Keynote address by Senator Murkowski
- SCORP meeting with 149 members with discussions on connectivity
- Trail management and that they are also transportation routes
- Updates to the Non-motorized Trails & Transportation Plan was getting a statewide appreciation
- Availability of workforce development
- Spoke with Scott Bartlett and Jennifer Norton about logistics of hosting events outside including an inflatable amphitheater which would qualify for a Rasmussen grant
- 900 Anglers signed up for the Winter King Derby
- Mariner Park gate has been locked for the season
  - o Vehicle issues on the beach due to other accesses
- ARPA Roundtables on camping and turf maintenance and upcoming ones on social media and land acknowledgement
- Recreation Champions Group put together by the City Manager
- North Pacific will remain on the beach until after Labor Day, they will be looking at placing chain link fencing for safety.
- Erosion issues at tent camping areas on the Spit
- Status update on painted garbage cans and fire rings
- Map of the Disc Golf Course created by park staff and is available on the website

Park Superintendent Steffy facilitated discussion on the connectivity in trails and how the Commission can assist in being more proactive

- Updates are in process on the Non-motorized Trails and Transportation Plan
- Commission working with the Planning Commission to bring trails in new developments being constructed in the design period
- Land Acknowledgement placement has changed and the Commission should be more involved in that to see where it is headed
- Compliments on bringing more art into the recreational places

Vice Chair Archibald provided information on SCORP and its purpose and urged the Commissioners to comment on that process.

B. Staff Report – Public Works Director Keiser

Vice Chair Archibald introduced the item and invited Public Works Director Keiser to speak.

Public Works Director Keiser reported on the following:

- High School Senior will be having a parade again this year for graduation and they will be installing the banners along Pioneer Avenue
- Worksession on the Public Works Department Budget was conducted and they have proposed a number of increases in professional and maintenance type services for parks as well as capital improvements.

C. Staff Report – Recreation Manager Illg

Vice Chair Archibald introduced the item and noted that Recreation Manager Illg had a conflict and could not attend the meeting but submitted a written report for this meeting.

There were no comments or questions from the Commission on the report.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**PENDING BUSINESS**

- A. City of Homer Beach Policy Review and Update
- Ordinance 21-23 Amending Homer City Code 19-20.020 Personal Watercraft
  - Memorandum from Port Director/Harbormaster as backup

Vice Chair Archibald introduced the item by reading of the title and then requested guidance and clarification from Deputy City Clerk Krause on the document provided in the Supplemental Packet.

Deputy City Clerk Krause reported that the document in the packet did not contain all the previous amendments made by the Commission at the March meeting. She further noted that there were still amendments that the Commissioners need to address.

Vice Chair Archibald read the previous amendments made on the policy at the last meeting. He then noted that the next amendments were on line 26-38 was updated to better reflect the purpose and intent of the policy and requested a motion.

Commissioner Lowney noted that she would like to address the amendments individually.

Deputy City Clerk Krause explained that the Working Agenda lists the amendments in order as they appear in the document. She then brought up the beach policy in a share screen to assist in addressing those amendments.

HARRALD/LOWNEY MOVED TO AMEND THE PURPOSE AND INTENT SECTION BY REPEALING AND RESTATING THE SECTION AS SHOWN IN THE DRAFT DOCUMENT IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL PACKET.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Vice Chair Archibald then noted Lines 76-78 were updated since the installation of gates to prevent or limit access to sensitive areas were completed.

A brief discussion ensued on whether a motion was needed since this was a staff recommendation or adopt the changes through the final motion to adopt the entire document. It was agreed by consensus to adopt the updates in the one final motion unless there were questions or issues on the update.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- Addressing the amendments and updates to make sure that the Commission understand each recommendation and can draft or review the content for the new sections;
- How the document is formatted;
- A worksession would be better to address these issues and for fine tuning the document.
- The policy should contain information related to the regulations and appendices with the goals or actions items for improvements such as the stairway can be reflected in another document like the CIP or separate listing

The Commission agreed to have a worksession on the Beach Policy at 4:30 p.m. prior to the May 20, 2021 regular meeting.

- B. Karen Hornaday Park Proposed Parking Improvements – Memorandum from Public Works Director as back up

Vice Chair Archibald introduced the item by reading the title and deferred to Public Works Director Keiser.

Public Works Director Keiser noted that the Commission has had some discussion on this project and she wanted to specifically identify the various elements of the improvements and the proposed funding for them. She spoke to how City Council will approve the strategy for funding at their April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Vice Chair Archibald expressed his appreciation for the great job that Ms. Keiser is doing to move parks related projects forward.

- C. Mariner Park Lagoon Dredging – Memorandum from Public Works Director as backup

Vice Chair Archibald introduced the item by reading of the title and invited Public Works Director Keiser to speak on her memorandum.

Public Works Director Keiser reported that the photos provided were immediately after they dredged the entrance at 2:30 p.m. and by 4:30 p.m. it was completely filled again. She reported receiving a call from a property owner who stated that they did not dig deep enough so they made an additional attempt and so far it appears to be working. Ms. Keiser informed the Commission that they will be able to extend the permit from the Army Corps of Engineers for another 10 years, so they will be able to plan for further action.

Commissioner Lowney commented on the memo on page 29 in the packet, stating that it was unsuccessful and that the Commission should review their previous recommendation. In light of this update, the dredging was successful. Public Works Director Keiser responded that as of today, the second attempt has been successful and provided an explanation of the process and information received from a neighboring property owner to effect the results. Commissioner Lowney cautioned against doing more than necessary to limit the impact to wildlife.

Commissioner Harrauld commented that dredging has been happening for a very long time and it is interesting that there was no institutional knowledge available.

Public Works Director Keiser noted that they had the history but it wasn't all in one spot or located with one person. She just wanted to make sure the Commission received the update on the new attempt and that they brought a surveyor in to pinpoint the elevations.

Parks Superintendent Steffy conveyed that they have reached out to the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve and Cook Inletkeeper to provide some scientific best practices for the issue.

D. Mobile Food Vendors in City Parks – Memorandum from Public Works Director as backup

Vice Chair Archibald introduced the item by reading the title and invited Public Works Director Keiser to speak to the Commission. Public Works Director Keiser deferred to Parks Superintendent Steffy since he was participating on a committee formed by the City Manager to address amendments and updates that involved the Special Event Permit, Homer City Code and itinerant merchant process.

Parks Superintendent Steffy reported that when the issue first came forth it was within the realm of the Special Event Permit which is getting a rewrite but as this progressed it was determined that they need a separate process other than the itinerant merchant permit that allows food trucks in city parks because other than a special event they are prohibited from operating in the parks. He provided examples of when food trucks are allowed and when they are not.

Public Works Director Keiser stated that this change will also alleviate the requirement for the city to build concession stands reducing the costs to the city and provide economic development opportunities as well.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- Concerns expressed on the likelihood of multiple food trucks showing up at one park
- Various policies other municipalities have regarding food trucks
- Brick and mortar businesses are expanding and having food trucks
- Recommendations at this time are not required but this will come back before the commission when they have the code language drafted and ready for City Council

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. Karen Hornaday Park – ADA Entrance Trail Grant Application

- Memorandum from Special Projects & Communication Coordinator Carroll

Vice Chair Archibald introduced the item by reading of the title. He then noted that Ms. Carroll requested a recommendation from the Commission in support of application for the Recreation Trails Program grant for the construction of the ADA Accessible Entrance Trail.

Public Works Director Keiser commented that the recommendation from the Commission fulfills a requirement of public involvement in the grant process and that notice of the grant application was posted at the park, the Library and City Hall. She further noted that the grant would cover up to \$150,000 and include engineering and construction with a match from the city of 10% in response to question posed by Vice Chair Archibald.

Vice Chair Archibald requested a motion.

LOWNEY/ FAIR MOVED THAT THE PARKS ART RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION SUPPORTS THE APPLICATION FOR A RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT TO CONSTRUCT THE ADA ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE TRAIL AT KAREN HORNADAY PARK.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. Pioneer Avenue Pocket Park Improvements

Vice Chair Archibald introduced the item by reading of the title and open the floor for discussion.

Public Works Director Keiser stated that since the space was very small and sloped with drainage and there were no plans for this area she would welcome any suggestions or recommendations.

Commissioner Lowney verbalized that in the past the commission has expressed the desire to place a covered bench in that location as it is one of the Trolley Stops for Cruise ship visitors and would offer residents a place to rest or relax during a walk.

Parks Superintendent Steffy reported that he recently visited the area and stated that it is more of a drainage park than a green park. There just really is not a flat piece within the designated area that a covered bench could be placed, but he will work on that concept and bring back some ideas on development for a future meeting.

Commissioner Fair commented that since they now have some history and back ground on James Sherry it would be nice to acknowledge the donation with some signage that provides some history and couple of photos.

Deputy City Clerk Krause requested the information be shared with the Clerk's Office for the historical files.

There was a brief discussion on the extent of the drainage issue and if it would require more work to address the containment of the water or if it was a seasonal temporary issue. It was noted that some minimal maintenance of the canal may offer some remedy but it was a natural drainage that went into a culvert or pipe under the sidewalk or road. It is the volume that then ices over that causes the overflow issues. It was recommended that the Commissioners walk the area to view the dimensions and staff stated that they will flag the corners of the parcel.

Parks Superintendent Steffy reported on the goal and purpose of the Wayfinding Committee and working with the Designer hired to create the Wayfinding and Streetscape Plan to offer clarification for the Commission.

It was decided by consensus that the Commission can visit the area on their own as it was convenient for them.

C. Public Works proposed Five Year Capital Improvement Plan Funding Program

Vice Chair Archibald introduced the item by reading of the title.

Public Works Director Keiser reviewed her memorandum for the Commission. She provided the following highlights:

- This will be on the City Council agenda for April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting
- It is a long term funding strategy for Capital Projects which include parks and trails
- The items in green have already been funded
- In the FY 22/23 Budget they will be requesting funding for years one and two
- They are requesting support from the Commission to Council
- Bring the proposition to the voters on designating a portion of the HART Trails Fund to be used for Parks Capital Projects

Public Works Director Keiser and Parks Superintendent Steffy facilitated discussion on the following:

- Percentage of the HART Trails Fund to be used or designated for parks
- Types of projects could be deferred maintenance parks projects
- This would be in addition to the existing funding that is already included in the budget process.
- Trails do not need the level of funding that it being set aside while there is not enough funding to address the goals set for the city's parks.
- Progressing with more connectivity within the trail system
- Updates being done on the Homer Non-motorized Trails and Transportation Plan
- Include this in the Commission talking points for the City Council meeting.

D. ADA Transition Plan for Parks and Trails – Memorandum from Public Works Director

Vice Chair Archibald introduced the item by reading of the title.



Public Works Director Keiser provided some background on the ADA Compliance program, creation of the ADA Compliance Committee and reviewed her memorandum for the Commission.

Deputy City Clerk Krause provided a brief summary of the process to create and draft the ADA Transition Plan for Parks and Trails. She stated that the people involved will be the members of the ADA Compliance Committee, any interested members of the Commission were invited and any additional members of the public plus parks and public works staff.

Public Works Director Keiser proceeded to advise the Commission on the funding that is, may or will be available to effect these projects related to ADA compliance. She also noted that the staff will be working with the City Clerk's Office to get this transition plan inspection process started this summer.

E. Spring Beach Park Walk Through

Vice Chair Archibald introduced the item by reading of the title and opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioners brought forward their choices for inspection and listed reason as follows:

- Baycrest Overlook, this has been suggested several times but has not been included in recent years.
- Main Street, to view the erosion, parking and city owned land to see the possibility on creation of another access to ease the Bishops Beach access
- Crittenden Road beach Access, there is tricky footing to access the beach from that access
- Bartlett Street and Pioneer Avenue Area around the Restroom, this is a larger area and would like to consider what more could be done.
- Jack Gist Park, in process is the development of a master plan for the park which will be contracted out and based on the new community development associated with water, sewer and gas connections bringing the potential for many improvements to this park.

Discussion ensued on the day, time and starting place. It was determined that the best day would be Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. It was determined that starting at Jack Gist Park would be best, and then they can proceed to Bartlett/Pioneer Ave, shoot over to Main Street Beach access then Crittenden Rd Beach Access concluding at Baycrest Overlook. Further discussion that this will be advertised and meet the deadlines required.

F. Public Private Partnerships – Art Murals

Vice Chair Archibald introduced the item by reading the title and deferred to Parks Superintendent Steffy.

Parks Superintendent Steffy stated that there are a few questions to be determined as follows:

1. Is the Commission in support of turning over the process to Homer Council of the Arts and the staff will coordinate with the Homer Council on the Arts
2. What will that process look like or will it be similar to the previous selection committees by having two commissioners on the review committee.

Parks Superintendent Steffy stated that the balance is cost versus quality as with any project but more important with public art installations. He noted that they cannot do a typical invitation to bid but at the same time we cannot spend \$50,000 on a painting so there is going to be a complicated review process and that follows the way we would normally conduct art selection he recommends turning this over to Homer Council on the Arts and that one or two commissioners participate.

Commissioner Fair recounted his experience participating on the Selection Committee and process for the Police Station project and believed that the Commission should participate in the selection of the art and would like to serve on the review committee.

Commissioner Lowney agreed and also volunteered to serve on the committee.

Public Works Director Keiser commented that in addition to the mural opportunities that Parks Superintendent Steffy is talking about for those locations he has designated she wanted to remind them about the proposed murals to be placed at the airport and she will be asking City Council for approval to proceed at the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. She requested their comments and recommendation of support of at least hearing more information on the proposed project of placing murals on the exterior of the airport terminal building.

Deputy City Clerk Krause expressed her concerns with the Commission not having the involvement in the process as defined by City Code; the walls in question are not on city property but are in the rights of way and there should be at least a Memorandum of Understanding or similar document should be obtained.

Parks Superintendent Steffy reported that he has spoken to Peter Johnson regarding this proposed project and there are a few steps that are required such as submittal of the proposal in writing to the Department of Transportation and permitting.

Deputy City Clerk Krause expressed that they do have standard processes and wanted to make sure those will be conducted. She then questioned the funding source and if the City will be taking ownership of the art installation.

Parks Superintendent Steffy appreciated the questions responded that they are working with Homer Council on the Arts and Bunnell Art Gallery on funding sources is being explored. He believed that there are funding opportunities available through Rasmussen or Homer Foundation. He reported that the City would take ownership after it would be installed which would then mean the financial responsibility for maintenance or replacement would fall on the city.

Deputy City Clerk Krause stated that would fall in the process that is in place with getting the approval from Council and then included in the Municipal Art Collection.

Further discussion ensued on the following:

- Planning steps involved Public Works submitting a written proposal to DOT, receiving written endorsement from DOT to proceed, establishing a selection committee, making the selection, proposed selection goes to the Commission, and then proposed selection goes to City Council.

- This is more of an art donation than a 1% for art since the property is owned by the State, but will be accepted on behalf of the city, but art has been accepted in a similar manner on the Nomar Wall and Heath Street Wall and Memorandum of Agreements are in place for those art installations.

Commissioner Fair noted the time remaining for the meeting.

Vice Chair Archibald confirmed that Commissioners Fair and Lowney would serve on a selection committee for the proposed project.

#### **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

- A. City Manager's Report for February 22, 2021 City Council Meeting
- B. City Manager's Report for March 8, 2021 City Council Meeting
- C. 2021 Commissioner Annual Calendar and Attendance at City Council Meetings
- D. Roads Assessment Report Summer 2020

Vice Chair Archibald requested a volunteer for the April 26<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Commissioner Harrauld commented that she would do it if no one else could but felt that Council would enjoy seeing someone else. Vice Chair Archibald commented that he would make the report.

Commissioner Lowney requested Public Works Director Keiser to provide talking points for Council and if she would submit them to the Clerk for distribution.

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

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

Public Works Director Keiser commented that she just added capital projects to the list, the Pioneer Avenue Pocket Park improvements, Mariner park dredging, access to the beach from Main Street, murals and then the dog park. As the Commission talks about things she will add them to the list.

Parks Superintendent Steffy thanked everyone for a great meeting and provided a brief summary of the video and the purpose behind it. He added that they placed second in the contest and won an Oculus Quest 2 virtual reality system which they donated to the REC Room. He provided information on an unfortunate incident in which Stevie lost her camera but the Consulate provided funding to replace it. He then noted that the radio station announced the weather in Homer and then Teshio, Japan and the City Manager has appointed or tasked Deputy City Clerk Tussey with coordinating the Sister City program commenting that it was nice to see more interest and interaction. Discussion has been conducted on a dog park and they are considering the area around the RV Dump Station. He then announced the donation of the large glass float by Bob & Barbara Howard.

Deputy City Clerk Krause asked about the placement of the art reminding the Commission and Staff on the process for accepting donations of art, but acknowledged that it may be better to have the Library Advisory Board view the donation first to see if they wanted to have it placed as a permanent

installation. She then announced the vacancies on the various Advisory Bodies and confirmed for Commissioner Fair the worksession date and time on the Beach policy.

#### COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Fair reported that he watched the Sisters & Sea video that Parks Superintendent Steffy and others put together with the glass floats and really enjoyed it. He was wondering if it was going to be distributed on Social Media. He then commented on the Beach policy, the section regarding the possibility of the access road by the pirate ship. He was curious about the situation since there was always gate across it.

Commissioner Lowney commented that it would be good to have a member of Commission attend the ADA Committee in the creation of the Parks & Trails Transition Plan and she wanted to bring up that a dog park has come up numerous times now and did not want that idea of a dog park to get lost.

Commissioner Roedl commented on really looking forward to meeting in person and not by Zoom anymore and have our documents in front us during the meeting.

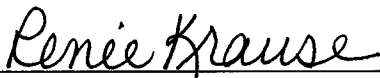
Commissioner Harrauld expressed her appreciation for all the work that city staff has done as it boggles the mind how much is getting accomplished and it looks like this summer is going to be a really busy time for parks. She expressed her excitement for the present state of the parks and the parks team.

#### COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Vice Chair Archibald apologized for not running the meeting as efficiently, he expressed his appreciation to having a worksession on the Beach policy and including the Crittenden Access as he has some information regarding that particular one that he will share at the walkthrough.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. A Spring Park Beach Walk-Through is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on April 28, 2021 and a worksession on the Beach policy is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on May 20, 2021 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.



RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: 