

Session 22-05 a Special Meeting of the ADA Compliance Committee was called to order by Vice Chair Joyanna Geisler at 5:00 p.m. on August 15, 2022, from the City Hall Conference Room - Upstairs located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom webinar.

**PRESENT:** COMMITTEE MEMBERS SAFRA, GEISLER, DEADRICK, PARSONS AND THORSRUD

**ABSENT:** COMMITTEE MEMBER ADERHOLD (EXCUSED)

**STAFF:** ADA COORDINATOR KRAUSE  
SPECIAL PROJECTS & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR CARROLL

### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Vice Chair Geisler requested a motion to approve the agenda.

THORSRUD/SAFRA MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

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

### **RECONSIDERATION**

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A. Unapproved Minutes for the regular Meeting of July 14, 2022

Vice Chair Geisler requested a motion to approve the minutes.

PARSONS/DEADRICK MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

### **PENDING BUSINESS**

A. Memorandum from Special Projects & Communications Coordinator re: 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Plan and Legislative Request

Vice Chair Geisler introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Special Projects & Communication Coordinator Carroll.

Ms. Carroll provided an overview of the memorandum included in the packet that defined the process and actions required by the Committee. She facilitated a robust discussion on various projects in the draft Capital Improvement Plan with the Committee, providing responses to the following:

- if the projects of the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon Accessible Ramp & Fishing Platform and Homer Spit Campground renovations shown for the Fishing Hole Campground could be merged since they were relevant and Mariner Park Campground Renovations would stand as a separate project.
- Recommending a new project then selecting it as one of the Committee's top priority projects
- Separating specific projects so that they will be addressed
- Recommending City projects over State or private projects

After a lengthy discussion, debate and advocacy by the Committee on the benefit to the community and senior population as well as the residents in the Senior Center Housing for a sidewalk on Svedlund Street north of Pioneer Avenue and expressing strong support for non-motorized transportation, specifically sidewalk projects in general the Committee made the following motion:

PARSONS/SAFRA MOVED TO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL INCLUDE A NEW PROJECT TO CONSTRUCT A SIDEWALK ON SVEDLUND NORTH OF PIONEER AVENUE IN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

The Committee continued discussion on their projects to recommend to City Council. After a lengthy debate of the various merits of each project with them expressing support for the New Community Center project as well as the Sidewalk Projects, the Committee narrowed their recommendations to the following:

1. Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon Accessible Ramp & Fishing Platform and Renovations for the Fishing Lagoon Campground
2. City Hall Access Barrier Removal
3. Svedlund Street Sidewalk Project

Vice Chair Geisler requested a motion and second.

DEADRICK/THORSRUD MOVED THAT THE ADA COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS CITY COUNCIL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS IN THEIR LIST OF TOP PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR THE CITY:

1. NICK DUDIAK FISHING LAGOON ACCESSIBLE RAMP & FISHING PLATFORM AND RENOVATIONS FOR THE FISHING LAGOON CAMPGROUND
2. CITY HALL ACCESS BARRIER REMOVAL
3. SVEDLUND STREET SIDEWALK PROJECT

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Memorandum from ADA Coordinator re: Amending the Advisory Body Meeting Time, Name and Homer City Code to Include the Advisory Body

Vice Chair Geisler deferred to ADA Coordinator Krause.

Ms. Krause reviewed the memorandum included in the packet regarding the ability of the Committee to amend their meeting time and presented the idea of becoming a board stating the process that was required to accomplish this change and what it would mean for the Committee regarding their formation, etc. She noted that there would be no change in their duties and Council could always suspend the advisory body but this action would formalize the processes with Attendance, Minutes, etc. She recommended that the Committee address the meeting time first.

Vice Chair Geisler noted that she would not prefer 5:00 p.m. but could make it work on the second Thursday of the month.

Ms. Krause noted that the meeting date of the scheduled months would stay the same.

Committee member Deadrick stated that the 5:00 p.m. meeting time would work for her and noted that it would be beneficial to fill the remaining vacancy that they have.

Vice Chair Geisler inquired if there were any additional comments. Hearing none she requested a motion and second.

SAFRA/PARSONS MOVED TO AMEND THE MEETING TIME TO 5:00 P.M. THE SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH TO FACILITATE MORE INTEREST IN FILLING EXISTING VACANCIES.

There was a brief clarification provided by the Clerk that the previously approved months that the Committee meets as outlined in Resolution would apply. Additional meetings are scheduled as needed when it was noted that the Committee meets in February.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Vice Chair Geisler opened the floor to discuss the idea of changing from a standing Committee to a Board and codifying the advisory body.

There was a brief discussion favorable to making the changes.

Vice Chair Geisler requested a motion and second.

THORSRUD/DEADRICK MOVED TO ADOPT STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS AND FORWARD THE DRAFT ORDINANCE AMENDING HOMER CITY CODE 2.58 BOARDS & COMMISSIONS SECTION 2.58.020 CREATION OF CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AND ADOPTING CHAPTER 2.70 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE BOARD TO THE CITY COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.

There was a brief discussion by the Committee expressing their appreciation for the work provided by Ms. Krause on the amendments.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

### **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

### **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

Jim Monthly, residing just outside city limits, recounted a recent incident and experience at the harbor when he went fishing with his two nephews. He stated that traversing the ramps to the docks when it is low tide is not an easy task now for him and he can just imagine how difficult it would be for someone in a wheelchair. He stated that a Harbor employee was giving his nephew a hard time as he had pulled his boat into a vacant reserved stall to wait by Ramp 2 in front of the Harbormaster's office. Mr. Monthly stated that this ramp offers the easiest decent for him at low tide. He acknowledged that it is a typical Alaska experience with the extreme tides but he was not satisfied with Harbor Officer response and he went on a letter writing campaign to Murkowski, Sullivan and the Governor, noting it was an election year. Mr. Monthly reported receiving a call from the Harbormaster, after the Harbormaster received a call from the Governor's Office regarding his complaints. He continued by stating the Harbormaster was very nice and polite and informed him that they were in compliance with the existing regulations regarding access and there was nothing further that they could do. Mr. Monthly stated that he was not satisfied with that response. He further commented on how unsafe it was for a person in a wheelchair to access the floats at low tide could be and if we could put a man on the moon we should be able to install a lift systems, elevator of some sort that could safely bring a person down to the float system. Mr. Monthly further commented that it would assist emergency services in getting somebody off the docks. He would appreciate any support that this Committee could provide to change or provide a safer access to the docks.

Pat Casey, city resident, stated he was attending to observe the Committee in action and then expressed his appreciation for the Committee including sidewalks, especially Svedlund Street in their recommendation to City Council. He further provided information on a hazard at the corner of Pioneer Avenue where the Car Wash is, that there is a large hole, which presents a real safety hazard to the public. He then noted a trip hazard right in front of city hall he experienced just tonight. The city needs to address these access issues reporting that there are so many all over and it makes walking very unsafe.

Committee member Deadrick stated that in a previous meeting packet Ms. Krause provided a workbook that is a study on how walkable your town is and she was very interested in performing that research

and asked if Mr. Casey would be interested in performing that with her next June. She noted that it would be too late this year as she is working but will have the summers off.

Mr. Casey responded that he would be interested and provided Ms. Deadrick his phone number and noted that he volunteers quite frequently at the Independent Living Center.

The Committee expressed their appreciation for both gentleman attending this meeting and encouraged them both to apply but noted that there is currently only one vacancy.

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

Deputy City Clerk Krause thanked the committee for a great meeting noting that they accomplished quite a bit.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE**

Committee member Thorsrud expressed accolades for the work behind the scenes that Renee and Jenny did for this meeting and that the Committee could not do their job without Renee's assistance.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing no further business before the Committee Vice Chair Geisler adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m. A Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the Cowles Council Chambers at City Hall located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom webinar.

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Renee Krause, MMC, Deputy City Clerk II/ADA Coordinator

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