

CALL TO ORDER

Session 24-04 a Regular Meeting of the ADA Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Christine Thorsrud at 4:00 p.m. on June 13, 2024 from the Cowles Council Chambers, City Hall, located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom webinar.

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS LEPLEY, PARSONS, THORSRUD, SAFRA, VENUTI, O'BRIEN

ABSENT: BOARD MEMBER GEISLER (EXCUSED)

STAFF: ADA COORDINATOR KRAUSE, PARKS MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR FELICE

AGENDA APPROVAL

SAFRA/VENUTI MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 Minute Time limit)

Pat Case, city resident, welcomed Mr. O'Brien and reported that he did contact the High School counselor and she was going to put a list of potential interested candidates together so the next time there was a vacancy they may already have a list to select from.

RECONSIDERATION

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Unapproved Special Meeting Minutes for May 9, 2024

VENUTI/LEPLEY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FOR MAY 09, 2024 AND INCLUDE IN THE RECORD.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT(S)/COMMITTEE REPORT(S)

A. Monthly ADA Coordinator Report - June 2024

Chair Thorsrud introduced the item and deferred to ADA Coordinator Krause.

Ms. Krause noted that there was not much to report and provided an update on the Airport Sidewalk Replacement Project, the Resolution to award the work will be on the June 17, 2024 Special Meeting agenda for approval.

B. Quarterly Public Works Director Update

Chad Felice, Parks Maintenance Coordinator reported that he was attending the meeting to provide a report on projects that are ADA related. Public Works Director Kort was currently starting his vacation. He noted that they are currently in the process to put a project scope of work together to issue the bid packet and the final designs for the Bayview Park project to put it out to bid.

Chair Thorsrud inquired if there was any problems, concerns with communications or working with the Board or ADA issues.

Mr. Felice responded that there were no concerns at this time and if any questions he usually spoke with Ms. Krause as the city's ADA Coordinator or Councilmember Aderhold but now that he has met the other members and Council member Venuti he feels comfortable reaching out to the Board if needed.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Trail Site Audits

Ms. Krause explained the actions requested from the Board regarding performance of the trails site audits for Calhoun and Upper Poopdeck and was requesting feedback on availability of members for next week. After a brief discussion by Board members it was determined the Tuesday, June 18th from 9-noon starting at Upper Poopdeck worked best for the majority of the members that were interested in taking part in the activity.

Mr. Felice confirmed that he will pick up copies of the paperwork from Ms. Krause.

Boardmember Safra volunteered to take the photos and Boardmember O'Brien offered to take the notes.

Boardmember Parsons noted on the draft trails transition plan, the slopes are in percentage and degrees and it would be preferred to have it all in percentages. He reported that the Lower Lucky Shot Trail has some pretty steep slopes.

Mr. Felice reported that he would contact Aaron Yeaton, GIS Technician at Public Works who has an electronic device that can determine the slopes and cross slopes.

Boardmember Safra advocated for more than what was required when it came to amenities such as picnic tables or benches. She explained that they could do better by providing more than the requirement.

B. Capital Improvement Plan Projects Discussion

Acting Chair Thorsrud introduced the item and deferred to ADA Coordinator Krause.

Ms. Krause explained that these are the ADA related projects for the upcoming Capital Improvement Plan and the Board is being requested to review and make sure the language and description is appropriate.

There were no comments on the projects included in the packet.

Discussion by the Board covered the following:

- Chair Lift for the Small Boat Harbor; and
- Contacting the State Congressional representatives on what they could propose to facilitate the transfer of those with mobility issues to the floats; and
- Having Port & Harbor make access a priority issue; and
- Costs for the projects should not make the City hesitate to ask for the appropriation; and
- Various options that could be employed to make the harbor more accessible since they are considering to expand the Harbor.

This will be an ongoing subject for the Board's consideration and may be on future agendas.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Chair and Vice Chair Elections

Acting Chair Thorsrud introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Ms. Krause.

Ms. Krause explained the process that the Clerk's Office has used over the years and noted that the office of Vice Chair is filled first then the Office of Chair. She noted that a second is not required and members can nominate themselves if desired.

Acting Chair Thorsrud called for nominations for vice chair.

Board member Venuti nominated Board member Lepley.

Boardmember Lepley responded that he was willing but would be out of town for several meetings attending via Zoom.

Hearing no further nominations Acting Chair Thorsrud closed the nominations.

Boardmember Lepley was congratulated on his election to the Vice Chair and then opened the floor for nominations of Chair.

Boardmember Parsons nominated Boardmember Venuti.

Boardmember Venuti declined stating that she would like to remain as a member, will report at the Council meetings but did not want to sit as chair.

Boardmember Venuti nominated Boardmember Thorsrud noting that she conducted the last two meetings and did very well.

Boardmember Thorsrud questioned Boardmember Parsons if Boardmember Geisler would serve as chair if she were nominated.

Ms. Krause responded that Ms. Geisler would decline the nomination if she was present and Boardmember Parsons concurred.

Vice Chair Lepley hearing no further nominations closed nominations and congratulated Ms. Thorsrud turning the meeting back over to Chair Thorsrud.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. 2024 Annual Calendar
- B. City Manager's Report for June 10, 2024 City Council Meeting

Boardmember Parson stated that he was interested in a Spit parking update; having free parking in the area between the Seafarer's Memorial and the boardwalk, and accessible parking equity issues regarding paying to park even for accessible parking, stating there are not many free spaces and it may be worth having a discussion.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Pat Case, city resident, commented on culture, ask the question, "How can we do it better?" He wanted to comment on crosswalks, since sidewalks and benches are being addressed, noting Heath Street was in design, and the benefits of creating a crosswalk from the Post Office to the Library would be a safety factor for pedestrians and he wanted assurance that it is included in the project. He then commented on the East End Road and Lake Street crosswalks, which are state owned and maintained roads but noted a discussion he had with Department of Transportation and the grant that they may have funding through that grant. Mr. Case believed he may need a resolution of support from the Board and Council but will let them know.

COMMENTS OF THE STAFF

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Felice expressed his appreciation for the Board and if they needed anything in the future just let him know or let Renee know and she can forward the request to him.

ADA Coordinator Krause thanked everyone for a great meeting and welcomed Boardmember O'Brien.

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember Parsons commented that he was a member of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Safety Committee and noted the recent meetings, another public meeting is scheduled for September, the Homer Culture and when to schedule meetings. He mentioned that they were seeking members of the public to be actively engaged with the group and he did submit Mr. Case's name. Mr. Parson's reported that a former city planner Beth McKibben is chairing the group so she is really familiar with Homer.

Boardmember Lepley welcomed Boardmember O'Brien and expressed his appreciation for the confidence in being nominated for Vice Chair.

Boardmember O'Brien thanked everyone and asked questions regarding taking notes during the audits on Tuesday.

Ms. Krause responded that she will provide the forms and tools needed and Mr. Felice will pick them up.

Boardmember Safra expressed her appreciation to Mr. Case stating that he inspires her for all he does and he is not a member of the Board per se, but he has attended every meeting since she has been appointed, so Thank you. She then welcomed Boardmember O'Brien and congratulated Boardmembers Thorsrud and Lepley stepping up and taking on the leadership. Ms. Safra expressed looking forward to working with Mr. Felice and working with the other Boardmembers on the trail audits next week.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Thorsrud adjourned the meeting at 5:42 p.m. The next regular meeting is Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. All meetings are scheduled to be held in City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska, 99603 and via Zoom webinar.

RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, ACTING CITY CLERK

Approved: _____