

CALL TO ORDER

Session 25-02, a Regular Meeting of the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Lewis at 5:30 p.m. on June 19, 2025 in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS ARCHIBALD, LEWIS, KEISER, PARSLEY & ROEDL

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS STEFANO, HARRALD

STAFF: RECREATION MANAGER ILLG, STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE OSTROM, & DEPUTY CITY CLERK APPEL

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Lewis introduced the topic.

KEISER/ARCHIBALD MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

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

Jason Davis, city resident and City Council member, stated he was in attendance to listen to the discussion of the proposed location for the new Community Recreation Center.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS (10-minute time limit)

A. City of Homer Port & Harbor- Bryan Hawkins

Port and Harbor Director, Bryan Hawkins, spoke to the Commission regarding possible CIP items to update and upgrade the campgrounds on the Spit.

RECONSIDERATION

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Unapproved Meeting Minutes – May 15th Regular Meeting

ROEDL/KEISER MOVED TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

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

A. Parks Monthly Report

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title. Report was provided in the packet.

B. PARCAC Staff Report

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading the title and deferred to Recreation Manager Illg. Mr. Illg recapped his report summarizing actions of City Council including Memorandum 25-166 in regard to the trails at Karen Hornaday Park. He said the trails discussion would likely come to the Commission in the August or September meeting.

C. Community Recreation Report

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Recreation Manager Illg, who provided a report on the following:

- Haz-mat discovered at HERC
- Public Works working with the State to fix HERC findings
- MOU for school district will be presented at the next City Council meeting

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Policies and Procedures- Recreation

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading the title and deferring to Community Recreation Manager Illg. Mr. Illg discussed the updates to the Youth Protection Policy as well as the previously suggested changes to the Policies and Procedures document. The Commission suggested adding a signature line on the back of the finalized document for employees to sign once reviewed.

B. Location of New Community Recreation Center

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading the title and deferring to Community Recreation Manager Illg. Mr. Illg provided background information surrounding the proposed location and insight into what other Advisory Bodies had commented on. Commission carried discussion including the following topics:

- Currently owned by the City of Homer
- Central location in town- checks box as asked by the public
- Size of lot to allow for future expansion
- Project has been on the City's CIP list for a long time as the #2 project
- Walkability/accessibility from the schools
- Proposed lot should have scored higher on the original matrix
- Hope to provide space for creative use/multipurpose
- Mindful of water running through property during development
- Cost of HEA property and if the size of that lot is even sufficient for the rec center needs

Shelly Erickson, City Council member, was invited to speak on the topic. She brought up points including:

- Property being large enough to expand for future development

- Center of town- accessibility
- Relatively easy to get utilities installed
- Potential to work with private developers in a public/private partnership
- The potential to have a space large enough to bring a year round market of tournaments to Homer-boosting the economy
- Homer Foundation has set up an account so the public can donate for all the hard assets of the building and equipment.

Jason Davis, City Council member, also commented on the rec center stating that he and Council Member Aderhold would be introducing a funding proposal related to a new sales tax as a funding mechanism to start accumulating money for a new building.

The Commission unanimously agreed for Staff to draft a memo and present it to City Council in support of the proposed location.

NEW BUSINESS

A. CIP Process: Parks, Rec, & Camping Projects

Chair Lewis introduced the topic and deferred to Community Recreation Manager Illg. Mr. Illg explained the CIP list and asked for the Commission to start thinking about projects they would like to have potentially added to the list. The Commission carried discussion on some ideas including the following:

- Ball fields at Jack Gist
- Bathrooms at Bishop's Beach
- Expansion of the shoulder on Kachemak Drive
- Expansion of the shoulders on both East and West Hill Roads
- Trail connecting East End Road and the Spit via Kachemak Drive
- Trails behind Karen Hornaday Park
- Skate park

B. Budget- Allocation of PARCAC Funds

Chair Lewis introduced the topic and deferred to Recreation Manager Illg. Mr. Illg explained that the previous discussion for a city map wasn't feasible, but the Commission could move forward with a QR Code sign linked to a site managed by Bunnell Street Art Gallery. This QR code would provide information and locations of existing art in the City.

KEISER/ARCHIBALD MOVED TO APPROVE THE SPENDING OF THE COMMISSION'S ALLOCATED \$500 FOR A QR CODE SIGN PRODUCED BY BUNNELL STREET ART GALLERY.

There was no discussion

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. Annual Calendar 2025

Chair Lewis noted the informational materials included in the packet. Commissioner Roedl volunteered to deliver the Commission's report at the next City Council meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3-minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Deputy City Clerk Appel thanked the Commission for the meeting and stated she appreciates the Commission's patience during the learning moments.

Community Recreation Manager Illg thanked everyone for the meeting, making note of how much he appreciated the Council members being in attendance. He also thanked the clerk for all the work done.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Student Representative Ostrom said he is excited to talk about the Karen Hornaday trails in August.

Commissioner Keiser thanked the clerk for her service to the Commission. She asked Staff to talk to Public Works about the possibility of leveling some campsites at Karen Hornaday. She also asked that Staff stay in contact with the representatives for the skate park so their needs could be addressed.

Commissioner Archibald stated Chair Lewis gives a good meeting. He suggested that moving forward, the Commission decides who will do the Council report at the beginning of the meeting so they can be actively taking notes.

Commissioner Roedl said it was nice working with the Commission.

Commissioner Parsley thanked everyone for the meeting. He said he is grateful to be on this Commission and able to have these conversations.

Chair Lewis thanked the clerk and said it was a good meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Lewis adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The next regular meeting is **Thursday, June 19, 2025 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.

Ashley Appel, Deputy City Clerk I

Approved: _____