

Session 22-03, a Regular Meeting of the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair David Lewis at 5:32 p.m. on April 21, 2022 from the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS LEWIS, FAIR, ROEDL, ARCHIBALD, AND GALBRAITH

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS HARRALD, LOWNY AND STUDENT COMMISSIONER FLORA (EXCUSED)

STAFF: DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE
CITY CLERK JACOBSEN
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KEISER
RECREATION MANAGER ILLG
PARKS SUPERINTENDENT STEFFY

The Commission had a worksession at 4:30 p.m. City Clerk Jacobsen provided a training presentation on conducting meetings, making motions, and the Open Meetings Act.

AGENDA APPROVAL

FAIR/ARCHIBALD 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

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

RECONSIDERATION

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Regular Meeting Minutes for March 17, 2022

Chair Lewis requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

FAIR/ARCHIBALD MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Recreation Manager Staff Report

Recreation Manager Illg noted his report provided in the packet and highlighted the following:

- presentation on the multi-use community center and results of the survey
- land use agreements with Kachemak Nordic Ski Club
- participated in Commission Liaison Training with the Clerks

Mr. Illg facilitated questions and answers from the Commissioners on the Kachemak Nordic Ski Club agreement regarding land use, liability and insurance.

B. Parks Superintendent Report

Parks Superintendent Steffy provided a synopsis of his report, commenting further on the following points in the response to questions from the Commission:

last day for the seasonal temporary employee

- last day for his winter seasonal temporary employee
 - regulations surrounding the hiring of seasonal temporary employees
 - difficulties in hiring experienced parks technicians versus parks laborers
- citywide problem in hiring temporary seasonal employees over the last few years
- annual employment of seasonal employees is for a 6 month on 6 month off period which is dependent on the start times
- Birdability accessibility event
- Mid-year budget amendments were approved for public restrooms around town and the Homer Spit
 - Training will be conducted once contract is in place
- Picnic Tables
 - There will be ADA Accessible tables, minimum of one at each location
 - Call for volunteers to build picnic tables to assist in getting them done
- Painting of bricks and amenities for Ben Walters Park
- Initial talks with South Peninsula Hospital regarding lawn space that extends into Karen Hornaday Park to create wellness amenities for Staff and patients.
 - May result in another bridge over Woodard creek in location where there is an island
 - Public access from the hospital parking lot near Long Term Care
 - Hospital has long term lease with the city on city land
 - previous attempt to provide access to this area
 - Hospital Security and Camp ground Hosts
- Changes to WKFL regarding improvements in the flower gardens and remembrance wall for Hospice
- Seafarer's Memorial Improvements
 - ADA improvements that are planned
 - Questions regarding approval of work being done at the memorial and who approves any improvements made by the group members
 - Potential visitors at future Commission meeting

C. Public Works Director Report

Public Works Director Keiser provided information and facilitated questions from the Commission on the following:

- green infrastructure project presentation to the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB)
 - o KPB was receptive to the whole concept
 - o interest in a land trade
- Presentation to Council on Non-motorized Transportation (NMT) at the next Council meeting with ordinances at the following meeting.
 - o Requesting the funds that is projected from collected excess sales tax revenues
 - o Creating a NMT Opportunity Fund
 - intended for pre-design and negotiation with private developers for sidewalks and trails within the developments
 - City Code is not established to require developers to include sidewalks
 - o Various opportunities in current developments located near Jack Gist Park and Karen Hornaday Park
 - o City Code revisions to require developers to include NMT
- Holding the area above Karen Hornaday Park to a future date for consideration and dealing with Fairview and the developable lots within the Terra Bella Development project now.
- Discussion with HOWL may be conducted at future date regarding possible uses

D. Memorandum from Commission Staff Liaison re: City Legislative and Information Update

There were no questions or comments from the Commission.

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Memorandum from City Manager re: Green Cemeteries

Chair Lewis introduced the item and deferred to Staff Liaison Illg.

Mr. Illg reviewed the memorandum for the Commission noting that at this time the City was not interested or in a position to take on implementing a green cemetery but encouraged any separate group to proceed with the process.

Parks Superintendent Steffy provided additional information regarding the burial requirements for the State and that due to prior actions the ground at Hickerson was contaminated with embalming fluid and treated timber of coffins. He further stated that is not a requirement for someone wishing to be interred in the Hickerson cemetery, so one can be comfortable knowing they were not adding further contamination to the ground.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Memorandum from Deputy City Clerk re: Donation of Art to the City Municipal Art Collection

Chair Lewis introduced the item and deferred to Deputy City Clerk Krause. He then inquired about the potential value of the artwork.

Deputy City Clerk Krause stated that the artwork had an approximately value of \$600.00

Chair Lewis requested a motion to bring it to the floor for the discussion.

FAIR/ARCHIBALD MOVED TO FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL THAT THE DONATION BE ACCEPTED INTO THE MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION TO BE DISPLAYED FOR A DESIGNATED PERIOD OF TIME AT THE HOMER LIBRARY AND THEN AT ADDITIONAL MUNICIPAL FACILITIES AS APPROPRIATE.

Discussion ensued on the following points:

- interest of the Library in the artwork
- it was not a local artist but a well-known artist for the area in Washington that they reside
- there is no restriction by the donor to keep the artwork
- there is no requirement that the art be displayed in the Library
- the City policy does not limit donations of art to Alaskan artists or that a donation be retained
- the art should not be accepted only to sell and there is no real burden on the city to accepting the art
- art has been sold by the city just last year
- amending the motion

ARCHIBALD/FAIR MOVED TO FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL THAT THE DONATION BE ACCEPTED INTO THE MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION TO BE DISPLAYED ANYWHERE IN THE CITY.

Additional discussion ensued on the benefit to adding the artwork to the city, the assumed quality of the work and the desire of the donor to offer the opportunity to the City to have a piece like this in the collection.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. Memorandum from Deputy City Clerk re: Letter to the Editor

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title and commented that he thought it was a very fine piece of writing.

Commissioner Fair stated that he did not want to take credit for this piece as Mr. Illg provided most of the materials and information in this edition.

Chair Lewis requested a motion to adopt the letter.

ROEDL/ARCHIBALD MOVED TO ADOPT THE LETTER AS WRITTEN.

Commissioners expressed their appreciation for Commission Fair writing the Letter to the Editor.

Deputy City Clerk Krause requested an amendment to forward to the Homer News for publication.

ARCHIBALD/ROEDL MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO ADD AND FORWARD TO THE HOMER NEWS FOR PUBLICATION.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. (Amendment) NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Lewis then asked if there was any further discussion on the motion as amended.

VOTE. (Main) NON-OBJECTION. UANNIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. 2022 Commission Annual Calendar

Chair Lewis requested a volunteer to report to Council at the meeting on Monday.

Commissioner Roedl was encouraged to report to Council at their next meeting.

Park Superintendent Steffy offered to provide some bullet points.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Deputy City Clerk Krause stated that this was a fun meeting and appreciated it being short after a very long and intense Planning Commission meeting the night before. She announced that she will be leaving for vacation starting Friday and returning the week before the May meeting.

Recreation Manager Illg commented that it was a great meeting and then asked about scheduling the annual Spring Park/Beach Walk Through inspection.

Deputy City Clerk Krause noted that they can put that on the May agenda as the calendar is flexible in that regard.

Mr. Illg proceeded to express his appreciation for the training given by the City Clerk for the staff liaison and to the Commissioners. He then announced that he will be advertising for a temporary seasonal six month hire for a recreation specialist stating that he did have two persons in mind for the position.

Public Works Director Keiser reported that in addition to the items discussed earlier she wanted to inform the Commission that the Rotary Club has submitted a grant for \$10,000 for playground equipment intended for Bayview Park.

Parks Superintendent Steffy invited the Commission to schedule their Spring Walk Through at the HERC facility to view the parks facility located in the HERC facility and this will provide them an opportunity to view the Skate park location and future location. He then commented that the Homer Drawdown will be voting at their next meeting on the next project which on the list is Non-motorized Transportation so if the Commission has any questions they can contact any member of the group. Mr. Steffy then reported on West Library Lot expansion project and that it would be really nice to have an article written regarding the project. He noted to Mr. Armstrong who indicated that he was very short handed that he did know of a person whom may be a very good choice to write the article. Mr. Steffy provided information on the possible funding available through the Homer Foundation for playground equipment.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Galbraith suggested contacting Spenard Builders for picnic tables kits, he was unsure of the materials used but opined that it was probably pine boards and provided information on a possible source for Mr. Steffy to have picnic tables built.

Commissioner Fair reminded the commission that he will be absent for the May meeting and if it was sooner rather than later that the article was needed on the Library lot project, he should be contact soon.

Commissioner Archibald commented on the lack of the city's ability to enforce construction of sidewalks and putting heat on a certain Planning Commissioner and the City Planner.

Commissioner Roedl expressed his agreement and concerns on the sidewalk issue and appreciated the efforts of the Public Works Director to get something done in that direction. He then stated that if the Commissioners have something that they specifically want reported at the Council meeting please contact him and he will try to report to Council appropriately.

Chair Lewis commented that he will be participating in the 100 man project and he can make a presentation to the group. He commented on the ability to present to the group and get an additional \$10,000 for the playground or something. He did not believe that the next meeting was until August.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. There will be a worksession at 4:30 p.m. prior to the regular meeting to conduct a walk though at the HERC facility. The next regular meeting is Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

Approved: _____