

CALL TO ORDER

Session 24-07, a Regular Meeting of the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair David Lewis at 5:30 p.m. on August 15, 2024 from the City Hall Upstairs Conference Room located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar. The Commission met at 4:30 p.m. for a worksession on the development of the Commission Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities Threats (SWOT) Analysis Parks, Recreation, Art & Culture.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS ARCHIBALD, HARRALD, KEISER, ROEDL, PARSLEY, STEFANO, LEWIS

ABSENT: STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE WALKER (EXCUSED)

STAFF: CITY CLERK KRAUSE
RECREATION MANAGER ILLG
PARKS MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR FELICE
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KORT

AGENDA APPROVAL

HARRALD ARCHIBALD MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD SPECIAL PROJECTS & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR CARROLL AS A VISITOR FOR THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN PRESENTATION.

There was no discussion.

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

Motion carried.

There was no further amendments or discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

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

Karin Marks, city resident, commented on the proposed mural suggesting that it could then be placed in other locations. She stated that the Boathouse Pavilion was a very nicely constructed building.

John Foutz, non-resident, wanted to provide comment on access to driving on the beach and was informed that he would need to wait until the end of the meeting or attend the meeting in October. Chair Lewis explained that the Beach Policy was postponed until the October meeting at 5:30 p.m.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS (10-minute time limit)

A. 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Plan and FY26 Legislative Request Presentation by Jenny Carroll
Special Projects and Communications Coordinator

Ms. Carroll presented the draft 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Plan pointing out the various changes and updates and described the process to develop the plan. She explained for the Commission why it included other organizations' projects, noting that typically the City Council did not include them in the listing of top

priority projects, but as a show of support from the Community these projects are important to the City of Homer. She explained and provided clarification on the request to the Commission to present their top three or four projects to Council for inclusion in their top 9 recommendations to the Legislature.

RECONSIDERATION

CONSENT AGENDA All items on the consent agenda are considered routine and non-controversial by the Parks Art Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission and are approved in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a Commissioner or someone from the public, in which case the item will be moved to the regular agenda and considered in normal sequence.

- A. Unapproved Meeting Minutes for June 20, 2024

ARCHIBALD/PARSLEY MOVED TO APPROVE 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 Maintenance Staff Report for August 2024

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Felice reviewed his report that was provided in the packet. He facilitated discussion the following:

- Karen Hornaday Park road was redone up to 200 feet
- Prepared the access road to accommodate delivery and removal of the unit, electrical, water to the location, security lighting installed
- Jack Gist Park parking lot was redone
 - o access road was from the neighborhood was put in
 - o hydroseeding completed
- Bartlett & Pioneer restroom area was completed
- Bayview Park bid was concluded but came in over so additional money is required
- Trail over the creek in Karen Hornaday Park will be reviewed
- A proposed trail in Taijen will require funding
- New Sign for Ben Walters Park in the same style as the one placed in Jeffrey Park has been ordered
- Lighthouse sculpture donation is still being constructed
- Fencing for Bayview Park pricing is needed
- Updates to the financial plans for the next meeting for the upcoming budget cycle
- Homer Soil and Water Conservation District is interested in starting up a Steering Committee for the Homer Demonstration Forest
- Resolution for the Western Lot Library Trail Completion and plans to resurface Lucky Shot and Story Trail.
- Parks Maintenance Coordinator and Part time job description will be redone since duties are changed

B. Community Recreation Staff Report for August 2024

Mike Illg, Recreation Manager reported on the following in addition to his written report in the packet:

- Receiving a lot of calls regarding Pickleball and scheduled meetings with the City Manager and Community Development Director on getting more promotion by the Chamber of Commerce
- Meeting with City Engineer on the installation of the volleyball net system
- Scheduling Kathy Vogel to come and provide a demonstration on the CivicRec software
- Councilmember Erickson meeting with School Officials to assist in clarification on the agreement between the School District and the City regarding the use of equipment
- Looking at expanding use in the middle school as they currently do not have access to the facility; and
- Renewing ARPA membership for the Commission and staff
 - o The 2025 conference will be in Valdez and 2026 in Kenai

C. Staff Report for August 2024

Mike Illg, Recreation Manager reported the following:

- there was little action by Council that involved Parks, Art, Recreation or Culture items or topics
- Commissioner Scott Smith, Chair Lewis, City Planner Foster and he met regarding a joint worksession on the Comprehensive Plan Update.
 - o A Joint Worksession will be arranged for the September 18th Planning Commission meeting

Mr. Illg facilitated a brief discussion on the Transportation Plan and site selection for a community center.

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS (15 minute time limit)

A. Review Commission Strategic Plan and Goals - Final Draft

Chair Lewis introduced the topic and noted that they received a memorandum from the City Manager stating that the Strategic Plan and Goals is a tool for the Commission to use as a work plan not a tool to direct staff. It is not the Commission's role to direct the staff.

Commissioner Keiser stated that PARCAC as the Commission is not empowered to do this work so it is the staff that will or should do it, she understood that the Commission could not "direct" staff. She questioned if they could recommend that staff is the appropriate party and with all due respect the work needs to be done and it is staff's job to perform that work.

Staff facilitated a lengthy discussion with the Commission on the following:

- Amending the language to remove the "Staff will" or "Staff shall"
 - Amend the language to read more as a goal and objective as opposed to an assignment
 - Such as PARCAC requests research options from Staff for creating long term sustainable funding or PARCAC would need to accomplish the goal
- If the tasks or goals as outlined are not measured or scheduled they will never be completed

- Staffing capacity
 - Many of the items listed in the document are expecting Staff to provide something in addition to what is currently being done.
- Amend it to read Commission requests draft budget to be presented to the commission
- the Commission recommends and does not approve
- Objective, Action
- Review of the previous strategic plans for the other advisory bodies was referenced
- There are multiple items that staff already does and is it required to differentiate
- Staff recommended working on the document and bringing back to the Commission
- Underlying procedural assumption from the Commission that Staff is doing the work versus the Commission
 - Referenced the difference in how the EDC Strategic Plan is written

City Clerk Krause clarified that the only motion is to postpone to the next meeting.

Commissioner Keiser offered to remove the language but keep the spirit of what the Commission would actually need to accomplish.

Chair Lewis then stated that the document could then be taken by Staff and reviewed with the City Manager.

Commissioner Keiser objected to that action and reiterated that it was the Commission's Strategic Plan and Goals not the staff. She understood the direction provided by the City Manager, but the Commission is not accountable to the City Manager they are accountable to City Council, City Council appointed them and they were directed by City Council. Ms. Keiser reminded the Commission that the Council had a big ask when they charged us with this strategic plan.

Commissioner Archibald would rather soften the ask than present it to Council and they send it back.

ARCHIBALD/HARRALD MOVED TO POSTPONE TO THE SEPTEMBER REGULAR MEETING.

A brief discussion ensued including removal of the associate planner position, add "appropriate actions of other Commissions"

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Keiser will make the amendments and submit the document to staff and the Clerk for review.

B. Review Draft Memorandum for Vessel Haul Out and Camping Area

Chair Lewis introduced the topic and deferred to Recreation Manager Illg.

Recreation Manager Illg reviewed the memorandum and City Clerk Krause clarified the Commission to focus on the document in the Supplemental packet.

Commissioner Harrald stated that the memorandum captured everything the Commission wanted.

HARRALD/ARCHIBALD MOVED TO ADOPT THE MEMORANDUM AS WRITTEN AND FORWARD TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

C. Review and Recommendation on Art Mural for the Boathouse Pavilion

Chair Lewis introduced the topic and deferred to City Clerk Krause.

City Clerk Krause provided the Commission with additional information on the proposed mural that was gained from a discussion with Ms. Oberstein.

Staff facilitated discussion on the proposed mural that included the following:

- Not the location that was preferred
- Responsible party for cleaning
- The goal is to discourage capture of large halibut
- Artistic style was not preferred
- No Alaska artist involved
- The endorsement of the people who constructed the Boat Pavilion
 - o Postponing the acceptance until input is received from the members of the group who constructed the pavilion
- The Commission is not required to accept all donations, so they can move to recommend the Port and Harbor Commission for their opinion and then forward to City Council.

KEISER/STEFANO MOVED TO REJECT THE APPLICATION FOR A DONATION OF A MURAL DEPICTING A GROUP OF PEOPLE HOLDING THEIR LARGE HALIBUT FISH TROPHIES SUBMITTED BY ALASKA WORLD ARTS FOR PLACEMENT ON THE BOATHOUSE PAVILION CREATED BY CHICAGO ARTIST KATHLEEN DOSE-KOEHL

Discussion ensued on the proposed art does not demonstrate to visitors why Homer has a reputation of being an art destination, it does not enhance the diversity of the City Municipal Art Collection, does not represent Homer's culture or immediate environment, the mural is not from a local artist.

VOTE. YES. STEFANO, LEWIS, HARRALD, ARCHIBALD, PARSLEY, KEISER.

Motion carried.

A memorandum will be submitted to Council.

NEW BUSINESS (15-20 minute time limit)

A. Memorandum from City Manager re: HERC 2 Exterior Recommendations

Chair Lewis introduced the topic and deferred to Public Works Director Kort.

Public Works Director Kort expressed concern on painting or doing any improvements to this building that would elicit public adoration. He noted that he was not aware that this was on the agenda until today and Staff has discussed boarding up the windows.

Discussion ensued on not improving the exterior and boarding up the windows with a graphic or painting the same color of paint, the removal of glass from the windows and installing netting to prevent wildlife from entering, previous comments from the public not to do anything artistic with the exterior.

ARCHIBALD/PARSLEY MOVED TO RECOMMEND NOT BEAUTIFYING THE EXTERIOR WITH ARTISTIC ENDEAVORS THAT MAY DISTRACT THE PUBLIC OR INGRATIAE THE FACILITY TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY ENCOURAGING THAT IT BE KEPT. IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED THAT BUILDING MAINTENANCE BE CONSULTED TO PROVIDE SOLUTIONS THAT ARE ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE AND WILL WITHSTAND THE ELEMENTS WITH MINIMAL TO NO MAINTENANCE UNTIL THE BUILDING CAN BE REMOVED.

There was a brief comment that the City Manager was approached by members of Council to address the issues of the broken windows, etc.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. Recommendation of Support for Cottonwood Eastland Trails

Chair Lewis introduced the topic and reported he ran into Cameale Johnson with the Homer Cycling Club and agreed to bring this before the Commission. He added that he reached out to Councilmember Venuti who agreed to sponsor a resolution of support for Council. There is no cost to the City or Commission and a number of folks would like to see trails in the Cottonwood-Eastland Management area. It is proposed to construct 10 miles of trails, Eric Clark is mapping out the area and he is with the Kachemak Bay State Park.

City Clerk Krause explained that the resolution will be from the City Council and the Commission will be submitting a memorandum of support with the excerpt from the minutes.

Commissioner Archibald reported that they are in the process of getting an interagency land management assessment agreement with the State Department of Natural Resources for a parking lot and they have had a

professional trails designed do additional layout for trails that will provide a good system of trails for pedestrians, cyclists and horses. It will really be nice to have something like this on this side of the bay.

Discussion ensued with Commissioners pointing out the benefits to being able to access trails from the road system and encouraging visitors to Kachemak Bay State Park that might never be able to otherwise.

MOVED THAT PARKS, ART, RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION FULLY SUPPORTS THE CREATION OF TRAILS AND RECOMMENDS CITY COUNCIL ADOPT A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

C. Welcome New Commissioner Ellie Stefano!

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. PARCAC Letter to the Editor

B. Annual Calendar for 2024

Commissioner Keiser will be reporting at the Special Meeting on August 29, 2024 and requesting on behalf of the Commission for Council to postpone adoption of the Transportation Plan until after their September regular meeting.

Commissioner Harrauld will report at the August 25, 2024 regular meeting.

Recreation Manager Illg will provide the FY24/FY25 Budgets for the Commission review for the September meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBER (If Present)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

City Clerk Krause announced that she will be assigning a new Clerk for the Commission so she will be turning the Commission over to someone else after almost 18 years Clerking for the Commission.

Recreation Manager Illg commented it was a great meeting

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Harrauld welcomed Commissioner Stefano and stated that it would be nice to have a Student Representative mentor to assist the Student Commissioner with packet pickup, etc. Glad to see the quality of

life happens in the parks, noting some of her best memories this summer were because the parks looked awesome.

Commissioner Archibald welcomed Commissioner Stefano and noted that he will be absent from the September meeting. He expressed his appreciation for her participation on the mural donation noting his significant other fully agreed with her opinion of the artwork.

Commissioner Parsley commented it was a good meeting, the SWOT analysis was really fun and welcomed Commissioner Stefano.

Commissioner Keiser thanked everyone for their hard work and welcomed Commissioner Stefano and then noted that the Calendar called out for the Commission to work on the budget in September and October but the Budget Schedule said Council is going to present their budget priorities in October and budget sheets in November.

Chair Lewis welcomed Commissioner Stefano and commented that it was a good meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission Chair Lewis adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m. A Special Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, August 22, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. The next regular meeting is Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. A worksession is scheduled for 4:30 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.

Renee Krause, MMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____