

Session 21-10, a Special Meeting of the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair David Lewis at 5:30 p.m. on December 2, 2021 from the City Hall Conference Room Upstairs located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS LEWIS, FAIR, HARRALD, LOWNEY, GALBRAITH, ROEDL, AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE FLORA

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER ARCHIBALD (EXCUSED)

STAFF: DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KEISER
RECREATION MANAGER ILLG

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Lewis noted the items provided as laydowns and called for a motion to amend the agenda.

LOWNEY/ROEDL MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD ITEM C AND D UNDER REPORTS, MEMORANDUM FROM DEPUTY CITY PLANNER REGARDING WAYFINDING AND STREETScape PROJECT UPDATE AND RECREATION MANAGER REPORT.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Lewis then called for a motion to approve the agenda as amended after noting there were no further amendments requested.

HARRALD/ROEDL MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Robert Gordon Vernon, city resident, commented on the Bishop's Beach Park Master Plan, noting the proposed parking on the north side may create issues since that area is wetlands and they may have to fill those areas which creates some questions for other property owners wanting to fill their "wetlands"; proposed plans for the turn around, and recommending that the city should enter into agreements with the Elks Club, Catholic Church and possibly the Chamber of Commerce to allow large vehicles such as RV's and buses to park in their parking lots with directional signage.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

RECONSIDERATION

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes for October 21, 2021

Chair Lewis requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

FAIR/HARRALD 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. Public Works Director Report

Chair Lewis invited Public Works Director Keiser to provide her report for the Commission.

Public Works Director Keiser provided a summary of her report that was included in the packet. She spoke on the hiring of Parks Technicians and have hired two highly skilled persons that are already rocking and rolling; green infrastructure plan for Bishop's Beach Park Master Plan will have a more detailed discussion at the January 10, 2022 Council meeting.

- B. Parks Superintendent Report

Chair Lewis noted that Parks Superintendent Steffy was not present but provided his report for the packet. There were no comments or questions from the Commission.

- C. Wayfinding and Streetscape Planning Update – Deputy City Planner Engebretsen

Chair Lewis noted the update submitted by Deputy City Planner Engebretsen that was provided and opened the floor to comments from the Commission. There were no comments.

- D. Recreation Manager Report

Chair Lewis introduced the item and invited Recreation Manager Illg to speak to his report.

Recreation Manager Illg reported on the following:

- Homer High School will be continuing to make some improvements to the gym which will impact some programs. He has requested painted lines for pickleball.
- Telluride Mountain Film Festival will be hosted by him this winter. More details will be forthcoming when finalized.
- Details on the transfer of Lending Recreation Equipment Program to the Homer Public Library
- Working towards his executive professional certification designation.
- City Council will have a Worksession on Monday, December 6, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. regarding the HERC campus
- He wished the Chair a Happy Birthday!
- Provided a summary of available indoor recreational opportunities

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

- A. Memorandum from Deputy City Clerk re: Bylaw Amendments Second Reading

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title and opened the floor to discussion.

LOWNEY/HARRALD MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED PARKS ART RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION DRAFT BYLAWS AS AMENDED AND FORWARD TO CITY COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION.

The Commission entertained a brief discussion expressing their appreciation for the work done by the Clerk's in presenting the amendments.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- B. Memorandum from Deputy City Clerk re: Further Review and Analysis of the Public Mural Section of the Draft City of Homer Gift, Donation and Art Policies, Procedures and Guidelines

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title and noted that the City Attorney has requested further postponement and requested a motion and second.

FAIR/LOWNEY MOVED TO POSTPONE FURTHER REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF THE PUBLIC MURAL SECTION OF THE DRAFT GIFT, DONATION AND ART POLICIES TO THE FEBRUARY 2022 REGULAR MEETING.

Deputy City Clerk Krause provided a brief update on some concerns that the city attorney brought forward regarding murals on public and private property and the Commission questioned how this was going to apply to existing murals.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

C. Bishop's Beach Park Master Plan

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title and invited Public Works Director Keiser to speak to the Commission on the topic.

Public Works Director Keiser provided some background information that brought the idea of having a master plan for the park as well as bringing or designing the park better to integrate the new sculpture and a wild idea of possibly obtaining the parcel to the west of the park and incorporating that area into the park; as well as facilitated discussion on the following:

- iterating that it was a very rough conceptual design
- the parcel to the west showing the walking paths and drainage is a goal or dream, it is currently privately owned
- potential water and sewer service through a special assessment district
- incorporating the indigenous artwork sculpture into the master plan and design and not just have a piece of artwork "plopped" down somewhere
- Public Works is working with Corvus Design and Marika Mouw to bring the ideas to paper
- incorporating green infrastructure to address storm water drainage and clean pollutants from the water before hitting the slough and bay, grants would be available for this type of project
- bringing the concept to City Council for their January 10th meeting
- eliminating the parking on the beach and develop parking in other areas not removing access to drive on the beach just prohibit parking right there on the beach
- ADA parking locations – not definite in the conceptual drawing there are a number required and locating those next to specific amenities
- Accommodating larger vehicles for turning around and leaving with the installation of the turn-around, which will accommodate vehicles as large as a school bus.
- Recommend installation of signage before visitors get to the park that there is no large vehicle parking
- Encouraging the idea of a meeting place is great
- Providing sidewalks or pedestrian accommodations in front of vehicles parking
- Parking issues on the north side of the park adding additional impervious surfaces and removing the screening vegetation
 - o Contact and develop partnerships with the Elks Club, Catholic Church or other businesses to allow parking for RV's and larger vehicles
 - o Improvement for pedestrians on Bunnell to accommodate

Rika Mouw, provided details on the accommodations for the larger vehicles up to 40 feet can turn around. She also agreed that signage making drivers aware that there was no RV parking. She expressed concerns on installing the parking on the northern edge of the park due to the effects on drainage and removal of moose habitat or forage.

NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Commission Annual Calendar 2022
- B. Commission Re-appointments
- C. Japan-Alaska Sister Cities Photo & essay Campaign
- D. Memorandum from PARC to City Council re: Recommendation on Kachemak City Request for Funding

Public Works Director Keiser facilitated a brief discussion on the donation of some materials that were used as sheathing or plastic pilings in the harbor that can be used for playground features since they are so large about 36 inches in diameter.

There was a brief discussion on the City of Homer providing or extending water and sewer services to the park and the likelihood of that happening was very slim as the Council is the final approval on that subject.

- E. Email comments received from William Marley regarding Land for Sale

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Mr. Gordon city resident commented on creating a walking path down Beluga, as far as Charles Way improvements then that is progress and enforcement of large vehicle parking. He then commented on the future of Bishop's Beach being the bathing beach as well as the increase in surfers at that beach and the increased use of the bathrooms used as changing rooms so if an amenity could be included in the plan that would be useful.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Recreation Manager Illg thanked everyone for attending and the staff for a great meeting and wished everyone to be safe and healthy, stay active and have a nice evening.

Public Works Director Keiser reported on a recent visit from the City's Risk Insurer and they received a clean bill of health and had a sophisticated operation. AS the weather was not conducive to touring anything Matt Steffy reported on the number of improvements that the City was doing to make the parks more accessible, the ADA Transition Plan and removal of unsafe equipment.

Deputy City Clerk Krause wished the Commissioners and Staff a Happy and Safe New Year and Merry Christmas stating this was her last meeting. She clarified that it was her last meeting for the year in response to a question from Commissioner Roedl.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Student Commissioner Flora expressed appreciation for the ideas and thoughts regarding the Bishop's Beach and liked the idea of changing rooms. She wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Commissioner Galbraith expressed appreciation for the long range plans and activities going on with the HERC and library as a parent with young children he appreciates having the knowledge on the available programs and he visits the parks, of course not all of them, but a lot of them throughout the city and appreciates the work that is being done to improve them.

Commissioner Lowney expressed her appreciation for the preliminary drawings on Bishop's Beach commenting that it was very exciting. She found the fireworks scenario interesting and the controversy at the end of the Spit she was glad to see the partnership with Aaron Weiser. She then expressed that she has been intrigued about the Adopt a Park program and wished there was some way to encourage more businesses or organizations to adopt parks but some way that this commission could recognize those organizations, especially Rotary since they have done so much with Ben Walters Park.

Chair Lewis asked Commissioner Fair to consider this topic for the next Letter to the Editor.

Commissioner Harrald suggested giving out an annual award to groups or organizations. She stated that it was a much better meeting than the last as they were able to say yes to parks and the last meeting it was all no to parks. We have such a wonderful staff, there are always some interesting items in the packets even though our staff is very small but the things they get done, they are so solution focused. Ms. Harrald expressed her appreciation for each of the staff and the information and work that they provide to the city, community and commission with the development of the partnerships with all the various businesses and organizations; coming up with ways to assist families to participate in activities and sports and the informational materials in the packet.

Commissioner Fair echoed Commissioner Harrald and recognized that Deputy City Clerk Tussey has been providing the same types of things that Renee does and she does a great job clarifying things for us too. He expressed appreciation for the memos that summarizes all the changes so you know what is going on and don't get mired down in all the details. he recounted his experience when he first started teaching at Skyview regarding a principal who got things done, he was not all talk but action. He expressed his appreciation for the staff to come up with ideas and then put those ideas to work. mr. Fair then stated that they wrote about the Rotary Club and Ben Walters Park a couple of years ago and agreed that it is time they do something more to acknowledge the work that the organization has done. He further commented on the encouragement that may provide to get others involved in the Adopt a Park program or at least awareness for the program too.

Commissioner Roedl requested an update on the Main Street Sidewalk Improvement project and wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Public Works director Keiser provided a brief update on the progress of the project and that it was still slated for construction next summer.

Commissioner Roedl expressed his appreciation and that they needed to find a new project to fight for in the coming year.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Lewis thanked everyone for their hard work and requested the award or recognition program on the February agenda. He wished everyone a wonderful and safe Christmas Holiday and to stay warm. He expressed his thanks for the birthday wishes.

Public Works Director Keiser added that she had met with the Rotary and that they spoke about getting a few more improvements for Ben Walters Park especially the restroom and then have a rededication or celebration in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next regular meeting is Thursday, February 22, 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: _____