

Session 25-04, a regular meeting of the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Lewis at 5:30 p.m. August 21,2025 in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom webinar.

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

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS HARRALD, STEFANO (UNEXCUSED)

STAFF: RECREATION MANAGER ILLG, CITY CLERK KRAUSE, DEPUTY CLERK I LYNN

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Lewis introduced the topic and requested a motion.

ARCHIBALD/PARSLEY 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)

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS (10 minute time limit)

A. Friends of the Skate Park

Kevin Leahy representing the Friends of the Skatepark presented a laydown regarding their proposed project. Spoke about a proposed new skatepark, asking for the city to donate grass field area next to the old HERC building. They were hoping for funding from the Homer Foundation in the amount of \$250,000 and for the City to match some of that funding.

B. FY27 Capital Improvement Plan Presentation – Jenny Carroll, Special Projects & Communications Coordinator.

Special Project & Communications Coordinator Carroll presented the CIP noting the sections, process and selection of projects to recommend for legislative priority listing. She acknowledged the statement from Commissioner Keiser regarding the benefits of an organization getting their projects included in the plan, commenting on the time frame that projects can be in the plan, making recommendations to Council; actions requested from the Commission tonight and the processes used by the advisory bodies to select those projects as a body. Ms. Carroll noted that the Commission can recommend new projects with the support and input from Public Works and Staff Liaison as well as the Friends of the Skate Park.

Staff are recommending the HAAP project be returned to the CIP for additional funding opportunities as TAP is going through changes, and the Slope Stability & Erosion Mitigation Program

be removed with NOAA & KBNERR support, the Peatlands stay in the CIP as indicated in the laydown revision provided.

RECONSIDERATION

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Unapproved Meeting Minutes for June 19, 2025

KEISER/ARCHIBALD MOVED TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR JUNE 19, 2025

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried

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

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Felice reviewed the report and noted the following:

- Vandalism on the new portable toilet facilities
- Trail connection from middle school
- Enforcement of non-motorized regulations
- Use of ebikes on local trails is damaging the trails and requires enforcement
 - Signage is required
 - Needs to cover all powered vehicles

- B. Community Recreation Monthly Report – Mike Illg, Recreation Manager

Recreation Manager Illg reported on the following:

- Community Recreation teamed up with SPARC for Pickleball Tournament.
 - Trying to promote at a form of tourism.
- Signed an MOU Agreement on Use of the Facilities with Homer High school and middle school.
- New Youth Programs being rolled out this fall to include fitness, pickleball, basketball.
- Public Works response and amazing job on the HERC sewer line issue while he was out of state.

Commissioner Keiser questioned the Calendar of Activities with pockets of time that could be available for use.

Recreation Manager Illg responded that not all available time is available to the public, prime time is reserved for other activities by KPBSD and other entities.

B. Monthly Staff Report – Mike Illg, Recreation Manager

Recreation Manager Illg reported on the Council actions noting most info contained in the written report in the packet

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS (15 minute time limit)

A. Review and Recommendation on the Draft 2026-2031 Capital Improvement Plan

Recreation Manager Illg facilitated the Commission discussion and recommendations for the Commissions top three projects.

Chair Lewis requested a motion.

KEISER/PARSLEY MOVED TO RECOMMEND INCLUDE THE MILE 169 175 DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS, DIAMOND CREEK TRAILHEAD AND TRAIL SYSTEM, AND THE NEW SKATEBOARD PARK AS THE COMMISSION’S TOP PRIORITIES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Staff reminded the Commission that a motion to recommend to Council in priority listing was needed.

ROEDL/ARCHIBALD MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING THREE PROJECTS TO CITY COUNCIL FOR INCLUSION IN THE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY SECTION OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN, AND PRIORITIZE THEM IN THE ORDER STATED:

1. DIAMOND CREEK TRAILHEAD AND TRAIL SYSTEM
2. MULTI USE COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER
3. NEW SKATEPARK

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

C. Nomar Wall Mural Update – Chad Felice, Parks Maintenance Coordinator

Chad Felice, Parks Maintenance Coordinator provided an update, noting the following:

- City needs a “waiver of artistic rights ownership”
- No age limit for mural artists.

City Clerk Krause provided information on the importance of obtaining the waiver.

NEW BUSINESS (15–20-minute time limit)

A. Proposed Karen Hornaday Park Trail

Public Works Director Kort provided information on the following:

- Public Works has proposed engineered approach to design, then build the trail.
- Steep slope code stating any improvements need to go through an engineer.
- Trail done in a 2-phase approach.
- Safety concerns about the proposal of using game trails to route path because of possible conflict with wildlife.
- Will require legislation to appropriate money to do the design.
- Held up by the impasse of do it for free? Or taking the formalized approach.

KEISER/ROEDL MOVED PARCAC RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THE DEVELOPMENT OF A KAREN HORNADAY TRAIL, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, USING AN ENGINEERED APPROACH.

Discussion on the time period before the construction of the trail was expected to take in a year to two, good approach to building the trail, design criteria manual was implemented due to the inherited difficulties with many trails in homer. Support expressed for getting survey and professionally built trail. It will gather higher use so needs to be constructed appropriately.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- B. Consideration of Recommending a Bed Tax for the City of Homer.
- Bed tax to be used as potential source of funding for city projects.
 - This is an included idea the proposed Homer High School Pool Task Force.
 - None of the public have come in support of a bed tax in the past. Only owners of B&Bs and hotels.
 - Letting the new proposed task force handle the subject of the bed tax.

C. Appointment to the Facilities & Equipment Committee

Recreation Manager Illg spoke of the long-standing relationship with the school district, having a signed contract with the Kenai Peninsula School District to use Homer High School and Homer Middle School, but there are some changes. To get more support on coming to this agreement and future

agreements he recommended a commissioner be on the informal facilities and equipment committee that meets once a year and requested a volunteer.

Chair Lewis requested a volunteer.

Commissioner Parsley spoke up stating he would like to serve on the committee.

D. Recommendation to Form a Homer High Pool Task Force

Recreation Manager and Commissioner Keiser spoke to the draft resolution provided in the packet.

Discussion was facilitated by staff and the City Clerk noted that the resolution language provided by Commissioner Keiser was a good start but needed some minor edits. Staff will revise and bring back to the Commission for adoption at the September meeting.

E. Trail Financial Plan Review and Discussion
Memorandum CC-25-152 with attachments

Public Works Director Kort provided an explanation for the topic.

- Make trails ADA accessible

KEISER/PARSLEY MOVE THAT PARCAC FORMALLY ENDORSE THE TRAILS FINANCIAL PLAN AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. 2025 Annual Calendar

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

Jordan Dire of Kachemak City expressed comments in support if the skate park and appreciation for the Commission's support.

Chrissy Zubek of Homer expressed comments of appreciation for the Commission's support for the skate board park project.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Public Works Director Kort thanked everyone for an enjoyable meeting and putting up with his long-written memos.

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Felice promised to provide better content in his reports. He further noted that if a trail can be ADA it will be ADA compliant.

City Clerk Krause expressed that it was nice to be with the Commission after such a long absence.

Recreation Manager Illg thanked the Commission for a productive meeting and put out a friendly reminder that when looking at the trails plan the HART fund is up for renewal next fall and to start advocating support.

Deputy City Clerk Lynn had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBER (If present)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Chair Lewis introduces new Deputy Clerk I Lynn to the commissioners.

Commissioner Keiser expressed thanks for a very productive meeting and to the skateboard “people” noting the kids impressing her using scooters in the skate park.

Commissioner Archibald commented it was a good meeting and that he will be in Cordova during the next meeting so requested excusal.

Commissioner Roedl thanked Chair Lewis for “volunteering” to report to the City Council and appreciated how smooth and quick this meeting was.

Commissioner Parsley thanked the friends of the skate park for showing up in such big numbers and spoke about the great opportunities for our trail systems.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Lewis adjourned the meeting at 7:35pm. Next Regular Meeting is **Thursday, September 18, 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.

Scott Lynn, Deputy City Clerk I

Approved: _____