



City of Homer

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Homer City Council

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Memorandum 20-003

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Councilmember Lord
DATE: January 8, 2020
SUBJECT: Request for PARCAC to Evaluate Parking Barrier Solutions at Karen Hornaday Park

In 2018, the City Council passed Ordinance 18-37 funding traffic calming and safety improvements at Karen Hornaday Park. The project is substantially complete; the last stage is a gravel trail from the restroom south that will be completed in the spring.

The Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan calls for re-alignment and reconfiguration of the park access road. Until such time as funding is identified for that project, temporary improvements to direct pedestrians and vehicles were installed by Public Works with funding from Ordinance 18*-37. In some instances, creosote-coated telephone poles provided by HEA were put in place to act as a parking barrier to channel car and foot traffic. According to Public Works, they are the best option to use for this purpose because they can withstand the elements for a long time but can easily be removed. However, creosote is a known toxic substance, and may not be the best location given the number of children coming through this parking area. Also according to Public Works, other options considered for this purpose were concrete wheel stops (difficult to install in gravel and get abused by snow plows) and boulders (more expensive and can damage vehicles). A concrete curb and gutter combination would have been the best and permanent solution however both the budget for the Park's improvements and the recommendations made by the 2009 Master Plan do not allow for this work.

I would like the Parks, Art, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Commission (PARCAC) to evaluate parking barrier solutions that could be used to channel foot and car traffic, with specific consideration given to the potential impact to public health with the current creosote-treated poles. PARCAC can then weigh all the proposed options and provide feedback to Council that can be taken into consideration for current and future development work.

Enc:

October 2019 Progress Report on Karen Hornadady Parking Lot Access/Safety Improvements
Ordinance 18-37