

Session 20-01, 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 February 20, 2020 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS ARCHIBALD, HARRALD, LOWNEY, FAIR, AND LEWIS

TELEPHONIC: COMMISSIONER ROEDL

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER BARNWELL (EXCUSED)

STAFF: DEPUTY CITY PLANNER ENGBRETSSEN  
DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE  
PARKS MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR STEFFY

### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Chair Lewis called for a motion to approve the agenda.

LOWNEY/FAIR MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA**

#### **VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**

A. Dr. William Marley - Proposal for a Park Along the Sterling Highway

Dr. Marley requested an additional five minutes to make his presentation to the Commission.

LOWNEY/HARRALD MOVED TO EXTEND THE TIME TO 15 MINUTES FOR THE PRESENTATION.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Archibald arrived at 5:35 p.m. explaining he was able to make his flights.

Dr. Marley provided a history on his arrival to Homer, and what it was like in 1967 and the population growth from that time. He did not want to see Homer developed into what downtown Soldotna has

developed into. He then presented his idea to create a Cultural Park setting on acreage he owns jointly with two partners at the entrance to Homer across from Soundview Avenue that extends westward towards West Hill Road. He provided information and strategic planning, and used it as a comparison, for the Harrigan Centennial Hall in Sitka, Alaska.

Dr. Marley submitted the idea as he believes that Homer deserves a Cultural Center. He provided an artist's rendition of the proposed cultural park/center facility on the land that he is advocating for the City to purchase and requested the Commission to support the project as it has in the past.

Dr. Marley presented the amenities that he could visualize that this project would provide to the public. He cited various known places and landmarks throughout the world and the United States and believes that this could be Homer's landmark. He envisions future growth for Homer and believes that a project on this land would present the right image to the visitors and residents current and future.

Dr. Marley commented on the previous submission of his project being supported by the Commission and he is hoping to once again gain the support for the project and that the Commission will make a sincere effort to see it to its fruition.

LOWNEY/HARRALD MOVED TO ADD THIS ITEM TO THE MARCH AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

## **RECONSIDERATION**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Minutes from the November 21, 2019 Regular Meeting

Chair Lewis called for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

LOWNEY/ARCHIBALD - MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA CONTAINING THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 21, 2019 REGULAR MEETING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

## **STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Staff Report - Deputy City Planner Engebretsen

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen reported on the following:

- City Council referred Resolution 20-008(S) to the Planning Commission and Port & Harbor Advisory Commission. If members of this Commission would like to comment on the Resolution please attend one of those meetings or provide comments to the City Clerk for City Council.
- City Council reiterated their support and intent to provide for indoor recreation opportunities for residents
- City Manager interviews
- Request for Proposals for the Wayfinding and Streetscape will be issued soon

B. Parks Maintenance Report - Matt Steffy, Parks Coordinator

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy provided his staff report to the commission. Commissioners and staff held discussion on the following topics:

- The Tent Area 1 is being replenished with dredge spoils as a walk in tent camping only, parking is a question and some solution would be using parking at the Fishing Hole
- Placing signage at Mariner Park directing visitors to Karen Hornaday Park Campground if Mariner Camping is full
- Updating all Information Boards for all parks
- Vehicles are not allowed in Tent Area 2 but there is evidence that vehicles have been through there.
- Resolution will be sponsored by Councilmember Aderhold for Friends of the Skate Park
- Improvements to the Skate Park will be limited to the equipment only at this time
- Website Improvements
- W.R. Bell Gravesite and location to be added to the Cemetery web page
- Required maintenance duties leave little time for administrative duties
- Purchasing new banners will be postponed until after the Wayfinding and Streetscape Plan is completed
- Donation of another memorial park bench and funds in the amount of \$3300

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy will look into the winter trail maintenance going out towards the Harbormaster Office and will check on the portion of the trail from the docks to the restroom nearest to the large Hook.

C. Recreation Report – Mike Illg, Recreation Manager

There were no comments or questions regarding the report and information provided by Recreation Manager Illg.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**PENDING BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Memorandum 20-026 from Councilmember Smith re Consideration of Land for Sale Next to Jack Gist Park

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title into the record.

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen provided a summary of Memorandum 20-026 from Councilmember Smith requesting input from the Commission on purchasing land adjacent to the park.

- Purchasing a 100 foot buffer
- Recommendations of future development
- There is a 60 foot right of way from the entrance road to the park and below the horse park.

ARCHIBALD/LOWNEY MOVED TO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL PURCHASE THE LAND IF THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS.

Discussion ensued on the loss to the city tax rolls, adding land to the city parks inventory, and that it is a good investment of funds.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

LOWNEY/ROEDL – MOVED THAT PARCAC SUPPORTS ANY OR ALL PURCHASES OF LAND AROUND JACK GIST PARK FOR BUFFER OR FACILITIES EXPANSION.

There was a brief discussion on the benefit to having a buffer if a neighborhood is developed, existing ravine, common solutions are beneficial.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- B. Acquisition of Land Next to Karen Hornaday Park

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title.

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen provided a summary of her report for the Commission. She explained that there are a couple of scenarios. Her recommendation was to schedule of a worksession so the Commission could work through all the solutions.

Commissioner Lowney preferred having a worksession as she felt the land provided valuable resource for the city in regards to drainage.

LOWNEY/FAIR - MOVED TO HAVE A WORKSESSION ON THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020 AT 4:00 P.M. TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION FOR KAREN HORNADAY PARK.

Discussion ensued on staff providing maps and information for the Commission.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- C. Memorandum 20-003 from Councilmember Lord re: Evaluation of Parking Barrier Solutions at Karen Hornaday Park

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title.

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy explained that City Council has reviewed and approved the plan and the issues that were found with using older telephone utility poles that have been treated with creosote which has been found to be a carcinogen. He provided information on replacement options.

The Commission and Staff discussed possible solutions to replace the utility poles and Staff will perform a cost evaluation and installation on the following:

- Split Rail Fencing
  - o Visible during snow removal
  - o Aesthetically Pleasing
- Concrete stops
  - o Vertical poles for sight
  - o Parking delineation
  - o Non-standard length
- Pour in Place Concrete Forms for left over loads to reduce costs
- Removal of hazardous waste
  - o Where would these poles be stored once removed from park
- Sealing utility poles with outdoor polyurethane and maintenance costs involved
  - o Used by communities as a solution to keep the utility poles
- Minimal Costs to effect solution
- Solution Should be Aesthetically Pleasing
- Marking ground with paint once each week

Discussion points also included advocating for the real fix to this problem.

The Commission will make recommendations to Council based on the information provided by Staff on the costs involved.

- D. Beach Policy Bi-Annual Review

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title.

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy related issues were minimal, noting that coal has not been as plentiful this winter. In general there is some enforcement issues with dogs off leash throughout town but also in the area of Beluga Slough. He was not aware of what would be the best policy and if more

signage is required as much as enforcement of the leash law. He reported the re-vegetation of the habitat in the Beluga Slough zone.

There was a brief discussion on the instances of dogs off leash with visitors of residents. Mr. Steffy related an instance that it is people who do not leash their dogs since they are of the opinion that their dog would never do harm.

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen reviewed the Beach Policy. During the review the following was commented or pointed out by the Staff and/or the Commissioners:

- Active Beach Clean-up Crew in place
- Low Priority to Create New Beach Access
- Replacement Signage is ongoing
- Area West of Bishops Beach has improved since a property owner that promoted unacceptable behavior passed away
- Frequency of trash removal requested to be increased at the Harbor
- Human/canine contact involving nesting shorebirds and cranes and possibly restricting the area to eliminate the potential for harm to those nesting birds.
  - o Consideration of fencing and implementing fines to protect the shorebirds and the area
  - o Implementing one trail instead of allowing social trails
  - o Installation of Split Rail fencing
    - Signage that require all dogs on leash in that area
  - o Remove or Prohibit limited access to the Slough area
  - o Future discussion on behavior and dunes with Islands and Ocean/Fish & Game
- Document does include maps and historical information electronic version does not
- Surfers still not happy about access

There was a brief discussion on having an item on a future agenda regarding improvement on dog issues, speaking with Homer Animal Friends on animal control issues, Fish & Wildlife, previous attempts to control access possible actions and solutions.

## **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

- A. PARC Commission Annual Calendar 2020
- B. PARC Commissioner Attendance at Council Meetings 2020

Commissioner Harrauld agreed to attend the upcoming Council meeting on Monday, February 24, 2020. Chair Lewis requested that Commissioner Harrauld report that they will definitely report at the last meeting of the month due to the Commission meeting schedule.

- C. Friends of the Homer Skate Park re: Efforts to Rehabilitate the Skate Park Equipment
- D. Memorandum 20-024 from Mayor re: Re-appointments of Clark Fair Ingrid Harrauld and Peter Roedl to the Parks, Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission.

Chair Lewis noted the reappointment of Commissioners Fair, Harrauld and Roedl to the Commission.

**COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

**COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen announced the possibility of as Student Commissioner being appointed, lots going on in the city.

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy commented it was a productive meeting and the increase in things picking up and looking forward to seeing the changes with a new Public Works Director and City Manager in the near future.

Deputy City Clerk Krause commented on the expiration terms with the reappointments.

**COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCILMEMBER**

**COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Lewis commented on someone taking a 4 wheeler plow to the Reber Trail and that made it nice for winter walking.

**COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Roedl commented that he missed seeing everyone.

Commissioner Lowney commented on the berms that are left when the plows come through but she appreciated whoever dug through the berm on the KHLT trail.

Commissioner Fair requested topics for the April Letter to the Editor and he still has the Poopdeck Update topic but hasn't done anything on that one.

A brief discussion ensued on appropriate topic could be people, birds and dogs with regard to the upcoming Shorebird Festival.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska. A worksession on possible land acquisition will be conducted at 4:00 p.m. prior to the regular meeting.

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RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved:\_\_\_\_\_

