

Session 19-09, a Regular Meeting of the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair David Lewis at 5:36 p.m. on November 21, 2019 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

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

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

The Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission met at the Karen Hornaday Park for a Worksession from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to conduct a site visit of the conditions and parking improvements.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Lewis called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Chair Lewis then requested a motion to amend the agenda to add the worksession report.

HARRALD/LOWNEY - MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD KAREN HORNADAY PARK WORKSESSION REPORT UNDER STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

HARRALD/LOWNEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

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 on Purchase and Use of Land Along the Sterling Highway

Dr. Marley contacted Commissioner Lowney and requested to be on the February agenda.

Chair Lewis did not object to moving Dr. Marley to the February agenda.

RECONSIDERATION

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes from the October 17, 2019 Regular Meeting

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

ARCHIBALD/HARRALD - MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

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 that City Council will have a public hearing on the budget on Monday and the packet for that meeting will be online and available Friday, November 22, 2019. She noted that budget amendments will be made on Monday and the final budget will be approved on December 9, 2019.

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:

- Seasonal project work has continued and currently working on minor repair, painting and staining of Picnic tables, re-staining whisky barrels, pole barn, signage, etc.
- All capital projects completed with the exception of the Poopdeck Trail and new paved parking spot. Both went out to bid with zero response. It will be resubmitted in February for bid.
- One seasonal employee remains at this time till December, two left last week.
- Beautification bid closed with four responsive bids received. The Plantman received the contract for 2400 annuals to get started in the spring. Additional perennials, shrubs and trees will be purchased in small batches as needed once the beds have been reviewed.
- Camping has still slowed dramatically, still a few RV's. All campgrounds were closed October 30th with the exception of the Fishing Hole. A Port a Potty will be placed at Fishing Hole since there is funding available.
- Spike in vandalism. All were reported to Police. Clarified for the Commission
- Public has expressed a desire to have year round camping available at Mariner Park.
- Looking at expansion of the Camp Host Program to include Fishing Hole and Mariner Park
- Purchasing tablets to go electronic in practices for efficiencies
- Requested 2020 project recommendations from Commission

- Working on removal of the derelict camper left at the Fishing Hole. The owner is known and also the person who left it at the campground is known.
- Safety concerns on the trails and installation of lighting.
- Campground Hosts: One for Mariner Park, Fishing Hole location will be moved over to the cleaning tables

Commissioners requested additional information and commented on the following:

- The trail on KHLT property grade and ADA accessibility is being addressed and has not been completed. The design as changed since the ribbon cutting to account for those various discrepancies as they have come up.
- The trash and debris in the lot next to the trail which is owned by the city has increased and staff will look into additional maintenance/clean up in the area as well as trash cans.
- Ben Walters Park vandalism has become minimal since the efforts of clearing and lighting and the assistance of McDonald's and the placement of the playground equipment which has made it more family friendly. He is leaning at not replacing the fire ring since it seems to draw the unsavory element.

C. Recreation Report – Mike Illg, Recreation Manager

Mr. Illg was not present and did not submit a written report for this meeting.

D. Report – Karen Hornaday Park Walk Through

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy provided an overview of the Karen Hornaday Park Walk-through that the Commission participated in during their worksession.

There was discussion and questions from the Commission regarding the improvements in the parking areas, the intent to stripe and possibly paint lines on the logs to indicate spaces for vehicles, delineate a turn-around space, trimming or thinning the alders and bushes to open sight lines, future purchase of equipment to facilitate topping and line of sight issues in parks, incidents of vandalism to the dugouts, flood lights and signage along the roads/highway to direct the public to the city parks.

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A. Mariner Park Expansion Project, Matt Steffy, Parks Maintenance Coordinator

Chair Lewis read the title into the record as introduction.

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy provided a report on the interest of expanding Mariner Park Campground and provided excerpts of old drawings on proposed planning for Mariner Park. He provided a summary history of the park from thirty years ago, noting that this will not be a new

conversation with the community. Mariner Park conservation easement did not happen but the one on Louie's Lagoon did get executed.

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen provided input on the information that was obtained during the Exxon Valdez case is located in the Planning Department in response to a request from Chair Lewis regarding animals and vegetation.

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy and the Commission discussed, commented and questioned the following topics:

- probability of having an organized campground with the different areas
- shrubbery and specific parking and area for day use
- contacting interested parties regarding ideas of improvements
- original drawings on the design and improvements for the park
- redesign the wide open space that is currently the park
- why this was not included and consideration of the appropriateness of those previous documents for use today
- more day use done at this park than any other especially at lunch time

B. Spit Camping and Greenspaces

Chair Lewis read the title into the record as introduction.

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen reported that an ordinance would be required which would need a Council person to sponsor to address the length of stay in the camp grounds; She noted that the parks person was once seasonal so may be the reason that was stopped. There were no hosts and the spit campground was contracted out at one time in the past.

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy commented on the two separate accounts for camping but is now one account that he tracks individually. He then noted some of the historical elements of the proposed Fishing Hole campground and that it warrants a rethinking of the campground; he will reach out to Pier One to get their input.

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy continued stating that as for greenspace there was once a feasibility report on using Louie's Lagoon as a camping space and it was noted that there is now a conservation easement on that side of the spit.

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen reported on the Seafarer's Parking Lot Expansion project in response to Chair Lewis' inquiry stating that and that the Commission should consider evolving the conversation on the issue of campgrounds, etc. She responded to questions regarding designating parking and charging for such parking on the Spit.

The Commission discussed the availability of camping on the east side of the Harbor for camping and staff explained that it is used seasonally by the Harbor and on rare occasion they have accessed an area as an overflow, but the Harbor is not favorable of relinquishing any property for camping.

C. Quarterly Letter to the Editor

Chair Lewis read the title into the record as introduction and opened discussion on the draft letter to the editor submitted by Commissioner Fair.

Commissioners expressed their appreciation for Commissioner Fair writing the letters.

LOWNEY/ARCHIBALD MOVED TO APPROVE THE LETTER AS SUBMITTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. PARC Commission Annual Calendar 2020
- B. PARC Commissioner Attendance at Council Meetings 2019

Commissioner Harrauld agreed to attend the upcoming Council meeting on November 25, 2019

- C. 2019 NRPA Agency Performance Review
- D. Resolution 19-070 Approving the Updated and Amended PARC Bylaws

Chair Lewis acknowledged the informational materials provided.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy commented it was a great meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCILMEMBER

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Barnwell commented that he would be interested in working with staff on the green space planning, but being a new commissioner he is not sure of the role of the Commission, however, he has been coming to Homer since the late 80's and as a new resident, he believes that they are at a turning point on the Spit with this Seafarer's project and he would like to help.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2020 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

Approved: _____