

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF PALMER, ALASKA
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2015
7:00 P.M. - COUNCIL CHAMBERS

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the City of Palmer Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Helene Antel October 1, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL:

Present and constituting a quorum were Board Members:

Helene Antel, Chair
Stephanie Allen, Vice Chair
Jo Ehmann
Dot Helm
Jan Newman
Meggie Aube-Trammell

Unexcused absence:

Edward Kessler

Also present were:

Sandra Garley, Community Development Director
Pam Whitehead, Recording Secretary

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: led by Director Garley.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as presented.

E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the September 10, 2015 Special Meeting were approved as amended. Board Member Newman amended the Minutes p. 3 of 4 (packet p. 7) to correctly reflect that it was Board Member Newman and Board Member Aube-Trammell who offered to assist in the drafting of the master policy [not Antel and Aube]. There were no objections.

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Verda Lewis, Palmer resident, spoke to the Board advocating the creation of a neighborhood park on S. Denali Street next to soccer fields near the MTA Events Center. She encouraged that a flyer be created to entice the community to participate in the project and promised to personally take them door to door to help inform the public. The Board thanked Ms. Lewis for her input and encouraged her to remain for the rest of the meeting as just such a flyer is on the agenda for review and approval.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of options for existing pedestrian tunnel as part of Glenn Highway project – Sean Baski, ADOT Project Manager

Sean Baski, Project Manager, Glenn Highway 34-42 Project, along with Ann Brooks of Brooks & Associates, Public Involvement Coordinator, and Dennis Linnell of HDL, Project Manager-Design, updated on the project and explained the project team is seeking Board member comments in terms of impact to the community. He described the span and general scope of the project -- Glenn/Parks interchange widening to a 4-lane divided highway all the way through Palmer tapering down after Arctic Avenue. The goal is to increase the capacity of and more importantly the safety of the highway to the community at large. They are in the final design phase and beginning the process of right-of-way acquisition of properties along to the roadway.

ADOT wants input before proceeding with regard to the Pedestrian Tunnel at Arctic Avenue, which many are not even aware it exists, connecting the existing pathway on the west side of the Glenn Highway to West Auklet, a dead-end gravel road on the east side. He described the current condition of the tunnel and changes that will need to be made along with two design options under consideration and the pros and cons of each: 1) proceed with current design [see packet p. 15] – lengthen/acquire property on west side, or 2) abandon the tunnel – remove it.

Mr. Baski responded to board member questions and further discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of the options, safety concerns, and connectivity with existing or future trails/pathways.

Board Member Newman moved, seconded by **Board Member Allen**, to enter Committee of the Whole to openly discuss the project to include participation by the presenters. There were no objections.

[The Board entered Committee of the Whole at 7:42 p.m.; exited at 7:50 p.m.]

Upon exiting Committee of the Whole:

Board Member Newman moved, seconded by **Board Member Ehmann**, to recommend proceeding with the current design expanding the existing Pedestrian Tunnel and to keep the trails and connectivity options open.

VOTE ON MOTION: PASSED

[in favor: Antel; Ehmann; Helm; Newman; Aube-Trammell; opposed: Allen]

Mr. Baski noted that a letter advising ADOT of the Board's recommendation, as opposed to a resolution, would be fine.

2. **Resolution 15-002** – Recommending Adoption of Memorial Policy.

Ms. Garley directed attention to the proposed policy document in the packet [pp 19-24] and thanked Board Members Newman and Aube-Trammell for their assistance in its preparation.

[Without objection, the Board entered Committee of the Whole at 7:55 p.m.; exited at 8:12 p.m.]

While in Committee of the Whole, the Board openly reviewed and discussed Resolution 15-002 and the draft Parks, Recreation & Outdoor Facilities Memorial and Donation Policy document, making minor language revisions and asking questions of staff.

Upon exiting Committee of the Whole:

Board Member Allen moved, seconded by **Board Member Newman**, to accept the Memorial and Donation Policy with the suggested changes and for the Board to review the updated draft at the meeting.

VOTE ON MOTION: Carried Unanimously.

Board Member Ehmman moved, seconded by **Board Member Aube-Trammell**, to postpone action on Resolution 15-002 until the next meeting.

VOTE ON MOTION: Carried Unanimously.

3. Discussion of Bike Rack designs and potential locations.

[Without objection, the Board entered Committee of the Whole at 8:17 p.m.; exited at 8:30 p.m.]

While in Committee of The Whole, the Board considered and commented on the types and appearance of bicycle racks that should be installed on city property for the purpose of increasing the number and locations of bike racks. Information in the packet included various examples of standard and custom bike racks.

Upon exiting Committee of the Whole:

It was the consensus of the Board to conduct a bike rack design contest in the Spring and to further consider the criteria and parameters of same at the next meeting.

4. Discuss details of Community Meeting for potential park next to MTA Events Center.

The Board is asked to review and approve or modify the draft Action Plan schedule [packet p. 39] for this potential project and review/approve the sample flyer inviting the community to get involved or participate in developing a park design.

[Without objection, the Board entered Committee of the Whole at 8:32 p.m.; exited at 8:47 p.m.]

The Board reviewed the action plan and flyer discussing scheduling and best timing for a community meeting and making minor revisions.

Upon exiting Committee of the Whole,

Board Member Aube-Trammell moved, seconded by **Board Member Ehmann**, to direct staff to revise the Action Plan per discussion and to schedule a community meeting date.

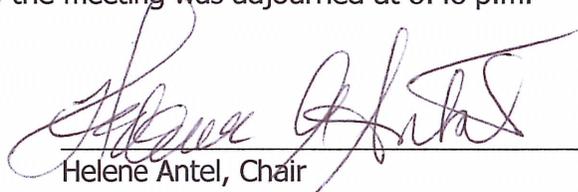
VOTE ON MOTION: Carried Unanimously.

H. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

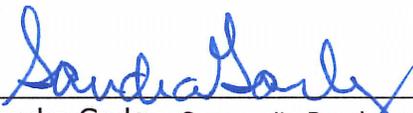
There were no additional board member comments.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.



Helene Antel, Chair



Sandra Garley, Community Development Director