



Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue

Homer, Alaska 99603

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

City of Homer Agenda

Parks, Art Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission Special Meeting

Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 5:30 PM

City Hall Cowles Council Chambers via Zoom Webinar

Webinar ID: 965 6129 9938 Passcode: 307724

Dial: 1 669 900 6833 or 1 253 215 8782 or Toll Free 877 853 5247 or 888 788 0099

CALL TO ORDER, 5:30 P.M.

AGENDA APPROVAL

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 Minute Time Limit)

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS (10 Minute Time Limit, unless extended by Consent of the Commission)

- A. Mike Miller, Executive Director - The Homer Foundation

CONSENT AGENDA All items on the consent agenda are considered routine and non-controversial by the Parks Art Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission and are approved in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a Commissioner or someone from the public, in which case the item will be moved to the regular agenda and considered in normal sequence.

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes for November 19, 2020

STAFF & COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS (5 Minutes each)

- A. Memorandum from Parks Superintendent Steffy re: January Staff Report
- B. Memorandum from Recreation Manager Illg re: January Staff Report

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PENDING BUSINESS

- A. Establishing an Endowment Fund for Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Commission Funds FY2021 - Discussion and Uses

- [B.](#) Memorandum from Public Works Director re: Main Street Sidewalk Project Design Update

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- [A.](#) 2021 Commission Annual Calendar
- [B.](#) 2021 Commission Attendance at City Council Meetings
- [C.](#) Resolution 20-128, 2021 Regular Meeting Schedule for Advisory Bodies
- [D.](#) City Manager's Report for the City Council January 11, 2021 Regular Meeting

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is Thursday, February 18, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. A worksession is scheduled on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held via Zoom Webinar from the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Session 20-09, a Regular Meeting of the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair David Lewis at 5:38 p.m. on November 19, 2020 via Zoom Webinar from the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS ARCHIBALD, LEWIS, ROEDL, FAIR, LOWNEY, HARRALD, GALBRAITH,
AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE BLANTON-YOURKOWSKI

STAFF: PARKS SUPERINTENDENT STEFFY
COMMUNITY RECREATION MANAGER ILLG
DEPUTY CITY CLERK TUSSEY
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KEISER

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Lewis noted two additional new business items that should be added to the agenda, and called for a motion to approve those amendments.

ARCHIBALD/LOWNEY MOVE TO AMEND THE AGENDA UNDER NEW BUSINESS, TO DISCUSS COMMISSION FUNDS AND PUBLIC RESTROOMS.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

ARCHIBALD/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

Tom and Laurie Zitzmann, city resident, commented on the Beach Policy relating their concerns regarding the lack of enforcement on how people were driving on the beach endangering others and the degradation of the sensitive areas and disruption this causes to the wildlife. The referred to the regulations outlined in the beach policy and encouraged more enforcement to protect the asset. They noted possible violations to existing regulations.

A brief discussion was facilitated by Chair Lewis and Parks Superintendent Steffy regarding solutions or possible steps that could be recommended by the Commission that would need to go before Council

for approval and that this item would have to be addressed at the next meeting. It was also noted the traditional uses versus the non-traditional uses which are issues that could be reviewed.

Tom and Sandy Early commented on the bench donation request in memory of Gary Thomas for placement at the WKFL Park. Mr. Thomas was involved with the Fire Department and a Rotarian and this park would be appropriate to honor his contributions to the community.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

RECONSIDERATION

CONSENT AGENDA All items on the consent agenda are considered routine and non-controversial by the Parks Art Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission and are approved in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a Commissioner or someone from the public, in which case the item will be moved to the regular agenda and considered in normal sequence.

A. Meeting Minutes for September 17, 2020

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

LOWNEY/ARCHIBALD MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Memorandum from Recreation Manager re: Staff Report
- November 19, 2020 Staff Report
 - October 15, 2020 Staff Report

Recreation Manager Illg spoke to his staff report and facilitated discussion on the following items:

- His appointment as the new staff person
- Negotiation is underway for the parcel of land adjacent to Bishops Beach Park
- Resolutions and Ordinances related to Recreation, Parks and Art that will be coming before City Council
- Jack Gist Master Plan funding request has been postponed due to the changes in the budget and the fiscal year plus there are some delays on the residential project
- Sports equipment Library is in the works with the assistance of the Library Director
- Software for recreation services has been chosen and the cost is only \$3000 per year. This software promises to make things very easy and provide efficiencies with components that parks can benefit from also.

- Access to Jack Gist park from the proposed neighborhood
- Beneficiaries of the Rasmuson grant

B. Memorandum from Parks Maintenance Coordinator re: Staff Report

- Camping 2019 vs 2020 through October 2020

Parks Superintendent Steffy reviewed his November staff report, facilitating discussion on the following topics:

- Requested the October 2020 Staff report to be distributed
- Statistical numbers were higher this year over 2019
- Ordered the fee stations
- Cleanup at Karen Hornaday Park was very productive
- Invitation to Bid was issued for Janitorial Services on the Spit
- Ravn has resumed operations so operations will be back at the airport
- Additional Staff has been hired to clean the restrooms
- Development of a Disc Golf Course in the Diamond Creek Recreation Area
- Initiated a Parks Forestry Management program to be conducted during the six month time period that allows seasonal temporary parks staff to perform a health assessment, species and create overall plan for future removal and replacement
- Creation of a parks social media program and updating the city's social media policy to include platforms such as Instagram.
- Playground equipment has been removed from Jack Gist Park due to hazardous conditions
- Encouraging recreation outdoors during COVID 19
- What happens to abandoned camping equipment and creating a policy or solution to address that issue since there are concerns regarding sanitizing and ownership

Commissioner Harrauld complimented Mr. Steffy on his handling of the Parks Bathroom issues.

Commissioner Archibald would like to schedule a discussion regarding the east side of Woodard Creek Trail. He understood that Public Works was looking at that and that it is steep and slippery.

Mr. Steffy noted the project for the CIP to address some of those issues.

Commissioner Lowney reported that a community member did do some work on the eastern side of that canyon but it is still quite treacherous. She liked the idea of sanding the trails and the placement of a disc golf course.

Public Works Director Keiser commented on the promotion of Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy to Parks Superintendent acknowledging the goal to promote and recognize a the parks department within Public Works. She then provided updates on the Main Street Sidewalk project, Lampert Lake conservation status, working with the Chamber of Commerce to light up Homer.

C. Deputy City Planner Engebretsen

Deputy City Clerk Tussey read a written message on behalf of Deputy City Planner Engebretsen as she was unable to attend this meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A. Commission Funds (from agenda amendment)

Chair Lewis deferred to Parks Superintendent Steffy.

Parks Superintendent Steffy spoke to the \$1,500 Commission funds available to PARCAC that need to be spent before the end of the year. Staff would need a motion to spend the funds.

Discussion ensued by the Commission with input from staff on ways to spend the money. Ideas discussed included Skating Party; recognizing volunteers but keeping it local and buying buffs instead of hats.

ARCHIBALD/LOWNEY MOVED TO SPEND THE \$1,500 TO PURCHASE ITEMS THAT RECOGNIZE VOLUNTEERS FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES.

Discussion ensued on the preference to include outdoor activities such as a skating event, lighting on a trail or food and wood for a bonfire; expending a portion to purchase items from a local business such as masks; the requirement for the funding to be expended before the end of the year.

ARCHIBALD/HARRALD MOVED TO AMEND THAT 2/3RDS OF THOSE FUNDS GO TO PURCHASE ITEMS FOR VOLUNTEERS AND THE OTHER THIRD TOWARDS PURCHASING SUPPLIES FOR A FUTURE EVENT.

Public Works Director Keiser comments on the budget closing out at the end of the year; reason for why the funds have to be spent by the end of the year. The City would be uncomfortable sponsoring any events due to COVID 19 and that there will be an additional \$1500 issued for next year's budget.

Commissioner Lowney agreed with not being comfortable supporting an event during this time and would support the expenditure of the entire amount towards volunteer appreciation.

Commissioner Harrald commented that she did not feel they have to piece it out, and would be comfortable just giving staff the authorization to spend it. She suggested that maybe some of the funds could go towards advertising, such as for ice safety classes, purchase of firewood and encouraging outreach. She loves the hat idea and it is great advertising.

Chair Lewis confirmed with Public Works Director Keiser on the funding schedule for 2021, receiving \$750 for January 2021 and then an additional \$750 in July 2021.

Commissioner Archibald questioned if funds could go towards advertising or training for safety. Parks Superintendent Steffy responded he believed they could do that as far as ice safety but he was unaware what amount of funding would be needed.

Commissioner Lowney would like to see ice safety on a future agenda to allow the Commission to discuss the subject. She reminded the Commission the difficulties they had on beach safety in signage and educating the public. She believed that it was a good idea.

ARCHIBALD/HARRALD MOVED TO REWORD AMENDMENT 2/3RD GOES TO VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AND 1/3RD TO SAFETY EDUCATION AT STAFF DISCRETION.

VOTE (amendment): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VOTE (main): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. Memorandum from Deputy City Clerk re: Memorial Bench Donations by the Rotary Club of Kachemak Bay

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title requesting input from Parks Superintendent Steffy.

Parks Maintenance Superintendent Steffy provided an outline of the gift donation of four benches by the Rotary Club and the intended locations.

Chair Lewis requested a motion to approve the donations.

LOWNEY/ROEDL MOVED THAT PARC ADVISORY COMMISSION APPROVES THE DONATION OF FOUR PARK BENCHES TO BE PLACED IN SELECTED LOCATIONS AND RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL ACCEPT THE DONATION FROM THE ROTARY CLUB OF KACHEMAK BAY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

C. Memorandum from City Clerk re: 2021 Regular Meeting Schedule Review and Approval

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title and read the Commission's meeting dates from the draft resolution then opened the floor for discussion or questions.

LOWNEY/ARCHIBALD MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS IS.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

D. Memorandum from Deputy City Clerk re: Establishing a Parks & Recreation Endowment Fund

- HCC 3.10 Investment & Collateralization of Public Funds
- Homer Foundation Annual Report – 2019
- Homer Foundation Investment and Spending Policy
- Homer Foundation Planned Giving Sample Language
- Homer Foundation Sample Agreement - Field of Interest Fund
- Homer Foundation Responses to Interview Questions
- Endowment Proposal Submitted to City Council January 13, 2020
- Ordinance 20-10(S) Amending the Capital Budget by Authorizing the Expenditure of \$10,000 to the Homer Foundation to Create a Library Endowment Fund

Chair Lewis introduced item by reading of the title and requested input from Parks Superintendent Steffy.

Parks Superintendent Steffy provided background and requested feedback from the Commission on the development of an endowment fund for Parks and Recreation, noting the recent donations of benches and that it is quite cumbersome to donate things to the city. He stated that he is not sure what it would look like at this time but would be a great avenue for the future.

Discussion ensued between Staff and the Commission on the overall idea of establishing an endowment fund for Parks and Recreation with the following points:

- Consensus on the idea
- Suggestion to bring Dave Berry and a representative from Homer Foundation to come to speak to the Commission
- Time involved in setting up an endowment
- Once the groundwork is accomplished it will save time for the Staff, Commission and Council
- Review of the how the library set up their endowment
- Funding needed to establish the endowment fund
- What details would need to be addressed and spelled out on how donations of real property would be handled
- Would this apply to donations of art as well as things like benches
- This is a lengthy process that has many details that will have to be discussed and agreed upon
- Preference to schedule a special meeting in January under a worksession format to allow free discussion and question and answer.

It was agreed to set a special meeting date after establishing the availability of Dave Berry and Homer Foundation then Parks Maintenance Superintendent Steffy will confirm but it was agreed to tentatively set for January 21, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

- E. Memorandum from Deputy City Clerk re: Beach Policy Review
- Public Comment Received

Chair Lewis introduced item by reading the item and opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Archibald commented on the number of meetings and public hearings on the beach policy and he has been contacted by the public regarding the behavior that is going on at Bishops Beach and regarding dogs.

Commissioner Lowney reminded the Commission regarding any changes to the Beach Policy needs to be directed by City Council but would like to discuss the traditional uses compared to the existing uses and maybe clean up or verbalize the language and then there is the issues of enforcement.

Discussion further ensued between staff and the Commission on the following:

- Review policy and bring forth amendments or recommendations by motion
- include previous minutes from the last beach policy review
- Bring back to the regular meeting in February
- Review Access points recommended for improvement
- Enforcement and input from Homer Police Department
- Bring it forward at the February Meeting, continuing to the March meeting with Public Hearing if needed

- F. Public Restrooms

Chair Lewis introduced the new item by requesting input from Public Works Director Keiser and Parks Superintendent Steffy.

Public Works Director Keiser provided background to address this item on the agenda; she requested to have a worksession to help collect feedback for writing capital improvement program/budget, which happens in March. Ms. Keiser then noted the HAWSP program and criteria regarding the support for public restrooms. There is some support on the Council. She would like to have this discussion sooner rather than later due to the changes in the Fiscal year and related budget.

Ms. Keiser agreed with Chair Lewis that having a worksession before their February meeting to discuss this topic of what level of service should the City be providing in regards to restrooms in regards to location, replacement, level of service. Additional discussion covered the recommendation to have a separate meeting for the discussion and the Commission agreed to February 4, 2021 at 5:30pm. Staff will prepare and bring materials.

Deputy City Clerk Tussey noted for the record that this date would be tentative until she could confirm availability on the Clerk's calendar.

G. Memorandum from Deputy City Clerk re: Election of Officers

Chair Lewis introduced the item and requested nominations for Vice Chair.

Commissioner Lowney nominated Commissioner Fair seconded by Commissioner Harrald.

Commissioner Fair declined the nomination.

Commissioner Roedl nominated Lowney. There was no second.

Commissioner Lowney nominated Commissioner Archibald for Vice Chair.

Commissioner Archibald accepted the nomination.

Chair Lewis requested nominations for the office of Chair

Commissioner Lowney nominated Commissioner Lewis. Seconded by Commissioner Harrald.

Vice Chair Archibald called for additional nominations for Chair. Hearing none he asked if there was any objections to electing Commissioner Lewis for another term as Chair of the commission. There were no objections voiced.

Vice Chair Archibald turned the meeting over to newly re-elected Chair Lewis.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. 2021 Commissioner Attendance at City Council Meetings
- B. 2020-2021 Annual Calendar
- C. Commissioner Lowney Reappointment

Chair Lewis requested a volunteer for the November 23rd Council meeting. Commissioner Harrald agreed to attend.

Chair Lewis said they can work on the 2021 meetings at the next meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Tom Zitzmann commented on the Beach Policy noting that the last time it became contentious mainly due to vehicle traffic to the west of Bishops beach. He understands the desire of the public wishing to travel the beach by vehicles to the west. He understands that there is a very delicate balance that needs to be maintained. He noted that the City is like the arbitrator of the issues and believes if the public is educated enough they will realize the natural resource that they have in front of them. He believes that they can come to a resolution that will benefit everyone. He appreciated the time the Commission will use to address this issue.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Parks Superintendent Steffy thanked Public Works Director Keiser for recognizing not just what parks does but more importantly what parks is going to do going forward. He thanked everyone for a really good meeting and for outlining even more productive meetings in the near future.

Public Works Director Keiser stated that they have just issued a contract to a local surveyor to perform a topographical survey of Karen Hornaday Park. This will be used for the Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan and look at the access road and parking to see if it is still appropriate. They are moving forward on getting something done regarding that issue.

Recreation Manager Illg reported speaking with the City Manager regarding the HERC plan and moving forward on what the City will be doing with that complex. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCILMEMBER

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Lewis wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and have a safe Turkey Day.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Lowney commented on outreach and that the Commission should be proactive in using the Commission funds that they have throughout the year and not waiting until the end of the year all the time. She suggested radio PSA's, Facebook to issue safety messages or colorful ads in the paper. She felt that they really need to push for a recreational facility since COVID has shown how much they depend on using the schools for recreation. If they did not have the use of the HERC there are such limited resources. Commissioner Lowney reminded them that the recommendation was to put a roof on it or tear it down but nothing has been done.

Commissioner Roedl thanked Commissioners Archibald and Lewis for stepping up again and he really appreciates all the work and attending the meetings by Jan, Matt and Mike with everything else. He believed it would be a good thing to look at the drainage at Karen Hornaday Park too between the campground and the ballfield. He further commented that he is looking forward to the upcoming meetings in February but not really looking forward to addressing the Beach Policy again. Great meeting.

Commissioner Galbraith commented it was a good meeting. He is still getting up to speed and hopes to be able to offer more input in the future.

Student Representative Blanton-Yourkowski stated she was very excited about the Bishop's Beach discussion since a lot of teenagers use that area to be a socially distance hangout. She would really like to express the student perspective when the Commission talks about that next month. She appreciated everyone's input tonight.

Commissioner Fair congratulated Parks Superintendent Steffy on his promotion, he issued a shout out to whomever is putting in the expansion of the Diamond Creek Bike Trail as they started on the bluff side and it travels along the bluff, it is pretty rough right now, but it is an interesting walk, about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile long now. He expressed from his trail building experience that whomever is working on that they are working their “tails” off. He also wanted to request recommendations on the subject of the next Letter to the Editor and was thinking about the work done at Karen Hornaday Park, that the city is doing some upgrades, if the rest of the Commission is good with that he can get details from staff.

Commissioner Harrald commented that she was going to piggy back on what everyone said earlier, everything is really great and functional right now and that she was on her 12th hour of Zoom meetings. Her 30 minutes of skating outside is what is getting her through the day right now and she opined that outdoor activities and the connection to mental health is something really important. That would be a great topic for outreach with the community going into winter and it’s important to get that message out. She further noted that they were very lucky to have the outdoor spaces that they have during this time. She also wanted to look into and advocate to have a voting student representative position on the Commission as she knows that they do in other communities and it is not impossible, believing that if a student is going to commit to and sit for a three hour meeting they should be able to vote on the motions presented.

Commissioner Archibald congratulated Parks Superintendent Steffy on a well-deserved promotion, we miss you on the Commission but you are doing a bang up job with the parks for the city. He is very pleased and excited to hear about the plans for the work progressing on Karen Hornaday Park. He has been considering what could be done about outreach to the public and advocated for using the radio by writing up scripts for someone who has a good voice. They need to recognize that when this is all done there is going to be a lot of activity outside. He then wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. A Special meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 21, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. A worksession is tentatively scheduled for February 4, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

RACHEL TUSSEY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

Approved: _____



City of Homer

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MEMORANDUM

To: Parks, Arts, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Commission.

From: Matt Steffy, Parks Superintendent

Date: January 21st, 2021

Subject: Greatest Parks in the Universe Staff Report

-
- There has been no revenue to report during the last reporting period. All is quiet on the campground front.
 - The use of parks and trails have continued at an elevated level. Parks staff have kept restrooms cleaned and trash emptied on a daily basis. Sanding of trails has been quite a challenge due to the consistent weather conditions. We are still experimenting with different practices and equipment. A sanding unit for the side-by-side is on its way.
 - We have recently acquired three trail counters to collect real data on the usage of our trail systems. These are the same high quality units that are used by the U.S. Forest Service. We intend to use the data collected to make informed decisions on trail maintenance priorities.
 - Parks will continue to coordinate with Aaron Yeaton to update the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan this winter. We have begun work already by prioritizing ambitions and development goals. This update will reassess regional development priorities in a spatial context, as well as general expectations for improvements of existing facilities.
 - We now have 30 fire rings crafted by a local metalsmith, with more to come. The rings have plasma cut designs of Alaskan art (bears, eagles, mountains, etc) and half grates to cover the top for cooking. The rings are very affordable, because they are unfinished. Parks staff will use the sandblaster at Water & Sewer to strip them, then coat with high temperature paint. These will be employed this next season at campsites that have not had fire rings in years.
 - The community fireworks display at Mariner Park on New Year's Eve was a great success. Special thanks to Aaron Weiser for coordinating this effort.
 - Staff met with a committee of City employees to begin discussions around reviewing the existing Social Media Policy, and how it may be updated or adapted to our evolving needs for public interaction.
 - The sinkhole at the transition from the paved parking lot at Bishops Beach onto the beach itself has been addressed. A contractor was brought in to provide fill, shave down ice ridges, and relocate driftwood for parking delineation. This has alleviated a hazard that has been increasing over the years and the seasons. The area will be re-evaluated when the ground is thawed in the summer to explore long-term solutions to the problem.
 - Staff met with the Friends of the Homer Library, and other community members, to discuss proposed development of the Western Library Trails complex. This includes the Story Trail, and all property between the Library parking lot and the base of Poopdeck Trail along Hazel Street. I will keep you all

posted as this develops. This will be a great opportunity for inter-commission coordination, as Parks coordinates with the Library to develop grounds that support their outside programmatic needs.

- Parks adopted a lead role in coordinating parking and traffic logistics for the first round of vaccinations for the Homer community, which are being offered by SPH at the Christian Community Church. I will give a briefing at the meeting. This event will be held on January 15th and 16th, and will involve extensive support from Planning, PW, City Administration, HFD, HPD, SPH, and countless volunteers.
- Initial data collection has been completed for the Parks Forestry Management Plan. Parks Maintenance Technician Rose Riordan has been working with Aaron Yeaton to collect field data for the tree inventory that will provide the base information for our plan.
- An initial meeting between Parks and the Disc Golf Community was held to discuss planning, partnerships, and resources. The plan for developing an 18-hole disc golf course at Diamond Creek Recreation Area will move forward once a Phase I, II, and III have been identified. We have been assured that we have a bottomless pool of volunteer labor from our community of disc golfers. There are other partners who will be brought in as well (i.e. Nordic Ski Club & HSWCD.)
- PMT Stevie Drescher has been working on a Social Media strategy for Parks, as well as developing potential logos and some branding art. She has also been using her spare shift time to continue the Homer tradition of deploying trash cans with beautiful works of art on them.



1. Bishops Beach hole after completed work



2. Poopdeck Trail maintenance



3. Fire ring with bear design



4. Fire ring with salmon design



5. Octopus Trash Can



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Memorandum

TO: PARKS ART RECREATION & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION
FROM: MIKE ILLG, COMMUNITY RECREATION MANAGER
DATE: JANUARY 21, 2021
SUBJECT: STAFF REPORT

November 23rd City Council Meeting

Nothing related to PARAC to report. See City Manager report informational packet.

December 14th City Council Meeting

See City Manager report in informational packet.

Ordinance 20-90, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Accepting and Appropriating a Donation from Friends of Woodard Creek in Karen Hornaday Park in the Amount of \$7,025 for Woodard Creek Nature Trail Maintenance and Improvements in Karen Hornaday Park. City Manager. Introduction November 23, 2020 Public Hearing and Second Reading December 14, 2020

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Resolution 20-119, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Acknowledging the 2021 Budget will be Truncated to January 1 to June 30, 2021 to Accommodate the Transition from a Calendar Year Budget to a Fiscal Year Budget. Smith. (Postponed from November 23rd)

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Resolution 20-134, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Supporting Regional Aquaculture Associations and Strongly Opposing Proposed Changes to Management Plan of Kachemak Bay State Park and State Wilderness Park that would Disproportionately and Negatively Impact the Homer Community. Evensen/Hansen-Cavasos/Mayor

VOTE: YES: SMITH, EVENSEN, HANSEN-CAVASOS NO: VENUTI, ADERHOLD, LORD

Mayor Castner voted yes to break the tie

Resolution 20-130, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Supporting and Encouraging all forms of Outdoor Recreation Especially during the 2020-2021 Winter with the Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. Lord.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

January 11th City Council Meeting

See City Manager report in informational packet.

Resolution 21-009, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Approving the City of Homer 2021 Land Allocation Plan. City Manager. Recommend adoption.

Adopted by Consensus of Council under the Consent Agenda

Resolution 20-133, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Expressing Intent to Participate in the Purchase of Kenai Peninsula Borough Parcel Number 17936032, T06S R13W SEC 22 Seward Meridian HM 2017050 Hodnik Subdivision Lot 4, by Kachemak Bay Moose Habitat, Inc. and Directing the City Manager to Negotiate the City's Financial Contribution and Assure the Binding Public Purpose Conditions are met. Mayor.

Resolution 20-133(S), A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Expressing Intent to Participate in the Payment of the Water and Sewer Assessments for Kenai Peninsula Borough Parcel Number 17936032, T06S R13W SEC 22 Seward Meridian HM 2017050 Hodnik Subdivision Lot 4, by Kachemak Bay Moose Habitat, Inc. when the Property Ownership Transfers to Kachemak Bay Moose Habitat, Inc, and a Deed Restriction for Conservation and Public Use are Recorded. City Manager.

ADOPTED Substitute with Discussion.

Resolution 21-008, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Providing Comments to the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation on Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park Management Plan Intent to Adopt, dated November 2020. Aderhold/Evensen

ADOPTED without Discussion

February 2021 PARCAC Meetings

Work Session: Restrooms/HAWSP on Thursday, February 4th at 5:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting: Beach Policy, Personal Water Crafts, on Thursday, February 18th at 5:30 p.m.

Recreation Champions

City Manager Rob Dumouchel has created a fun working group of city staff that includes the city manager, Library Director Dave Berry, Deputy Planner Julie Engebretsen, Parks Superintendent Matt Steffy and myself. This group meets every other week to brain storm, network and collaborate towards providing and supporting recreational and educational opportunities in the Homer area. One of the products that came from the group is the Winter Time Recreation guide (included) that will be distributed through the water/sewer mailing in addition to being shared on social media and website. We envision there will be additional opportunities to collaborate and assist with enhancing and promoting all of the great services the city provides.

Community Recreation Sports Equipment Lending Library Pilot Project

By the time you read this, this program should be “live” on the city’s parks and recreation website. Participants can review the list of items we have available for use and submit a request that is sent to the recreation manager. We will arrange curbside pick-up and drop off depending upon staff availability. Some of the items include sleds, spike ball sets, various balls, disc golfs set, pickleball set (paddles, balls, net), whiffle ball set, etc. We will provide contacts and networking resources for any ski or snow related equipment request that other organizations may have available.

Parks and Recreation Software Update

We are continuing to make progress is learning how the MyRec software works and how we can improve services for community members and visitors. This will include online registrations, online payments, calendars, reservations, etc. We have weekly meetings that serve as training sessions that include myself and Matt Steffy. Hopefully we can have something ready to launch by at least the end of February but ideally sooner.

HERC and School Gymnasiums

As of today, the HERC and school district gymnasiums and facilities are still closed due to the COVID pandemic. As a result, the city’s indoor programming is still on pause. While many community members are eager for us to re-open, the city remains steadfast in the safety of the community members and staff while city administration continues to monitor the case counts, medical industry recommendations and other necessary variables before deciding to re-open. When we do re-open I would predict that we initially would utilize our mitigation plan that involves a reservation system with a small number of participants each time.

WINTERTIME ACTIVITIES

HOMER, ALASKA



WINTER REC PRO TIPS

Know Before You Go

Some areas can become dangerous with winter conditions. Research your destination and check local conditions in advance. Prepare for the elements by packing extra layers, waterproof clothing, and safety gear for the backcountry. Remember that some roads and facilities may be closed in winter.

Play it Safe

Know your limits and your gear. Slow down and choose lower-risk activities to reduce your risk of injury.

Leave No Trace

Did you know that snow is our water supply? Keep our winter playgrounds clean. Pack out any human or pet waste. Be respectful of the land.

Explore Locally

Consider exploring locally, as driving and parking may be more challenging in the winter. If you travel, be mindful of your impact on Native and local communities.

Practice Social Distancing

Be prepared to cover your nose and mouth. When possible, opt to eat and rest outside. If you feel sick, stay home.

FAT TIRE BIKING

With the right equipment you can still have the ability to bike on almost any terrain! Check out homercyclingclub.org whose mission is to promote bicycling as an environmentally friendly, healthy, and enjoyable pursuit in Homer and beyond. There are a few local businesses that will rent bicycles if you are looking to try this fun activity.



SPORTS GEAR LIBRARY

Are you looking to borrow some sports gear for your outdoor recreational endeavors? The City of Homer's Sports Gear Library program may have the sleds, balls, outdoor games, etc that you are looking for. We are also developing partnerships for other winter items. This is a free program with the goal of giving everyone the opportunity to play and recreate outdoors.

Have gear you don't use anymore? Consider donating your old gear and equipment to the program so we can get it into the hands of folks who will!

Call Mike Illg at 907-235-6090 for more information or visit:

cityofhomer-ak.gov/recreation/sports-gear-lending-program

BUILD AN INCLUSIVE OUTDOORS

Everyone deserves to experience a winter wonderland. Be an active part of making the outdoors safe, accessible, and welcoming for people of all abilities

Independent Living Center Inclusive Recreation

The TRAILS program is participant driven to empower individuals by sharing fun activities, promoting self-confidence, teaching independent living skills, and assisting participants to fully realize their capabilities through recreation. For more information go to peninsulailc.org/TRAILS or contact mgavillot@penilc.org

HOMER LIBRARY

Curbside Checkout

Anything that can be checked out inside the library is available at the back entrance of the building. Call 235-3180 for more information.

Little Library

There is a small cabinet outside the front entrance to the library with free books for anyone who would like to take some or leave some. Help yourself!

Outdoor WIFI

The library has a WIFI signal broadcast across the parking lot on the west side of the building. The login process is the same as inside the library building.

Laptops

If you don't have your own computer, you can check one out from the library. Call 235-3180 for assistance.

Zoom Programs

Public programs are being conducted over Zoom. See the library calendar for upcoming events: (https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/calendar?field_microsite_tid=86)

SNOW ACTIVITIES

Cross Country Skiing

The Kachemak Nordic Ski Club is the driving force for providing incredible cross country skiing opportunities. This volunteer organization maintains/grooms trails, provides instructions for beginners and youth, spearheads special events and much more. Go to kachemaknordicskiclub.org for more info.

Down Hill Skiing

The Kachemak Ski Club maintains and operates the Homer Rope Tow located at 2.5 Ohlson Mountain Road. This volunteer organization provides a local option for downhill skiing and snowboarding along with some instructional opportunities. They are open on Sundays, 11am-4pm Call the Snow Line for updated information at 235-SNOW.

Sledding

While we cannot officially endorse locations to go sledding we can encourage that you avoid sledding in any areas that are near vehicular traffic. And consider wearing a helmet too!

Snow Shoeing

Is a terrific way to access and enjoy the outdoors. If you are looking to give this activity a try, check out the Center For Alaska Coastal Studies at 235-6667 as they have shoes available for a \$5 donation.

Snow Machining

Alaska has ample opportunities for snow machining so as long as there is snow. Considering connecting with the SNOMADS for information and resources at homersnomads.org.

Ice Skating

As many locals know there are a few options for outdoor skating that depend on weather conditions. Check with Kevin Bell Arena (Homer ice Rink) for possible skate rental options and out-door programs www.kevinbellarena.org or 235-2647

Ice Fishing

Many Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) offices have fishing rods to lend. The type of fishing rods and the extent of gear in the Rod Loaner Program is dependent upon the local fishing opportunities and fishing conditions. Call 235-1739 or email Michael.booz@alaska.gov

PARKS AND NATURE AREAS

City Parks & Playgrounds

The city parks and play-grounds are open during the winter and the Hornaday Park Playground located off of W. Fairview Ave is a popular year round destination for families. For more information go to:

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/recreation/parks-facilities

Wynn Nature Center

Located at 1.5 East Skyline Drive, this Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies offering is a fantastic place to hike or snowshoe! Call 236-6667 for more information.

Hiking

There are many opportunities to go hiking during the winter time. In addition to some of the local trails

consider spending time walking the incredible beaches in our community.



DISCLAIMER

The City of Homer is sharing the listed information and resources as a community service. This flyer does not constitute an endorsement for or against the non-City of Homer programs, organizations, materials, and viewpoints expressed herein.

AK Recreation & Parks Association

2020 Holiday Newsletter

~Our hats off to you good friends~

Hello Friends and Family,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for doing the good work you do within your communities and supporting the mission of ARPA throughout this year. We think it goes without saying that the value of Parks & Recreation was emphasized time and again in the face of the global pandemic. We are proud of Alaska's resiliency and the adaptation each of you deployed to remain relevant and active in the services you provide your fellow community members.



With that, we wish you a very Happy Holiday season and New Year. Please enjoy this holiday newsletter developed by your colleagues around the state.

From,

Your friends at the Alaska Recreation & Parks Association

~Meet the members of the ARPA Board & Committee Chairs~



Mike Illg



**Nick
Farline**



Joel Todd



**Joan
Klapperich**



**Lauren
Eck**



**Lauren
Anderson**



**Tyler
Florence**



**Kate
Thomas**



Mike Bork



**Donnie
Hayes**

~Missing photo of Dan
Cain~

Juneau Parks & Recreation

We're currently putting on a P&R Candy Cane Hunt in downtown Juneau where we partnered with 35 local businesses to hide candy cane numbers in their storefront windows. Participants then printed off our candy cane tracker and went around mat

encourage folks to stay with their household bubble but also to shop locally this holiday season. We received close to \$1,000 in donations from the businesses for prizes which totally blew me away! I've been seeing families running around downtown with their trackers playing and it literally just makes my day! I love being able to organize activities for families to get out and do something new within our community. This is the last weekend for the hunt and we'll be compiling all the submissions next week and hold our drawing.

~Content provided by Lauren Verrelli~



“Look at how a single candle can both defy and define the darkness” ~ Ann Frank ~

During the Holiday Season, homes, businesses, boats, and parks are adorned with lights. Here in Alaska these lights are integral to surviving the long dark winter. These lights can also cause frustration and risks. Below is a list of things to consider while you are preparing to light the night in your facilities and parks.

- Make sure all your light strands are UL certified. This certification is important to meet code and protect you from electric issues.
- Test and inspect all your lights before you begin to decorate.
- Secure your extension cords so that they are not a tripping hazard.

- Use appropriate hooks to hang your lights. Stay away from nails, screws, and tacks.
- Use extension cords that are rate for the environment and electrical load you are putting them in.
- Have an electrician inspect the outlets you plan to use. Sometimes those outlets have issues that are not noticed since they don't have significant use year-round.
- Always hang lights with a co-worker.
- Make sure you are wearing the right clothing and PPE for the temperature, and the work. If you can hang lights when it is warmer outside that will save fingers, toes, and faces from frostbite.
- Look into new technology like LED lights that can be up year round.

Although issues can arise while preparing for holiday cheer, it is also a great way to brighten lives all Winter long. A simple stroll through a light encrusted Park brings miles of smiles to our communities. Here are a few ideas to help get the community involved.

- Tree lighting ceremonies.
- Parade of lights – This could be with vehicles, boats, or walking tours.
- Holiday Markets among the lights.
- Bright Light 5k's- everyone wears glow sticks, and other light up gear.

Being among the lights make our days merry and bright! Be safe and bright this Holiday Season.

~Content provided by Donnie Hayes~

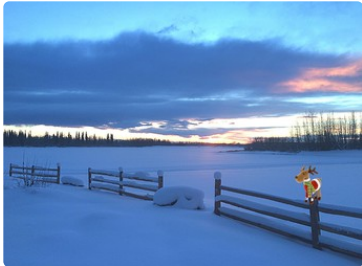


~From the North Country~

Fairbanks put on a Holiday Treats program - think bag full of ingredients and supplies to make snacks, cocoa and crafts. Each one had 3 crafts, a snack to make, a drink to make, coloring pages and a small bag of candy, stickers, and toys. We offered 3 different themes, Grinch, Rudolph, and Peanuts, offering 75 total boxes. Registration filled up in 25 minutes! Myself and my staff, Mark, had fun packing the bags. Who doesn't love filling 75 cups of sprinkles, icing, etc.! We've found that take home boxes are a great way to offer programming while adhering to safety regulations. They are extremely popular in the Fairbanks community among young children. I've included some photos for you!

We've also been running Moose on the Loose, an "elf on the shelf" in our parks. Moose visits a different park each Wednesday this month and participants must guess which park he visited based on a photo we post on our Facebook Page. More than 60 families are playing along each week. So far Moose has visited a recreation area, park, and pool. 1 winner is chosen randomly each week and they receive a \$25 parks and rec gift card and their very own Moose on the Loose stuffed animal.

~Content provided by Lauren Eck~



THE POWER OF PARKS



Do you know the power of your local parks and recreation? Yes, they provide beautiful green spaces and fun programs, but they do so much more and the benefits are immense. Learn more at www.nrpa.org/power-of-parks and watch the video.

PARKS HAVE ENVIRONMENTAL POWER



1 ACRE OF TREES
absorbs the carbon dioxide produced by
DRIVING A CAR 11,000 MILES.

PARKS HAVE HEALTH POWER

Increased access to places
for physical activity leads to a
25% increase
in people exercising
3 or more days a week.

PARKS HAVE SAFETY POWER

In Macon, GA, a revitalized park
that included new programming
and beautification efforts
**reduced incidents of
crime and violence by
50%.**

Sources:
Centers for Disease Control, Environmental Protection Agency,
American Planning Association



PARKS HAVE COMMUNITY POWER

Parks strengthen community ties and
bring diverse populations together.

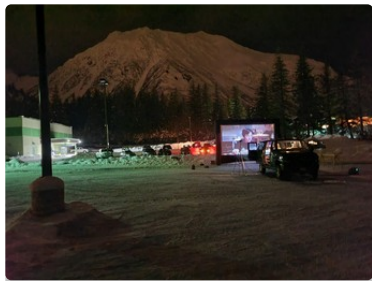
Parks have the power to strengthen
communities, transform lives, and
protect the future.

**Parks are the most powerful
aspect of every community.**



National Recreation
and Park Association

#PowerOfParks



Carpool Movie Night in Seward

On Saturday December 12 at 6:00pm the lights for the High School parking lot went out and about 25 cars were lined up and parked. The generators were humming, and the movie “Elf” started to project on our 24’ blow up screen. The first Carpool movie night in Seward was in full swing.

For this event we had to coordinate with the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District to get approval to use their parking lot, Seward Public Radio to help transmit the audio, and Seward Seahawks Athletic Booster Club provided concessions. We received the movie rights through Swank Motion Pictures. Thankfully the weather held out for us with no snow, rain or wind. Any of those factors would have forced us to cancel this event. We are planning to continue this event each month for the rest of winter. Also looking into receiving some sponsorships to help offset costs for this event.

You could really see the appreciation on the publics’ faces when they checked in. This was the first big event that Sports and Recreation has held since Halloween. It was nice to see the community out and about enjoying themselves and we can’t want to continue this event, if Alaskan weather will allow it.

~Content provided by Jenny Rutledge with Seward Parks & Recreation~

Homer Happenings!

Happy Holidays from the “Cosmic Hamlet By the Sea”...or what the maps continue to display: Homer, Alaska! To say 2020 has been an unusual year is clearly a major understatement. Like many of you across the state, we were challenged to find different ways to continue to serve the needs and demands of our community members and visitors alike. The

transmission of an infection when the core of what most of the parks and recreation industry provides is to bring people together.



Addressing the increased camping demands, creating reservation systems for gym use, vandalized restrooms, creating mitigation plans, purchasing PPE (if you could find it), shutting services completely down, etc. How grateful we are to have our ARPA organization to provide support, ideas, templates, friendships and resources to our fellow members in a time of great need and unprecedented uncertainty. I believe the ARPA organization has truly benefited from the pandemic. While we certainly look forward to attending our annual conference in person where create new connections, learn new skills, explore a new community and come away feeling completely re-charged about working in the parks and rec. But as you know we could not attend in person this past year and we hosted our first Virtual Conference (which was super fun and very well done). The utilization of video conferencing software will now allow us to remain even more connected especially being such a large geographical state whereas travel can be expensive and timely. While I look forward to our Annual Conference again in person (Soldotna 2021!), I envision we will continue to use the technology beyond the pandemic to strengthen our organizational purpose and functions by staying connected as much as possible.

A couple of things happening in here in Homer in response to improving the lives of our residents includes the “Light Up Homer” program created by our newly minted and ever creative Parks Superintendent Matt Steffy. In a partnership with the local chamber of commerce, any business that would like to illuminate their storefront with seasonal lighting the City will provide the lights if the business can provide the installation. Lighting will be collected back up in the spring for redistribution again in the fall. Businesses can add their own additional decorations to enhance their displays. The Chamber will be issuing awards for the best lighting arrangements. Another program we will be rolling out soon is the “Sports Gear Library”. Similar to a public library, the city will provide and check out some outdoor recreational gear to community members such as sleds, skates, snowshoes, Frisbees, etc for free. We envision this to be a collaborative effort with other community organizations to help connect people with gear that they otherwise would not be able to afford or simply would like to try something out before purchasing. Ultimately the goal is to assist with getting people active and eliminate any potential barriers from recreating outdoors.

~Content provided by Mike Illg~

Stay informed on the Alaska State Budget

A Path Forward

Did you know?

Did you know, as of today, we have **85 professional certifications** related to the parks and recreation industry in Alaska? Check it out!

- 44 Certified Playground Safety Inspectors (CPSI)
- 19 Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS)
- 16 Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP)
- 4 Aquatic Facility Operators (AFO)
- 2 Certified Parks and Recreation Executive (CPRE)



Did you know that the certification processes usually requires adequate time, preparation, training and the exams are not cheap? They're spendy!

Did you also know that ARPA provides some **financial assistance** to help *you* obtain the professional certifications you have been thinking about to expand your skill set and advance your career? It's true!

ARPA currently offers **6 scholarships** per year (December 1 - November 30) of up to \$500 each in the following categories:

- Three individual scholarships to assist with **professional development** (any certification/education relating to the Parks & Recreation field with preference given to NRPA programs).
- Three individual scholarships to **assist with attendance** at the ARPA Annual Conference (allowable expenses include travel, registration fees and/or hotel)

The proposed scholarships do not require the recipient to pass any tests/exams if pursuing certifications. Scholarship requests are open only to current ARPA members in good standing. Scholarships may be awarded to an individual in each category once every two years.

Please contact the Scholarship Committee Chairperson for more information: donnie.hayes@fnsb.gov

Informational links.

<https://www.nctrc.org/about-certification/ctrs-the-qualified-provider/>

<https://www.nrpa.org/certification/>



Petersburg Alaska Embraces New P&R Director

Read from her own words, Stephanie Payne's climb to the top. Provided below her autobiography you can read more about her success through KFSK's Radio Article.

I graduated from University of Central Missouri with a master's in biology, focusing on Wetland Ecology in 2012. Shortly after, I made my way up to Alaska with my family, landing in Homer. After a year in Homer, we transplanted to Petersburg in southeast AK. At the start, I worked in 3 retail businesses prior to landing at Petersburg Parks and Recreation as the Program Coordinator in April of 2019.



In just a few short months I moved into the Facility Supervisor position. Unfortunately, in February our facility suffered 3 debilitating equipment breakdowns, and we lost our Director, my mentor. With that loss, and a healing facility, our City Manager, Stephen Giesbrecht, stepped in as Acting Director. As busy as he was with managing all our other Borough Departments, I took the bulk of the on-the-ground work with facilities, crew, and functioning. As with many other communities we shut down in March when COVID took its hold. We were closed until July, when we were able to safely re-open. It took a solid effort to get the doors open as safety was a significant concern. Everything was so new at the time.

Just when we thought we were in the clear, we suffered a catastrophic blow in October to our main electrical system controlling our Aquatic Center. A surge so powerful that Ketchikan felt the wake!! Striving to keep the crews hopes alive with prospect of long term facility closure, while balancing multiple facility operations and preparing for fall programming, I managed to keep things moving successfully.

Not long after the incident the miracle work of electrical engineers, mechanical engineers, and contractors paid off, and the facility was able to fully function again! We have hosted a very successful Christmas event and are gearing up to keep kids and adults both moving during Christmas Break. Our facilities are heavily used and partially owned by our local school district, so each closure significantly impacted their schedule and education. We are thrilled to be back up and running for the holidays. It just makes Christmas that much sweeter.

Remember when I said the Director position was vacated and the City Manager was Acting Director? Well, we have worked our way through the hiring process for our new Director, 10 months later. Having fought my hardest to keep facility, crew, and community going, while absorbing a tremendous amount about what our community wants - I earned the position of new Petersburg Parks and Recreation Director! It has been a hard fight this year, not only with COVID, but with a failing facility. This place has become my baby, so to speak.

It is an honor to have been given the chance to move us successfully into the future. Petersburg has become home to me and my 3 daughters and I plan to continue working hard for them and the community to help keep this place an incredible place to enjoy our lives.

~Content provided by Stephanie Payne~

Read KFSK's Story in Petersburg

[Click here](#)



Yukon Kuskokwim Fitness Center Welcomes New Staff

In the midst of the pandemic, The Yukon-Kuskokwim Fitness Center (YKFC) in Bethel has been happy to be able to welcome a new Member & Guest Experience Manager. Kerri Donnelly started with the team in early December after moving to Bethel from Norfolk, Virginia.

Kerri has a bachelor's degree in Tourism and Event Management, Hospitality from George Mason University and previously served as the Events Manager at the Virginia Zoo. When the opportunity to pick up and move across the country presented itself Kerri couldn't resist the new adventure. "Coming from a Southern beach town where 90 degree days are more common than snow covered roads has been a big change, but I'm loving every second of it" says Kerri who has been spending her free time walking by the river or along the city's boardwalks. With a background in customer service the new position is a great fit and an exciting opportunity to get fully emerged in the Bethel community. "I'm excited to be working with the only fitness and rec center in the area, I think it'll be a great way to get know everyone in Bethel".

Starting a new position now is a little tricky, but luckily there's a lot of opportunities to explore the facility and get ready to welcome guests back. "I'm learning as much as I can about the facility,

programs, and the area so I can be ready when we re-open” says Kerri. YKFC offers a six lane competition pool as well as an exercise room and studio for group fitness. Offering the only swim lessons in the area, YKFC serves as a vital piece of the community’s recreation as well as an essential part of the community’s safety.

Do you want to be like Kerri and join in the Bethel Adventure at YKFC? Visit ykfitness.org for facility information and to see how you can join our team!

~Content provided by Stacey Reardon & Kerri Donnelly~

Outstanding Business Partner Award

The **OUTSTANDING BUSINESS PARTNER AWARD** recognizes one business partner that has supported ARPA and its mission. This support can be shown in any manner. **MyRec.Com Recreation Software** was chosen as this year’s recipient. MyRec.Com Recreation Software helps departments operate more efficiently with tools like online registration, leading to savings in service delivery, operations, and business planning. In 2019, MyRec.Com Recreation Software set up a website for ARPA free of charge. Their outstanding customer service and dedication to helping ARPA become a more visible and quality organization led them to receiving this award. MyRec.Com Recreation Software has provided ARPA with tools such as, memberships, online conference registration, email blasts, and overall a more streamlined and easy-to-access site.



~Read more about this year's award winners~

~New aquatics resource shared by one of the best, Wendy Clubb~

Build your aquatics tool box with ALIVE Solutions

We exist to keep people & businesses ALIVE and well!

WE BELIEVE...

- In providing solutions, resources, and knowledge to our community
- We are here to create tools to help people and operators change their lives
- In servicing the space between lifeguard providers and operators
- There is power in bridging the gap between training and reality
- Aquatics Directors / Leaders deserve high quality training
- Aquatics Leadership should have coaches and direct line support to mentoring experts
- Personal & Professional Wellness is important and vital for success
- Post Event debriefs / crisis management can be handled in a singular fashion in a supportive way
- In continual improvement, innovation, and growth
- Trainings is important and powerful, if done right
- In providing high quality online and in person trainings to our community
- In water safety & drowning education
- Perspective is so important to success
- Everyone is Important

WE MAKE IT...

We make it Great. We make it Work. We make it Simple. We make it Important. We make it Better.

We make it Real. We make it Powerful. We make it Creative. We make it Smart. We make it Safe.

We make it Personal. We make it Unforgettable. We make it Last.

WE ARE...

Aquatic Safety Experts

Experienced Operators / Managers

Teachers / Educators

Creatives / Visionaries

Consultants

Coaches

People Focused



Wellness Oriented
Passionate
Lifeguard Instructors
Leaders

<https://alive-solutions.com/>

Enjoy 10 Hours of Yule Logging

Valdez Holiday Train & Tree Lighting

Each year, to welcome the holiday season, the Valdez Parks & Recreation Department hosts the Annual Community Tree Lighting Ceremony. During these unprecedented times, hosting the traditional close gathering was not an ideal option. Through creative thinking, we came up with the perfect solution to bring everyone together while staying safely ap

On Sunday, November 29, we put on the first ever Holiday Train & Tree Lighting. We invited the entire community to decorate their vehicles, line up, and tune in for a collaborative on-air event. As with anything new, we were uncertain what the turnout would be. Staff, being as prepared as they could be, never anticipated what would happen next. Lineup started at 5:30PM. By 5:45PM, there were well over 100 festive cars lining the street! What we estimated to be a 30-minute event (tops!) ended up lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes. It was one of the most rewarding moments in my 8-year career with Valdez Parks & Recreation.



KVAK radio broadcasted live, and put together a wonderful radio show featuring the mayor's proclamation reading, in-car games, and upbeat holiday tunes. We led the train through a festive route downtown where Santa parked his fire truck and waved to the children as they passed by. Folks, dressed in their holiday best, lined the sidewalks and rang out shouts of cheer, and KVAK, Frosty and the Prospector crew delivered candy canes in their Mele Kalikimaka attire.

At the end of the route, next to the community tree, Parks & Recreation handed out over 300 holiday cheer bags for kids. Thirty-six lucky little ones received a golden ticket and collected wonderful prizes, all donated by local businesses. It was a proud day, and much fun was had by all!

Additional photographs are viewable on the Parks & Recreation Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ValdezAlaskaFun.

~Content provided by Krystal Moulton~



Thank you Jason Jones!

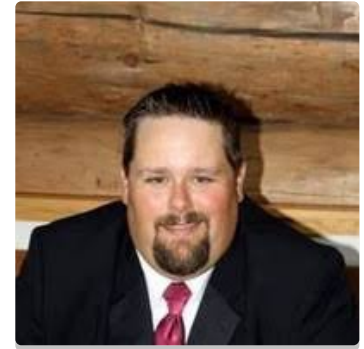
Jason has been a steadfast leader in Park Maintenance, running the ARPA section over a number of years. We value folks like Jason and the knowledge they bring to recreation departments far and wide. Although ARPA does not currently have sections established, feel free to reach out to you pals for advice and brainstorming sessions.

Thank you for your leadership and consistent presence with ARPA!

Thank you Brandon Harker!

Brandon Harker has been an ARPA champion for more years than we can count. He brings a wealth of knowledge to his professional colleagues in the realm of Therapeutic Recreation. While Brandon isn't active with the ARPA Board currently, we look forward to continued engagement with him in the months and years to come.

Thanks for your outstanding commitment and service to ARPA!



Alaska Recreation & Parks Association

Facebook

PO Box 100161, Anchorage, Ala...
907-459-1269

info@alaskarpa.org
arpa.myrec.com/info/default.as...



City of Homer

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Office of the City Manager

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citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-8121 x2222

(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE: November 19, 2020
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for November 23rd Council Meeting

Melissa Jacobsen Awarded Clerk of the Year by Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks

I am very excited to extend congratulations to City Clerk Melissa Jacobsen for being recognized as Alaska's Clerk of the Year. I have been continually impressed by the high level of work that comes out of the Clerk's Office since arriving in Homer, and I'm glad to see that her peers throughout the state also recognize the value she provides to both her local community and the statewide network of city clerks. Nothing works without clerks, and I'm very happy to have such an exceptional City Clerk on our team.

Good Luck and Goodbye to Rachel Friedlander

I also want to extend congratulations to Rachel Friedlander who is preparing to transition into the position of City Manager for the City of Seldovia. Rachel has served the City of Homer as Executive Assistant to the City Manager for the last two years and has been an absolute all-star for our organization. I'm very grateful for the support she has provided me in the early days of my tenure here in Homer. I look forward to having her as a colleague and hope that our two communities will benefit from the strong working relationship we've forged here in City Hall.

Greetings from Consul Aniya

Mayor Castner received a letter dated November 3rd from Consul Aniya who was appointed as Head of the Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage May of this year. Last year, Mayor Castner convened a group of three members of the public interested in furthering the relationship Homer has with its sister city, Teshio. One of the members, Megumi, has assisted the City with translation of correspondence sent to the Mayor of Teshio and even brought gifts from Homer for his office when she traveled to Japan at the beginning of the year. The City has yet to receive a response from Teshio however Consul Aniya's engagement with Homer could be yet another way to strengthen relations with our sister city. Staff are helping the Mayor make arrangements with Consul Aniya's office to participate in the future "Japan-Alaska Sister City forum" he mentions in his letter and will provide updates to Council as this moves forward.

Intersection of Soundview and Sterling Highway

Prior to the pandemic, there had been some outreach by community members and local schools to improve safety conditions at the intersection of Soundview and Sterling Highway. Councilmembers Lord and Venuti revived this issue with my office and I did some outreach to AKDOT. I have sent them a letter indicating the existence of a safety concern. The letter also requests a safety assessment and recommendations for improvements from their team. After the review and recommendations are complete, I will assess the path forward and inform Council of the outcome.

De-escalation Training

As a follow up to my last report, arrangements are being made through AMLJIA to provide de-escalation training to staff later this month. We'll be digitally hosting three 90-minute sessions to try and capture as many participants as possible.

Virtual Conferences

The Alaska Municipal League and Alaska Municipal Management Association held virtual conferences which spanned the last two weeks. I participated in select sessions from both conferences.

COVID-Related Updates

COVID Framework Reviews

I continue to meet with staff to review our risk status according to the framework. I have a review scheduled for the afternoon of the 19th (after I submit this report for publication). If any changes in risk level are determined through that process I will communicate that to Council.

Council Chambers COVID Remodel

The Council Chambers remodel is well underway. Much of the new dais has been constructed and the old dais will be removed from Chambers the week of the 23rd. Work will begin shortly on the clerk's desk and podium. IT is wrapping up the details for the tech upgrades.

Enclosures:

1. Employee Anniversaries
2. AAMC Clerk of the Year – Melissa Jacobsen
3. Letter from Consul Aniya and Mayor Castner's response
4. Letter to AKDOT regarding intersection of Soundview and Sterling Highway



City of Homer

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Memorandum

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: Andrea Browning
DATE: November 23, 2020
SUBJECT: November Employee Anniversaries

I would like to take the time to thank the following employees for the dedication, commitment and service they have provided the City and taxpayers of Homer over the years.

Dave Shealy,	Police	23	Years
Lisa Ellington,	Port	14	Years
Jenna deLumeau,	Finance	11	Years
Ian Overson,	Police	9	Years
Rachel Friedlander,	Admin	2	Years



Clerk of the Year Award

2020 Clerk of the Year Melissa Jacobsen, MMC

Homer City Clerk Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, received the prestigious Clerk of the Year Award on November 17, 2020, at the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks (AAMC) Business Meeting held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This award was established in 2000 to recognize Alaska municipal clerks who have made significant contributions toward furthering the municipal clerk profession, improving municipal government, continuing professional development through education, demonstrating leadership, and making significant contributions to the quality of life in their community.

Below are remarks prepared by the 2018 Clerk of the Year Award recipient Nova Javier when presenting the award to Melissa:

"This year's awardee was nominated by elected officials, manager, co-workers, and community members based on her leadership, ethics, professionalism, and excellence. She is described as a leader during one of the most challenging and muddled times in modern history.



The awardee furthered the municipal clerk profession by remaining positive and steadfast working on behalf of AAMC to ensure the spirit of our association remained strong during this pandemic.

This year's recipient is praised for her dedication in improving individual access and participation to the democratic process. She has made strategic and systemic changes and introduced new technology. She has lead in moving her City's "paper catacombs" into the digital age. She is a person who strives every day to be the change she wants to see in the world as she CONTRIBUTES greatly to her community. Council members and community members alike commend her positive attitude and calm demeanor. Watching her run an election during a pandemic has highlighted the hard work she puts into ensuring every member of the public has access to the polls while encouraging best practices and up to date safety measures.

This year's recipient started her service as a Deputy Clerk in 2004 and became the Clerk in 2017. She is a Master Municipal Clerk and she exemplifies one deserving of the AAMC Clerk of the Year award for her interest in lifelong learning, her knowledge, and her enthusiasm.

This year's 2020 Clerk of the Year award goes to our current AAMC President, Melissa Jacobsen. Congratulations Melissa!"

About the Award

The purpose of the Clerk of the Year (COTY) Committee is to select a clerk who has been nominated to be recognized for their outstanding achievements and contributions to their community. This award is presented to the selected clerk, during the annual AAMC banquet. The tradition of selecting a Clerk of the Year began in 2000 and carries on to this day.

Award Recipients

2020: Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City of Homer

2019: Kacie Paxton, MMC, Ketchikan Gateway Borough

2018: Nova Javier, MMC, Kodiak Island Borough

2017: Jamie Newman, MMC, City of Wasilla

2016: Johni Blankenship, MMC, Kenai Peninsula Borough

2015: Debra Marlar, MMC, City of Kodiak

2014: Jo Johnson, MMC, City of Homer

2013: Katy Suiter, MMC, City of Ketchikan

2012: Janey Hovenden, MMC, City of Fairbanks

2011: Laurie Sica, MMC, City & Borough of Juneau

2010: Jean Lewis, CMC, City of Seward

2009: Sheri Pierce, MMC, City of Valdez

2008: Colleen Ingman, MMC, City and Borough of Sitka

2007: Marjorie Harris, CMC, Municipality of Skagway

2006: Kristie Smithers, MMC, City of Wasilla

2005: No Recipient Awarded

2004: Bertha Panigeo, CMC, North Slope Borough

2003: Sandra Dillon, CMC, Matanuska-Susitna Borough

2002: Linda Murphy, MMC, Kenai Peninsula Borough

2001: Mary Calhoun, CMC, City of Homer

2000: Mona Lisa Drexler, CMC, Fairbanks North Star Borough

Consular Office of Japan

3601 C Street, Suite 1300

Anchorage, AK 99503

PHONE: (907) 562-8424

FAX: (907) 562-8434

Dear Mr. Ken Castner, Mayor of Homer,

November 3, 2020

My name is Masaru Aniya, and I was appointed as the Director of the Consular Office of Anchorage in June this year. I will do my best to promote friendship between Japan and Alaska with my wife, Yukiko. Thank you for your cooperation.

I understand that Homer City and Teshio Cho have promoted friendly relations between citizens through the exchanges. Citizen exchange plays a very important role in bilateral relations. It transcends political and economic relationships, which are sometimes influenced by changing times, and plays a major role in the field of education, which focuses the eyes of young people on international relations.

There is a famous Beethoven saying, from when he wrote the 9th Symphony and released it to the world, in which he expressed, "From the Heart - May it go back to the Heart".

I think that particles of joyful emotion are scattered in the hearts of everybody in the world. I think we can share those particles of joyful emotion within the group of sister cities. It is like if someone says, "I was moved by the film about Fred Rogers," and someone who heard that saw the film, and was moved again. Though it is a small matter, this is a very important moment which could change the direction of someone's life.

Sister city relations will continue to be developed by the independent initiatives of both cities. As sister city relations are being promoted between Japanese municipalities and Alaska, the Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage would also like to start activities to promote this important bond as a whole. Our Office has decided to launch the "Japan-Alaska Sister City Forum" to promote bilateral exchanges while casually discussing and sharing wisdom, so that exchanges can continue despite the COVID-19 pandemic. In the near future, we would like to hold an online meeting (using an app such as Microsoft Teams or Zoom) with persons in charge of each sister city relationship. Therefore, I would greatly appreciate it if you would let us know the name and contact information (email address) of the person who manages your sister city relationship.

Although it is the last note but not the least, I pray for your good health and further achievements in the future.



Masaru Aniya

Consular Office of Anchorage



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the Mayor

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

mayor@ci.homer.ak.us

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(f) 907-235-3143

November 12, 2020

Honorable Masaru Aniya, Director
Consular Office of Japan
3601 C Street, Suite 1300
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Mr. Aniya:

How delightful to receive your letter, and congratulations on your appointment. The pandemic of the novel virus has placed many unwelcomed restraints on our lives and activities, and the mandates of distancing have strained relationships we took for granted.

Your idea of a forum is a good one. Shortly before the onset of the viral spread, we delivered a New Year's greeting to our Sister City of Teshio. We hoped that 2020 would bring us back together in Japan for a personal exchange of peace and goodwill and the continued commitment to achieve the goals you so elegantly speak of in your letter.

Meetings over the internet (Zoom) have become our "new normal" and we would be delighted to introduce our Sister City Committee to you and have a discussion about planning a wider-attended forum.

Should the occasion arise that you think you could safely travel, we would welcome a visit in Homer with you and your wife. We would very much like to meet you.

Rachel Friedlander is employed by the City of Homer, and she would be the one to handle the arrangements. I will ask her to make acquaintance with Mr. Hughes of your office.

With very best wishes and prayers for good health,

Ken Castner, Mayor
City of Homer

cc: Sister City Committee
cc: Mr. Michael Hughes, via email



City of Homer

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November 13, 2020

Joselyn Biloon

Kenai Area Planner, AKDOT&PF

PO Box 196900

Anchorage, AK 99519

Electronically submitted: joselyn.biloon@alaska.gov

Ms. Biloon,

The City of Homer has a safety concern regarding the intersection of Soundview Avenue and the Sterling Highway. This intersection is used by many drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians. Schools including West Homer Elementary and Fireweed Academy are located nearby and there is a significant amount of activity at this intersection while parents are picking up or dropping off their children. The Homer Police Department has received several complaints over the past five years about this intersection, almost all from the school district. The main complaint is very slow moving traffic when students are either showing up or leaving. As the vehicles leave the school, most go to the intersection and turn left to come back into town.

I would like to request assistance from the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities in the form of a safety assessment, including traffic counts of all types of road users, and recommendations for safety improvements regarding the intersection of the Sterling Highway and Soundview Avenue.

If I can be of any assistance in providing additional information, please let my office know.

Best regards,

Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

CC:

Chief Robl, Homer Police Department

Jan Keiser, Homer Public Works Director

Eric Waltenbaugh, Principal of West Homer Elementary

Todd Hindman, Principal of Fireweed Academy



City of Homer
Planning and Zoning Department

11/9/2020

Soundview Ave and Sterling Hwy Intersection 2018

0 150 300 Feet



Disclaimer:
It is expressly understood the City of Homer, its council, board, departments, employees and agents are not responsible for any errors or omissions contained herein, or deductions, interpretations or conclusions drawn therefrom.



City of Homer

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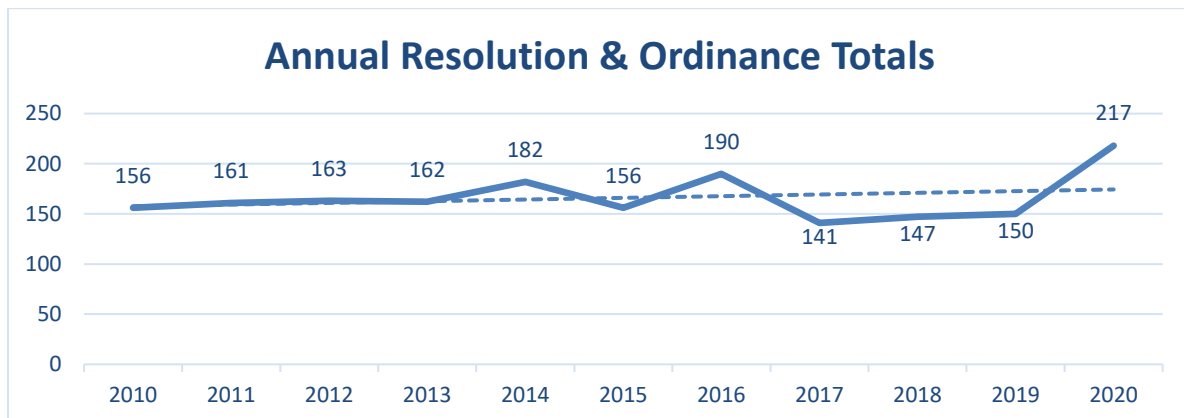
(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE: December 10, 2020
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for December 14th Council Meeting

Council Statistics

The Homer City Council was extremely busy this year. It is hard to quantify the work undertaken and created by Council, but I felt that comparing the number of proposed resolutions and ordinances would give an interesting context to the level of effort Council and staff have put forth. Council was toward the top of the historical range for resolutions, and greatly exceeded the number of ordinances seen in one year across the last decade (+30 ordinances over the previous record).



YEAR	# Resolutions	# Ordinances	TOTAL
2010	98	58	156
2011	112	49	161
2012	103	60	163
2013	118	44	162
2014	126	56	182
2015	111	45	156
2016	132	58	190
2017	97	44	141
2018	95	52	147
2019	91	59	150
2020	127	90	217
AVG	110	56	166

3rd Quarter Sales Tax

We have received 3rd Quarter sales tax data from the Kenai Peninsula Borough. There is a 9% decrease in year over year 3rd Quarter taxable revenues. This equates approximately to a \$336,098 decrease in revenue from 2019. Please see the enclosures developed by Finance Director Walton for the more data and some additional context.

Winter Recreation Champions

I have assembled a group of staff members with a nexus to recreation from the Library, Public Works, Community Recreation, and Planning to work together on concepts related to recreation this winter. We're investigating projects and programs on which the City can take the lead. We're also looking at how we can support non-profits and community groups who are able to provide recreational services and programs that the City cannot.

Vehicles in the Right-of-Way Update

The campaign to clear vehicles from the right-of-way was developed as an interdepartmental effort to ensure that Public Works crews can safely and efficiently plow streets once snow began to fall. Staff from Public Works, Homer Police Department, and the City Manager's Office collaborated on a plan to inform and enforce where necessary. Over the last couple months, Public Works performed a lot of outreach with individuals who were not in compliance. HPD followed up as well and took corrective action in a small number of cases. The Finance Department included flyers with the November water bills as a reminder to the public that the right of way is for plows and not parking. Staff hopes for less necessary outreach and enforcement for the rest of the season.

Plastic Bag Ban

City Administration is in the process of sending a mailer to Homer merchants informing them of the Council's decision to resume the single-use plastic carry-out bag ban on January 1, 2021. Special Projects Coordinator Jenny Carroll and Planning Technician Travis Brown are working together to get the word out into the community.

De-escalation Training

On November 30th over 50 staff members participated in de-escalation training presented by Greg Russell Consulting. The session taught what was framed as "verbal judo." This was the first time this curriculum had been provided via Zoom, and through that medium we were able to reach a very broad cross section of the organization. Thanks to our existing relationship with AMLJIA, we were able to provide this training to staff for no additional charge.

Kachemak Drive Sewer Blockage

Over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, our sewer crews were hard at work locating and clearing some major blockages in the line that runs along Kachemak Drive. The description below is provided by Water/Sewer Superintendent Todd Cook:

Homer Public Works has some of the best operators in the State, the Citizens should be very proud of the care they receive from our crews. The weekend of the 28th they were able to prove it in some nasty weather and nastier work conditions.

On Nov 27th the PW crew responded to a sewer leak call. After digging down approximately 7 ft. they found loose bolts on a valve flange. They tightened the bolts to stop the leak. 28 Nov, crew received calls that several customers on Kachemak Dr. were having high pressure issues on their sewer services. Apparently, there was a blockage in the force

the main line valve was acting as a pressure relief. Once the bolts were tightened the customer's sewage had nowhere to go. The Camel (vactor truck) was deployed and an attempt was made to draw a vacuum on the force main to extract the blockage. This was only partially successful. The crew then fabricated an adaptor to connect the jetter to the main to use high pressure water to clear the blockage. A 4 ft. long grease plug and other material was removed from the first 2000 ft. of main. A 130psi was applied to the 3rd 1000ft section but would not break free. After more than 12 hours of working to free the blockage, the crew was sent home to rest and early the next morning, after emergency locations were given, the crew dug 7 feet to expose the section of pipe believed to contain the additional blockage. The pipe was cut, the jetter inserted into pipe in both directions. The crew found and removed 2 additional blockages and pounds of loose grease and other material. A jetter is basically a pressure washer. It uses a pressurized stream of water to cut through material to the front and uses a stream of water to draw loose material back out of the pipe. The Camel was used to vac this loose material out of the ditch as it was being removed from the pipe. Overall the operation went well. The crew will be increasing maintenance on the Kachemak Dr. force mains to ensure that a similar problem does not occur again in the future.

The customers on K Dr. were very gracious and understanding with the crew, some even helped by contacting other customers and helping us keep everyone informed of the situation. They were very much appreciated by the crew.

In an effort to minimize similar grease blockages in the future, I have asked Special Projects Coordinator Carroll to begin developing outreach to customers on the effects of putting grease down the drain. Staff has conducted similar outreach in the past to help reduce required maintenance of this nature on the sewer system.

Port Expansion Meeting with AIDEA

On December 2nd the Port and Harbor hosted a virtual meeting with: Tim Dillon, Executive Director of KPEDC; Alan Weitzner, Executive Director for AIDEA (Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority); Brad Anderson, Executive Director for the Homer Chamber of Commerce; Tom Soderholm, Board President of the Homer Chamber; Harbormaster Hawkins; and me. The purpose of the meeting was to talk about Homer's plans and progress for launching a general investigation of our Port Expansion Study with the Army Corps of Engineers. The Harbormaster gave a presentation outlining Homer's historic start as a small village without a harbor, its economic growth to the current present-day City with small boat harbor, and onward toward the future with justification for expanding facilities to meet the needs of our customers, Marine Trades support industry, and State and Federal Governments. It was valuable to be able to brief Mr. Weitzner on our plans as he will be a great resource in the future when it comes to developing and supporting funding for this mega project. One of the next steps developed from this meeting was the need for the City to officially draft a letter of invitation for the State to join as a continuing partner in the GI study. Staff are currently in the process of drafting that letter with the intent to track it through to DOT headquarters as soon as possible. Council has authorized this project and set Homer's share of the General Investigation project money aside in February of this year (Ordinance 20-06). Both the US Army Corps of Engineers and the AKDOT have been impressed by the City's commitment and investment in the project and it has helped make meetings like the one held on the 2nd possible and productive.

COVID-Related Updates

COVID Framework Reviews

I continue to meet with staff to review our risk level regarding the COVID threat in our community. On November 23rd I moved the organization to “Red” status. In response to this change, we have been: taking measures to increase the amount of employees working remotely where appropriate; evaluating and modifying schedules to minimize unnecessary crossover at job sites; holding meetings by phone, Zoom, or in small groups outdoors; and closing or greatly restricting breakrooms.

COVID within the City Organization

Like many large employers within the City of Homer, we have had a number of positive COVID cases within our ranks. We saw our first confirmed case in mid-November, but haven’t had a new one since December 4th. At this time, everyone has recovered successfully and there are no remaining active cases among staff, although a small number of employees remain out of the office on quarantine due to close contacts. While these COVID-related absences can create some challenges for department-level staffing, I don’t believe we have had any disruptions in services noticeable to the public. I fully expect to see more positive cases throughout the winter, but the leadership team is doing its best to cut off all possible opportunities for spread among our teams and facilities.

Masking in City Facilities – Airport Terminal

Currently, masking and social distancing are required in all City facilities. One facility which provides a unique challenge is the airport terminal. It is the only City facility open to the public right now, and City staff is not on hand full-time to ensure compliance with our regulations. I have received a complaint about individuals not wearing masks in the lobby. Based on investigation into the matter by City staff, we are seeing that most individuals are in compliance with the masking rules. Additional signage has been put on site and we will continue to do our best to work with the public to ensure travelers comply with basic COVID-safety protocols as required within City facilities.

COVID Radio Ads

In our continued messaging about COVID-19 mitigation, Special Projects Coordinator Jenny Carroll has prepared new public service announcements which will be aired through December. The themes include getting behind wearing masks, staying active with your family bubble this winter, and that we all have a role in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Each encourages people to stick with precautionary measures, as hope for an eventual end to the pandemic through effective vaccines is on the way. Rachel Tussey has been coordinating the recording with KBBI. Thanks to Council for your participation in this messaging all throughout the year.

COOP Reviews

In a project coordinated by Library Director Dave Berry, a staff working group conducted a citywide review of all Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans. We are taking the opportunity to revisit these plans to see how they are working now that we’ve reached “red” COVID risk status. The review identified some opportunities and staff is working to make improvements to the various departmental COOP plans. This work group is also collaborating on a matrix that better defines how “close contacts” are determined and the requirements for quarantine under different situations.

Council Chambers Update

The old dais has been removed and the new one moved into Council Chambers. It is still in an unfinished state, but the attached photo below will give you an idea of the expanded scale of the new dais.

Councilmembers will have significantly more elbow room. The unfinished center section on the floor will be covered with matching carpeting. A podium for public comment and an additional desk are being constructed. IT staff is working on pulling together all the technical equipment (microphones, cameras, sound equipment, etc). Additionally, an ionizer HVAC system upgrade is planned for this month which will help eliminate viruses, allergens, dust, and pollen.



Enclosures:

1. December Employee Anniversaries
2. 3rd Quarter Sales Tax Update
3. 2020 Matching Donations to Library Endowment Fund



City of Homer

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Memorandum

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: Andrea Browning
DATE: December 14, 2020
SUBJECT: December Employee Anniversaries

I would like to take the time to thank the following employees for the dedication, commitment and service they have provided the City and taxpayers of Homer over the years.

Mark Robl,	Police	36	Years
Bryan Hawkins,	Port	21	Years
Todd Cook,	Public Works	11	Years
Sean Perry,	Police	6	Years
Mike Zelinski,	Public Works	6	Years
Peter Alfiche	Port	4	Years
Josh Mershon	Port	1	Year
Luis Yoder	Fire	1	Year

Attachment A

3rd Quarter LOB Taxable Sales
Presented December 14, 2020

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% Δ 2020 - 2019
ADMINISTRATIVE, WASTE MAN	401,661	336,793	204,971	202,322	162,542	-20%
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FI	144,270	205,859	234,217	202,286	187,204	-7%
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT	677,310	674,135	737,507	731,228	477,017	-35%
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTING	486,586	381,548	385,926	336,222	397,914	18%
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	47,609	53,633	55,190	75,184	44,879	-40%
FINANCE AND INSURANCE	16,893	28,566	25,924	29,481	40,410	37%
GUIDING LAND	132,975	169,829	228,047	258,602	79,186	-69%
GUIDING WATER	6,225,895	6,158,152	6,061,804	5,988,975	4,822,074	-19%
HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL AS	131,576	134,541	80,786	45,090	28,941	-36%
HOTEL/MOTEL/BED & BREAKFA	7,026,750	7,153,924	7,518,922	8,375,973	6,389,397	-24%
INFORMATION	1,108,504	1,093,603	1,031,736	1,037,924	935,171	-10%
MANAGEMENT OF COMPANIES	-	-	-	311,026	-	-100%
MANUFACTURING	581,747	633,841	641,802	715,234	687,424	-4%
MINING/QUARRYING	-	-	150	10,926	26,838	146%
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC	732,636	771,398	770,672	761,163	823,623	8%
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	2,150,884	2,560,676	2,458,720	2,845,900	3,105,875	9%
REMEDATION SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-	0%
RENTAL COMMERCIAL PROPERT	63,881	101,707	130,158	95,207	81,163	-15%
RENTAL NON-RESIDENTAL PRO	256,561	246,013	238,829	234,955	129,139	-45%
RENTAL OF SELF-STORAGE &	643,544	561,005	528,323	537,757	570,643	6%
RENTAL PERSONAL PROPERTY	229,364	242,233	259,883	229,691	216,695	-6%
RENTAL RESIDENTAL PROPERT	1,799,042	1,835,339	1,880,675	1,834,018	1,708,348	-7%
RESTAURANT/BAR	8,195,446	8,780,547	9,542,688	9,553,633	6,529,920	-32%
RETAIL TRADE	29,665,962	30,421,714	34,053,544	34,490,183	34,754,701	1%
SERVICES	2,202,016	2,645,475	2,305,938	2,586,137	2,465,235	-5%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	419,879	428,326	511,781	332,138	468,600	41%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS-CABLE	235	1,811	1,305	691	809	17%
TIMBERING	-	430	-	-	-	0%
TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHO	1,110,780	1,569,692	1,545,966	1,410,586	1,072,654	-24%
UTILITIES	1,602,262	1,795,759	1,757,390	1,727,760	1,812,700	5%
WHOLESALE TRADE	193,516	214,032	298,755	280,016	291,360	4%
TOTAL	66,247,784	69,200,581	73,491,609	75,240,308	68,310,460	-9%
Applied Sales Tax 4.85%	3,213,018	3,356,228	3,564,343	3,649,155	3,313,057	(336,098)

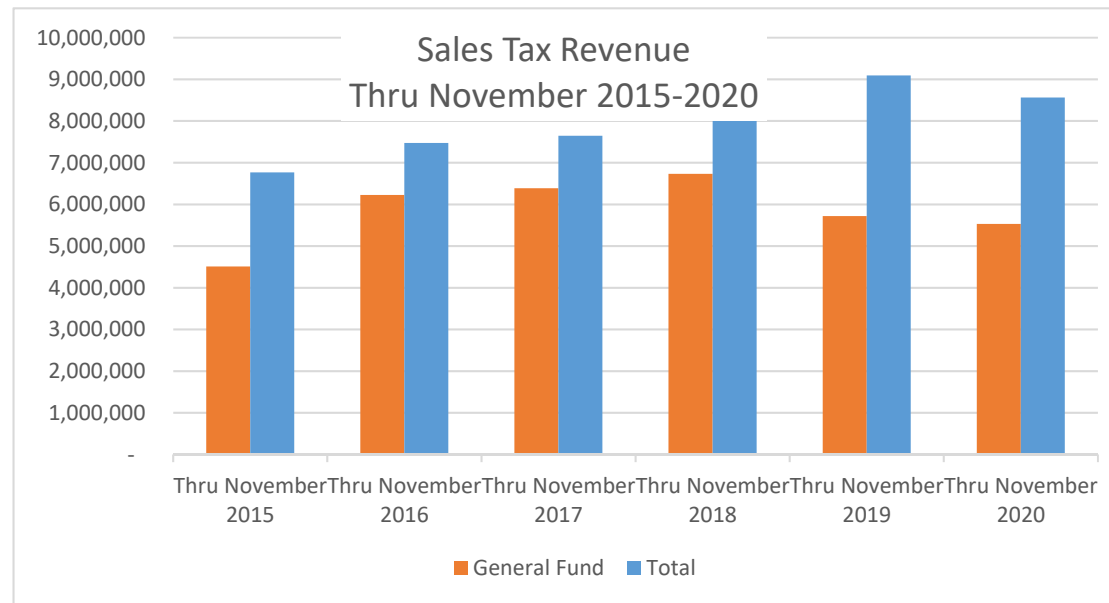
Attachment B
Quarterly LOB Taxable Sales
Presented December 14, 2020

	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020
ADMINISTRATIVE, WASTE MAN	214,519	307,936	401,661	224,073	207,412	305,688	336,793	164,649	155,528	203,986	204,971	155,250	136,996	211,749	202,322	166,876	126,571	115,955	162,542
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FI	4,143	110,003	144,270	22,190	14,600	144,996	205,859	49,869	33,710	203,853	234,217	37,022	640,248	160,020	202,286	44,149	18,712	111,415	187,204
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT	253,949	417,206	677,310	268,703	249,016	472,227	674,135	328,352	249,287	501,469	737,507	277,357	253,475	548,940	731,228	303,677	216,312	165,688	477,017
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTING	372,572	477,737	486,586	406,932	484,978	438,379	381,548	372,787	315,934	409,170	385,926	386,079	333,640	373,100	336,222	364,590	367,431	392,005	397,914
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	66,901	50,233	47,609	73,547	71,272	52,994	53,633	66,973	61,687	54,866	55,190	78,859	58,316	56,928	75,184	90,528	72,931	42,283	44,879
FINANCE AND INSURANCE	15,710	17,884	16,893	16,324	19,204	23,980	28,566	30,128	27,385	25,820	25,924	27,189	28,275	36,654	29,481	26,563	26,553	19,785	40,410
GUIDING LAND	41	65,599	132,975	500	-	94,324	169,829	5,898	-	105,778	228,047	-	-	125,677	258,602	-	-	42,822	79,186
GUIDING WATER	104,823	2,687,936	6,225,895	78,346	36,497	2,697,548	6,158,152	117,984	79,447	2,869,368	6,061,804	134,694	187,753	2,985,820	5,988,975	120,809	110,697	1,359,274	4,822,074
HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL AS	45,037	76,757	131,576	63,034	77,243	126,554	134,541	54,418	80,890	95,062	80,786	50,658	78,958	62,473	45,090	38,063	21,795	15,422	28,941
HOTEL/MOTEL/BED & BREAKFA	1,789,574	4,657,728	7,026,750	1,712,384	1,532,096	4,558,923	7,153,924	1,641,953	1,490,223	4,422,516	7,518,922	1,455,582	1,543,084	4,629,194	8,375,973	1,734,109	1,279,481	2,828,851	6,389,397
INFORMATION	1,127,408	1,115,491	1,108,504	1,043,506	1,020,993	1,084,186	1,093,603	985,693	972,981	1,061,677	1,031,736	1,008,965	984,852	978,052	1,037,924	992,162	983,669	883,165	935,171
MANAGEMENT OF COMPANIES	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MANUFACTURING	237,863	470,938	581,747	326,180	225,385	503,806	633,841	318,410	249,843	530,866	641,802	339,803	281,903	756,819	715,234	406,462	344,961	505,214	687,424
MINING/QUARRYING	-	-	-	-	500	-	-	-	-	150	150	150	150	1,150	10,926	19,981	3,220	14,961	26,838
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC	654,874	773,463	732,636	647,970	698,422	708,767	771,398	700,387	691,012	756,620	770,672	680,434	648,929	785,571	761,163	635,037	702,504	767,048	823,623
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	644,546	954,300	2,150,884	1,188,557	1,100,933	1,309,629	2,560,676	999,094	816,016	1,427,693	2,458,720	1,143,132	829,928	1,432,737	2,845,900	1,022,188	971,581	1,368,423	3,105,875
REMEDIATION SERVICES	32,704	-	-	-	32,666	-	-	-	38,717	-	-	-	33,767	-	-	-	-	-	-
RENTAL COMMERCIAL PROPERT	42,061	59,602	63,881	59,815	58,558	96,775	101,707	61,466	69,250	85,800	130,158	64,428	196,565	99,765	95,207	60,191	58,935	80,696	81,163
RENTAL NON-RESIDENTIAL PRO	128,148	170,232	256,561	171,965	128,347	180,793	246,013	146,382	144,070	187,303	238,829	148,707	138,064	184,240	234,955	126,417	92,816	90,896	129,139
RENTAL OF SELF-STORAGE &	249,716	296,770	643,544	385,338	201,259	248,428	561,005	284,593	232,561	265,933	528,323	276,934	217,415	272,863	537,757	294,635	231,287	271,739	570,643
RENTAL PERSONAL PROPERTY	132,816	166,630	229,364	147,841	138,081	197,202	242,233	150,791	148,701	210,142	259,883	157,676	141,046	221,419	229,691	174,262	165,835	194,678	216,695
RENTAL RESIDENTIAL PROPERT	1,020,110	1,510,996	1,799,042	1,052,578	1,035,396	1,512,623	1,835,339	1,140,120	1,146,434	1,638,398	1,880,675	1,089,752	1,077,295	1,632,238	1,834,018	1,116,156	1,101,887	1,402,570	1,708,348
RESTAURANT/BAR	3,145,686	6,149,338	8,195,446	3,149,958	2,787,404	6,211,565	8,780,547	3,337,515	3,101,373	6,773,895	9,542,688	3,482,700	3,179,549	6,848,886	9,553,633	3,501,273	2,514,895	3,762,292	6,529,920
RETAIL TRADE	12,275,910	24,767,175	29,665,962	14,894,226	12,505,192	24,992,523	30,421,714	15,948,127	12,769,708	27,043,054	34,053,544	17,314,037	14,151,272	29,033,873	34,490,183	18,463,774	15,612,943	27,598,497	34,754,701
SERVICES	1,675,348	2,384,956	2,202,016	1,708,265	1,799,351	2,703,585	2,645,475	2,078,565	1,894,742	2,768,109	2,305,938	2,071,964	1,749,725	2,701,456	2,586,137	2,001,089	1,608,833	2,196,866	2,465,235
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	387,800	396,570	419,879	430,659	408,560	430,719	428,326	440,014	449,669	469,468	511,781	534,464	401,118	337,618	332,138	334,477	335,461	440,569	468,600
TELECOMMUNICATIONS-CABLE	75	653	235	130	627	642	1,811	2,771	574	1,202	1,305	519	495	6,282	691	429	861	516	809
TIMBERING	487	-	-	-	500	-	430	-	-	-	-	500	505	-	-	-	-	-	-
TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHO	141,573	664,934	1,110,780	144,554	190,285	780,040	1,569,692	178,728	177,563	853,236	1,545,966	168,374	196,800	925,578	1,410,586	165,792	195,409	347,778	1,072,654
UTILITIES	2,070,114	1,772,903	1,602,262	1,993,120	2,322,217	1,992,650	1,795,759	2,156,588	2,445,497	2,058,123	1,757,390	2,045,862	2,503,521	2,114,934	1,727,760	2,028,860	2,710,459	2,197,539	1,812,700
WHOLESALE TRADE	231,382	340,526	193,516	404,805	262,379	317,823	214,032	421,454	325,567	355,069	298,755	355,568	296,494	398,831	280,016	223,920	273,328	338,319	291,360
TOTAL	27,065,890	50,864,496	66,247,784	30,615,500	27,609,373	52,187,369	69,200,581	32,183,709	28,168,369	55,378,476	73,491,609	33,486,659	30,290,138	58,049,081	75,240,308	34,456,469	30,149,367	47,565,777	68,310,460

Attachment C

Thru November Sales Tax Revenue Received
Presented December 14, 2020

	Thru November 2015	Thru November 2016	Thru November 2017	Thru November 2018	Thru November 2019	Thru November 2020
General Fund	4,509,952	6,226,541	6,384,735	6,732,247	5,717,737	5,528,807
HAWSP	1,127,488	1,245,424	1,261,217	1,346,765	1,406,001	1,130,717
HART-Roads	1,014,739	-	-	-	1,265,401	1,201,777
HART-Trails	112,749	-	-	-	140,600	157,766
Police Station	-	-	-	-	562,400	543,817
Total	6,764,929	7,471,965	7,645,952	8,079,012	9,092,140	8,562,884



Key Points:

- HART Sales Tax was diverted into the General Fund from 2016-2018
- Sales Tax increased in 2019 to fund debt service payments associated with Police Station bond



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Homer Public Library

500 Hazel Avenue
Homer, AK 99603

library@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) (907)-235-3180

(f) (907)-235-3136

Memorandum

TO: City Manager Rob Dumouchel

THROUGH:

FROM: Library Director Dave Berry

DATE: December 10, 2020

SUBJECT: Matching Donations to Library Endowment Fund

Yesterday, the library was contacted by an anonymous donor who offered to match contributions to the Library Endowment Fund through the end of this calendar year. The donor will match contributions 1-to-1 up to a maximum of \$10,000.

The Library Endowment Fund was established by the City in April 2020. It is managed by the Homer Foundation. It supports purchases of library materials, upgrades or replacements of library equipment, and improvements to the library facilities.



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Public Works

3575 Heath Street
Homer, AK 99603

publicworks@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907- 235-3170

(f) 907-235-3145

Memorandum

TO: Parks, Art Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission
FROM: Janette Keiser, PE, Director of Public Works/Acting City Engineer
DATE: December 23, 2020
SUBJECT: Main Street Sidewalk – 35% Design

Issue: The design for the Main Street Sidewalk project is currently at 35% development. It's a good time to brief relevant stakeholders on how the project is configured and what it's going to look like.

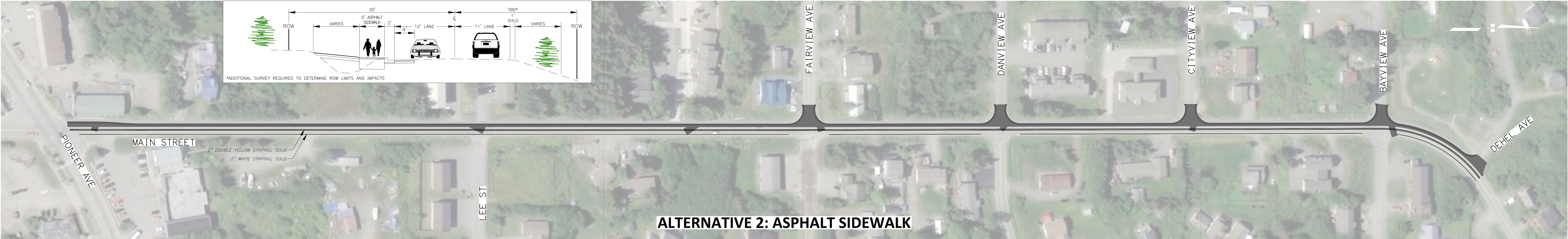
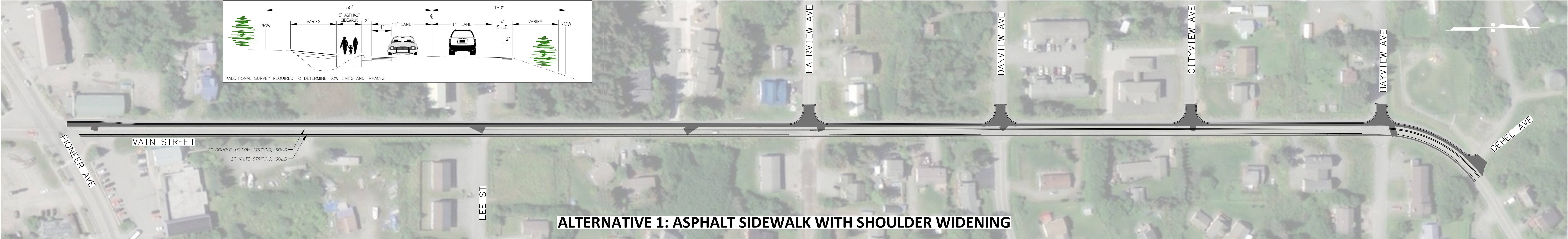
Background: The City issued a contract to design the Main Street Sidewalk Project, extending the sidewalk from Pioneer Avenue to Bayview Park to HDL Engineering. HDL has progressed the design the 35% level, which is not enough to build from, but enough to envision what the project will look like. For example, this level of design allows us to identify drainage problems, identify impacts on neighboring properties and layout the basic dimensions of the new road/sidewalk cross-section.

The intent is to build a sidewalk on the west side of the street only, with minimal impact to the existing road. We will be presenting, to the Planning Commission Meeting on January 6 and the City Council on January 11, drawings showing a plan view and a cross-section of what the configuration looks like.

We did not plan for any improvements on the east side of the road or any bicycle paths. That being said, it may be possible to widen the asphalt on the east side of the roadway and paint a lane on the widened section. This would provide a 2-3-foot wide strip on the non-sidewalked side of the road, which, while not an approved bicycle lane, could be used by people who want to travel on that side of the road. This feature could be added to the Bid Documents as an Additive Alternative, so, if we had funding, we could add this element to the construction contract.

I will present the 35% Design Documents and respond to questions/comments.

HOMER MAIN STREET SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS



PARKS ART RECREATION & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION ANNUAL CALENDAR
FOR THE 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE

<u>MEETING DATE</u>	<u>SCHEDULED EVENTS OR AGENDA ITEM</u>
JANUARY 2021	SPECIAL MEETING – ESTABLISHING AN ENDOWMENT FUND FOR PARKS, RECREATION ARTS, & CULTURE
FEBRUARY 2021	WORKSESSION – CIP – PARK RESTROOM PROJECT DISCUSSION BEACH POLICY REVIEW/PROPOSED AMENDMENTS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW
MARCH 2021	LETTER TO THE EDITOR SUBJECT AND DRAFT APPROVAL PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED BEACH POLICY AMENDMENTS (IF ANY) STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW AND AMENDMENTS
APRIL 2021	BUDGET/FINANCIAL GOALS 2022/2023
MAY 2021	SPRING PARK &/ OR BEACH WALK THROUGH DIAMOND CREEK PLAN REVIEW RECREATION & PARKS FEE SCHEDULE REVIEW
JUNE 2021	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW PROJECT(S) IF ANY – PARKS & RECREATION RELATED LETTER TO THE EDITOR TOPICS REQUESTED
JULY 2021	NO MEETING SCHEDULED
AUGUST 2021	LETTER TO THE EDITOR DRAFT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW & APPROVAL COMMISSION FUND EXPENDITURE REVIEW FY 2021/2022 ART POLICY REVIEW
SEPTEMBER 2021	FALL PARK WALK THROUGH AND BEACH WALK; SCHEDULE KHP(OR OTHER PARK) CLEAN UP DAY REAPPOINTMENT APPLICATIONS ARE DUE
OCTOBER 2021	LETTER TO THE EDITOR SUBJECT ELECTION OF OFFICERS REAPPOINTMENT APPLICATIONS DEADLINE
NOVEMBER 2021	REVIEW AND APPROVE THE 2022 MEETING SCHEDULE
DECEMBER 2021	NO MEETING SCHEDULED HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

PARKS ART RECREATION & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION ANNUAL CALENDAR
FOR THE 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE

Quarterly: Letters to the editor updating the Community on PARCAC activities

Odd Years: Comprehensive Plan (February) Strategic Plan review (March), Diamond Creek Plan (May), Camping Fees (May), Beach Policy (October), Art Policies

Even Years: HNMTTP, Karen Hornaday Park Plan, 3 year budget trends & progress toward financial goals (April/May)

**2021 HOMER CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
ADVISORY COMMISSION/ BOARD ATTENDANCE**

Commissions are invited to report to the City Council at the Council's regular meetings under Item 8 – Announcements/Presentations/Borough Report/Commission Reports. This is the Commission's opportunity to give Council a brief update on their work. Generally the Commissioner who will be reporting will attend one of the two meetings for the month they are scheduled to attend.

The 2021 meeting dates for City Council is as follows:

January 11, 25	_____
February 8, 22	_____
March 8, 22	_____
April 12, 26	_____
May 10, 24	_____
June 14, 28	_____
July 26*	_____
August 9, 23	_____
September 13, 27	_____
October 11, 25	_____
November 22*	_____
December 13, 20**	_____

City Council's Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting at 5:00 pm to no later than 5:50 pm prior to every Regular Meeting which are held the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 pm.

*There will be no First Regular Meeting in July or November.

** The City Council traditionally cancels the last regular meeting in December and holds the first regular meeting and one to two Special Meetings as needed; the second Special Meeting the third week of December will not be held.

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

City Clerk

RESOLUTION 20-128

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,
ESTABLISHING THE 2021 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CITY
COUNCIL, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION,
LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD, PARKS ART RECREATION AND
CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION, PLANNING COMMISSION,
PORT AND HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION, AND AMERICANS
WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Homer City Code (HCC) Section 1.14.020, the City Council annually sets the schedule for regular and some special meetings, noting the dates, times and places of the City Council, Planning Commission, Advisory Commissions and Boards, and Standing Committee meetings; and

WHEREAS, The public is informed of such meetings through notices located at the City Clerk's Office, Clerk's Calendar on KBBI, the City Clerk's Website, and postings at the Public Library; and

WHEREAS, HCC 1.14.020 - 040 states that meetings may be advertised in a local paper of general circulation at least three days before the date of the meeting and that special meetings should be advertised in the same manner or may be broadcast by local radio at least twice a day for three consecutive days or two consecutive days before the day of the meeting plus the day of the meeting; and

WHEREAS, HCC 1.14.010 notes that the notice of meetings applies to the City Council and all commissions, boards, committees, subcommittees, task forces and any sub-unit of the foregoing public bodies of the City, whether meeting in a formal or informal meeting; that the failure to give the notice provided for under this chapter does not invalidate or otherwise affect any action or decision of a public body of the City; however, this sentence does not change the consequences of failing to give the minimum notice required under State Statute; that notice will ordinarily be given by the City Clerk; and that the presiding officer or the person or persons calling a meeting are responsible for notifying the City Clerk of meetings in sufficient time for the Clerk to publish notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the City; and

WHEREAS, This Resolution does not preclude additional meetings such as emergency meetings, special meetings, worksessions, and the like; and

WHEREAS, Council adopted Resolution 06-144 on October 9, 2006 establishing the Regular Meeting site for all bodies to be the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Homer City Council, that the 2021 meeting schedule is established for the City Council, Economic Development Advisory Commission, Library Advisory Board, Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission, Planning Commission, Port and Harbor Advisory Commission, and the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Committee of the City of Homer, Alaska, as follows:

HOLIDAYS – City Offices closed:

January 1, New Year's Day, Friday	February 15, Presidents' Day, third Monday	March 29, Seward's Day, last Monday	May 31, Memorial Day, last Monday	July 4*, Independence Day, Monday	September 6, Labor Day, first Monday
October 18, Alaska Day, Monday	November 11, Veterans Day, Thursday	November 25 Thanksgiving Day, Thursday	November 26, Friday, the day after Thanksgiving	December 25, Christmas, Friday*	

*If on a Sunday, the following Monday is observed as the legal holiday; if on a Saturday, the preceding Friday is observed as the legal holiday pursuant to the City of Homer Personnel Rules and Regulations.

CITY COUNCIL (CC)

January 11, 25	February 8, 22	March 8, 22	April 12, 26	May 10, 24	June 14, 28
July 26*	August 9, 23	September 13, 27	October 5 Election	October 11, 25 Oath of Office October 11	Canvass Board October 8
November 2 Runoff Election	November 22*	December 13**	December 20** if needed		

*There will be no First Regular Meeting in July or November.

** The City Council traditionally cancels the last regular meeting in December and holds the first regular meeting and one to two Special Meetings as needed; the second Special Meeting the third week of December will not be held.

City Council's Regular Committee of the Whole Meetings at 5:00 p.m. to no later than 5:50 p.m. prior to every Regular Meeting which are held the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Council will not conduct a First Regular Meeting in July or November.

66 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION (EDC)

January 12	February 9	March 9	April 13	May 11	June 8
July 13	August 10	September 14	October 12	November 9	December 14

67
68 Economic Development Advisory Commission Regular Meetings are held on the second
69 Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

70
71 LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD (LAB)

February 2	March 2	April 6	May 4	August 3
September 7	October 5	November 2	December 7	

72
73 Library Advisory Board Regular Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the following months:
74 February, March, April, May, August, September, October, November, and December at 5:30
75 p.m.

76
77 PARKS ART RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION (PARCAC)

February 18	March 18	April 15	May 20	June 17
August 19	September 16	October 21	November 18	

78
79 Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission Regular Meetings are held on the third
80 Thursday February through June and August through November at 5:30 p.m.

81
82 PLANNING COMMISSION (PC)

January 6, 20	February 3, 17	March 3, 17	April 7, 21	May 5, 19	June 2, 16
July 21*	August 4, 18	September 1, 15	October 6, 20	November 3*	December 1*

83 *There will be no First Regular Meeting in July or Second Regular Meetings in November and
84 December.

85
86 Planning Commission Regular Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each
87 month at 6:30 p.m.

88
89 PORT AND HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION (PHC)

January 27	February 24	March 24	April 28	May 26	June 23
July 28	August 25	September 22	October 27	December 22	

90

Port and Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the following months: January, February, March, April, September, October, and December at 5:00 p.m.; and May, June, July, and August at 6:00 p.m.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (ADA)

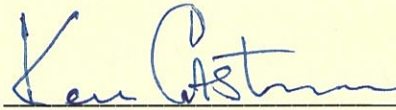
			April 8	May 13	June 10
July 8			October 14	November 10*	

* November meeting will be on second Wednesday due to Veteran's Day Holiday

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Committee are held on the second Thursday in the months of April, May, June, July, October, November, and may call additional meetings as needed.

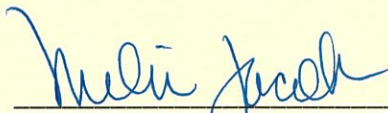
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 14th day of December, 2020.

CITY OF HOMER



KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:



MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal Impact: Advertising of meetings in regular weekly meeting ad and advertising of any additional meetings.





City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov
(p) 907-235-8121 x2222
(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE: January 6, 2021
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for January 11, 2021 Council Meeting

Main Street Sidewalks

The design for the Main Street Sidewalk project is at 35% development. Public Works Director Keiser will be discussing this project at the Committee of the Whole. See attached for a memo and drawings relevant to the project.

Winter King Tournament

The Homer Chamber of Commerce is asking Alaska Department of Fish and Game to make a onetime modification to their rules to accommodate their annual Winter King Tournament occurring in April. The Chamber would like fish caught as part of the tournament to not count against the limit of five king salmon per fisherman between April 1st and August 31st. Staff has prepared a draft letter of support which I will provide to the Chamber after this meeting if there is no objection from the Council. The letter and a PDF of ADF&G regulations are attached.

Winter Recreation Champions

Our winter recreation working group put together a compact wintertime activity guide highlighting tips for winter recreation in Homer. See attached for a draft which, when finalized, will be included in future water/sewer bills.

Alaska Marine Highway System Outreach Partnership with Seldovia

The Seldovia City Council is interested in opportunities to co-author a letter to the Governor regarding regional concerns with the Alaska Marine Highway System. Attached is a letter to the Mayor and Council from Seldovia's City Manager, an existing letter from Seldovia to the Governor, and a resolution passed by their Council.

New Finance Employee Joins the Team in January

We have successfully recruited to fill the additional Finance position approved by Council with Ordinance 20-44. Kaela Jiron accepted the position and she will become a member of the Finance team by mid-January. We are excited to incorporate her energy and enthusiasm for Accounting into our team. Ordinance 20-77 authorized the remodel of office space and the purchase of furniture for the new position. The cubicle workspace has been ordered and installed. We are continuing to work on ordering the remainder of the workspace items.

Light Up Homer Campaign

Through the Light Up Homer Campaign, the City loaned strings of lights to Homer Businesses who committed to installing them. The Chamber of Commerce helped the Public Works Department recruit participants, and over a dozen chose to participate. Additionally, we lit up the Public Works building, multiple parks facilities, the library, and the Police station. See below for example photos.



Library Western Lot Trail Project Update

Friends of Homer Library is currently developing a proposal for improvements to the “western lot” area of the library facility. See the attached memo from Library Director Barry for more information.

Bishops Beach Parcel

The Council adopted ordinance 20-76(A) directing me to purchase a parcel at Bishops Beach. The City took possession of the parcel on January 4th and will designate it as part of Bishops Beach Park.

Homer Police Station Architectural Award

The Alaska Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) awarded the Homer Police Station for its creative use of materials. This award was voted on by attendees to AIA Alaska’s virtual conference. See attached for the award and images submitted to the AIA.

Camping Report for 2020

Unsurprisingly, campground revenues and total campers were down in 2020 due to the pandemic. There was however a bright spot in the number of campers who visited Homer in the shoulder seasons. See attached for a report from the Parks Division.

Personal Watercraft in Kachemak Bay

A decision signed by Alaska Department of Fish & Game Special Assistant Rick Green, effective January 9th, allows personal watercraft (PWC), such as jet skis, to access Kachemak Bay for the first time in almost 20 years. This change has created concerns in the community which include, but are not limited to, public safety, shoreline protection, and recovery of the appropriate fees for PWC usage of harbor facilities. I am looking for direction from Council as to how they would like to move forward regarding this issue, see attached for a memo outlining some basic information and concerns.

J & H Consulting Meeting

On Dec 23, 2020, key staff met with Christine Hess and Reggie Joule of J&H Consulting to get acquainted and get a general overview of the State legislative landscape for 2021 as it pertains to City projects and interests. J&H Consulting will be providing written updates every 10-12 days for distribution and are available to give presentations to Council. They also recommended inviting the Kenai Peninsula delegation to attend a Council meeting to share information about the City's major projects and legislative concerns. If Council is interested, I would like to plan that with Council and J&H.

COVID-Related Updates

CARES Act Funding

President Trump signed legislation on December 27th which included an extension for the use of CARES Act funds. While this is a welcome respite for a few of our projects, we are still working to wrap up all CARES Act projects as soon as possible. I anticipate that all CARES Act related spending will be complete by the end of January.

COVID Risk Status

I continue to meet with staff to review our risk level regarding the COVID threat in our community. On November 23rd I moved the City to "Red" status and we remain there today. As an organization we have been doing quite well, at the time of this report we have zero active COVID cases. While we're not currently seeing much COVID activity within our organization, we are continuing to take a conservative approach to COVID-safety due to stresses on the healthcare system at a statewide level.

COVID Vaccine Update

City staff has been working with the Kenai Peninsula Borough Office of Emergency Management, local healthcare providers, and other members of the Unified Command to collaborate on ways to plan for and work together in regards to vaccine distribution. So far some City employees in the Police and Fire Departments have received the first and second shots of the vaccine series. No significant adverse reactions have been reported at the date of this report's writing. It's hard to say how much vaccine will be available and on what timeline here in Homer, but staff is committed to being a good partner in the roll-out process.

Council Chambers Update

Work continues on the Council Chamber update. This project is one that will spill over into 2021. See below for a progress picture.



Enclosures:

1. Main Street Sidewalk Memo and Drawings
2. Winter King Tournament Letter and ADF&G Regulations PDF
3. Winter Recreation Flyer
4. Seldovia Ferry Letter
5. Western Lot Trail Project Memo and Trail Maps
6. Homer Police Station Award
7. 2020 Camping Report
8. PWC Memo



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

(p) 907-235-8121

(f) 907-235-3140

Homer Chamber of Commerce
201 Sterling Highway
Homer, AK 99603

January 12, 2021

Dear Homer Chamber of Commerce,

The City of Homer supports the Homer Chamber of Commerce's request to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to allow a onetime change to winter king fishery regulations for the annual Winter King Tournament. Traditionally the tournament is held in March, under winter king fishery regulations. The summer fishery rules start on April 1st and limit fisherman to five king salmon between April 1st and August 31st. The City supports the Chamber asking for a onetime exception to allow the tournament to occur in April, and for fish caught to not count against the five fish seasonal limit.

The Chamber has been advised by our local hospital that COVID-19 vaccines will be more available and more people will have been vaccinated later in the year, which will allow for a safer event. Additionally, a later event will allow more personal vessels to participate because there will be less ice in the harbor – thereby allowing smaller boats with only household members aboard to participate, rather than taking a charter with other unrelated people.

The City supports COVID-19 precautions as well as outdoor recreation. This onetime allowance will benefit the public and the City of Homer.

Sincerely,

Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

COOK INLET AND KACHEMAK BAY SALT WATERS

General Regulations - Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay

Inclusive waters: Salt waters of Cook Inlet west of Gore Point and north of Cape Douglas, including Kachemak Bay and the Barren Islands.

The Fishing Season for all species is open year-round unless otherwise noted below.

KING SALMON

- **Summer Fisheries (April 1–August 31):**
 - **North of the latitude of Bluff Point (59° 40' N):**
 - 1 per day, 1 in possession (of any size).
 - See regulations for Special King Salmon Management Area on page 75.
 - **South of the latitude of Bluff Point (59°40'N):**
 - 2 per day, 2 in possession (of any size).
- 20 inches or longer:
 - There is a combined annual limit of 5 king salmon 20 inches or longer from the waters of the following areas: Cook Inlet Salt Waters, West Cook Inlet, Susitna River Drainage, Knik Arm, Anchorage Bowl, and Kenai Peninsula.
 - If you retain a king salmon 20 inches or longer, you must immediately record that harvest. See page 5 for recording instructions.
 - A king salmon 20 inches or longer that is removed from salt water must be retained and becomes part of the bag limit of the person who originally hooked the fish. You must not remove a king salmon 20 inches or longer from the water before releasing it.
- **Winter Fishery (September 1–March 31):**
 - **All Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay salt waters:**
 - 2 per day, 2 in possession (of any size).
 - No annual limit in effect; recording of king salmon harvest is not required during this timeframe.

OTHER SALMON

- 6 per day, 6 in possession, only 3 per day, 3 in possession may be coho (silver) salmon.
- Pink salmon taken in a sport fishery may be used as bait, but are part of your bag limit.

RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT

- **No retention.** All rainbow/steelhead trout must be released immediately.

DOLLY VARDEN

- 5 per day, 5 in possession.

LINGCOD

- **July 1–December 31:** 2 per day, 2 in possession, must be at least 35 inches long with head attached or 28 inches from tip of tail to front of dorsal fin with head removed.

ROCKFISH

- 5 per day, 10 in possession, only 1 per day, 2 in possession may be nonpelagic (see chart on page 92).

HALIBUT

Pacific halibut fisheries are managed by the federal government under international treaty. See page 7 for federal contact information.

- **Season:** February 1–December 31.
- **Unguided anglers:** 2 per day, 4 in possession.
- **Consult federal regulations for the following:**
 - 1) Bag, possession and size limits and other regulations for guided (charter) anglers.
- **Filleting requirements for fish cleaned at sea:**

No person shall possess on board a vessel, including charter vessels and pleasure craft used for fishing, Pacific halibut that have been filleted, mutilated, or otherwise disfigured in any manner, except that each Pacific halibut may be cut into no more than 2 ventral pieces, 2 dorsal pieces, and 2 cheek pieces, with a patch of skin on each piece, naturally attached.

SPINY DOGFISH

- 5 per day, 5 in possession.

SHARKS (EXCEPT SPINY DOGFISH)

- 1 per day, 1 in possession.
- There is an annual limit of 2 sharks. These harvested fish must be recorded. See page 5 for recording instructions.

OTHER FINFISH

- No limit.

SHELLFISH

- See page 76.

Methods and Means - Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay

Underwater spear:

- In salt water, spears and spearguns may be used to take fish, subject to applicable seasons and bag limits, by persons who are completely submerged, provided the spear or speargun is not tipped with an explosive charge.

Sport fishing gear for herring and smelt (hooligan):

- In salt water, herring and smelt may be taken with the use of 15 or fewer unbaited, single or multiple hooks attached to a single line.

Gaffs:

- A gaff may not be used to puncture any fish intended or required to be released.

Attention salt water anglers:

As of January 1, 2020, anglers must carry a deepwater release device onboard their vessel when sport fishing in salt water and will be required to use the device to release rockfish that are not harvested at depth of capture or 100 feet.

Methods and Means - Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay (continued)

Snagging:

- Snagging is prohibited. You may not intentionally snag or attempt to snag any species of fish:
 - Year-round in Cook Inlet north of a line extending west from Bluff Point. See map.
 - Year-round in the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon (see Special Regulations).
- **Snagging is allowed:**
 - Year-round in Cook Inlet south of a line extending west from the latitude of Bluff Point (except for the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon).

Special Regulations - Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay

Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon Area (The Fishing Hole)—Along the east side of the Homer Spit, from the Homer City Dock near the entrance of the Homer Boat Harbor to ADF&G markers about 200 yards northwest of the entrance to the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon Area (including the Homer Boat Harbor and the fishing lagoon) to a distance of 300 feet from shore:

- King salmon:
 - 2 per day, 2 in possession, no size limit.
 - From April 1–August 31, king salmon 20 inches or longer must be recorded (see page 5).
- Other salmon (including coho salmon) in combination:
 - 6 per day, 6 in possession.
- **Snagging is not permitted except by emergency order.**
- Weights, bobbers or any flotation device (including pieces of foam or marshmallows) following a hook or hooks may not be used when these waters are closed to snagging.



Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon Youth-Only King and Coho Salmon Fisheries:

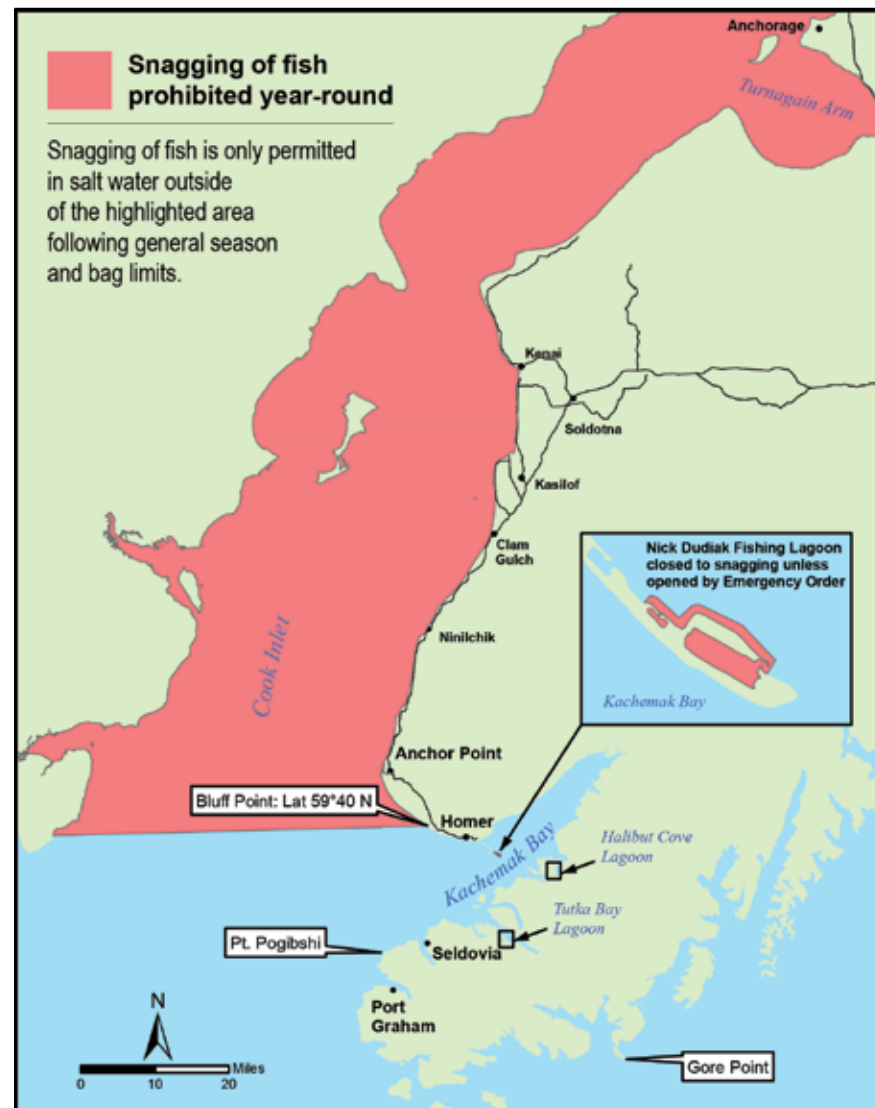
- Youth Fishery Zones established for persons 15 years of age or younger. The first Saturday in June (June 6, 2020) and August (August 1, 2020).

Tutka Bay Lagoon:

- The marine waters of Tutka Bay Lagoon within 100 yards of the Tutka Bay Lagoon hatchery net pens are closed year-round to sport fishing for any species.

Homer Barge Basin—located on the Homer Spit:

- Closed year-round to all fishing.

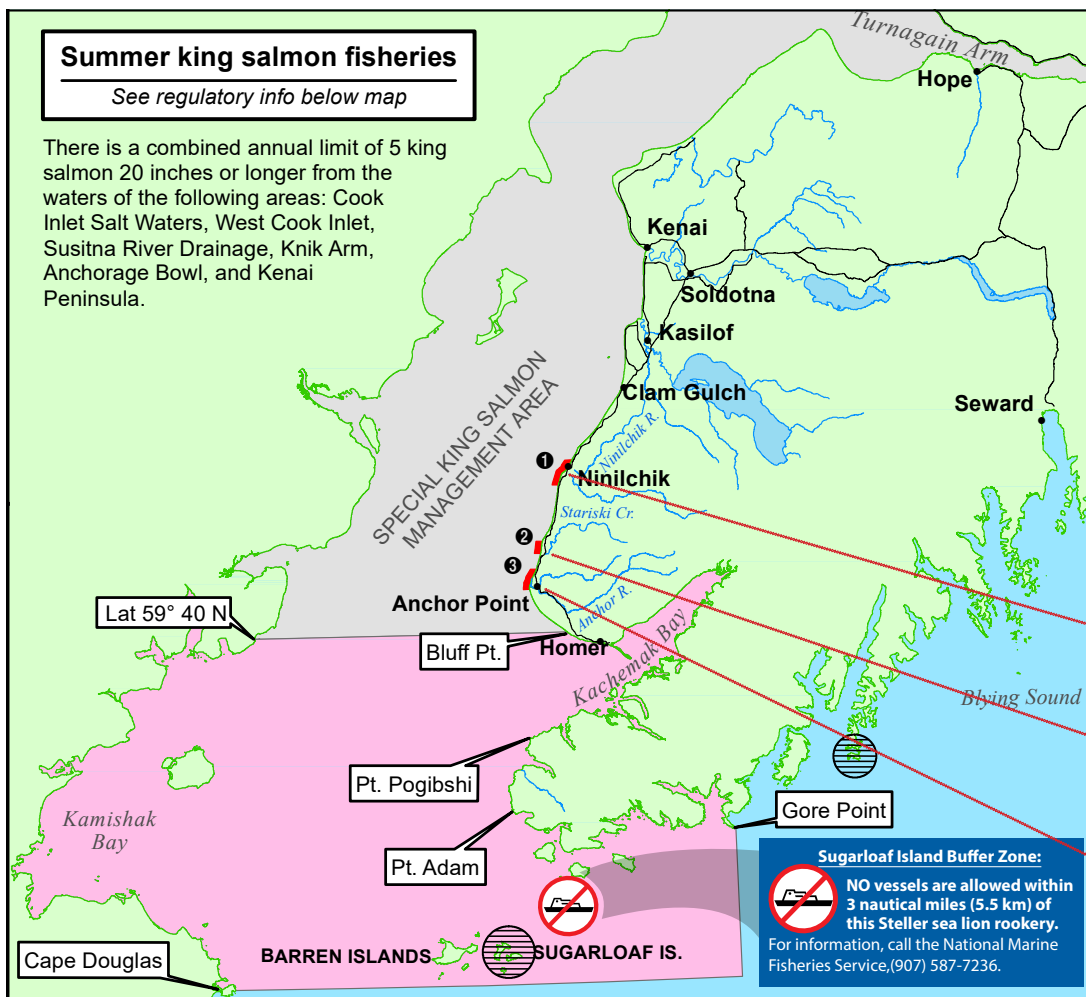


Stocked salmon fisheries in China Poot Bay and Tutka Bay Lagoon are paid for by enhancement taxes on commercial fisheries. Please be courteous—avoid commercial boats in these locations.

Summer king salmon fisheries

See regulatory info below map

There is a combined annual limit of 5 king salmon 20 inches or longer from the waters of the following areas: Cook Inlet Salt Waters, West Cook Inlet, Susitna River Drainage, Knik Arm, Anchorage Bowl, and Kenai Peninsula.



REGULATIONS FOR SPECIAL KING SALMON MANAGEMENT AREA (APRIL 1 - AUGUST 31)

Inclusive waters: All salt waters north of the latitude of Bluff Point.

- **April 1–August 31:** The following regulations apply:
 - Anglers may not continue fishing for king salmon within the Special King Salmon Management Area after harvesting a king salmon 20 inches or longer.
 - Guides may not sport fish while a client is present or within the guide's control or responsibility, unless the guide is providing assistance to a client with a disability as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act.
 - **April 1–July 15:** The following salt water areas **1** **2** and **3** surrounding stream mouths are Conservation Zones and are **closed to all fishing**.
 - 1** About 1 mile north of the Ninilchik River ($60^{\circ} 03.99'N$) to ADF&G markers 2 miles south of Deep Creek ($60^{\circ} 00.68'N$), and within 1 mile of shore; **except conservation zone 1 is open May 23–25, May 30–June 1, and June 6–8 to fishing from shore.**
 - 2** from the latitude of an ADF&G marker located 1 mile north of Stariski Creek ($59^{\circ} 54.37'N$) to the latitude of an ADF&G marker located 1 mile south of Stariski Creek ($59^{\circ} 52.98'N$), and within 1 mile of shore; and
 - 3** from the latitude of ADF&G markers 2 miles north of the Anchor River ($59^{\circ} 48.92'N$) to the latitude of the Anchor Point Light ($59^{\circ} 46.14'N$) about 1 3/4 miles south of the Anchor River, and within 1 mile of shore.

April 1 - August 31: Summer King Salmon Fishery

• **King salmon limits April 1–August 31:**

- North of Bluff Point $59^{\circ} 40' N$ to $60^{\circ} 03.99' N$ (Special King Salmon Management Area)
1 per day, 1 in possession any size. *Note: See Special Regulations at right.*
- South of Bluff Point ($59^{\circ} 40' N$) to $60^{\circ} 03.99' N$: 2 per day, 2 in possession (any size).

September 1 - March 31: Winter King Salmon Fishery

- Inclusive waters: ALL of Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay salt waters.
- **King salmon September 1–March 31:**
 - 2 per day, 2 in possession (any size).
 - No annual limit in effect. Harvest of king salmon does not need to be recorded in this area September 1–March 31.

Tanner Crab "Standard" or "Limited" Fishery

Either the "Standard" or "Limited" tanner crab fishery will take place each year. The decision to open either fishery is based on pre-season trawl surveys of tanner crab.

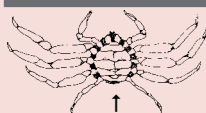
Fisheries are announced prior to the opening of the season in a Press Release issued by ADF&G. Sign up to receive Press Releases at: www.wefishak.alaska.gov

Tanner Crab - Limited Fishery

TANNER CRAB LIMITED FISHERY

- Cook Inlet and North Gulf Coast waters:
 - A permit is required and is available online at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/store.
 - **Season:** October 1 - February 28:
 - Male crabs only, 4½ inch minimum: 3 per day, 3 in possession.
 - May operate 1 pot or one ring net per vessel.

Female - NO HARVEST ALLOWED



Wide abdominal flap covers most of underside (females are usually smaller than legal size)

Male



Narrow abdominal flap



Width measurement of Tanner crab is the straight-line distance across the carapace, including spines.

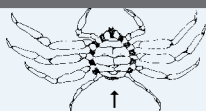
There is an annual limit of 20 crabs per person.

Tanner Crab - Standard Fishery

TANNER CRAB STANDARD FISHERY

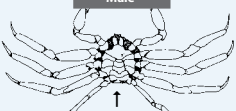
- Cook Inlet:
 - A permit is required and is available online at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/store.
 - **Season:** September 1–March 15:
 - Male crabs only, 4½ inch minimum: 5 per day, 5 in possession.
 - May operate 2 pots per vessel.
- North Gulf Coast:
 - A permit is required and is available online at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/store.
 - **Season:** September 1–March 15:
 - Male crabs only, 4½ inch minimum: 5 per day, 5 in possession.
 - May operate 2 pots per person with a max of 6 pots per vessel.

Female - NO HARVEST ALLOWED



Wide abdominal flap covers most of underside (females are usually smaller than legal size)

Male



Narrow abdominal flap



Width measurement of Tanner crab is the straight-line distance across the carapace, including spines.

There is an annual limit of 40 crabs per person

76

China Poot and Peterson Bay (Kachemak Bay):

- Intertidal beaches between ADF&G markers along Shipwreck Cove and around Otter Rock:
- **Closed to the harvest of all shellfish.**

DUNGENESS CRAB

- Season: **Closed.**

KING CRAB

- Season: **Closed.**

LITTLENECK AND BUTTER CLAMS

- 80 per day, 80 in possession in combination.
- Littleneck clams: Must be 1½ inches or wider.
- Butter clams: Must be 2½ inches or wider.

RAZOR CLAMS

- East side Cook Inlet beaches from the mouth of the Kenai River south to the tip of the Homer Spit:
 - **Closed to all clamming.** Check for Emergency Orders at: www.adfg.alaska.gov
- Rest of Cook Inlet: No limit.
- All clams dug must be retained.

SHRIMP

- Season: **Closed.**

OTHER SHELLFISH

- No limit.

China Poot and Peterson Bay Shellfish Closures



BUTTER CLAM



Minimum 2½ inches across the widest part of the shell for Cook Inlet and North Gulf Coast harvest requirement.

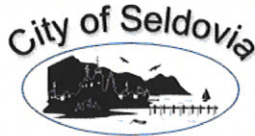
The butter clam shell is thick and white. It has heavy concentric growth rings, but no vertical ridges. The shell's inner edge is smooth. Butter clams are 3 to 5 inches long.

PACIFIC LITTLENECK CLAM



Minimum 1½ inches across the widest part of the shell for Cook Inlet and North Gulf Coast harvest requirement.

Littleneck clam shells have concentric growth rings and distinct vertical ridges. The inner edge is ridged like the edge of a quarter. Littleneck clams are about 2 inches long.



www.cityofseldovia.com

P.O. Drawer B Seldovia, Alaska 99663 Phone: (907) 234-7643, Fax: (907) 234-7430 email: citymanager@cityofseldovia.com

Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
491 E. Pioneer Ave.
Homer, AK 99603
Submitted electronically: citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov

Subject: Municipal Partnership to Discuss the Alaska Marine Highway System with Governor Dunleavy's Office

December 30, 2020

Mayor Castner and Homer City Council,

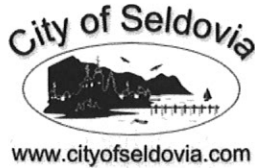
On behalf of Seldovia City Council, I am reaching out to assess the potential between our two cities to partner together when discussing the future of the Alaska Marine Highway System with Governor Dunleavy. Seldovia penned the enclosed letter at their last council meeting, however there was interest from Seldovia councilmembers in co-authoring a letter with the City of Homer to share our communities' concerns with his office. We are both connected by the ferry system, perhaps our cities could come together to advocate for its future, too.

Best,

Rachel Friedlander
City Manager

Enclosures:

Dec. 28, 2020 Letter from Seldovia City Council to Governor Dunleavy



P.O. Drawer B Seldovia, Alaska 99663 Phone: (907) 234-7643, Fax: (907) 234-7430

Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Subject: Invitation from Seldovia City Council to Honorable Governor Dunleavy to
Further Discuss the Alaska Marine Highway System

December 28, 2020

Honorable Governor Dunleavy,

The City of Seldovia would like to invite you and/or Commissioner MacKinnon and Captain Falvey Jr. at either our January 11th or the 25th council meeting to further discuss topics associated with the Alaska Marine Highway System as outlined below.

Seldovia, Alaska is one of thirty-five coastal communities that relies on a year-round ferry system to provide essential transportation and the M/V Tustumena and Kennicott are lifelines to the people of Seldovia. We want to support you in making the Alaska Marine Highway System a sustainable service to the public while ensuring our community's access to this necessary, dependable transportation. When the ferry is running it keeps the cost of living down for rural Alaskans.

In November 2020, Seldovia City Council passed Resolution 21-13 (enclosed) in support of the establishment of an Alaska Marine Highway System Governing Board, one of the main recommendations posed in the October 2020 "Alaska Marine Highway Reshaping Work Group Report to the Governor." The resolution also advocated for the replacement of the M/V Tustumena and emphasized the need to provide this vital and critical transportation service to small Alaskan coastal communities.

The ferry is part of the infrastructure we can expect from the state. This is an essential service to the citizens of Alaska and should not be run as a corporation. We agree with the working group report's recommendation to "(keep) the current department agency model."

Operating on the premise of making money with the marine highway is wrong when compared to the income of DOT land highways, which do not contribute funding.

We are looking forward to your response to the work group report and want to pose the following topics for discussion to be held with you in January:

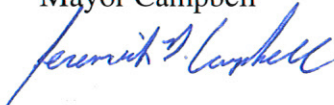
Topics for Discussion

- How is the State ensuring the AMHS budget is sustainable? The FY2022 budget as proposed by the Governor reduces the Marine Vessel Operations budget by \$2,469.7M or -5.4%.
- How is progress being made on the construction of a new Tustumena ferry? What is the long-term fleet plan for the Tustumena?
- How will the state determine and set a static and dependable ferry schedule? The community of Seldovia is willing to entertain the idea of a reduced schedule to ensure ridership on the ferry is high.
- How will the state determine when a vessel is scheduled for the dry dock? It would be best to make sure SOLAS capable vessels like the Kennicott and Tustumena are dry-docked 6 months apart to ensure no interruption in service.

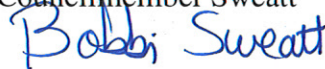
Please know our community is willing to work with the state and is open to making changes to the existing ferry system. As mentioned in the report, the voters approved the bonds needed to bring Alaska's first ferries and docks to the Kenai Peninsula. We are a significant part of the AMHS's history and want your commitment that we will be in its future.

Respectfully,
Seldovia City Council

Mayor Campbell



Councilmember Sweatt



Councilmember Rojas



Councilmember Colberg



Councilmember Nathan



Councilmember Morrison



Councilmember Payton



CC:

Commissioner MacKinnon

Captain Falvey Jr.

Rep. Stutes

Sen. Stevens

Enclosures:

Seldovia Resolution 21-13

**CITY OF SELDOVIA
RESOLUTION 21-13**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SELDOVIA, ALASKA
URGING GOVERNOR DUNLEAVY AND THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO ESTABLISH AN
ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM GOVERNING BOARD; TO SUPPORT THE
REPLACEMENT OF MV TUSTUMENA; AND TO CONTINUE PROVIDING THIS VITAL
AND CRITICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICE TO SMALL ALASKAN COASTAL
COMMUNITIES**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) is a critical and essential method of transportation for residents of the State of Alaska and Alaska coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, Governor Dunleavy, through Administrative Order No. 313, established the Alaska Marine Highway Reshaping Work Group on January 17, 2020 with the purpose of making recommendations on the future finances and service levels of the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS); and

WHEREAS, it was the duty of the Work Group to consider the analysis and data in the Alaska Marine Highway System Economic Reshaping Report (January 15, 2020) and to define the future needs and purpose of the AMHS, with the goal to ensure residents have access to essential transportation services among Alaskan coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, the final report was presented to Governor Dunleavy from the Work Group on October 2, 2020, and included findings and recommendations for the purpose of supporting the Alaska Marine Highway System service provided; and

WHEREAS, the report recommended that the Governor establish and appoint, by administrative order, a new nine member "operations" board, with members having skills and experience a Ferry Commission or Marine Business Board of Directors would bring to bear; and

WHEREAS, an "operations" board would help eliminate the continuing challenge for the AMHS of frequent changes in policy direction coupled with insufficient appreciation of the long-term implications of such changes; and

WHEREAS, the report found that the AMHS fleet was aged and subject to challenging Alaska marine operating conditions, and despite best efforts of ships' crews and AMHS staff, the ferry system was not reliable; and

WHEREAS, the report speaks to the focus beginning in 2014 on the importance of building an ocean capable "replacement" vessel for the MV Tustumena, which has had a 50-year plus service life; and

WHEREAS, the Statewide Transportation Improvements Program (STIP) covering all system improvements for which partial or full federal funding is approved and expected to take place during four-year durations, published amendments in October 2020 proposing that FY2020 funding previously budgeted to construct the replacement vessel MV Tustumena to service Southcentral and Southwest Alaska coastal communities be moved to the FY2023 budget; and

WHEREAS, the postponement of funding for the MV Tustumena replacement vessel further perpetuates the unpredictable and unreliable service currently provided from use of the aged fleet that is in need of constant repair and maintenance, and does not promote the provision of long-term sustainable service to Alaskan residents and their small Alaskan communities; and

WHEREAS, the MV Tustumena is and continues to be an important asset for AMHS as one of only two vessels in the AMHS fleet that is ocean-capable and can provide service as a highway and lifeline connecting remote communities in Southcentral and Southwest Alaska to the rest of the great State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the replacement of the MV Tustumena would be a beneficial long-term investment for the State of Alaska in supporting the continuation of that critical and essential transportation service to small Alaska communities and could provide reliable, sustainable service to other coastal areas of the state as needed; and

WHEREAS, the final report from the Work Group found that reliability was a key concern of every group with which they interacted, some commentators offering that they were willing to accept less frequent ferry service if it was more predictable and reliable; and

WHEREAS, the report states that "It is understood that serving very small communities with the ferry system model will never be cost efficient. It is also understood and appreciated that affordable transportation options are important to them. Ideally, if the overall Alaska Marine Highway System could be made revenue/cost positive, it could absorb losses on these runs"; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System provides an essential transportation service to the City of Seldovia and other small Alaskan communities and it is vital that these services continue, as the AMHS is the only highway connection provided to these communities for access to the rest of the State of Alaska for employment, transportation, groceries, supplies, and general livelihood that cannot be reached without the assistance of boats or planes; and

WHEREAS, long-term sustainable access to essential transportation services that is reliable and predictable could be ensured for all Alaska residents with the establishment of an AMHS Governing Board, with a forward funding plan, and with the continuation of the project to replace the MV Tustumena in the very near future;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SELDOVIA:

Section 1. That the City of Seldovia urges Governor Dunleavy and the Alaska Legislature to establish an Alaska Marine Highway System Governing Board; to support the replacement of MV Tustumena; and to continue providing this vital and critical transportation service to small Alaskan coastal communities.

Section 2. A copy of this resolution will be sent to Governor Dunleavy and members of the Alaska State Legislature.

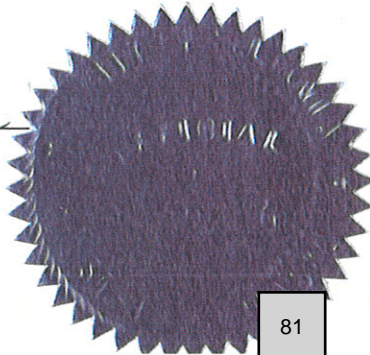
Section 3. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the City Council of the City of Seldovia on this 09 day of November, 2020.

ATTEST:



Heidi Geagel, City Clerk



APPROVED:



Vivian Rojas, Acting Mayor



Memorandum

TO: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

FROM: David Berry, Library Director

DATE: Dec. 30, 2020

SUBJECT: Western Lot Trail Project

Immediately west of the Homer Public Library is a parcel of City land called the western lot, which is a public park and an extension of the library's public services. Over the last 15+ years, the Friends of Homer Library (FHL) have been heavily involved in improvements to the lot, including upgrades to the walking path, installing the StoryWalk®, adding picnic tables, and clearing brush to improve sightlines.

FHL is currently developing a proposal for additional improvements, in the form of a new or expanded trail through the area. The project has three broad aims:

- To encourage public use of the trail, and link it firmly into the broader citywide trail system;
- To emphasize the importance of natural conservation, including the wetlands and wildlife habitat already existing on the site, through signage related to the natural surroundings;
- To spread knowledge of, and appreciation for, the Native heritage of the Homer area, through signage related to such heritage.

Recognizing the large number of people who may be interested in such a project, FHL is now in the process of reaching out to those parties, including all of the following:

- City Council
- City of Homer (Administration, Planning, Parks, Library, EDAC)
- Landowners and residents along Grubstake Avenue, as well as west of the Poopdeck Trail
- Kachemak Heritage Land Trust
- Ninilchik Village Tribe
- Seldovia Village Tribe
- Chugachmiut
- Bunnell Street Arts Center
- Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies

Detailed plans are still under development. Following advice from the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, FHL will seek assistance from the National Park Service through the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm>). The RTCA provides no monetary support for projects, but it does provide expertise with formal planning and design, and with developing a long-term structure to ensure that projects are sustainable.

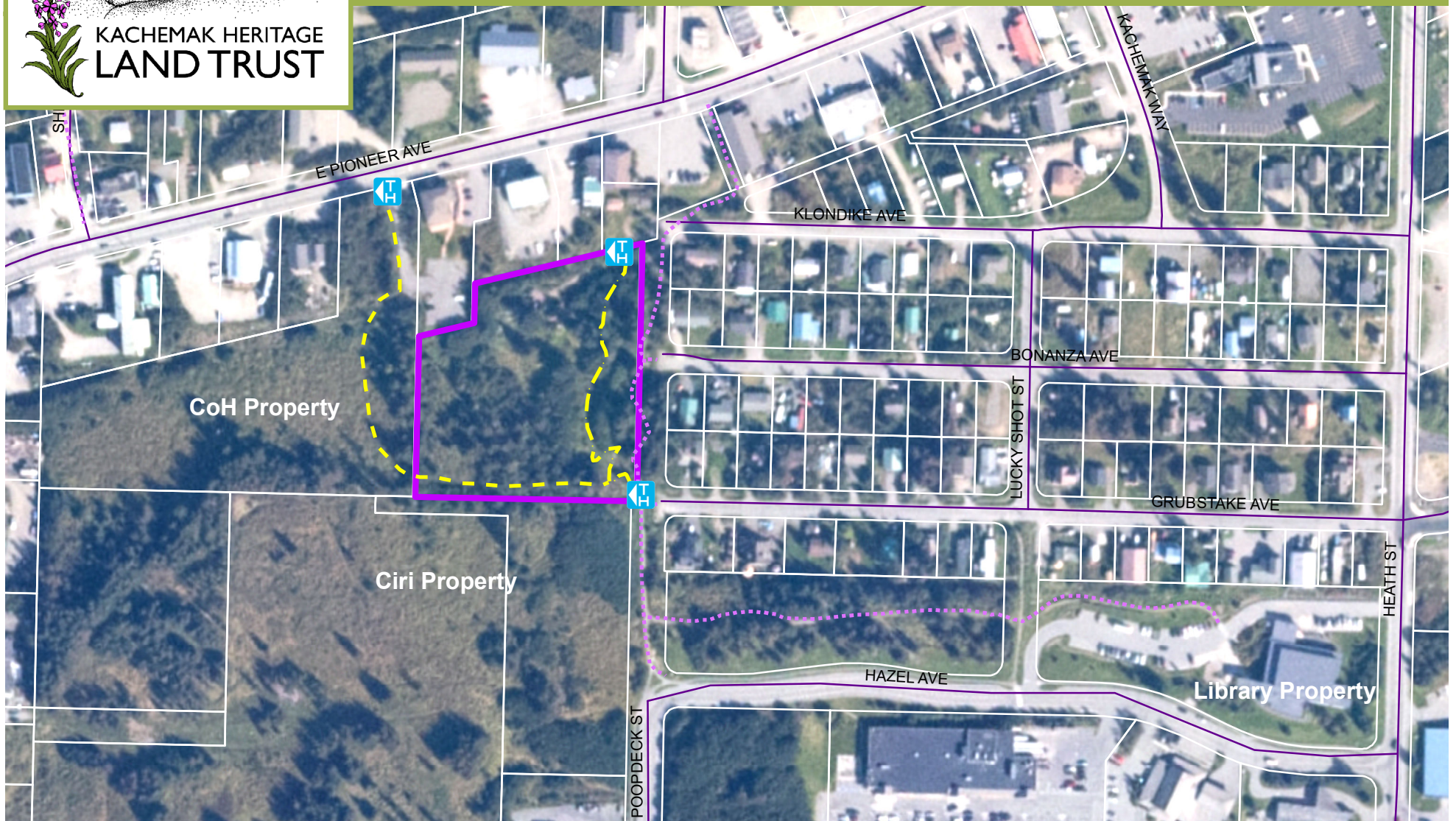
Further information will be provided as the proposal takes shape.

RECOMMENDATION

For information.



Poopdeck Trail and Surrounding Property



Legend

- Trailheads
- Poopdeck Trail
- City Trails
- Streets
- KHLT Poopdeck Property
- Parcels

0 150 300 600 Feet

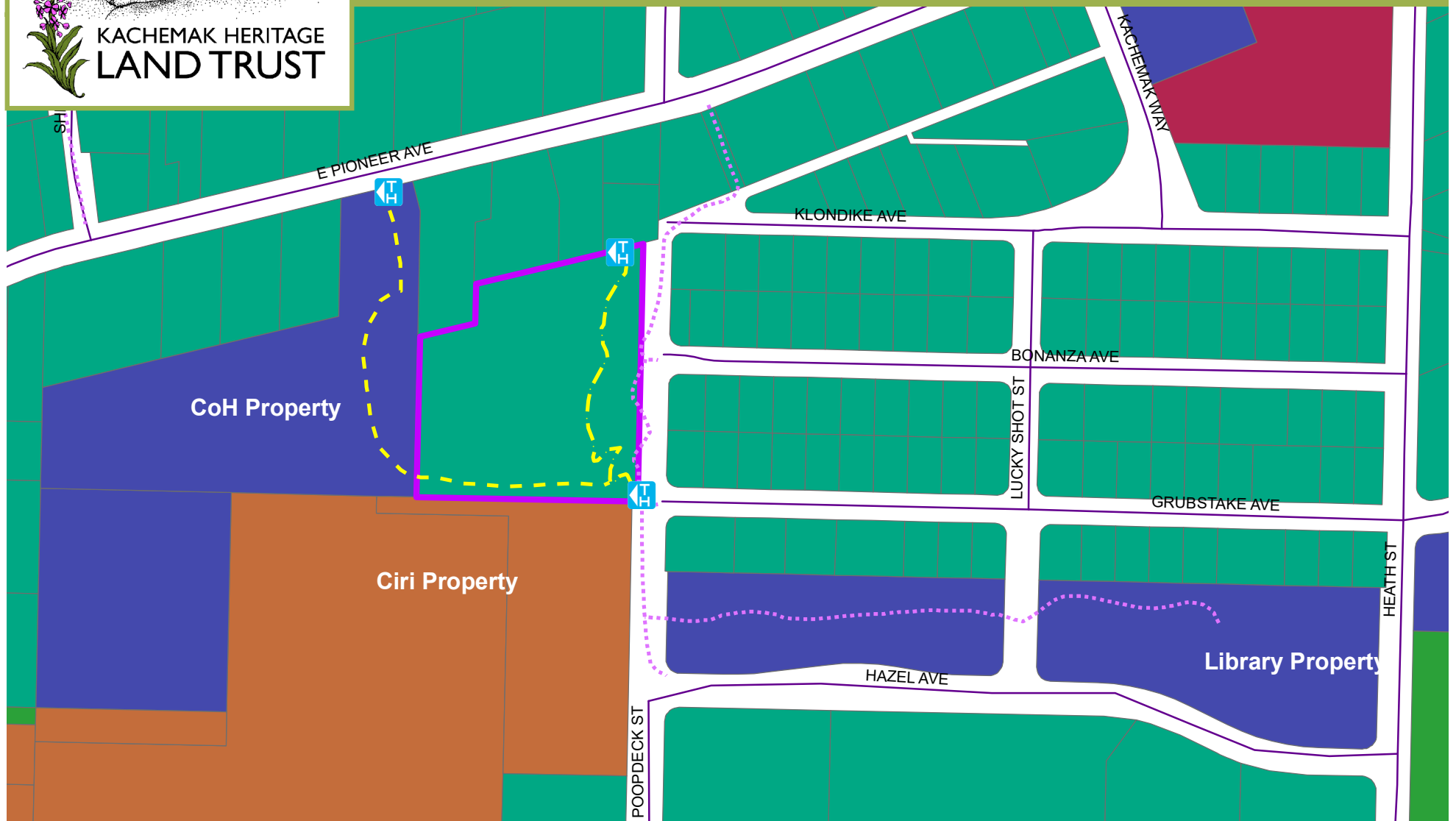
Coordinate System: Transverse Mercator
NAD 1983 State Plane Alaska 4 FIPS 5004 Feet.
Created 12/27/2020

The information depicted on this map is a graphical representation of best available sources.
KHLT assumes no responsibility for any errors on this map.





Poopdeck Trail and Surrounding Property



Legend

Trailheads	Streets	Borough	Native
Poopdeck Trail	KHLT Poopdeck Property	Federal	Native Allotment
City Trails	Parcels	Municipal	Private
		State	

0 150 300 600 Feet

Coordinate System: Transverse Mercator
NAD 1983 State Plane Alaska 4 FIPS 5004 Feet.
Created 12/27/2020

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AIA
Alaska

2020 'DRIVE-BY JURY' DESIGN AWARD
"Most Creative Use of Materials" Category

AWARD OF RECOGNITION

To the Architect

Stantec Architecture

In Recognition of the Professional Excellence shown for

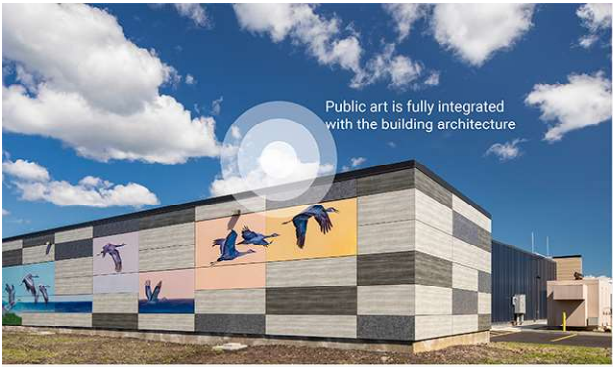
Homer Police Station
City of Homer

And the Intelligent Cooperation shown by the Client in Demanding and Recognizing the Highest
of Architectural Standards

Jason Arnold, AIA
2020 President, AIA Alaska

Emmanuel Daskalos, Associate AIA
2020 Design Awards Chair, AIA Alaska

2020-0012-B



Public art is fully integrated with the building architecture



Vertical metal panels provide a dynamic pattern at the solid wall securing the jail side of the building

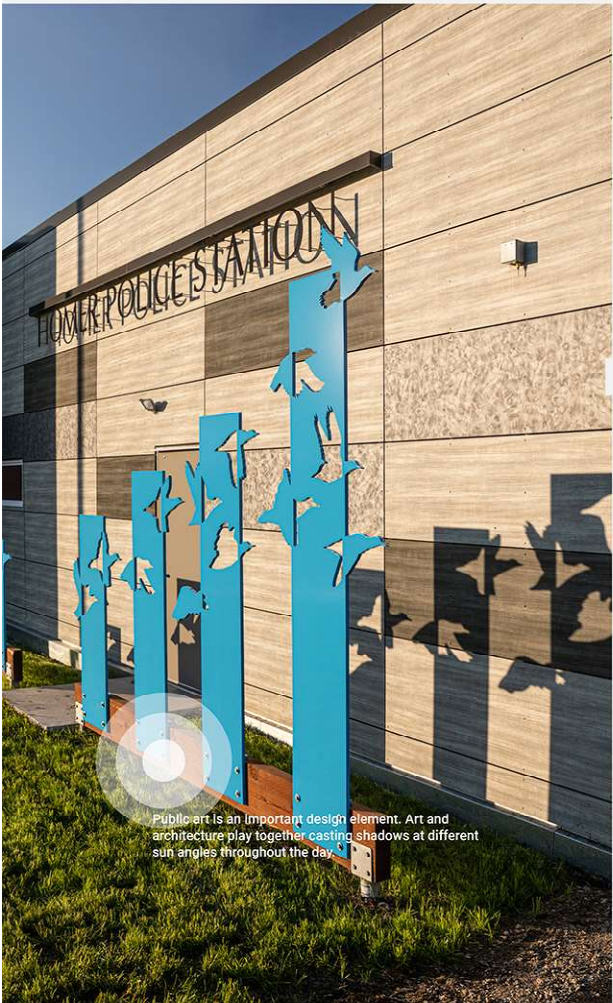


HOMER Police Station

The Homer Police Station was designed keeping its community at heart, recognizing that our shared journey forward is shaped by meaningful and responsive places ■



Circulation is punctuated with bright saturated colors



Public art is an important design element. Art and architecture play together casting shadows at different sun angles throughout the day



Blue backdrops at entrances bring the deep blue ocean from Kachemak Bay into the building



The public entrance of the building is welcoming and inviting for the coastal community.



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Public Works

3575 Heath Street
Homer, AK 99603

publicworks@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907- 235-3170

(f) 907-235-3145

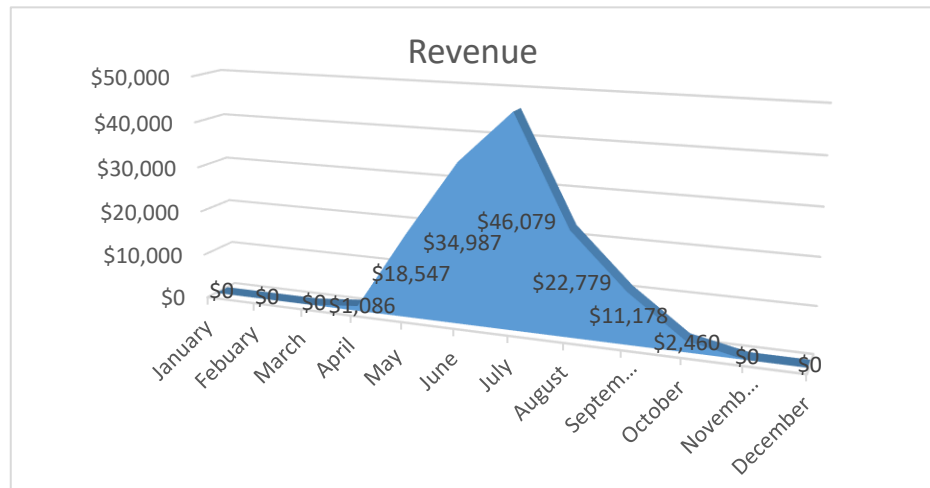
TO: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
THROUGH: Janette Keiser, PE, Director of Public Works
FROM: Matt Steffy, Parks Superintendent
SUBJECT: 2020 Camping Report

- I. **Overview:** This memorandum reports on campground usage for the 2020 season and compares it to earlier trends. There was good news and bad news. The bad news is revenue for 2020 decreased 28% from 2019, reflecting impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. The good news is attendance was spread over a longer period and actually increased in the shoulder seasons.
- II. **Attendance:** While the shoulder season months showed a higher number of camping events, usage in mid-summer was noticeably slower than usual. Paradoxically, the number of campers in each camping party increased. For example, while our total camping events decreased 28%, our total number of people decreased by only 21%. This suggests a trend of larger camping parties, which may have been people camping in family units or social bubbles, more than they typically would.
- III. **Revenue:** Revenue for the season was down 28% over 2019. We attribute this to the dramatic decrease in out-of-state campers, who typically stay for long periods in July/August. For example, our large out-of-state RV crowd typically dominates the Fishing Hole Campground, and those numbers were down a greater percentage than at Mariner Park, which caters more to the in-state, regional tourists. Curiously, our average revenue generated per user in 2019 was \$10.87, while our 2020 figure was \$9.71, suggesting not everyone pays what they should. Our rate is \$20 per night, but it is not uncommon for campers to put whatever cash they have in the envelope. This season, we had a significantly higher frequency of campers paying less than the full amount, possibly reflecting the pandemic's adverse economic impact on families.
- IV. **Special Use Program.** Reported revenues only reflect fees processed through the Parks office. Early in the season, we administered a Special Use program to provide shelter for people who were unhoused and needed a place to isolate or recover. To limit the amount of direct contact staff had with campers, we did not practice our normal level of fee enforcement with Special Use Campers. Thus, our actual usage was higher than reflected in fees. Estimates of non-paying, or Special Use, campers based on our logs place the value of *pro bono* fees at over \$31,000, or 1,550 camping events.
- V. **Automatic Pay Kiosks.** We will be installing automatic pay kiosks at the campgrounds in early spring. Experience with similar installations demonstrates the kiosks' ability to accept credit card payments motivates people, who don't have exact change or who don't want to handle cash, to pay. Thus, regardless of how much we can return to normal operations in the coming season, we expect revenue to increase considerably.

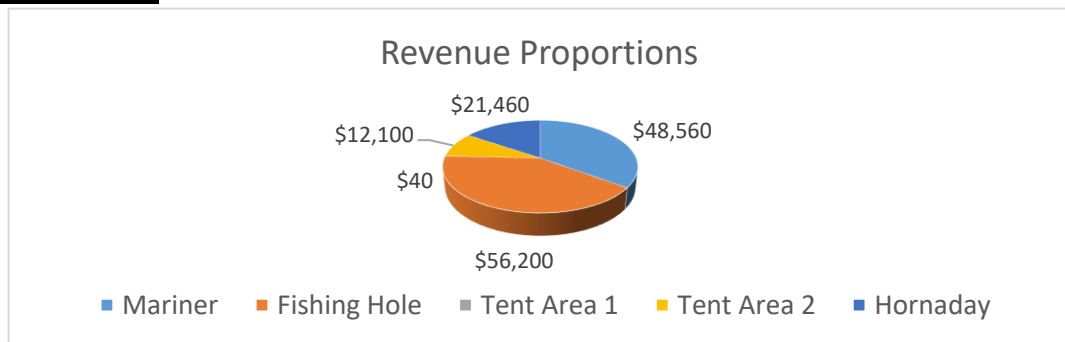
2020 City of Homer Camping Report

Total Camping	6,918
Total People	14,006
Total Revenue	\$137,116

Monthly	Camping	People	Revenue
January	0	0	\$0
February	0	0	\$0
March	0	0	\$0
April	54	138	\$1,086
May	928	1,822	\$18,547
June	1,746	3,425	\$34,987
July	2,333	4,951	\$46,079
August	1,141	2,311	\$22,779
September	593	1,126	\$11,178
October	123	233	\$2,460
November	0	0	\$0
December	0	0	\$0



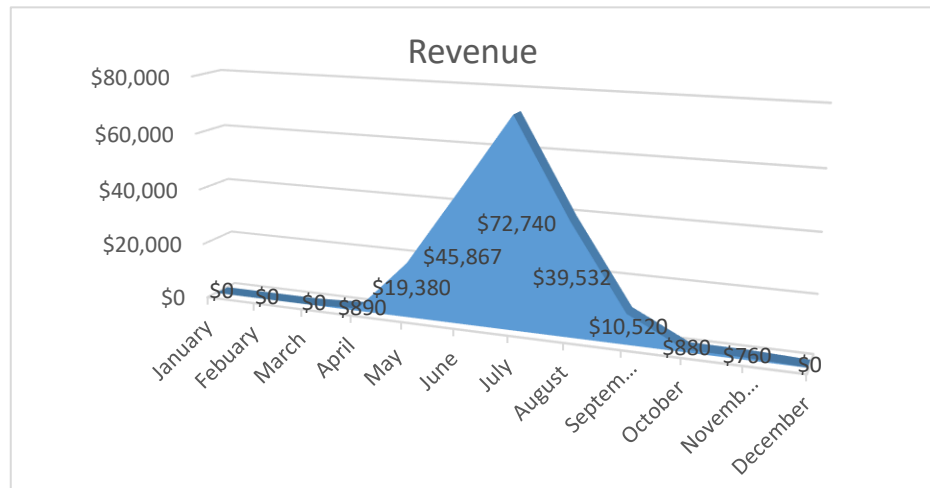
By Campground	Camping	Revenue
Mariner	2,428	\$48,560
Fishing Hole	2,810	\$56,200
Tent Area 1	2	\$40
Tent Area 2	605	\$12,100
Hornaday	1,073	\$21,460



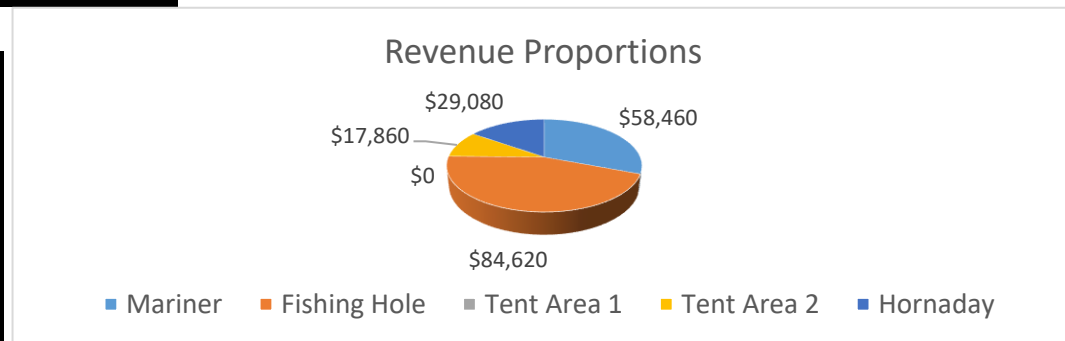
2019 City of Homer Camping Report

Total Camping	9,501
Total People	17,522
Total Revenue	\$190,569

Monthly	Camping	People	Revenue
January	0	0	\$0
February	0	0	\$0
March	0	0	\$0
April	46	77	\$890
May	967	1,729	\$19,380
June	2,290	4,227	\$45,867
July	3,629	6,548	\$72,740
August	1,956	3,750	\$39,532
September	525	1,030	\$10,520
October	44	93	\$880
November	44	68	\$760
December	0	0	\$0



By Campground	Camping	Revenue
Mariner	2,923	\$58,460
Fishing Hole	4,231	\$84,620
Tent Area 1	0	\$0
Tent Area 2	893	\$17,860
Hornaday	1,454	\$29,080

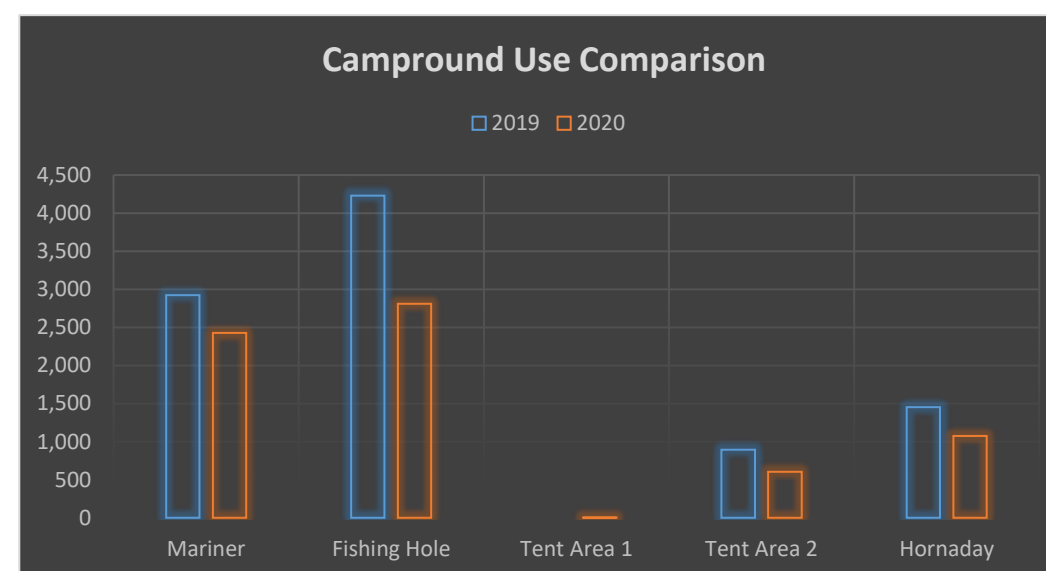
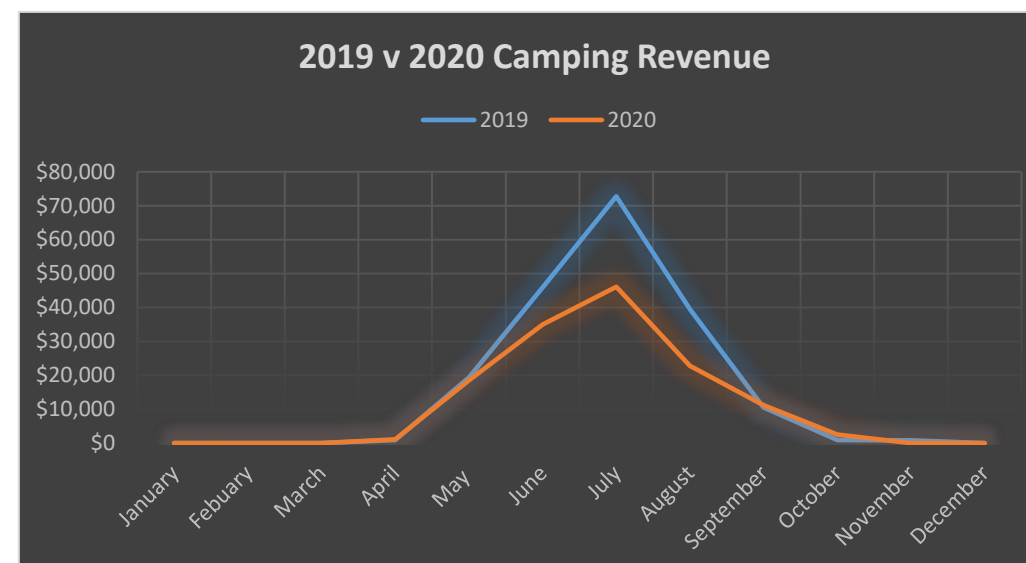


2019 v 2020 City of Homer Camping Report Comparison

	2019	2020
Total Camping	9,501	6,918
Total People	17,522	14,006
Total Revenue	\$190,569	\$137,116

	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
Monthly	Camping		People		Revenue	
January	0	0	0	0	\$0	\$0
February	0	0	0	0	\$0	\$0
March	0	0	0	0	\$0	\$0
April	46	54	77	138	\$890	\$1,086
May	967	928	1,729	1,822	\$19,380	\$18,547
June	2,290	1,746	4,227	3,425	\$45,867	\$34,987
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September	525	593	1,030	1,126	\$10,520	\$11,179
October	44	123	93	233	\$880	\$2,460
November	44	0	68	0	\$760	\$0
December	0	0	0	0	\$0	\$0

	2019	2020	2019	2020
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Fishing Hole	4,231	2,810	\$84,620	\$56,200
Tent Area 1	0	2	\$0	\$40
Tent Area 2	893	605	\$17,860	\$12,100
Hornaday	1,454	1,073	\$29,080	\$21,460



	Percent Change		
Monthly	Camping	People	Revenue
January	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
February	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
March	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
April	117.00%	179.00%	122.00%
May	95.96%	105.38%	95.70%
June	76.24%	81.03%	76.28%
July	64.29%	75.61%	63.35%
August	58.33%	61.63%	57.62%
September	112.95%	109.32%	106.26%
October	279.55%	250.54%	279.55%
November	See table		
December	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%



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Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager and Bryan Hawkins, Habormaster
DATE: January 5, 2021
SUBJECT: PWCs in Kachemak Bay

A decision signed by Alaska Department of Fish & Game Special Assistant Rick Green, effective January 9th, allows personal watercraft (PWC), such as jet skis, to access Kachemak Bay for the first time in almost 20 years. This change has created concerns in the community which include, but are not limited to, public safety, shoreline protection, and recovery of the appropriate fees for PWC usage of harbor facilities. The intent of this memo is to acknowledge and analyze known concerns and seek guidance from Council on future actions.

City Jurisdiction

The City has jurisdiction over waters within City limits. That mainly consists of the harbor and tidelands along the coast of the City. The City does not currently have any restrictions on vessel operations in the City tidelands. The City's ability to patrol and enforce regulations on the water and outside of the harbor is very limited. We also control the launch ramp and the ability to drive on certain beaches.



Figure 1 - City waters are located inside the dashed line

The City does not have specific PWC regulations. From a Port/Harbor perspective, they are small boats. We do however have a number of existing regulations which would apply to PWCs, and any other motorized aquatic vessels, which operate in our harbor.

State Jurisdiction

In the nearshore area surrounding the City, the State holds jurisdiction over all waters outside of City limits. Access to State waters by motorized vessels is regulated by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR). With the repeal of the PWC ban by the State, PWCs will be allowed in Kachemak Bay starting on January 9, 2021. The State views PWCs as small motor craft, and there are not PWC-specific regulations at the State level with the exception of some restrictions in some State Parks or specific facility plans. PWCs, like any other small motor vessel, are required to carry a fire extinguisher, life jacket, sound signaling device, flairs, and lights for operating after dark. Additionally they are required to be registered like any other vessel with DMV and have an AK number on the hull.

Public Safety

There is concern in the community that PWCs could create various public safety hazards. There is a perceived issue of incompatibility with other user groups and an assumption that more users on PWCs may result in more incidents requiring rescue on the water.

Regarding incompatibility with other user groups, the staff analysis is that this is more an issue of behavior than the specific type of watercraft. PWCs are associated with speed. Inside the harbor, and other designated no wake areas, speeds are limited to two miles per hour by Homer City Code (HCC 10.08.210). Harbor and Police staff are able to issue citations for violations of this regulation. It is important to note that outside of the harbor itself, it is very difficult for the City to monitor behavior and enforce any type of regulation.

A potential increase in rescues is a very real concern that staff is already considering for the summer season. Any time the number of people on the water increases, the risk of an accident also increase. Typically first response in the Homer area has been provided by a combination of Good Samaritan, City, State, and Coast Guard resources. When the call goes out that someone is in trouble, the Harbor staff does their best to respond within the limits created by the time of day, location, conditions, and personnel availability. During non-emergency responses, the private company Sea Tow provides towing services.

The Harbormaster has a very specific concern about safety at the entrance to the harbor. This area is extremely dangerous because so much traffic, which ranges from very small to very large vessels, must pass through the jetties and the potential for accidents due to the close quarters traffic which occurs in that location. PWCs, if used irresponsibly, could exacerbate this already dangerous passage. This is an area in which we have considered installing a camera system to monitor traffic.

Shoreline Protection and Disruption of Wildlife

I have received a few emails which include concerns regarding erosion and contamination related to launching PWCs from the beach. The potential for any damage to the shoreline is split between the PWCs themselves, and vehicles attempting to launch them from the beach.

The weight of most PWCs is too great for a user to unload and essential push the craft to the water. If an individual were interested in a beach launch, they are most likely going to use a truck and trailer. The City

has very limited access for vehicles to drive on the beach. Vehicles are prohibited at Mariner Park Lagoon, Mud Bay, Airport Beach Access Road, the majority of the Spit's beaches, Beluga Slough, and east of Bishops Beach Park. City beach policy only allows drivers year round west of Bishops Beach Park. The City also allows vehicles to drive between Mariner Park and the sea wall between October 31st and March 1st for the purposes of coal and sand gathering only, this stretch of beach is closed to all vehicles in summer (see attachment 1). Because of the limited options for driving on the beach legally, and the shallow slope which would require a truck to back uncomfortably far into the water to launch a PWC, staff believes there should be very limited instances of beach launches.

Using PWCs in shallow waters could result in the disruption of various types of habitat. This is a behavior which is difficult to monitor or enforce against. Similarly PWC users could behave in such a way that it becomes harassment of wildlife, which is an enforceable federal offense. When on the Bay, State Troopers and US Coast Guard would likely be the main enforcers of these regulations. In addition to purposeful harassment of wildlife, the speed of operation and limited view from a PWC could lead to unintentional collisions with marine mammals and other species off of our coast.

Launch and Other Associated Fees

PWC are subject to the same fees as any other vessel launching from the ramp: \$20 per launch for vessels (\$13 for the launch and \$7 for the parking levy). Fees are collected from April 1st to October 15th each year. If a launch ramp user does not pay the required fee, fines begin at \$100 and go up to \$300 per offense (Ordinance 16-11). If a PWC is left in the harbor overnight, they will be required to file a moorage agreement and pay for moorage which is based on the overall length of the vessel.

Staff Recommendations:

Within the City:

- Direct the City Manager to increase enforcement of existing rules regarding vehicles on the beach and no wake zones.
- Direct the City Manager to research a camera system for the harbor entrance.
- Direct the City Manager to work with other agencies to enforce wake speed regulations and vessel safety for all vessel types at the harbor entrance.

At the State-level:

- If the Council wishes to oppose PWCs in Kachemak Bay, direct the City Manager to identify opportunities for comment to the appropriate agencies, political offices, and ongoing planning projects and prepare drafts for Council review.

Attachments

1. City of Homer "Where Can I Drive?" Beach Map

Where Can I Drive?

**Problems? Call Homer Police Dept at 235-3150.
Violators can be fined.**

