



Agenda

Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission Regular Meeting

Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 5:30 PM

City Hall Cowles Council Chambers In-Person & Via Zoom Webinar

Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Zoom Webinar ID: 990 6701 0473 Password: 295088

<https://cityofhomer.zoom.us>
Dial: 346-248-7799 or 669-900-6833;
(Toll Free) 888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247

CALL TO ORDER 5:30 P.M.

AGENDA APPROVAL

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 minute time limit)

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS (10 minute time limit)

- A. Dale Banks, LoopEride - E-Bike Regulations

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, in which case the item will be moved to the regular agenda and considered in normal sequence.

- A. Unapproved Regular Meeting Minutes for February 15, 2024

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS (5 minute time limit)

- A. Recreation Report for March - Mike Illg, Recreation Manager
- B. Parks Maintenance Report - Chad Felice, Parks Maintenance Coordinator
- C. Staff Report for March - Mike Illg, Recreation Manager/Staff Liaison

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS (15 minute time limit)

- A. Memorandum PARC-24-019 Update & Development of the PARCAC Strategic Plan
- B. Memorandum PARC-24-018 Non-motorized Walkways - Use of e-bikes

NEW BUSINESS (15-20 minute time limit)

[A.](#) Welcome New Commissioner! Jessica Williams

[B.](#) Memorandum PARC-24-020 Developing and Establishing Parks & Recreation Policies

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

[A.](#) PARC Annual Calendar 2024

[B.](#) City of Homer Newsletter for March 2024

[C.](#) City Manager's Reports

CM Report for City Council Meeting on February 26, 2024

CM Report for City Council Meeting on March 11, 2024

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBER (If Present)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is **Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.** All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

CALL TO ORDER

Session 24-02, a Regular Meeting of the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair David Lewis at 5:35 p.m. on February 15, 2024 from the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar. A worksession was scheduled at 4:30 p.m. but due to technical issues and connectivity did not start until 4:50 p.m. On the agenda was review of revised Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan conceptual programming and layout design.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS ARCHIBALD, HARRALD, GALBRAITH, KEISER, FAIR, ROEDL AND LEWIS

ABSENT: STUDENT COMMISSIONER WALKER (UNEXCUSED)

STAFF: DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE, RECREATION MANAGER ILLG, PARKS & TRAILS PLANNER STEFFY AND PARKS MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR FELICE

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Lewis read the supplemental items into the record: Under PENDING BUSINESS Item A. Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan Update Revised Master Plan Sheets and Discussion Points submitted by Commission Keiser; Item B. Bayview Park Plan Revised Bayview Park Plan Site Plan Item C. Proposed Community Recreation Center: Location Selection Recommendation Blank Matrix Form with Rating Criteria and Supplemental Matrix Information Submitted with the January packet NEW BUSINESS Item A. User Fee for Community Recreation Programs Executed Resolution 23-079, Item D. Developing & Updating the Commission Strategic Plan Executed Resolution 24-019 and requested a motion and second to approve the agenda as amended.

ARCHIBALD/FAIR MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED TO INCLUDE THE SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS AS READ.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

RECONSIDERATION

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Unapproved meeting minutes for January 18, 2024

Chair Lewis requested a motion and second to approve the Consent Agenda.

FAIR/ARCHIBALD MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Staff Report PARC 24-008, Parks Maintenance Report - February 2024

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Maintenance Coordinator Felice

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Felice reviewed his report provided in the packet. He provided information on the following:

- Staff was tracking a number of things and were in the area above the park looking a different routes this past summer. They are very interested in the idea of trails in that area north of the park proper.
- Lot of sanding and snow removal
- Purchased ADA Ramp for sandbox at Hornaday Park Playground
 - Installation will be this spring along with an ADA compliant walkway to the feature
- Clearing of alders around the campground area
- Winter Trail Maintenance
- Clearing alders from the Story trail to make it more visible to deter camping and increase safety on the Library lot
- Working with Public Works to mitigate the ground water problem along the sidewalk
 - Hoping that when the new engineer that starts in February he will have additional ideas
- Before freeze up, work was started on the warning track in the adult field at Jack Gist Park
 - Drainage ditch was dug on the east side allowing additional parking space to the east
- Sewer line is in and water line is schedule for spring, early summer
- The hump was reduced as you head east so now vehicles will not bottom out
- Picked up the new parks truck.
- Priced a compactor tractor today which would assist in trail work.
- Pros and Cons for Karen Hornaday Park Camping for the next meeting.

Mr. Felice facilitated questions and provided responses to the following:

- Winter maintenance of the Spit Trail to the Fish Hook is done by the Park Maintenance staff
- Winter maintenance around the harbor is done by Harbor personnel
- Parks Staff is comprised of 2 persons – 1 Full Time (himself) and currently 1 seasonal temporary employee (6 months)
- Red Tagged - means that the equipment is determined not to be road worthy by the city mechanics

B. Staff Report PARC 24-009, Council Actions and Staff Report February 2024

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Recreation Manager Illg

Recreation Manager Illg reviewed his report for the Commission noting the following:

- Commission participation in the Land Allocation Plan process regarding the area where the Barge Haul Out is conducted. There is a proposal to have that area used on a year round basis not just during the winter.
 - o There will be an item at the next meeting for more discussion.
 - o Chair Lewis noted that there was no clear ownership on the property when he was on Council when the issue first came about.
 - o Research is being conducted on ownership
 - o Zoning District is Marine Industrial
 - Funding appropriated for Ordinance 24-06(A) to Contract Engineering Services for Preliminary Design of Non-Motorized Trails and Trailhead connecting City of Homer Diamond Creek Property to Proposed Highway Underpass will not be expended until Alaska Department of Transportation has made a decision on the underpass and this funding is show that the City is serious in its intent.
 - o This was requested to be on the March agenda for further discussion.
- C. Staff Report PARC 24-010, Community Recreation Report February 2024

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Recreation Manager Illg

Recreation Manager Illg noted his report included in the packet:

- Recreation Software is at 99.9% ready for soft launch and is focused at activities conducted at the HERC facility right now to start with;
- Ending seasonal employment for Kat Larsen and advertising for the next 6 month seasonal temporary employee;
 - o Making a recommendation to use the budget for seasonal temporary personnel to use for making the part-time employee fulltime as that would benefit the Community Recreation Division allowing for better management and addressing duties required and time off as well.
- Spring time sports will be starting in March and rumor has it the Community Recreation program is getting kicked out of the school gym
- Discussion on possible summer programming
- Requested Commission support for bringing back Boys & Girls Club to Homer
- SPARC fully operational
 - o This is not a city entity and not available for use for Community Recreation programming

Recreation Manager Illg facilitated discussion on the following points:

- Community Recreation Fees
- Current Staffing Levels and difficulty in hiring a seasonal temporary person and their limitations

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PENDING BUSINESS

- A. Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan Update

Memorandum from Park & Trails Planner as backup

Chair Lewis introduced the item and deferred to Parks & Trails Planner Steffy.

Parks & Trails Planner Steffy provided a recap of the updates to the Karen Hornaday Park (KHP) Master Plan stating additional developments such as expansion of play space by thinning the vegetation and opening up the area around the playground determines it falls under the category of inclusive playground because it provides cognitive accessibility as the actual playground has been described as “a bit too busy and loud”; tracking flow data to see if the existing drainage is working; noted a phased project is realistic and can be done for the most part in house or with small contracts issued; the idea of having an additional pavilion for use away from the sports field provides another use in the upper area; and the big dreams ideas for the park are still noted and can go into the plan; tiered seating at the t-ball field provides for the community an amphitheater and will need some engineering assistance on design; timeline is more flexible; and Staff and the Commission can solicit additional comments or recommendations from the public.

Mr. Steffy facilitated discussion on the following points:

- Relocating the road moving to the 1-3 year timeframe
 - o It needs engineering to determine the feasibility and stability of that area to swing the road to the east
 - o This does not mean that it must wait for 5 years if it is left under the 5-10 year phase, it can be addressed sooner if funding available.
 - o Prioritize the road for parking and safety
- Creating a prioritization plan like the Commission did for all the sidewalks in regards to addressing budgeting the many projects outlined in the plan.
- Creating a Special Use Group Camping Area
 - o Require Special Event Permit
 - A Special Use Campground does need to be designated in order to allow use of the area for camping during a special event.
- Stadium seating is great for the events but less priority overall
- Parking along the Playground in the upper area is total of 70 spaces along with 15 spaces along the road to the upper back fields. This provides 95 additional spaces
 - Intent is to prioritized in the plan the parking and safety
- Maintenance costs – small staff creates limited ability
- Outline of the process to draft the plan and final draft adopted
- Starting point needs to be determined to execute the tasks denoted for 1-3 years
 - o Adaptable use of staff if there is an early spring or putting something on hold if the equipment/staff is not available
- Diverting the drainage flow from the hill to Woodard Creek
 - o In house unless it is determined that they need to bring in a Hydrologist
- Does the City have space on Danview to designate parking for Woodard Creek Trail which will take away congestion from the other areas in the park
- Previous work done on the beehives, ditching, still did not satisfy the problem
 - o Ditching needs to be done on a regular basis
 - o Existing grade was too high

- Review the final plan on an annual basis instead of every five years and should be done on a budget schedule
 - o Development of a budget plan
 - Having costs fits in well with what is requested by City Council
- Overall plan to execute the items in the 1-3 years and the 5-10 years
 - o Having contingency plan
 - o Prioritization

B. Bayview Park Plan – Additional Commission Review and Recommendation

Chair Lewis introduced the item and deferred to Parks & Trails Planner Steffy.

Parks & Trails Planner Steffy stated that he amended the plan in accordance with comments received from the Commission and the ADA Advisory Board and presented the amendments as follows:

- Composite play structure swing set
- ADA accessible pathway completes full loop around lower portion
 - o Noted the future paved pathway on the upper portion
 - Bids will be requested in phases and dependent on costs will determine the length completed
- Natural play elements
- Drainage
- Mini-amphitheater seating
- Snow removal in winter
 - o No disposal of snow removed from streets or private residences
 - o Additional stressor on drainage during spring melt
- Parking is limited to 4 or 5 spaces plus the ADA space
 - o No land to increase parking
 - o Geared as a neighborhood park in walking distance
 - o Van Accessible ADA Space will be level, striped and asphalt
 - o Remaining spaces will be gravel
- Concrete or asphalt pad for portable toilet with permanent screening for aesthetics
- Fencing will be improved, not enough funding to totally replace
 - o Gates will be operational

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Felice responded that drainage will be addressed, the fence will be repaired and replaced between staff and rotary funding and they do not want to delay until June to order equipment as that will postpone everything else to mid-summer.

Chair Lewis called for a motion to adopt.

HARRALD/ARCHIBALD MOVED THE COMMISSION SUPPORTS THE ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED BAYVIEW PARK SITE DESIGN PLAN 24-013.

There was a brief comment to keep in mind the Commission comments with the adoption of the plan.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

C. Proposed Community Recreation Center: Location Selection Recommendation
Memorandum PARC-24-006 from Recreation Manager as backup

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading the title and deferred to Recreation Manager Illg

Recreation Manager Illg reviewed the information provided and identified the processed used to select the proposed location among the suitable, available properties within city limits. He reported that the Council champions are interested in comments from the Commission on the possible locations. He reiterated that there has been no transactions and it has been purely informal but there is a lot of interest in the status of this project. The working group is also looking at possible funding strategies.

The Commissioners provided comments, questions or concerns as follows:

- Previous intent of Homer Electric Association to donate property to the Homer Hockey Association and possible hazardous materials that would require abatement, a possible deterrent to that parcel.
- Concerns expressed that the focus of the recreation center should cover all types of groups such as the arts, believing that if it came to a vote of the residents, those persons would not vote in favor.
- Questioned if the sites selected were determined to be able to accommodate the size of the facility needed along with parking and other amenities including possible future growth.

Recreation Manager Illg referred to Resolution 23-118, noting the requirements outlined, also stating there was input from the Economic Development Manager and members of the public with engineering and construction experience providing professional advice on the size and future growth.

- Interested in the cost per site, if the property owners were amenable to selling, ample parking, accessible egress, any traffic conflicts with a proposed project such as discussed with West Homer Elementary. He then questioned if the building would be used as a convention of conference center.

Recreation Manager Illg responded that as a secondary usage it would accommodate conferences, not so much theatrical, as they do have the Mariner Theater, but it is assumed with secondary event scheduling the center would be able to pay for itself as well. He will submit all comments, concerns and questions to the working group.

Discussion continued with the Commission providing more comments on the site locations as follows:

- Reviewing the rubric provided understanding why the locations were ranked as they were but expressed preference for locations closest to schools
- Preference stated for the location next to West Homer Elementary over the HEA parcel
- Location next to West Homer Elementary would increase the difficulties with traffic egress onto the Sterling Highway unless a traffic signal was installed.
- Concerns that there would be limited room for expansion on the lot next to West Homer Elementary if that site was selected.

- West Homer property would not accommodate the parking that would be needed if conference or event held and would create traffic issues unless a traffic signal was installed.
- Poopdeck property does not offer any room for expansion.

Commissioner Harrald asked if the request is for the Commission to make a formal motion of support at this time and requested guidance from Recreation Manager Illg and the Clerk.

Commissioner Keiser interjected suggesting that that the Commission make a motion supporting staff strategy and conclusions since the Administration was directed to develop criteria, identify potential sites and evaluate those sites per the developed criteria. The Commission has reviewed that work and supports what the working group has done and the conclusions reached.

Deputy City Clerk Krause stated she supported Commissioner Keiser recommendation and reviewed the resolution for the record and further noted that Resolution 23-118 directs the Commission to evaluate the top three sites and possible purchasing strategies for any non-city properties and provide comment on the three selected sites and purchasing strategies.

Recreation Manager Illg clarified that the administrative working group had discussed some funding strategies but he did not indicate those earlier since the City Manager did not want to divulge the funding strategies publicly at this time, but within the possible funding sources are the land allocation plan, a land trade, state revenue sharing, left over funds from completed projects, or the general fund. Mr. Illg emphasized that the working group has not narrowed down any recommendations at this time.

Commissioner Keiser commented that it is premature for the Commission to comment on funding strategies since there is no defined method presented to the Commission for consideration and reiterated that the Commission can express support for what the working group has done so far.

Chair Lewis called for a motion and second to support the work completed so far by the administrative working group.

HARRALD/FAIR MOVED THE COMMISSION ENDORSES THE REC CHAMPIONS WORK CREATING CRITERIA AND EVALUATING POTENTIAL SITES AND FURTHER MOVED THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND SUPPORTS THE CONCLUSIONS THEY HAVE REACHED AND LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING THE PURCHASING STRATEGIES AND GATHERING PUBLIC INPUT.

Commissioner Archibald wanted to add an amendment to include consideration of opportunities for expansion. It was noted that the matrix included possible future expansion as a criteria for site selection.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. User Fees for Community Recreation Programs
Memorandum PARC 24-015 from Deputy City Clerk as backup

Chair Lewis introduced the item and deferred to Recreation Manager Illg.

Commissioner Roedl was unable to maintain connection to the meeting and was not available to provide explanation on why he requested this item to be on the agenda.

Recreation Manager Illg provided a statement that Commissioner Roedl has been a longtime volunteer and community recreation user and expressed concerns about the increased fees. He went on to explain that the Commission approved an increase last year which was the first time in 20 plus years that the fees were increased. Mr. Illg explained that he intended to get the software launched with the fees shown and then they can review fees and make changes as needed. Mr. Illg added that students are not charged fees for programs conducted at the High School.

There was a brief discussion on the benefit to the community to provide the Community Recreation program but at a fair rate structure that would provide funding support for the program itself.

Commissioner Keiser requested Recreation Manager Illg to provide a projection of the increased revenue based on previous years which would be helpful to the Commission.

KEISER/ARCHIBALD MOVED TO POSTPONE TO THE APRIL MEETING.

There was a brief discussion that this would allow time for Recreation Manager Illg to get the information needed and Commissioner Roedl will be present to express his concerns.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- B. Non-Motorized Walkways
Memorandum PARC 24-016 from Deputy City Clerk as backup

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Parks & Trails Planner Steffy

Parks & Trails Planner Steffy reported that he spoke with Commission Roedl who expressed concerns regarding the usage of e-bikes on trails, walkways and sidewalks and how the city will be determining and establishing regulations regarding this use and how regulations if established would be enforced and if there would be different regulations for trails versus sidewalks.

Mr. Steffy recommended that the Commission allow staff to contact Dale Banks with Loopy Lupine who is very involved at the state level on establishing regulations to speak to the Commission on this topic at the next meeting or in April if his schedule allows.

Chair Lewis provided comment on Fish & Game regulations regarding e-bikes as motorized vehicles during hunting.

The Commission agreed by consensus to postpone this subject to the March meeting dependent on the availability of Dale Banks with Loopy Lupine.

- C. Letters to the Editor
Memorandum PARC 24-014 from Deputy City Clerk as backup.

Chair Lewis introduced the item and noted that the Commission will have to find someone with writing skills. He then deferred to Deputy City Clerk Krause.

Deputy City Clerk Krause reviewed her memorandum for the Commission and addressed questions regarding timeline and the departure of Commissioner Fair, topics that articles can be written about.

Commissioner Harrald recommended spreading the workload to a topic and that Commissioner who supports the issue strongly should write the Letter to the Editor.

It was determined that Commissioner Fair will write the Letter to Editor on the Bayview Park Plan and Improvements and then Commissioner Keiser will write the next one on a topic to be determined by the Commission as a whole.

- D. Developing & Updating the Commission Strategic Plan
Memorandum CC-24-027 from Councilmembers Erickson & Davis
PARCAC Strategic Plan 2017
2022-2023 EDC Strategic Plan & Goals
2023 LAB Strategic Plan & Goals
2022-2023 PHC Strategic Plan & Goals
2024-2025 Draft PARCAC Strategic Plan & Goals

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading the title and deferred to Recreation Manager Illg.

Recreation Manager Illg referred to Memorandum CC-24-027 from Councilmembers Erickson and Davis that included discussions held with the Commission and the recent Joint Worksession conducted in January. He voiced that once the Commission develops a strategic plan they will become a solid team as there are a lot of things the Council would like the Commission to address.

Mr. Illg reported that there is a push from various people to form a Friends of Homer Parks and Recreation. He stated firmly that he is not affiliated with the group or spearheading the formation, but he is included in the conversations and believed it is supported by Council and this Commission and is something that the community can use.

Mr. Illg noted that the City Council has requested the Commission to work on their Strategic Plan and include the following:

- Update or develop park master plans with long term needs list to assist Council during budget development;
- the stated role of the Commission in promoting the arts in the community, and should one or more members represent that focus;
 - o Mr. Illg reported that he has been doing some research and noted that Juneau has some great language and ideas that this Commission could use to amend their Bylaws
- The last time the Commission had or addressed a strategic plan was in 2017 which was provided
 - o Some of the same things were listed on that plan
 - o This will be a document that will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis

- As examples other advisory body strategic plans have been provided for review and guidance to the Commission.
- Implementing changes in city code to ensure sidewalks, parks and trails are explicitly identified as the Commission's responsibility in development.
 - Updates to city code that make the Commission part of the review process for new developments and subdivisions regarding sidewalks, trails, and or associated easements prior to the preliminary plat being sent to the Borough.
- Development of policies for community recreation and parks.
 - This would be a good idea setting process, procedures and guidelines
 - This will take some time to develop
 - Can be listed as task or goal under the mid-term in the strategic plan

Mr. Illg commented that this will be a heavy lift for staff as he had other duties and responsibilities and it will also require input from the Commission, other members of Staff and possibly the public.

Chair Lewis suggested that the Commission read the next two pages and keep what they like and remove what they do not want and add additional items as agreed upon by the Commission but wanted to keep it to two pages.

Deputy City Clerk Krause reported that the proposed draft strategic plan is based on the template that was created by the City Clerk's Office and it includes the items listed in the Council memorandum as goals for a starting point for the Commission.

Commissioner Harrald questioned how the Commission and Staff were envisioning the process to accomplish the goals outlined in the draft, such as little bit by little bit at each meeting or holding a worksession to get a good bite at it.

Recreation Manager Illg responded that the timeline provided by Council was the end of the year for all the items.

Chair Lewis suggested that they could have this done in three meetings by addressing short term goals at one meeting, at the following meeting address mid-term goals and the third meeting review and add any additional items. He noted that they could spend 15-20 minutes at each meeting and have it completed.

Commissioner Keiser commented that she believed it was a big lift to address all the topics that the City Council has requested and the Commission should look at the bigger picture of how they approach it and recommended that they perform a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threat) Analysis similar to what the EDC performed as this action assisted the EDC in defining their goals, objectives, etc. She believed that the Commission would benefit by conducting the same exercise. Ms. Keiser supported the SWOT believing that until one was conducted, the Commission would not be able to make mindful decisions to address fixing the items in a strategic plan. She suggested that as the first exercise the Commission does is a SWOT for parks, then recreation. This would also be good information for the development of the Comprehensive Plan. She reported that it was a couple of meetings that the EDC worked on developing the SWOT.

Deputy City Clerk Krause responded that the EDC took more than a year as it was started in June of 2021 the Commission did research on their own, approached businesses, developed a questionnaire and had

several public meetings, hired a consultant and it took a lot of work from Staff and was finalized in September of 2023.

Discussion ensued on the development of the Commission strategic plan and conducting a SWOT can be shown as a goal on the strategic plan. The idea of a strategic plan was to provide the Commission and Council with goals/projects to work towards and complete.

Chair Lewis requested the Clerk or Recreation Manager to request Ms. Engebretsen to attend the next meeting to provide direction on the SWOT analysis.

A discussion ensued on the following points:

- Development of the strategic plan
 - o The request from Council was to develop the Commission strategic plan by the end of the year, not complete the items listed in their Memorandum CC-24-027 by the end the year
- Conducting a SWOT would allow the Commission to do things right the first time
- bringing in staff to explain the SWOT and strategic plan processes
 - o Economic Development Manager Engebretsen may provide information on the process of performing a SWOT
- Commission has funding and can request a professional facilitator to come in
 - o The Commission has \$1500 budgeted every year and wonders what they can spend it on well this was a perfect opportunity to hire a professional to walk the Commission through the process.
- Time period needed to conduct a SWOT and reason the EDC developed and conducted that analysis

Commissioner Keiser strongly advocated for the Commission to conduct a SWOT stating the Commission is the representative for Parks and Recreation for the Community and they are at a turning point, at the cusp of greatness, as the city looks forward on how to make a recreation center, a new Community Development Department was recently created and which will eventually include new resources and the city is wondering what to do with the Community Recreation and Parks Divisions. She stated that the public was crying out for change and at a point, she opined that they would be willing to tax themselves to provide the resources and the Commission needs to understand the current reality and what the future could look like and the Commission cannot do that unless they take inventory of where they are and a SWOT process will help the Commission do just that. Ms. Keiser further stated the City Council has given the Commission a long list of topics they want the Commission to address and she was not comfortable going forward with a two page format strategic plan that does not comprehensively address where they are as a commission and where they want to go for parks, community recreation, arts and culture.

Chair Lewis stated that Staff will check to see if Ms. Engebretsen schedule allows her to attend the next meeting and then the Commission can discuss further how they are going to do this.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. City of Homer Monthly Newsletter
February 2024

- B. City Manager's Reports
 - CM Report to City Council for January 22, 2024
 - CM Report to City Council for February 12, 2024

- C. PARCAC Annual Calendar 2024

Chair Lewis noted the informational materials and asked for a volunteer for the next Council meeting.

Commissioner Harrald volunteered and Commissioner Keiser stated that she could make the report but deferred to Commissioner Harrald as she would be in person.

Recreation Manager Illg stated that he would like to meet with the Commissioners prior to the Council meeting to go over the items that they will be reporting just to provide a double check that what is reported to Council actually correlates and is accurate.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Deputy City Clerk Krause had no comments.

Parks & Trails Planner Steffy commented that it was a good meeting expressing his appreciation to the Commission for their questions and comments on the Karen Hornaday Park Plan.

Recreation Manager Illg thanked Commissioner Galbraith for his service and looks forward to working with him as the City Engineer.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Galbraith announced his resignation effective with this meeting as he will be stepping into the position of City Engineer/Special Projects Coordinator. He has been with the Commission for two years and he looks forward to working with the Commission in his new position.

Commissioner Harrald expressed her appreciation working with Commissioner Galbraith and looks forward to working with him in his capacity as the City Engineer.

Commissioner Archibald commented that strategic planning is not easy, and did not understand the annual review process so he hopes they can receive additional clarification at the next meeting. This was a good meeting.

Commissioner Fair expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Galbraith, stating that he has ;know Leon since way back, not as far as Matt Steffy, welcomed Commissioner Keiser to the Commission and was looking forward to working with her.

Commissioner Keiser expressed her appreciation to Commissioner Galbraith for his service to the community sitting as a Commissioner and looks forward to having him as the Homer City Engineer knowing that he will do great things in his new position. She then announced that June 1st is National Trails Day and it seems that the city should do something about that. She thanked everyone and looks forward to working with everyone on the Commission and that this will be one of her favorite things to do.

Chair Lewis expressed his appreciation for Commissioner Galbraith's service to the City and noted it was time to go home.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next regular meeting is Thursday, March 21, 2024, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. A worksession will be conducted at 4:30 p.m. Meetings will be conducted at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom webinar.

RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

Approved: _____



MEMORANDUM

Item Type: Informational Memorandum Community Recreation Division
Prepared For: Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission
Date: March 6, 2024
From: Mike Illg, Recreation Manager/Staff Liaison

Programming & Special Events: Please view the monthly calendar for reference of the programs, activities and special events provided. I would like to highlight a few activities that are on the horizon and/or happened.

- Community Recreation staff and City Council Recreation Champions Donna Aderhold and Shelly Erickson facilitated an **informal community meeting** on March 5 to discuss the latest updates of the possible City of Homer Recreation Center facility and the discussion about possibly forming a “Friends of Community Recreation” as a mechanism to help campaign and fundraise for community support for the potential project. There was at least 20 people participating and there was a local attorney and a representative from the Homer Foundation to discuss options for creating and operating a non-profit. There were no formal decisions made but lots of great discussions.
- **Kat Larson** is ending her employment as a 6 month temporary Recreation Specialist. We are thankful for her time and she is interested in continuing to support CR as a volunteer. We are currently looking for another seasonal recreational specialist.
- On March 16th Community Recreation is team up with a local business **Summit Physical Therapy** to offer a FREE Pickleball Injury Prevention Clinic. We appreciate the staff and owners for donating their time and expertise in helping our participants to stay healthy while being physically active.
- We are offering a new **Pickleball Family Day** on March 23. This will provide a multi-generational program for youth in 3rd grade to adults. We are hoping to make this a regular monthly or bi-weekly program.
- On April 7, Community Recreation will be hosting a **One Day Volleyball Tournament**. This is an annual event as we had over 10 teams last year including folks from Kenai who came down to play.

-
- Community Rec staff continued to host **Homer Flex High School** to offer some indoor physical education time at the HERC facility. We offered an array of fun including: yoga, dodgeball, basketball, volleyball, corn hole and other games.
 - The **31st Annual Safe & Healthy Kids Fair and Bike Rodeo** will be held on Saturday, May 4th at Homer High. The Community Rec program is the primary coordinating entity for this popular event and we are looking at expanding additional opportunities and fun this including the encouragement of the “*May the Fourth Be With You*” theme of costumes/celebration.

City of Homer Community Rec March 2024

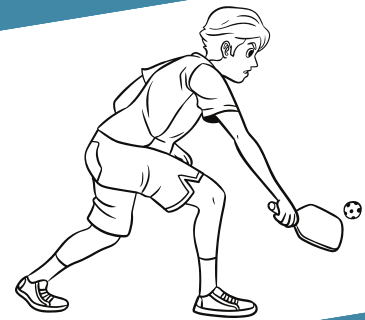
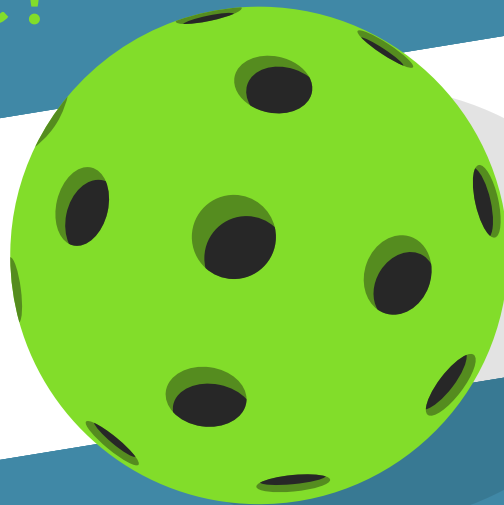
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31 9:30-11:30am PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS		Color Key BLACK=Homer High BLUE=Homer Middle PURPLE=HERC GREEN= West Homer RED=Cancellation			DISCLAIMER: ALL ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR BEING CANCELLED WITH LIMITED NOTIFICATION	

JOIN CITY OF HOMER COMMUNITY REC FOR

PICKLEBALL FAMILY DAY

SAT. MARCH 23RD 3-5PM

AT THE HERC!



KIDS
FREE
Adults
\$5

**BRING THE KIDDOS AND HAVE A
FAMILY FUN DAY! INSTRUCTORS
WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST.
ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED.**

**3RD
GRADE
& UP**

**QUESTIONS? CALL 235-6090
CLEAN INDOOR SHOES REQUIRED
SIGN UP AT THE EVENT**



KPBS POSTS FLYERS AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE. SUCH POSTING DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN ENDORSEMENT FOR OR AGAINST THE MATERIALS AND VIEWPOINTS EXPRESSED IN THEM.

Summit Physical Therapy &
Homer Community Rec Presents:

PICKLEBALL INJURY PREVENTION CLINIC



**SATURDAY
MARCH 16TH**

10am - 12pm
HERC GYM

FREE!

Join us for an exclusive clinic! Discover valuable techniques to prevent pickleball injuries while enhancing your strength and stability on the court. Whether you're a beginner or seasoned player, this clinic is designed to improve your game and keep you injury-free. Don't miss out on this opportunity to elevate your pickleball skills with expert guidance!



**Equipment provided
Register at the event
Bring clean indoor shoes
Questions? Call 235-6090**



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 AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION
FROM: CHAD FELICE, PARKS MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR
DATE: March 21st, 2024
SUBJECT: PARKS REVIEW FOR February

KAREN HORNADAY PARK PLAYGROUND

- Snow removal/sanding
- Continuing clearing some alders in the campground area

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

- Snow blowing, plowing and sanding of trails and parks
- Finished cleaning up between Hazel and the Story trail to make it more open and visible

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Sanding roads, parks, and sidewalks
- Inventory
- Ordered 1 mobile restroom for Hornaday Park and 1 for Jack Gist estimated to time of arrival late May or early June
- Finished an assessment of the Parks from a maintenance view
- Working with the Public Works Superintendent and City Manager on the possibility of purchasing a compact tractor
- Stained all of our flower barrels
- Worked with a local gardener on purchasing some flowers for spring time
- Started clearing out and cleaning up the area behind the restroom at the end of Bartlett St.
- Helped community rec with clearing out a storage room for carpet removal
- Working on getting replacement boards for the skate ramps and different screws made specifically for skate ramps
- Working with Matt Steffy on purchasing the equipment and play surface for Bayview playground



MEMORANDUM

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission
Date: March 21, 2024
From: Mike Illg, Recreation Manager/Staff Liaison

The following City Council resolutions and ordinances activity relevant to the Park, Arts, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission since the last PARCAC meeting on February 15, 2024.

February 12, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting

Resolution 24-019 A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Summarizing the Joint Work Session with the Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission and Stating Action Items for the Council and Commission. **Approved.**

Resolution 24-024, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Providing Direction to the Port & Harbor Advisory Commission and Parks, Art, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Commission Regarding Annual Review of the Land Allocation Plan. **Approved.**

February 26, 2024 City Council Meeting

Memorandum CC-24-055 from Mayor Castner re: Appointment of Jessica Williams to the Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission. **Approved.**

March 11, 2024 City Council Meeting

Resolution 24-027, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Adopting the Bayview Park Plan. City Manager. **Adopted.**

RECOMMENDATION: Informational Only.

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

Erickson/Aderhold

RESOLUTION 24-019

A RESOLUTION OF THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL SUMMARIZING THE
JOINT WORKSESSION WITH THE PARKS, ART, RECREATION, AND
CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION AND STATING ACTION ITEMS
FOR THE COUNCIL AND COMMISSION

WHEREAS, The Homer City Council and Parks, Art, Recreation, and Culture Advisory
Commission (PARCAC) held a joint worksession on January 17, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Agenda items for the worksession included joint training, discussion topics
outlined in a memorandum and email from Councilmember Erickson, and discussion on
PARCAC appointments; and

WHEREAS, Discussion during the worksession included PARCAC developing a strategic
plan, the proposed new multiuse community recreation center, long-term planning and needs
assessment for Homer’s parks, promoting arts in the community and the configuration of the
commission relative to an arts focus, review of city code related to PARCAC responsibility and
review, and park and community recreation policies; and

WHEREAS, Councilmembers Erickson and Davis provided Memorandum CC-24-027 to
city council at its January 22, 2024 regular meeting summarizing the worksession; and

WHEREAS, Current city council process is to follow-up joint worksessions and special
topic discussions (council “champion” work) with informational memoranda followed by
resolutions for action.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Homer City Council requests PARCAC
complete the following tasks during the 2024 calendar year, with support from staff and city
council as appropriate:


- Develop a strategic plan to guide commission work through 2024 and beyond that includes indoor recreation and outdoor parks, trails, and sidewalks.
- Develop and review policies related to community recreation and parks.
- Develop a prioritized list of parks and recreation needs and associated costs that the city council the city manager can use when evaluating the Capital Improvement Plan and preparing annual budgets.
- Evaluate the role that PARCAC should play in promoting the arts in Homer.
- Review the recreation fee schedule and evaluate opportunities for a scholarship fund.

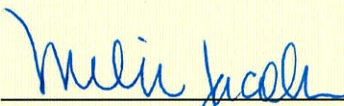
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that city council, led by parks and recreation champions, and aided by city staff, will complete the following tasks during the 2024 calendar year:

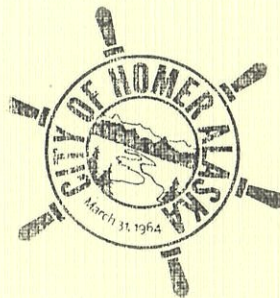
- Continue evaluation of a new multi-use community recreation center, requesting input from PARCAC as appropriate.
- Review city code and prepare ordinance(s) that clarify PARCAC’s review role related to proposed new subdivisions, sidewalks, parks, and trails. Send introduced ordinances to PARCAC, and other commissions as appropriate, for review before final reading.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA, THIS 12th day of February 2024.

CITY OF HOMER

KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal Note: N/A



44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Homer City Council requests the Port and
45 Harbor Advisory Commission to:

- 46 1. Review the revenue vs cost of a city run campground on this parcel.
- 47 2. Work with staff to determine the costs of the initial improvements.
- 48 3. Make a recommendation to the City Council on what part of the improvements the City
49 should fund and those that a tenant would fund.
- 50 4. Make a recommendation to the City Council on lease terms that would attract long term
51 private investment to develop the facility.
- 52 5. Respond to Council by the end of calendar year 2024.

53

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Homer City Council requests the Parks, Art, Recreation and
55 Culture Commission:

- 56 1. Consider the future of this property as a City run campground, and consult with Port
57 and Harbor staff with regard to revenue vs cost to operating the campground.
- 58 2. Engage with Pier One Theater about their long term facility plans.
- 59 3. Report back to Council by the end of 2024.

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61 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 12TH day of February, 2024.

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CITY OF HOMER



KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

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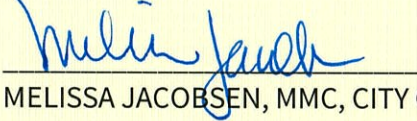
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68 ATTEST:

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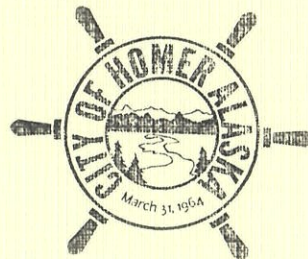
MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

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Fiscal Note: N/A



**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

City Manager

RESOLUTION 24-027

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA
ADOPTING THE BAYVIEW PARK PLAN.

WHEREAS, Bayview Park has long served as a resource with a playground designed for children aged 0-5 and their families; and

WHEREAS, City staff have worked with Corvus Design to develop a plan with community input; and

WHEREAS, The park plan was designed to be ADA compliant and was reviewed by the ADA Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, The park plan was reviewed by Parks, Art, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Commission who have recommended adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska hereby adopts the plan as presented in Exhibit A.

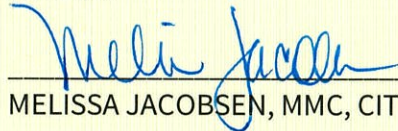
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 11th day of March, 2024.

CITY OF HOMER



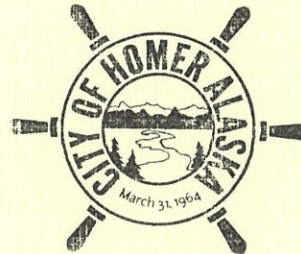
KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:



MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal note: N/A



CITY OF HOMER

Comprehensive Plan Rewrite



Community Open House

Thursday, March 28, 6:00-8:00 PM

Alaska Islands & Ocean Visitor Center

95 Sterling Highway #1, Homer, AK 99603

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU, HOMER!

Help kick off a process that will **guide** Homer residents, leaders, organizations, and partners **over the next 10 years**.

Join us to:

- Share **what you value most** and **what could make life better** in Homer.
- Learn about the comprehensive planning process and how **your ideas will help shape the revised comprehensive plan** (find a link to the 2018 Plan on the project website: www.homercompplanupdate.com).



Contact Information

- **City of Homer Planner:** Ryan Foster, rfoster@ci.homer.ak.us, 907-299-8529
- **Project Consultant:** Shelly Wade, shelly@agnewbeck.com, 907-242-5326
- **Project website:** www.homercompplanupdate.com
- **City of Homer on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/cityofhomerak>

Other March Events

- Joint Work Session with Homer City Council & Planning Commission, March 26
- Meeting with the Port & Harbor Advisory Commission, March 27
- Meetings with the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
- Public sharing and feedback opportunities at local establishments
- Stakeholder interviews and meetings with local organizations



ACTION ITEM REPORT

Update and Development of the PARCAC Strategic Plan

Item Type:	Informational, Discussion, Action
Prepared For:	Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission
Date:	March 21, 2024
From:	Renee Krause, MMC, Deputy City Clerk II

Purpose:

Update the Commission 2017 Strategic Plan to include goals as requested by City Council and agreed upon by a majority of the Commissioners and reflect the current adopted format established by the City.

Background:

At the regular meeting on February 15, 2024 the Commission reviewed and discussed developing an updated strategic plan as requested by City Council via Memorandum 24-027. (*Commissioners can review the discussion captured in the minutes included in the packet*).

The Commission requested Staff to invite Community Development Director, Julie Engebretsen to speak to them regarding the process involved in performing a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats Analysis) which was suggested by Commissioner Keiser.

Staff consulted with Ms. Engebretsen and confirmed that she will attend the April meeting along with Karin Marks, Chair of the Economic Development Advisory Commission (EDC). They will provide input on why the EDC performed the SWOT, the process that was employed to conduct the SWOT and benefits a SWOT Analysis as it pertains to Parks and Community Recreation might provide to the Commission.

The development of a Strategic Plan and Goals document was requested by City Council from all advisory commissions and boards. The document was to provide a summary of the goals and or projects that the Commission was tasked to do by City Council, City Manager or their duties as outlined in City Code, the roles of the Commission, Staff Liaison and the Clerk's Office. Portions that were addressed in other documents are provided via links to the electronic pages and a summary of the Commission's purpose was provided.

The Commission will prioritize the goals, projects or tasks into four categories:

1. Ongoing Goals – Performed by the Commission on a yearly, routine, or is part of the foundational purpose of the Commission;
2. Short Term Goals – Goals that can be completed by the end of the current year;
3. Mid Term Goals – Goals that are completed within one to three years;
4. Long Term Goals – Goals that may take five years or more to complete.

Listing the goals in this manner and prioritizing them will assist both the Commission and Staff to remain focused and provide the necessary information and progress reports to City Council in a timely manner so that the needs of Parks, Trails, Beaches, Art, Culture and Community Recreation can be accounted for.

Recommendation:

Review the goals as listed and make any changes to the priority if desired.

This will be on the April meeting agenda under Pending Business.

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Felice has provided a Parks Needs Assessment for review and consideration. This item is part of item number 3 under Short Term Goals.

PARKS, ART, RECREATION & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION (PARCAC)
2024-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN
 Approved XX/XX/XXXX

Annually, the PARCAC prioritizes a list of ongoing, short, medium and long-term goals to aid the commission in charting a general course for the year and keeping on-task.

Ongoing Goals	1. Provide timely, relevant comment to the City Council on Parks, Art, Recreation & Cultural issues.
	2. Parks & Recreation Budget: Gain a better understanding of the process, have more communication on budget/projects between City Staff, and review it at least annually at meetings in April - June.
	3. Advocating for inclusion of Public Art in City Facilities when Planning Upgrades, Renovations and New Projects.
	4. Maintain working relationships with various cultural entities such as Homer Council on the Arts, Galleries, Pratt Museum, etc.
	5. Preservation of areas of natural beauty and open green spaces throughout the city.
Short Term Goals By End of 2024	1. Support a new community recreation center including a capital campaign, identify clientele, define role of the school district, establish fees that encourages participation; provide recommendations for revenue stream to support the facility; determine best staff to volunteer ratio
	2. Develop policies for Parks and Community Recreation Programs.
	3. Update and develop Master Park Plans that include long term needs list to assist with biennial budget development.
	4. Research the development or creation of depreciation reserves to maintain parks and recreation facilities; continue to understand the budget, include setting fees, and dedication of sales tax to fund projects and programs.
	5.
	6.
Mid Term Goals 1 - 3 Years (2024 – 2026)	1. Continue working with the City Council and the City Manager for development of a Parks & Recreation Department.
	2. Increase the Recreation Staff by 1 FTE (or as determined by the Recreation Manager)
	3. Update city code to ensure sidewalks in addition to parks & trails are identified as falling under PARCAC auspices.
	4. Update city code or processes to include a required review by PARCAC of proposed subdivisions for recommended trail and or sidewalks facilities and associated easements prior to preliminary plat being submitted to the Kenai Peninsula Borough for approval.

Long Term Goals 5 Years or More (2027+)	1.
	2.
	3.

OVERALL PARCAC DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The purpose of the PARCAC is to act in an advisory capacity to the City Manager and the City Council on the problems and development with city parks, trails, beaches, art, recreation or cultural aspects. Consideration may include the physical facilities, possible future development, acquisition and recommendations on land use within the city limits. Duties and responsibilities are outlined in the PARCAC’s Bylaws and under Homer City Code 2.60.040.

Links to online info:

- Homer City Code 2.60: www.codepublishing.com/AK/Homer
- Homer Community Recreation and Parks & Pavilions Website: www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/com-rec
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/publicworks/parks-pavilions
- City of Homer Adopted Budget: www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/finance/budgets

DUTIES OF COMMISSION/STAFF

Staff Liaison

- Assisting the Chair in setting meetings, preparing agendas, and other documentary material, and coordinating the acquisition of needed materials and training.
- Drafting/submitting reports, memos, and recommendations for those agenda items requiring decisions or recommendations by the Commission to City Council.
- Provide yearly information about the budget.
- Inform the Commission of City Council actions and discussion of park, trails, cultural, art or recreation related issues.

Commissioners

- Attend City Council meetings as assigned.
- Attend worksessions and training opportunities.
- Come prepared to make a motion for action at meetings, or ask staff before the meeting for more information.
- Request information from the Staff Liaison or Presiding Clerk.
- Understand their role as an advisory body to City Council; for any change to happen regarding City policies or code usually a council member has to support a PARCAC’s idea and be willing to sponsor a resolution or ordinance to change established City policies or rules.
- How the commission (as a whole) can communicate:
 - Work with the City Manager through the Staff Liaison to keep City Council informed on developing initiatives.
 - Send memos to Council periodically so they have a written report of what’s going on; these are written by staff and likely will be part of the City Manager Report or under the PARCAC Report.
 - Have a Commissioner speak at a Council Meeting under Reports; the PARCAC is scheduled to give a report at the next City Council meeting following the PARCAC’s regular monthly meeting. It is best to rotate members so Council gets to see and hear from each of you over time. Pay attention to feedback from Council; the Commission may need to change direction, or come up with more support for the topic.

Clerks

- Assist with packet preparation and dissemination
- Records meetings and prepares meeting minutes
- Ensures meetings are properly advertised
- Assist members understand and comply with City policies and procedures governing advisory bodies
- Assist the Commission learn to better communicate with City Council (Memorandums vs Resolutions and Ordinances)

DRAFT

City of Homer
2024 Parks Assessment

Ben Walters Park	Issue	Fix
Remove the gazebo by the lake	It is leaning and ready to fall down	Tear down
Fix the drainage along the trail to the lake	East side of trail water comes over the trail	Build the trail up
More brush and limb removal	Need to open up sight lines more	Remove Brush and limbs
Bathroom	Repaint and fix up or?	Repaint building or come up with different solution
Fix material under swings	Divot's under swing set	Bring in more material
Turf	Fix holes and uneven ground	Bring in soil and re-seed
Jeffery Park	Issue	Fix
Fix Material under swings	Divot's under swing set	Bring in more material
Sign	Sign is chipping paint	Replace sign
Do we want more play equipment	Only swings there now	Figure out if we want just swings or more equipment there
Bishops Beach	Issue	Fix
Reopen vault bathrooms	Closed currently	Fix and re-paint vault bathrooms, better than porta units
Over grown area	Area in-between gazebo and parking lot overgrown	Weed whack high grass and maintain
Parking lot	No turn around for larger vehicles	Make a round about for turn around access
Plumbed restrooms	No plumbed restrooms	There is water and sewer running down to the park now, do we want to put in a plumbed restroom?
ADA path to gazebo	Make sure path to the gazebo is ADA compliant	Double check to make sure path is ADA
Sign	Rotten	Replace
WKFL	Issue	Fix
Uneven turf	Spots in the park are uneven	Bring in top soil to make turf more level
Area along Lee St.	Fill in holes along Lee St.	Bring in top soil to level off back of park
Fire Hall Park	Issue	Fix
Board walk/deck	Rotten areas and falling apart	Build new deck/walk (is this something we want to do)
Shrubs along sidewalk	Blocks view from intersection	Remove Shrubs and replace with something smaller
Park all together	Is this something we want to keep	Determine if we want to keep this as it is

City of Homer
2024 Parks Assessment

Baycrest Park	Issue	Fix
Land marker painting	Needs to be redone (sitting in the HERC)	Re-paint the original
Bathrooms	Building and vault in need of repair	Figure out if this is a State thing or a City thing, then go from there on how to upgrade
Railings	Need to be sanded and re-stained	Sand and re-stain (is this us or State?)
Railings	Overgrown with grass	Re claim both sides of the fence
Bayview Park	Issue	Fix
Drainage	Poor drainage along North side of park	Public Works do some ground work
Fence	Falling apart/not ideal for lawn maintenance	Replace or fix, currently not in the budget to replace with the grant and new master plan
Master plan and grant should fix all other issues		
Bartlett area	Issue	Fix
Homeless encampment	With the new day care opening up	Need to clear out the area more
Landscape	Uneven ground	Fill in low spots and take out alder stumps
Park		Make this are an open flat space and mirror WKFL park
Jack Gist Park	Issue	Fix
Ballfields	Improve playing surfaces	Work with Public Works to re-do a field a year starting with the lower left field
Safety	No warning tracks	Install warning tracks on all fields
Drainage	Poor drainage in parking lot and on fields	All ready started working on the drainage issue, re did ditch along the parking lot, need to fix slope of parking lot
Restrooms	No flushable restrooms	Install mobile restroom
Parking	No real parking plan	Come with parking plan and paint temporary parking lines for spring and summer
Sign	Rotten and thrown away	Replace sign with a new one
Karen Hornaday Park	Issue	Fix
Upper area (Camping)	What to do with it	Whatever is decided need to clear out alders and make for visible (would like a chance to make camping work)

City of Homer
2024 Parks Assessment

Drainage	Poor drainage	Ditch north of playground and direct water to culvert
Drainage	Poor drainage	Ditch along upper ball fields and direct water to the east and west
Sand box	needs more sand	Get sand delivered in the spring time
Playground surface	needs more	Replenish playground surface with more wood chips
Playground	Upkeep	Finish re-painting the rest of the playground
Parking	Unorganized	Put up temporary barriers to define parking areas
Traffic speed	Speeding up and down the park road	Install temporary speed bumps in the spring and summer months, remove for winter
Vandalism	Vandalism during summer months	Install lighting and possibly cameras to deter vandalism
Power	No power to batting cage	Install power to batting cage and back field
Fields	Need work	Do more ball field work to help out little league
Back field water	Curb box is in the field of play-safety issue	Move to other side of the fence
Fields	No warning tracks	Install warning tracks on all fields
Restrooms	No flushable restrooms	Install mobile restrooms
Superindents Parks	Issue	Fix
Trees	Dead standing	Cut down
Trees	Exposed roots, making it difficult to mow	Cover exposed roots with soil and make as even as possible
Mariner Park	Issue	Fix
Need to get with harbor to discuss		



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Non-Motorized Walkways & the Use of e-bikes on City Sidewalks and Trails

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission
Meeting Date: March 21, 2024
From: Peter Roedl, Commissioner
Staff Contact: Renee Krause, MMC, Deputy City Clerk II/ADA Coordinator

Summary Statement:

Commissioner Roedl requested this item to be on the agenda for a discussion by the Commission. He has expressed concerns with the use of e-bikes on city sidewalks and trails.

This item was postponed due to the technical difficulties connecting to the meeting experienced by Commissioner Roedl.



MEMORANDUM

Appointment of Jessica Williams to the Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission.

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: Homer City Council
Date: February 21, 2024
From: Mayor Castner

Jessica Williams is appointed to the Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission to fill the seat vacated by Leon Galbraith. The term expires October 31, 2027.

Recommendation

Confirm the appointment Jessica Williams to the Parks, Art, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Commission.

Attachments:

Jessica Williams Application



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the Mayor

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

mayor@ci.homer.ak.us

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

March 4, 2024

Jessica Williams
PO Box 2713
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Jessica,

Congratulations! Council confirmed/approved your appointment to fill the vacancy on the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission during their Regular Meeting of February 26, 2024 via Memorandum 24-055.

Included is the 2024 Public Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement. Please complete this document and return it to the Clerk's office. This form will be retained in the Clerk's office. It is a public document and may be requested by any member of the public. In the event the Public Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement is requested by a member of the public, you will be notified of the requestor's name.

Also included is the Orientation Packet Code of Ethics as outlined in Homer City Code 1.18. This provides important guidelines in your role as a commissioner as to conduct and conflicts of interest.

Thank you for your willingness to serve the City of Homer on the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission. There certainly are exciting times ahead.

Your term will expire October 31, 2027.

Cordially,

Ken Castner, Mayor

Enc: Memorandum 24-055
Certificate of Appointment
2024 Public Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement
Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission Bylaws
Robert's Rules of Order Handbook
Commission Orientation Packet

cc: Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

City of Homer

Homer, Alaska

Mayor's Certificate of Appointment

Greetings

Be It Known That

Jessica Williams

Has been appointed to

serve as

“Commissioner”

on the

“Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission”

This appointment is made because of your dedication to the cause of good government, your contributions to your community and your willingness to serve your fellow man.



*In Witness whereof I hereunto set my hand
this 4th day of March, 2024.*

Ken Castner, Mayor

Attest:

Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk

Jessica Anne Williams

ARTS ADMINISTRATOR

EDUCATION

Master of Arts, Arts Management

University of Kentucky, December 2020

Graduate Certificate, Fundraising and Development

University of Kentucky, December 2020

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Program Manager

Homer OPUS, Dec 2023 - present

- Create donor recognition and membership program, develop annual campaign.
- Assist organization in re-branding and developing marketing strategies.
- Facilitate process changes, including student registration and instrument delivery.

Development Intern

Pier One Theatre, May 2019 - May 2020

- Graduate internship focusing on grant writing and donor development.
- Created and implemented new recognition program, donor forms and marketing design.
- Researched and developed board education to re-align with mission.

Fundraising and Development Consultant

Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic, Oct 2018 - Oct 2019

- Creator and Organizer of Rocky Horror Picture Show Fundraiser for R.E.C. Room.
- Coordinated with local theatre and film studio to secure screening rights.
- Managed casting, staffing, budgeting and co-developed marketing.

Fundraising and Development Consultant

Homer Council on the Arts, Dec 2013 - Apr 2014

- Creator and Organizer of Broadway Babies Cabaret Fundraiser for HCOA Summer Youth Arts Program.
- Coordinated casting, budgeting, technical design and location for event.
- Developed and integrated multi-media presentation for performance.

Jessica Anne Williams

ARTS ADMINISTRATOR

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Homer Council on the Arts

- Performer, *Theatreworks*, 2012-2013
- Performer, *Out of the Woodwork*, February 2012
- Assistant Director, *Theatreshakes*, November 2013
- Director, *Stepping Out*, January 2014
- Co-Creator, Educator and Director, Youth/Teen Musical Theatre Program, March 2014
- Creator/Director, *Broadway Babies*, April 2014

AK World Arts Festival

- Founding Board Member
- Volunteer/Performer, 2019, 2020, 2022 and 2023
 - Highlights include *Villains: Modern Theatre*, *Friday Night Dance Party*, and *Staged Reading of Try, Hard*

Pier One Theatre

- Development Intern, 2019-2020
- Board Member, 2023-present
- Emcee for Fundraising Event, *Fezziwig Ball*, December 2023
- Performer/Volunteer, 2011-present
 - Highlights include *Diana in Next to Normal*, *Patsy Cline in Always, Patsy Cline*, *Mrs. Potts in Beauty and the Beast*, and *Diva/Historian in Spamalot*

Nutcracker Productions

- Performer, *Old Songs and Reruns*, 2012 and 2013
- Performer, *Nice Moves: Dances That Annoyed Our Parents*, September 2022

Bunnell Street Arts Center

- Performer, Premiere Performance of *Momologues*, December 2022
- Director and Event Creator, *Vagina Monologues*, February 2024

SPH Foundation

- Board Member, 2020-2021
- Emcee for Fundraising Event, *Bounty on the Bay*, August 2021

Hospice of Homer

- Emcee for Fundraising Event, *Live Auction at Wasabi's*, 2019
- Performer, *Hospice Event for NEA Big Read* 2018-2019

Homer Theatre

- Emcee Movie Premiere Event, *The Rise of Skywalker*, 2019

Homer High School

- Drama, Debate & Forensics Coach, 2012-2014
 - Solo and Duet Acting, and Duo Interpretation



MEMORANDUM

Developing and Establishing Parks & Recreation Policies

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission
Date: March 6, 2024
From: Mike Illg, Recreation Manager/Staff Liaison

Related to *Memorandum CC-24-027* from Councilmembers Erickson & Davis, City Council has requested PARCAC to: develop policies for community recreation and parks. While is affiliated with the direction to create 2024-25 PARCAC Strategic Plan and Goals, staff predicts creating a policy manual related to City of Homer parks and community recreation services will be a comprehensive undertaking for staff hours and possibly additional public meetings. While the city already has some policies established in city code (ex. special events, beach policy, camping, etc) there are many other categories that will need to be reviewed and implemented. We can tailor policies for our specific needs and community needs/input. Additionally, staying updated with industry best practices and legal requirements is crucial for effective parks and recreation management. Websites links for examples of other municipal parks and recreation policies can be provided.

Recommendation: Review the draft list and determine what categories should remain, removed and added.

Parks

1. **Park Access and Hours:** Policy on park accessibility and permitted hours of use.
2. **Facility Reservations:** Procedures for reserving park facilities or recreation spaces for events.
3. **Code of Conduct:** Rules and expectations for visitor behavior within parks and recreation areas.
4. **Safety and Emergency Procedures:** Protocols for handling emergencies, including first aid, evacuation plans, and coordination with emergency services.
5. **Environmental Conservation:** Policies promoting the protection and conservation of natural resources within parks.
6. **Alcohol and Tobacco Policies:** Regulations regarding the consumption of alcohol and tobacco products within park premises.

7. **Permitting for Special PARCEvents:** Procedures for obtaining permits for special events, festivals, or gatherings in parks.
8. **Maintenance and Landscaping:** Protocols for routine maintenance, landscaping, and upkeep of park facilities.
9. **User Fees and Charges:** Policies outlining fees for facility rentals, programs, or services provided by the parks staff.
10. **Park Access and Hours:** Policy on park accessibility and permitted hours of use.
11. **Facility Reservations:** Procedures for reserving park facilities or recreation spaces for events.
12. **Code of Conduct:** Rules and expectations for visitor behavior within parks and recreation areas.
13. **Safety and Emergency Procedures:** Protocols for handling emergencies, including first aid, evacuation plans, and coordination with emergency services.
14. **Environmental Conservation:** Policies promoting the protection and conservation of natural resources within parks.
15. **Alcohol and Tobacco Policies:** Regulations regarding the consumption of alcohol and tobacco products within park premises.
16. **Permitting for Special Events:** Procedures for obtaining permits for special events, festivals, or gatherings in parks. Including Food Truck permitting process.
17. **Maintenance and Landscaping:** Protocols for routine maintenance, landscaping, and upkeep of park facilities.
18. **Accessibility:** Guidelines for ensuring parks and recreational facilities are accessible to individuals with disabilities.
19. **Animal Control Policies:** Rules governing the presence and behavior of pets within parks.
20. **Programming and Activities:** Procedures for organizing and conducting recreational programs, classes, and events.
21. **Security Measures:** Measures in place to ensure the safety and security of park visitors.
22. **Volunteer Programs:** Procedures for recruiting, training, and managing volunteers involved in park activities.
23. **Policy on Vandalism and Graffiti:** Measures to prevent and address vandalism or graffiti within parks.
24. **Public Outreach and Communication:** Strategies for communicating with the public about park updates, events, and policies.
25. **Park Master Plan:** Long-term vision and planning for the development and improvement of parks within the municipality.
26. **Memorial Infrastructure:** Process for apply for memorial benches, plaque, etc. on city property

Community Recreation

These policies and procedures contribute to the effective planning, implementation, and management of municipal recreation programs, fostering a positive and inclusive environment for participants.

1. **Program Development:** Procedures for designing, developing, and evaluating recreation programs that cater to the community's needs and interests.
2. **Registration and Enrollment:** Policies for participant registration, enrollment periods, and any associated fees.
3. **Age and Eligibility Criteria:** Guidelines specifying age or eligibility requirements for participation in various programs.
4. **Program Fees and Refunds:** Policies regarding program fees, payment schedules, and procedures for issuing refunds.
5. **Inclusion and Accessibility:** Procedures to ensure that recreation programs are inclusive and accessible to individuals with disabilities.
6. **Health and Safety Protocols:** Guidelines for maintaining participant safety during program activities, including emergency response plans.
7. **Staff Training and Development:** Policies related to the training, certification, and professional development of recreation program staff.
8. **Facility Use for Programs:** Procedures for reserving and utilizing municipal facilities for recreation programs.
9. **Equipment and Supplies:** Guidelines for the procurement, maintenance, and proper use of equipment and supplies used in recreation programs.
10. **Marketing and Promotion:** Strategies for marketing and promoting recreation programs to the community, including outreach and advertising.
11. **Evaluation and Assessment:** Procedures for assessing the success and impact of recreation programs, including participant feedback and performance metrics.
12. **Partnerships and Collaborations:** Policies regarding collaborations with external organizations or businesses for program support or sponsorship.
13. **Cancellations and Program Changes:** Procedures for communicating and managing program cancellations, changes, or rescheduling.
14. **Code of Conduct for Participants:** Rules and expectations for participant behavior during recreation programs.
15. **Background Checks for Staff/Volunteers/Contracted Instructors:** Policies outlining the necessity and process for conducting background checks on individuals working with program participants.

PARCAC

March 21, 2024

16. **Volunteer Programs:** Procedures for recruiting, training, and managing volunteers involved in park activities.
17. **Contracted Instructors:** Procedures for recruiting, training, and managing contracted instructors involved in recreation activities.
18. **Risk Management:** Protocols for identifying, assessing, and mitigating risks associated with recreation programs.
19. **Youth Protection Policies:** Measures to ensure the safety and well-being of children participating in youth-focused programs.
20. **Program Advisory Committees:** Guidelines for establishing and involving community members in program advisory committees for feedback and input.

PARKS ART RECREATION & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION

2024 Calendar

	AGENDA DEADLINE	MEETING	COMMISSIONER SCHEDULED TO REPORT	CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR REPORT*	ANNUAL TOPICS/EVENTS
JANUARY	Wednesday 1/10 5:00 p.m.	Thursday Special 1/18 5:30 p.m.	Archibald	Monday 1/22 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community rec Center Locations • User Fees • Bayview Park Master Plan • KHP Master Plan
FEBRUARY	Wednesday 2/07 5:00 p.m.	Worksession @ 4:30 p.m. Thursday 2/15 5:30 p.m.	Keiser	Monday 2/23 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to the Editor Topics • Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan • Bayview Park Plan • Community recreation Center • Strategic Plan & Goals
MARCH	Wednesday 3/13 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 3/21 5:30 p.m.		Tuesday 3/28 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Review and Discussion • Letter to the Editor Approval • Strategic Plan & Goals • Art Policy review • Non-Motorized Trail Discussion
APRIL	Wednesday 4/10 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 4/18 5:30 p.m.		Monday 4/24 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule Beach/Park Walk Through for May • Budget Review & Discussion/Recommendations
MAY	Wednesday 5/08 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 5/16 5:30 p.m.		Monday 5/22 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation & Parks Fee Schedule Review • Letter to the Editor Topics
JUNE	Wednesday 6/12 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 6/20 5:30 p.m.		Monday 6/27 6:00 p.m.	Letter to the Editor Review & Approval
JULY	No Regular Meeting				
AUGUST	Wednesday 8/14 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 8/15 5:30 p.m.		Monday 8/28 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIP Project Recommendations • PARC Budget Review
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 9/11 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 9/19 5:30 p.m.		Monday 9/25 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall Park/Beach Walk-Thru • Schedule Park Clean Up Day • Reappointment Notices & Applications
OCTOBER	Wednesday 10/09 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 10/17 5:30 p.m.		Monday 10/23 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms Expire October 31st • Approve 2025 Meeting Schedule • Letter to the Editor topic
NOVEMBER	Wednesday 11/13 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 11/21 5:30 p.m.		Monday 11/27 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of Chair & Vice Chair • Worksession Commission Training w/City Clerk • Letter to the Editor Review & Approval
DECEMBER	No Regular Meeting				

*The Commission’s opportunity to give their report to City Council is scheduled for the Council’s regular meeting following the Commission’s regular meeting, under Agenda Item 8 – Announcements/ Presentations/ Borough Report/Commission Reports. Reports are the Commission’s opportunity to give Council a brief update on their work. Attend via Zoom or in Person. Masks are optional**

CITY OF HOMER NEWSLETTER



VOL. III - ISSUE VII | MARCH 2024

WHAT'S INSIDE?

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

INVASIVE SPECIES WEEK

Did you know, National Invasive Species Week is February 26th through March 4th? This initiative raises awareness of invasive species, the threat they pose, and what we can do about it. One of the most aggressive invasive weeds in Homer is orange hawkweed. This vibrant but invasive plant is spreading rapidly. Digging, burning and smothering don't work very well to control hawkweed. Occasionally the public brings concerns to the City's attention about invasive plants in City rights-of-way, parks, and the cemetery.



Orange Hawkweed

In 2021, the City of Homer contracted with the Homer Soil & Water Conservation District (HSWCD) to develop an Integrated Pest Management Strategic Plan aiming to control invasive species on city properties. The goal was to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species to protect private properties and the greater ecosystem and habitats that our fish and wildlife on the Kenai Peninsula depend upon.



Chicken Tractor

As a part of our partnership with HSWCD, last year an experimental site was set up to test chickens as a weed control tool. The most successful approach involved placing 4 chickens in a 24-square-foot chicken tractor (mobile coop) over a designated area for 4 weeks. This timeframe proved to be the most effective in removing vegetation while ensuring the well-being of the chickens.

Many in our community already have chickens, whether for egg laying or not. These chickens could offer an organic and practical solution for weed control. In the future this method could be used on other City properties, especially road rights-of-way, once a 49 to keep the chickens contained is found.

- Invasive Species Week
- Library Events
- Community Corner
- Library
- Community Recreation
- Economic Development
- Port & Harbor
- Harbor Expansion Study Update
- City Hall
- Public Works
- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Public Safety Corner
- Hazard Mitigation
- Meet City Staff
- Municipal Art Collection
- Stay Connected with City Council

Discover something new today and see the latest City project updates information! Learn about ways community members can get involved at City Hall and in the Homer community.

Follow us on Social Media

- City Hall: [@cityofhomerak](#)
- Parks & Recreation: [@homerparksandrec](#)
- Homer Public Library: [@homerpubliclibrary](#)
- Homer Police: [@homerpolice](#)
- Fire Department: [@HomerVolFireDept](#)

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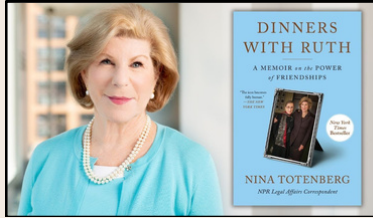
LIBRARY EVENTS

VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS

Zoom in and listen to your favorite authors talk about their latest books. For a complete list of Upcoming Speakers, go to libraryc.org/homerlibrary/upcoming.

March 6 at Noon

The Power of Friendships with NPR Legal Affairs Correspondent **Nina Totenberg**



March 14 at Noon

20 Years of Dragon-Riding in YA Fantasy with International Bestselling Author **Christopher Paolini**



March 21 at 3 pm

On Retelling Greek Classics: An Exploration of the Modern Epics with **Madeline Miller**



SPECIAL & ONGOING EVENTS



Councilmember Conversations

Noon to 1 pm, the second Tuesday of each month, September - May, at the Homer Public Library.

March 12: Rachel Lord

Lit Lineup 2024

The Homer Public Library has created a community-wide initiative to read fifteen books throughout the year.

View the list and submit entries [here](#). You could be eligible to win the grand prize!



CHECK OUT MORE LIBRARY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



Homer Public Library
500 Hazel Street - 907-235-3180
circ@ci.homer.ak.us
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library



COMMUNITY CORNER

What's happening around the City of Homer

30th Annual Winter King Salmon Tournament



The Homer Winter King Salmon Tournament is the premier fishing tournament of Alaska. Every Spring anglers take to the waters of Kachemak Bay in search of King Salmon.

Tournament is Saturday, **March 23, 2024**

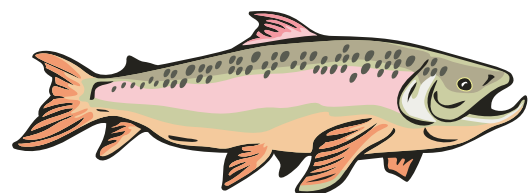
The cost to register an angler in the tournament is \$150.

The one-day tournament awards tens of thousands of dollars in prize money to the largest kings caught. Festivities happen at the weigh-in stations by the Deep Water Dock, located at 4667 Freight Dock Road. After the fishing lines are pulled from the water, join the festivities of live music, beer & wine garden, food trucks, vendors and some extra surprises as we celebrate the 30th anniversary.

The Homer Chamber of Commerce is the official host of this event. [Click here to register](#), or call the Chamber office at 907-235-7740. Port & Harbor information can be found [here](#).

Get one FREE night of moorage!

Port & Harbor is collaborating with the Homer Chamber of Commerce to provide one free night of moorage on the Friday or Saturday of the tournament weekend. To qualify for the free night your boat must **be registered with the Chamber of Commerce** and **have a Moorage Agreement on file with the Port & Harbor office**. Additional nights are subject to normal moorage charges.



LIBRARY

ART IN THE LIBRARY

The Art in the Library program, organized by the Friends of the Homer Library, features annual submissions from local artists, both professional and amateur. A Community Artworks Selection Panel chooses pieces to be showcased at the Library for three months each throughout the year. While the displayed pieces are not for sale, the program provides artists with an opportunity to showcase their work.

Currently featured in the Homer Public Library Fireplace Lounge is artist Alexandra “Andy” Sonneborn. Specializing in vibrant oil and pastel paintings, Andy draws inspiration from impressionists and colorists. Her artistic goal is to evoke emotions in viewers by capturing the unique interplay of light and color. Andy discovered her passion for art at the age of 8 when her artist uncle gifted her a set of tube watercolors. She pursued formal training in painting at the Rhode Island School of Design and the University of Vermont. In 1978, Andy, along with her husband and four children, moved to Anchorage and “have loved it ever since”.

Next time you visit the Library, be sure to stop by the Fireplace Lounge and enjoy the works of art!



Homer Public Library Fireplace Lounge



Pet Portraits by Andy Sonneborn



COMMUNITY RECREATION

The City of Homer Community Recreation Adult Basketball League had their playoff and championship games on February 3rd and 4th, at Homer High School. Congratulations to Team Alaska Arches for winning the 2023-24 season!

The “City League” has been a tradition for over 40 years. It is a self-sustaining league for adult men and women who have graduated high school. It is common to see up to 100 people in the stands full of family, friends and fans cheering on their favorite players making it a fun and entertaining community event.

Regular season games occur on Sunday afternoons at the Homer High gym from October to February.

A very big thanks to the team sponsors:

Alaska Arches, Alaska Bible Institute, Alaska PT + Wellness, Alaska Salt Co., Bay Welding, and Ulmer’s Drug & Hardware

2023-24 Season STATS:

90 individual players
45 regular season games
9 playoff games
1 championship game



Team Alaska Arches

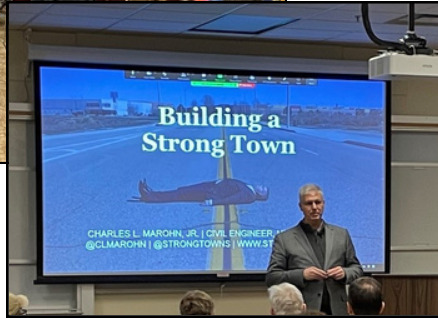


ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

STRONG TOWNS PRESENTATION



Chuck Marohn, Founder of Strong Towns, Presents to Community Members of Homer



On Tuesday, February 20th, the City hosted a visit by Chuck Marohn, founder of Strong Towns. Chuck, a nationally renowned speaker from Brainerd, Minnesota, advocates for financially strong and sustainable land development patterns for municipal governments. About 80 community members attended his presentation in person and via Zoom.

Chuck's visit marked the beginning of discussions about the City's Comprehensive Plan. While he found the Homer Spit, the Harbor, and scenery breathtaking, he expressed feeling "underwhelmed" by our built community. One of his key points emphasized the need for a robust tax base to cover long-term maintenance costs of infrastructure, including water and sewer pipes, road maintenance, and eventual repaving.

As an example, Marohn said the numerous gaps between buildings on Pioneer Avenue present an opportunity for development that utilizes existing infrastructure, aiding in covering those long-term costs. Filling in those gaps not only fosters economic activity but also contributes to creating a walkable environment, offering a more financially successful development pattern, especially for small towns with a limited tax base. The presentation was recorded, so if you missed the event, you can watch the recording at <https://vimeo.com/916136735?share=copy>. Many thanks to Adele Person and Bunnell Street Arts Center for coordinating his visit, and to Guiding Growth for assisting with advertising this event.

CRUISE BOOM

The City hosted a second event on February 27th to spur additional conversation in advance of comprehensive planning: a screening of Cruise Boom. Cruise Boom is a documentary created by Sitka resident and filmmaker Ellen Frankenstein. More than 55 people attended to watch a film that shows Sitka, a Southeast Alaska community in transition, wrangling with questions about economic vitality, cultural heritage, and how to welcome tourism on their terms.

Economic Development Manager Julie Engebretsen and Port Director Bryan Hawkins introduced the film. "Homer's never really been a cruise ship destination, and to be clear, that's not what we're talking about here," began Hawkins. He said that the Port has 8 cruise ship landings scheduled in 2024, most of which are 300-500 passenger ships. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic Sitka had approximately 14 ships and 10,000 passengers per season. In comparison some ports in Southeast Alaska see 1.1 million passengers per year. "The main thing about this film is that this is a good kickoff for the comprehensive plan."

Engebretsen discussed increasing cruise ship numbers in the community of Juneau that led to landings of as many as 21,000 passengers in a single day. She also cited Juneau's **Tourism Best Management Practices** program as a model for Alaskan communities to learn from when managing growth. Looking ahead is important. As the film stated, tourism businesses make significant investments to attract new customers, and it is difficult to impose limits after local business owners have already committed hundreds of thousands-- if not millions-- of dollars in a new venture.

Homer is kicking off its multiyear Comprehensive Plan rewrite, Engebretsen explained. "This is a great time to think about 'What do you want our community to be in 20 years?' or 'What do you want it to not be?'"

Missed the screening, or hoping to share it with more people? You can get a license to screen the documentary through **New Day Films**.



Bryan Hawkins and Julie Engebretsen

PORT & HARBOR

LARGE VESSEL HAUL OUT & REPAIR

City Staff was given the opportunity to tour the Polar Bear, one of vessels in the large vessel haul out and repair yard located on the Homer Spit. In the **2024 - 2029 Capital Improvement Plan** (CIP), a project has been identified to improve this Large Vessel Haul Out Repair Facility.

The vessel haul out repair yard is an important facility that allows Homer to provide complete marine services and capitalize on the full economic opportunity vessels like the Polar Bear bring to the local economy. Improvements would benefit the operation of the regional fleet of large vessels, the local marine trades businesses and the regional economy.



Polar Bear

Regional economies rely heavily on the marine transportation sector. The Polar Bear, a flat bottomed landing craft that has a very large hauling capacity (250 ton deck load) serves many purposes. When operating, it typically has a 14-member crew and makes essential supply deliveries to Seldovia, Port Graham, Dillingham, other Bristol Bay communities and commercial fisheries via Port Williams and arctic communities like Nome and Barrow. The Polar Bear can carry seven semi-trailers of essential supplies, 48,000 gallons of fuel, vehicles and even on occasion, small planes. Vessels like this also contract to assist with infrastructure maintenance, such as dredging operations and delivery of rock for armor and breakwater projects and laying telecommunication cables containing fiberoptics on the ocean floor.



Chris Youngblood giving a tour of the engine room.

These commercial vessels are required to be hauled out for inspection every 5 years. Repairs are to be completed and approved before they go back into the water for the next season. Homer has a treasure trove of many talented marine trades people that attract maritime repair business. The large vessel haul out activities help provide year-round jobs for the local marine trades and supports local businesses in what is typically the down time of the year.

The Polar Bear was pulled out of the water in November last year and is expected to return to the water mid-March this year. The vessel was built in 1990 and required many updates. The living quarters were stripped back and fully rebuilt; hull repairs are being completed by welders and other skilled craftsmen; electronics and engine room components are being revamped. 14 - 20 local marine trades professionals work on the boat daily. Much of the materials and supplies are also sourced locally.



Five months is not much time to complete the robust list. This shows great dedication of the team, especially given the unusually cold temps and windy weather this winter! The crew built a makeshift shelter over the vessel and have used 9,000 gallons of diesel to run generators for heat and for power. This is a big operation!

Upgrades to the haul out area, including shore power, water and sewer will greatly assist jobs like this; shore power will reduce site emissions and installation of wash down pads will backup the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.

Tyson Alward giving tour to Rob Dumouchel, Bryan Hawkins, Matt Clark, and Jenny Carroll.



HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION

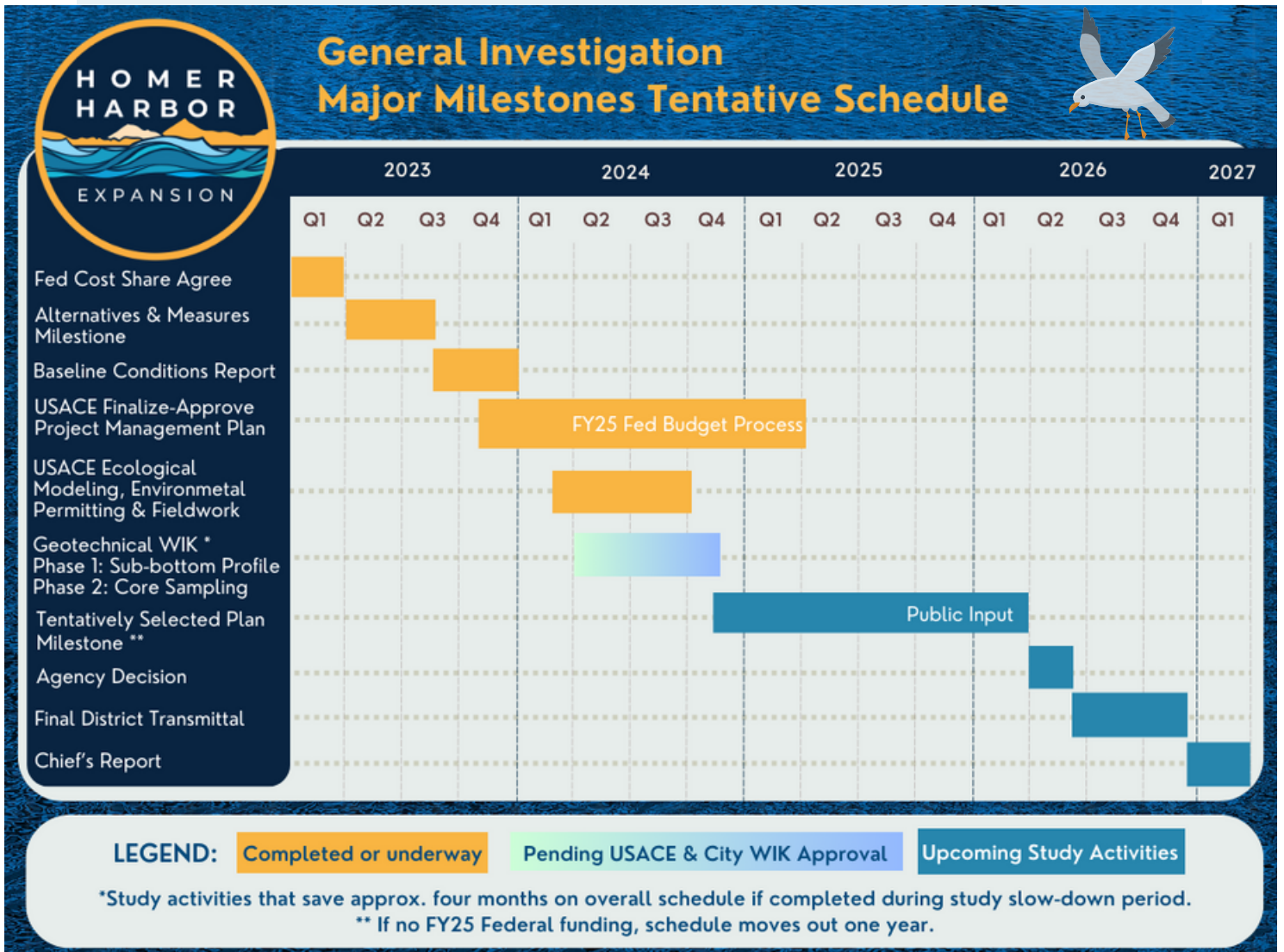
STUDY UPDATE



The Homer Harbor Expansion study is presently on a reduced work schedule, but still moving forward as we await word on Federal continuation funds in the Federal FY25 budget.



The chart below shows tasks the study has accomplished, and lays out a schedule for upcoming study activities. This summer, the US Army Corps of Engineers will be conducting environmental field work. Their work, coupled with completion of the geophysical survey and core sampling plan will allow the US Army Corps of Engineers to move forward with design work when study activities resume at pace in the fall.



Keep engaged with the study at www.homerharborexansion.com



CITY HALL

LOBBYING IN JUNEAU



City Manager Dumouchel, USCG Rear Admiral Megan Dean, Port Director Hawkins, and USCG Captain John D. Cole

A delegation from Homer traveled to Juneau on February 20-22 for legislative and administrative visits. Mayor Ken Castner, Councilmember Storm Hansen, City Manager Rob Dumouchel and Port Director Bryan Hawkins represented the City, advocating for inclusion of Homer’s FY25 legislative priority capital projects in the State budget, and on behalf of several Council-approved State budget and policy items.

As well as meeting with Federal and State senators and representatives, Homer officials met with Rear Admiral Megan Dean of the U.S. Coast Guard, Commissioner Ryan Anderson from the Department of Transportation and Public Safety, and Lacey Sanders the new State Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The primary capital projects lobbied for were Homer Harbor Expansion USACE General Investigation Matching Funds (which now tops Senator Stevens and Representative Vance’s capital priority list for the District), the Slope Stability & Erosion Mitigation Program, Float System Replacement and the A-Frame Water Transmission Line Replacement.

Overall, there were many good meetings and connections made. The proposals were well received by officials, and we look forward to the progress that could be made in Homer’s future.



Councilmember Hansen testifying before the Senate Finance Committee

SISTER CITY CULTURAL EXCHANGES

The City of Homer has a **Sister City** relationship with the City of Teshio, Japan. This year marks the 40th anniversary of that relationship. We want to thank Homer resident and our Sister City Liaison, as well as Interpreter, Megumi Beams, for her dedication to nurturing Japanese culture in Homer. With her vision and support, we hope to pass along this Sister City Program to the next generation.

Megumi is highly involved with students in Homer who are a part of her Alaska Japanese Club. They participated this year in the Winter Carnival Parade, hosted by the Homer Chamber of Commerce, and won the prize for Best Performing Arts float in the parade! They worked hard creating the float and drums and being a bright spot in our community. [Click here](#) to read a letter from the group expressing their thanks to the community and those involved for their support.



Megumi Beams and students in the Winter Carnival Parade



Megumi Beams with West Homer Elementary students participating in online classes with Japanese students.

A part of the Sister City International’s initiative is the **Japan-Alaska Sister City Town Pride FESTA**, which was held on January 26, 2024. Out of 24 submissions, Teshio Town’s submission won 1st place, and Megumi’s submission on behalf of the Japanese Club won 3rd place! Congratulations!

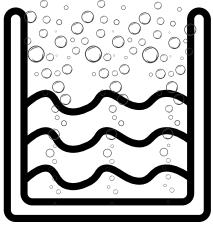
Teshio and the Alaska Japanese Club have continued to participate together in online class sessions and have exchanged cards and activities. The club is planning to perform Taiko drumming for the 40th Anniversary of the relationship between Teshio and City of Homer in 2024. Stay tuned for more events to come related to our Sister City Program!

PUBLIC WORKS

WASTEWATER TREATMENT BLOWER REPLACEMENTS

This past summer Water/Sewer Division of Public Works purchased two new Kaeser blowers for the Wastewater Treatment Plant to replace the original blowers that were installed in 1990.

Blowers are primarily used in the secondary phase of wastewater treatment. They create air bubbles that add oxygen and that help keep the liquid moving. Wastewater contains organic solids that are decomposed by microorganisms. The beneficial microorganisms use oxygen to break down those solids and need a certain amount of oxygen in the water to do their work. The Kaeser blowers also help maintain an appropriate oxygen level so that it is not diluted when the wastewater moves to a larger body of receiving water.



The main purposes of having blowers in wastewater treatment are:

- Keeps bacteria suspended.
- Aids separating solid particles from a liquid.
- Supplies sufficient oxygen transfer and helps to remove ammonia from the water.

In the past, there was no way to adjust the airflow to the digesters, so it was a “feast or famine” situation for the microorganisms. The Kaeser blowers, like everything today, are “smart” blowers. Operators can now make fine adjustments to the airflow, enhancing the treatment process. This improved treatment means that less solid waste needs to be delivered to the landfill in Soldotna. Additionally, the new blowers are more energy-efficient, resulting in cost savings!

To save even more money, the water/sewer crew installed the blowers and fabricated all the piping themselves. They also had to create a special lifting mechanism to lower the blowers into the basement. There’s not much this talented crew can’t do!

All in all, the microorganisms, operators, and mechanics are happy with the new equipment.



New Kaeser blower unit



Control panel and inside mechanisms

POLICE DEPARTMENT

FBI-LEEDA LEADERSHIP SEMINAR



Last month Lieutenant Ryan Browning and Sergeant Jessica Poling attended a Command Leadership Course put on by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (FBI-LEEDA). Attending FBI-LEEDA sessions contributes to the continuous professional development of our police officers, ensuring they are well-equipped to lead and serve Homer effectively.

The FBI-LEEDA Command Leadership Institute is a comprehensive week-long program designed to prepare law enforcement leaders for command roles. Taught by experienced faculty with executive-level law enforcement backgrounds, the program provides practical strategies and techniques for those aspiring to command positions. Covering crucial topics such as credibility, command discipline, liability, managing difficult employees, and leading organizational change, the institute ensures a dynamic and challenging learning experience with a focus on real-life scenarios, creating an environment for strong student participation.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

EMT CLASS



Marisela, Paige, Nikki, Matthew, Fred the Head, Nathan, Samantha, Collin, Cody, Kate, Amber, and Galina

Our EMT class is truly remarkable, with nine dedicated providers engaging in impressive work such as backboarding, administering medications, and mastering bleeding control techniques. The experience has been a mix of excitement and exhaustion for everyone involved, but the camaraderie and team spirit are exceptional.

Surprisingly, our EMT students have also showcased their culinary talents, turning out to be adept charcuterie board creators.

We're delighted to have such enthusiastic learners, and we eagerly anticipate welcoming new providers into our department. Stay tuned for the upcoming Firefighter class – let's fill those trucks with even more skilled and passionate individuals!

THANKS TO HOMER-KACHEMAK BAY ROTARY

The Homer Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) received a generous donation of new Motorola Minitor VI voice pagers from the Homer-Kachemak Bay Rotary. Members of the department can carry these pagers, both on and off duty, to receive notifications when there is an emergency.

In the past year, HVFD promptly responded to 850 emergencies, some of which occurred simultaneously. Emergencies can arise at any time, day or night. Having equipment like these pagers significantly contributes to the ability to maintain operational readiness 24/7. Thank you Homer-Kachemak Bay Rotary!



Kate McGregor Spiking a Line



Kate McGregor, Nikki Graham, Marisela Sanchez-Ramos, and volunteer backboard victim



Cody Czer-Ransom, Marisela Sanchez-Ramos, and Matthew Bullard



Motorola Minitor VI voice pager



In this section, we aim to keep readers informed about the latest developments in public safety in the community. Whether it's news about crime prevention, emergency preparedness, or updates on local law enforcement activities, we've got you covered. Our goal is to promote a safe and secure environment for all community members and visitors of Homer, and we believe that staying informed is a crucial part of achieving that. Read on to learn more about what's happening in public safety in Homer.

TSUNAMI PREPAREDNESS

Tsunami Preparedness Week is March 23rd to 30th. Tsunamis don't happen often, but awareness and preparation go a long way in keeping you and your loved ones safe.

In honor of National Tsunami Awareness Week, from Saturday, March 23rd to Saturday, March 30th, we will feature tips so you can be better prepared. Look for these featured tips on the City's [website](#) and on the City of Homer [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#): [@cityofhomerak](#) pages.

If you live, work, or play near the coast in Homer, you should prepare for tsunamis. Below are simple tools you can use to be informed and take action when needed.



BEFORE

- Know Your Risk: Educate yourself!
- [Know Homer's tsunami zone.](#)
- [Evacuation routes.](#)
- [How to get alerts.](#)
- [Know the signs of a tsunami.](#)
- [Have an emergency kit ready.](#)



DURING

- Go to high ground and away from water.
- Stay inland until you hear from officials.
- If shaking from earthquake, DROP, COVER and HOLD ON.



AFTER

- Wait! Tsunami waves may continue to arrive for hours.
- Avoid flooded roads.
- Do not enter flood waters.
- Avoid fallen or damaged power lines.
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet, and boil drinking water if instructed by officials.
- Dry buildings out within 24-48 hours, if possible.
- Use safety gear including gloves, goggles, rubber boots, and N95 masks.

[Click Here for More Information on Emergency Preparation](#)



What are the signs to look for?

The natural signs of a potential tsunami are a strong, long earthquake, a loud roar from the ocean, or unusual ocean behavior, such as a sudden rise or wall of water or sudden draining showing the ocean floor.

If you feel an earthquake:

DROP



COVER



HOLD ON



HOMER HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Tsunami Warning System

Tsunami warning systems are in place to send out warnings after an earthquake if a tsunami is or could potentially be triggered.

Warning sirens are located on the Homer Spit, at Bishop's Beach, and near the intersection of Kachemak Drive and East End Road.

Homer tsunami siren testing occurs the first Wednesday of every month, at 1 pm.



Find the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan on the City's website: [City of Homer Local Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)

MEET THE STAFF

Welcome to the Team!



Public Works welcomes **Dan Kort** as Public Works Director. Dan brings a wealth of experience from prior roles in consulting and city engineering in Northern Minnesota. Most recently Dan was employed with Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB), primarily in the solid waste department with a focus on civil and environmental consulting.

Dan and his wife, Jill, fell in love with Homer during a vacation in 2006. Having lived in Homer for four years now, Dan enjoys pursuing his hobbies of hunting, fishing, and hiking in this ideal location.

Dan steps into his new role following the retirement of Jan Keiser, who retired earlier this year. Jan served Homer as its first City Engineer in the early 1980s and later returned as Public Works Director in 2020.

Leon Galbraith has recently joined Public Works as the Special Projects Coordinator/City Engineer. With 17 years of experience in the engineering consulting industry, he looks forward to contributing to the construction of great new infrastructure in Homer.

Leon is originally from Alaska. Fun fact, he was born at home in a little log cabin next to the Kenai River in Cooper Landing! He graduated from college in Fairbanks and lived in Anchorage for about 15 years. Leon, his wife Allison, and their three children moved to Homer 6 years ago to enhance the quality of life for their family. Leon finds joy in the picturesque scenery of Homer while pursuing his outdoor hobbies, which include fishing, hiking, snow machining, and skiing.



Work Anniversaries

Thanks to the following staff members for your dedication, commitment and service to the City and to the taxpayers of Homer!

February

Names	Dept.	Years
Jenny Carroll	Admin	8 Years
Morgan Tracy	Police	7 Years
Kevin Co	Library	5 Years
Tyler Jeffres	Police	5 Years
Matt Swerdzewski	Fire	1 Years
Mike Swoboda	Public Works	1 Years

Farewell



After dedicating 12 and a half years to Public Works, equipment operator **Joe Inglis** has decided to move on. His last day was February 14th. Joe is an accomplished operator and is leaving to explore other opportunities in the private sector and spend more time with family. We wish him the best in his future endeavors.

CITY OF HOMER ROSTER

Mayor - Ken Castner (2024)

City Council

Donna Aderhold (2024)

Jason Davis (2025)

Shelley Erickson (2024)

Storm P. Hansen (2025)

Rachel Lord (2026)

Caroline Venuti (2026)

City Staff Leadership

Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk/Deputy Director of Administration

Mark Robl, Chief of Police

Bill Jirsa, Chief Technology Officer

Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager

Elizabeth Walton, Finance Director

Mark Kirko, Fire Chief

Dave Berry, Library Director

Andrea Browning, Personnel Director

Bryan Hawkins, Port Director

Dan Kort, Public Works Director

Ryan Foster, City Planner

Mike Illg, Community Recreation Manager

Commissions and Boards

ADA Advisory Board

Economic Development Advisory Commission

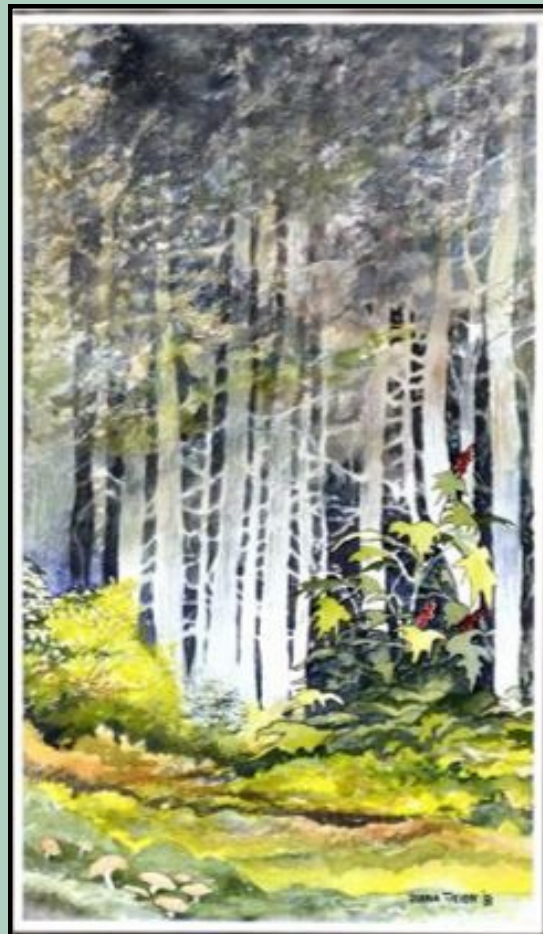
Library Advisory Board

Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

Planning Commission

Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION



Green Trees watercolor by Diana Tillion - Clerks Office

Learn more about the municipal art collection at:

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection

STAY CONNECTED TO CITY COUNCIL

Go to cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/stay-connected-city-council to find instructions on how to listen, provide testimony, and participate in the meetings via Zoom.



JOIN OUR TEAM

- Find current job listings for the City of Homer
- Sign up for Job Alerts
- Apply Online at: cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The City of Homer Newsletter is published monthly. For questions or comments, please contact the Office of the City Manager at citymanager@ci.homer.ak.us.

City of Homer

491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska 99603
907-235-8121

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March

5	5:30 pm	Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Worksession
6	5:30 pm	Planning Commission Worksession
6	6:30 pm	Planning Commission Regular Meeting
12	6:00 pm	Economic Development Advisory Commission Regular Meeting
19	5:30 pm	Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting
20	5:30 pm	Planning Commission Worksession
20	6:30 pm	Planning Commission Regular Meeting
21	5:30 pm	Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission Regular Meeting
27	5:30 pm	Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meeting



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

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(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Melissa Jacobsen, Acting City Manager
DATE: February 21, 2024
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for February 26, 2024 Council Meeting

Welcome New Staff

While City Manager Dumouchel was out I had the opportunity to welcome our new Public Works Director Dan Kort and City Engineer/Special Projects Coordinator Leon Galbraith to the City of Homer team. I took them around City Hall to familiarize them with the building and meet the administrative and finance teams before they made their way to Public Works. They've been busy engaging with the departments and local partners to get up to speed on City projects and processes. We're glad to have them on board!

Visit from Strong Towns

On Tuesday February 20th, the City hosted a visit by Strong Towns founder Chuck Marohn. Chuck is a nationally renowned speaker from Brainerd Minnesota who advocates for land development patterns that are financially strong and sustainable for municipal governments. His presentation was attended by about 80 community members in person and via zoom. Chuck's visit was a great start to upcoming conversations about the City's Comprehensive Plan. While he found the Homer Spit, harbor and the scenery breathtaking, he was "underwhelmed" by our built community. One of his talking points is that it takes a tax base to pay for long term maintenance costs of infrastructure – the water and sewer pipes in the ground, road maintenance and eventual repaving. The many gaps between buildings on Pioneer Avenue provide an opportunity for development that would use existing infrastructure, and help pay those long term costs. Infill development would also create more economic activity, help create a walkable environment, and contribute for a more financially viable development pattern particularly for small towns with a limited tax base. His presentation was recorded and will be shared in the coming weeks. Many thanks to Adele Person and Bunnell Street Arts Center for helping to coordinate his visit, and to Guiding Growth for helping with advertising this event.



Screening of the Movie “Cruise Boom”

On February 27th, there will be a free showing of the movie “Cruise Boom” at the Homer Theater. The movie was filmed in Sitka and takes a look at the cruise ship industry and the impacts of tourism. The Port & Harbor and Economic Development have partnered to bring this movie to town and engage in conversations related to the impacts of tourism on small cities in Alaska.

ADFG Waterfowl Monitoring Program

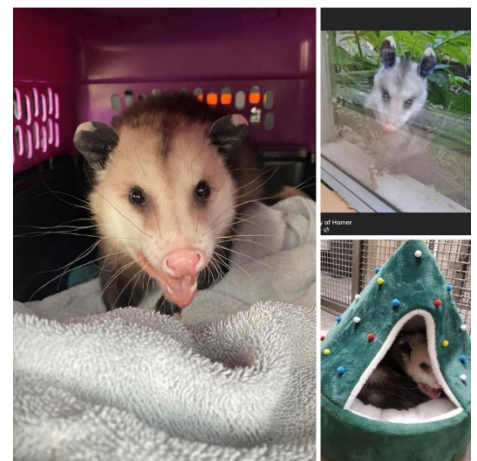
The Alaska Department of Fish and Game plans to trap waterfowl via rocket netting on April 19th to 26th in Beluga Slough. The purpose of this project is to band and tag migrating waterfowl as they transit through the Homer area. The target species of this work will be Lesser Canada and Taverner’s cackling geese, but all waterfowl capture will be banded as part of the state’s waterfowl monitoring program. The primary objectives of this project are to map the seasonal distributions of Lesser Canada and Taverner’s cackling geese and to estimate survival and harvest of these species. This is critical information for the management of these species. Work will be conducted under Federal Bird Banding Permit 08350. Agency staff conducting this work have extensive experience with the use of rocket netting to capture waterfowl, including geese.

Voter Turnout Working Group

On August 1, 2023, the Borough Assembly enacted Resolution 2023-053 forming the Voter Turnout Working Group. The working group’s scope of work was to explore actionable options and ideas to present to the Assembly that are aimed at increasing awareness, participation, and voting in local elections, including but not limited to changing the Borough election day to align with the State of Alaska. The 14 member working group was made up of City and Borough Clerks and interested citizens that included myself and Council Member Aderhold. We met six times with the last meeting on February 22nd when we finalized our prioritized recommendations to the Borough Assembly. Our recommendations include surveying borough residents, public outreach/education, promotion, offering early voting prior to an election, developing partnerships with businesses in the community, considering email distribution of ballots and changing statute language from Special Needs ballots to Additional Needs ballots. The group also addressed combining borough and city ballots, changing the local election date, and vote by mail, but after roll call votes, those items weren’t added to the prioritized list. I went into this wondering how we’d be able to get through our charge in such a short time! I was pleased and impressed by the way this group of people with very diverse ideas and opinions who care about elections gathered together and had robust conversation, listened respectfully, and shared some really great ideas. The final report is scheduled to go the Assembly in March and I’ll share a copy when it’s available.

An Opossums Life for Me

After last year’s excitement of having our furry marsupial friend Grubby and her passel stow away to our town and win our hearts, there have been a couple of reports of her little joeys making it big in other towns. This past December the Oregon Zoo welcomed Homer to their facility, and recently Bramble Park Zoo in South Dakota shared a story about Grublet, who recently made his debut. Both of these youngsters have joined Ambassador Teams at their respective zoos and are being won over by their keepers with enticing treats of berries and bananas. In looking at the top right photo, Grublet may have been the little one who stopped by the City Clerk’s office for some assistance. How neat is that? 😊



General Fund
Expenditure Report
Actuals through January 2024
58% Fiscal Year Elapsed

Current Fiscal Analysis

	FY24		FY24 YTD	
	ADOPTED		ACTUAL	
	BUDGET		\$	%
Revenues				
Property Taxes	\$ 4,115,085	\$ 4,406,369	107%	
Sales and Use Taxes	8,939,282	5,757,917	64%	
Permits and Licenses	43,797	27,695	63%	
Fines and Forfeitures	10,303	1,874	18%	
Use of Money	0	173,218		
Intergovernmental	746,338	423,308	57%	
Charges for Services	396,890	339,835	86%	
Other Revenues	-	69,972		
Airport	198,448	134,591	68%	
Operating Transfers	1,728,989	-	0%	
Total Revenues	\$ 16,179,131	\$ 11,334,780	70%	
Expenditures & Transfers				
Administration	\$ 2,288,320	\$ 1,032,078	45%	
Clerks/Council	927,024	453,896	49%	
Planning	387,478	143,525	37%	
Library	1,079,132	582,751	54%	
Finance	898,578	411,460	46%	
Fire	1,881,175	938,214	50%	
Police	4,282,603	2,515,584	59%	
Public Works	3,512,438	1,801,408	51%	
Airport	229,618	105,343	46%	
City Hall, HERC	179,040	101,521	57%	
Non-Departmental	179,000	189,000	106%	
Total Operating Expenditures	\$ 15,844,405	\$ 8,274,779	52%	
Transfer to Other Funds				
Leave Cash Out	\$ 221,360	\$ -	0%	
Other	103,366	-	0%	
Total Transfer to Other Funds	\$ 324,725	\$ -	0%	
Transfer to CARMA				
General Fund Fleet CARMA	\$ -	\$ -	0%	
General Fund CARMA	-	-	0%	
Seawall CARMA	10,000	-	0%	
Total Transfer to CARMA Funds	\$ 10,000	\$ -	0%	
Total Expenditures & Transfers	\$ 16,179,131	\$ 8,274,779	51%	
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ 0	\$ 3,060,001		

Water and Sewer Fund
Expenditure Report
Actuals through January 2024
58% Fiscal Year Elapsed

Current Fiscal Analysis

	FY24		FY24 YTD	
	ADOPTED		ACTUAL	
	BUDGET		\$	%
Revenues				
Water Fund	\$ 2,369,005	\$ 1,544,089	65%	
Sewer Fund	1,948,388	1,229,017	63%	
Total Revenues	\$ 4,317,393	\$ 2,773,107	64%	
Expenditures & Transfers				
<u>Water</u>				
Administration	\$ 309,507	\$ 176,882	57%	
Treatment Plant	684,568	379,144	55%	
System Testing	33,000	21,490	65%	
Pump Stations	115,707	52,118	45%	
Distribution System	372,744	223,106	60%	
Reservoir	19,025	8,578	45%	
Meters	285,597	32,230	11%	
Hydrants	214,533	117,584	55%	
<u>Sewer</u>				
Administration	\$ 303,612	\$ 172,393	57%	
Plant Operations	836,304	422,884	51%	
System Testing	18,000	5,953	33%	
Lift Stations	216,060	108,174	50%	
Collection System	306,884	139,343	45%	
Total Operating Expenditures	\$ 3,715,541	\$ 1,859,878	50%	
Transfer to Other Funds				
Leave Cash Out	\$ 15,769	\$ -	0%	
GF Admin Fees	-	-	0%	
Other	22,945	-	0%	
Total Transfer to Other Funds	\$ 38,714	\$ -	0%	
Transfers to CARMA				
Water	\$ 309,001	\$ -	0%	
Sewer	254,138	-	0%	
Total Transfer to CARMA Funds	\$ 563,138	\$ -	0%	
Total Expenditures & Transfers	\$ 4,317,393	\$ 1,859,878	43%	
Net Revenues Over(Under) Expenditures	\$ 0	\$ 913,228		

Port and Harbor Fund
Expenditure Report
Actuals through January 2024
58% Fiscal Year Elapsed

Current Fiscal Analysis

	FY24		FY24 YTD	
	ADOPTED BUDGET		ACTUAL	
			\$	%
Revenues				
Administration	\$ 614,164	\$ 501,458	82%	
Harbor	3,961,361	3,225,800	81%	
Pioneer Dock	307,804	170,018	55%	
Fish Dock	578,477	406,376	70%	
Deep Water Dock	182,426	66,944	37%	
Outfall Line	4,800	4,800	100%	
Fish Grinder	7,390	10,393	141%	
Load and Launch Ramp	130,000	63,070	49%	
Total Revenues	\$ 5,786,422	\$ 4,448,857	77%	
Expenditures & Transfers				
Administration	\$ 1,143,305	\$ 681,646	60%	
Harbor	1,609,487	817,771	51%	
Pioneer Dock	86,345	48,806	57%	
Fish Dock	747,966	359,121	48%	
Deep Water Dock	104,705	56,462	54%	
Outfall Line	13,500	4,015	30%	
Fish Grinder	27,682	30,838	111%	
Harbor Maintenance	533,783	285,308	53%	
Main Dock Maintenance	51,393	25,905	50%	
Deep Water Dock Maintenance	61,893	28,821	47%	
Load and Launch Ramp	138,815	64,147	46%	
Total Operating Expenditures	\$ 4,518,876	\$ 2,402,841	53%	
Transfer to Other Funds				
Leave Cash Out	\$ 73,867	\$ -	0%	
GF Admin Fees	-	-	0%	
Debt Service	0	-	0%	
Other	375,092	-	0%	
Total Transfer to Other Funds	\$ 448,959	\$ -	0%	
Transfers to Reserves				
Harbor	\$ 818,588	\$ -	0%	
Load and Launch Ramp	-	-	0%	
Total Transfer to Reserves	\$ 818,588	\$ -	0%	
Total Expenditures & Transfers	\$ 5,786,422	\$ 2,402,841	42%	
Net Revenues Over(Under) Expenditures	\$ 0	\$ 2,046,016		

JUNEAU VISITS



The Homer team made the round of legislative and administrative visits on February 20-22. Mayor Ken Castner, Councilmember Storm Hansen, Harbormaster Bryan Hawkins, and City Manager Robert Dumouchel represented the City of Homer. The main advocacy topics were the additional money needed to continue the General Investigation for the Homer Harbor Expansion along with the legislative capital requests. Mr. Dumouchel, Mr. Hawkins, and Ms. Hansen had the opportunity to testify in front of the full Senate Finance Committee in support of the Homer Harbor Expansion match funding, increased funding for community jails, and the harbor matching grant fund. Highlighting the value of in-person visits, Ms. Hansen had the opportunity to give U.S. Senator Sullivan an actual “elevator pitch” about the port expansion in the elevator of the Baranof Hotel. Senator Sullivan knew all about the project and stated that he had just recently spoke with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers about moving the project forward.

The Homer team met with the following Senators or staff: Senators Stevens, Bjorkman, Kaufman, Meyers, and Dunbar. On the House side, the Homer team met with representatives or staff in the offices of Representatives Vance, Carpenter, McKay, Ruffridge, McCabe, Johnson, and



McCormick. While walking the halls we had the opportunity to speak about the project with Representative Josephson, Senator Stedman, and Finance Committee budget staff members Brodie Anderson and David Scott. We will be checking back with Senator Stevens and Representative Vance as they put together their capital priority requests in the next week or so. Katrina Matheny, staff to Senator Stevens, will provide us updates on the capital budget progress.

Outside of the Capitol Building, the Homer team met with Rear Admiral Megan Dean, her chief of staff, and an aide at the U.S. Coast Guard headquarters for an hour. The team provided a port project update. Rear Admiral Dean provided an update on Alaska's Coast Guard assets and expected growth over the next several years. Issues such as housing, education and quality of life were also discussed. The City of Homer received congratulations on becoming a US Coast Guard City!

The Homer team met with Commissioner Ryan Anderson at the Department of Transportation and Public Safety for an hour. The team provided an update on the port project. After some discussion Jenny Carroll, appearing by videoconference, suggested amending the Homer Harbor Expansion project to a Pre-Construction Design Study project and add it to the regular, programmed section of the STIP (rather than a construction project in the Illustrative section). Ms. Carroll has already supplied requested information to Commissioner Anderson to re-categorize the project. This change will help in securing grant funding.

The upcoming airport project was discussed, and the group agreed to work together on parking and looking for possible funding for terminal upgrades.



The issues around Kachemak Bay Drive and the green infrastructure project were discussed in depth. The Commissioner noted that Representative Vance has been doggedly pursuing solutions and funding for Kachemak Bay Drive. The Commissioner was going to check the status of several grants and report back. Mayor Castner received some commitments from DOT on working together on the Diamond Creek underpass.

Finally, the team met with the new Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Lacey Sanders, and several of her staff. Again, the focus of discussion was around funding needed for the port harbor study. Ms. Sanders informed us that the project is on their internal project list.

Although the Homer team's visit unexpectedly coincided with intense education negotiations and turmoil, there were many good meetings, new connections made, and old connections renewed. It is amazing the number of people that we meet with who regularly visit Homer and love the community! Many people commented on the quality of the handouts. J&H Consulting will continue to monitor the funding for Homer's capital projects.

Chris and Reggie, J&H Consulting



MEMORANDUM

Homer Harbor Expansion Study Monthly Written Update

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor and City Council
Date: February 22, 2024
From: Jenny Carroll, Special Projects and Communications Coordinator
Through: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager and Bryan Hawkins, Port Director

Purpose: This memorandum provides the Homer Harbor Expansion Study monthly written update to Homer City Council per Resolution 23-037.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Project Development Team (PDT)

Continuing study activities:

- USACE Vertical Team Alignment on the Project Management Plan (PMP): The scope and cost components of the PMP have Pacific Ocean Division (POD) approval; POD approval of the PMP is pending review and approval of work-in-kind related to the geophysical investigation and modeling activities. Confirming the study schedule in the PMP is pending release of President's FY25 Federal Budget.
- A two-day Ecological Modeling Workshop for environmental specialists is being organized.
- Homer Small Boat Harbor Vessel Economic Survey is routing through the USACE for approval.
- Permit applications are out to proceed with geotechnical investigations.
- Preparing to conduct environmental fieldwork in summer 2024 utilizing FY23 funds. This, coupled with completion of the geotechnical survey and core sampling plan will allow the USACE to move forward with design work when study activities resume in full.

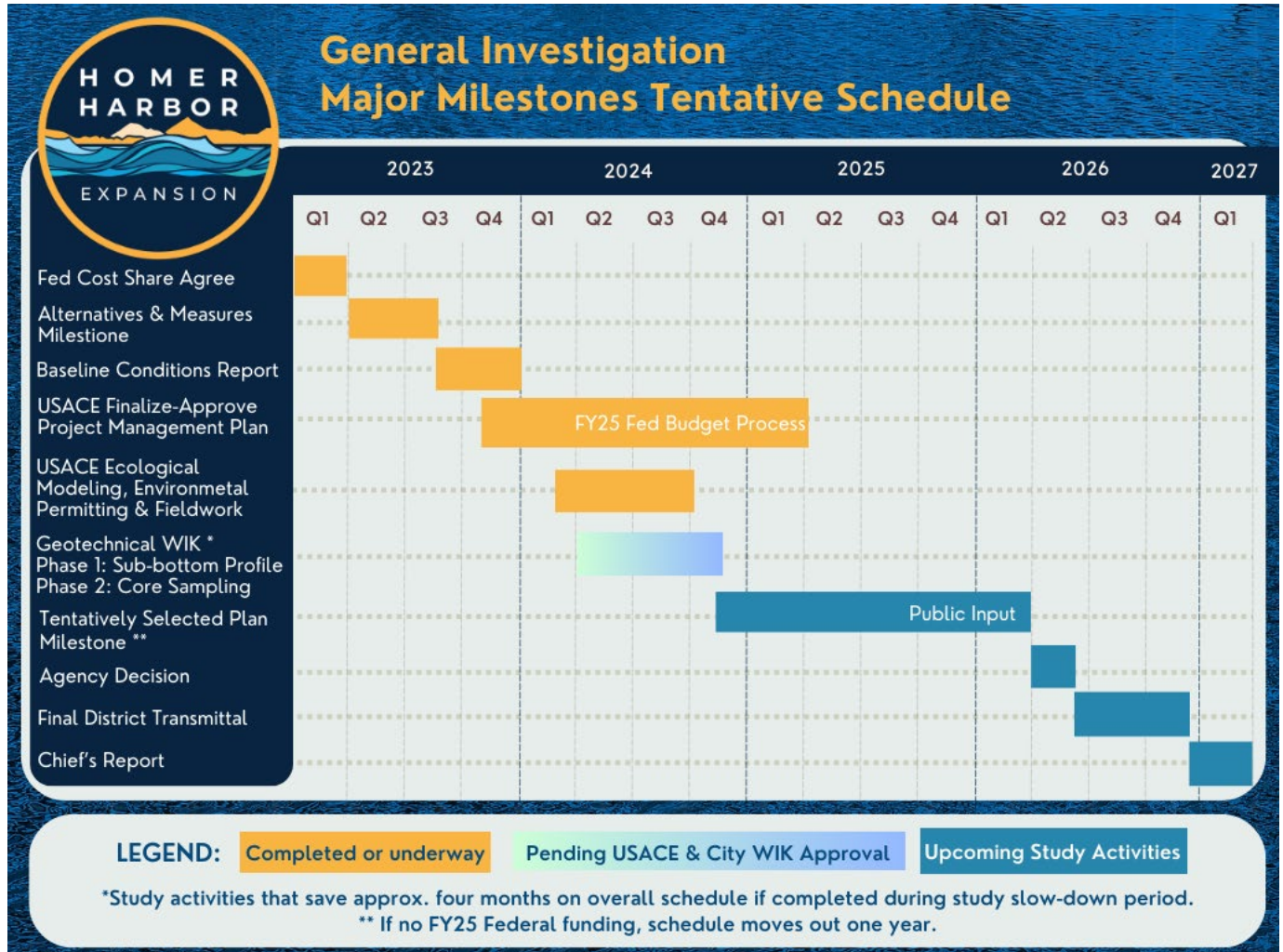
HDR – Owner Representative:

- Completed and submitted the Baseline Conditions Report for USACE PDT review.
- Presented overview of the Baseline Conditions Report to City Council at the January 22, 2024 meeting.
- Provides communications support on an as-needed basis.

City of Homer staff:

- Attended monthly USACE Project Development Team meeting and weekly meeting with HDR.
- Provided updated HHE State Legislative Request materials for advocacy in Juneau during AML's 2024 Winter Legislative Conference, February 20-22, 2024.
- Ongoing Communications/outreach: Information and updates about the study are being disseminated through the Homer Harbor Expansion website, the City's monthly newsletter, the City of Homer Facebook and Instagram pages and through HHE email subscriber list as needed.

During the HHE Quarterly Report on January 22, 2024 there was a request for a timeline of HHE General Investigation activities. A Major Milestone tentative schedule is provided below.



RECOMMENDATION:
 Informational Only.

FY23 Project Supported	TPC	Grant Fund	Grant Funds Req	Match/Local Cost	Status	Notes
Slope Stability-Erosion Mitigation Program						
Kachemak Drive Peatland Water Quality Improvement (Kahcemak Sponge)	\$4,388,791	NOAA Habitat Conservation KBNERSS led/City partner	\$ 1,188,275.00 (land acquisition)	\$ 418,000.00 (land acquisition)	Submitted Awarded 4/1/2023 Award Executed	UAA accepted award; sent sub-award agreement to City Ord 23-46 to accept sub-award introduced 6/26/23 Grant is for Kachemak Drive peatlands acquisition
Beluga Slough Stormwater Treatment System	\$ 690,000.00	Alaska Clean Water Actions	\$ 153,307.00	\$ 107,182.00	Submitted 11/9/2022 Awarded 3/1/2023 Accepted via Ord 23-16(S)	City Council approved grant agreement Ord City costs in-kind + eligible for funds from ADEC Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund
Transportation						
Transportation Planning	\$ 960,000.00	Safe Streets For All KPB Applic/City partner	\$ 960,000.00	\$ 23,000.00 (in-kind)	Award announced KPB executing grant agreement	Application approved Reso 22-063
Non-Motorized Trans Network (REACH Project)	\$ 2,050,000.00	Fed FY24 RAISE Planning Grant	\$ 2,050,000.00	\$ -	Grant deadline 2/28/24	FY23 RAISE REACH application made to Sec. of Transportation Desk; not awarded by a Merit application and encouraged to apply in FY24. Reso 24-007 approving HDR grant writing assistance Reso 24-018 Supporting FY24 application
Homer All-Ages & Abilities Pedestrian Pathway	\$ 3,900,000.00	State of AK Transportation Alternatives (TAP)	\$ 3,432,000.00	\$ 468,000.00	Submitted 2/15/2023 Advanced to final round: Public Evaluation Board (PEB) Awaiting DOT cost estimate (AK DOT&PF manages/constructs project)	HAPP sections in PW's 5-year road plan Project support Reso 23-011 approved Date of PEB Review pending Unknown award date; Perf period end date June '25 (\$500,000 set aside in HART for grant matching)
Main Street Rehab/ Sidewalk South	\$ 4,200,000.00	State of AK Community Transportation Program (CTP)	\$ 3,696,000.00	\$ 504,000.00	Submitted 2/15/2023 Advanced to final round: Public Evaluation Board (PEB) Awaiting DOT cost estimate (AK DOT&PF manages/constructs project)	Main St in 7-10 year horizon in PW Road Plan Project support Reso 23-011 approved Date of PEB Review pending Unknown award date; Perf period end date June '25 (\$500,000 set aside in HART for grant matching)
Port & Harbor						
Float Systems 4 & 1 Replacement	\$ 59,289,547.00	FY24 Fed Port Infrastructure Development Projects (PIDP)	\$47,135,190	\$ 12,154,357.00 (20.5% match)	Grant deadline 4/30/24	FY23 applic made it to Secretary's desk but was not funded Added to draft STIP as illustrative project HDR application support Ords 24-12 & 24-13 pending Revenue bond or TIFIA loan for match
		Municipal Harbor Grant			Grant for construction only must complete design to apply	If funded, leverages State match to lower City match on Federal PIDP Grant
		Denali Commission Grant			Grant deadline 4/14/24	Can be used as non-Federal Match May not be competitive - \$1M max award Could apply in '24 for Design/Engineering

Grant Activity Update 2/22/2024

FY23 Project Supported	TPC	Grant Fund	Grant Funds Req	Match/Local Cost	Status	Notes
Fish Grinding Building Replacement & Drainage Improvements	\$ 374,978.00	ADFG Dingle-Johnson	\$ 250,000.00 (preliminary)	\$ 93,744.50 (preliminary)	Submitted 7/12/2022 Preliminary award announced 7/7/2023 \$41,950 awarded for Phase 1	\$100,000 allocated in FY23 City Capital Budget; for final design and partial match; additional match to meet 25% Ordinance to accept grant for Phase 1 pending
Building Code Development	\$ 587,500.00	State BRIC Sub-Grant (Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities)	\$ 470,000.00	\$ 117,500.00 (covered by State of Alaska)	Submitted 12/21/2022 Accepted for further review Awaiting decision	Council Approved application Reso 22-086 As a sub-applic State covers local match
Parks & Recreation						
Bayview Park Renovations	\$ 139,230.00	State of AK Healthy & Equitable Community Round 2	\$ 74,919.00	\$ 52,314.00 Addl redistribution funds requested	Submitted 4/24/2023 Awarded 5/8/2023 Accepted via Ord 23-36	Council Approved Resolution 23-031 \$12,000 donation from Kach Bay Rotary Additional funds from HART approved in COH Cap budget
HERC HazMat Assessment & Remediation		EPA Multipurpose Brownfield Federal Discretionary Grant	\$1,000,000		Submitted 11/13/2023	Council Approved Resolution 23-117
Utilities - Infrastructure Resilience						
Spit Road Erosion Mitigation	\$ 1,812,052.00	Federal PROTECT Grant	\$ 1,812,052.00	-	Submitted 8/18/2023 Awaiting Decision	Application requested planning funds for Homer Spit Erosion Mitigation. City of Homer is project sponsor, but if awarded City will enter MOU with DOT to implement grant activities AML working w/ State of AK on Application
Raw Water Transmission Main		FEMA Disaster Mitigation	\$ 1,988,650.00 (direct project costs)	-	Submitted 1/30/2020 Obligating Award Document Recd 11/3/2023	4/11/23: Responded to latest FEMA request for information 5/2/23: Congressional Delegation approved award 7/11/23: FEMA Received Period of Performance Waiver 11/13 Ordinance to accept the grant approved
IT - Communications						
FY22 Cybersecurity (City-wide Cybersecurity Assessment and Remote Backup System for Cybersecurity Response & Recovery)	\$ 252,794.00	AK Division of Homeland Security FY22 State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Program	\$ 50,000.00	-	Submitted 8/31/2023 Award announced	\$50,000 awarded for Cybersecurity Assessment Ord to accept pending
FY22-23 Cybersecurity Remote BU system, others	TBD	AK Division of Homeland Security	TBD	-	3/8/2024 Grant Deadline	Staff working to develop application
Public Safety Communications (HPD Backup Repeater & Radio Equip HVFD APX-600 Radio Upgrade)	\$ 119,046.56	AK Division of Homeland Security FY23 State Homeland Security Grant Program	\$ 88,196.56	\$ -	Submitted 1/31/2023 Prelim Award Announcement 9/18/2023 Obligating Award Document Recd	11/13 Ordinance to accept approved

designates grants awarded

designates grants NOT awarded

designates updates since the 11/02/23 grant update



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Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE: March 7, 2024
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for March 11, 2024 Council Meeting

EPA Award

The City of Homer has been selected to win an award from the EPA's Drinking Water SRF AQUARIUS program. The AQUARIUS program recognizes exceptional projects funded by the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF) in six different categories which include excellence in: innovative financing, system partnerships, community engagement, environmental and public health protection, creative solutions, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. The City of Homer will receive the excellence in climate change mitigation and adaptation award for our seawall Armor Rock project. This award category is new as of this year's award cycle, and we will be the first winners. Winners will be recognized at the Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities (CIFA) Summit in Washington, DC on April 3, 2024 and the City will be providing a one-minute long video for the awards ceremony.

Homer All-Ages and Abilities Pedestrian Pathway Wins State Grant

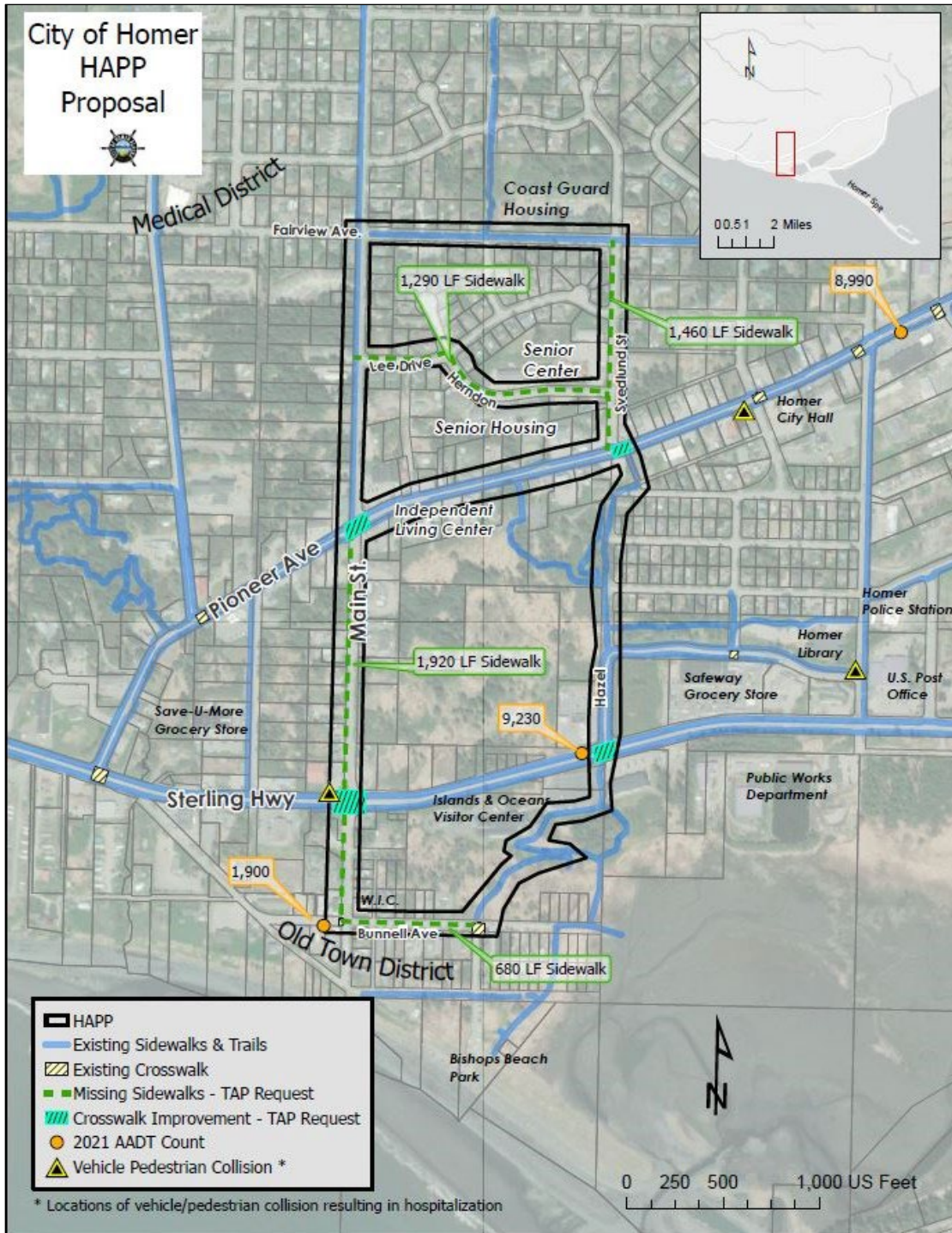
Alaska Department of Transportation recently announced that the Homer All-Ages and Abilities Pedestrian Pathway (HAPP) project was awarded Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant funds in the amount of \$3,487,500. Funding will complete design and construct 5-foot wide asphalt sidewalks (with concrete curbs and gutter, ADA-compliant curb cuts, and storm drain renovations where needed) on the following roads:

- a. Main Street South, between Pioneer Ave and Bunnell Avenue
- b. Bunnell Ave, between Main St and Beluga Place
- c. Svedlund Street, between Pioneer Ave and Fairview Ave
- d. Herndon Avenue and Lee Drive to Main Street

High visibility crosswalks were also requested for Pioneer Avenue at Svedlund, and on the Sterling Hwy at Pioneer Avenue, Main Street and Hazel Avenue.

While the funding is contingent on the Alaska STIP receiving Federal Highway Administration approval, and Council agreement to the terms required by the state in any grant agreements, we are excited about this news! The project fills significant gaps in Homer's non-motorized transportation network within the downtown core that the City and Homer citizens have long advocated for. This was truly a group effort. Thanks to the Independent Living Center staff who worked with City staff to develop the HAPP concept (combining disparate City sidewalk projects into a single project). Thanks to the many non-motorized

transportation advocates who participate in community-wide planning and write letters to support City funding applications, and to the City of Homer voters who approve the HART fund which provides valuable



matching funds for opportunities like this.

At some point, DOT&PF’s regional transportation planner will reach out to the City to initiate the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) process, which will lay out the specifics of the collaboration and coordination between DOT&PF and the City. Our understanding of the TAP program is that the State will construct the project. The City, as acknowledged in Resolution 23-013, would be required to provide a matching funds which a currently estimated to be 10.03% of the total project which equals \$387,500. The FY24/25 set aside “HART Roads Match” funds of \$500,000 in anticipation of a grant award for this project. Other City commitments will include wayfinding pedestrian signs on Main Street, Svedlund Avenue and

Pioneer Avenue, and a Neighborhood Information sign on Bunnell Avenue per the Wayfinding/Streetscape Plan. The City will also assume maintenance of the sidewalk on Main St South (not ownership).

Video Pilot Project

Deputy Clerk Zach Pettit and Assistant to the City Manager Lori Pond have been collaborating with me on a pilot project that creates short videos previewing City Council agendas and providing brief recaps after Council meetings. The goal is to engage the public with a new channel of marketing for Council meetings and activities. We've completed a few test runs in-house in an effort to dial in the templates and processes for creating these videos quickly and efficiently. We are intending to begin publishing videos publicly to the City website and social media accounts this month. We are excited to have another way to reach out to the public with information about their local government.



Mid-Biennium Budget Adjustment

In March, I will begin reviewing the budget with the leadership team to assess how the FY24 operating budget has met, or not met, expectations so far. We will work to identify potential modifications for FY25. We will likely have a few additions or adjustments for the FY24/25 capital budget as well. I expect that we will begin talking about our findings and proposed modifications with Council in April, and then aim to have a budget adjustment approved in late May or early June.

Questions about Microplastics in Water

The Public Works Department has received a few questions recently in regards to microplastics and the City of Homer's drinking water following the news article titled "[Microplastics prevalent in Kenai Peninsula waterways](#)" published in the Homer News on February 7, 2024. The City of Homer obtains its drinking water from the Bridge Creek Reservoir. The water is pumped from the reservoir to the Water Treatment Plant. The Water Treatment Plant uses a state of the art ultrafiltration membrane treatment system to produce high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds USEPA drinking water standards. The ultrafiltration membranes

are capable of removing colloidal particulate matter, bacteria, and viruses from the water prior to the water entering the drinking water distribution system where it is eventually distributed to individual households for use. The removed material is dried out and disposed of appropriately. The City is in the process of replacing the membrane filter trains at the Water Treatment Plant. Council approved a contract with Zenon Environmental Corporation for the purchase of five membranes across the next five years (Resolution 23-123, purchases of membranes two through five are contingent upon Council appropriating the funds for each unit).

Microplastics can be derived from numerous sources ranging from plastic wastes degrading in the environment to the clothing we wear. Microplastics are defined as plastic debris measuring less than 5 millimeters (or 5,000,000 nanometer) in size and can be as small as 100 nanometers. The ultrafiltration membrane used in the City's Drinking Water Treatment Plant has a porosity of 0.04 micrometers (or 40 nanometers). Microplastics are larger in size than the pore size diameter of the ultrafiltration membranes, and the microplastics are being filtered out and removed from the drinking water before the water enters the water distribution system.

Comprehensive Plan Update

Agnew:Beck will be in Homer the week of March 25th meeting with staff, Council, commissions, various stakeholders, and the general public. The Comprehensive Plan will be the subject of a joint work session with Council and the Planning Commission on March 26th, the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission meeting on March 27th, and the City and Agnew::Beck will be hosting the first public meeting on March 28th at Islands and Oceans from 6p to 8pm. The project website is now live and can be viewed at: <https://homercompplanupdate.com/>

New Pumper Tanker Design Visit

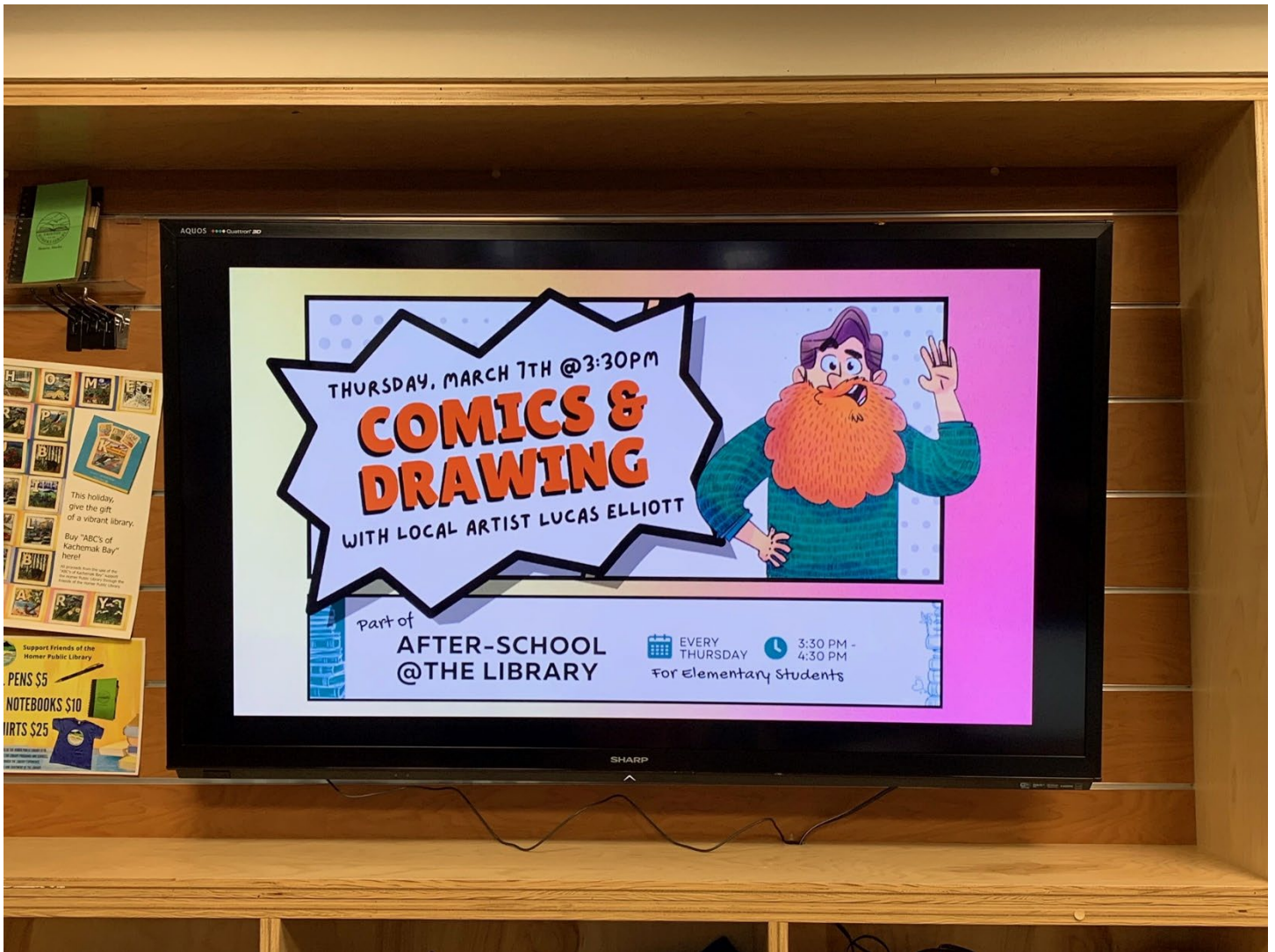
Chief Kirko will be headed to Appleton, Wisconsin to review the final drawings of the two pumper tankers being built by Piece Manufacturing. Homer and Kachemak City both ordered vehicles at the same time, and Chief Kirko is providing review for both entities as part of our fire services agreement with our neighboring city. Chief Kirko will be reviewing truck specifications and working with the engineers to ensure the build out meets the needs of our firefighters and the context of firefighting in Alaska. The new apparatus are slated to have seating capacity for six firefighters (current vehicles seat three), they will have a 2500 gallon capacity (500 gallons more than the current apparatus), and the equipment storage capacity will nearly double. The vehicles will also have stronger motors and transmissions to allow for improved hill climbing capabilities, and stronger brakes for safer descents.

How to Run for Elected Office Event

Kenai Peninsula Votes, the League of Women Voters, and the City Clerk's office are collaborating on a program for citizens who are interested in learning more about running for office. The forum will include information on qualifications to run for office, filing deadlines, and Alaska Public Office Commission (APOC) requirements related to State, Borough, and City candidacy. There will also be a panel of citizens who have held these offices to share some perspective on what it's like to hold an elected seat, time commitments involved, challenges and rewards of serving, and to answer questions from the audience. The event is scheduled for Thursday, April 4th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers. An informational flyer is being developed and should be out soon!

Library Improvements

The Building Maintenance Division hung a “new” display screen at the Library’s front desk. This was made possible by the replacement of the television in the Library’s meeting room. This screen, now that it has been redeployed to the front desk area, will be used for displaying information to the public regarding upcoming events, library hours, upcoming events, highlights of the collection, and featured services or resources like electronic databases and special equipment of which the public may not be aware.





Dear Homer City Council (Sprout Champions),

In 2023, Sprout Family Services was awarded the Homer Foundation City Grant to support programming for families with young children. Because of this funding, we were able to offer more opportunities for caregivers to build social connections, learn about child development, and positively foster their child’s growth. It is our mission at Sprout to promote the healthy development of children *in partnership* with families and *community*. The Homer Foundation City Grant is one way the Homer City Council can play an active role in this partnership. *How does the Homer Foundation City Grant positively impact the families served by Sprout?*

Playgroup Champions

Funds from the city grant were used to purchase developmentally appropriate equipment, toys, food, and safety supplies for use at Sprout sponsored playgroups. These items allow us to create safe, play environments that engage families and encourage young children to explore. Funds from the grant were also used to support increasing a caregiver’s knowledge of child development. We offer families valuable information on early childhood development through the Parents As Teachers curriculum. If a caregiver has a question about development, including topics ranging from sleep to dental health, we can give them information that is grounded in research, relationship based, and relevant to their child’s needs.

Parenting Workshop Support

Funds from the city grant were also used to purchase an annual subscription to the Conscious Discipline e-course “Building Resilient Homes & Schools.” Up to 75 individuals/families now have access to content that builds family resilience through brain-based social emotional learning. Sprout will also be able to dedicate staff time to leading workshops that focus on the skills of Conscious Discipline and how they can uniquely apply to families.

There are many ways to partner with families to ensure their children have healthy, safe, and positive starts. We are grateful for the Homer City Council and their contribution to programming that puts Sprout’s partnerships with families first. Sprout’s vision is that all children are valued and fully nurtured and give the same to the next generation. Thanks to City Council we can work on that vision together!

