



**Homer City Hall**  
491 E. Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

## City of Homer Agenda

### Economic Development Advisory Commission Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6:00 PM

City Hall Cowles Council Chambers

Webinar ID: 990 0366 1092 Password: 725933

Dial: 346-248-7799 or 669-900-6833; (Toll Free) 888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247

**CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, 6:00 P.M.**

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA** (3 Minute Time Limit)

**RECONSIDERATION**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. March 9, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes **Page 3**

**VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**

**STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS** (5 Minute Time Limit)

A. EDC Staff Report **Page 10**

B. Chamber Director Report

C. Homer Marine Trades Association Report

D. Pioneer Avenue Task Force Report

E. Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District Report – Verbal Recap of Presentation to the Chamber of Commerce

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**PENDING BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. Review of Strategic Plan & Business Recruitment & Retention Plan (BR&E) **Page 11**

i. EDC 2020-2021 Strategic Plan/Goals **Page 12**

ii. BR&E Executive Summary Excerpt **Page 15**

**INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

A. Resolution 21-026 Awarding the Contract for Development of Homer Wayfinding- Streetscape Plan **Page 19**

B. EDC Reappointment Letter & Certificate for Nicole Arevalo **Page 23**

C. City Manager’s Report for March 22, 2021 **Page 25**

D. City Manager’s Report for April 12, 2021 **Page 29**

E. EDC 2021 Calendar **Page 35**

**COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 Minute Time Limit)**

**COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**

**COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCILMEMBER (if present)**

**COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR**

**COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Next Regular Meeting is **TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** All meetings scheduled to be held via Zoom Webinar in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Session 21-03 a Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Karin Marks at 6:00 p.m. on March 9, 2021 at the Cowles Council Chambers, City Hall located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska via Zoom Webinar, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT:** COMMISSIONERS MARKS, BROWN, RICHARDSON, AREVALO, SPEAKMAN, CHEROK, JOHNSON

**STAFF:** DEPUTY CITY PLANNER ENGBRETSSEN  
DEPUTY CITY CLERK TUSSEY  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KEISER

### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Chair Marks called for a motion to approve the agenda.

BROWN/AREVALO MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

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

### **RECONSIDERATION**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. February 9, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

Chair Marks called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

BROWN/AREVALO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

### **VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**

A. Jan Keiser, Public Works Director – Quarterly Public Works Update

- i. Memo Re: Mariner Lagoon “Dredging”
- ii. Memo Re: Proposed Road Financial Plan

Chair Marks introduced visitor Jan Keiser, Public Works Director.

Ms. Keiser spoke to her written report concerning dredging of the Mariner Lagoon, the history behind it, and the upcoming work Public Works has planned to reopen the storm berm that drains into the existing lagoon. She also spoke to Public Works’ proposed road financial plan, explaining what it is they are doing with this plan and her intentions of bringing it before the Planning Commission and City Council.

Commissioner Richardson commented that one of the road issues that impact our local schools are the buses having difficulty on certain roads, causing students to be late. It may be worth it to reach out to the school principals to see which bus routes are commonly late.

Commissioner Arevalo inquired if the small amount of water into the Mariner Lagoon area is sufficient for habitat area. Ms. Keiser referenced a 2009 study done by Dames and Moore that provided the history on the lagoon, and explained how allowing some water in there attracts some birds. It’s not an all-or-nothing situation; allowing some water in there provides a balance between having some wildlife there and keeping the area cleared because of the nearby airport. She offered to provide Ms. Arevalo a copy of the plan.

In response to questions from Chair Marks, Ms. Keiser explained how roads that aren’t needed to be improved in the next five years wouldn’t be included in the plan. She also spoke to fleet replacement and Public Works’ budget spending plan in regards to roads, trails, and other projects.

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

- A. EDC Staff Report
  - i. 2013-2020 Planning & Zoning Permit Statistics

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen spoke to her written report, noting the following:

- Wayfinding-Streetscape Plan Request for Proposals is now open and being advertised; exciting to see interested proposers signing up already.
- Additional COVID-19 relief funding was approved by federal legislation; City Staff is monitoring the situation to ensure we can sign up for more funding where applicable.
- Vaccine eligibility has expanded; anyone living or working in Alaska can get the vaccine.
- Update on Planning Commission activity; gearing up for seasonal activity and building plans.
- Chamber of Commerce meeting attendance.
- Review of Planning and Zoning permit statistics.
- City Council formed a Sidewalk Trail Pedestrian Connectivity subcommittee, and if that is something relevant to the Wayfinding-Streetscape Plan efforts.

- B. Chamber Director Report

Brad Anderson provided his verbal staff report, updating the commission on the following topics:

- Chamber and HMTA have been merging efforts to support cooperative marine marketing
- Legislative report
- Promising signs of what the upcoming tourist season will be like
- Majority of Chamber events will be able to take place this year with some adjustments
- New events: Food Truck Festival; Peony Celebration
- Efforts to be more supportive to local businesses/members
- Branding Homer and upcoming concepts for logo redesign
- Chamber boat raffle tickets are now available for purchase
- Using SimpleView to redesign the Chamber's website

C. Homer Marine Trades Association Report

Chair Marks noted the HMTA minutes in the packet.

D. Pioneer Avenue Task Force Report

Chair Marks reported that the group has turned into the Peony Celebration Planning Task Force and provided an update on their work so far.

E. Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District Report

Chair Marks stated that KPEDD and CEDS updates will be addressed later in the agenda.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**PENDING BUSINESS**

A. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update

Chair Marks thanked Commissioner Arevalo, Deputy City Planner Engebretsen, and Special Projects and Communications Coordinator Carroll for all their work on getting the CEDS survey info out.

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen commented that KPEDD's draft plan will be out in April with the final plan submittal in June. She will let EDC know when there's an opportunity to comment.

Commissioners who had distributed survey flyers around town shared their experiences and what kind of in-person feedback they received while delivering flyers.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. Helping Businesses Create an Online Presence

Chair Marks introduced the item by reading the title and deferred to Commissioner Arevalo and Deputy City Planner Engebretsen.

Commissioner Arevalo reiterated her interest in working with staff to see how the EDC website can be improved to provide better business resources and a curated list of trainings/resources that other entities have already put together. Ms. Engebretsen agreed to coordinate with Ms. Arevalo after the meeting.

Chair Marks inquired on the potential of more COVID funding being available. Ms. Engebretsen responded that the City has not yet received any details on the \$1.9 trillion funding bill that was passed by the federal government, but it's reasonable to say that our Council would support using those funds to support local businesses. She asked commissioners to let her know of any ideas they have on where some of that funding can go.

Discussion ensued on utilizing those funds for projects such as assisting businesses with their online presence (workforce development website). The commission requested if staff could contact Robert Green with the Small Business Development Center and see if he'd be interested in giving a presentation to the EDC.

- B. Economic Development Budget
  - i. 2020/21 Adopted Operating Budget – Economic Development Section
  - ii. Proposed Budget Development Schedule for FY 2022 & 2023

Chair Marks introduced the item by reading the title, gave a brief explanation as to why she felt the Economic Development Budget should be on the agenda, and deferred to Deputy City Planner Engebretsen to provide further information.

Ms. Engebretsen gave a historical breakdown of the economic development budget's use, and explained the following areas:

- Disconnection between the budget and EDC given the commission doesn't have its own budget.
- Recent changes the City has made, including implementing a new fiscal year.
- The City's budget process and how the commission can make requests.
- Work currently being done by staff to create the 2022 budget.

Ms. Engebretsen's facilitated discussion and answered questions regarding the budget and her talking points. Commissioners requested to have the budget on their agenda annually for review/discussion and to encourage more EDC participation in the budgeting process.

- C. April KPEDD Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Forum

Chair Marks introduced the item by reading the title and provided an update on KPEDD's upcoming outreach efforts. Executive Director Tim Dillon will be in Homer the week of April 12<sup>th</sup> to give presentations to City Council, Kachemak City, and hold a KPEDD workshop on the CEDS and new workforce development website. The workshop will be held at the Chamber of Commerce and is a joint Chamber/KPEDD event.

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen noted that an economic development forum is not something the City can currently host due to COVID restrictions. She spoke to what the EDC could be doing to be a part of the workshop, including attending the Zoom workshop themselves and/or getting the word out to local businesses about the workshop.

Chair Marks inquired if the Zoom event could also be an EDC hosted event. Ms. Engebretsen reiterated how the City currently cannot participate in that capacity, but that can change in the future depending on if COVID restrictions are adjusted. The Chamber would be providing the materials. She noted that EDC members can sign up to attend the Zoom workshop as public members. Ms. Engebretsen and Deputy City Clerk Tussey explained the reasoning for wanting to know how many commissioners plan to attend is to ensure the City complies with Open Meeting Act regulations, and would need to advertise it if more than three members intend to be at the event.

There was discussion on having the workshop info posted to the City's website and suggestions to have KPEDD speak at the Flex school. In response to Commissioner Arevalo's suggestion to post flyers, Brad Anderson with the Chamber of Commerce agreed that they will be advertising accordingly.

D. Karen Hornaday Park Improvement Plan  
i. Concept Maps

Chair Marks introduced the item by reading the title and deferred to Public Works Director Keiser.

Ms. Keiser spoke to her memo, and the current status of implementing the Karen Hornaday Park Refurbishment Plan. She explained how the plan's B-2 concept design is still feasible, and according to a recent topography survey it can still be constructed. Public Works staff has demolished and removed the derelict bathrooms and prepared the groundwork for new construction. She explained how the funding is available from various funds, and would like EDC's support before she brings this proposal to Council.

The commission directed questions to Ms. Keiser and held discussion on the park improvement plan, noting the following:

- Location of the pedestrian train on the premises.
- There aren't exact costs yet; if the Public Works Director had to give a rough estimate it would be in the \$300,000-400,000 range.
- If this park can be a viable event venue with amenities; issues in the past with the parking and access road.
- Improvements to the park sites above the park are being planned as well to include better amenities for RV's and possible expansion to include more campsites; those improvements could bring additional revenue to Parks.
- Suggestion to check with the orthopedic office before the moving of some of the playground equipment to see if any of it should instead be replaced.
- Request to leave the campground as wooded as possible while balancing the removal of underbrush for maintenance and view reasons.

Chair Marks asked for a motion.

SPEAKMAN/CHEROK MOVED TO SUPPORT PUBLIC WORK'S PLAN FOR FUNDING THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE PARK AS SHOWN IN THE B-2 ALTERNATIVE OF THE KAREN HORNADAY MASTER PLAN, AND RECOMMEND APPROVAL BY CITY COUNCIL.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE: YES: MARKS, BROWN, RICHARDSON, AREVALO, SPEAKMAN, CHEROK, JOHNSON

Motion carried.

### **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

- A. Request for Proposals for Development of Homer Wayfinding-Streetscape Plan Packet
- B. City Manager's Report for February 22, 2021
- C. City Manager's Report for March 8, 2021
- D. EDC 2021 Calendar

### **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

#### **COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF**

Deputy City Clerk Tussey thanked Commissioners Richardson and Johnson for serving on the EDC. In response to Chair Marks asking if Commissioner Arevalo intends to serve again, Ms. Arevalo announced that she did just decide to renew and intends to submit her reappointment application soon.

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen thanked Public Works staff and Ms. Keiser for their efforts in continued improvements to Karen Hornaday Park. She also thanked Commissioners Richardson and Johnson for their service.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER**

#### **COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Marks commented that it's marvelous we're making plans, and feels the Wayfinding-Streetscape Plan will help with that. She thanked Commissioners Johnson and Richardson for all the work they did for the EDC. Chair Marks spoke to the importance of keeping quorum and encouraged commissioners to find people to serve.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Brown thanked Public Works Director Keiser, echoing Deputy City Planner Engebretsen's comments regarding the Karen Hornaday Park. She thanked Commissioners Richardson and Johnson.



Commissioner Cherok noted it was a good meeting and that it was great working with Commissioners Richardson and Johnson.

Commissioner Richardson thanked the commission and that he won't be a stranger.

Commissioner Arevalo thanked Public Works Director Keiser and all three staff members for being straight-up rock stars. She commented that Commissioners Richardson and Johnson will be missed.

Commissioner Johnson thanked the commission. He commented that as a newcomer to the community, serving on the EDC has been very helpful with understanding how the City works, and who the people are who make it work. He voiced his appreciation for all the staff for the great job.

Commissioner Speakman voiced her appreciation for City staff, and the quality of life we get from their efforts. She is excited to see the Wayfinding-Streetscape Plan and Karen Hornaday Park improvements move forward, and the increase in website traffic that's reflecting a promising summer season.

Chair Marks held brief discussion with Deputy City Clerk Tussey on the upcoming worksession time and April meeting events.

#### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Marks adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. A Worksession is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held via Zoom Webinar in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

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RACHEL TUSSEY, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

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



# City of Homer

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## Planning

491 East Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

[Planning@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:Planning@ci.homer.ak.us)

(p) 907-235-3106

(f) 907-235-3118

TO: Economic Development Advisory Commission  
FROM: Julie Engebretsen, Deputy City Planner  
DATE: April 8, 2021  
SUBJECT: April Staff Report

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**Don't forget:** Work session at 5:30; the clerks will be providing Commission training. Our regular meeting agenda will be short.

**KPEDD presentation on Tuesday April 13, 10 am via zoom!** Tim Dillon, Executive Director of KPEDD will be giving a presentation on the CEDS project and the new workforce development website. He is also speaking to the Homer City Council on Monday night, and Kachemak City Council (on Wednesday?).

<https://zoom.us/j/97386982838?pwd=WiszUnRFMi9YMVE4NjBheDJGa3pMdz09>

Join with Google Meet

[meet.google.com/wgy-ozdx-vup](https://meet.google.com/wgy-ozdx-vup)

Join by phone

(US) [+1 786-886-2215](tel:+17868862215) (PIN: 733515801)

### **April 12<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting items... Scheduled to happen:**

- Appoint Adele Person to the EDC. Welcome Adele! She is a huge walking and wayfinding champion and I'm glad to see her energy added to our group!
- Approval of a contractor for the Wayfinding and Streetscape project. I'm SUPER EXCITED!

### **PC updates:**

- The Commission continues to review and simply the Community Design Manual. I may have a complete draft for the next meeting, depending on workload.

### **Other activities:**

- Attended March chamber meeting
- I continue to be involved in planning the mass COVID-19 vaccine events.
- Met with Commissioner Arevalo on updates and improvements to the EDC website
- Attempted to schedule a speaker from the Small Business Administration. I will try for a future meeting



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## Memorandum

TO: Economic Development Advisory Commission  
FROM: Julie Engebretsen, Deputy City Planner  
DATE: April 8, 2021  
SUBJECT: Review of Strategic Plan and Business Recruitment and Retention Plan (BR&E)

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### Introduction

On a regular basis, the EDC reviews the Strategic Plan, to make sure we are making progress on our goals. Attached to this report are two documents: The most recent Strategic Plan with progress notes, and the Executive Summary of the BR&E report. (You can find the whole document on the city website; just search for it in the upper right hand search box) <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/economicdevelopment/2017-business-retention-expansion-survey-report>

We will fully update the Strategic Plan later in the year after the new KPEDD CEDS is published. (Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy). Between now and October, are we making OK progress on these tasks? Anything you'd like to focus on? Anything you'd like to take the lead on? If not, EDC meetings will focus on the Wayfinding-Streetscape project for the near future.

Requested action: Please review the attached documents. Anything from the Strategic Plan you'd like to focus spring/summer meetings on?

### Attachments

Strategic Plan (with notes)

Executive summary of the BR&E

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION  
2020-2021 STRATEGIC PLAN/GOALS**

Annually, the EDC 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.

**2020-2021 EDC GOALS**

<p><b>Ongoing Goals</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be available for short-term requests from the City for assistance- boots on the ground.</li> <li>2. Keep our ears to the ground and seek out areas of "lack." Confer with Julie about communicating with City Council and advising them on ways to overcome barriers- "the nexus of economic goals."</li> </ol>
<p><b>Near Term Goals</b> &lt; 6 Months</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Familiarize with smart growth principles and best practices, and also green infrastructure concepts. Have these in our toolbox when development decisions come our way for consideration.  <i>Commission role: Be familiar with and make comments on CIP projects</i>  <i>Staff role: Provide snapshots of these concepts, share where/how the city is doing it, and opportunities for doing more. Coordinate EDC with Planning Commission.</i>   <i>JE April Comments: PW has made a few presentations, and has been added to the EDC calendar. PW will visit with the EDC 3x a year.</i> </li> <li>2. Research any zoning recommendations to forward to Planning Commission.  <i>Commission: Review the packet, ask questions prior to the meeting</i>  <i>Staff: Bring items to the EDC, provide written information in the meeting packet</i>   <i>JE comment: Accomplished. EDC activities are now provided in a written report to the PC, and vice versa. This has been added to the Planning Department's working templates so its part of our routine.</i> </li> <li>3. Assist KPEDD in development of the Kenai Peninsula regional CEDS (public outreach, information gathering, collaborate with Chamber of Commerce, include public meeting).  <i>Commission: Bring new ideas of how to outreach to specific groups of people</i>  <i>Staff: Put together the usual outreach methods (radio/print/social media)</i>   <i>JE comment: accomplished. Info was provided on the city website and to commissions. EDC members handed out fliers.</i> </li> <li>4. Do some outreach to local businesses to see what immediate needs are (6+ months into COVID).  <i>Commission: Develop questions and ask local businesses.</i>  <i>Staff: ? add this as a report item on the agenda, quarterly?</i>   <i>JE comment: Accomplished. EDC conducted a survey. Upgrades to the ED city website are forthcoming.</i> </li> <li>5. Ask Julie every three months if there's any boots on the ground work needed by the City that our commission can assist with.</li> </ol>

	<p><b>Commission:</b> Work with other commission on relevant issues (economics related)  <b>Staff:</b> Include EDC in opportunities to work with other Commissions regarding economic goals and BR&amp;E results</p>
<p><b>Mid Term Goals</b>                  1 - 3 Years (2020 – 2023)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess jobs training needs and workforce development. Communicate to KPC.</li> <li>2. Do an analysis of City objectives, develop recommended priorities and identify specific alternatives if possible (from our bylaws and City's Comp. Plan Ch.7, items 1-6). If more public input is warranted, consider doing that. (fall 2021 at the earliest)</li> <li>3. Downtown vitalization momentum and wayfinding/streetscape plan- gain public input, offer input to RFP, etc. (Spring 2021, tentatively)  <i>JE comment: Wayfinding work to start shortly!</i></li> <li>4. EDC promotes our assistance and capacity in recovery from economic damages within our community due to global pandemic fallout.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Long Term Goals</b>                  5 Years or More (2025+)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Economic resiliency planning</li> <li>2. Multipurpose community center</li> <li>3. BR&amp;E</li> </ol>

## **OVERALL EDC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Economic Development Advisory Commission will act in an advisory capacity to the City Manager and the City Council on the overall economic development planning for the City of Homer in accordance with Homer City Code Chapter 2.76; [www.codepublishing.com/AK/Homer](http://www.codepublishing.com/AK/Homer). The EDC also assists with official City planning documents including the following:

- Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District (KPEDD) – Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (link will bring you to all KPEDD reports): <https://kpedd.org/reports>
- Homer’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): [www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/economicdevelopment/comprehensive-economic-development-strategy](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/economicdevelopment/comprehensive-economic-development-strategy)
- Business Retention and Expansion Survey Report (BR&E): <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/economicdevelopment/2017-business-retention-expansion-survey-report>
- Homer Comprehensive Plan: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/planning/comprehensive-plan>

## **DUTIES OF COMMISSION/STAFF**

### Commissioners

- Attend City Council meetings as assigned.
- Attend work sessions and training opportunities.
- Come prepared to make a motion for action at meetings, or ask staff before the meeting for more information.
- Communicate with City Council members to gain support on EDC-related projects that need sponsorship at the Council level.

### Staff (Julie Engebretsen)

- Aid the Chair in setting the agenda.
- Compile packet material from commissioners, write backup memos, and submit to Clerk.
- Provide information on items the commission needs to review annually.
- Inform the Commission of City Council actions and discussion of economic development related issues.

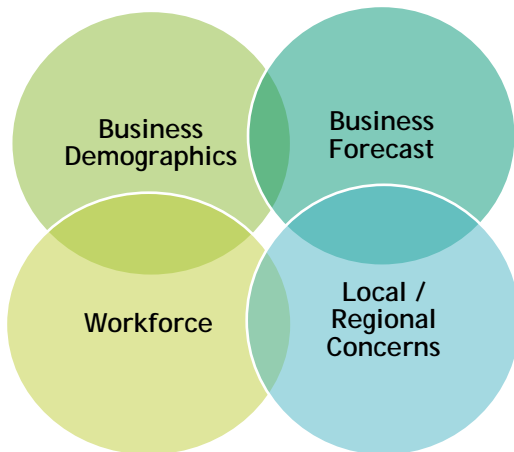
### Clerk’s Office

- Aid Staff in compiling packet materials and print/distribute them to the Commission.
- Aid Staff and Chair in setting the agenda.
- Tracking yearly items such as reappointments and elections.
- Help the Commission learn to be more efficient and effective in their meetings.
- Support the Commission’s ability to communicate with the Mayor and City Council (through Memorandums, Resolutions, and Ordinances).

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

95% of the businesses that responded to the City of Homer's Business Retention & Expansion survey are locally owned and operated, with 80.4% located within City limits. While the EDC outreached to all business-license holders, and received feedback from 14 major industry types, 43% of respondents came from within the retail, tourism and arts & entertainment sectors. Some businesses reported they work across a couple industry categories.

## Report Summarized in 4 KEY AREAS:



88% of survey respondents originally started their business in Homer. Quality of life and proximity to home were listed as the primary reasons for 54% of respondents starting or keeping their business in Homers. Homer's recreational and entertainment opportunities were named by 29% of respondents, followed by quality of schools and to be near extended family each at 11%. The majority of respondents started and continue their businesses in Homer because they are attracted here as a place to live.

Only 12% of respondents said they moved their already established business to Homer - on average 17 years ago and for many of the same reasons businesses started up in Homer, quality of life.

Of the businesses responding, 75% utilize help to operate their business, primarily employees on payroll and casual laborers. The vast majority of employers report hiring one to three full-time, part-time and/or seasonal employees.

**Overall, 65% of respondents rated Homer as either a good or excellent [place to do business](#). 91% rated Homer as either a good or excellent [place to live](#).**

Survey responses indicate increasing businesses activity overall. When asked to gauge change over the past three years, half the respondents reported increased numbers of customers and total revenues, with a quarter reporting no change and 18% reporting decreases. 40% reported an increase in profits in those three years. Businesses also reported a very slight increase overall in the number of employees in those three years.

Workforce issues emerged as a challenge for most businesses. 73% of businesses utilizing labor reported recruitment challenges, with poor work attitudes and inadequate labor skills cited most frequently. While fewer survey-takers reported retention challenges (53%), the highest ranking retention challenge matches recruitment challenge: poor work attitudes among labor force. Many of the employers responding to the survey indicated a need for a larger pool of better trained and more highly skilled local workforce and cited difficulty in finding and hiring professionals with highly specialized skills.

The EDC also wanted to hear business owner thoughts on what contributes positively to Homer's business climate, and other factors that impact local business retention and expansion. Although the BR&E survey respondents are only a small representation of the entire Homer-area business community, responses to several open-ended questions provide some insight into areas that the City and other government and business organizations might want to address as a starting place to improve business and economic development through the community.

The Commission based broad take-away themes on the assumption that the more frequently an answer came up, the more value it had to this group of respondents. Themes from these open-ended question responses are summarized on the following page. Less frequent responses and insights gained during interviews were also included in the EDC's discussions, leading to an initial list of topics the EDC proposes to begin their work to address business retention and expansion concerns.

**MOST MENTIONED IDEAS TO IMPROVE BUSINESS CLIMATE/QUALITY OF LIFE IN HOMER:**

10X	Walkable town with greenspace	•pedestrian-accessible town with trail connected business districts
7X	Town Appearance	•kept-up appearance, cleanliness and storefronts
7X	Environmental Efforts	•protect land and water resources; develop alternative energy

**MOST MENTIONED IDEAS TO MAKE IT EASIER TO EXPAND OR KEEP BUSINESS IN HOMER:**

10X	Less or Stable Taxes	•tax burden topped a longer list of costs of doing business that impact area businesses
10X	Good Labor Pool	•access to a good labor supply was mentioned as frequently as tax rates
7X	Pro-Business City Policies	•City take into account the implications of ordinances and permitting procedures for business

**MOST MENTIONED SUGGESTIONS FOR CITY OF HOMER INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES:**

7X	Keep boat/marine business in Homer	•affordable harbor; large vessel harbor & haul out; fish processing incentives
7X	Improve or Control Gov't Regulation	•better sign ordinance, building codes for safety and appearance; consistent enforcement
7X	Road quality & transportation infrastructure	•more paved roads, intersection sight lines, strategic crosswalks; paved Spit parking

## EDC Proposed Action Items

Local business concerns the EDC proposes to work on in short-term:

- ✓ Clarify specific City regulatory barriers in the areas of zoning options and the permit process, sign ordinance (particularly in regard to several businesses co-located in one building) and lease policy and procedure -- while keeping safety, town appearance and quality of life elements in the balance;
- ✓ Explore public-private partnership to create a master plan for a more vibrant, connected central commercial district with attention to appearance, trail connections, way-finding, arts, wi-fi zone, etc.
- ✓ Support efforts to develop large vessel haul-out;
- ✓ Share survey results with other organizations/government units engaged more directly in the issues as a catalyst for solutions;
- ✓ Educate ourselves and others about the actual scope of City government reach in the various challenges brought out by the survey and connect individual business owners with information about the organizations and resources available for to address concerns and for business assistance.

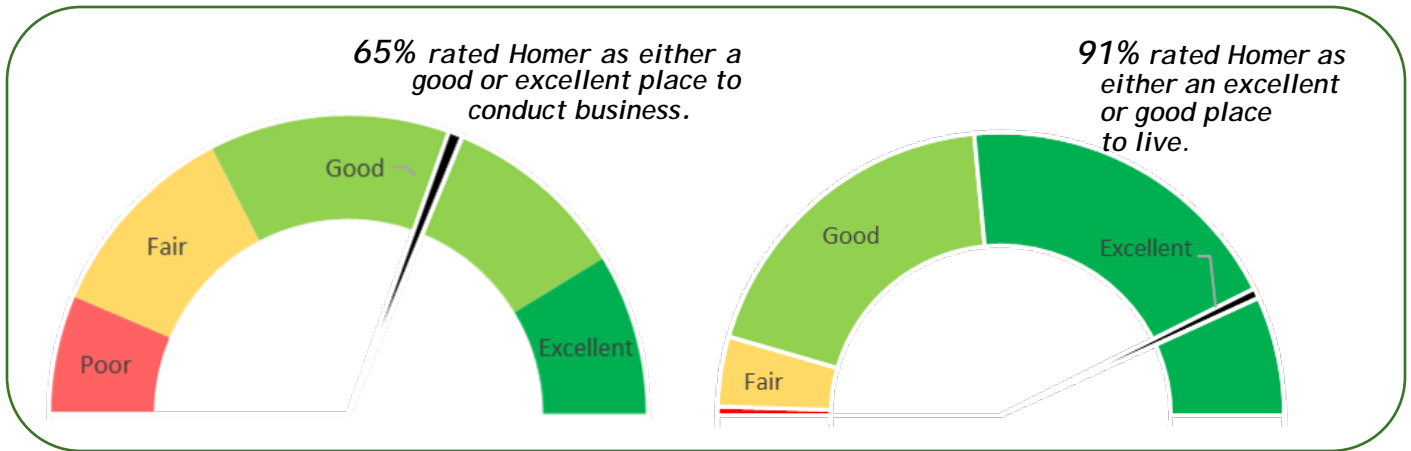
Longer-term issues that cut across many businesses and require various stakeholder involvement in both strategy development and implementation:

- ✓ Explore City participation in coordinated public-private initiatives to recruit workforce;
- ✓ Support large vessel harbor development with attention to competitive rates and multi-use Spit management.



# HIGHLIGHTS

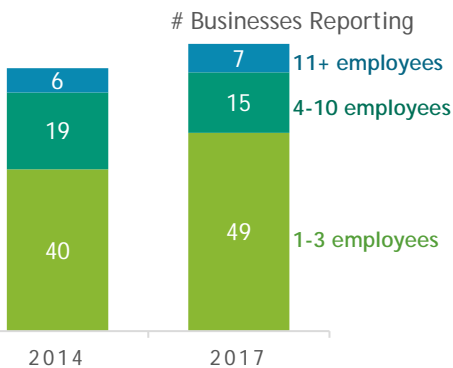
## SATISFACTION WITH HOMER



## WORKFORCE

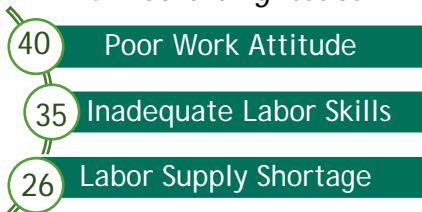
### STABLE HIRING

From the data collected, hiring has been relatively stable over last three years.



73% reported challenges with recruiting employees for positions.

### Top recruiting issues:

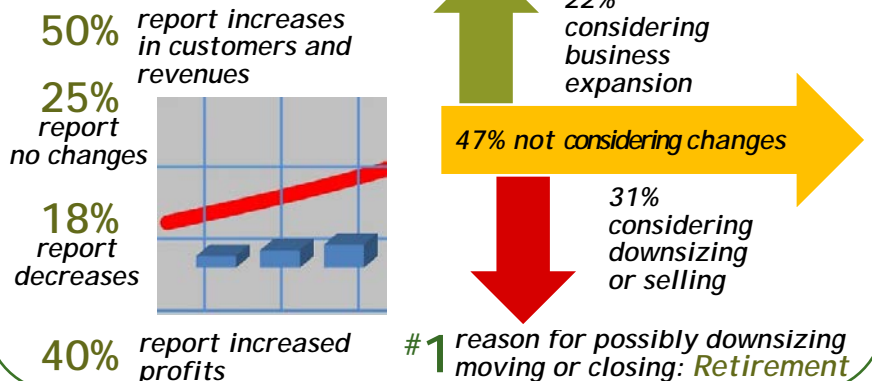


## LOCAL ISSUES - WHAT WE HEARD

1. Maintaining the quality of life elements in Homer that attract residents, especially young families as well as visitors is important to improving the business climate.
2. Keeping the cost of doing business down, including limiting tax burden, improving the quality of the local workforce and access to a skilled labor increase the odds that local businesses will succeed.
3. Local government needs to have the reputation of responding to local business needs through review of zoning, sign ordinance, and other regulations. Consistent enforcement also helps business.
4. Infrastructure to support our economy includes an affordable harbor with expanded infrastructure to support marine industry, including shipping, a large vessel haul-out and harbor. Road infrastructure and traffic planning is also important.

## BUSINESS FORECAST

### Over Past Three Years:





# City of Homer

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## Memorandum

TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

FROM: RACHEL TUSSEY, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

DATE: APRIL 7, 2021

SUBJECT: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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Per Article IV, Sec. 1 of the commission's bylaws: "A Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be elected from among the appointed commissioners at the regular April meeting of the Commission."

### **Recommended process for Election of Vice Chair:**

1. The Commission will need to determine how they would like to vote since unanimous consent is not allowed for elections; this can be done by a Voice Vote or a Show of Hands.
2. Once decided the Chair will call for nominations of Vice Chair.
3. Upon hearing no further nominations from the Commission the Chair will close the nominations.
4. Chair will then call for the vote in the manner agreed upon by the commission.
5. The Clerk will tally/note the votes for each candidate nominated. If only one candidate is nominated the candidate must accept the nomination.

### **Recommended process for Election of Chair:**

1. The Chair will conduct the vote for Chair unless it is preferred by the commission to have the gavel turned over to the newly elected Vice Chair to conduct the vote for Chair.
2. Election is conducted in the same manner as it was for the Vice Chair (see steps above).
3. The gavel/meeting will be turned over (or proceed) to the newly elected (or re-elected) Chair to conduct the remainder of the meeting.

**CITY OF HOMER  
HOMER, ALASKA**

City Clerk

**RESOLUTION 21-026**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH CORVUS DESIGN OF ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$49,000 FOR THE WAYFINDING AND STREETSCAPE PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE THE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS.

WHEREAS, The Request for Proposals was advertised in the Homer News March 4 and 11, 2021, the Anchorage Daily News March 7, 2021 and sent to two plans rooms in the state, and posted on the city website; and

WHEREAS, Proposals were due by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday March 30, 2021 p.m. and three proposals were received by the City Clerk's Office; and

WHEREAS, A committee reviewed proposals on April 7, 2021, selecting the firm of Corvus Design of Anchorage, Alaska as the most responsive fitting the requirements of the City; and

WHEREAS, This award is not final until notice is received by Corvus Design from the City of Homer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, hereby approves the contract for the Wayfinding and Streetscape project to Corvus Design of Homer, Alaska in an amount not to exceed \$49,000 and authorizes the City Manager to execute the appropriate documents.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021.

CITY OF HOMER

\_\_\_\_\_  
KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal Note: Split equally between HART Roads and HART Trails funds per Ordinance 19-54(S-2)(A-2)



# City of Homer

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## Memorandum 21-063

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND HOMER CITY COUNCIL

FROM: MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

DATE: APRIL 7, 2021

SUBJECT: AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR WAYFINDING AND STREETScape PROJECT

The request for proposals for the Wayfinding and Streetscape Project was issued February 25, 2021 in an effort to plan and design standards that will be adopted by Homer City Council and used to guide City improvements/ enhancements such as the location and design of wayfinding signage, landscaping, benches, trash receptacles, pocket parks, etc.

Proposals were submitted by PDC Engineers, Soldotna, Alaska, Corvus Design, Inc. of Anchorage, Alaska, and Graphic House, Inc. of Wausau, Wisconsin.

Submittals were evaluated and scored by a review committee that consisted of Deputy City Planner Engebretsen, Parks Maintenance Superintendent Steffy, Economic Development Commission Chair Marks and interested citizen Adele Person in accordance with the following criteria:

<b>Proposed Contract, Work Plan, and Cost</b>		
• Proposed schedule	-	<b>45 Points</b>
• Cost	15 points	
• Public and Economic Development Commission involvement plan	10 points	
• Work plan to be broken down by Tasks 1-IV. An innovative process is welcome as long as all tasks are accomplished.	20 points	
<b>Proposed Project Manager and Team Members, Qualifications and Experience</b>		
• Qualifications, experience, and training of staff to be assigned to project.	15 points	<b>40 Points</b>
• Firm's knowledge of Homer/surrounding area and understanding our community to capture the essence of what makes Homer unique in the final designs.	5 points	
• Record of past performance of Firm in similar, previous projects.	10 points	
• Provide 3 references	10 points	
<b>Quality of Submittal</b>		<b>15 Points</b>

• Conformance with RFP requirements, including compliance and timely submission of all documents requested	
<b>Total Possible Points    100 Points</b>	

Corvus Design, Inc. was found to be compliant and qualified to meet the specifications, and provide work necessary for this project.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt a Resolution awarding the contract for the Wayfinding and Streetscape Project to Corvus Design, Inc. of Anchorage, Alaska.



# City of Homer

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## Memorandum

TO: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager  
FROM: Julie Engebretsen, City Planner  
DATE: April 7, 2021  
SUBJECT: Selection of a contractor for the Wayfinding Streetscape Project

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**Recommendation:** Award the Wayfinding and Streetscape contract to Corvus Design, of Anchorage, Alaska.

### Synopsis

A Request for Proposals was issued on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Three proposals were received. A selection committee of Deputy City Planner Engebretsen, Parks Maintenance Superintendent Steffy, Economic Development Commission Chair Marks and interested citizen Adele Person met on Monday April 5<sup>th</sup>. (Additional staff and members of other commissioners were invited but were unable to participate). After reviewing the proposals and score sheets, the selection committee recommends Corvus Design of Anchorage.



# City of Homer

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## Office of the Mayor

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March 23, 2021

Nicole Arevalo  
P.O. Box 2099  
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Nicole,

Congratulations! City Council confirmed and approved your reappointment to the Economic Development Advisory Commission during their March 22, 2021 Regular Meeting via Memorandum 21-044. Your term will expire April 1, 2024.

Your 2020-2021 Public Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement is currently on file in the City Clerk's Office. In October you will be notified to complete the 2021-2022 disclosure statement. Public officials are required to comply with this reporting requirement pursuant to HCC 1.18.043.

Also included is the EDC's Orientation Packet, which provides a helpful refresher on the important guidelines for your role as a commissioner.

Thank you for your willingness to serve the City of Homer on the Economic Development Advisory Commission. There certainly are exciting times ahead!

Cordially,

Ken Castner, Mayor

Enclosed: Memorandum 21-044  
Certificate of Reappointment  
EDC Orientation Materials

Cc: Economic Development Advisory Commission

**City of Homer**  
**Homer, Alaska**  
**Mayor's Certificate of Reappointment**

**Greetings**  
**Be It Known That**

*Nicole Arevalo*

**Has Been Reappointed to Serve As**  
**“Commissioner”**

**On The**  
**“Economic Development Advisory Commission”**

*This reappointment 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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2021.*



Ken Castner, Mayor

Attest:



Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk







# City of Homer

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(f) 907-235-3148

## Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council  
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager  
DATE: March 17, 2021  
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for March 22, 2021 Council Meeting

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### **FY22/23 Budget**

The Council met for a work session on March 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Administration Department, Finance Department, and Admin Fees. There was discussion throughout which will help staff move forward with their budget preparations. The Admin Fees discussion was productive and I am aiming to include a follow up discussion on the March 31<sup>st</sup> budget work session agenda which will also include Police, Fire and an introduction to fleet issues. We'll move CARMA to budget work session #3 with Public Works and Harbor.

### **Natural Gas Line Loan is Paid Off!**

Council passed Ord 21-13 at the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting which allowed for the payoff of the Natural Gas Line loan with the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The very next day the Finance Department worked with our banking partners to pull the funds together and get a check written for the full payoff amount of \$2,511,190.83. The day after, Finance gathered the necessary signatures and deposited the check into the respective Borough bank account.

### **Harbor Bond Refunding**

The City issued its Harbor Revenue Bond in June 2013, in the principal amount of \$3,735,000. The bond was purchased by the Alaska Municipal Bond Bank. The Bond Bank began the process of refinancing local government bonds in 2020 (including the City's Harbor Bond) but was delayed because of a ruling by the Alaska Supreme Court. The Bond Bank is again moving forward with the refinancing which is expected to close in early June. If the City participates in the refinancing, approximately \$2 million par amount of the City's bond would be refinanced.

The refinancing is intended to achieve at least a 3% savings for local government. The Bond Bank provided us with a preliminary analysis of potential savings for the City. With current market rates, the City could save approximately \$185,918, which represents roughly 8.9% in savings. The range of potential market movement provided by the Bond Bank was 35 basis points. Within that range, the worst savings is said to be \$113,992 (6.7%) and the best is \$247,053. (11.8%). However, bond markets are volatile and the potential savings can change drastically depending on market movements.

Known expenses related to participating in this refinancing is the contract for bond counsel services which has been quoted to be \$15,000. The City would only occur this expense if the refinancing by the City is successful. This costs would be included in the cost of the refinancing transaction. A bond ordinance authorizing the City's participation in the transaction is expected to be introduced to Council in early April.

## Cybersecurity Update

At the very beginning of March, [Microsoft reported](#) that hackers based in China had discovered and exploited four security weaknesses in Microsoft Exchange servers, which are used for handling email. Hackers could potentially steal emails, distribute malware through the server, or introduce changes to the system that would give them greater control over its operations. On March 2, Microsoft released patches for the security holes, and all these patches were quickly applied by IT staff to the City's servers. We are not aware of any breach of security to the City's systems, although other entities may have been attacked as early as January 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Ice Plant is Open for Business

The Ice Plant closes down seasonally for maintenance, but it officially reopened for business on March 10<sup>th</sup>. There is ice in the bin to sell, the cold storage room is ready for customers to store their season's bait, and some halibut have already been landed. Burt Gregory, the Ice Plant/Fish Dock Supervisor (shown in the photo below), tells us that the plant is "running like a well-oiled sowing machine."



## Recreational Trails Program

Administration is planning to apply for a Recreational Trails Program grant to construct an ADA accessible trail in Karen Hornaday Park. The trail will run parallel and adjacent to a redesigned park entrance road and the parking configuration, and will be of similar design as the Poopdeck Platt Trail. This improvement addresses Karen Hornaday Park pedestrian safety and accessibility concerns which are prioritized in the City's Capital Improvement Plan and the ADA Transition Plan. The grant, if successful, requires a 10% local match which will be requested from the HART Trails Fund. We will bring a resolution before Council in April expressing Council support for the project and authorizing the application for the matching grant as required by the Recreational Trails Program.

## Building Data

At the March 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting and March 15<sup>th</sup> work session, I mentioned that I had Planning preparing some data regarding building trends in Homer. 2020 was a particularly strong year for new residential structures. See the attached memo from the City Planner showing the trends in permits pulled for residential and commercial buildings and additions.

## Library Fireplace Lounge Speaker Upgrade

The Friends of Homer Library (FHL) donated equipment and expertise while the City's Building Maintenance Division handled the actual installation of some new speakers and a small cabinet. The small cabinet was crafted specifically to blend in with the shelving and was built by the spouse of a FHL board member.



## Employee Updates

Congrats to Sean Perry for his promotion to Patrol Sergeant at HPD on March 8<sup>th</sup>! Sean came to HPD in 2014 as a lateral hire from the Unalaska Police Department, where he served as a Police Officer for two years. With over eight years of police experience, Sean is ready to serve the Homer community in his new role. Thanks for your hard work Sean!



## COVID-Related Updates

### COVID Risk Status

On February 1<sup>st</sup> I moved the City from the “Red” to “Orange” level on our COVID risk framework and we remain in Orange today. This reopened the HERC and the Library to use by appointment. The Harbor will be opening their lobby to walk-in visitors (with full masking and social distancing protocols) on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. At the last City Council meeting there were questions about how the changes in CDC guidelines may impact City operations. At this time, they don’t. The updated CDC guidelines for those who have received vaccines is focused on private gatherings, not conduct in public spaces. No changes are being made at this time in City facilities, but we will continue to monitor the guidelines as they evolve.

### Vaccine POD

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, the Unified Command hosted another vaccine clinic at Homer High School. I was one of about 600 individuals who received a shot that day. The teamwork between the City, the hospital, and other community partners is really great to see. The vaccine distribution is friendly and efficient.



Enclosures:

1. Recreational Trails Program draft notification and map for Karen Hornaday Park Trail/ADA project
2. Memo from City Planner Re: Trends in Permitting
3. Memo from Special Projects Coordinator re: DHSS COVID-19 Funding to Support Community Vaccine & Testing



# City of Homer

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## Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council  
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager  
DATE: April 8, 2021  
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for April 12, 2021 Council Meeting

---

### **FY22/23 Budget**

The Council met for work sessions on March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup> to continue discussing various budget topics which included the Police Department, Volunteer Fire Department, Port & Harbor Enterprise, Public Works, Admin Fees, Fleet and Reserves. The conversations have been valuable for staff as we work to produce the budget which will be introduced in the coming months. The session on the 5<sup>th</sup> is the last “off-cycle” work session we’re intending to host, but there are plans to add discussions about reporting and the fee schedule to future agendas. I started budget reviews with Directors on April 6<sup>th</sup>, about a week ahead of schedule.

### **Japan Sister City Film Video Contest**

Homer and Teshio, Japan have enjoyed a Sister City relationship since 1984. Over the years, the relationship has been nurtured by occasional delegation visits between the Cities. This year, the Anchorage Consular Office of Japan offered a Japan-Alaska Friendship Video Campaign to help strengthen sister city connections.

On their own time, Homer Parks employees Matt Steffy and Stevie Drescher co-produced “Sisters & Sea Messages” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNl4TsqLH5k>, which won second place honors from among the eleven videos submitted to the campaign. First place went to Obihiro City, Japan’s production of “Moving with Seward Towards a Brighter Future.”



This value of the Sisters & Sea Messages video (a first-time film production by two friends) has spread beyond rekindling a relationship that spans the ocean – it has led to a permanent cultural installation and a valuable technology donation to a local youth organization. The Howard’s have offered to donate the 16” glass float featured in the video for display at a City location, and the prize awarded by the Consular Office of Japan for winning top Alaska honors, an Oculus Quest 2 virtual reality system, will be donated to the Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic’s Rec Room giving youth there access to many educational, artistic, puzzle solving, and social programs available today. Congratulations to Matt and Stevie and thank you for your creative work.

### **HVFD CARES Equipment**

In 2020, Council approved use of CARES Act funds to purchase some emergency medical response equipment for the Volunteer Fire Department. The Lucas CPR machines and power load patient lift systems have been received and staff has been training on their use. The Lucas CPR machines provide consistent quality CPR for those in cardiac arrest and allows responders to perform quality CPR without exposing EMTs to the risk of COVID airborne/droplet particles. The photo below shows the power load patient lift system which allows HVFD’s responders to load a patient up to 600 pounds without additional help to lift the cot. This equipment reduces injury risk to responders and patients.



### **Kayak Rescue – A Successful Multi-Department/Agency Response**

On Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 11am a 911 emergency call went out to Police Dispatch regarding an overturned kayaker in Mud Bay, approximately two miles northwest of the Harbor. The Homer Police Department, Homer Volunteer Fire Department, Homer Port & Harbor Department, and Alaska State Parks worked together to successfully respond to the incident. Aiding dispatch was the Harbormaster who had a long distance view of the kayakers via the Harbor’s camera system. Alaska State Parks landing craft Phoresy was first on the scene and was able to locate and retrieve the distressed and hypothermic kayaker from the water. The kayaker was safety transported to the Homer Spit Marine terminal and delivered to an EMS crew who provided care and transport to the hospital. The Harbor tug, crewed by Deputy Harbormaster Matt Clarke and Harbor Officer

Ricky Borland, provided assistance to the second kayaker who was still in their kayak but unable to paddle back to shore. The Harbor tug also retrieved the kayak of the individual rescued by the Phoresy.

Luckily everyone walked away from this incident. A quick call to 911, a trained and dedicated staff, and the proper use of a PFD saved the day in this situation. I encourage the public to please ensure they understand the weather conditions and personal limits when launching any kind of motorized or non-motorized craft into the ocean. It is a wonderful recreational resource, but it is also very dangerous.

### **Vessel North Pacific Update**

In my report for the March 8<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, I provided an update on efforts to move the North Pacific and remove weight and equipment from the vessel (Council passed resolution 21-021 allowing for surplus sale of salvaged equipment). The update below provided by Harbormaster Hawkins picks up with inspections of the vessel's hull:

*We hired Vision SubSea to use their ROV to look over the hull. We were concerned that there could be damage to the hull that would damage (pop) an airbag. Unfortunately due to the growth on the hull, the ROV did not allow us to see what we needed to see and we needed a new plan.*

*Hull inspection #2 we moved the boat onto the Steel grid so that we could do an out of water inspection. You may have heard that the tide waits for no man, it also is a major cause of sleep deprivation to those who have to work them. We put her on the grid at 2pm on March 12<sup>th</sup>, met back at the boat at 8pm low water for the inspection, and then met back at the 2am high water on the 13<sup>th</sup> to take her back off the grid and once again tie up to B transit. She passed the inspection and the contractors were now comfortable with moving to the next phase.*

*Deputy Harbormaster Matt Clarke and I met with Fortune Seas owner and Ian Pitzman and his port Captain Tyson Alward on Tuesday the 30<sup>th</sup> at 0315 at the Fish Dock with the Harbor Tug and Skiff. We made the tug up to the North Pacific for what I hope is the last time and game planed on deck for moving the North Pacific to the beach landing. I would run the tug and Matt the Skiff and we had Ian on the bow of the NP with a handheld helping give distances off and directions. Book high was scheduled for 0413 and our intentions were to run the boat up onto the beach at the peak of that 22' tide. Our timing was good and we arrived off shore of the beach landing about 25 minutes ahead of the tide. Tyson and harbor officer Sean McGrorty set up range markers using their vehicle lights on shore to give us something to aim at as it was hours until daylight. At about 0410 from approximately 400 yards offshore we turned the North Pacific towards the beach landing and pushed with full power at Tyson and Sean until the vessel grounded to a full stop.*

*Matt ferried a large mooring line from the bow of the NP to the beach using the skiff where Tyson attached it to a large concrete block and securing the boat to the beach at the highest tide of the series.*

*Fast forward to April 6<sup>th</sup> and the Fortune Seas Marine crews are moving the boat up the beach using air bags. Our plan is to put her in the vacant lot across outer dock road until July when Alaska Scrap will break her down into scrap and dispose of the waste material. There are still a lot of steps in the process before we can put this one behind us, but so far so good.*





### **Special Event Code Update Project**

In my report to Council for their meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, I indicated an interest in reviewing the special event code (HCC § 19.02) as it did not seem to be a good fit for the types and scale of events held in Homer. Councilmembers Venuti and Hansen-Cavasos volunteered to join an interdepartmental team of staff members that I have assembled to investigate this issue. We were able to meet with both Councilmembers the week of April 5<sup>th</sup> and identified opportunities for improvement to a number of topics within City code which have a nexus to special events (mobile food vendors, itinerant merchants, fireworks, and parking). In the coming months, we will be bringing forward some proposals which will hopefully make Homer an easy City to work with to develop fun and safe events that can be enjoyed by both residents and visitors.

### **Now Hiring Temporary Employees for the Summer Season**

The City is currently hiring for a number of temporary positions that include gigs with the Library, Harbor, and Parks crews. Interested applicants are encouraged to visit <https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/> to learn more and apply online. We are also recruiting for full-time police officers and a part-time library technician.

## COVID-Related Updates

### COVID Risk Status

On March 30<sup>th</sup> I moved the City from the “Orange” to “Yellow” level on our COVID risk framework. This allowed the Library and the HERC to expand their availability to the public. The Library is now open for visits without an appointment, but is still maintaining restricted hours. Community Recreation programs in the HERC are being modified to allow drop-in use during certain times. For the most up to date information, I recommend checking the website: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/recreation/herc-open-activities-drop-and-reservations-available-starting-april-1>.

### Council Chambers

The Council Chambers are close to being complete. All wiring is in place and the dais is being closed up, the monitors are in place, speakers installed, old microphones have been rebuilt (we reverted to use of the old mics for now due to supply chain constraints), and usage of the Chambers hinges on the receipt and programming of a second camera unit. In the meantime, our Yellow risk status has allowed more in-person meetings for staff and we have used the space to meet. The photo below shows staff discussing identified gaps in our non-motorized transportation network.



Enclosures:

1. April Employee Anniversaries
2. Homer Police Department Annual Statistical Report for 2020
3. Homer Foundation Grant Report

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION 2021 Calendar

	AGENDA DEADLINE	MEETING	CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR REPORT*	ANNUAL TOPICS/EVENTS
<b>JANUARY</b>	Wednesday 1/5 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 1/12 6:00 p.m.	Monday 1/25 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Budget Review/Develop Requests *may not be applicable during non-budget years</li> </ul>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	Wednesday 2/2 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 2/9 6:00 p.m.	Monday 2/22 6:00 p.m.	
<b>MARCH</b>	Wednesday 3/2 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 3/9 6:00 p.m.	Monday 3/22 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clerk Reappointment Notices Sent Out</li> <li>• Update from Public Works Director</li> </ul>
<b>APRIL</b>	Wednesday 4/6 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 4/13 6:00 p.m.	Monday 4/26 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terms Expire April 1<sup>st</sup></li> <li>• Advisory Body Training Worksession</li> <li>• Election of Officers</li> <li>• Review of Strategic Plan/Goals/BR&amp;E</li> </ul>
<b>MAY</b>	Wednesday 5/4 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 5/11 6:00 p.m.	Monday 5/24 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive Plan Review</li> </ul>
<b>JUNE</b>	Wednesday 6/1 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 6/8 6:00 p.m.	Monday 6/28 6:00 p.m.	
<b>JULY</b>	Wednesday 7/6 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 7/13 6:00 p.m.	Monday 7/26 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update from Public Works Director</li> <li>• CEDS Review</li> </ul>
<b>AUGUST</b>	Wednesday 8/3 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 8/10 6:00 p.m.	Monday 8/23 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital Improvement Plan Review</li> </ul>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Wednesday 8/31 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 9/7 6:00 p.m.	Monday 9/27 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workforce Development Speaker</li> </ul>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	Wednesday 10/6 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 10/13 6:00 p.m.	Monday 10/25 6:00 p.m.	
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Wednesday 11/2 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 11/9 6:00 p.m.	Monday 11/22 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chamber's Annual Presentation to City Council *usually occurs the 1<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting in November</li> </ul>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	Wednesday 12/7 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 12/14 6:00 p.m.	Monday 1/10/22 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upcoming Year Schedule Review</li> <li>• Land Allocation Plan Review</li> </ul>

\*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.