



Agenda

Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission Regular Meeting

Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 5:30 PM

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. Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan Status Update with Peter Briggs, Corvus Design

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 Minutes for the Regular Meeting of September 21, 2023

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

- A. Parks Maintenance October Report - Chad Felice, Parks Maintenance Coordinator
- B. Public Works October Report - Jan Keiser, Public Works Director
- C. Staff Report Council Actions – October – Mike Illg, Recreation Manager
- D. Staff Report - October Recreation, Mike Illg, Recreation Manager
- E. Fall Park Walk Through Observations Report
- Mariner Park & Campground and Beach Area
 - Pier One Campground (If time allowed)

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS (15 minute time limit)

NEW BUSINESS (15-20 minute time limit)

A. 10 year Parks and Recreation Plan

Memorandum PARC-23-026 from Economic Development Manager as backup.

B. 2024 Regular Meeting Schedule

Memorandum from City Clerk as backup.

C. Annual Commission & Board Training - Scheduling a Worksession or Regular Meeting Presentation

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. 2023 PARC Annual Calendar

B. City Manager's Report for City Council Meeting on October 9, 2023

C. City of Homer October 2023 Newsletter

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

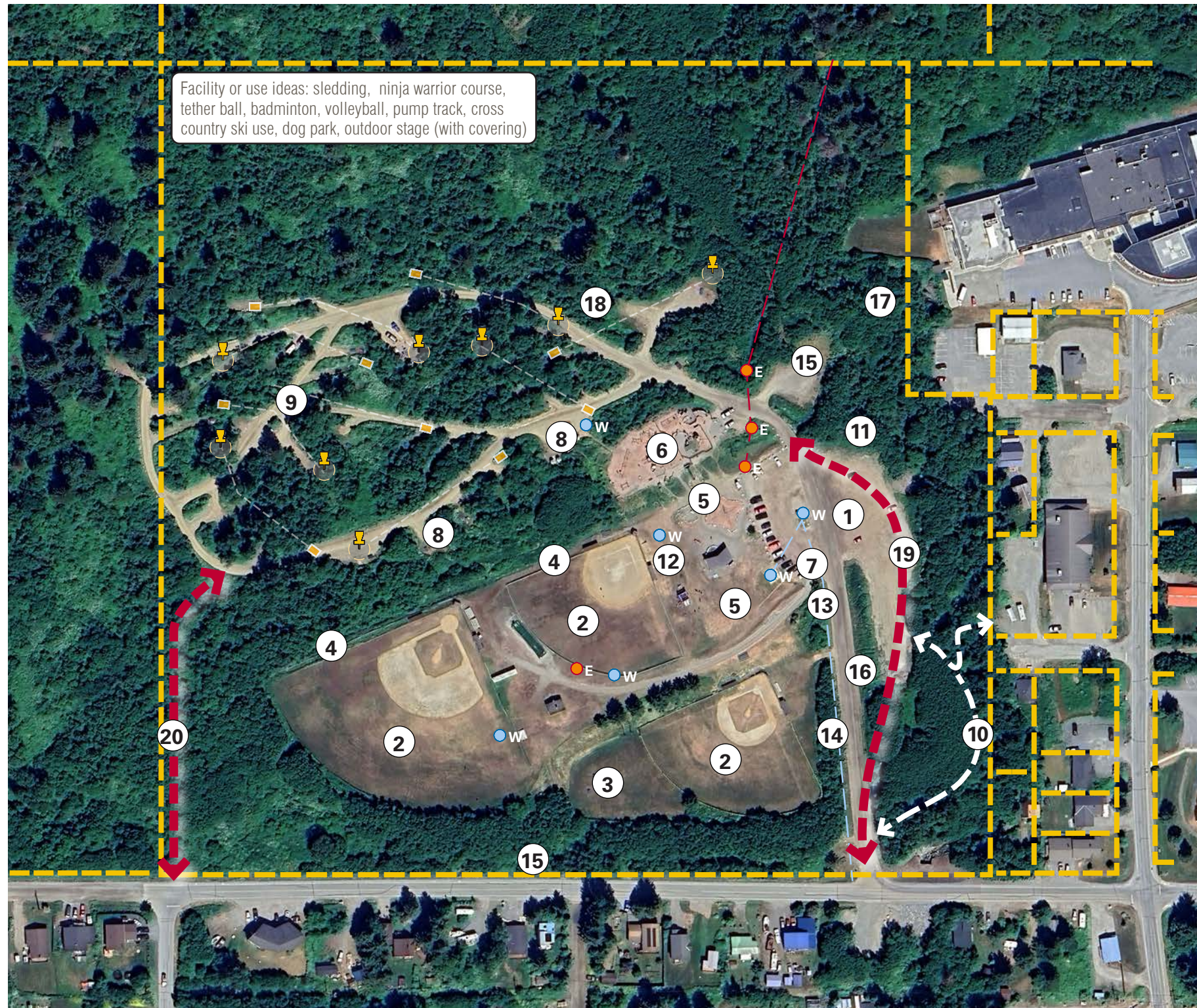
ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is Thursday, **November 16, 2023 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.

Karen Hornaday Park

CITY OF HOMER Park Forum

REV: 2023-09-14



- 1 » Review parking lot layout and access to supply +/-110 parking spaces. ADA parking for shelter and playground.
- 2 » Review slope on baseball fields and regrade as needed to provide positive drainage.
- 3 » T-Ball Field (a reminder this is here for this purpose)
- 4 » Review drainage issues north side of baseball fields.
- 5 » Review drainage issues north and south of pavilion.
- 6 » Review playground accessibility to improve accessibility to existing play structures and recommend new ADA accessible play features.
- 7 » Establish location for restroom building(s) with ADA accessible, family, and regular stalls. Quantity to be provided by City.
- 8 » Potential areas for parking.
- 9 » Renovate campground to accommodate desired uses, including leveling/expanding sites (tenting, single vehicle, camper, trailer), selective vegetation clearing, and trail connections. Mandatory operations and management plan prior to finalizing programming. Plan with beneficial off-season uses in mind.
- 10 » Existing trail connection with bridge.
- 11 » Expand trails, including potential loop(s) around campground and connect with existing trails.
- 12 » Review benefit of concession infrastructure. Whether supporting food trucks, or more permanent.
- 13 » Review existing utility connections and establish future needs for power, water, and sewer for restroom(s), campground, ballfields, and concession support. Correct issue for water valve in ballfield.
- 14 » Improve pedestrian access to the park with trail along access road and sidewalk connection on Fairview Avenue from Bartlett Street and Mullikin Street.
- 15 » Park management and user group storage facility.
- 16 » Potential overflow parking on one side of the road.
- 17 » Opportunity to collaborate with hospital for patient access to park, and potential park improvements related to their uses and needs (occupational and physical therapy, and access to greenspace and recreation)
- 18 » Disc golf use (can be seasonal)
- 19 » Review entry road configuration (to separate parking from access)
- 20 » Review feasibility for an alternative access route to existing campground area.

Existing Conditions and Summary of Desired Improvements



Note: Aerial photo, property lines, and contours are aligned approximately and shown for conceptual planning purposes only.

3

0 100 200 400FT



CALL TO ORDER

Session 23-07, a Regular Meeting of the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair David Lewis at 5:30 p.m. on September 21, 2023 from the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS FAIR, GALBRAITH, HARRALD, LEWIS, ROEDL AND
STUDENT COMMISSIONER WALKER

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER LOWNEY, ARCHIBALD (EXCUSED)

STAFF: DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Lewis read the supplemental items into the record: **REPORTS** Parks & Trail Planning Report from Associate Planner Steffy; Parks Maintenance Report from Parks Maintenance Coordinator Felice and under **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS** Open House Flyer for the Draft Transportation Plan. May I have a motion and second to approve the agenda as amended?

FAIR/HARRALD – MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

A. Homer Drawdown Presentation: Wind Chimes on Local Homer Trails

Chair Lewis invited Mr. Banks to make his presentation to the Commission.

Dale Banks and Kim McNett with Homer Drawdown introduced themselves and provided information on the group and what they do. Mr. Banks reported that over the past year Homer Drawdown has been working with Matt Steffy and performing trail improvements on the following trails: Calhoun, Karen Hornaday Park, behind the High School and Lee Street to name a few. Work done was roughing in, brush removal, gravel hauling to building small footbridges on these trails and they would like to install wind chimes constructed out of recycled bicycle parts along areas of these trails as a celebratory way to honor the many volunteers and the work that they accomplished. There will be no signage associated with the chimes, they will be hung on existing tree branches in a manner that will be non-obstructive or dangerous to persons or animals that may travel the trails and can be a temporary installation or non-permanent to last as long as they last. There is no costs or maintenance requirements from the city.

In response to questions from the Commission Mr. Banks and Ms. McNett provided the following information:

- Wind chimes will be constructed by Homer Drawdown between October 4th and installed on trails if approved, on or about October 19th
- Existing tree branches or cable strung between two trees would be used to install the wind chimes if no appropriate branches or natural structures available.
- This would be a donation to the City of Homer, but did not need to be included in the Municipal Art Collection and would be displayed as long as they lasted.
- Approximately twelve wind chimes are planned.

Commissioners expressed acceptance of the idea and that it would definitely add something to one's travel along the city trails that they were installed and it was noted that they may disappear from the trails by human means sooner than they would deteriorate from the elements.

Deputy City Clerk Krause made a point of order that this was an item under new business for further discussion by the Commission.

Chair Lewis thanked Mr. Banks and Ms. McNett for the presentation and donation and noted that the Commission will make a decision later on the agenda.

RECONSIDERATION

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Unapproved Regular Meeting Minutes for August 17, 2023

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

HARRALD/FAIR 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 Reports - Recreation Manager Illg
 - City Council Actions for August 28th and September 11, 2023
 - Community Recreation for August/September 2023
- B. Parks & Trails Planning Report – Associate Planner Steffy
 - Karen Hornaday Park and Bayview Park Master Plan Public Meetings September 12, 2023
- C. Parks Maintenance Report – Parks Maintenance Coordinator Felice
 - September Parks Maintenance Report Bishop's Beach/Beluga Slough Trail Repairs

Chair Lewis noted the Reports in the Supplemental Packet and Recreation Manager Illg's reports in the regular packet and asked if there were any questions for the staff that the Commissioners would like to ask the Clerk forward to the Staff for responses at the next meeting.

Commissioner Harrald expressed that she was still disappointed in the Bayview and Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan planning site visits could have been scheduled at a different time as she was unable to attend.

Student Commissioner Walker requested clarification on the reports that were provided.

Commissioner Harrald stated that she will meet with Ms. Walker and go over the next meeting packet with her to explain the language and terms for her.

Ms. Walker expressed her appreciation of the offer.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A. Scheduling the Fall Park or Beach Walk through Inspection and the Park or Beach Clean Up Day

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title and opened the floor for recommendations, hearing none being offered he suggested that the Commission do a Walk-through of Mariner Park since they have been hearing so much on the "new parking" and they can do a Beach Clean-up.

The Commission discussed the recommendation and also recommended that they visit Pier One campground if there was time.

Commissioner Harrald requested that it be soon so it can be done before it is snowing.

Commissioner Galbraith asked if they had to pick either the park or the beach.

Deputy City Clerk Krause noted that the Commission can select one or both as it was their decision.

Chair Lewis noted that there was already one boat pulled up in that area, anecdotally stating that there may be little time left for camping at Pier One due to installation of full time haul-out. He then commented on wanting to know who actually owned the land whether it was the Port & Harbor or if the land was under parks and recreation.

Commissioner Roedl commented that it would be a good idea since there is no camping at Karen Hornaday Park and it would be good to know what could be done to facilitate more camping at Mariner Park and Pier One.

After a few minutes of discussion the Commission agreed by consensus on meeting prior to the next meeting on October 19, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. at Mariner Park and would perform some trash cleanup at the park and beach. If time allows they will perform a quick view of Pier One camping area as well.

Chair Lewis confirmed with the Clerk that she will arrange for the city to provide trash bags and if available grabbers to pick up the trash as well.

There was a brief discussion on availability of attendance at the clean-up, noting that it was not required and that those who could not attend the scheduled walk through could visit the parks and campgrounds on their own on a separate day to be able to participate in the discussion during the regular meeting.

B. Proposal of the Placement of Wind Chimes along Local Homer Trails - Discussion and Recommendation

Chair Lewis introduced the item and deferred to Deputy City Clerk Krause.

Deputy City Clerk Krause reviewed the process of accepting the donation, confirming that since this was a temporary installation and would not be included in the Municipal Art Collection, there would be no maintenance or cataloging expenses related to the donation.

A brief discussion on the following by the commission ensued:

- how the wind chimes would be installed
- that the wind chimes were expected to last as long as the elements or human interference allowed
- tree branches would be used for hanging the wind chimes
 - o a cable could be used between two trees as well
- possible entanglement by moose

FAIR/HARRALD MOVED TO ACCEPT THE DONATION OF THE WINDCHIMES FROM HOMER DRAWDOWN AND RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE DONATION AND PLACEMENT OF 12 WINDCHIMES ON CITY TRAILS.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Student Representative Appointment - Daisy Walker
- B. Commission Annual Calendar for 2023
- C. Homer Harbor Expansion Public Meeting Flyer
- D. City Manager's Report for City Council Meetings
 - CM Report for August 28, 2023
 - CM Report for September 11, 2023
- E. Open House Flyer for the Draft Transportation Plan

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

There was no audience present or attending via Zoom.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Deputy City Clerk Krause commented that it was a great meeting, fun as always. She noted that she will absent for the next meeting, but in response to a Commissioner stated that she will be back for the November meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Student Commissioner Walker expressed her appreciation for being on the Commission.

Commissioner Galbraith welcomed Student Commissioner Walker.

Commissioner Harrauld welcomed Student Commissioner Walker, noting that the Commission has not had a student representative in quite a while. Ms. Harrauld further commented that it reminds her of the goal to allow Student Commissioner's the right to vote on decisions made by the Commission. She stated that it is a change in the bylaws.

Chair Lewis noted that they could have that item on the agenda.

Commissioner Roedl commented it was a great meeting and welcomed Student Commissioner Walker.

Commissioner Fair welcomed Student Commissioner Walker and told her not to expect short meetings in the future. He stated that they are typically done by 8:00 p.m. as they have more items on their agenda.

Chair Lewis welcomed Ms. Walker and explained that they usually have reports from Staff, that two commissioners were absent and a few more items on the agenda but that he always tries to conclude the meetings by 8:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. On Thursday, October 19, 2023 a Fall Park Walk-through and Beach Cleanup will be conducted at Mariner Park at 4:00 p.m. Then move to view Pier One Campground prior to the regular meeting if time allows. The next regular meeting is at 5:30 p.m. 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: _____



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: OCTOBER 19, 2023
SUBJECT: PARKS REVIEW FOR OCTOBER

KAREN HORNADAY PARK PLAYGROUND

- Diggers have arrived and been installed
- Painted over some vandalism from the 1st week of October
- Stained the pavilion
- Working with Public Works to clean up some drainage issues
 - Looking at ditching on the North side of the playground

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

- Story trail has been redone by East End Road Service
- Lee Drive trail has been installed by East End Road Service
- Fairview trail has been redone by East End Road Service
- Half of the Hornaday trail to the East has been redone
- Installed ADA compliant approaches to the board walk at Bishops Beach
- Received very helpful information from the Parks and Rec conference for installing new trails in wet areas

BEN WALTERS PARK

- Replaced 1 broken and 1 stolen post around the playground

JACK GIST PARK

- Working with Coach Bell on some field maintenance before winter
- Maintenance on the adult softball field
- Water and sewer stub outs should be in by the end of the month

MISC GROUNDS WORK

- Mowing contract went well and parks staff is wrapping up our mowing for the season
- Installed a peony bed at the HERC for our peony inventory
- Michelle Morton is working on putting the flower beds to bed for the winter
- Fixed some issues with the half pipes at the HERC

CITY HALL

- Installed new flower bed for peonies between City Hall and the College (this will be done before meeting)

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Working with Public Works Superintendent and building maintenance on restrooms for Hornaday Park and Jack Gist

	Year A July 2020- June 2021	Year B June 2021 - July 2022 FY22	Year C July 2022 - June 2023 FY23	Year 1 July 2023 - June 2024 FY24	Year 2 July 2024 - June 2025 FY25	Year 3 July 2025 - June 2026 FY26	Year 4 July 2026 - June 2027 FY27	Year 5 July 2027 - June 2028 FY 28	Beyond Year 5	
Pavement Restoration Projects										LEGEND
Bay Ave, B St & E St - Design		\$ 69,925								Shows years prior to current 5-year cycle.
Island View Court off Town Heights - Design			\$ 69,320							Projects in Green are Funded.
Heath Street - Design			\$ 140,472							Projects in Orange are complete or in progress.
Ohlson & W. Bunnell -Design - Road, storm drain & sidewalk			\$ 55,518							Shows needs projected beyond Year 5
Ohlson & W. Bunnell - Construction - Road, sidewalk & storm drain				\$ 1,300,000						
Heath Street, partial street - construction									\$ 1,300,000	
Bay Ave, B St & E St - Construction									\$ 850,000	
Island View Court off Town Heights - Design		\$ 69,320								
Island View Court off Town Heights - Construction									\$ 650,000	
Other Pavement Restoration Projects									\$ 2,000,000	
Total Pavement Restoration Projects		\$ 139,245.00	\$ 265,310	\$ 1,300,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,800,000	
Total Road Base Reconstruction Projects	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	
Dig out Frost Boil Projects										
Eagle View Drive - Diamond Willow to Garden Park		\$ 47,155								
Sprucewood - near west entrance by Roger's Loop		\$ 7,048								
Eagle Place		\$ 94,597								
Sprucewood - 2200- 2240			\$ 80,614							
Crossman Ridge Road - Skyline to Gate			\$ 150,000							
Garden Park Road - at 1630										
Emerald Place - 135 LF										
Bay Vista Pl. and Bay Vista Court										
Fireweed Lane										
Fireweed Avenue										
Total Dig Frost Boil Projects	\$ -	\$ 148,800	\$ 230,614	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200,000	

Add Gravel Projects										
Dehel Ave (Done as part of Main St Sidewalk)		\$ 10,000								
Tasmania Court (Done as part of water & sewer projects)		\$ 25,000								
Total Add Gravel Projects	\$ -	\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	
Sidewalk & Projects										
Main Street Sidewalk - design	\$ 110,700									
Main Street Sidewalk - construction		\$ 1,206,000								
W. Fairview Extension			\$ 110,000							
Lane Dividers for W. Fairview Extension				\$ 6,000						
Ben Walters Way Sidewalk - design			\$ 46,195							
Ben Walters Way Sidewalk - construction				\$ 1,700,000						
Svedlund Ave Sidewalk - design				\$ 56,339						
Svedlund Sidewalk - construction					\$ 607,000					
ADA Upgrades to existing sidewalks					\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 500,000	
Kachemak Way Sidewalk - design								\$ 75,000		
Kachemak Way Sidewalk - Construction									\$ 1,800,000	
Lower Main Street Sidewalk - design									\$ 100,000	
Lower Main Street Sidewalk - construction									\$ 2,100,000	
Total Sidewalk Projects	\$ 110,700	\$ 1,206,000	\$ 156,195	\$ 1,762,339	\$ 707,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 4,500,000	
Storm Water Projects										
Small Works Drainage program	\$ 110,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000							
Horizon Court Landslide Repair	\$ 20,000									
Woodard Creek Culvert - design & construction	\$ 463,353									
Update to Drainage Master Plan	\$ 90,000									
Mt. Augustine Drainage Improvements - design	\$ 13,639	\$ 23,852								
Mt. Augustine Drainage Improvements - construction				\$ 155,509						
Iris Court design			\$ 6,000							
Iris Court construction					\$ 234,000					
Drainage Management Plan update			\$ 7,000							
On-call Kachemak Bay Conservation Society			\$ 25,000							

Green Infrastructure Research			\$ 15,892							
Kachemak Sponge Property acquisition - not eligible for NOAA grant					\$ 418,100					
Kachemak Sponge property appraisals			\$ 53,600							
Kachemak Sponge - construction of storm water works - SRF Loan Payment							\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 2,000,000	
Beluga Slough Green Storm Water Project				\$ 125,900						
Hansen Avenue Sponge					\$ 300,000					
Bidarki Creek Green Stormwater System Design						\$ 75,000				
Bidarki Creek Green Stormwater System Construction - SRF Loan Payment								\$ 125,000	\$ 1,500,000	
Other storm drain improvements									\$ 3,000,000	
Total Storm Water Projects	\$ 696,992	\$ 48,852	\$ 157,492	\$ 281,409	\$ 952,100	\$ 75,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 6,500,000	
Other Road-related Projects										
Update to Design Criteria Manual - Road Share		\$ 15,000								
Road share of Ocean Drive SAD	\$ 52,606									
On-call Homer Soil & Water Conservation District		\$ 20,000								
CMMS - Road Share		\$ 23,333								
Snow Storage		\$ 20,000								
Design Criteria Manual - road share		\$ 4,145								
Transportation Plan			\$ 185,367							
Kachemak Way/Klondike Ave ROW Vacation				\$ 4,500						
PW Mechanics' Shop Design					\$ 50,000					
PW Mechanics' Shop Construction									\$ 15,000,000	
Fuel Island Replacement - Design					\$ 10,000					
Fuel Island Replacement - Construction						\$ 150,000				
Total Other Road-related Projects	\$ 52,606	\$ 82,478	\$ 185,367	\$ 4,500	\$ 60,000	\$ 150,000	0	0	\$ 15,000,000	

TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS (Per Ord 17-40(A) - minimum \$500K/year to be allocated to capital projects from HART Roads)	\$ 860,298	\$ 1,660,375	\$ 994,978	\$ 3,348,248	\$ 1,719,100	\$ 325,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 425,000	\$ 34,000,000	
FLEET REPLACEMENTS	\$ 416,000	\$ 609,999	\$ 31,666	\$ 51,667	\$ 655,000	\$ 115,000			\$ 770,000	
EST. TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND FOR OPERATIONS (Covers Winter Roads, Gravel Roads & Paved Roads in PW Operating Fund)	\$ 800,000	\$ 818,364	\$ 866,100	\$ 1,169,889	\$ 1,175,000	\$ 1,180,000	\$ 1,185,000	\$ 1,190,000		
TOTAL EXPEDITURES FROM HART FUND	\$ 2,076,298	\$ 3,088,738	\$ 1,892,744	\$ 4,569,804	\$ 2,894,100	\$ 1,505,000	\$ 1,410,000	\$ 1,615,000		
ESTIMATED REVENUES	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,322,458	\$ 1,833,687	\$ 1,900,555	\$ 1,900,000	\$ 1,900,000	\$ 1,900,000	\$ 1,910,000		
BALANCE	\$ 6,746,078		\$ 5,608,791	\$ 2,939,542	\$ 1,945,442	\$ 2,340,442	\$ 2,830,442	\$ 3,125,442		

	Year A July 2022 - June 2023 FY23	Year 1 - July 2023 - June 2024 FY24	Year 2 July 2024 - June 2025 FY25	Year 3 July 2025 - June 2026 FY26	Year 4 July 2026 - June 2027 FY27	Year 5 July 2027 - June 2028 FY 28	
Miscellaneous							LEGEND
Wayfinding & Streetscape		\$ 50,000					Shows years prior to current 5-year cycle.
Total Miscellaneous Projects		\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Projects are Funded.
							Projects are complete or in progress.
Trail Maintenance Projects							
Library Trail, Storybook		\$ 25,000					
Library Trail, West Lot			\$ 33,000				
Powered Wheel barrow		\$ 4,000					
Side-by-Side attachments		\$ 10,000					
Pest Management on Trails		\$ 20,000					
Total Trail Maintenance Projects		\$ 59,000	\$ 33,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
New Trail Building projects							
Lee Avenue Trail		\$ 20,000					
E. Fairview Avenue Trail		\$ 30,000					
Beauregard Court Trail		\$ 10,000					
Trailhead Improvements		\$ 12,000					
Tajen Trail		10,000					
Bayview Park Renovation -accessibility		\$ 20,314					
West Hill Road Connection Design	\$ 22,000						
West Hill Road Connection Construction			\$ 100,000				
Elevated Trail at Beluga Slough			\$ 325,000				
Total New Trail Building Projects	\$ 22,000	\$ 102,314	\$ 425,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS	\$ 22,000	\$ 211,314	\$ 458,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
FLEET REPLACEMENTS		\$ 150,000					
EST. TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND							
(Supposed to cover Trails Maintenance in PW Operating Fund per Ord 17-40(A))		\$ 105,993	\$ 106,000	\$ 107,000	\$ 108,000	\$ 109,000	
TOTAL EXPEDITURES FROM HART FUND		\$ 467,307	\$ 564,000	\$ 107,000	\$ 108,000	\$ 109,000	

ESTIMATED REVENUES		\$ 194,526	\$ 202,307	\$ 210,000	\$ 217,000	\$ 224,088	
BALANCE	\$ 1,072,071	\$ 799,290	\$ 437,597	\$ 540,597	\$ 649,597	\$ 764,685	

Svedlund Street Sidewalk

DRAFT DESIGN STUDY MEMORANDUM

COH Task Order No. 23-05

Prepared For:

City of Homer

Public Works Department

Prepared By:



October 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	EXISTING CONDITIONS	3
2.1	As-built Research	3
2.2	Geometry	3
2.3	Right of Way	5
2.4	Utilities	5
2.5	Drainage	5
2.6	Geotechnical	6
2.7	Pedestrian Facilities and Circulation.....	6
3	DESIGN STANDARDS & CRITERIA	8
4	PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS	8
4.1	Paved Sidewalk	8
5	CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATE	10
APPENDIX A: Concept Design.....		11
APPENDIX B: Construction Cost Estimates.....		12

1 INTRODUCTION

The City of Homer (COH) is planning to construct a sidewalk on one side of Svedlund Street, from Pioneer Avenue to Fairview Avenue (approximately 1,100 feet). Additional details of the project are:

- The sidewalk should attach to the vehicular traveled way so that the proposed work may be cost effectively built on the existing roadway embankment to minimize drainage, utility, and right of way (ROW) impacts.
- This Design Study Memorandum will determine upon which side of the street the sidewalk should be built. Factors to consider will include ROW, utilities, and drainage, as well as pedestrian travel patterns.

The goal is to design the facility in year 2023 with construction following in year 2024. This improvement will provide immediate benefits for pedestrian users by providing access to surrounding commercial and residential facilities. Of particular importance, a portion of the pedestrians currently traveling along Svedlund Street include persons over 65 years of age and those with mobility impairments.

Kinney Engineering (KE) has thoroughly reviewed this project and we have prepared the following design information to highlight important project considerations. This report is a Design Study Memorandum, presenting the selection of a preferred design alternative for the project. The Proposed Improvements section describes the preferred design alternative for this project.

Svedlund Street is located in the heart of Homer's residential area (see Figure 1). It is a commonly used link for both motorists and pedestrians traveling from a residence or the Homer Senior Citizens Center and associated properties to the commercial area businesses along Pioneer Avenue. The 2005 Homer Area Transportation Plan classifies Svedlund Street as a local street and the speed limit is posted at 25 miles per hour (MPH). Svedlund Street is owned and maintained by the COH.

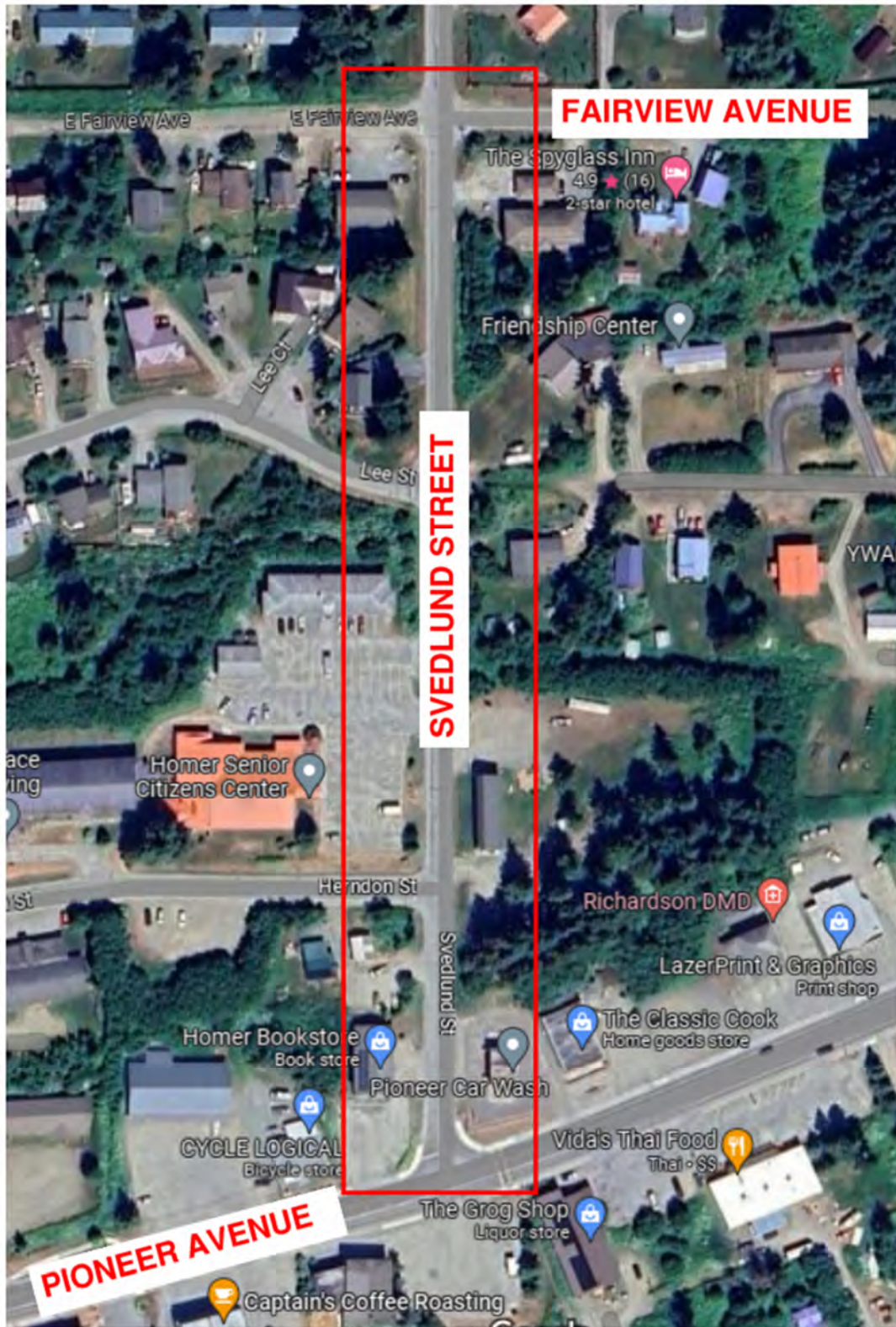


Figure 1: Project Vicinity Map

2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

Svedlund Street is a public city roadway located in Homer, Alaska.

2.1 As-built Research

As-built drawings for the project area were collected to provide background information on the existing conditions. The as-builts show that Svedlund Street was formerly constructed as a gravel road along with water and sewer improvements in 1980. The roadway was then regraded and paved in 1996. At this time a piped storm drain system with field inlets was also constructed under the west side ditch.

2.2 Geometry

Svedlund Street is a two lane, two-way rural road section with 11-foot paved travel lanes to the edge of pavement and 2-foot gravel shoulders beyond. Outside the shoulders is an approximately 3-foot-deep V-shaped ditch with 2:1 slopes up to the right-of-way (ROW) on both sides. The roadway surface is crowned at 2%. Profile grades generally follow the existing terrain and are quite steep with slopes up to 8.6%. See Figure 2.

Driveways on both sides of Svedlund Street are paved and of varying width and grades. As-builts show they are designed with an 18-inch culvert to carry drainage under them and along the ditches on both sides.

All side street approaches are stop controlled with signage and striping installed. The intersection with Pioneer Avenue is stop controlled on Svedlund Street with signage and striping installed (see Figure 3).



Figure 2: Svedlund Street (west side, looking north)



Figure 3: Svedlund St (east side looking south to Pioneer Avenue)

2.3 Right of Way

Svedlund Street is centered in a 60-foot ROW and is owned and maintained by the COH. Pioneer Avenue is a State of Alaska roadway. Work within this State ROW will require an approach permit from the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF).

We have reviewed ROW maps and adjacent property plats and there appears to be adequate space for a new 6-foot sidewalk and the associated improvements on the west side of Svedlund Street without any property acquisition or construction easements.

2.4 Utilities

Utilities in the project area include water, sewer, gas, electrical, communication, and storm drain.

The east side of Svedlund Street contains several utilities within the shoulder/ditching area including gas, fiber optic, and a water main. There are also overhead electric and communication utility poles with underground connections on the east side. As such, an east-side path may require relocation of gas, communication, or electric utility facilities which would be time consuming and costly to the project.

A west-side path would have fewer utility impacts. Impacts to water and sewer utilities would be minimal and would include minor adjustments to manholes and valve boxes. All gas distributions systems can be protected in place and would not require relocation or adjustment with a west side sidewalk location. The electrical and communication systems could be protected in place. The storm drain system would require the adjustment of existing field inlets, as well as connection of new pipes and replacement of driveway culverts. As such, there would be no need to acquire additional right-of-way for any of the above proposed utility conflict resolutions for a west-side path.

2.5 Drainage

There are no known issues in the project area related to the open ditch or piped storm drain drainage systems. The Svedlund Street as-builts provide insight into the possible drainage impacts of constructing the new sidewalk. There is an existing 24-inch metal storm drain main pipe for the entire length of Svedlund Street. It runs in the middle of the street between Fairview Avenue and Lee Street and then is aligned on the west side ditch for the bottom two-thirds of the street length.

This location of the existing storm drain piping lends itself to more easily constructing a west side sidewalk and tying new drainage inlet structures into the existing storm drain system with minimal roadway trenching for lead-in pipes. Based on visual observation, the gravel shoulder widths appear to have been constructed slightly wider and drainage ditching

foreslopes/backslopes are less severe on the west side of the street. This creates a bit more room to widen the embankment and reshape the ditches on the west side of Svedlund Street.

2.6 Geotechnical

A geotechnical investigation has not been conducted for support of this project. Historical soil information from the as-builts was reviewed to supplement the proposed improvements.

The soils around Homer have regularly been found to contain a thick layer of peat. The Svedlund Street embankment is built on a geogrid, filter fabric, 2-foot layer of Type II backfill, 6-inch layer of Type III backfill, 2-inch layer of leveling course, and 2-inches of asphalt concrete pavement. The ditches are topsoiled and seeded and/or lined with rock. The driveways are built on a 1-foot layer of Type III backfill, 2-inch layer of leveling course, and 2-inches of asphalt concrete pavement. The storm drain pipes are bedded in Class C material and backfilled with native materials.

2.7 Pedestrian Facilities and Circulation

Existing pedestrian facilities in the project area include sidewalks along Pioneer Avenue and informal trails along Fairview Avenue and the intersection connecting Lee Street to Lee Drive. There is a marked crosswalk that goes across Pioneer Avenue at Svedlund Street (on the east leg). See Figure 4. There are no dedicated pedestrian facilities along Svedlund Street. As such, pedestrians travel in the roadway. On a recent site visit, an elderly person using a walker was observed traveling south in the roadway to reach the sidewalk connections on Pioneer Avenue.

Pedestrian demand for travel along Svedlund Street comes from the Homer Senior Citizens Center and other similar properties on the west side, as well as the surrounding residential neighborhoods. Due to the presence of the Senior Center, many of the pedestrians are 65 years or older and have mobility challenges.

The new sidewalk facility will need to conform to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. This will be challenging due to the 8% and higher street grades and require careful design attention.

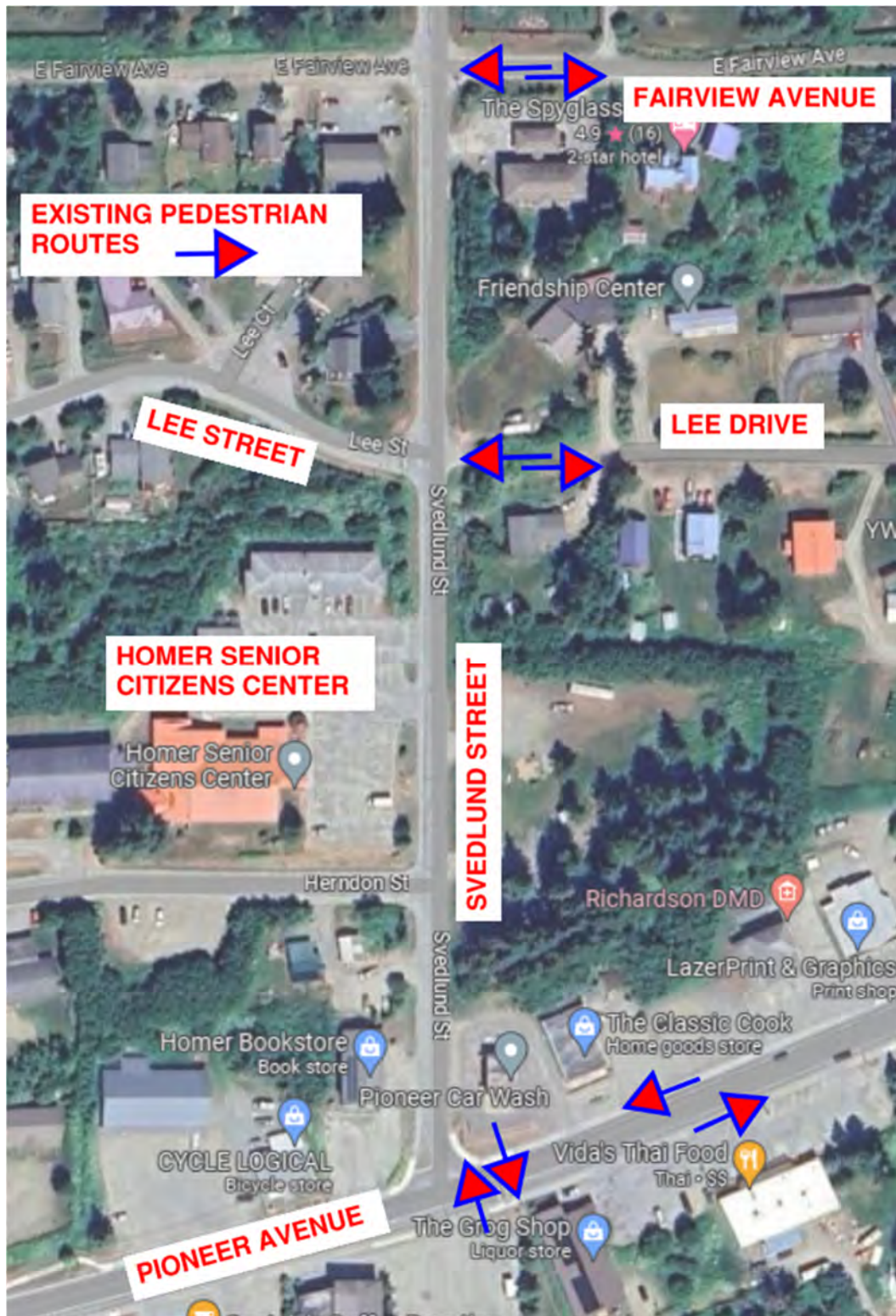


Figure 4: Existing Pedestrian Circulation

3 DESIGN STANDARDS & CRITERIA

Sidewalk width, pavement, earthwork materials, curb and gutter, storm drain, driveways, striping, and signing will all comply with local COH and Alaska or Federal design standards, as applicable. Standards and design guidelines that may be utilized include:

- U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) publication, *2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Devices*, with Revision Numbers 1 and 2 Incorporated, dated May 2012
- U.S. Department of Justice, *2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design*, September 15, 2010.
- U.S. Access Board, Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way, Federal Register 36 CFR Part 1190 on July 26, 2011.
- AASHTO publication, A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Street, 2011
- Alaska Traffic Manual
- City of Homer Design Criteria Manual
- City of Homer Standard Construction Specifications

4 PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed improvements are summarized below. A concept design and cost estimates are provided under Appendix A and B.

4.1 Paved Sidewalk

Approximately 1,100 feet of new sidewalk should be constructed on the west side of Svedlund Street and attached to a new concrete curb and gutter section that matches the existing roadway paved surface. This strategy minimizes impacts and allows a ditch to be formed outside of the sidewalk to reestablish current drainage patterns for the runoff outside of the street ROW. The sidewalk surface will be asphalt-concrete pavement with a desirable width of 6 feet, though that can be reduced to 5 feet to minimize impacts and costs. Figure 5 below depicts a similar design recently constructed along Main Street in Homer.



Figure 5: Main Street Sidewalk (west side looking south)

Construction of curb and gutter will require design of several new storm drain inlet structures to intercept gutter flows resulting from roadway drainage. These can be tied into the existing storm drain main pipe or structures at appropriate locations with lead-in pipes tapping into an existing manhole on the west side of Svedlund Street.

At the three west side street approaches, there will be designed ADA-compliant curb ramps with detectable warnings. New striping will be placed on the Svedlund Street shoulder and side streets, and new signing installed to replace damaged and outdated street signs. Curb cuts will be designed at the existing driveways.

If present, utility access boxes, posts, and cabinets will be worked around or adjusted as necessary, along with manhole frame and cone adjustments as needed. We may also consider designing a curb ramp, crosswalk striping, and signing for a mid-block pedestrian crossing to accommodate user demand from the trail on the east side of Svedlund Street at Lee Street.

The new sidewalk typical section materials and thicknesses should match that of the existing Svedlund Street for both long term stability and consistency across the improved and widened embankment. This means the new sidewalk should consist of a 2.5-foot layer of Type III backfill, 2-inch layer of leveling course, and 2-inches of asphalt concrete pavement.

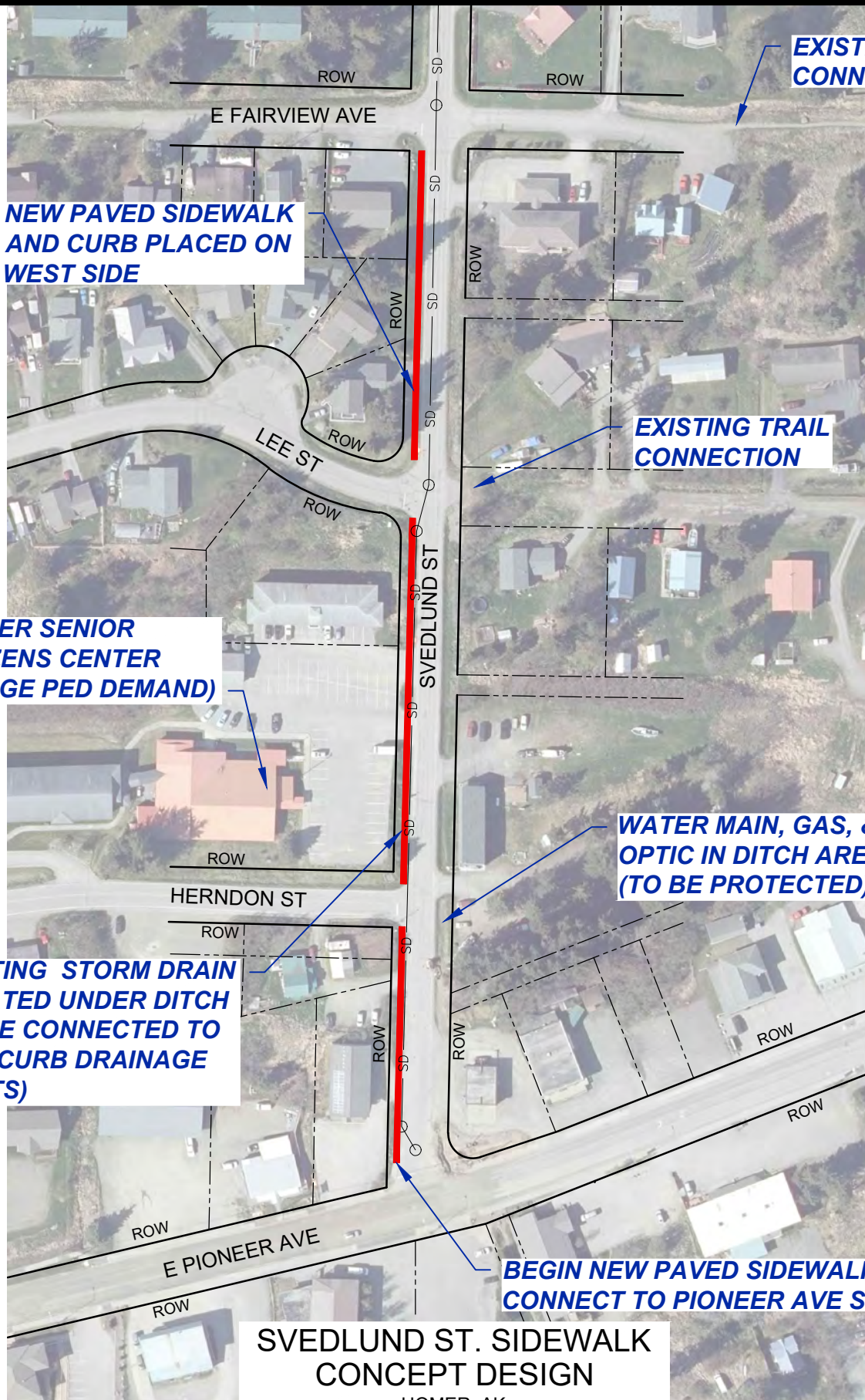
Improvements can be built with a pavement cut in the middle of the adjacent travel lane to minimize traffic impacts and construction costs. The goal of this proposed design is to minimize both design and construction costs for the City and limit change orders or design revisions during the construction phase.

5 CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATE

An engineer's estimate of probable construction costs was generated by applying average unit construction costs to the proposed improvements. Since the design survey and full design have not yet been accomplished, the estimated costs should not be used for final funding allocation purposes. The estimated construction costs are shown in the below table. Detailed cost estimate spreadsheets are included in Appendix B.

SCHEDULE		AMOUNT
SCHEDULE A: Sidewalk Improvements		\$ 506,620
Total Amount		\$ 506,620
	20% Contingency	\$ 101,324
	Total Amount w/ Contingency	\$ 607,944

APPENDIX A: Concept Design



**SVEDLUND ST. SIDEWALK
CONCEPT DESIGN**

HOMER, AK

APPENDIX B: Construction Cost Estimates

CITY OF HOMER

**Svedlund Street Sidewalk
Concept Design Engineers Estimate**

Date Modified: September 29, 2023
Date Printed: September 29, 2023

ESTIMATE OF QUANTITIES

ITEM NO.	SPEC. NO.	WORK DESCRIPTION	UNIT	ESTIMATED QUANTITY	UNIT BID PRICE	TOTAL BID PRICE
A-1	101	MOBILIZATION AND DEMOBILIZATION	LS	1	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
A-2	102	CONSTRUCTION SURVEYING	LS	1	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
A-3	103	TRAFFIC MAINTENANCE	LS	1	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
A-4	202	CLEARING AND GRUBBING	LS	1	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
A-5	203	REMOVAL OF OBSTRUCTIONS	LS	1	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
A-6	204	EXCAVATION	CY	1,078	\$ 15.00	\$ 16,170.00
A-7	205	TYPE III FILL AND BACKFILL	TON	2,178	\$ 35.00	\$ 76,230.00
A-8	206	LEVELING COURSE	TON	189	\$ 50.00	\$ 9,450.00
A-10	219	REMOVE EXISTING PAVEMENT	SY	750	\$ 8.00	\$ 6,000.00
A-11	221	RECONSTRUCT APPROACH	EA	3	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 13,500.00
A-12	221	RECONSTRUCT DRIVEWAY	EA	5	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
A-13	302	CURB AND GUTTER, ALL TYPES	LF	1,100	\$ 50.00	\$ 55,000.00
A-14	303	CONCRETE SIDEWALK, 4" THICK	SY	6	\$ 150.00	\$ 900.00
A-15	30X	P.C.C. CURB RAMP	EA	5	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
A-16	30X	DETECTABLE WARNINGS	EA	5	\$ 800.00	\$ 4,000.00
A-17	401	ASPHALT PAVEMENT	TON	167	\$ 260.00	\$ 43,420.00
A-18	402	PAINTED TRAFFIC MARKINGS	LS	1	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
A-19	512	ADJUST MANHOLE RING	EACH	6	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 9,000.00
A-20	511	ADJUST MANHOLE CONE	EACH	4	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 10,000.00

Concept Design Engineers Estimate

Date Modified: September 29, 2023

Date Printed: September 29, 2023

ESTIMATE OF QUANTITIES

ITEM NO.	SPEC. NO.	WORK DESCRIPTION	UNIT	ESTIMATED QUANTITY	UNIT BID PRICE	TOTAL BID PRICE
A-21	604	FURNISH AND INSTALL FIRE HYDRANT ASSEMBLY (SINGLE PUMPER)	EA	1	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,500.00
A-22	607	ADJUST VALVE BOX TO FINISH GRADE	EA	4	\$ 750.00	\$ 3,000.00
A-25	707	FURNISH & INSTALL STANDARD SIGN	EA	16	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 24,000.00
A-26	707	SALVAGE SIGN	EA	5	\$ 180.00	\$ 900.00
A-27	708	SEEDING (TYPE 1)	MSF	14	\$ 400.00	\$ 5,600.00
A-28	710	TOPSOIL (4" DEPTH)	MSF	14	\$ 800.00	\$ 11,200.00
A-30	802	FURNISH AND INSTALL CMP, 12"	LF	125	\$ 90.00	\$ 11,250.00
A-31	802	FURNISH AND INSTALL CMP, 18"	LF	100	\$ 120.00	\$ 12,000.00
A-33	806	CONSTRUCT CATCH BASIN	EA	3	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 24,000.00
A-34	807	CONNECT TO EXISTING STORM DRAIN MANHOLE	EA	3	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 5,400.00
A-35	8008	ADJUST JUNCTION BOX TO FINISH GRADE	EA	2	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,600.00
A-37	9001	STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN, TYPE 3	LS	1	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00

Total Engineers Estimate \$ 506,620.00

Total Basic Bid \$ 506,620.00

Contingency 20% \$ 101,324.00

SUBTOTAL \$ 607,944.00

PROJECT TOTAL \$ 607,944.00



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Community Recreation

HHS/600 East Fairview Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

communityrecreation@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-6090

(f) 907-235-8933

Memorandum

TO: Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission
FROM: Mike Illg, Recreation Manager
DATE: October 10, 2023
SUBJECT: City Council Action Related to PARCAC for October 19th Meeting

The following City Council resolutions and ordinances activity relevant to the Park, Arts, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission since the last PARCAC meeting on September 21, 2023.

September 25, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting

Resolution 23-097, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Approving a Sole Source Contract in the Amount of \$42,500 to Arno Construction to Install Water and Sewer Service Lines for Restrooms at Jack Gist Park and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. **Approved.**

Resolution 23-102, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Authorizing Reimbursement in the Amount of \$110,000 to Beachy Construction for the Construction of a Shoulder Extension on West Fairview Avenue for Use by Non-Motorized Transportation and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. **Approved.**

October 9, 2023 City Council Work Session

Recreation Manager Mike Illg and Economic Development Manager Julie Engebretsen facilitated a presentation to the City Council to discuss the “Next Steps” in moving forward with pursuing a multi-use community recreation center. *See attachment.*

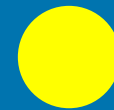
October 9, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting

Resolution 23-106, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Accepting the Donation from Homer Drawdown of Wind Chimes for Trails Enhancement and as a Display of Appreciation for the Volunteers who have Worked to Improve the Experience and Condition of Homer's Local Trails. **Approved.**

Ordinance 23-49, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending Homer City Code Title 2, Chapters 2.32 Departments and Boards, 2.44 Department of Administration, 2.48 Public Library, and Enacting Chapters, 2.46 Department of Information Technology and 2.57 Department of Community Development. City Manager. Introduction August 14, 2023, Public Hearing and Second Reading October 9, 2023. **Postponed until January 8, 2024.**

City of Homer
Work Session
October 9, 2023

City of Homer Community Recreation Center



What's Next?

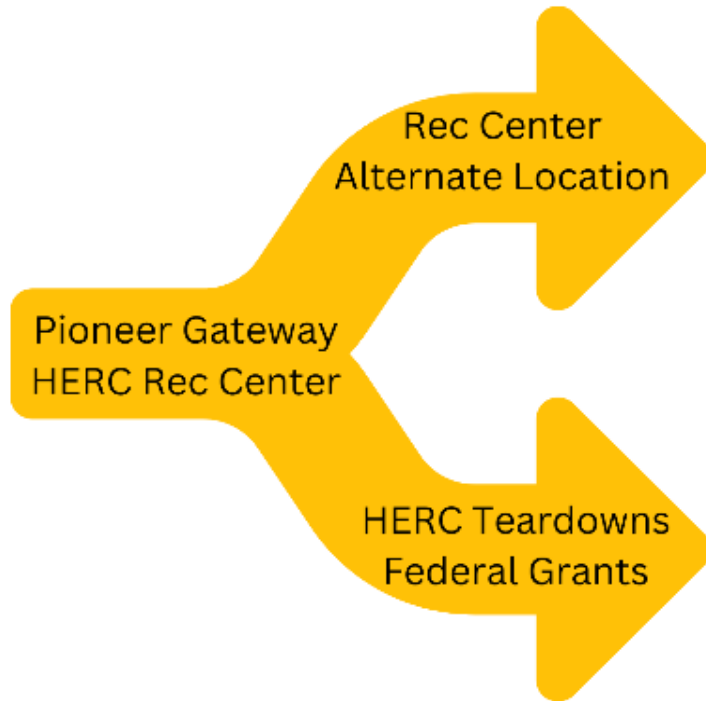


A group of approximately 15 children and teenagers are posed in three rows, holding pickleball paddles. They are standing in front of a large banner for the 'COSMIC HAMLET OPEN Pickleball Tournament'. The banner also mentions 'CITY OF HOMER COMMUNITY RECREATION PRESENTS' and 'HOMER, ALASKA'. A clock is visible on the wall to the right. The entire image has a blue tint.

**“Don’t wait for the right opportunity:
create it.”**

-George Bernard Shaw

WHAT WE KNOW



Municipal Recreation is Desirable

Surveys, statistics and regular public testimony from community reflects that recreation is a priority and there is a need for municipal indoor recreation space. Regularly on the city's top 5 CIP list.

HERC Site is Preferred but Not Likely

Hazmat testing results show that the tear down or remodeling of existing HERC facilities for recreational use is cost prohibitive and unlikely in the near term.

Current Use at HERC is Running Out of Time

While recreation activities are taking place there everyday, the 60 year old building is falling apart, flooding and the ability to repair and address issues is financially and logistically challenging.

We May Need to Consider a Different Path

In the last 5 years there have been many meetings, studies, surveys and discussions about various formal/informal ideas, proposals and suggestions on what to do with the HERC facilities while acknowledging the significant, existing use of facilities for daily recreation programs, maintenance staff operations and the infrastructure challenges of the aging buildings.

Three recent options included:

- Remodel Existing Facility**
- Construct Basic Facility**
- Public/Private Campus**

Concept #1



HERC site map 5/5/23

Remodel Existing Facility

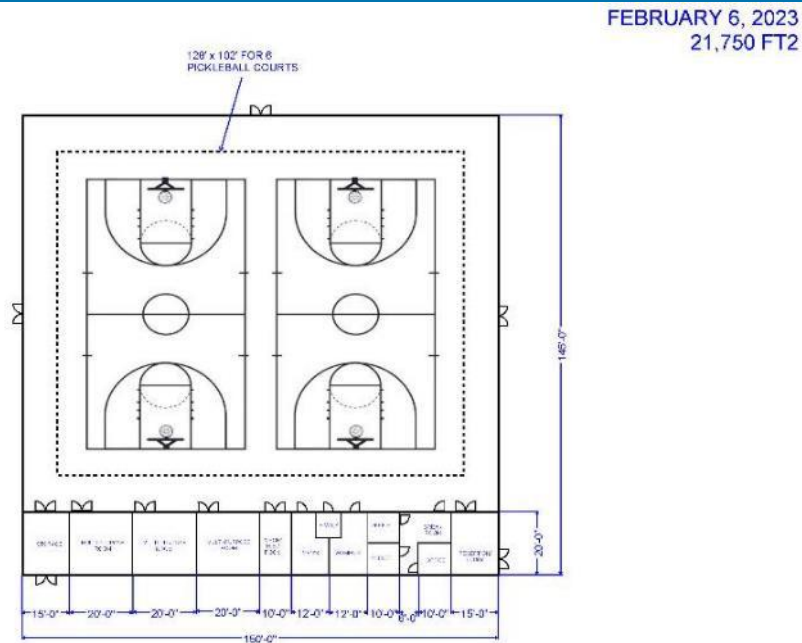
This concept was to consider the possibilities of upgrading the existing facility, use existing footprint and foundation, upgrade fire codes, accessibility while adding additional space for programs and activities.

-The 2023 HERC preliminary hazmat testing results has indicated that this option will require significant funding to upgrade or modify due to the presence of PCBs and other hazardous material.

-The 2018 HERC Taskforce recommended against this option.

Concept #2

Construct Basic Facility



This concept was to consider constructing a one level pre-fab metal facility on the HERC site.

-The 2023 HERC hazmat testing results has indicated that this option will require significant funding to tear down and remove due to the presence of PCBs and other hazardous material thus compounding the potential cost of new construction.

Concept #3

Public/Private Campus

This concept was to consider constructing a multi-level facility with partners/tenets on the HERC site pending removal of both HERC buildings.

- The 2023 HERC hazmat testing results has indicated that this option will require significant funding to address.

- The estimated cost of construction was very substantial and had little public support.

- There were was little interest from potential paying tenants or partners.

Recalibration

Considering the **strong support and interest** in the Pioneer Gateway Redevelopment Project/Community Recreation Center on the HERC property, it is clear that the high cost to mitigate or remove the existing buildings will make this location unrealistic.

What can we do? Consider a *new location*.

To build a **Community Recreation Center**, we will need a **location**.

Here are the **5 variables** to consider:

1

What do we need:

Adequate lot size

2

Location:

In town &
accessible
Walkable

3

Infrastructure:

Does it have
existing
Water/Sewer
Sidewalk/Trails

4

Budget:

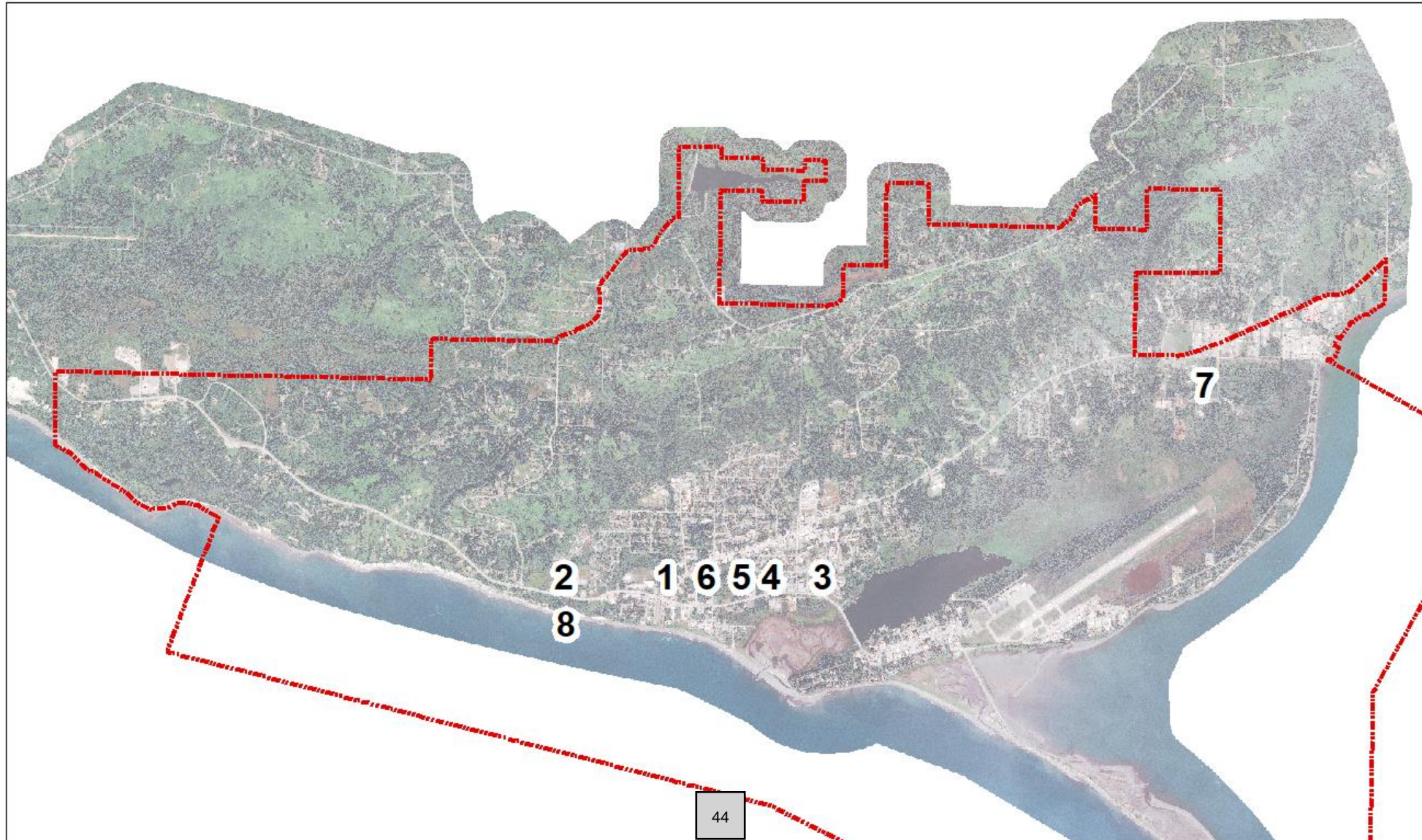
What is the cost

5

How to
Purchase:

Land Allocation
Fund
Bonding

Identified Possible Locations





1. Current HERC Site
2. West Homer Site
3. Lake & Grubstake Site
4. North of Petro Site
5. Town Center Site
6. Main Street Site
7. New Public Works Site
8. Marley Site

	Location	Lot Size	Close to Downtown?	Notes	Parcel ID	KPB Assessed Value	
1	450 Sterling Hwy	4.3	Yes	HERC site	17510070	\$758,000	(land only)
2	1011 Soundview Ave	1.28	Moderate	Adjacent to W Homer El. Shared parking?	17510251	\$132,000	(low)
3	3977 Lake Street	3.7	Yes	HEA property	17712033	\$650,000	
4	3681 Poopdeck	2.6	Yes	Needs infrastructure, traffic flow is not ideal	17708019	\$141,000	
5	3680 Main St	1.48 (Replat)	Yes	No sidewalks, may need a road	17708005	\$104,100	
6	3713 Main Street	1.31	Yes	No sidewalk but close to Pioneer. May be too small, City owned	17514416	\$74,000	
7	Ternview Place	8.63	No	City owned for future PW site	17928006	\$525,000	
8	955 Sterling Hwy	13.5 (replat)	Moderate	South side of highway (barrier for children)	17510053	\$466,000	

Staff Recommendations

Provide direction to:

- Review potential sites & report back with relevant information.
- Solicit community input.
- Designate council champions.
- Consider funding sources for possible land purchase.



The Path Forward



1. Site Selection
2. Construction Budget
3. Bond Measure
4. Build a New Recreation Center

Questions or Comments?

THANK YOU

Mike Illg, Recreation Manager
Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager





City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Community Recreation

HHS/600 East Fairview Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

communityrecreation@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-6090

(f) 907-235-8933

Memorandum

TO: Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission
FROM: Mike Illg, Recreation Manager
DATE: October 9, 2023
SUBJECT: Community Recreation (CR) Staff Report October 19, 2023

Programming & Special Events: Please view the monthly calendar to see all of the many programs, activities and special events. I would like to highlight a few special events and changes that are on the horizon.

- There will be a **Contra/Barn Dance** at Homer High on Saturday, October 21 at 7:30pm.
- The **Youth Broadway Bootcamp** will take place October 26-28 culminating with a musical performance on Saturday Oct 28th at 7pm in the HHS Mariner Theater that will be FREE to the public.
- The **Annual Ski & Winter Swap/Telluride Mountainfilm** will be taking place on Wednesday Nov. 8th.
- **Tuesday & Thursday evening basketball** (7:30-9:30pm) at Homer High will be **ceasing** due to the HHS needing the space for pre-season basketball practices. This means the Homer High gym is not available in the evening during the weekdays for CR programs. This will continue for the rest of the year as spring sports will be needing the space as well. Fortunately we will be able to offer basketball at least one night a week at Homer Middle on Wednesdays (6:30-8:30pm).
- The **Adult Basketball League** has officially started and we are excited to have 6 teams with 6 sponsors. The games are held every Sunday afternoon at Homer High. There is over 80 participants and many family and friends who attend to cheer on the players.

HERC Update: There was a work session on October 9th presenting possible paths forward with a community recreation center away from the desirable HERC site. We were able to get two City Council champions to assist with a resolution with a formal direction for administration and staff to review alternative potential sites and the selection criteria. I am hopeful this resolution will be on the city council agenda for the October 23 meeting. You can view the presentation attached to my Council Action report.

Recreation Software: Staff is continuing to train with the CivicRec software with the goal of launching early December 2023. The training includes at least six 2 hours sessions over the next few months.

NRPA Parks and Recreation Engagement Report: More than 280 million people in the United States visited a local park or recreation facility at least once during the past year. The 2023 Engagement With Parks Report is part of an annual NRPA research series that tracks the general public's interaction with and support for public parks and recreation. The findings provide park and recreation professionals, policymakers and other key stakeholders with insights on the important role that local parks and recreation plays in the lives of all people. See the report [here. www.nrpa.org/publications-research/research-papers/engagement/](https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/research-papers/engagement/)

City of Homer Community Rec October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30-11:30am PICKLEBALL at HERC 1:30-6:30pm ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE at HHS 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS 6:30-8:30pm PICK UP SOCCER at HHS	2 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 3-4:30pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7PM KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm INTERMED PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm YOUTH VOLLEYBALL at HMS 6:30-8:30pm ULTIMATE FRISBEE at HHS	3 10:30-11am STORYTIME YOGA at HERC 4-5pm SILENT DISCO YOGA at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HMS 7:30-9:30pm BASKETBALL CANCELLED	4 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7PM KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm INTERMED PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICK UP SOCCER at HHS	5 7-8am MORNING SOCCER at HHS 11am -1pm LUNCHTIME PICKLEBALL 5:30-6:30pm CARDIO DANCE at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HMS 6:30-8:30pm ULTIMATE FRISBEE at HHS 7:30-9:30pm BASKETBALL at HHS	6 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 7-8am MORNING SOCCER at HHS 3-4:30pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7pm KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICK UP SOCCER at HHS	7 8:30-11:30am TUMBLING at HHS 9:30am-12pm PICKLEBALL SKILL SHARING at HERC 5:30-6:30pm ZUMBA CLASS at HERC
8 9:30-11:30am PICKLEBALL at HERC 1:30-6:30pm ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE at HHS 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS 6:30-8:30pm PICK UP SOCCER at HHS	9 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 3-4:30pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7PM KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 5:30-6:30pm INTRO SPANISH at HHS 6:30-7:30pm INTERM SPANISH at HHS 6:30-8:30pm INTERMED PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm YOUTH VOLLEYBALL at HMS 6:30-8:30pm ULTIMATE FRISBEE at HHS	10 10:30-11am STORYTIME YOGA at HERC 4-5pm SILENT DISCO YOGA at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HMS 7:30-9:30pm BASKETBALL at HHS	11 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7PM KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 5:30-6:30pm INTRO SPANISH at HHS 6:30-7:30pm INTERM SPANISH at HHS 6:30-8:30pm INTERMED PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICK UP SOCCER at HHS	12 7-8am MORNING SOCCER at HHS 11am -1pm LUNCHTIME PICKLEBALL 1-3pm CENTER YOUTH ACTIVITY 5:30-6:30pm CARDIO DANCE at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL Cancelled 6:30-8:30pm ULTIMATE FRISBEE at HHS 7:30-9:30pm BASKETBALL Cancelled	13 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 7-8am MORNING SOCCER at HHS 11am-3pm CENTER YOUTH ACTIVITY 3-4:30pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL at HERC 4-8pm INTRO SILVERSMITHING at HHS 4:30-7pm KARATE CANCELLED 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICK UP SOCCER at HHS	14 8:30-11:30am TUMBLING at HHS 9am-5pm INTRO SILVERSMITHING at HHS 9:30am-12pm PICKLEBALL SKILL SHARING at HERC 5:30-6:30pm ZUMBA CLASS at HERC
15 9am-5pm INTRO SILVERSMITHING at HHS 9:30-11:30am PICKLEBALL at HERC 1:30-6:30pm ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE at HHS 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS 6:30-8:30pm PICK UP SOCCER at HHS	16 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 3-4:30pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7PM KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 5:30-6:30pm INTRO SPANISH at HHS 6:30-7:30pm INTERM SPANISH at HHS 6:30-8:30pm INTERMED PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm YOUTH VOLLEYBALL at HMS 6:30-8:30pm ULTIMATE FRISBEE at HHS	17 10:30-11am STORYTIME YOGA at HERC 4-5pm SILENT DISCO YOGA at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HMS	18 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 3-4PM CENTER YOUTH ACTIVITY at HERC 4:30-7PM KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 5:30-6:30pm INTRO SPANISH at HHS 6:30-7:30pm INTERM SPANISH at HHS 6:30-8:30pm BASKETBALL at HMS 6:30-8:30pm INTERMED PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICK UP SOCCER at HHS	19 7-8am MORNING SOCCER at HHS 11am -1pm LUNCHTIME PICKLEBALL 5:30-6:30pm CARDIO DANCE at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HMS 6:30-8:30pm ULTIMATE FRISBEE at HHS	20 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 7-8am MORNING SOCCER at HHS 3-4:30pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7pm KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICK UP SOCCER at HHS	21 8:30-11:30am TUMBLING at HHS 9:30am-12pm PICKLEBALL SKILL SHARING at HERC 5:30-6:30pm ZUMBA CLASS at HERC 6:30-10pm CONTRA DANCE at HHS
22 9:30-11:30am PICKLEBALL at HERC 1:30-6:30pm ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE at HHS 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS 6:30-8:30pm PICK UP SOCCER at HHS	23 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 3-4:30pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7PM KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 5:30-6:30pm INTRO SPANISH at HHS 6:30-7:30pm INTERM SPANISH at HHS 6:30-8:30pm INTERMED PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm YOUTH VOLLEYBALL at HMS 6:30-8:30pm ULTIMATE FRISBEE at HHS	24 10:30-11am STORYTIME YOGA at HERC 4-5pm SILENT DISCO YOGA at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HMS	25 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7PM KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 5:30-6:30pm INTRO SPANISH at HHS 6:30-7:30pm INTERM SPANISH at HHS 6:30-8:30pm BASKETBALL at HMS 6:30-8:30pm INTERMED PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICK UP SOCCER at HHS	26 7-8am MORNING SOCCER at HHS 10am-8pm BROADWAY BOOTCAMP at HHS 11am -1pm LUNCHTIME PICKLEBALL 5:30-6:30pm CARDIO DANCE at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL Cancelled 6:30-8:30pm ULTIMATE FRISBEE at HHS	27 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 7-8am MORNING SOCCER at HHS 10am-8pm BROADWAY BOOTCAMP at HHS 4-8pm LOST WAX CASTING at HHS 4:30-7pm KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICK UP SOCCER at HHS	28 8:30-11:30am TUMBLING at HHS 9am-5pm LOST WAX CASTING at HHS 9:30am-12pm PICKLEBALL SKILL SHARING at HERC 10am-7pm BROADWAY BOOTCAMP at HHS 7pm BROADWAY BOOTCAMP PERFORMANCE at HHS 5:30-6:30pm ZUMBA CLASS at HERC
29 9am-5pm LOST WAX CASTING at HHS 9:30-11:30am PICKLEBALL at HERC 1:30-6:30pm ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE at HHS 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS 6:30-8:30pm PICK UP SOCCER at HHS	30 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 3-4:30pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7PM KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 5:30-6:30pm INTRO SPANISH at HHS 6:30-7:30pm INTERM SPANISH at HHS 6:30-8:30pm INTERMED PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm YOUTH VOLLEYBALL at HMS 6:30-8:30pm ULTIMATE FRISBEE at HHS	31 10:30-11am STORYTIME YOGA at HERC 4-5pm SILENT DISCO YOGA at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HMS				
		Color Key BLACK=Homer High BLUE=Homer Middle PURPLE=HERC RED=Cancellation			DISCLAIMER: ALL ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECTED TO CHANGE OR BEING CANCELLED WITH LIMITED NOTIFICATION	

CITY OF HOMER COMMUNITY REC PRESENTS:



ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE

OCTOBER - FEBRUARY
2023-2024 SEASON



Games Every Sunday*

Game #1: 2:00PM

Game #2: 3:15PM

Game #3: 4:00PM



All Games held
at Homer High School Gymnasium

*NO GAMES: DEC 3, 24 & 31

QUESTIONS?

CALL 907-225-6090 OR

EMAIL MILLG@CI.HOMER.AK.US



CITY OF HOMER COMMUNITY RECREATION PRESENTS: **BROADWAY BOOTCAMP**

With Jim Anderson

THEATER ARTS-BASED LEADERSHIP CURRICULUM

October 26-28, 2023

THREE FULL DAYS OF INTENSE TRAINING AND
REHEARSALS OF A BROADWAY PRODUCTION
MEDLEY WITH LEADERSHIP AND LIFE-SKILLS
INTEGRATED THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS

Open to 8th-12th Grades

NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. JUST
A WILLINGNESS TO JUMP IN AND TAKE RISKS
AND HAVE A LOT OF FUN THROUGH SONG,
DANCE AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT. ALSO
OPEN TO TECH STUDENTS WHO DON'T WANT
TO PERFORM

**Showcase Performance
Saturday, Oct. 28th at 7pm
FREE! HHS Mariner Theater**

ALL PARTICIPANTS, BOTH PERFORMANCE AND
TECH WILL BE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE

**\$15 CLASS FEE
CLASSES AT HHS**

To register, information or questions contact Jim at
803-508-9788 or **jwanderson63@gmail.com**



CITY OF HOMER COMMUNITY REC PRESENTS:



2023

SKI & WINTER GEAR SWAP

Wednesday, November 8th, 5:30-7:30pm
Homer High Commons
&

MOUNTAINFILM ON TOUR

HOMER

Wednesday, November 8th, 7pm
\$10/ticket Homer High Theater

Barter, trade, sell or give away your winter and ski gear. **HHS Ski team** will be waxing skis as a fundraiser. Stay and watch the **Telluride Mountainfilm** show at 7pm!

HOWL will be providing soup for sale & dessert fundraiser for the **AK to DC Trip!**

Film Descriptions



Film Playlist

Leo & Chester
Soundscape
Tear Down the City
Swimming Through
Waiting, Hoping
Queens of the Break
adVENNture



MEMORANDUM

10 Year Parks and Recreation Plan per Resolution 23-047(s)

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission
Date: October 19, 2023
From: Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager
Through: Mike Illg, Community Recreation Coordinator, Matt Steffy, Parks and Trails Planner, Chad Felice, Parks Maintenance

BACKGROUND

Homer City Council adopted Resolution 23-047(S), requesting Administration create a 10-year plan for a Parks and Recreation Department, and that PARCAC be included in the process. Staff will make a presentation to PARCAC at the October 19th meeting with a draft plan. The plan will be an agenda item for PARCAC comments.

If PARCAC has a lot of comments on the draft plan, Mike Illg can assemble your comments into a memo for your approval (and any changes) at your November meeting.

Council will hold a work session on the final memo and presentation from Administration at the November 27th Council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

Review the draft memo attached, ask questions and provide comments at the October 19 regular meeting.

Attachments

Draft memo



MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item Title

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: DRAFT - Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission
Date: October 19, 2023
From: Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager

Introduction

There is a lot of community interest related to the expansion of recreational opportunities in the City of Homer that revolve around programming, parks, and facilities. There is also a considerable gap in funding and staffing between our current operation and a desired future state. In May of this year, City Council adopted Resolution 23-047(S) which asked staff to develop a 10-year plan for parks and recreation. The resolution included a request for the plan to include three components:

1. Full maintenance projections for existing parks and recreation facilities,
2. Two paths to a Parks and Recreation Department one of which should include a new community center,
3. An evaluation of the new Parks staffing from the 2023 summer season operations.

The staff analysis finds that there is potential for a Parks and Recreation Department to exist and create value for the City and the public, however, it is going to take some time to build up sufficient financial and human resources to get to that point.

Process

Council requested the plan be presented by November, 2023. A team of City staff met to work on these council directives over several months:

- Mike Illg, Community Recreation Coordinator
- Chad Felice, Parks Maintenance Coordinator
- Matt Steffy, Parks and Trails Planner
- Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager

The team included meetings with the City Manager as well while the analysis was underway.

Staff approached the first two tasks by creating a table with three scenarios; current conditions with staffing and budget, a "Homer Adequate" scenario with improved parks and staffing, and a future

department and recreation facility. An example from the City of Kenai was also included for comparison in an attachment. (PARCAC note; further examples from Seward and Soldotna to also be included)

Staff made a presentation to the Parks, Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission at their October 19, 2023 meeting. Comments of the Commission.....(UPDATE 10/20, may also be a memo attachment with their comments at the November PARCAC meeting)

Council will hold a work session on the final memo and presentation from Administration at the November 27th Council meeting.

Parks and Recreation Staffing and Budget Scenarios

	Homer Current	Homer Adequate	Homer Adequate + Facility
Parks			
Staff FTE	2	2.5	
Budget	\$440,000	\$490,000	\$490,000

Community Rec			
Staff FTE	1.75	2.75	3.5 +
Facility O&M			\$130K (based on library)
Budget	\$265,000	\$335,000	\$660,000

Total Staff	3.75	5.25	6 +
Total Budget	\$705,000	\$825,000	\$1,150,000

Difference staff	NA	1.5	2.25 +
Difference Budget	NA	\$120,000	\$445,000 +

Budget Timeline	2024-2025	2025-2027	?
-----------------	-----------	-----------	---

Potential
Department Timeline

Possible

Desirable

Julie comment for
PARCAC – staffing will
be better explained in an
appendix

Component 1: Full maintenance projections for existing parks and recreation facilities

“Homer Adequate” scenario

Parks Budget

Estimate: a 20% budget increase or about \$90,000 would significantly increase the City’s ability to adequately staff and maintain parks and trails facilities. HART Funds could be used for \$50,000 of these additional expenses.

Discussion

Staff found there is generally adequate funding in the Parks budget for materials but not enough allocated for labor, however, the City Manager’s redistribution of Parks-related tasks (i.e., camping, restroom cleaning, park planning, volunteer coordination, etc.) has led to increased productivity related to parks maintenance and the current maintenance coordinator will be experimenting with new models for the use of seasonal employees.

Staff estimates the Parks budget needs to increase by about \$90,000; this would include two seasonal trail maintenance crew, to be funded out of HART (\$50,000 existing funds) as well as approximately \$40,000 in additional parks maintenance budget. This is a reflection of the variability in costs – if the City can hire labor for tasks like mowing and peony bed maintenance, the cost will be lower than \$40,000. If the city has to hire a contractor, the costs are higher. Either way, the ball fields, cemetery and City grounds need to be mowed.

Funding sources available: \$50,000 from HART Trails could be used to pay for existing and increased trails work. While voters approved using HART for maintenance and operations in 2017, very little to no funding has been budgeted into the Parks budget for doing this work. This could be amended at any time by Council.

Remaining funding gap: \$40,000. New revenues, or more funding from the general fund is needed. This funding could be added over time as budget allows, or through a new revenue source.

Timeframe: HART funding could be added to the budget at any time. New revenues or new funding sources will take longer (discussion continued later in this memo).

Community Recreation Budget

Estimate: a 30% budget increase, 1 FTE at \$80,000 (includes overhead and benefits) would adequately staff the current Community Recreation Program.

Discussion

Classes and programming will continue to be offered through non-city employees via volunteers or contracted instructors. However, volunteers and contracted instructors do not provide administrative support and are not always consistent for providing the level of supervision (and safety). One additional full time recreation employee would provide immediate improvement of services, customer service and safety for Community Recreation programs and special events. The presence of paid staff providing direct supervision instead relying on the challenging efforts to recruit and sustain volunteers to oversee programs will vastly improve the overall experience of the consumer and will decrease potential liable situations especially when operating in non-city owned facilities. The additional staff will also lead to an increase program offerings and allow for the Recreation Manager to focus on the broad administrative responsibilities relating to running municipal recreation services.

One more full time staff member is needed to adequately staff this program at a cost of about \$80,000 (includes benefits, additional office costs, etc). This would need to be funded from new revenue. Some options:

Funding Sources Available:

1. Dedicate a percentage of on-line sales tax to recreation. This is a growing revenue stream and could be used to fund increases in recreation programing. Timeframe: Consideration for next budget cycle.
2. When the HART program is up for renewal, ask voters if the tax revenue split between roads and trails should be changed from 90/10 to 80/20, and if the trails portion should also cover parks maintenance and all parks and recreation related staffing. The City might consider asking voters to make the program permanent at the same time, as with HAWSP. Timeframe: The current HART authorization expires in 2027.
3. **User fees will also likely play a role.** The new Community Recreation Software is planned for launch for the second half of FY 24. That data will provide information on realistic revenue projects with current usage and fees. Staff expects at least \$45,000 in user fee revenues for FY 24 – this is existing revenue, not new revenue. With software implementation and newly adopted fees, staff expects this amount to gradually increase. Timeframe for increased revenue: Happening now with the newly adopted fees, and software implementation. Fees and policies can be fine-tuned prior to the next budget cycle.

Component #2: Two paths to a Parks and Recreation Department one of which should include a new community center.

Path 1: *With increased budget and internal staff coordination, a Parks and Recreation Department could be a consideration for the FY26/27 budget cycle.*

The two components to move to a Parks and Recreation Department are budget and staff capacity building. The discussion of this component relies on reaching “Homer Adequate” funding levels. Beyond funding staff had lengthy discussions about what it would take to function as a department. Staff agreed that the first step was additional labor. Without more hands to do the work, existing staff does not have time to work toward the larger goal of a combined department. Budget increase is the first step to easing this bottleneck. The second step to a department is spending the time to figure out how to work in a new department. Some of this work could occur over FY 24 if this is the direction Council wants staff to work on.

There are also some underlying tasks that also need work; the City has few Council adopted policies about parks and recreation facilities (other than basic code) and none for community recreation. In contrast, the library has extensive adopted policies (89 pages) that outline both facility and services policies. Working toward Council – approved policies for the HERC and its eventual replacement as well as general user policies are tasks that should be on the horizon.

A functional Parks and Recreation Department could begin to take shape for the next budget cycle if staff is able to focus on how the internal operations would work, and working with PARCAC and Council to have sufficient adopted policies in place.

Path 2: New Facility + Parks and Recreation Department

Homer Adequate + Facility Budget Scenario

Discussion of a recreation facility is ongoing and the subject of Council work sessions. The timing of Parks and Recreation or Community Recreation Department did not have consensus among staff, however, all agreed that if a new facility is constructed, at minimum Community Recreation should be elevated to a department by that time.

Funding: Significant new funding would be required to achieve this goal. Use of HART trails funds, a portion of online sales tax revenue, and new additional sales tax revenue would be required to cover the cost of a new facility. Timeframe: Council is beginning to seriously explore site selection

for a new facility, and a bond measure could go to voters in two years or less, based on Council decisions.

Component #3: How did the 2023 season go?

The 2023 camping and parks maintenance season had significant changes from prior years. First, the Port and Harbor took over operations of the Spit Campgrounds. The Port ramped up staffing and fee collections, and was able to offer camping to the public as has been offered in prior summers. Spit camping generated \$195,000 in revenue and there were significantly fewer management problems.

Second, Hornaday campground was closed for the 2023 camping season. Some complaints were received by Parks staff while they were at the park from Little League participants from out of town who expected to camp at the park for the weekend. City resident comments were split 50/50 on campground closure. The City is in the process of updating the park master plan and actively taking comment on whether offering camping is a land use the community would like to see continued.

Chad Felice comments:

With the transition of Matt Steffy moving over to Economic Development and then the Parks Maintenance position opening up as well as campgrounds going to the Harbor this this past summer, as all new things and changes there were a little bumps along the way. Overall I believe the summer was a success, the Parks Division got to do some ball field work along with all the other normal stuff we do. I have felt that working with the Public Works crew on some projects has helped the Parks Department out. With working in the summers the past 4 years, it has been nice to be able to work on some deferred maintenance things. I think we are one or two more seasonal staff members away from really being able to keep up on everything and start in on new projects within a timely manner.

Matt Steffy comments:

The temporary staffing arrangement for 2023 had a few interesting impacts on Parks operations. The transfer of geographic responsibility out to the Spit for Harbor Staff allowed the limited Parks Staff to focus on a few areas that had been neglected previously. Combined with the contracting of some turf maintenance and beautification, staff were able to get a lot of work done on ballfields, fences, and some special projects.

My time was partially absorbed in the transition process in bringing PW, P&H, and Economic Development up to speed on many tasks that were once in my wheelhouse. As the second half of the season continued, we all began to find a bit of a groove, though there is still some shuffling to do.

Mike Illg comments:

Community Recreation also had significant changes over the summer and into the fall. A half time, permanent employee was approved in the FY 24/25 budget, as well as registration software. The addition of a half time staff member allowed for immediate improved services by providing direct supervision/coordination for some of the regularly scheduled programs as well as providing the much needed point of contact time and communication for Community Recreation special events. Over the winter, this additional staffing will allow for new programmatic opportunities specifically focused on youth and family related opportunities.

The software will allow Community Recreation staff to better collect fees and statistics about revenues, patron usage, trends, feedback, and assist with reservations, registration and scheduling. The majority of the improvements brought by the staffing increase and software implementation will be visible to the public in 2024, through greater program capacity and data to aid with long term financial and operational planning for the recreation program.

Current Conditions

FY 24/25 brought significant changes to staffing and operations for Community Recreation and Parks. Staff consensus is at least a budget year is needed to see how this works out and where changes are needed with the exception of more trails labor (discussion continues in this memo).

RECOMMENDATION (to City Council):

- 1. Hold discussion on policy and budget options and provide direction to administration**
- 2. Consider a HART trails budget adjustment in mid-biennium adjustment in the spring**

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution 23-047(s)
Kenai Recreation Budget

CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA

Mayor/Lord

RESOLUTION 23-047(S)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA
~~ESTABLISHING A POLICY OF FUNDING IMPROVEMENTS TO~~
~~VARIOUS~~ **ESTABLISHING RECREATION AS A FUNDING PRIORITY**
IN THE FY23/24 BUDGET AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER
TO DELIVER A STRATEGIC FINANCIAL PLAN AND SERVICES
VISION FOR PARKS & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES
WITHIN THE CITY OF HOMER **TO THE CITY COUNCIL BY**
NOVEMBER 2023.

WHEREAS, The City of Homer owns and maintains 17 dedicated parks and over 520 acres of parklands; and

WHEREAS, The Homer City Council has identified recreational facilities within the City of Homer that need replacement or improvements; and

WHEREAS, **With broad public support,** ~~t~~The Homer City Council has shown a willingness to provide funding commitments to meet some of those needs, or hypothecate funds for future construction; and

WHEREAS, While the community is still working on the plans for a multi-use community center and the existing HERC site, we have substantial existing assets and services that should be maintained with a strategic vision both financially and for the types and scope of Parks & Recreational services and partnerships we support in the community; and

WHEREAS, The bi-annual budget process provides ~~the best~~ **an important** opportunity for the City Council to fund improvements or hypothecate funds **within the broader scope of City services and long-term visions, and how they fit within projected expenses and revenues; and**

WHEREAS, The Council ~~will is examine~~ **examining several** proposals of budgetary expenditures or set-asides in the 2024-2025 budget cycle for the following **parks and recreation** projects:

- Karen Hornaday Park
- Jack Gist Park
- A new indoor recreational facility
- **Bayview Park**

- **Recreational staffing**
- **Parks staffing; and**

WHEREAS, The City Council is having to assess the current budget without a comprehensive long-term vision or financial plan for the City's Parks and Recreation assets and services.

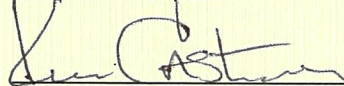
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Homer City Council establishes parks & recreation as a priority within the current budget cycle, and hereby directs the City Manager to work with the Parks, Art, Recreation, and Culture Commission and City staff to develop and bring forward in the next six months a 10-year plan for Homer Parks & Recreation which includes:

- **Full maintenance program projections for all existing parks and recreation facilities and associated assets (bathrooms, picnic tables, fire pits, etc.)**
- **At least two proposed pathways for a potential Parks & Recreation Department, offering different levels of services and associated one-time and long-term costs in operations and maintenance, with one possible pathway including the existence of a modest new community recreation center**
- **An evaluation of the new Parks staffing from the 2023 summer season operations**

declares this resolution reflects the policy intent for the subsequent funding of the engineering and improvements at a level to be determined at the time of appropriation, whether through the budget or budget amendment.

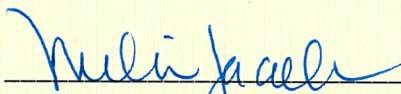
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 8th day of May, 2023.

CITY OF HOMER



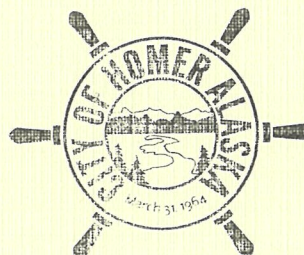
KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:



MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal note: N/A



Kenai Park and Recreation

FY24

Salaries & Benefits	
Staff FTE	5
Staff PT	5
Staff Seasonal	11
Budget	773,270

Maint. & Operations	
Budget	497,615
TOTAL	1,270,885



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Clerk

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov
(p) 907-235-3130
(f) 907-235-3143

Memorandum

TO: ADVISORY BODIES
FROM: MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK
DATE: OCTOBER 4, 2023
SUBJECT: MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2024

Please review the draft resolution that establishes your meetings for 2024 and make any changes by way of motion.

Requests for meeting schedule changes will then go to City Council, who will be setting the 2024 meeting schedule for Council and Advisory Bodies via resolution no later than their November 27, 2023 meeting.

Recommendation

Review the attached draft resolution; make a motion to approve the resolution either as-is or with amendments and recommend adoption by City Council.

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

City Clerk

RESOLUTION 23-1xx

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,
ESTABLISHING THE 2024 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CITY
COUNCIL, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION,
LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD, PARKS ART RECREATION AND
CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION, PLANNING COMMISSION,
PORT AND HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION, AND AMERICANS
WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) ADVISORY BOARD.

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Homer City Council, that the 2024 meeting schedule is established for the City Council, Economic Development Advisory Commission, Library Advisory Board, Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission, Planning Commission, Port and Harbor Advisory Commission, and the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory Board of the City of Homer, Alaska, as follows:

HOLIDAYS – City Offices closed:

January 1, New Year's Day, Monday	February 19, Presidents' Day, third Monday	March 25, Seward's Day, last Monday	May 27, Memorial Day, last Monday	July 4, Independence Day, Thursday	September 2, Labor Day, first Monday
October 18, Alaska Day, Friday	November 11, Veterans Day, Monday	November 28 Thanksgiving Day, Fourth Thursday	November 29, Friday, the day after Thanksgiving	December 25, Christmas, Wednesday	

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

CITY COUNCIL (CC)

January 8, 22	February 12, 26	March 11, 26*	April 8, 22	May 13, 28*	June 10, 24
July 22**	August 12, 26	September 9, 23	October 1 Election	October 14, 28 Oath of Office October 14	Canvass Board October 4
November 5 Runoff Election	November 12, 25	December ***If needed			

*Second meeting in March and May will be held on a Tuesday due to Seward's Day and Memorial Day respectively, first meeting in November will be held on a Tuesday due to Veterans Day

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

*** The City Council will not schedule a regular meeting in December to allow for attendance at AML Annual Conference and may hold Special Meetings as needed.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION (EDC)

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

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

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD (LAB)

January 16	February 20	March 19	April 16	May 21	
	August 20	September 17	October 15	November 19	December 17

Library Advisory Board Regular Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of January through May and August through December at 5:30 p.m.

PARKS, ART, RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION (PARC)

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

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

PLANNING COMMISSION (PC)

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

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

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

PORT AND HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION (PHC)

January 24	February 28	March 27	April 24	May 22	June 26
July 24	August 28	September 25	October 23	November 27	December 11

Port and Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of month January through November and the second Wednesday of December at 5:30 p.m.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) ADVISORY BOARD (ADAAB)

	February 8		April 11	May 9	June 13
July 11	August 8		October 10	November 14	

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory Board Regular Meetings are held on the second Thursday at 5:00 p.m. in the months of February, April, May, June, July, August, October, November, with additional meetings called as needed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this _____ day of November, 2023.

CITY OF HOMER

KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

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



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Clerk

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

Memorandum

TO: PARKS, ART, RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION

FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

DATE: OCTOBER 19, 2023

SUBJECT: ANNUAL COMMISSION & BOARD TRAINING – SCHEDULING A WORKSESSION OR
REGULAR MEETING PRESENTATION

Background:

In late 2022 the Clerk's Office decided to streamline and update the training format for the advisory bodies. It was determined that a training worksession or presentation would be scheduled after the annual renewals for the individual Board or Commission. This would allow those members who have been serving as well as any new appointed members the opportunity to receive training on their roles as members of the advisory body.

For the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission terms expire October 31st of each year so it is presumed that this Commission will have two newly appointed or re-appointed commissioners attending the regular November meeting on Thursday, November 16th.

The City Clerk will be conducting the Training Presentation with Questions & Answers during/following and typically it takes about 20-30 minutes.

The question before the Commission tonight is:

Does the Commission prefer a separate worksession starting at 5:00 p.m. prior to the regular meeting?

or;

Does the Commission prefer to schedule the presentation/training under the Visitors/Presentation on the regular meeting agenda?

Recommendation

Make a motion to have a separate worksession at 5:00 p.m. on November 16, 2023; or
Make a motion to schedule the City Clerk as a Visitor for the regular meeting on November 16, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

PARKS ART RECREATION & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION

2023 Calendar

	AGENDA DEADLINE	MEETING	COMMISSIONER SCHEDULED TO REPORT	CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR REPORT*	ANNUAL TOPICS/EVENTS
JANUARY		No Regular Meeting			
FEBRUARY	Wednesday 2/08 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 2/16 5:30 p.m.		Monday 2/23 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter to the Editor Topics Art Policy Review & Amendments Dog Park Proposal
MARCH	Wednesday 3/08 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 3/16 5:30 p.m.		Tuesday 3/28 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Review and Discussion
APRIL	Wednesday 4/12 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 4/20 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 5/10 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 5/18 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 6/7 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 6/15 5:30 p.m.		Monday 6/27 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park Walk Thru Jack Gist & Bayview
JULY		No Regular Meeting			
AUGUST	Wednesday 8/09 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 8/17 5:30 p.m.		Monday 8/28 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CIP Project Recommendations PARC Budget Review Art Donation Application - Sculpture
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 9/13 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 9/21 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 10/11 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 10/19 5:30 p.m.		Monday 10/23 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terms Expire October 31st Approve 2024 Meeting Schedule
NOVEMBER	Wednesday 11/8 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 11/16 WS @ 4:30 p.m. Reg @ 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
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

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-8121 x2222

(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE: October 4, 2023
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for October 9, 2023 Council Meeting

Transportation Plan's Public Meeting Update

Over 40 people turned out to comment on the Public Review Draft of the Transportation Plan. Next steps include collecting public comments until October 10th, providing comments to project consultant Kinney Engineering, and revising the plan so it is ready for presentation to the Planning Commission. Stay tuned for the next draft near the end of the year or early 2024.



Audit Update

The current audit has been a topic of discussion at recent meetings. I have written a memo, attached to this report, which provides more context for Council and the public to understand the challenges we've faced in

the last two years related to audit timing. The cumulative impacts of COVID, the administration of large amounts of grant and relief dollars, the change in fiscal year, the truncation of FY21, a software transition, new accounting rules, and staffing shortages in the accounting world have all contributed to a delayed audit for FY22. We're working on options for acceleration of the FY23 audit that would get us caught up and into a better rhythm for future audits.

Airport Sidewalk Repair Update

The City issued an Invitation to Bid for the Airport Terminal Sidewalk Replacement Project that was advertised in the Homer News August 24 and 31, 2023 and no bids were received for the project. The Invitation to Bid was extended and re-advertised on September 14 & 21, 2023 and in the Peninsula Clarion on September 16, 2023, and again, no bids were received. Public Works Director Keiser's has suggested that we issue another invitation to bid for the project in the spring.

ICMA Conference

I am currently attending the International City Manager Association (ICMA) conference in Austin, TX. I attended micro-certification courses titled "Building High Performing Board-Manager Relations" and "Tackling Wicked Problems: Building Capacity for Deliberative Engagement." I've also attended many sessions on topics related to governance, staff transitions and institutional knowledge transfer, rural community management, conflict resolution, multigenerational workplace management, revenue generation, ethics, and more. On the way to Austin, I attended an AMLJIA meeting of the board of trustees.

Attachments:

October Employee Anniversaries
Audit Update Memorandum
Panel Discussion Flyer
Council Work Session Scheduling



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-8121 x2222

(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: Andrea Browning
DATE: October 9, 2023
SUBJECT: October Employee Anniversaries

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

Charles Lee

Police

3 Years

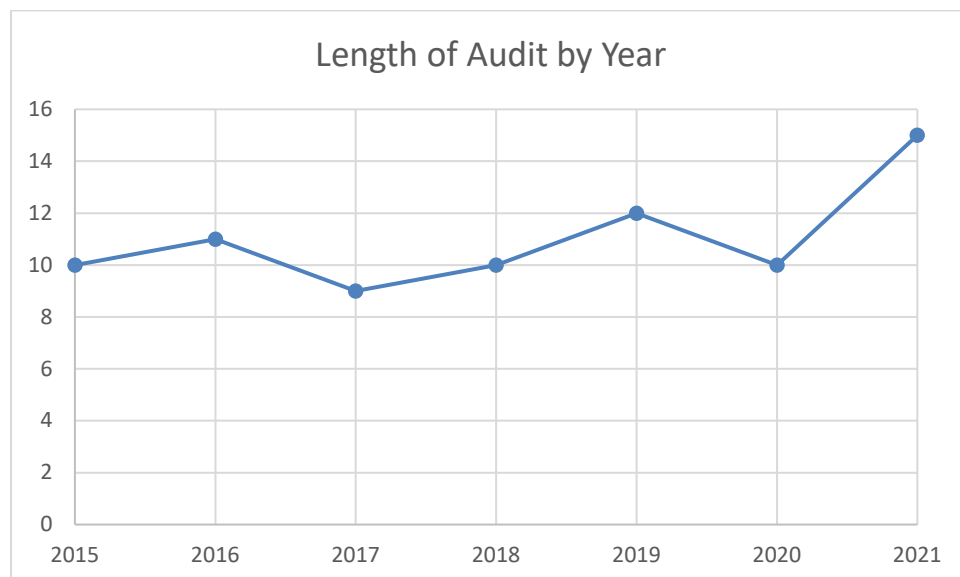


MEMORANDUM

FY22 Audit Context and Discussion

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
Date: 4OCT23
From: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

The FY22 audit is nearing completion and has taken more time than both Council and staff would have liked. Many factors have contributed to the delay. The timing of the audit has generated some comments at Council meetings, and this memo is written with the intent of providing context for the discussion as it is important to understand the current situation.



Going back to 2015, audits have taken anywhere from 9 to 15 months to complete. The majority have been between 10 and 12 months. Where we began to have challenges is after 2020. My perspective is that the cumulative impacts of a number of items have slowed down our progress:

- The general impacts of the pandemic on staff and contractors.
- The Influx of COVID relief funds (CARES Act, ARPA, etc.) brought millions of additional dollars to the City that were processed through the City for various emergency relief grants to

businesses, non-profits, and individuals. Additionally, funds were made available for City purposes, pass through grants, and projects related to pandemic response and mitigation which required a significant amount of administration.

- Ordinance 20-89 changed the City's fiscal year from a January 1 - December 31 calendar year, to a July 1 – June 30 fiscal year. The change was a logical move that I believe is good long term decision for the City, however, the move has been very labor intensive for staff in the fiscal years immediately following the change.
- FY21 was truncated to six months as part of the fiscal year change which gave the FY21 audit a late start because the actual fiscal year was shorter than the time required for the FY20 audit to be completed.
- A major update to our finance software, Caselle, was undertaken after the FY21 audit was complete to account for the fiscal year change in our system.
- GASB rule 87¹, which impacts reporting related to leases, was implemented and has caused difficulties for many local governments in integrating the new standard.
- There is a nationwide shortage of accounting professionals in the public and private sectors which impacts the schedules of our partner finance firms and our auditing firm. For instance, BDO USA is reportedly pursuing a significant increase to its offshore workforce in an attempt to combat the decrease in workers interested in becoming auditors². Similarly, many municipalities in Alaska, from big cities like Anchorage³ to small cities like Seward⁴, are having to use finance consultants to mitigate the impacts of unfilled Finance positions in their organizations.
- Significantly more local governments than usual have been required to conduct federal single audits due to COVID relief funding creating pressure on auditing firms.⁵

¹ GASB = Governmental Accounting Standards Board which is the source of generally accepted accounting principles used by state and local governments in the United States. <https://gasb.org/page/PageContent?pagelid=/standards-guidance/pronouncements/summary--statement-no-87.html&isStaticPage=true>

² <https://www.ft.com/content/5e2a3d0d-57cf-4e9a-a8ea-d3877e124037>

³ Anchorage contracted with three finance firms to support the Controller Division which was at approximately 52% of total staffing in February of 2023 <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/anchorage/2023/02/22/municipality-of-anchorage-to-pay-up-to-2m-to-outsource-finance-work-due-to-employee-vacancies/>

⁴ Seward uses a financial consultant to support the operations of an understaffed Finance Department. Seward also went four years without a long-term finance director until promoting an existing staff member in August 2023 https://www.sewardjournal.com/news/local/city-names-jusino-new-finance-director/article_bfa5315e-47ab-11ee-a8c8-5f9a93dd4d0f.html

⁵ "...the demand for government auditors in the private sector has likely increased because more localities will be subject to the federal government's single audit requirement. Under the rule, governments that spend \$750,000 or more of federal awards in any given year are subject to the federal Single Audit Act, which requires they submit an external audit to verify they've spent the money according to the guidelines. In some cases, governments in 2022 were going through the single audit process for the first time ever, according to Mary Foelster, senior director of governmental auditing and accounting. She added that 'the increase in the demand for new government audits came during the same time as entities and firms were trying to work on the backlog of previous audits [for governments who were given filing extensions during the pandemic].'" <https://www.route-fifty.com/workforce/2023/04/how-auditor-shortage-could-hurt-local-governments/385337/>

- The late finish for FY21's audit delayed the start of the FY22 audit.

Staff put a lot of effort into attempting to close the current audit by the end of June 2023. We were able to distribute draft financial statements to Council on June 14th. Unfortunately, issues mainly related to implementation of the new GASB 87 rules impacted our ability to finish at that time. We have worked diligently with the auditors to provide any additional information they have requested, and they have made great efforts to keep us on their busy schedule to continue moving things forward.

As the FY22 audit draws to a close, I have asked Finance staff to investigate options to accelerate the FY23 audit. Over the last year we've been pulling together resources to make that objective attainable. We have an existing relationship with Porter & Allison, Inc. to assist in the preparation of financial statements, but we also added two accounting firms to our term contract list in fall of 2022 (Resolution 22-068). Earlier this year the Council approved an increase in funding for professional services for the Finance Department in the FY24/25 budget which was requested to help with priority projects like completing the audit in a timely fashion.

While most of the City was able to move on from the fiscal year change without much of a problem, it did create challenges for Finance which were expected to, and did, have an impact for the years immediately following the change. Getting the current two-year budget complete got us past the fiscal year change on the budget side, and getting past the FY22 audit and accelerating the FY23 audit to overcome the delayed starts on the last two audits should get us back to our regular rhythm for auditing. I would like to make significant reductions in the time it takes to complete future audits, but in the short term, we need to clear out the current cumulative factors to give us a clean slate to work from.



Panel Discussion: What is Driving Change in Homer?



Sarah Richardson



Derotha Ferraro



Katie Gavenus



Julie Engebretsen



Brad Anderson

Join us for a discussion on why & how the greater Homer-area is changing:
demographics and healthcare; changing environment; economic
development; small business perspective; and real estate trends.

**Thursday,
October 12**

**6:00 pm - 8:00pm
at the Homer Library
500 Hazel Ave,
Homer, AK 99603**



**Jane Rohr,
Moderator**

WORK SESSION

AGENDA CALENDAR 2023

Council Meeting Dates	4:00 p.m. Worksession Topic
Monday, May 8	
Tuesday, May 22	<i>Coast Guard ws 2 5 COW @ 4</i>
Monday, June 12	<i>2023 City of Homer Salary and Benefits Survey</i>
Monday, June 26	<i>FY24/25 Capital Budget</i>
Monday, July 24	<i>HDR-Homer Harbor Expansion Alternatives Screening and Next Steps</i>
Monday, August 14	<i>HERC & Hazardous Materials Update – Economic Development Manager & Recreation Manager</i>
Monday, August 28	<i>2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan & FY25 Legislative Priorities - Special Projects & Communications Coordinator</i>
Monday, September 11	<i>HHE study funding and timeline status by the USACE Project Development Team</i>
Monday, September 25	<i>Ord 23-49 Amend Title 2 & Re-Organization</i>
Monday, October 9	<i>HERC – Economic Development Manager & Recreation Manager</i>
Monday, October 18 (off cycle)	<i>Joint Work Session with Planning Commission</i>
Monday, October 23	<i>Finance</i>
Monday, November 27	<i>Recreation</i>
Monday, December 11	
Monday, December 18 If needed	

CITY OF HOMER NEWSLETTER



VOL. III - ISSUE II | OCTOBER 2023

WHAT'S INSIDE?

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023

Polling places for the City of Homer and Kenai Peninsula Borough regular election will be open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Homer No. 1, 06-230: City Hall Cowles Council Chambers, downstairs in the City Hall Building located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue. Entrance is located off Kachemak Way, towards the rear of the facility.

Homer No. 2, 06-240: Homer Methodist Church located at 770 East End Road.

Where's The Voter Pamphlet?

The Kenai Peninsula Borough is no longer automatically mailing voter pamphlets. It is published on the Borough's election webpage kpb.us/voterpamphlet.

Printed copies are available at the Clerk's Office at Homer City Hall and the Borough Annex Office at 638 East Pioneer Avenue. KPB Annex office hours are 8 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

Questions? Contact the City Clerk's Office at (907) 235-3130 or email clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov



Helpful Links:

- [How to Vote Absentee by Mail or In-Person](#)
- [Check Your Voter Status & Find Your Polling Location](#)
- [View the Voter Pamphlet for Sample Ballots & Candidates](#)
- [City of Homer 2023 Candidacy Filing](#)

- Library Events
- Community Corner
- Public Works
- Homer Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Homer Airport Terminal New Artwork
- Homer Public Library
- Public Safety Corner - Halloween!
- Parks
- Port & Harbor
- Harbor Expansion Study Update
- Community Recreation
- Homer Volunteer Fire Department
- 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](#)

Subscribe to the Monthly Newsletter

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/citymanager/monthly-email-newsletter

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 library.org/homerlibrary/upcoming.



October 10 at noon
European Travel Tips & Tools
with Guidebook Author Rick Steves

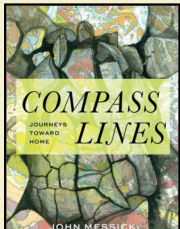


October 18 at 10 am
Master of Suspense:
An author talk with Ruth Ware



October 26 at 3 pm
A Lifetime of Writing: A Conversation
with International Bestselling Author
John Irving

SPECIAL & ONGOING EVENTS



October 6 at 6:00 pm
Visit by John Messick,
author of Compass Lines



October 26 at 6:30 pm
Visit by local writer Robert
Stark, author of Warflower



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

October 10: Donna Aderhold

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



SOUTH PENINSULA HOSPITAL'S WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS RETURN IN OCTOBER!



5:00 - 5:15 PM: TASTY SNACKS AND SETTLING IN
5:15 PM - 5:45 PM: BITE SIZED HEALTH EDUCATION
6:00 - 7:00 PM: YOGA
FREE

SAFESITTER COURSE

Safe Sitter teaches young teens important safety skills, how to handle emergencies, how to treat illnesses and injuries, CPR basics, business skills, how to screen jobs, set a wage, and more.



- **Date**
October 13 & 14
- **Time**
9 am to 2:30 pm
- **Age**
Grades 6 through 8
- **Location**
South Peninsula Hospital
- **Fee**
\$50 - scholarships available
- **Info & Registration**
wellness@sphosp.org
(907)235-0285

PUBLIC WORKS

STATE OF AK DOT AND PUBLIC WORKS RESPOND TO EAST END ROAD FLOOD EVENT

Heavy rain last week caused a flash flood in a steep canyon just west of the new Meadows Subdivision in Kachemak City. The flood waters undermined the steep slopes of the drainage and swept mud and debris-laden water downstream over East End Road and into commercial areas downstream, temporarily closing the road and nearby businesses.

The Alaska Department of Transportation responded with equipment to clear the road and open the ditches, and while doing so inadvertently sheared off the top of a City of Homer manhole. This left a 24" opening through which mud and debris poured for many hours, spiking flows to Homer's Waste Water Treatment Plant with over 500,000 gallons of cold, muddy water.

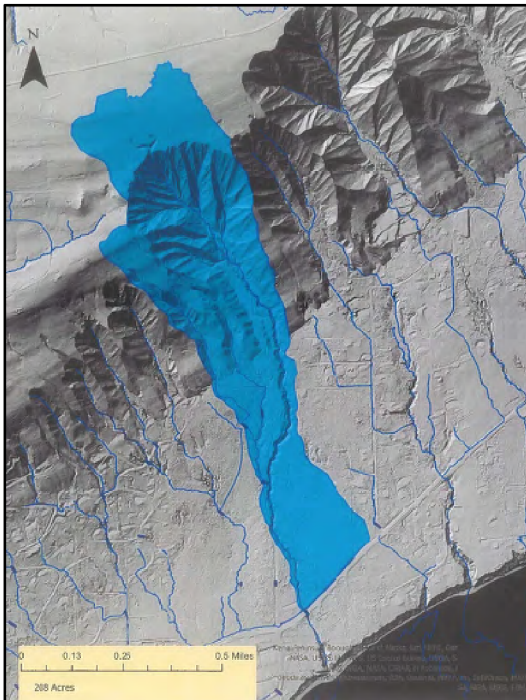
This extra inflow placed heavy demand on Homer's waste water facility. Public Works staff responded with the Vector Truck to pump out the manhole, clear debris, and repair the damaged section of pipe.



Traffic passing through the flooded section of East End Road at Kachemak Drive.

In an effort to restore road access as quickly

as possible, the City allowed DOT to deposit the ditch spoils onto the Public Works' ditch spoil yard on East End Road, which the State will remove to not overload the yard's limited capacity.



How did this happen? The graphic (at left) shows the stream's substantial natural drainage area. Over time, water movement has eroded the slope, which now, in long stretches, is about 75 feet deep and 100 feet wide. The recent heavy rains continued the steep slope scouring, taking mud and debris with it as it rushed downstream. The diversion of smaller streams (away from developments and into the main channel) adds even more water to the main channel before it crosses East End Road, likely exacerbating the situation. It is also quite likely the culvert at East End Road is undersized for larger flood events.

Why does this matter to Homer? First, it's a clear example the importance of working closely with the State to encourage stormwater management and proper road maintenance, as actions upstream can adversely affect City of Homer utilities, residences and businesses. Further, this situation (where upstream development has the ability to adversely affect downstream properties) exists in other drainages in Homer. As we address this situation in the near future, it's good to have this real life example of the importance of effective storm water management

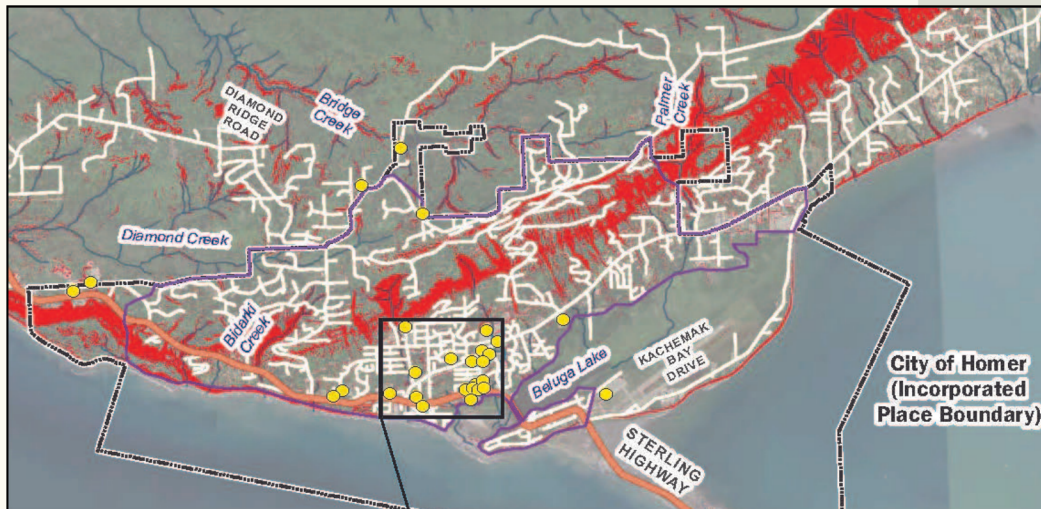
HOMER HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Home's Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies and profiles hazards, analyzes the people and facilities at risk, and develops mitigation actions to reduce or eliminate hazard risk.

One of the hazards identified in Homer is landslides and mudslides.

While the susceptibility of hillsides to landslides depends on variations in geology, topography, vegetation, and weather, steep slopes are often the focus because they can gradually or rapidly erode and have the potential for failure, creating significant damages downstream.

The slopes in Homer at greatest risk of slides are greater than 20 degrees. Approximately 17% (1,504 acres) of Homer is in this hazard area.



The highest concentration of these slopes (highlighted red in the map, above) is along the bluffs running between Skyline Drive East End Road and on the west end of the City, just south of the Sterling Highway (Bluff Point).

The Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys has identified over 1,000 slope failure scars in the Homer and Kachemak City using aerial photographs and light detection and ranging (LIDAR) data. Several factors can contribute to destabilize a slope, including earthquakes, increased water saturation (from groundwater or flooding), erosional undercutting, indiscriminate development, loss of vegetation or the creation of cut-and-fill slopes in areas of unstable geologic conditions.

Notable landslide failures in the last ten years include:

2013 16-foot mudslide down Bear Creek Drive caused by heavy rains that saturated the narrow Bear Creek Canyon. The slide sent trees and debris down Bear Creek, jamming a culvert on the uphill side of East End Road. A disaster declaration was made for several rain-soaked areas in the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

2015 Landslide on Kachemak Drive near the Homer Airport that took out a 100-foot section of the east bound lane of Kachemak Drive, pushing clumps of spruce and alder trees into Mud Bay. The slide resulted in the closure of Kachemak Drive approximately 0.5-mile from Homer Spit Road to the top of the hill.

At least one severe landslide occurred in Homer above Kachemak following the 1964 Great Alaskan Earthquake.

Shallow landslides can occur at any time but are more likely to happen when the ground is nearly saturated. However, deep-seated landslides are generally triggered by deep infiltration of rainfall over many months.

Mitigation Measures Suggested in the LHMP

Landslide Zone

Regulate development through zoning and permitting in landslide prone areas.

Hillside Protection

Stabilize landslide-prone areas through stability improvement measures, including interceptor drains, in situ soil piles, drained earth buttresses, and subdrains.

PUBLIC WORKS

NEW ARTWORK INSTALLED AT HOMER AIRPORT TERMINAL



Next time you fly in or out of Homer, take some time with the gorgeous new artwork in the terminal by Homer naturalist Kim McNett. The three panels celebrate the peatland ecosystems that surround the Homer airport.

McNett said it was “*delightful to honor all of the peatland species through art*”, and it “*warms [her] heart to know the artwork will lend an enduring appreciation and identity to these local treasures.*”

This project was made possible by the efforts of Homer Drawdown, a climate solution community whose members include the Peatland Project of 2021, the Bunnell Street Arts Center, City of Homer, Kachemak Bay Conservation Society and the Rasmuson Foundation. An artist reception is being planned for November.

Peatlands also play a critical role in the [City of Homer Green Infrastructure Slope Stability project](#) — which is conserving and recharging peatlands in the Beluga Wetlands not only for their ecological services, but to help manage stormwater runoff to reduce contaminants entering Kachemak Bay and reduce coastal erosion.

What are peatlands?

Peatlands are a special kind of wetland with deep, carbon-rich, saturated soil. Though peatlands only cover 3% of Earth’s surface, they store more carbon than any other terrestrial ecosystem -- twice that of all the world’s forests combined!

Why are peatlands important?

In addition to enormous carbon sequestration, peatlands in the vicinity of the Homer airport and Kachemak Drive provide other important services. They:

- mitigate the effects of climate change by recharging aquifers and reducing the severity of wildfires and flood events;
- mitigate storm-water runoff and associated flooding and erosion along Kachemak Drive;
- naturally remove harmful toxins from groundwater before it enters our streams, lakes and Kachemak Bay;
- provide essential winter moose habitat and critical migratory bird and salmon habitat.

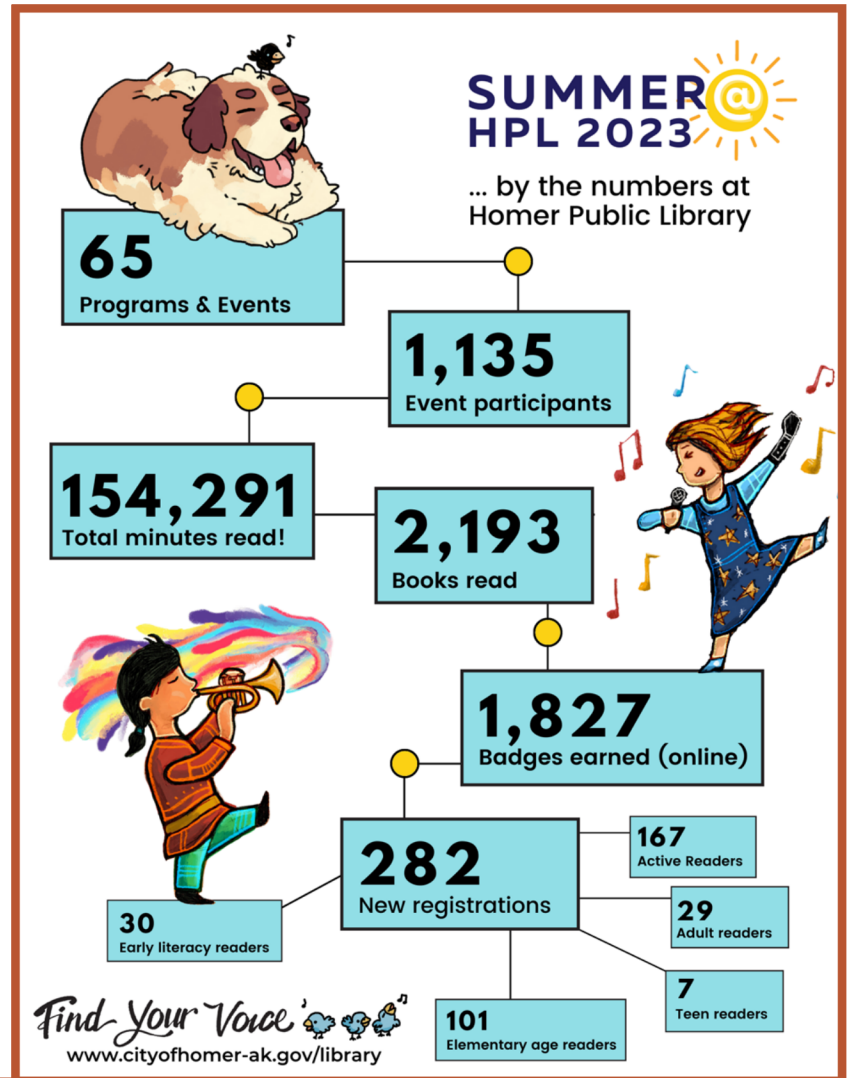
Globally, peatlands are recognized as the highest priority habitat to preserve in the face of climate change.

LIBRARY

SUMMER @ HPL A SUCCESS!

Homer Public Library's 2023 Summer Reading Program, *Find Your Voice*, is officially over and officially a success! The program's 65 events served 1,135 participants who enjoyed a variety of creative and connecting literary events led by skilled local community members in collaboration with Youth Service Librarian Cinda Nofziger. The outdoor celebration on July 29 that marked the end of the Summer Reading Program was a festive and busy event, with music, books, games, BOB the Bookmobile, exciting raffle drawings, food, and local ice cream.

A large part of the Program's success is due to a generous grant from the Homer Foundation's Opportunity Fund and the outpouring of generosity by Homer's outstanding local businesses who provided fabulous prizes and donations. Thank you!



AFTER-SCHOOL @THE LIBRARY

For Elementary Students

EVERY THURSDAY 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

- September**
 - Books, books, books!
- October**
 - Board Games
- November**
 - LEGOs
- December**
 - Arts & Crafts





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.

HALLOWEEN IN HOMER

Get your costumes ready, gather your little goblins and come out for delightful scares and sweet treasures.



The Chamber of Commerce team is brewing up a cauldron of enchanting surprises for you. From creative decorations to interactive experiences, they are conjuring up an event that will thrill both the young and the young at heart. Tune in for updates and sneak peeks coming soon to:

<https://www.homeralaska.org/events/annual-events/pioneer-ave-trick-or-treat/>

Whether you're chauffeuring your children on a candy quest or just driving home from work, please slow down, be cautious in low lighted areas, and mindful of costumed children who might excitedly dart into the road chasing after their friends and not see a car. Also, make sure your trick-or-treater can be seen. Reflective tape and flashlights help motorists see pedestrians in the dark. Have fun and be safe everyone!

HALLOWEEN NIGHT ONE-WAY TRAFFIC CONTROLS

Halloween is one of the most anticipated times of the year for young children. We don't want any tricks when it comes to being safe and seen on our dark October roads.

To help keep trick-or-treaters as safe as possible on Halloween, streets in the Mountainview neighborhood will be open to one way traffic only from 5 to 8 pm on Tuesday, October 31.

- **Vehicles:** One way traffic will be directed from Pioneer to go up Main Street, around Mountain View (clockwise), and across Bayview.
- **Pedestrians:** One lane of the road will be reserved for pedestrians only.
- **Park & Walk:** Due to limited parking on the route, plenty of parking is available at the high school and other side streets for you to park and walk the neighborhood.

The Homer Police Department is working with volunteers to create a smooth, safe traffic flow for trick or treating in the Bayview and Mountain View neighborhoods. You can do your part, too!



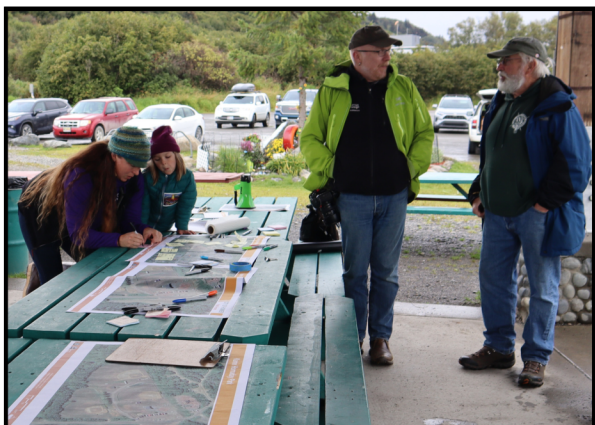
PARKS

PARK MASTER PLANS UNDERWAY

September 12th and 13th were rainy, cool fall days, but that didn't keep park enthusiasts away! Consultants Peter Briggs and Linda Pringle from Corvus Design were in Homer to host a series of meetings with the general public, user groups, City Council and staff as part of the initial process for developing Master Plans for Bayview Park and Karen Hornaday Park.



The public discussed a range of considerations for park improvements.



Despite the challenging weather, turnout was good and there were great conversations. Several Council Members and Commissioners joined staff from the City Manager's Office, Economic Development, Public Works, Parks, and Building Maintenance to engage the public about park needs and to meet with representatives from Little League, Softball, and Sprout Family Services to address specific user-group concerns regarding on-site and weather friendly venues. The information gathered from these meetings is being combined with the public input also being gathered on the City's website for both projects to inform design options. Stay tuned for updates in the near future as the designers process this large volume of public input.

PORT & HARBOR

EROSION ISSUE AT THE DEEP WATER DOCK REPAIRED

In July, Harbor maintenance staff noticed a hole forming next to the approach to the Deep Water Dock. A recent check revealed that erosion had undermined the foundation of the approach where the dock trestle transitions to shore.

Upon discovering the damage had progressed to where daylight shown through all the way to the road surface, with a 1-inch steel plate to accommodate truck and crane traffic as scheduled.

This is the second time erosion has damaged the Deep Water Dock approach. Working with Public Works and HDR, a plan was devised for what we hope will be a permanent solution. Public Work crews excavated the affected area and then built it back with concrete blocks and heavy road fabric. Staff will continue to work to beef up the water side of the approach bulkhead before winter sets in.



HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION

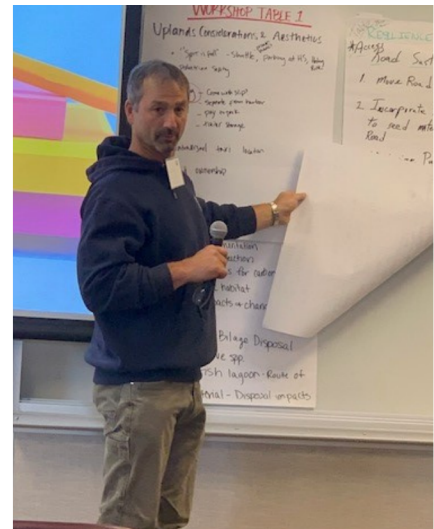
RECAP OF THE SEPTEMBER 23 PUBLIC MEETING

City staff teamed up with the Army Corps of Engineers and HDR to host a public meeting on September 23rd to share updates on the Harbor Expansion Study and engage the public to collect feedback. Over 60 people attended the meeting on a sunny Saturday morning.

In the first hour, presenters spoke about the Army Corps' study process, how the team narrowed from fourteen alternatives to the current five under consideration, and what comes next. Community members then had the opportunity to join breakout groups to discuss one of the following themes in greater depth:

- **Uplands consideration & Aesthetics**
- **Resiliency & Sustainability**
- **Reduced Environmental Impact**
- **Balanced Harbor Design, Logistics**
- **Business & Economic Opportunities**

The group reunited to share highlights from their conversations, and the meeting closed with a Q&A session. Many themes emerged, including the importance of affordable employee housing, curiosity about project timeline and cost estimates (see the Study Update below for more details), and the vital role the harbor plays in this community. Thank you to all who joined us for this meeting. The next public meeting will be timed to align with the release of the Tentatively Selected Plan.



Harbormaster Matt Clarke shares insights from the Business & Economic Opportunities breakout session

STUDY UPDATE



The pace of progress on the study has been great, but the City recently learned it may be put on pause. The USACE has informed the City that their FY23 Federal funds will carry USACE activities into January 2024. However, Federal funding for FY24 has not yet been secured, so they are anticipating a slowdown and possible pause in the study for the next 6 to 16 months.

While all USACE general investigation studies (GI's) are incrementally funded, it is unprecedented for a study to pause like this for lack of continuation funding. The Homer Harbor Expansion study, however, falls into a unique and very small cohort of new start GI's nationwide that were started through congressionally designated spending appropriations. The procedure for securing continuation funding for these studies in the FY24 Federal budget (either through a second federal appropriation or through inclusion in the USACE workplan) was unclear and no funding was included. It is our understanding that all new start GI's funded through FY23 Federal appropriations are in the same position, and efforts are underway to remediate the Federal funding issues and progress the various studies.

The City is working closely with the USACE and diligently investigating all opportunities to keep the harbor expansion study on schedule or minimize the impacts of a delay. The work done to date on the study is not time-sensitive and will remain relevant at the resumption of the study. We appreciate all the efforts of our local USACE project team. They have been open to creative solutions to stretch the current funding, utilize work in kind, and generally optimize the budget; they just recently secured an additional \$50,000 in reprogrammed funds from a study in Hawaii.

The USACE anticipates resuming the study in July 2024 by receiving continuation funding through a balance of unused funds in the USACE FY24 workplan, or possibly later through inclusion in the FY25 Federal Budget. To our knowledge no GI has ended due to lack of Federal funding. We trust that the federal government will ultimately fulfill its commitment to the Homer Harbor Expansion study.

Additionally, geotechnical sampling and ship simulation are being recommended during the study phase, which in the past have been conducted during a project's engineering and design phase. Adding these components to the GI will increase the study cost above the budgeted \$3M, requiring an increase in sponsor matching funds, which is ultimately a City Council decision. The City and HDR are working with the USACE to keep those costs down while gathering sufficient data to support basin design assumptions which is important to mitigating risk associated with identifying construction costs.

COMMUNITY RECREATION



COSMIC HAMLET PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT RECAP

The 2nd Annual “Cosmic Hamlet Pickleball Tournament” was held on Labor Day weekend September 1-3. The event was co-sponsored with Homer Pickleball Club and attracted many participants. We expect this to grow every year despite the challenges and limitations of using the HERC gym. The numbers include:



- 73 players entered, an increase over last year's tournament
- 51 teams played in the tournament
- 30 players were from Homer, 43 were from out of town (largely Anchorage and from other communities on the Peninsula)
- 3 Major Sponsors - Story Real Estate, Grace Ridge Brewery and Homer's Jeans
- 21 Homer businesses provided door prizes
- 45 door prizes were given out

The Homer Community Recreation program has a constant flow of new opportunities. Please check out our many activities, programs and special events here: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/com-rec/current-programs-events>.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

SEPTEMBER TRAININGS

Throughout the month of September, trainees in HVFD's 2023 Firefighter 2 class has been covering a wide variety of skills trainings to prepare them for their State certification test the first week of October. Their trainings include vehicle extrication, special rescue team operations, fire origin and cause, and much more. Four members from HVFD and four from Seward Fire Department worked hard and made this class great. We look forward to congratulating them when they graduate in October with State and National certifications!



HVFD's newest Volunteer putting in the extra time for Extrication Training.



VEIS (Vent, Enter, Isolate, Search) Training teaches firefighters advanced levels of fire rescue tactics.

CITY STAFF
SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

We would like to recognize City staff members with anniversaries last month. Thank you for the dedication, commitment, and service you've provided the City and taxpayers of Homer over the years. You all are an integral part of what makes the City of Homer a great place to work .

Aaron Glidden	Port	19 Years
Ryan Browning	Police	13 Years
Tracie Whitaker	Police	9 Years
Lisa Linegar	Police	8 Years
Jakob Richter	Fire	4 Years
Charles Benson	Police	2 Years
Samantha Cunningham	Fire	2 Years
Jessica McGuire	Finance	1 Year

MEET CITY
STAFF

Meet Cinda Nofziger

Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My! I love being the youth services librarian at the Homer Public Library. I help plan and run programs for area youth from wee-ones to young adults, including our summer reading program. Year round, I get to host storytimes for our youngest patrons, and after school activities for elementary kids as well as tweens and teens. Shout out to the Teen Advisory Board! You can also catch me on KBBI radio each month for radio story hour where young and old alike can listen to stories and take a much needed dance break! I also manage the collections of materials for children and young adults.



wonders of the Homer Public Library when it was located on Pioneer. My previous employment includes stints at the Gear Shed, Albany County Public Library, and Head of Reference at the University of Michigan. Please say hello the next time you visit the library!

EMPLOYEE
HIGH FIVE!

Everyone in town knows that phone service was down for an extended period recently. What most people don't realize is that the water treatment plant relies on the phone system to alert operators to problems with the system. Another thing that some people don't know is that the drinking water system supplies water to the fire hydrants in town.



The on call operator, Jason Hoffman, contacted his supervisor about the lack of comms at the WTP. They assessed the situation, if the plant had a shutdown, without the phone system operating, reaction time would be dangerously long, especially if there were a fire or some other emergency in town. It was decided someone should stay at the plant all night to insure uninterrupted service, Jason volunteered. This shows his dedication, not only to his job but to the health and safety of our community.

High five, Jason!

My favorite part of my job is getting to know and hang out with so many of our community's wonderful youth—from the littles who are just learning about books to the teens who use the library to study, socialize, and craft their own stories. Everyone brings a super fun energy to the building and I feel so lucky to be a part of it. Our area kiddos make my job fun, exciting, and so very meaningful. I also have some wonderful colleagues!

When I'm not at the library, you might find me reading, watching British mysteries, hanging out with my family crew, Jazzercising (yes, Jazzercising), and going on Homer adventures. I've served as the youth librarian and have lived full-time in Homer for two years now, but Homer has always felt like home for as long as I can remember. I still think so fondly of Grandma Hilda Stoltzfus introducing me to the

CITY OF HOMER ROSTER

Mayor - Ken Castner (2024)

City Council

Donna Aderhold (2024)

Jason Davis (2025)

Shelley Erickson (2024)

Storm P. Hansen-Cavasos (2025)

Rachel Lord (2023)

Caroline Venuti (2023)

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

Jan Keiser, Public Works Director/City Engineer

Ryan Foster, City Planner

Mike Illg, Community Recreation Manager

Commissions and Boards

ADA Advisory Board

Economic Development Advisory Commission

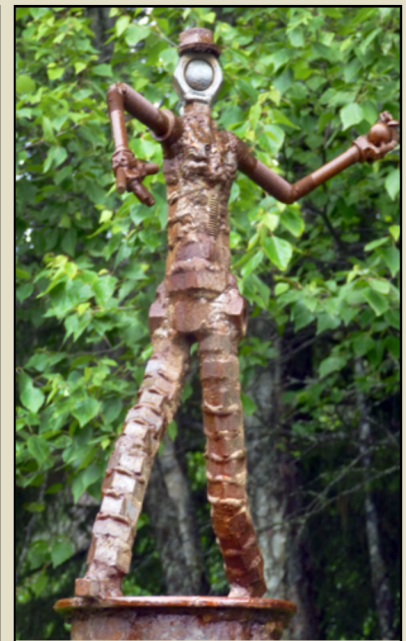
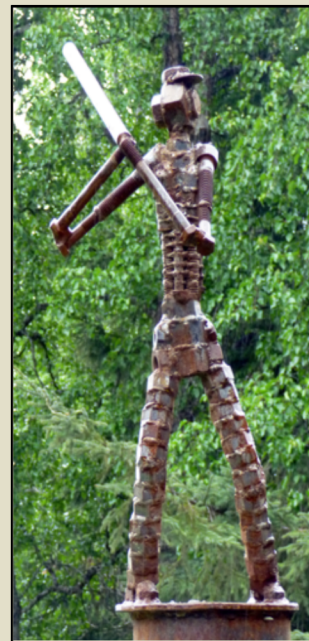
Library Advisory Board

Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

Planning Commission

Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION



These two ball players can be seen hanging out at Jack Gist Park, no matter the season.

These sculptures were constructed by artist Don Henry in 2009 out of welded found objects.

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.

October UPCOMING MEETINGS

3 7 am - 8 pm	Election Day for 2023 City & Borough Regular Election
4 5:30 pm	Planning Commission Worksession
4 6:30 pm	Planning Commission Regular Meeting
9 4 pm	City Council Worksession - HERC
9 5 pm	City Council Committee of the Whole
9 6 pm	City Council Regular Meeting
10 6 pm	Economic Dev. Advisory Commission Regular Meeting
11 5:30 pm	Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meeting
12 5:30 pm	ADA Advisory Board Regular Meeting
12 5:30 pm	Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Worksession
16 5:30 pm	Planning Commission Worksession
16 6:30 pm	Planning Commission Regular Meeting
17 5:30 pm	Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting
19 5:30 pm	Parks, Art, Rec & Culture Commission Regular Meeting
23 5 pm	City Council Committee of the Whole
23 6 pm	City Council Regular Meeting

91

JOIN OUR TEAM

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

CURRENT JOB LISTING

- [Harbor Officer I](#)
- [Firefighter/ EMT](#)



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