



Agenda

Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission Regular Meeting

Regular Meeting

Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 5:30 PM

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

Homer City Hall

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

Zoom Webinar ID: 990 6701 0473 Password: 295088

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

CALL TO ORDER 5:30 P.M.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS (10 minute time limit)

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 Meeting Minutes for January 18, 2024 - Please refer to Supplemental Packet

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

- A. Park Maintenance Report PARC 24-008
- B. Staff Report PARC 24-009
- C. Recreation Report PARC 24-010

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS (15 minute time limit)

- A. Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan Update
Memorandum from Park & Trails Planner as backup
- B. Bayview Park Plan - Additional Commission Review and Recommendations
Memorandum PARC 24-013 from Economic Development Manager as backup

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

NEW BUSINESS (15-20 minute time limit)

- A. User Fees for Community Recreation Programs
Memorandum PARC 24-015 from Deputy City Clerk as backup
- B. Non-Motorized Walkways
Memorandum PARC 24-016 from Deputy City Clerk as backup
- C. Letters to the Editor
Memorandum PARC 24-014 from Deputy City Clerk as backup.
- D. Developing & Updating the Commission Strategic Plan
Memorandum CC-24-027 from Councilmembers Erickson & Davis
PARCAC Strategic Plan 2017
2022-2023 EDC Strategic Plan & Goals
2023 LAB Strategic Plan & Goals
2022-2023 PHC Strategic Plan & Goals
2024-2025 Draft PARCAC Strategic Plan & Goals

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. City of Homer Monthly Newsletter
February 2024
- B. City Manager's Reports
CM Report to City Council for January 22, 2024
CM Report to City Council for February 12, 2024
- C. PARCAC Annual Calendar 2024

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBER(If Present)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is **Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.** All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.



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 PARC-24-008

TO: PARKS, ART, RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION
FROM: CHAD FELICE, PARKS MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR
DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 2024
SUBJECT: PARKS REVIEW FOR JANUARY

KAREN HORNADAY PARK PLAYGROUND

- Snow removal/sanding
- Continued clearing alders in the campground area

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

- Snow blowing, plowing and sanding of trails and parks
- The Upper Hornaday trail that goes to West Danview is closed for safety
- Continued cleaning up between Hazel and the Story trail to make it more open and visible

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Sanding roads, parks, and sidewalks
- Inventory
- Working with Matt Steffy on ordering new signs for Jack Gist, Bishops Beach, and Jeffery Park
- Removed the sign at Bishops Beach (was rotten and falling apart)
- Old Poop deck trail sign has been removed
- Ordered 1 mobile restroom for Hornaday Park and 1 for Jack Gist
- Finished an assessment of the Parks from a maintenance view
- Working with the Public Works Superintendent and City Manager on the possibility of purchasing a compact tractor



MEMORANDUM

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

The following City Council resolutions and ordinances activity relevant to the Park, Arts, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission since the last PARCAC special meeting on January 18, 2024.

January 22, 2024 City Council Meeting

Memorandum CC-24-024 from Mayor Castner re: Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission, Janette Keiser is appointed to the Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission to fill the seat vacated by Deb Lowney. The term expires October 31, 2026. **Approved.**

Resolution 24-011, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Approving a Sole Source Contract in the Amount of \$195,000 to Comforts of Home Services to Purchase Three Mobile Restrooms and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. **Adopted.**

Ordinance 24-03, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Re-Appropriating \$77,500 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to Install a Mobile Restroom at Jack Gist Park. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction January 8, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 22, 2024. **Adopted.**

Ordinance 24-04, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Re-Appropriating \$150,000 from the Homer Accelerated Water and Sewer Program (HAWSP) Fund to Purchase Two Mobile Restrooms to be Placed at Karen Hornaday Park. City Manager/Public Works Director. Introduction January 8, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 22, 2024. **Adopted.**

Ordinance 24-06, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$25,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Trails Fund to Contract Engineering Services for Preliminary Design of Non-motorized Trails and Trailhead Connecting City of Homer Diamond Creek Property to the Proposed Highway Underpass. Davis. Introduction January 8, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 22, 2024. **Adopted.**

Resolution 24-015, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Requesting the State of Alaska to make a Meaningful and Timely Increase in the Base Student Allocation for Public Schools. **Adopted.**

February 12, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting

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

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

RECOMMENDATION: Informational Only.



MEMORANDUM


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

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

- **Women's Basketball** is now being offered to girls and women from 7th grade to adults. This takes place on Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm at Homer Middle.
- Staff is continuing to work with **Homer Flex High School** and offering them some physical education activities at the HERC once a week in February through March.
- Staff is working with **Project Grad** to host visiting students from across the bay for some specialized indoor recreational opportunities through Community Recreation at the HERC gym on February 24th.
- The **Adult Basketball League** held the playoffs and championship games on February 3 & 4. Alaska Arches are the 2023-24 champs! There were 6 teams and over 90 participants. Thanks to the team sponsors: Alaska Bible Institute, Alaska PT+Wellness, Alaska Salt Co., Alaska Arches, Bay Welding and Ulmer's Drug & Hardware. A special thanks for Linda and Dave Etwiler for their dedicated work and effort in running the score clock and stat sheets.
- Community Recreation will be offering some **Jewelry Making Classes** in February & March: Introduction to Silversmithing: Feb. 17-18, Lost Wax Casting: Feb 23-25 and Intermediate Silversmithing: March 2-3.

Recreation Software: We confident to say we have successfully launched the CivicRec software system starting with creating membership account, drop in cards or single entries for drop in programs first and then on to other classes and special events as we learn to use the system. This will be a gradual implementation for all of our programs.

City of Homer Community Rec February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HMS 6:30-8pm SALSA DANCE CLASS at HHS	2 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	3 8:30am-12:30pm YOUTH TUMBLING at HHS 9:30am-12pm PICKLEBALL SKILL SHARING at HERC 10am-6:30pm ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE PLAYOFFS TOURNAMENT at HHS
4 9:30-11:30am PICKLEBALL at HERC 2-7:30pm ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE PLAYOFFS TOURNAMENT at HHS 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL CANCELLED	5 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 3:15-4:15pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL CLASS 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 INLET WINDS BAND at HHS 6:30-8:30pm WOMENS BASKETBALL at HMS	6 4:30-6:30pm COMPETITIVE 4.0+ PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HMS	7 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 BASKETBALL at HMS 8-10pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS	8 11am -1pm LUNCHTIME PICKLEBALL 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL CANCELLED 6:30-8pm SALSA DANCE CLASS at HHS	9 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 3:15-4:15pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL CLASS at HERC 4:30-7pm KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC	10 8:30am-12:30pm YOUTH TUMBLING CANCELLED 9:30am-12pm PICKLEBALL SKILL SHARING at HERC
11 9:30-11:30am PICKLEBALL at HERC 1:30-6:30pm ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE at HHS 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS	12 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 3:15-4:15pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL CLASS 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 INLET WINDS BAND at HHS 6:30-8:30pm WOMENS BASKETBALL at HMS	13 4:30-6:30pm COMPETITIVE 4.0+ PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HMS	14 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 1:45-3:30pm HOMER FLEX at HERC 4:30-7pm KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm BASKETBALL CANCELLED 6:30-8:30pm INTERMED PICKLEBALL at HERC	15 11am -1pm LUNCHTIME PICKLEBALL 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL CANCELLED 6:30-8pm SALSA DANCE CLASS at HHS	16 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 3:15-4:15pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL CLASS at HERC 4:30-7pm KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC	17 8:30am-12:30pm YOUTH TUMBLING at HHS 9am-5pm INTRO SILVERSMITHING at HHS 9:30am-12pm PICKLEBALL SKILL SHARING at HERC
18 9am-5pm INTRO SILVERSMITHING at HHS 9:30-11:30am PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS	19 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 3:15-4:15pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL CLASS 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 INLET WINDS BAND at HHS 6:30-8:30pm WOMENS BASKETBALL at HMS	20 4:30-6:30pm COMPETITIVE 4.0+ PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HMS	21 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 1:45-3:30pm HOMER FLEX at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm BASKETBALL CANCELLED 6:30-8:30pm INTERMED PICKLEBALL at HERC	22 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HMS 6:30-8pm SALSA DANCE CLASS at HHS	23 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 3:15-4:15pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL CLASS at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC	24 8:30am-12:30pm YOUTH TUMBLING at HHS 9am-5pm LOST WAX CASTING at HHS 9:30am-12pm PICKLEBALL SKILL SHARING at HERC 2:30-6pm PROJECT GRAD at HERC
25 9am-5pm LOST WAX CASTING at HHS 9:30-11:30am PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS	26 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 3:15-4:15pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL CLASS 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 INLET WINDS BAND at HHS 6:30-8:30pm WOMENS BASKETBALL at HMS	27 4:30-6:30pm COMPETITIVE 4.0+ PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HMS	28 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 1:45-3:30pm HOMER FLEX at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm BASKETBALL at HMS 6:30-8:30pm INTERMED PICKLEBALL at HERC	29 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HMS 6:30-8pm SALSA DANCE CLASS at HHS		
		Color Key BLACK=Homer High BLUE=Homer Middle PURPLE=HERC GREEN= West Homer RED=Cancellation			DISCLAIMER: ALL ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECTED TO CHANGE OR BEING CANCELLED WITH LIMITED NOTIFICATION	

Month of February 2024 page 1 (2.3)

GYM

Time Block	1-Feb THURS	2-Feb FRI	3-Feb SAT	4-Feb SUN	5-Feb MON	6-Feb TUES	7-Feb WED	8-Feb THURS	9-Feb FRI	10-Feb SAT	11-Feb SUN	12-Feb MON	13-Feb TUES	14-Feb WED	15-Feb THURS					
6-6:30AM																				
6:30-7AM																				
7-7:30AM																				
7:30-8AM																				
8-8:30AM																				
8:30-9AM																				
9-9:30	RES	Drop In			Drop In	RES	Drop In	RES	Drop In			Drop In	RES	Drop In	RES					
9:30-10AM	RES	Pickleball	Pickle Ball Skill Sharing	Drop In	Pickleball	RES	Pickleball	RES	Pickleball	Pickle Ball Skill Sharing	Drop In	Pickleball	RES	Pickleball	RES					
10-10:30AM				Pickleball																
10:30-11AM																				
11-11:30AM								Intro to Pickleball							Intro to Pickleball					
11:30AM-12PM																				
12-12:30PM																				
12:30-1PM																				
1-1:30PM																				
1:30-2PM														FLEX						
2-2:30PM																				
2:30-3PM															PROJ GRAD					
3-3:30PM					Youth				Youth			Youth								
3:30-4PM					Pickleball Class				Pickleball Class			Pickleball Class								
4-4:30PM																				
4:30-5PM	RES	Drop In			Drop In	4.0 +	Drop In	RES	Drop In			Drop In	4.0 +	Drop In						
5-5:30PM	RES	Pickleball		RES	Pickleball	Competitive Pickleball	Pickleball	RES	Pickleball		RES	Pickleball	Competitive Pickleball	Pickleball						
5:30-6PM																				
6-6:30PM																				
6:30-7PM	Pickleball				Drop In	Pickleball	Drop In	Pickleball				Drop In	Pickleball	Drop In	Pickleball					
7-7:30PM	Drill Time				Interm.	Drill Time	Interm.	Drill Time				Interm.	Drill Time	Interm.	Drill Time					
7:30-8PM	Class				Pickleball	Class	Pickleball	Class				Pickleball	Class	Pickleball	Class					
8-8:30PM					2.5-3.5		2.5-3.5					2.5-3.5		2.5-3.5						

Month of February 2024 page 2 (2.3)

GYM

	16-Feb	17-Feb	18-Feb	19-Feb	20-Feb	21-Feb	22-Feb	23-Feb	24-Feb	25-Feb	26-Feb	27-Feb	28-Feb	29-Feb
Time Block	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS
6-6:30AM														
6:30-7AM														
7-7:30AM														
7:30-8AM														
8-8:30AM														
8:30-9AM														
9-9:30	Drop In					Drop In		Drop In					Drop In	
9:30-10AM	Pickleball	PB Skill	Drop In			Pickleball		Pickleball	PB Fun	Drop In			Pickleball	
10-10:30AM		Sharing	Pickleball						Tourney	Pickleball				
10:30-11AM														
11-11:30AM							Intro to							Intro to
11:30AM-12PM							Pickleball							Pickleball
12-12:30PM														
12:30-1PM														
1-1:30PM		RES												
1:30-2PM							FLEX						FLEX	
2-2:30PM														
2:30-3PM														
3-3:30PM	Youth			Youth				Youth			Youth			
3:30-4PM	Pickleball			Pickleball				Pickleball			Pickleball			
4-4:30PM	Class			Class				Class			Class			
4:30-5PM	Drop In				4.0 +	Drop In		Drop In				4.0 +	Drop In	
5-5:30PM	Pickleball				Competitive	Pickleball		Pickleball				Competitive	Pickleball	
5:30-6PM					Pickleball							Pickleball		
6-6:30PM														
6:30-7PM					Pickleball	Drop In	Pickleball					Pickleball	Drop In	Pickleball
7-7:30PM					Drill Time	Interm.	Drill Time					Drill Time	Interm.	Drill Time
7:30-8PM					Class	Pickleball	Class					Class	Pickleball	Class
8-8:30PM						2.5-3.5							2.5-3.5	



CITY OF HOMER COMMUNITY REC:



STARTS
FEB 1

WINTER 2024

SALSA DANCE CLASS

Join us for a friendly introductory dance class where we'll explore salsa dance fundamentals together. Whether you come alone or with a partner, you're welcome to be part of the group. We will be introducing new concepts and steps every week. Participants 7th grade & up.

WHEN: Thursdays, 6:30-8PM

For information/registration:

WHERE: Homer High Green Room

Kaec **299-6623** or Rhoslyn **299-2435**

FEE: \$10 person, per class (ongoing)

KPBSD posts flyers as a community service. Such posting does not constitute an endorsement for or against the materials and viewpoints expressed in them.



MEMORANDUM

Staff Report for Karen Hornaday Park Plan

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Parks, Art, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Commission
Date: January 10th, 2024
From: Matt Steffy, Parks and Trails Planner

We have received the most recent draft from Corvus Design for the Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan revision. Commissioners should review the full plan and deliver any comments or questions to staff to relay to the contractor. There are a few specific components that the commission should review and discuss at this meeting. Staff will attend the meeting to facilitate the conversation. Feel free to reach out before the meeting with any questions!

Requested Reviews

1. Future of Upper Hornaday. There are three options presented for the future use of the campground area. Please review these options on page six of the attached draft entitled: "Campground Development Options."

- **Option 1: Retain Campground**
 - Existing campground is refurbished, and minor new elements are introduced.
- **Option 2: Retain Partial Campground / Reprogram Areas**
 - Reduce the size of the campground and repurpose part of the area for other recreation.
- **Option 3: Remove Campground / Reprogram Space**
 - Repurpose the entire area for other recreation.

2. Restroom locations .There are several options for restroom locations on page nine of the plan set. "Site Infrastructure Improvements," are potential restroom locations, which are designated by pink rectangles. Please review and discuss these options with staff and provide comment. Where do you think the restrooms should be placed to best serve the most park users or make the park most functional as a multipurpose park?

NEXT STEPS: Staff will work with the consultant to incorporate your comments. Conversation on the full draft plan will continue at the February meeting. When ready in the next 2-3 months, a revised draft can be hosted on the City website and staff will conduct public and user group outreach, in preparation of moving towards a PARCAC recommendation to Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide comment and input on components of the plan at this draft stage.

Attachments:

Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan Revision DRAFT 01.08.2024

Karen Hornaday Park Program Development



Facility or use ideas: sledding, ninja warrior course, tether ball, badminton, volleyball, pump track, cross country ski use, dog park, outdoor stage (with covering)

Site Analysis

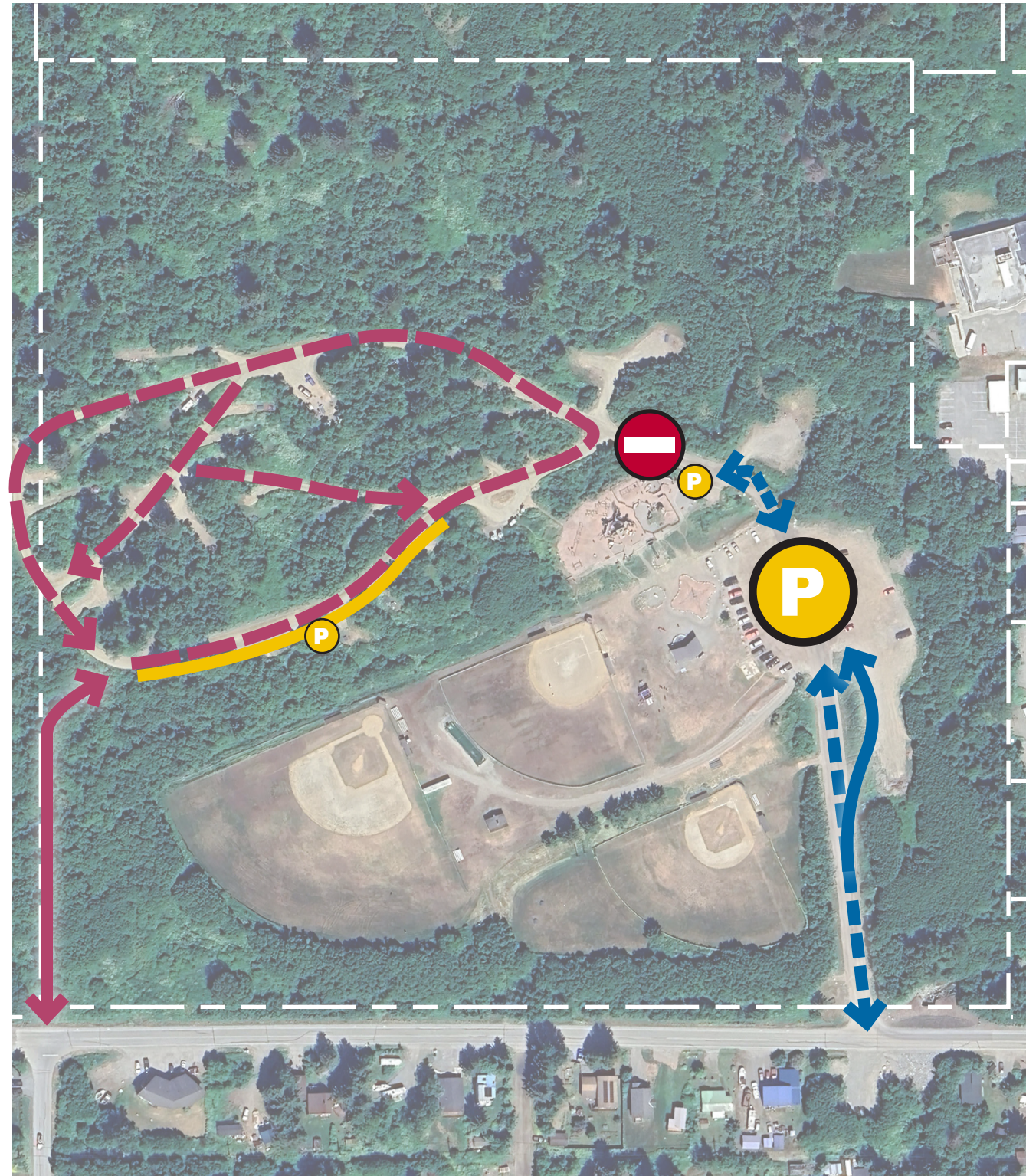
- 1 » Review parking lot layout and access to supply +/-110 parking spaces. ADA parking for shelter and playground.
- 2 » Review slope on baseball fields and regrade as needed to provide positive drainage.
- 3 » T-Ball Field (a reminder this is here for this purpose)
- 4 » Review drainage issues north 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.

Karen Hornaday Park Site Access Option 1 (New Access Road)

REV: 2024-01-09

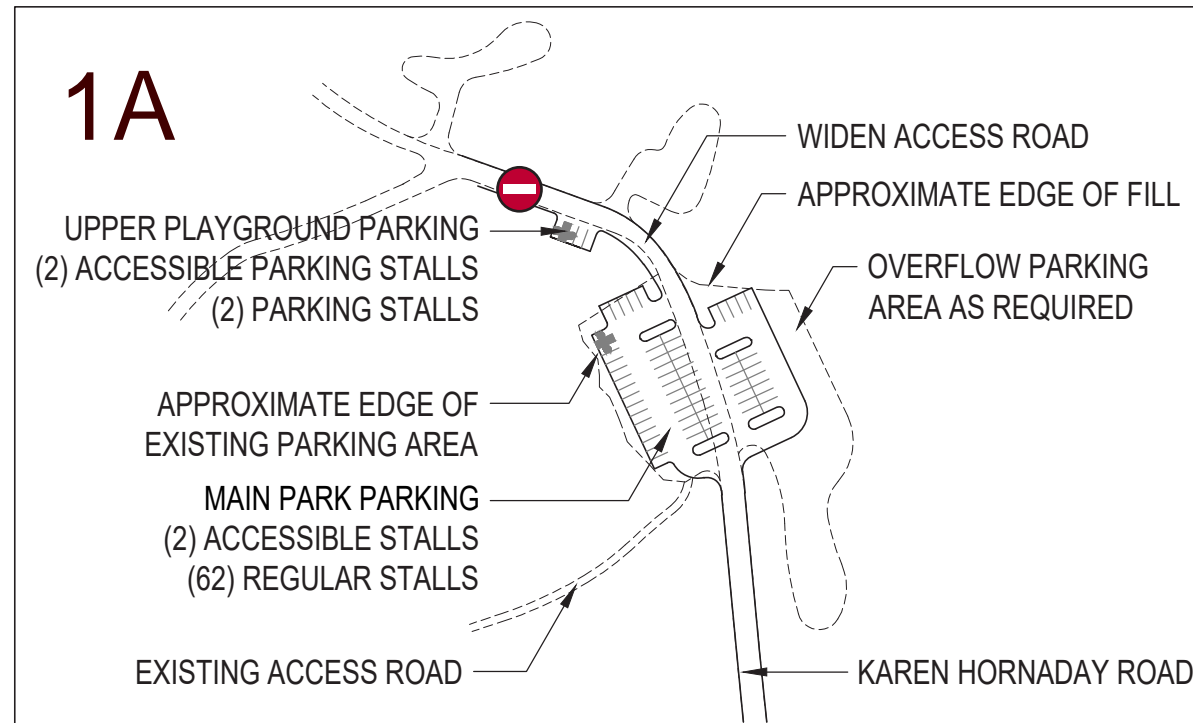
CITY OF HOMER

Access & Parking



Site Access Diagram – Option 1

- New Route
- Existing Route
- Campground Traffic
- Park Traffic
- Comingled Traffic



Parking Option A - Calmed (Constrained by Existing Conditions)

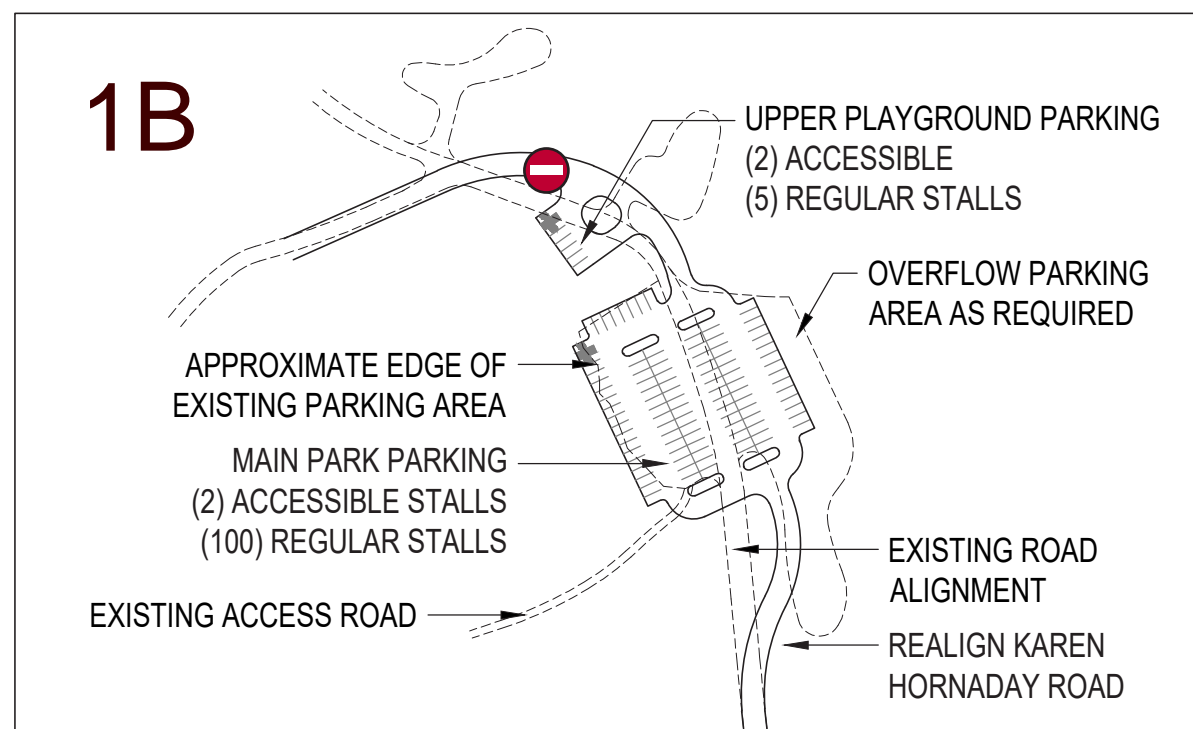
This option is based on staying within existing conditions, except for provision of a new western access road.

Benefits

- Separates park and campground traffic
- Uses existing road alignment
- Fits within existing parking and fill area
- Offsets parking access to slow traffic
- Provides overflow parking

Negatives

- Limited parking expansion
- Dead end when gate closed



Parking Option B - Calmed (Expanded with New Road Realignment)

This option expands beyond existing conditions, and provides a new western access road

Benefits

- Separates park and campground traffic
- Provides approx. 109 parking
- Offsets parking access to slow traffic
- Direct playground parking is separated from main access road
- Playground parking provides turnaround when road is closed

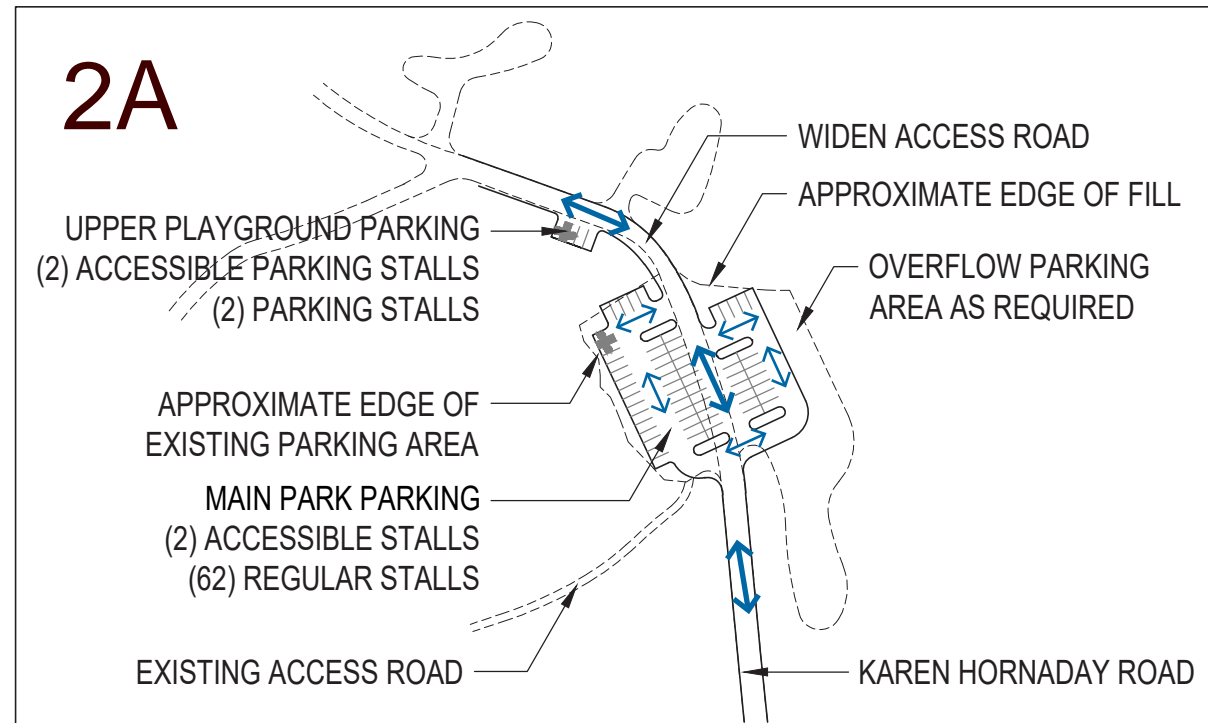
Negatives

- Overflow parking is less convenient
- Requires relocation of the existing net climber and memorial garden.
- Encroaches on creek in northeast



Site Access Diagram – Option 2

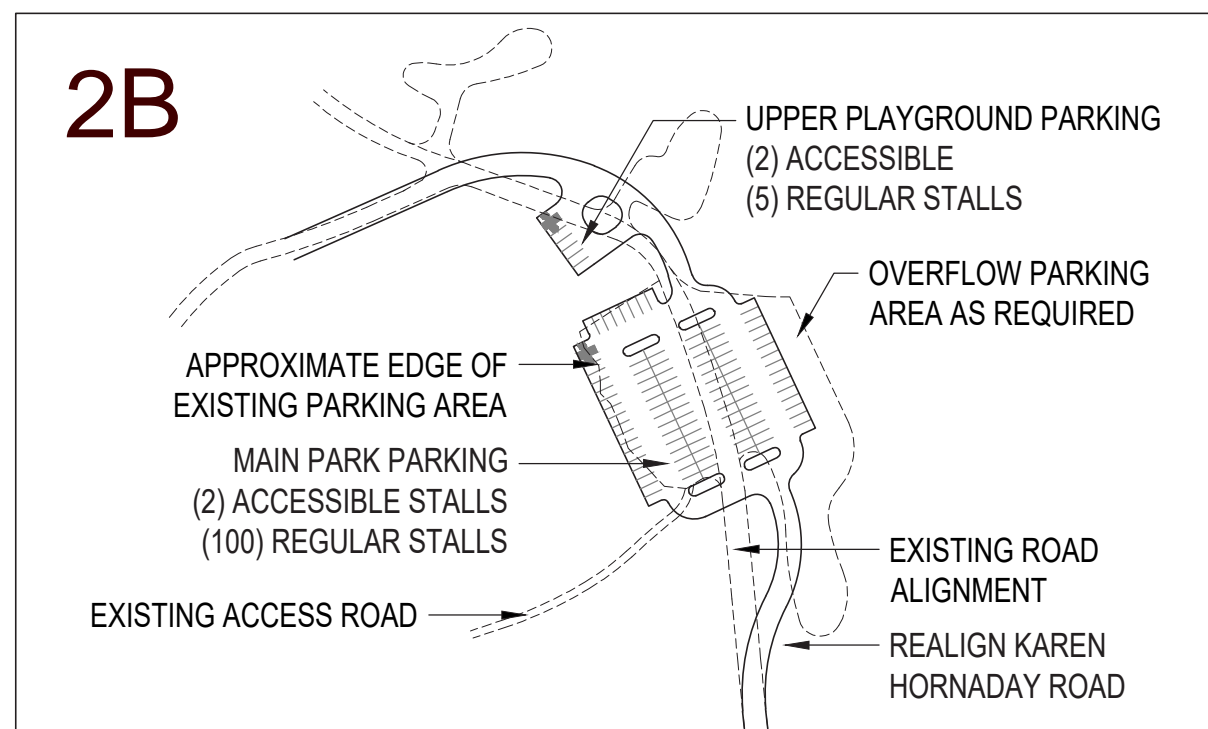
- New Route
- Existing Route
- Campground Traffic
- Park Traffic
- Comingled Traffic



Parking Option A - Calmed (Constrained by Existing Conditions)

This option stays within the constraints of the existing conditions.

- Benefits**
- Uses existing road alignment
 - Fits within existing parking and fill area
 - Offsets parking access to slow traffic
 - Provides overflow parking
- Negatives**
- Limited parking expansion
 - Pedestrians required to cross main expected campground vehicle route
 - Direct playground parking backs into road



Parking Option B - Calmed (Expanded with New Road Realignment)

This option maximizes parking and decreases speed entering the parking lot.

- Benefits**
- Separates park and campground traffic
 - Provides approx. 109 parking
 - Offsets parking access to slow traffic
 - Direct playground parking is separated from main access road
 - Main expected campground vehicle route is pushed east
- Negatives**
- Overflow parking is less convenient
 - Requires relocation of the existing net climber and memorial garden.
 - Encroaches on creek in northeast

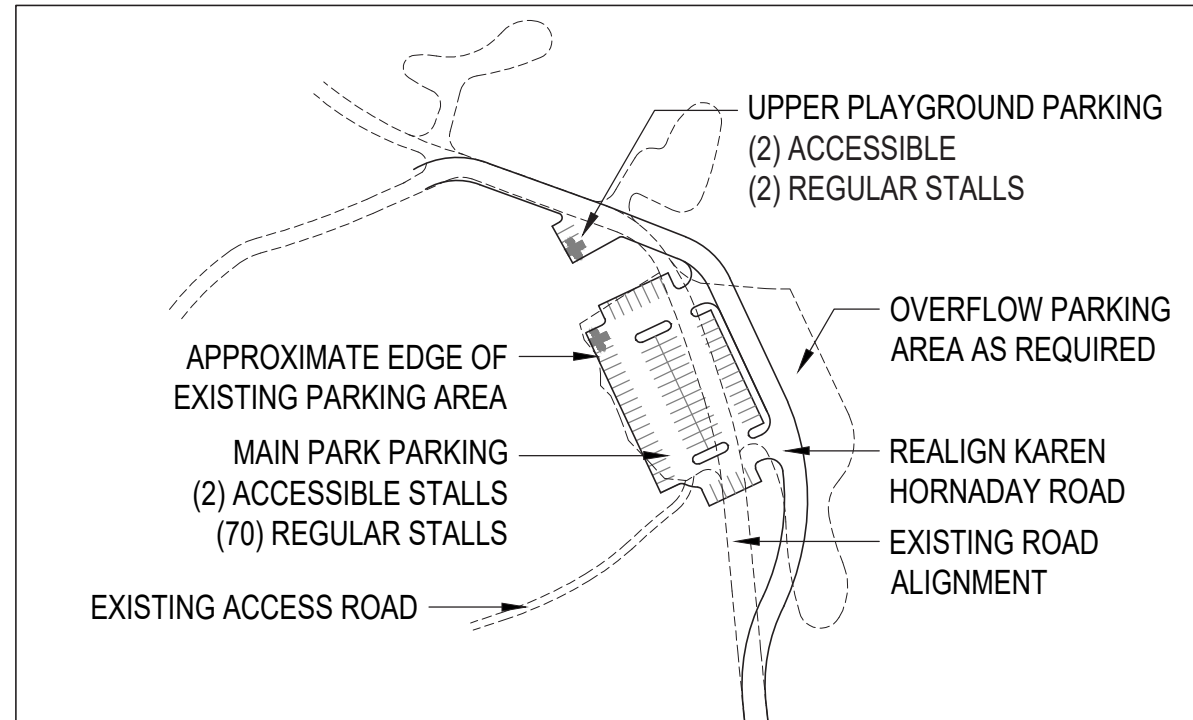
Karen Hornaday Park Site Access Option 3 (Road Separation)

REV: 2024-01-09



Site Access Diagram – Option 3

- New Route
- Existing Route
- Campground Traffic
- Park Traffic
- Comingled Traffic



Parking Option C - Separated from Road

This option separates the access road from the parking area while still expanding parking quantities.

Benefits

- Separates park and campground traffic
- Additional overflow parking accessible for events
- Provides overflow parking

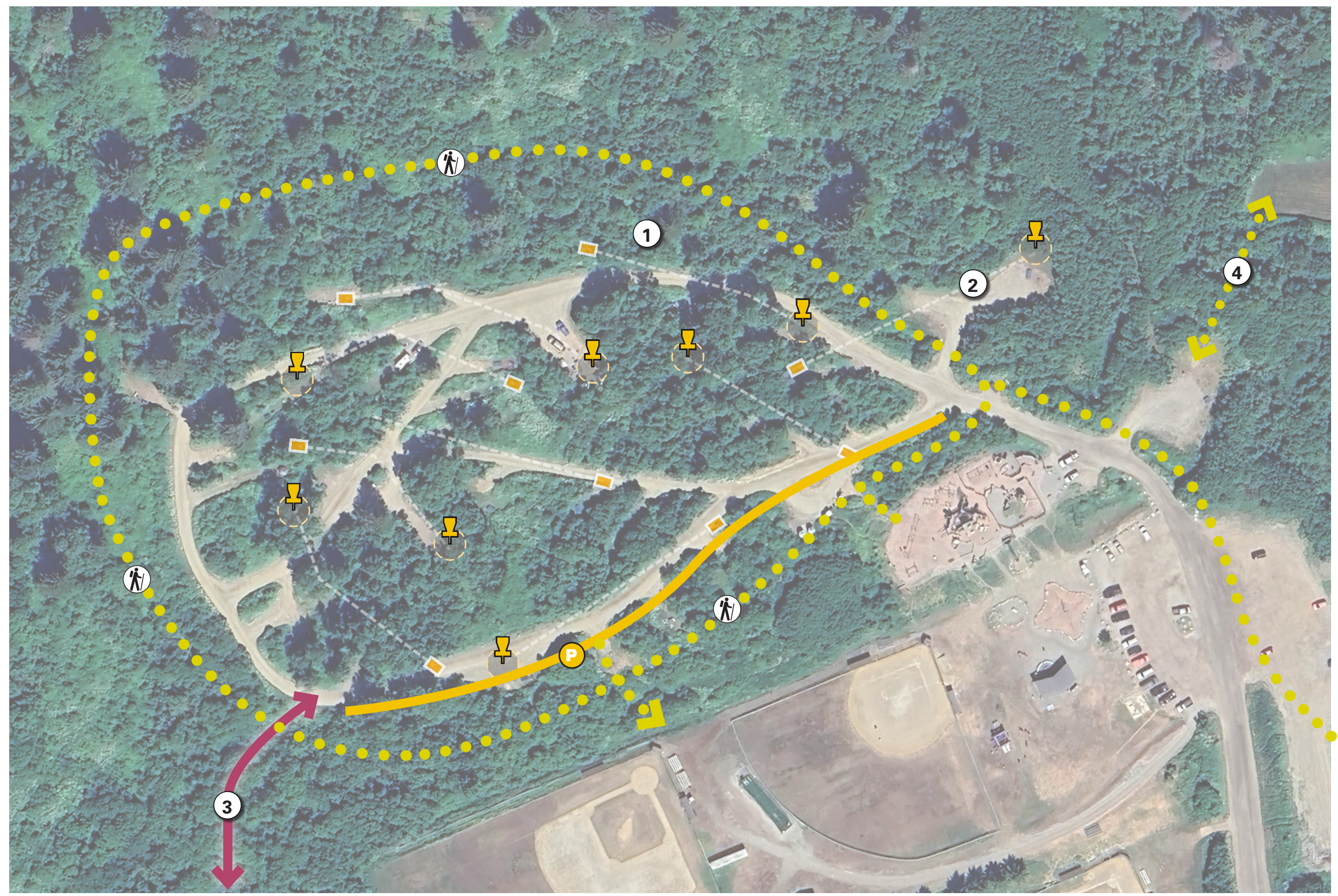
Negatives

- Encroaches on creek in northeast
- Direct playground parking backs into road

Karen Hornaday Park Campground Development Overview

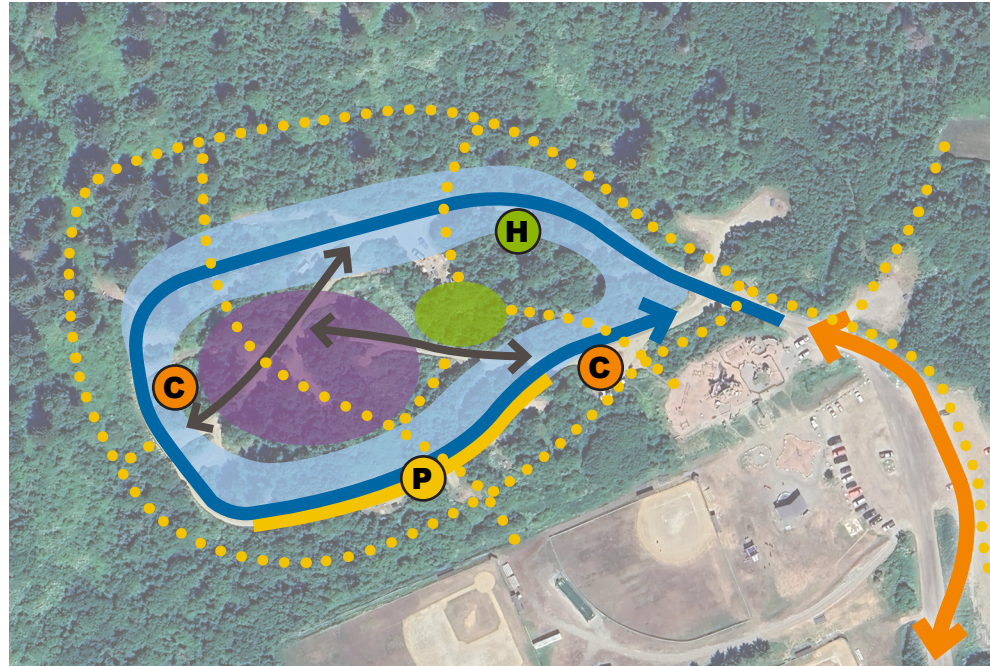
REV: 2024-01-09

CITY OF HOMER Campground



- ① Explore the feasibility of installing a loop trail around the campground and connecting with existing trails
- ② Disc golf use (seasonal)
- ③ Review feasibility for an alternative access route to existing campground area.
- ④ 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)
- ⑤ Renovate campground to accommodate desired uses. Mandatory operations and management plan prior to finalizing programming. Plan with beneficial off-season uses in mind.

Campground Use Diagram



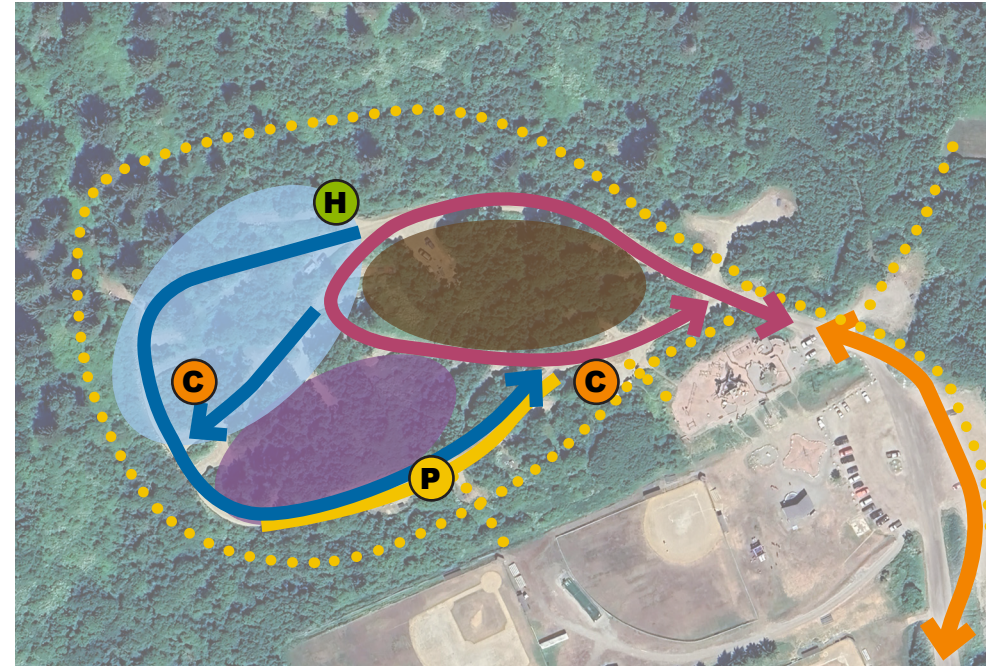
Option 1: Retain Campground

Same campground configuration with additional parking on the south, upgraded sites and access, implemented management and maintenance plan, improved trails and access, and a day-use area for the campground.

Proposed Improvements

- One-way road access with back in vehicle-accessible campsites
- Designated tent only campsites
- Day-use area with a proposed pavilion, picnic tables, and open play/campground event area
- Designated park host campsite
- Implemented management and maintenance plan
- Seasonal bathroom facilities (comfort station)
- Additional parking for campground or Karen Hornaday Park use
- Improved trail connectivity with a perimeter loop trail

- Campground Access - One Way Traffic
- Lower Park Access - Two Way Traffic
- Maintenance Access - No Vehicles
- Perimeter Walking Trail
- Vehicle-Accessible Campsite
- Tent Only, Walk-In Campsite
- Day-Use Facilities
- Host Site
- Parking
- Comfort Station



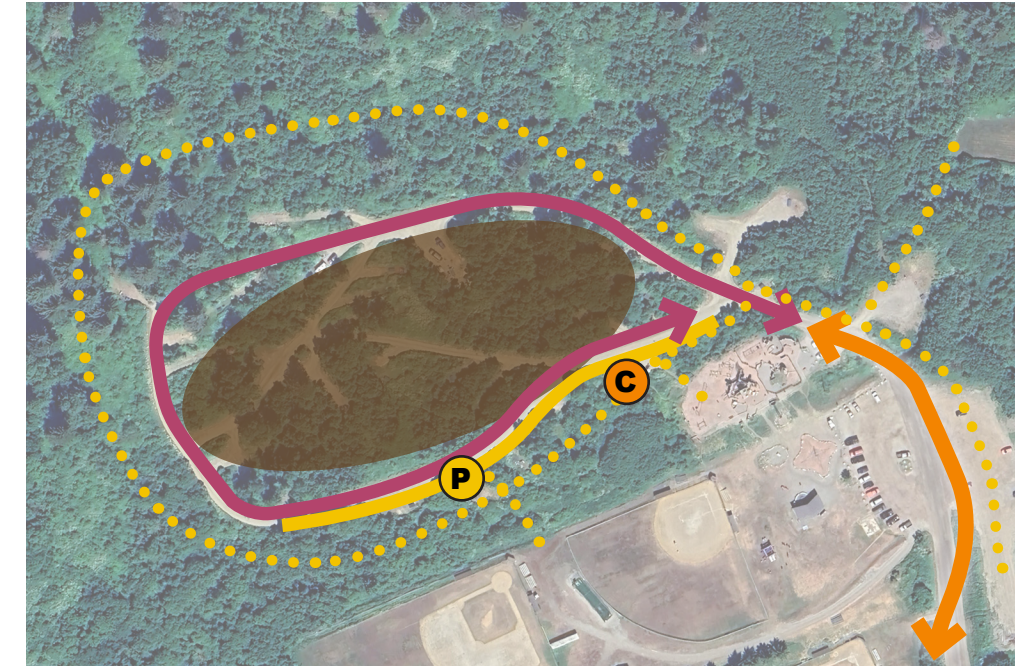
Option 2: Retain Partial Campground / Reprogram Areas

Maintain vehicle accessible sites on the northwest of the campground and tent only sites on the southwest with an implemented management and maintenance plan. Reprogram the eastern portion of the site based on community need and feedback.

Proposed Improvements

- Two-way road access with access to the reprogrammed park space
- One-way road access with back in vehicle-accessible and designated tent only campsites
- Area available for reprogramming
- Designated park host campsite
- Implemented management and maintenance plan for the campground
- Seasonal bathroom facilities (comfort station)
- Additional parking for campground or Karen Hornaday Park use

- Campground Access - One Way Traffic
- Upper Park Access - Two Way Traffic
- Lower Park Access - Two Way Traffic
- Perimeter Walking Trail
- Vehicle-Accessible Campsite
- Tent Only, Walk-In Campsite
- Reprogrammed Park Use
- Host Site
- Parking
- Comfort Station



Option 3: Remove Campground / Reprogram Space

Fully remove campground facilities and reprogram site based on community need and feedback.

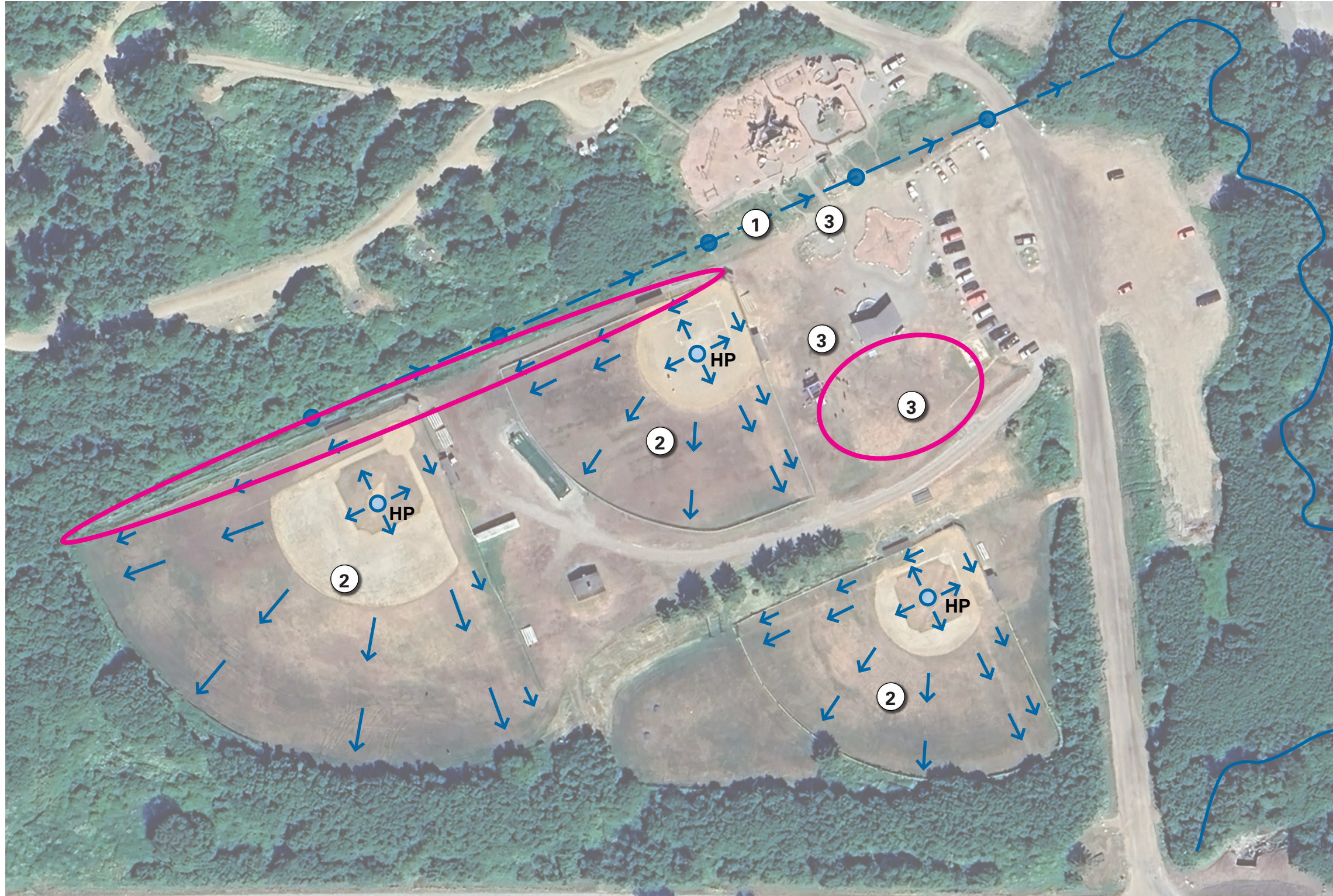
Proposed Improvements

- Two-way perimeter road access
- Additional roads to be decommissioned or improved as reprogramming requires
- Additional parking for campground or Karen Hornaday Park use
- Perimeter trail connecting to Karen Hornaday Park and the hospital

- Upper Park Access - Two Way Traffic
- Lower Park Access - Two Way Traffic
- Perimeter Walking Trail
- Reprogrammed Park Use
- Parking
- Comfort Station



Karen Hornaday Park Drainage Improvements



Drainage Improvements Diagram

- 1 Existing storm drain w/ (5) inlets. Was a french drain installed as per the previous recommended solution?
- 2 Regrade existing baseball diamonds to ensure positive drainage and mitigate standing water. Slope recreation fields 1% to 2% maximum.
- 3 Regrade areas around playground and shelter to ensure positive drainage and mitigate standing water. Soft surface areas to be graded at 2%.

This sheet is in-progress. The general intent is to ensure that level areas have good drainage, and any drainage swales are effective in collecting and removing water.

Areas within purple circles are noted as being damp/wet during desired periods of use.

**Matt: are these areas correct, or missing any?*

Karen Hornaday Park Playground Accessibility Upgrades

REV: 2024-01-09

CITY OF HOMER Play Accessibility



Accessibility Upgrades Diagram

This sheet is in-progress. The general intent is to provide accessibility to and within the playground, and to increase the quantity of fully accessible play features. Accessible routes to north and south should be provided. Restroom type and location is also a factor that is important for the playground.



1 Replace play components with accessible play feature(s)

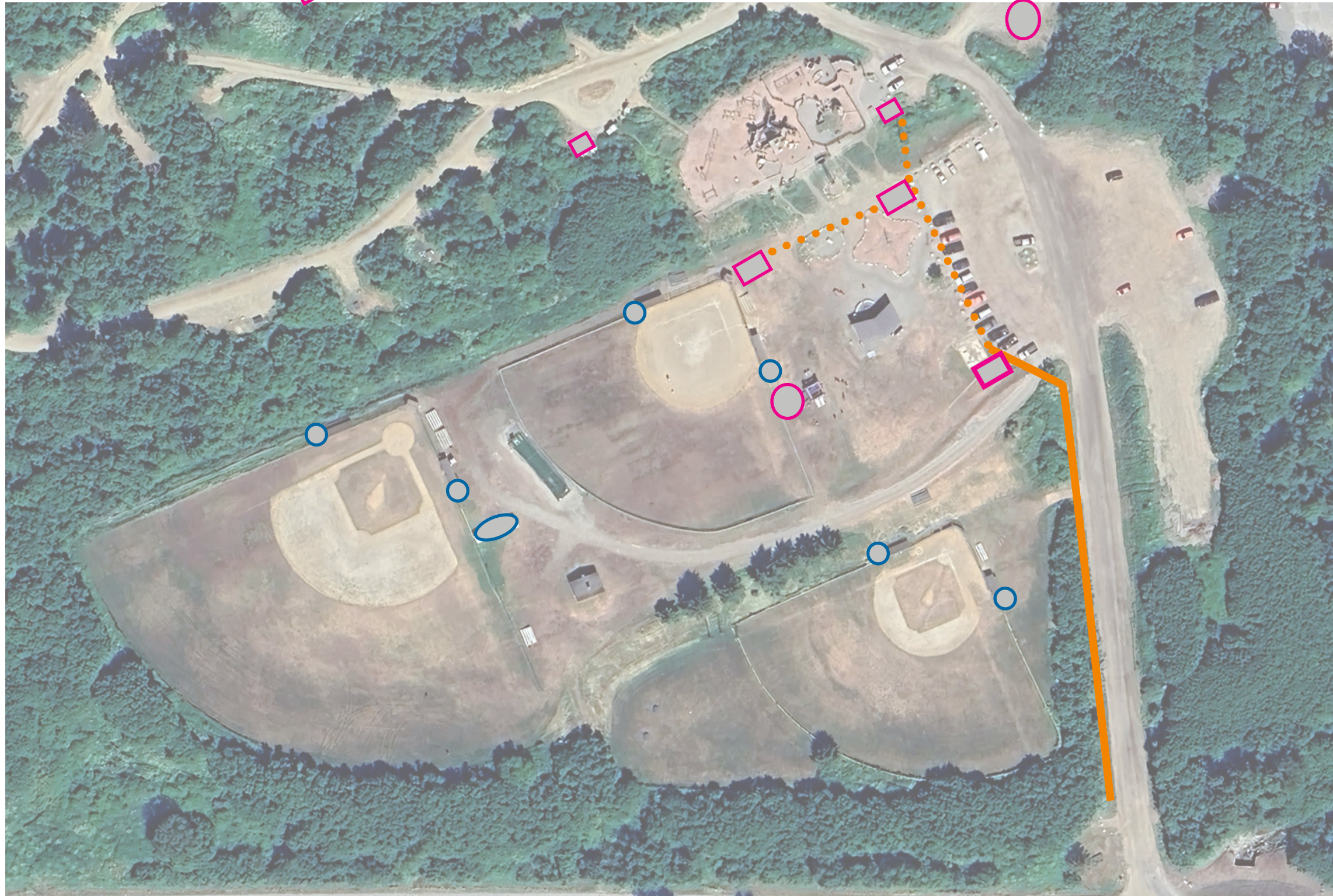


2 Create accessible pathway to connect accessible playground features

3 Provide ADA accessible routes to playground, campground, and washroom

Karen Hornaday Park Site Infrastructure Improvements

REV: 2024-01-09



Establish location for restroom building(s) with ADA accessible, family, and regular stalls. Quantity to be provided by City.

Expand trails, including potential loop(s) around campground and connect with existing trails.

Review benefit of concession infrastructure. Whether supporting food trucks, or more permanent.

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.

Park management and user group storage facility.

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)

This sheet is in-progress. The general intent is to include utility infrastructure (electric, water, sewer) to support site needs. Small square rectangles show where restroom facilities are wanted/needed, and the three larger rectangles show range of potential locations for a larger restroom facility.

Note: Restroom discussions are ongoing, and may include seasonal trailer-based facilities.



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Bayview Park Plan

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission
Meeting Date: 15 Feb 2024
Staff Contact: Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager

Summary Statement:

On Thursday February 8th I attended the ADA Board meeting and spoke regarding the Bayview Park plan. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to comment on the plan and provided some great recommendations:

1. Have both picnic tables be ADA accessible; when family groups meet they frequently have more than one wheelchair user.
2. They felt the secondary mulch path should either be accessible, or not built at all. This is an urban park and should be accessible for all users. The Board recognized there may not be funding to build this secondary access at this time, but the City should plan for it to be an accessible route if and when it is built. The path would not necessarily need to be paved – there are paving alternatives that are accessible – but it’s important to plan for access for all users from the beginning rather than retrofit in the future.



MEMORANDUM

Staff Report for Bayview Park Plan

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Parks, Art, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Commission
Date: January 10th, 2024
From: Matt Steffy, Parks and Trails Planner

The Bayview Park Plan that is being revised by Corvus Design is at 90% completion. In reviewing the plan, we have identified two priority scopes for implementation.

Priority 1: ADA parking, ADA pathway, playground installation, and overall landscaping with drainage.

Priority 2: Upper park elements and upper pathway.

There are a few specific elements that should be discussed at this stage.

☒ **Parking**

- The ADA parking space is presented as paved and connected with the ADA pathway within the park. The existing parking remains essentially the same, with some releveling. Does this feel adequate for park usage?

☒ **The pathway**

- The pathway is shown as paved along the eastern and southern edge of the park. This route will be ADA accessible. Does this meet the expectations of accessibility in the park?
- The remainder of the path is shown as a wood mulch path. This should be discussed. There may be enough money in the budget to install a more sustainable path that is accessible. This should be included in Priority 2.

☒ **The playground**

- The playground presently consists of a climber cave, and an accessible digger tool in an adjacent sandbox. These are the pieces donated by Rotary that are in storage awaiting installation. There are remaining funds and remaining space for an additional piece of playground equipment. What type of playground equipment would we like to see?

● **The play-space**

- The upper half of the park is presented as a combination of no-mow grass, drainage improvements, and wooden play elements. Staff has concerns about the timber

platform structure's safety and maintenance costs. There is also hesitation on the "no mow grass" area due to sanitation, beautification, and accessibility. What other options would do well here if considered for unused budget or later funding under Priority 2?

Please review these elements and provide comments to staff.

Next Steps: Staff will work with the consultant to incorporate your comments. Then staff will publish to the City website and conduct outreach. Interested citizens can comment on the plan via the website and at the next PARCAC meeting. PARCAC can then make a recommendation on the plan to Council. This aligns well with construction this year!

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Provide comments on the plan.
2. Be prepared at the next meeting to make a motion of support for the adoption of the park plan.

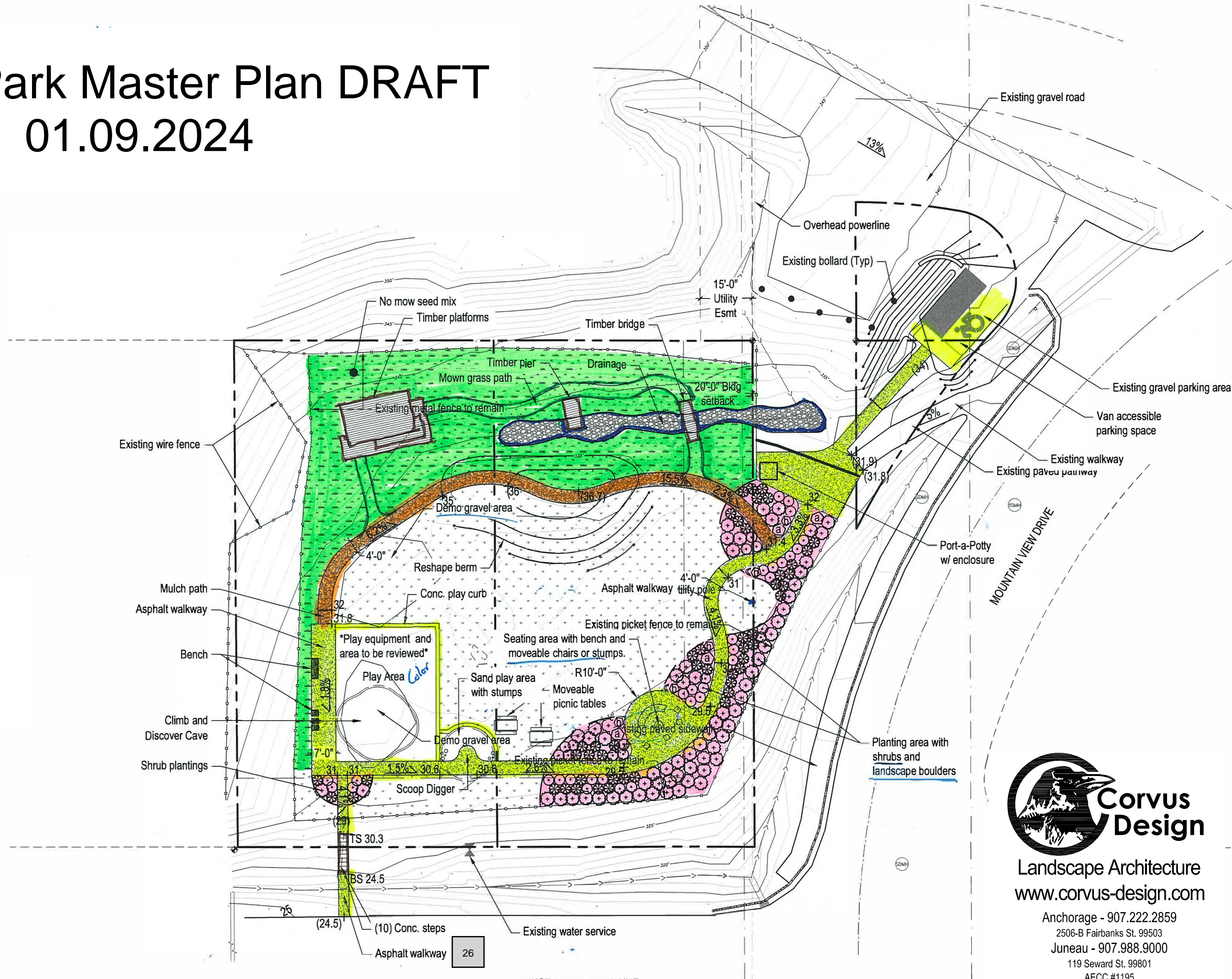
Attachments:

Bayview Park Master Plan DRAFT 01.09.2024 Bayview

Playground Elements 01.11.2024

Bayview Park Master Plan DRAFT

01.09.2024



Corvus Design

Landscape Architecture
www.corvus-design.com

Anchorage - 907.222.2859
 2506-B Fairbanks St. 99503
 Juneau - 907.988.9000
 119 Seward St. 99801
 AECC #1195



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 PARC-24-006

TO: Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission

FROM: Mike Illg, Recreation Manager

DATE: January 9, 2024

SUBJECT: Resolution 23-118 Potential Locations and Related Costs for a Future City of Homer Multi Use Community Recreation Center

Background:

At the October 23rd City Council meeting, Council passed Resolution 23-118 Councilmembers Aderhold and Erickson were appointed as Recreation Champions to work with staff to draft a resolution detailing a formal direction to pursue a Multi-Use Community Recreation Center project. Please view the memo and resolution in the packet.

The resolution provides direction to establish site selection criteria such as lot size, location (with safe and easy youth accessibility as a high priority), opportunity for future facility expansion, existing infrastructure (water, sewer, sidewalks), and cost; provide opportunities for public input; and discuss the final three options with Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission prior to presentation to the City Council. A working group has been created including the two council champions, City Manager Dumouchel, two COH staff and two volunteer professional community members. We have identified seven different possible location, created a scoring matrix and narrowed down the top three possible sites based for PARCAC to review/consider before this information is passed on to the City Council to determine the formal next steps.

City Council may consider the option of creating a future task force to work through the details of the new facility, after potential locations are narrowed down. Administration will present to City Council three proposed options during the 2024 first quarter.

Action:

Review the selected top three proposed options and provide advisory direction to Administration and City Council for possible next steps related to selecting possible locations for a new City of Homer Community Recreation Center.



MEMORANDUM

Resolution 23-118, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Directing the City Administration to Investigate Potential Locations and Related Costs for a Future City of Homer Multi Use Community Recreation Center for Council Review. Aderhold/Erickson.

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
Date: October 17, 2023
From: Mike Illg, Recreation Manager & Julie Engebretsen Economic Development Manager
Through: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

At the October 9th Work Session meeting, Council heard a presentation from staff about the idea of pursuing a different location than the Homer Education and Recreation Complex site as the future home of a new multipurpose facility. Councilmembers Aderhold and Erickson were appointed as champions to work with staff to draft a resolution detailing a formal direction to pursue a Multi-Use Community Recreation Center project.

This resolution directs Administration to investigate the options of pursuing centrally located existing city owned land (ex. Town Center lot), privately owned land (ex. Homer Electric Association lot) or existing facilities such as the Bay Club to accommodate a 17,000 to 21,000 sq. ft. facility. This facility would house two regulation sized basketball courts used interchangeably for multiple volleyball courts and six pickle ball courts; flexible space for instructional programs such as karate, dance, yoga, etc.; locker rooms; storage space; and staff offices. A preliminary \$10-\$12 million budget with a maximum budget of \$10 or 12 million (to be determine by City Council) is set as a guideline at this point in the project, based on previous council discussion regarding the amount of revenue that could be generated from a bond (the projected debt service of a \$10 million would be \$800,000/year and a 0.3% sales tax generates about \$820,000/year). There is also the potential option of future expansion through community fundraising, grants and phasing. Administration is to analyze location options and present Council with three alternatives.

The resolution provides direction to establish site selection criteria such as lot size, location (with safe and easy youth accessibility as a high priority), opportunity for future facility expansion, existing infrastructure (water, sewer, sidewalks), and cost; provide opportunities for public input; and discuss the final three options with Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission prior to presentation to the City Council. To the extent practicable, staff will engage volunteer professional

community members to determine if the sites are reasonable to pursue. If paid professional services are needed to address technical site analysis such as wetlands and engineering concerns, staff shall provide Council with a rough cost estimate for those services.

City Council may consider the option of creating a future task force to work through the details of the new facility, after potential locations are narrowed down. Administration should present to City Council three proposed options during the 2024 first quarter.

Recommendation: Approve resolution to direct Administration to establish site criteria, pursue locations, seek community input, and report back with three proposed options.

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

Aderhold/Erickson

RESOLUTION 23-118

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,
DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO INVESTIGATE
POTENTIAL LOCATIONS AND RELATED COSTS FOR A FUTURE CITY
OF HOMER MULTI USE COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER FOR
CITY COUNCIL REVIEW.

WHEREAS, The City of Homer Community Recreation division offers year round, affordable indoor and outdoor programs at the Homer Education and Recreation Complex (HERC); and

WHEREAS, The Multi-Use Community Recreation Center project is the number two project on the City's 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan and continues to be a high priority for the community residents, city council and mayor; and

WHEREAS, The HERC campus is a highly desirable location for indoor and outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, The recent hazardous materials (hazmat) study has determined the option to tear down or upgrade the existing HERC facilities at the HERC campus is currently impractical; and

WHEREAS, The City's ability to address the hazmat issues are subject to the availability of federal grants that will likely take years to secure and are not guaranteed; and

WHEREAS, In light of the hazmat issues, the City of Homer needs to pursue alternate location options to move the Multi-Use Community Recreation Center project ahead in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, The proposed facility size and design should have at least two basketball regulation sized gymnasiums that will accommodate multiple volleyball and six pickleball courts in addition to activity rooms to host instructional classes such as dance, karate, and yoga; and

WHEREAS, The City has limited funds for a new Multipurpose Recreation Center and a conceptual budget of not more than \$10,000,000 or \$12,000,000 for building, parking lot and site amenities is set as a project guideline for the purpose of site selection (based on the amount of revenue that could be generated from a bond).

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska hereby
46 directs Administration to:

47
48 1. Investigate possible land locations and existing facilities options including privately
49 owned and city owned land;

50
51 2. Establish and define criteria for Administration to select at least three potential
52 options that would include (at a minimum): acreage, location, opportunity for future facility
53 expansion, proximity to existing infrastructure (water, sewer, sidewalks), and cost;

54
55 3. Develop a matrix that assesses the possible sites against the criteria and determine
56 the top three potential sites based on the outcome of the assessment;

57
58 4. Initiate conversations with property owners of the top three sites;

59
60 5. Pursue site analysis for the top three sites with possible efforts from volunteer
61 professionals;

62
63 6. Identify a funding strategy for new site purchase if a non-city site is one of the top
64 three options;

65
66 7. Include the Parks, Art, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Commission in evaluation of
67 the top three sites and possible purchasing strategies of any non-city properties; and

68
69 8. Provide for public comment on the three selected sites and possible purchasing
70 strategies.

71
72 9. Report findings back to City Council during the first quarter of 2024.

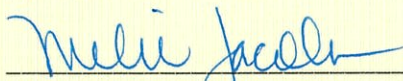
73
74 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 23rd day of October, 2023.

75
76 CITY OF HOMER

77 

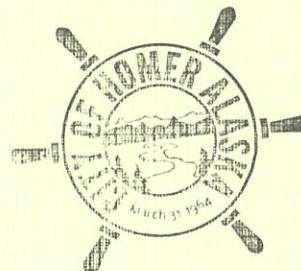
78
79 KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

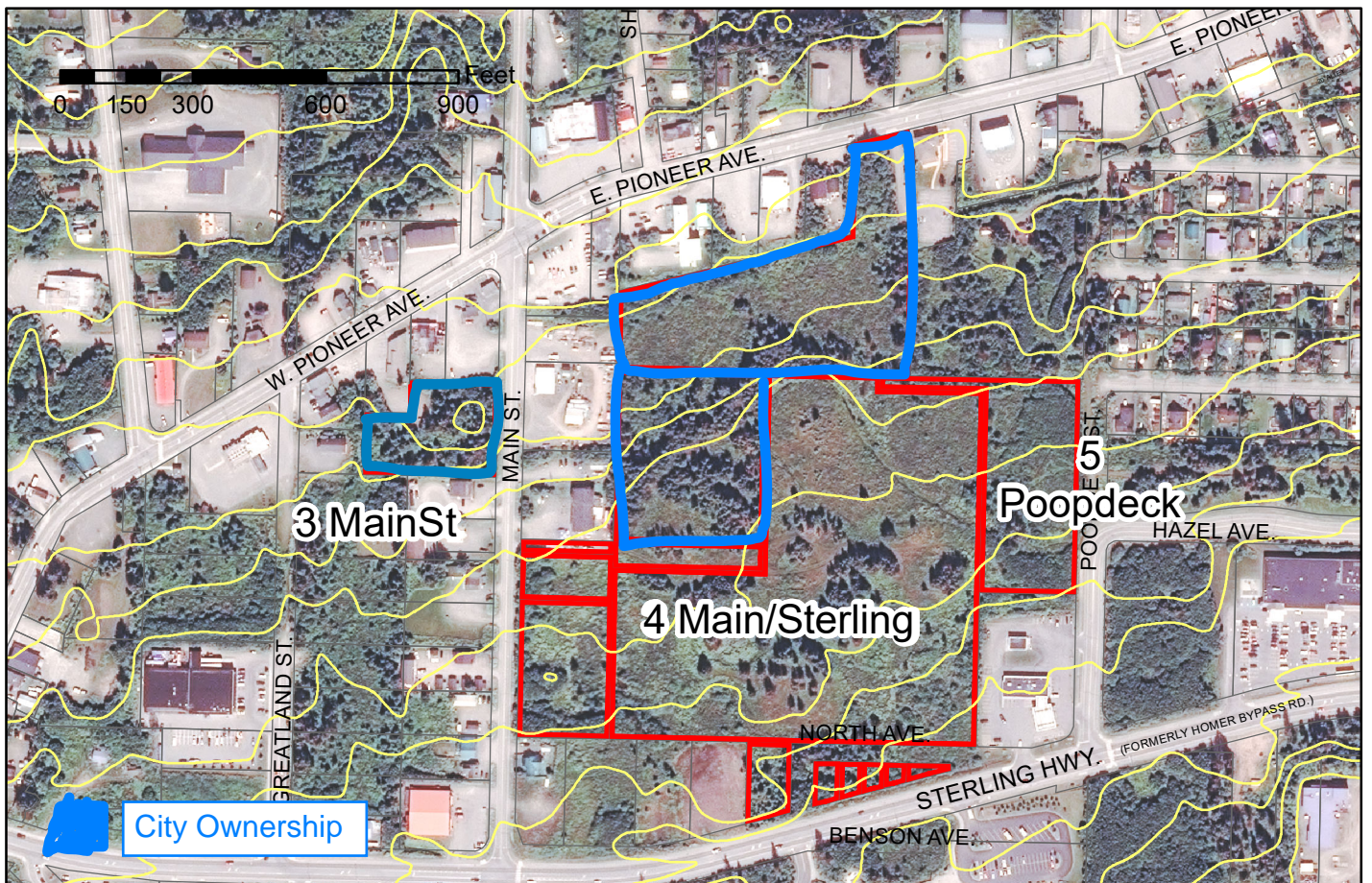
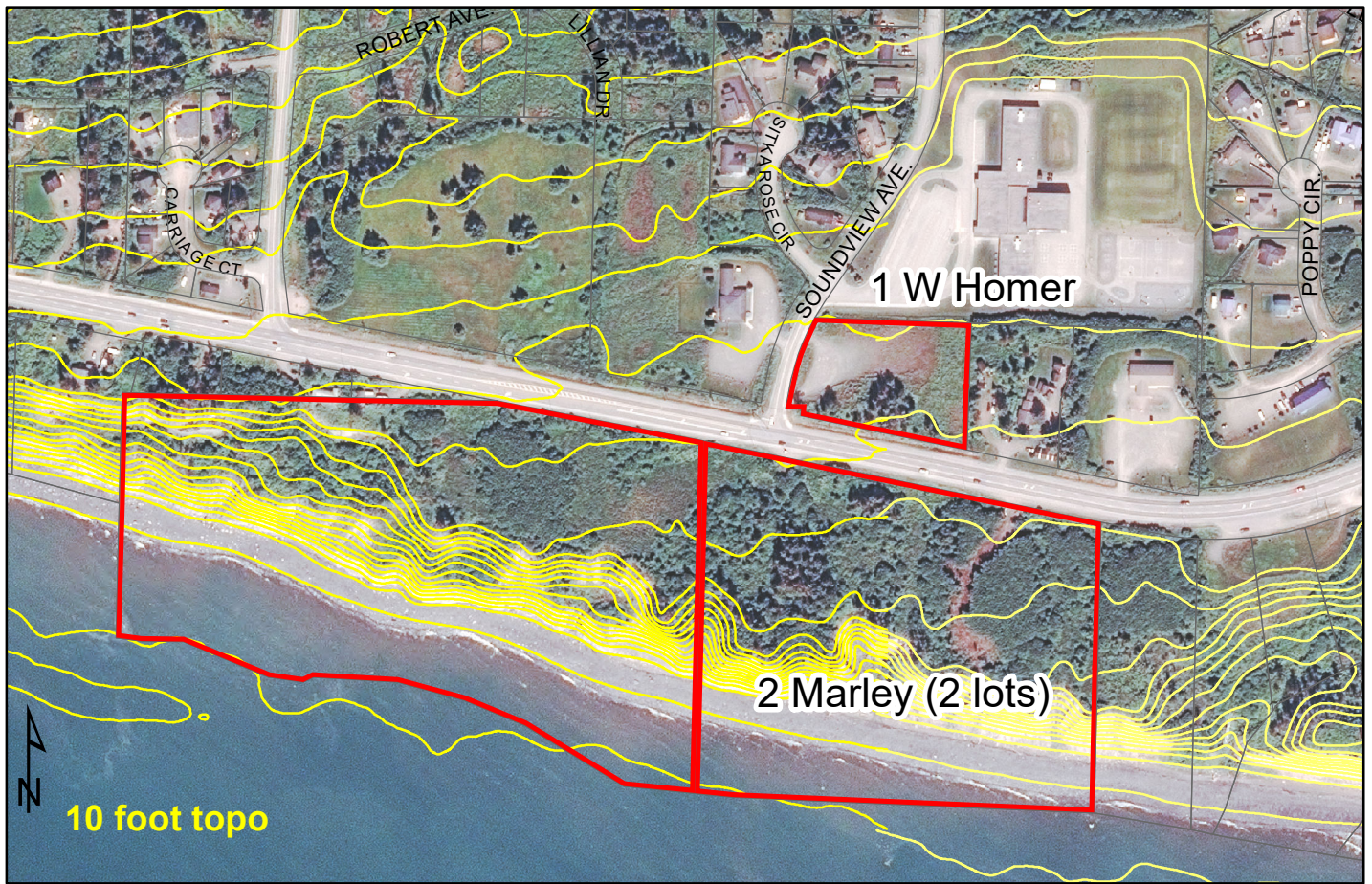
80
81 ATTEST:

82 

83
84 MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

85
86 Fiscal note: Staff time and wages.







Recreation Center Land Matrix Total Scores

Factors	West Homer #1	Marley Prop. #2	Main St. #3	Main/Sterling #4	Poopdeck/Hazel #5	HEA Site #6	New PW Site #7
Score 1	22	15	16	17	16	22	17
Score 2	21	12	16	19	20	23	19
Score 3	18	13	18	20	20	22	12
Score 4	18	13	16	9	13	18	15
Score 5	21	11	17	19	18	23	17
Score 6	14	11	12	8.5	12	15	10
Score 7							
	West Homer	Marley	Main	Main/Sterling	Poopdeck/Hazel	HEA	PW
Tota Matrix Scores:	114	75	95	92.5	99	123	90

2nd

3rd

1st



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Community Recreation User Fees

Item Type: Informational Memorandum Discussion only
Prepared For: Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission
Meeting Date: 15 Feb 2024
Staff Contact: Renee Krause, MMC, Deputy City Clerk II/ADA Coordinator

Summary Statement:

Commissioner Roedl requested this item to be on the agenda for a discussion by the Commission.



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Non-Motorized Walkways

Item Type: Informational Memorandum Discussion only
Prepared For: Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission
Meeting Date: 15 Feb 2024
Staff Contact: Renee Krause, MMC, Deputy City Clerk II/ADA Coordinator

Summary Statement:

Commissioner Roedl requested this item to be on the agenda for a discussion by the Commission.



AGENDA ITEM

Quarterly Selection of Letter to the Editor Topics

Item Type: Action Item
Prepared For: Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission
Date: February 15, 2024
Staff Contact: Renee Krause, MMC, Deputy City Clerk II

Background

The Commission determined several years ago that to bring awareness of parks, art, recreation, and cultural items, events, opportunities to the community that they would submit letters to the editor on a quarterly basis. This was also an opportunity to recognize the many volunteers that assist in trail maintenance and other various activities that they assist the city parks and recreation staff complete.

Typically the Commission submits a few topics and Commissioner Fair has graciously lent his writing talents to this task and the following meeting it is submitted for review and approval to submit to the local Homer News.

I would like to suggest that a different Commissioner take on the task of writing a short 200 word summary on the topics that are selected by the Commission, for each quarter, as everyone on this Commission has a passion and talent for a different aspect of parks, art, recreation and culture.

Publishing is typically March/April, July/August and November/December or close to those months. I am endeavoring to make it a more routine task for the Commission by having it on the Annual Calendar.

I would like to have the Commission discuss and select the topics for the year and have Commissioners volunteer to write them.

Recommendation

Discuss and make recommendations for topics to submit quarterly letters to the editor for the 2024 calendar year.

Commissioners volunteer to write the articles for review and approval by the Commission at the following meetings.



City of Homer

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Memorandum PARC-24-011

TO: PARKS, ART, RECREATION & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION

FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 2024

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLAN & GOALS

Strategic Plan Update for 2024-2025

The strategic plan has not been updated since September 2017 and it is customary to review and update these documents on a yearly basis. City Council as requested via Memorandum CC-24-027 the Commission to begin work on a Strategic Plan that would address a few items and to have it completed by the end of 2024.

Starting from the 2017 Strategic Plan staff has provided a draft update including some items from the 2017 adopted Strategic Plan and incorporating some of the Council recommendations. Some item that Council has suggested should be discussed by the Commission before inclusion into the document and therefore are not shown in this draft.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please review the recommendations from Council in the memorandum and the previous Strategic Plan of the Commission. Review the samples provided that other Commissions/Boards have done and complete the draft document that has been provided.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Discuss changes the Commission would like to make to your plans/goals. A final draft will be provided to the Commission at the next regular meeting.



MEMORANDUM

Proposed Strategic Plan for Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission (PARCAC), Plus Two Items for Possible Council Action

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
Date: January 17, 2024
From: Council Members Erickson and Davis

Based on the January 15, 2024 Joint Worksession with PARCAC, as well as previous meetings held with PARCAC members, we recommend that council support PARCAC beginning work on a Strategic Plan, ideally to be completed this calendar year, that would address some or all of the following:

- Questions related to community recreation (support for new rec center, including possible capital campaign; how to identify our clientele; what role do schools play & does this need to be adjusted; how to set fees in a way that encourages participation; best ratio of staff to volunteers)
- Updated parks plan, with long term needs lists that Council can use when preparing annual budgets.
- The role of PARCAC in promoting the arts in the community. Should PARCAC always include a member or members whose focus is the arts?

Three addition items were identified, two of which may require Council action (in coordination with staff):

1. Update city code to ensure that sidewalks (in addition to parks and trails) are explicitly identified as falling under PARCAC's auspices.
2. Update city code to require that PARCAC be given the opportunity to review proposed new subdivisions for recommended trail and/or sidewalk facilities, and associated easements, prior to the preliminary plat being sent to the Borough for approval.
3. Develop a policies for community recreation and parks.

PARK, ART, RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION
STRATEGIC PLAN 2017 (September 2017)

MISSION STATEMENT

The Commission is established to advocate in an advisory capacity to the City Manager and the City Council on behalf of the residents and users of the City of Homer. The Commission serves to address the maintenance, development, and support of parks and recreation facilities, as well as the recreation, artistic, and cultural programs of the Homer community.

STRATEGIC GOALS OF THE COMMISSION – What is the focus for the commission?

General Goals of the Commission

- Advocate for obtaining open and green space
- Receive notification of future land disposals with attention to park and recreation needs
- Keep existing green space and public open space
- Preserve areas of natural beauty and access
- Receive notification of vacations of public access
- Receive annual status report on the cemetery
- Increase walkability of Homer
- Improve Public Outreach for parks, recreation and trails opportunities. Provide a quarterly point of view article in the newspaper to update the community. One article a year should be about public art.
- Keep existing staffing levels for Parks Maintenance
- Increase Community Rec staffing by .5 FTE over the 2015 budget.
- To encourage and include art in public spaces in Homer
- To educate the Council and public about the mission and projects of the City's public art program
- To advocate with the City of Homer's city council, manager and staff to include public art when planning all city upgrades, renovations and new projects
- Oversee execution of Public Arts Projects, RFPs, and selections committees
- Continue uniform sign installation at all city parks, trails and campgrounds
- Encourage programing for seniors, therapeutic and adaptive users *(CR is open to any/all classes the Community wishes to offer.)*
- Encourage ADA compliance and accessibility for parks and recreation programs
- Keep HERC available for education and recreation

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMISSION – Must have achievable results, an action statement.

1-2 Year Projects

- Create a criteria for sidewalk projects, how to prioritize them, and a list of the top 5 projects.
- Diamond Creek Recreational Improvement Plan –
 - o Next Steps, Trails improvements, Trail head parking lot, consider building a summer trail. Work with other user groups to accomplish next steps.

- Continue work on Karen Hornaday park drainage, the parking lot, and master plan implementation. Immediate goal of identifying small projects in concert with the master plan. Drainage issues behind the ballfields are an immediate goal. Restroom remodel/replacement needs to be planned for.
- Increase the city budget for parks and recreation. Increase reserve savings and add 0.5 FTE. (budget request, annually)
- Improve pedestrian access to Mariner Park from the Homer Spit Road and the bike path. Lobby to have the extension of the bike path placed on the STIP list.
- Continue to use the HERC building for Community Recreation as long as possible.
- Complete park user agreements with user groups (staff)
- Investigate Endowment funding
- Increase PARCAC budget by \$500 a year for public arts duties (\$1500 total Commission budget) (2018 request)
- Investigate requiring parks within new subdivisions (staff to provide info)
- Organize parking at Coal Point Park in conjunction with leases
- Install beach signage (Mariner Park is next)
- Increase public access to public art
- Make the sister city art collection more visible to the public (*working with Pratt*)
- Work with DOT to install directional signage to Reber Trail on West Hill Road
- Install Reber Trail directional signage on Fairview Ave so its easier to find
- Develop a plan to promote parks, public art and trails (Parks day and Trails Symposium)

3+ Year Projects

- Advocate for a Parks and Recreation Department, and funding a department
- Support efforts for a multi-use recreational facility
- Mariner Park Site Improvements – Level parking area, delineation of day use area and camping area, define and improve campsites, increase number of spaces and revenues
- Keep greenspace on the Spit
- Make an annual report to City Council about public art

ACTIONS OF THE COMMISSION –Who will do what, when and how?

- Have quarterly reports in the newspaper.
- Have a committee go to City Council with recommendations, action plan and time frame.
- Every time there is a memo from the Commission to City Council a Commissioner should go to the meeting and speak about it.
- A commissioner should attend every council meeting to speak with council and keep them informed about what they are working on.
- Provide comments during Comments of the Commission if Commissioners are involved in outside organizations that involve a concern of the Commission.
- When visiting clerk's office, grab the minutes of other groups. Attend an upcoming meeting if items of P&R interest are being discussed. (Or subscribe to email updates on the City website).
- Network with other committees and commissions, in city and outside of city limits

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION
2022-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN & GOALS**

<p>Ongoing Goals</p>	<p>1. Use the Commission’s SWOT analysis to develop strategies to implement policies that support Homer’s quality of life.</p>
	<p>2. Keep our ears to the ground and seek out areas of "lack." Confer with Julie about communicating with City Council and advising them on ways to overcome barriers- "the nexus of economic goals."</p>
<p>Near Term Goals < 6 Months</p>	<p>1. Familiarize with smart growth principles and best practices, and also green infrastructure concepts. Have these in our toolbox when development decisions come our way for consideration.</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Staff to provide smart growth resources.</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Promote energy resiliency through diversity and efficiency. Invite a speaker to talk about energy as that impacts cost of doing business and cost of living. (Perez)</p>
	<p>2. View economic development through the lens of balancing growth with quality of life.</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Create an EDC Mission statement as a guiding principle for what the EDC does.</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Define positive economic development, and what is the role of the EDC is in balancing growth and quality of life.</p> <p>(Perez volunteered, first quarter 2023)</p>
	<p>3. Housing: affordable short and long term housing. Seasonal workers, general work force, seniors, etc. affordable year round housing. (Marks)</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Stay engaged with the City for all housing conversations</p>
	<p>4. Present an annual report of EDC accomplishments to the City Council</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Approve memo to Council, read accomplishments to Council</p>
	<p>5. Have a conversation with the Chamber of Commerce about other economic development beyond tourism. How can the City and the Chamber work together to promote quality of life, and economic development for industries other than tourism, including messaging?</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Have a work session with the Chamber</p>
<p>Mid Term Goals 1 - 3 Years (2022 – 2025)</p>	<p>1. BR&E – review annually and plan for a new report (5 year mark is 2022-2023) <i>Opportunity:</i> Consider a funding request for the FY 2024-2025 budget</p>
	<p>2. Downtown vitalization momentum and wayfinding/streetscape plan</p> <p><i>Status:</i> Wayfinding and Streetscape work ongoing through 21 and implementation activities in 2022-2024</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Participate in the Transportation Plan, focusing on a walkable town with greenspace and connected business districts</p> <p><i>Longer term:</i> Consider storefront/Downtown and landscaping improvement program</p>

	<p>3. Economic resiliency planning.</p> <p><i>Opportunity:</i> EDC provide suggestions to KPEDD on the business tool box. EDC promote tool box to community.</p> <hr/> <p>4. Assess jobs training needs, workforce development, availability of workers and workforce supports including child care, housing.</p> <p><i>Opportunity:</i> Invite KBC Director Reid Brewer as speaker, how does the college make course offering decisions? How is work force development part of the planning? What does the KBC Advisory Board do?</p> <p><i>Opportunity:</i> Invite 9-Star to make a presentation</p> <p><i>Opportunity:</i> Brief survey to businesses and employees on their needs.</p>
<p>Long Term Goals 5 Years or More (2025+)</p>	<p>1. Multipurpose community center (HERC)</p> <p><i>Status:</i> Scoping study has been funded. Demolition of the smaller building has been funded; tear down planned in 2023.</p>

OVERALL EDC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

DUTIES OF COMMISSION/STAFF

Commissioners

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

Staff (Julie Engebretsen)

- Aid the Chair in setting the agenda.
- Compile packet material from commissioners, write backup memos, and submit to Clerk.
- Provide information on items the commission needs to review annually.

- Inform the Commission of City Council actions and discussion of economic development related issues.

Clerk's Office

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

**LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
2023 STRATEGIC PLAN & GOALS**

Approved at the February 21, 2023 Regular Meeting

MISSION STATEMENT

The Library Advisory Board shall act in an advisory capacity to the City Manager and City Council concerning the Homer Public Library and its programs pursuant to the powers and duties in Homer City Code 2.48.050.

VALUES, ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| General | Advise the Library Director and the City Council to ensure quality library service. |
| Administrative | Advise city government to recruit, employ and retain a qualified library director. |
| Policy | Work with the Library Director to establish written policies to govern the operation and program of the library for approval by the City Council. |
| Planning | Ensure that the library has a strategic plan with implementation and evaluation components. |
| Fiscal | Solicit donations of money and/or property for the benefit of the library. Assist in the preparation and presentation of the annual budget in accordance with city code. Oversee fundraising efforts and collaboration between Friends of the Homer Library and the library's Planned Giving Program/endowment fund. |
| Advocacy | Promote the mission of the library within the community. Advocate for the library to legislators. |
| Meetings | Participate in all advisory board meetings. Report on LAB and library activities to City Council at Council meetings. |
| Networking | Join United for Libraries national organization and/or Alaska Library Association as a resource for policies, operations and advocacy for libraries. |

GOALS

1. Advocate for Library Budget

- a. Ensure the library has a collection development budget sufficient to build and maintain a current and robust collection of materials relevant to the community.
- b. Review needs for library physical plant upkeep and efficiencies.
- c. Promote future funding of library technology needs.
 - i. Scheduled replacement of public use computers.
 - ii. Requests for new or updated technologies (printers, scanners, security, etc.)

2. Implement the Planned Giving Program for the Library

- a. Identify and use the tools provided by the Homer Foundation and the American Library Association to learn how to ask potential donors if they would be interested in donating to the Library Endowment Fund.
- b. In the next year:
 - i. Ask a person to donate to the Library Endowment Fund.
 - ii. Get one “Big Fish” donation to the Endowment Fund.

3. Explore opportunities with the Library to increase and improve library service to all community members, especially students and underrepresented user-groups.

- a. Work with Library Director to develop a schedule of community partner visitors/presenters, including partners that aid with outreach to students and underrepresented user groups.

4. Actively recruit for LAB boardmembers

DUTIES OF THE BOARD & STAFF

Boardmembers

- Attend City Council meetings as assigned.
- Attend worksessions and training opportunities.
- Come to meetings prepared to take action through motions, or ask staff before the meeting for more information.
- Communicate with City Council members to gain support on LAB-related projects that need sponsorship at the Council level.

Staff Liaison

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

Clerk’s Office

- Aid Staff in compiling packet materials and print/distribute them to the board.
- Aid Staff and Chair in setting the agenda.
- Track yearly items such as reappointments and election of officers.
- Advertise any seat vacancies and process new appointment applications.
- Help the board learn to be more efficient and effective in their meetings.
- Support the board’s ability to communicate with the Mayor and City Council (through Memorandums, Resolutions, and Ordinances).

**PORT AND HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION
2022-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN**

Approved April 27, 2022

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

Ongoing Goals	1. Provide timely, relevant comment to the City Council on Port and Harbor issues.
	2. Harbor Budget: Gain a better understanding of the process, have more communication on budget/projects between City and Harbor Staff, and review it at least annually at meetings.
	3. Establish committees when needed to work on specific tasks.
	4. Maintain the Port and Harbor Marketing Plan, continue lobbying efforts to City Council to maintain marketing funds and working closely with the Homer Marine Trades Association.
	5. Promote and support the new Large Vessel Port Expansion Project.
Short Term Goals By End of 2022	1. Continue working with City Council and City Manager to lower administrative costs to the Harbor Enterprise.
	2. Continue developing more paid parking on the Spit.
	3. Continue identifying other sources of revenue.
	4. Establish a goal for reserves and continue to understand the budget, include setting fees, and dedication of sales tax.
	5. Promote workforce development and housing on the Spit, specifically to seasonal workers.
	6. Develop recommendations to hire a Port and Harbor Project Manager.
Mid Term Goals 1 - 3 Years (2023 – 2025)	1. Create a 5-year Float Replacement Plan for the Small Boat Harbor.
	2. Seek funding to construct the Large Vessel Haul-out and Repair Facility.
	3. Develop a Homer Spit Parking Lot Improvement Plan.
	4. Explore a vessel and vehicle traffic study for the Spit to address congestion issues in the harbor.
	5. Review and provide support on rewriting the Spit Comprehensive Plan.
Long Term Goals 5 Years or More (2027+)	1. Work with Federal and State agencies to develop long-term erosion control measures for the Spit.
	2. Continue to work on overslope opportunities and leasable properties.

OVERALL PHC DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The purpose of the PHC is to act in an advisory capacity to the City Manager and the City Council on the problems and development of the City's Port and Harbor facilities. Consideration may include the physical facilities, possible future development, and recommendations on land use within the port and harbor areas. Duties and responsibilities are outlined in the PHC's Bylaws and under Homer City Code 2.64.040.

Links to online info:

- Homer City Code 2.64: www.codepublishing.com/AK/Homer
- Homer Port and Harbor Website: www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/port
- Port of Homer Terminal Tariff No. 1: www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/port/port-homer-terminal-tariff-no-1
- City of Homer Adopted Budget: www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/finance/budgets
- Spit Comprehensive Plan: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/planning/spit-comprehensive-plan-2011>

DUTIES OF COMMISSION/STAFF

Staff Liaison

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

Commissioners

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

Clerks

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

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

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

Ongoing Goals	1. Provide timely, relevant comment to the City Council on Parks, Art, Recreation & Cultural issues.
	2. Parks & Recreation Budget: Gain a better understanding of the process, have more communication on budget/projects between City Staff, and review it at least annually at meetings in April - June.
	3. Advocating for inclusion of Public Art in City Facilities when Planning Upgrades, Renovations and New Projects.
	4. Maintain working relationships with various cultural entities such as Homer Council on the Arts, Galleries, Pratt Museum, etc.
	5. Preservation of areas of natural beauty and open green spaces throughout the city.
Short Term Goals By End of 2024	1. Support a new community recreation center including a capital campaign, identify clientele, define role of the school district, establish fees that encourages participation; provide recommendations for revenue stream to support the facility; determine best staff to volunteer ratio
	2. Develop policies for Parks and Community Recreation Programs.
	3. Update and development Master Park Plans that include long term needs list to assist with biennial budget development.
	4. Research the development or creation of depreciation reserves to maintain parks and recreation facilities; continue to understand the budget, include setting fees, and dedication of sales tax to fund projects and programs.
	5.
	6.
	7.
Mid Term Goals 1 - 3 Years (2024 - 2026)	1. Continue working with the City Council and the City Manager for development of a Parks & Recreation Department.
	2. Increase the Recreation Staff by 1 FTE (or as determined by the Recreation Manager)
	3.
	4.
	5.

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

DRAFT

OVERALL PARCAC DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

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

Links to online info:

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

DUTIES OF COMMISSION/STAFF

Staff Liaison

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

Commissioners

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

Clerks

- Assist with packet preparation and dissemination
- Records meetings and prepares meeting minutes
- Ensures meetings are properly advertised
- Assist members understand and comply with City policies and procedures governing advisory bodies

- Assist the Commission learn to better communicate with City Council (Memorandums vs Resolutions and Ordinances)

DRAFT

CITY OF HOMER NEWSLETTER



VOL. III - ISSUE VI | FEBRUARY 2024

WHAT'S INSIDE?

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

HOMER ANNUAL WINTER CARNIVAL ORGANIZED BY HOMER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Parade on Pioneer Avenue

Winter Carnival Parade Saturday, February 10th, at Noon on Pioneer Avenue

The annual Homer Winter Carnival is here! It's time to shake off the winter blues! Bring the whole family, bundle up, grab a hot drink, and come join the excitement of the parade on Pioneer Avenue.

Let's see how creative participants can get this year with the theme of "What's old is new"! You'll see custom floats, marching bands, groups from our local schools, antique cars, animals, bikers, walkers and more!

This year's featured performer is the Krewe Music Group.

After the parade, pop into some local shops, take a walk through downtown, and mingle with your neighbors. It's the perfect opportunity to get out into the fresh air and enjoy our charming town.

<https://www.homer.alaska.org/events/winter-carnival-celebration/>

A Bit of History

The Winter Carnival in Homer has been celebrated for over 70 years! The tradition began when residents from surrounding areas would come into town to celebrate and break the mid-winter cabin fever.

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- Homer Annual Winter Carnival
- Library Events
- Community Corner
- Community Recreation
- City Hall
- Parks
- Homer Public Library
- Economic Development
- Port & Harbor
- Harbor Expansion Study Update
- Public Safety Corner
- Fire Department
- Hazard Mitigation
- Public Safety Corner
- 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

[Click Here to Subscribe](#)

LIBRARY EVENTS

VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS

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

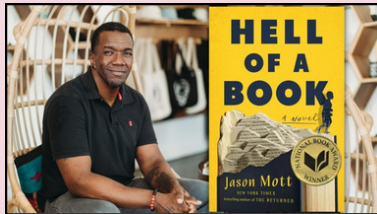
February 8 at 4 pm

Spice, Spirit, and Swoon—A Guaranteed Happily Ever After with Rom-Com Author **Tessa Bailey**



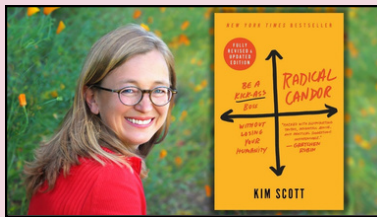
February 20 at 12 pm

Exploring Identity, Love, and Being Black in America in Fiction Writing: A Conversation with Award-Winning Author **Jason Mott**



February 28 at 10 am

Be a Kick-Ass Boss Without Losing Your Humanity: An Author Talk with **Kim Scott**



SPECIAL & ONGOING EVENTS



Big Read 2024
Read with your community! Ongoing events for the month of February.
<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library/nea-big-read-2024>

Book copies are available at the library circulation desk.



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

February 13: Shelly Erickson

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

SALSA DANCE CLASSES

When: Thursdays, 6:30 - 8 pm
Where: Homer High Green Room
Fee: \$10 person, per class (ongoing)



Register Here:

<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/com-rec/salsa-dance-classes-winter-2024>

This friendly introductory dance class begins February 1st. Whether you come alone or with a partner, you're welcome to be part of the group and explore Salsa dance fundamentals.

SELF-DEFENSE CLASS



Attention Ladies!

Homer Police Department is having it's 5th self-defense class!

When: March 2, 2:00 - 6:00 pm
Fee: FREE

To Register: Email Lt. Browning at rbrowning@ci.homer.ak.us

Tech Help



Twice each month you can drop by the library and get help with whatever computer or e-reader questions you have. These sessions are FREE!

When: 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 5:30 - 7:30 pm
Where: Homer Public Library
Fee: FREE

COMMUNITY RECREATION



Check out all that Community Recreation has to offer! To view the programs and events, go to <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/com-rec>

Adult Basketball League Playoffs and Championship Game

Six teams will compete for the basketball championship title. Check out the draft bracket and schedule [here](#).

When:

Saturday, February 3 at 11 am - 6:30 pm
Sunday, February 4 at 2:00 - 7:30 pm

Where: Homer High School

Fee: Free

Women's Drop In Basketball

Drop in basketball time for women and girls only. This is for participants in 7th grade to adults. Please bring separate clean indoor shoes. Please call 907-235-6090 for more information.

When: Mondays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Where: Homer Middle School Gym

Fee: \$5/adults (punch cards and 3 month passes available), FREE for 7th-12th graders

Youth Pickleball After School Winter 2024

Youth Pickleball! Classes for 4th, 5th, 6th grade students (min. 4, max. 14) TWO Sessions offered.

When: Mondays & Fridays; 3:15 - 4:25 pm

Where: the HERC gym (large building next at the skateboard park).

Fee: \$25 per session

To sign up: Contact Jeanne to register and get on the list at 907-299-2437 or jeannemena@gmail.com

Drop-In Volleyball

Drop in/Pick up volleyball! Learn elements of the game such as positions on the court and basic skills including set, bump, and spike. Good sportsmanship and separate clean indoor shoes are required. When playing at Homer Middle School, participants should enter through the Multiple Purpose Room.

When & Where:

Sundays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm at Homer High

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm at Homer Middle

Fee: \$5/visit for adults, FREE for 7th-12th grade students



Jewelry Making Classes Taught by Art Koeninger

City of Homer Community Rec Presents:
**JEWELRY MAKING CLASSES
WINTER 2024**
Taught by Art Koeninger
CHECK IT OUT
INTRO TO SILVERSMITHING February 17-18
LOST WAX CASTING February 23-25
INTERMED SILVERSMITHING March 2-3
COST: \$150 or \$90 for repeat students in addition to cost of materials (average project \$5-15). Classes at Homer High.
Contact Art to Register: 907-235-1014 or akoeninger@me.com
Scan for more info

When:

Intro to Silversmithing: February 17-18

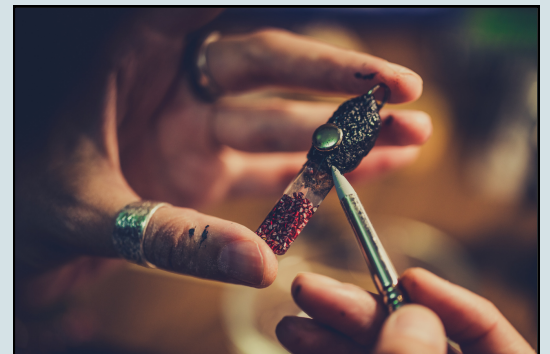
Lost Wax Casting: February 23-25

Intermediate Silversmithing: March 2-3

Where: Homer High School

Fee: \$150 or \$90 for repeat students in addition to cost of materials (average project \$5 - \$15)

<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/com-rec/jewelry-making-classeswinter-2024>



Making Jewelry



CITY HALL

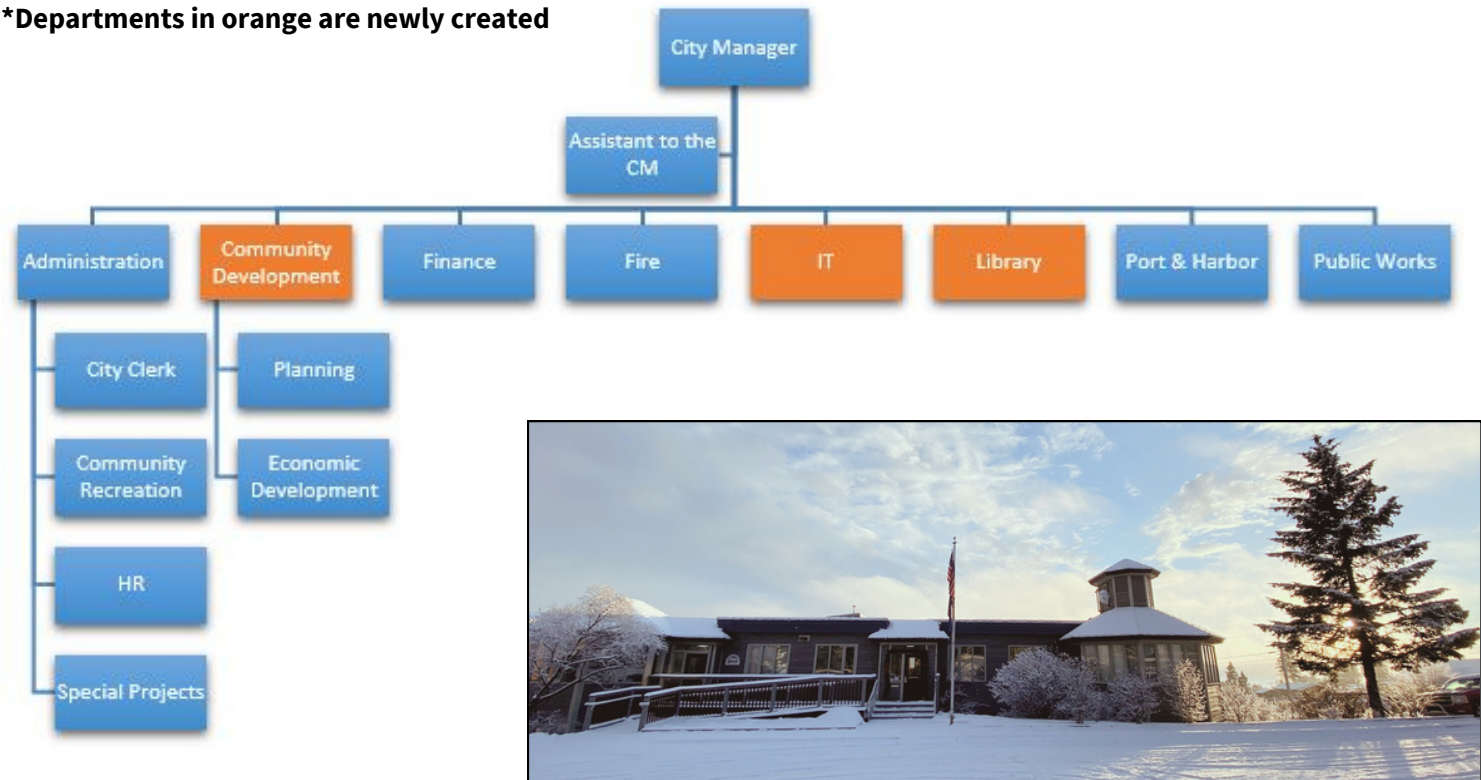
RESTRUCTURING

In January the City Council approved a restructuring of the City organization which resulted in the creation of three new departments. We now have independent departments for the Library, Information Technology, and Community Development.

The City's organization design has not changed much since the mid-1980s. After a bit of a shuffle in 1985 we've only seen two significant changes: the deletion of the Department of Health in 1991 and the split of the Department of Public Safety into separate Police and Fire Departments in 2017.

The City Manager proposed the reorganization with the intent of better matching organizational design with how the City operates. The new structure provides a more transparent view of City operations through documents like the budget and increases the organization's effectiveness at providing services to the City's residents, businesses, and visitors. City staff will be working to implement the changes over the next month.

***Departments in orange are newly created**



Homer City Hall

STAY IN THE LOOP

There are multiple ways you can stay up to date on important issues. We want to hear from you and welcome public input when making decisions that affect you.

All scheduled meetings can be found through the link below, on the City of Homer website. By clicking on each meeting, you can view the current Agenda. You can voice your comments and concerns during any of the Public Comment sections of a meeting. During the Comments from the Audience section, each person is allowed 3 minutes to comment on whatever topic they wish. There is no response as it is a one-way open forum for the Mayor, City Council Members, the City Manager, and Commissioners to hear what the public has to say.

<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/meetings>

PARKS

PARK PLANS

City staff met recently with the Parks, Arts, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Commission (PARCAC) to review the most recent drafts of the Park Master Plans for Bayview and Karen Hornaday Park.



How You Can Help: There will be a work session to review some more options. The meeting is open to the public. The Agenda will be posted to the [PARCAC Worksession Meeting Details](#) page closer to the meeting date.

When: February 15, from 4:30 - 5:30 pm

Where: City Hall, Cowles Council Chambers

Please provide feedback on these projects by clicking the links below.

Bayview Park Master Plan Update:



<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/publicworks/bayview>

Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan Update:



<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/publicworks/karen-hornaday-park-master-plan-update>

LIBRARY

BENCH DESIGN PROPOSALS

The Friends of the Homer Library (FHL) and the National Park Service are collaborating to establish a new community space on the 2.24-acre land parcel located between the library and Poopdeck Trail. This initiative aims to expand the library's mission beyond its physical confines, transforming the area into a cultural, educational, and recreational asset for the community.

To enhance the space, FHL has released a Request for Proposals (RFP), inviting designs for two public benches. The first bench will be positioned at the western end of the trail where it intersects with Poopdeck Trail, while the second bench, featuring a "wraparound" design, will encircle a spruce tree in the knoll area. Local artists and craftworkers are encouraged to submit their creative proposals for consideration.

All proposals must be received by FHL **no later than 8:00 pm on February 20, 2024.**

Proposals can be submitted in three ways:

1. Via email to dberry@ci.homer.ak.us (preferred)
2. In-person at the Homer Public Library
3. By mail to: Homer Public Library Attn: Dave Berry 500 Hazel Ave. Homer, AK 99603

[Click HERE to view the full Request for Proposals \(RFP\) Document](#)

The full details of this RFP and additional information about the Western Lot Project can be found on the Homer Public Library's website. <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library/western-lot-project>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SHORT TERM RENTALS

In the Spring of 2022, Homer City Council identified community housing as a priority issue. Since then, many efforts have been made to gather data and look at potential solutions. In November 2023, Council introduced Ordinance 23-61 that has been a topic for public meetings, conversations, and recommendations.

The proposed Ordinance 23-61 would amend Homer City Code, adding a section on short-term rentals. The initiative stems from concerns about housing availability for both seasonal workers and year-round community members. Acknowledging the economic benefits and challenges posed by short-term rentals, the ordinance aims to establish regulations to ensure safe operation, prevent public nuisances, and facilitate the collection of appropriate taxes, with a commitment to ongoing adjustments based on community needs and feedback.



Cabin with a View

Share Your Thoughts

Coming up, on **February 26**, there will be a Public Hearing. We want the public to get involved! Click the link to comment on the proposed regulation.

What does the Ordinance do?

- Requires registration with the City and provides state business license and KPB sales tax compliance form.
- Requires Self-Certify Basic Life Safety; are there smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, etc.
- Requires an emergency contact be provided for the police department and neighbors within 300 feet.

What the Ordinance does not do.

- Does not cap the number of units in a neighborhood or city wide.
- Does not require life safety inspections.
- No change in city capacity; no new staff, no increased enforcement.

COMMENT HERE



<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/planning/draft-short-term-rental-regulations>

READ MORE



Click the Links Below

- [Ordinance 23-61](#)
- [Memorandum for Ordinance 23-61](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Strong Towns Presentation

When: Tuesday, February 20 at 6:00 pm
Where: Kachemak Bay Campus, Room 202
Fee: FREE

Homer welcomes nationally renowned speaker Charles Marohn of Strong Towns.

Free Movie “Cruise Boom”

When: Tuesday, February 27 at 6:00 pm
Where: Homer Movie Theater
Fee: FREE

This 60-minute film takes a current look at the effects of cruise ship tourism in Sitka Alaska.

<https://artchangeinc.org/cruiseboom>



Cruise Ship in Whittier, AK

PORT & HARBOR

HOMER FISH DOCK AND ICE PLANT: A HUB OF PRODUCTIVITY AND SUPPORT

The Homer Fish Dock and Ice Plant public use facilities built in 1983, have played an important role in the maritime activities of Homer.

Stretching 383 feet, the Fish Dock boasts two 50-foot side berths and is equipped with eight public-use cranes, including two 5-ton and six 2.5-ton cranes, making it a versatile resource for various marine operations. The dock also offers 8,600 cubic feet of bait storage. Open 24/7 throughout the year, the Fish Dock caters to a diverse group. It serves fishermen, fish buyers, charter operators, Cook Inlet Aquaculture, researchers, Cook Inlet Spill Prevention & Response, Inc. (CISPRI), communities without road service, non-profits, government agencies, marine contractors and salvage operations. The dock employs three full-time operators with diverse skill sets.



Homer Fish Dock with Cranes



Maintenance Supervisor Del Masterhan giving a tour of the ice plant to Councilmember Hansen with fish dock operators Japheth McGhee & Tom Gilbert.

At the heart of its operations is the Ice Plant, operational from February through November, and capable of producing 40 tons of ice per day. This ice is sold and delivered to boats, fish processors, and buyers, supporting the needs of the fishing industry. In its 40 years of service, the Ice Plant has supplied nearly 130 thousand tons of Flake Ice.

Our dock and ice plant staff hold many skills that range from Ammonia Refrigeration Engineer/Operator to mechanical, electrical, plumbing, hydraulics, and some IT expertise, making it a comprehensive hub for maritime activities and support in the region.



Fish Totes

DID YOU KNOW?

The 30th Anniversary of the Homer Winter King Salmon Tournament is this year!

The tournament will take place on **March 23, 2024**

For more information and to register, go to www.homerwinterking.com



HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION



STUDY UPDATE



At the [January 22 City Council Worksession](#), Ronny McPherson and KC Kent of HDR provided an overview of the Baseline Conditions Report they completed and have submitted to the US Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Homer Harbor General Investigation.

HDR collected new field data and utilized the plethora of existing data along with existing studies to document and create a model of the wave and tidal action, storm surge and sediment transport in the study area.

Understanding the existing ocean and meteorological (or Metocean) conditions is important to the design process. The modelling tool will be used to evaluate the performance of different design option. Taken together with data from the geophysical investigation and environmental review, it allows the project development team to tailor designs to the specific conditions of the proposed site to best meet project objectives.

At the regular meeting on January 22nd, Homer City Council passed two pieces of legislation in support of the Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation. They unanimously approved [Ordinance 24-05](#), committing additional match funds for the Harbor Expansion Study. Mayor Castner and Councilmembers all expressed commitment to maintaining positive city-state-federal partnerships and the importance of the tasks added to the General Investigation, so we have solid information on which to better evaluate feasibility.

[Resolution 24-012](#) was also adopted, which supports the State of Alaska's continued partnership in the General Investigation and requests funds in the State's FY25 Capital budget to complete the other half of the additional local sponsor match requirement study.

If you missed the Council worksession or the Regular meeting, you can still listen to the meeting or read the minutes on the City's website. [Check it out here.](#)

Keep engaged with the study at www.homerharborexansion.com

CAMPGROUND HOST NEEDED FOR MARINER PARK

The city of Homer, Port & Harbor department is currently seeking one campground host for Mariner Park, April 1 through October 31, 2024.

In exchange for campground host services provided, the City of Homer's Port & Harbor will provide one free, dedicated camp space (plus room for a commuter vehicle), a \$100/week stipend, plus a \$50/month utility stipend.

Interested parties can contact harbormaster, Matt Clarke, for further information at (907) 235-3160 or mclarke@ci.homer.ak.us.

Find more information here: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/port/campground-host-needed-mariner-park>

FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROMOTION CEREMONY



Joe Kahles, Samantha Cunningham, Councilmember Shelly Erickson, Captain Jake Richter, Captain Jaclyn Arndt, Councilmember Caroline Venuti, Chief Mark Kirko

The Homer Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) celebrated a significant moment with its first promotion ceremony in the history of the department. This ceremony celebrated the promotions of Jaclyn Arndt and Jake Richter to the rank of Captain.

Surrounded by fellow firefighters, family, and friends, the ceremony was led by Chief Kirko who offered words of gratitude and encouragement to the two new Captains. This promotion reflects Jaclyn's and Jake's dedication, hard work, sacrifice, and commitment to the safety and well-being of Homer. We are so proud of you both for this accomplishment!



Former HVFD Captain Tim Yarbrough and Captain Jaclyn Arndt



James Squires Pinning Captain Jake Richter



Councilmember Caroline Venuti, Captain Jaclyn Arndt, Councilmember Shelly Erickson

HVFD EMT 1 CLASS NOW UP AND RUNNING!



2024 EMT I Class

The Homer Volunteer Fire Department started its annual EMT I class in January with ten students! Some are familiar faces who were already essential in our 911 responses at the department last year, and some are brand new, but all of them are enthusiastic about joining our team and running calls with us. Students will spend 160 hours in the classroom and countless more hours on their own study time. They will learn a whole new language, perfect hands-on skills, and learn the steps needed to assess and treat those critically ill and injured. At the same time, they will be learning how the Volunteer Fire Department works and become familiar with the equipment and fleet that we use to take care of Homer. We are looking forward to welcoming students into our volunteer family as they complete their training.

Excerpt by Assistant Chief of EMS Samantha Cunningham

HVFD LADDER TRUCK HAS ARRIVED



HVFD Ladder Truck

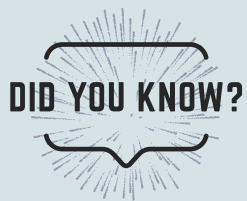
A long-awaited ladder truck is a welcome addition to the Homer Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) fleet. The addition of this truck gives the department the ability to quickly and safely rescue people trapped by fire on elevated floors and assists with reaching windows and roofs faster to create ventilation paths. It also provides the ability to more effectively combat fire in commercial and industrial facilities and can be used in many technical rescue situations by providing safe lifting with anchoring capabilities.

The new Ladder truck is a 1998 E-One with a 100-foot ladder and has a 1,500 Gallons Per Minute (GPM) pump. The elevated waterway is capable of delivering 1,250 GPM. It has seating capacity for 6 firefighters and will carry a host of firefighting and rescue equipment and tools.

The addition of this truck, purchased from the City of Ketchikan, helps ensure that the department can respond promptly and effectively to emergencies, ultimately improving its service to the residents of Homer.



HVFD Ladder Truck Extended



The first successful aerial ladder truck was invented and patented by Daniel D. Hayes in 1868. This horse-drawn truck had a ladder attached that could extend to a height of 85 feet. Four to six men were able to fully extend the ladder in under 40 seconds by turning a crank. It was mounted onto a turntable and could swing to where it was needed.

MITIGATION STRATEGY

Homer's Hazard Mitigation Plan is a blueprint to help make Homer a resilient community. The Mitigation Strategy section identifies key resources, ensuring effective responses to potential hazards.

1. Identification of Resources:

The plan examines human, technical, and financial resources and examines their ability to expand. For example, authorities like the Police Chief and the City of Homer Finance Department play vital roles in providing law enforcement and financial support.

2. National Flood Insurance Program Participation:

Active involvement in this program equips communities like Homer with valuable tools to implement effective floodplain management, reducing flood-related risks.

3. Mitigation Goals:

Goals focus on enhancing climate protection, creating a healthy community, and safeguarding critical facilities against hazards.

4. Recommended Actions:

Tailored actions are recommended, ranging from education and awareness; structure and infrastructure projects; preparedness and response; and local plans and regulations.

5. Prioritized Action Plan:

A strategic sequence for action implementation, prioritized based on urgency and potential impact, ensures efficient hazard mitigation.

6. Plan Integration:

Identifying the items above and integrating them into Homer's relevant plans, policies, and programs is an integral part of decision-making and resource allocation.



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



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.

Winter Driving Tips

1

WARM UP

Warm up your car at least 1 minute before driving to warm up the oil. This will keep your engine running smoothly.

2



Clear snow and ice off windows, mirrors, and lights.

3



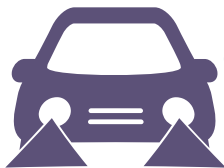
Have an emergency kit for the unexpected.

4



Fuel up! Keep gas tank at least half full. If you get stuck, you will want to keep the car running to stay warm.

5



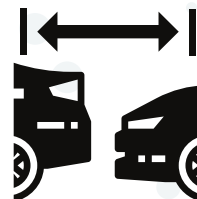
Use headlights to see and be seen! Make sure your bulbs are working.

6



Wear your seatbelt and make sure kids are buckled in too!

7



Keep a safe distance from the car in front of you. At least 3 car lengths.

8



Avoid using cruise control in icy and snowy conditions.

9



Service your car regularly to check oil and fluids.

10



Keep speed slow and steady in snow and icy conditions.

11



Check your tire pressure and tread regularly.



Work Anniversaries

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

January

Names	Dept.	Years
Teresa Sundmark	Library	17 Years
Tomasz Sulczynski	IT	16 Years
Andrea Browning	Admin	12 Years
Brody Jones	Public Works	10 Years
Jona Focht	Dispatch	9 Years
Lynda Gilliland	Finance	6 Years
Amy Woodruff	Port	3 Years
Rose Riordan	Port	2 Years

Welcome

January New Hires

The City is delighted to extend a warm welcome to Kaleb and Ed. We are thrilled to have them join the team!



Kaleb Harvey will be attending the Police Academy in Sitka for 17 weeks before starting his position with the Homer Police Department.



Ed Gross, Associate Planner

The Planning Division welcomes **Ed Gross** as full-time Associate Planner. Ed relocated to Homer from Anchorage and has a background in construction and a degree in Landscape Architecture. Most recently he worked as a cost estimator for asphalt and concrete paving companies. Ed will be busy in the coming weeks and months learning the policies and procedures of the Planning Division, with a focus on processing development applications. This comes just in time for the upcoming construction season, the peak time of year for processing zoning permits. Please join us in welcoming Ed to the City of Homer!

DEL WAS ON THE TODAY SHOW!



Barbara and Del Masterhan

In a delightful surprise, our own Del Masterhan, Port Maintenance Supervisor, made a special appearance on the Today Show with his wife, Heather, celebrating her 50th birthday! They even had a snazzy sign representing the 49th state. What a memorable day!

EMPLOYEE HIGH FIVES

Way to go guys! Working hard through the cold weather to keep things safe and everything running smoothly.



How many Harbor Officers does it take to change a light bulb? Harbormaster Matt Clarke was recently called upon to assist a vessel when one of the bulbs heating their engine room burned out. The usual caretakers were out of town, so he stepped in to help keep this vessel warm.



Ian Overson (HPD Jailer) Clearing Snow

CITY OF HOMER ROSTER

Mayor - Ken Castner (2024)

City Council

Donna Aderhold (2024)

Jason Davis (2025)

Shelley Erickson (2024)

Storm P. Hansen (2025)

Rachel Lord (2026)

Caroline Venuti (2026)

City Staff Leadership

Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

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

Mark Robl, Chief of Police

Bill Jirsa, Chief Technology Officer

Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager

Elizabeth Walton, Finance Director

Mark Kirko, Fire Chief

Dave Berry, Library Director

Andrea Browning, Personnel Director

Bryan Hawkins, Port Director

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

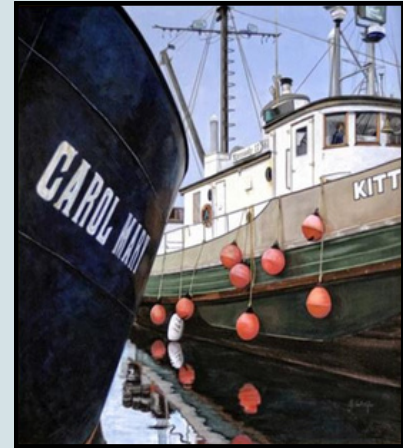
Planning Commission

Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION



Homer Harbor, by Ed Tussey- City Hall



Kittiwake II, by Gaye Wolfe - City Hall

Learn more about the municipal art collection at:

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/
prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection](http://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.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February

5	3:30 pm	Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
8	4:00 pm	ADA Advisory Board
13	4:30 pm	Economic Development Advisory Worksession
13	6:00 pm	Economic Development Advisory Commission Regular Meeting
15	4:30 pm	Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Worksession
15	5:30 pm	Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission Regular Meeting
20	4:30 pm	Library Advisory Board Worksession
20	5:30 pm	Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting
21	5:30 pm	Planning Commission Worksession
21	6:30 pm	Planning Commission Regular Meeting
28	5:30 pm	Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meeting

66



JOIN OUR TEAM

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

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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

City of Homer

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(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE: January 17, 2024
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for January 22, 2024 Council Meeting

STR Update

Public review of the short term rental (STR) ordinance continues to move forward in a productive way. The Economic Development Advisory Commission held a work session prior to their regular meeting on January 9th. The work session was well attended by short term rental owners who shared comments and concerns. They have also committed to sharing housing and short term rental data in the near future. Based on feedback received from the public and the EDC, staff has met with Council sponsors and plans to draft a substitute ordinance in time for the next EDC work session on February 13th. The Planning Commission has had a full schedule recently, but they are tentatively scheduled to consider the ordinance on February 21st. STR information for this project is available on the City website including the schedule of public participation opportunities and a public comment form: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/planning/draft-short-term-rental-regulations>

Harbor Expansion Study Update

In support of Resolution 23-130 and Ordinance 24-05, staff and Council Champions are reaching out to communities linked to Homer Harbor to request either letters or resolutions of support. The City of Seldovia is planning to consider a resolution on January 22nd and we hope to see other communities follow suit. The Homer Port & Harbor is a locally operated but regionally significant facility which benefits numerous coastal communities. Sharing this support with legislators in Juneau will help staff and Council show the widespread interest in coastal Alaska for increased moorage and port and harbor related services.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Application in Partnership with AML

In collaboration with City staff, the Alaska Municipal League developed a Notice of Interest for a grant application on behalf of the City of Homer for the State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs which distribute federal dollars to projects in Alaska. The proposed project is focused on Homer Spit climate resiliency. The project would develop data and design necessary to protect the 4.5 miles of state highway and critical evacuation route at the end of Alaska Route 1. The project will develop a climate-sensitive roadway repair and nature-based design solutions using beach renourishment based on a data driven understanding of short- and long-term climate impacts to the roadway facility. The project includes a beach sediment investigation and sediment management plan, analysis of preliminary design versus anticipated performance, cost estimation and development of a funding plan, public and agency involvement, and identifying phasing of projects for the

spit highway and beach renourishment. If awarded, the grant would bring upwards of \$1.8M. The non-federal cost share for the grant program is 25%, however, Alaska Department of Transportation has agreed to provide the match if awarded.

Master Plans for Hornaday Park and Bayview Park

Corvus Designs has provided staff with the initial drafts of the master plans for Hornaday Park and Bayview Park. PARCAC will be meeting to discuss the designs and work towards final versions that will come to Council at a future meeting.



Bayview Park concept to be reviewed by PARCAC

Finance Champions Update

Staff met with the Council’s Finance Champions, Councilmembers Lord and Davis, to discuss follow up to Resolution 23-120 and high level finance questions/concepts. We had a productive meeting and a memo from the Champions will be part of the packet for this meeting.

Federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions

The Environmental Protection Agency recently passed regulations known as the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR). The purpose of the LCRR, which is part of the Safe Water Drinking Act, is to protect public health by minimizing lead and copper levels in drinking water nationwide. The LCRR requires that public water systems compile an inventory to identify the materials used for each water service line. The inventory must include all service lines connected to the distribution system, regardless of ownership status. The material of the entire service line must be included, from the main to where the line enters the building. The goal of this effort is to either ensure there are no lead materials in the water system, or to find out where lead may be located, so that it can then be removed and replaced. Water/Sewer Superintendent Todd Cook has been diligently working with the team at Public Works to prepare required reports for the parts of the system the City controls and maintains. We will likely be conducting public outreach and education later in the year to ask home and business owners to assist the City in gathering data on the rest of the system.



City of Homer

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(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: Andrea Browning, HR Director
DATE: January 22, 2024
SUBJECT: January 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.

Teresa Sundmark	Library	17	Years
Tomasz Sulczynski	IT	16	Years
Andrea Browning	Admin	12	Years
Brody Jones	Public Works	10	Years
Jona Focht	Dispatch	9	Years
Lynda Gilliland	Finance	6	Years
Amy Woodruff	Port	3	Years
Rose Riordan	Port	2	Years

WORK SESSION

AGENDA CALENDAR 2024

Council Meeting Dates	Work Session Topic
Monday, January 8	<i>Exempt Employee Wage Scale</i>
Monday, January 15 Off-cycle	<i>Joint Session with Parks Art Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission</i>
Monday, January 22	<i>Homer Harbor Expansion Baseline Conditions Report Overview – Ronny McPherson & KC Kent HDR</i>
Monday, February 12	
Monday, February 26	<i>Ord 23-61 Amending HCC Title 5 to add Chapter 5.48 Short Term Rentals</i>
Monday, March 11	
Monday, March 18 Off-cycle	<i>Joint Session with ADA Advisory Board</i>
Tuesday, March 26	
Monday, April 8	
Monday, April 12 Off-cycle	<i>Joint Session with Port & Harbor Advisory Commission</i>
Monday, April 22	
Monday, May 13	
Monday, May 20 Off-cycle	<i>Joint session with Library Advisory Board</i>
Tuesday, May 28	
Monday, June 10	
Monday, June 17 Off-cycle	<i>Joint session with Economic Development Advisory Commission</i>
Monday, June 24	
Monday, July 22	

Council Meeting Dates	Work Session Topic
<i>Monday, August 12</i>	
<i>Monday, August 26</i>	
<i>Monday, September 9</i>	
<i>Monday, September 16</i> <i>Off-cycle</i>	<i>Joint Session with Planning Commission</i>
<i>Monday, September 23</i>	
<i>Monday, October 14</i>	
<i>Monday, October 28</i>	
<i>Monday, November 12</i>	
<i>Monday, November 25</i>	



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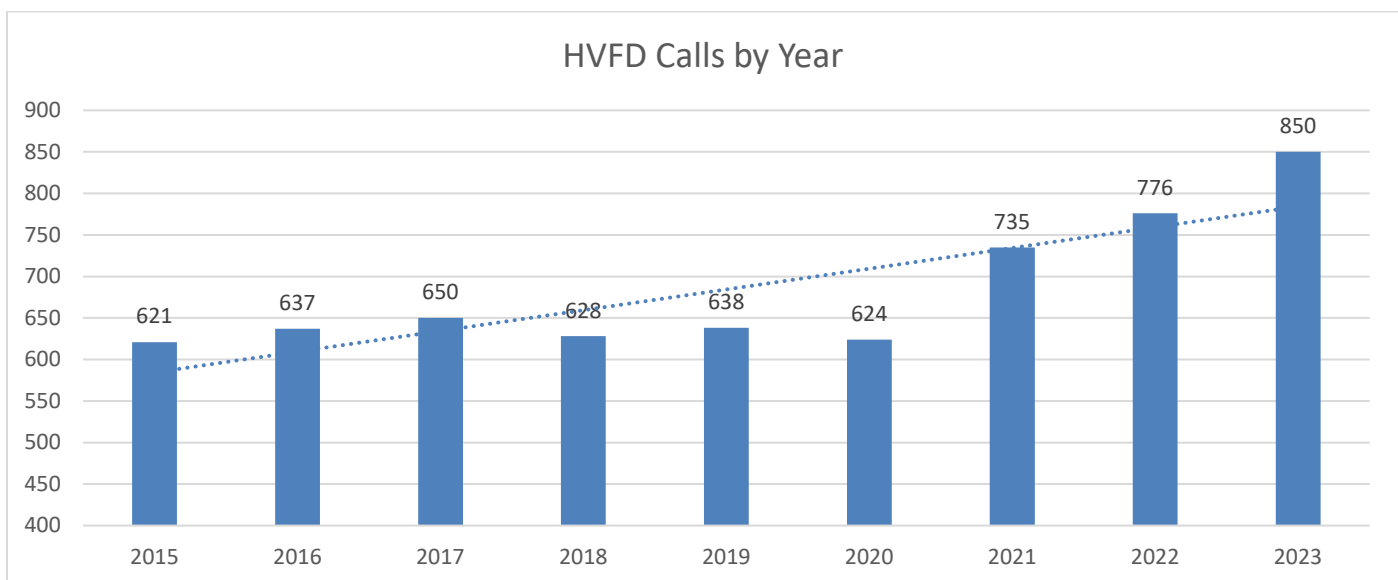
(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE: February 7, 2024
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for February 12, 2024 Council Meeting

HVFD Calls for 2023

The Homer Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) has seen significant growth in calls for service over the last decade. For many years, calls hovered in the 620-650 range annually. In 2021 HVFD saw a big jump up to 735, and in 2023 the Department hit 850 calls which is a 34% increase over the average for 2015 to 2020. The Department's staff and volunteers are putting considerable effort into keeping pace with the growing requests for service. Our fleet is doing its best as well, but we continue to have challenges with aged vehicles and slow supply chains. We are fortunate that Council has supported some major fleet purchases across the last couple years which are helping HVFD meet this increasing need – the City's first ladder truck was delivered recently; the new pumper/tanker is on order and in line to be built this year; and a new ambulance has been funded and staff are attempting to lock down a unit that can be delivered in the next year. We have many more fleet replacements to be considered in the near future, and, unfortunately, supply chain issues continue to make it difficult to receive fire apparatus in a timely fashion (lead times on many items have pushed past 2 years!).



Transportation Plan Update

The Transportation Plan will be making its way to the Planning Commission on March 6th. The plan is a little behind schedule due to the very full schedule the Planning Commission has had across the last couple months. The most recent draft is available at <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/planning/planning-commission-draft-transportation-plan-2024>.

Homer Projects Included in Draft STIP

Alaska's 2024-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) includes mention of a number of projects important to the City of Homer which were considered thanks to input received in Resolution 21-065, Resolution 23-083(A), and comments provided by the City during the STIP's public comment period. It's important to note that the STIP is not final until approved by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. The STIP can be viewed at: <https://dot.alaska.gov/admsvc/stip/final/2024.01.19%20%20STIP%20Final%20for%20Approval.pdf>

Comprehensive Plan Update

The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee had its first meeting on February 5th. They are currently reviewing the draft public participation plan developed by Agnew::Beck. More to come soon regarding public engagement opportunities.

Visit from Strong Towns and Screening of the Movie "Cruise Boom"

In February we have some interesting events happening for folks interested in planning and tourism. Charles Marohn from Strong Towns will be in Homer on February 20th to give a talk at the college at 6pm. Strong Towns has a mission to promote a "pattern of development that is financially strong and resilient" and works "to elevate local government to the highest level of collaboration for people working together in a place." This event will be a great opportunity for the public to learn more about planning in preparation for the Comprehensive Plan update which will have multiple public meetings in the spring and early summer.

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

Short Term Rental Update

The short term rental (STR) ordinance's (23-61) public engagement tour continues with stops at the Economic Development Commission on February 13th and the Planning Commission on February 21st. By the time the ordinance gets back to the Council on February 26th, staff and Council Champions Aderhold and Davis expect to have a substitute ordinance influenced by the public comment received across the last few months. STR information for this project is available on the City website including the schedule of public participation opportunities and a public comment form: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/planning/draft-short-term-rental-regulations>

2023 Library Report

The Homer Public Library's 2023 Annual Report is now available (attached to this report). The document gives an overview of all the activities that took place during 2023 at the library. Over 125,000 visits were logged to the library last year!

Homer Public Library 2023 Annual Report



Seldovia Adopts Resolution Supporting Harbor Expansion Study Update

On January 22nd, the Seldovia City Council approved a resolution (24-26) expressing support for the Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation. The resolution from our neighbors acknowledged the regional importance of our harbor and its critical importance to those living in the City of Seldovia. Mayor Castner, Councilmembers Aderhold and Hansen, and I will be sharing this, along with other supporting documents, with the state legislature later this month.

Finance Reports

This report will be accompanied by some new financial reports related to cash and fund balances. Expect that these reports will evolve across the next year. If Council has questions or suggestions please forward them to my office and we will work with you to address your concerns.

Hornaday Park Master Plan Update

The Parks, Arts, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Commission will hold a special work session on Thursday, February 15th at 4:30 PM. This commission will be reviewing and commenting on the draft Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan. The whole plan will be up for conversation, but the commission intends to focus much of their energy on the future of Upper Hornaday which has previously been operated as a campground. The work session will be followed at 5:30 PM by their regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

AMLJIA Meeting

On January 26th I attended a quarterly meeting of the Alaska Municipal League Joint Insurance Association (AMLJIA) as a member of the board of trustees in Anchorage. My travel and participation is funded by the AMLJIA. The most notable update from that meeting is the continued progress on the potential consolidation

between AMLJIA and the state's other public entity risk pool Alaska Public Entity Insurance (APEI). A consolidation is intended to produce a stronger pool that can provide more services to its membership. The two groups have been meeting and developing a vision and framework for implementation of a new entity that would be called the Alaska Public Risk Alliance (APRA). Much more work remains to develop the concept, and acceptance of a consolidation would require votes of each entity's board and then their membership (which includes the City of Homer). The earliest a consolidation could be complete and APRA operational is July 1, 2025.

Attachments:

- February Employee Anniversaries
- Memorandum from City Clerk re: Memorandums 101
- 2023 Homer Public Library Annual Report
- AKDOT Commissioner Anderson Letter Re: 2024-2027 STIP
- Seldovia Resolution 24-26 Supporting Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation
- Building a Strong Town Presentation Flyer
- Cruise Boom Homer Screening Flyer
- SBDC Quarterly Report



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

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Memorandum

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: Andrea Browning
DATE: February 12, 2024
SUBJECT: February 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.

Jenny Carroll	Admin	8	Years
Morgan Tracy	Police	7	Years
Kevin Co	Library	5	Years
Tyler Jeffres	Police	5	Years
Matt Swerdzewski	Fire	1	Year
Mike Swoboda	PW	1	Year



MEMORANDUM

Memorandums 101

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
Date: February 7, 2024
From: Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk

At the January 22, 2024 City Council Meeting, Council Member Lord asked for some guidance related to the use of Memorandums related to Council actions.

For City Council, Boards, Commissions, Committees, and etc, there are three types of memorandums that are used, informational memos, backup memos, and action memos.

Informational memos, such as this one, are used to relay non actionable information to the body it's prepared for. Another example is the Council Champion memos that give information but don't require action.

Backup memos provide information that provides information on a specific matter the body will be taking action on. For example, back up memos to ordinances or resolutions.

Action memos are used for routine actions that don't rise to the need of having ordaining or resolving language. Action memos are used for matters such as appointments to boards and commissions, to voice non objection to alcohol and marijuana licenses, to review and approve letters from Mayor and Council being sent on behalf of the City of Homer.

Homer Public Library 2023 Annual Report



On January 20, chilly patrons waited forlornly for Storytime to begin

- Jan.-Mar.: The Art in the Library program displays acrylic and graphite paintings by Counsel Langley.
- Jan. 1: The balance in the Library Endowment Fund stands at \$42,460.95.
- Jan. 13: Showing of *King Lear*.
- Jan. 17: The Library Advisory Board responds to the petition to remove titles from the children's and young adult collections.

The year opened with ongoing debate about a petition to remove all the LGBT materials from the children's and young adult areas in the library. On Jan. 17, following hours of public testimony and hundreds of written comments, the Library Advisory Board (LAB) voted to leave all 55 titles in their existing locations. The controversy regarding library materials continues, however: on Nov. 16, the state Attorney General issued an open letter to all public and school libraries in Alaska, advising them of the laws concerning distribution of sexually-explicit materials.

From February through August, staff worked with the Friends of the Library, the Library Advisory Board and the City Council to completely overhaul and modernize all the library's policies. In the last six months of the year, City staff and Council worked on reorganizing the City's administrative structure. Effective Jan. 8, 2024, the library became an official department for the first time since 1985.

The project to upgrade the western lot moved forward. On April 10, Council adopted Resolution 23-030, supporting improvements to the grounds. During the summer, the Friends of the Library hired local experts to conduct a survey of plant species in the area. In October, work crews laid the gravel for the first part of the trail upgrades.

- Jan. 18: New microform reader set up.
- Feb 1-28: National Love Your Library Month. Prize drawings in the library each week.
- Feb. 3: Library videophone replaced.
- Feb. 4 and 9: Alice Porter teaches two workshops on making accordion-book boxes.
- Feb. 6: Scan-to-email function set up on the library's public copier.
- Feb. 25: Celebration of Lifelong Learning honors Samantha Cunningham and Thea Person.
- Mar. 4: In-person workshop led by Dimi Macheras and Casey Silver, authors of *Chickaloonies*.
- Mar. 9: Local writer Derek Stonorov, author of *Living in Harmony with Bears*, visits the library.
- Mar. 14: Lt. Browning from the Homer Police Department delivers a talk on *Parenting in the Digital Age*.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed so much. Our hardworking staff prove every day that the library is the heart of Homer. The Friends of the Library poured their energies into a huge range of public programs and provided invaluable support for library operations, especially the summer reading program. Members of the LAB carried out their duties thoughtfully and considerately, spending many hours reading the challenged titles, hearing input from the public, and debating revisions to library policies. Volunteers donated more than 2,400 hours of labor, not to mention thousands of dollars to the Giving Tree, the library endowment and the Friends of the Library. Finally, a big thank you to all the library patrons and community organizations that gave their time and expertise to speak up at public meetings, collaborate on programs, participate in events and just come in to read. The library is what it is because of your efforts.



Homer High School Swing Choir performed at the Celebration of Lifelong Learning, February 25

January

The library hosted a showing of the Royal Shakespeare Company's *King Lear* on Jan. 13. The new microform reader was set up on Jan. 18, offering much greater zooming, contrast adjustment, cleaner prints and the ability to save and email images.

At the Jan. 17 meeting, the LAB heard more public testimony on the petition to remove LGBT+ books from the children's and young adult collections, then voted to retain each of the 55 items in its existing location.

- Mar. 16: The library upgrades from version 3.1 to version 3.9 of the catalog software.
- Mar. 23: Public phone replaced with a new armored model.
- Mar. 24, 6:15-7:45: Margaret Willson visits the library to talk about her newest book, *Woman, Captain, Rebel*.
- Mar. 31: First-ever wedding in the library.
- Apr.-Jun.: The Art in the Library program displays photographs by R. J. Nelson.
- Apr. 1: Monthly checkout limit on Kanopy is raised to 5 videos per patron.
- Apr. 6: Community Poetry Reading.
- Apr. 7: Final memorial plaque for Duffy Murnane installed in the front entryway of the library.
- Apr. 10: Council adopts Resolution 23-030, supporting improvements to the library grounds.



The memorial bench for Duffy Murnane was completed and dedicated on April 26

February

Community Recreation and SPH kindly donated four sun lamps to the library for checkout. The library videophone was replaced, and the main public copier was upgraded with the ability to scan to email, not just to USB. Interlibrary loan fees increased by \$2 to cover the rise in postage costs. The LAB and PARCAC committees passed motions of support for improvements to the western lot, and the ADA Commission expressed verbal approval.

Staff began overhauling the library policies, combining them all into a single document and editing to remove duplication, internal contradictions and out-of-date material, as well as adding sections to cover new and emerging policy concerns.

The Celebration of Lifelong Learning on Feb. 25 was a smash hit! Nearly all 80 tickets sold out and the building was packed. Congratulations to Samantha Cunningham and Thea Person, our adult and youth awardees, respectively.

March

Marylou Burton, a long-time member of the Friends of the Library, received the Audrey Kolb Award from the Alaska Library Association. The award is given to individuals who “have shown a significant contribution in the life and activities of libraries,” a description which fits her perfectly.

On March 16, the library shifted the catalog into the cloud and jumped eight versions of the software. The new catalog brought significant improvements to workflows and greatly reduced the burden on the City IT staff.

- Apr. 10, 13, 17 and 20:
Workshops teach participants how to make an accordion book-in-a-box out of a poem and pictures.
- Apr. 21: Reading by local poet Peter Kaufmann.
- Apr. 26: Ceremonial lighting of the lotus lamp marks the completion of the Duffy Memorial Bench.
- May 5-6: Spring Book and Plant Sale.
- May 6: Bookmobile at the Safe and Healthy Kids Fair.
- May 15: *Little Loon Finds His Voice*, by Yvonne Pearson, is the first book of the season featured on the Story Walk Trail.
- May 21: Volunteers with Serve the City help clean up the landscaping at the library.
- Jun. 3: Summer@HPL kicks off with crafts, games and storytime.
- Jun. 6-Aug. 1: Outdoor Adventures and Stories in partnership with the Center for Alaska Coastal Studies.

Building maintenance staff replaced the public phone with a new armored model. The lock on the front door broke in mid-March, forcing us to leave one door closed until March 28.



Friends of the Library volunteers handed out more than 800 free books during the Independence Day parade

April

Community members gathered in the library on April 6 to share their favorite poems, and local author Peter Kaufmann gave a reading on April 21. The Duffy Murnane memorial bench reached completion this month, with a plaque installed on April 7 and a ceremony of lighting the lotus lamp on April 26.

- Jun. 6-8: In partnership with Challenger Learning Center of Alaska, *Science in the Summer: Be a Physicist* teaches kids about science and science careers.
- Jun. 9: After nine years of invaluable work at the library, Jackie McDonough steps down as Library Technician I.
- Jun. 12: In partnership with Pier One Theatre, kids perform a book.
- Jun. 14: Leap into Science explores light and shadow.
- Jun. 15: The Story Walk Trail features *Butterfly Park*, by Elly MacKay.
- Jun. 17: Cartoonist Lee Post teaches families and adults how to tell a story in cartoon form.
- Jun. 20: David Scheel, author of *Many Things Under the Water*, visits the library to talk about his book and his research on octopi.
- Jun. 19-20: Midsummer Magic takes kids on a trip to find Shakespearian sorcery both indoors and outside.



Young writers read their work on-air at KBBI on July 18

May

The book and plant sale was successful, as always. On May 19, Samantha Cunningham from the Homer Fire Department provided all staff with training in using the AED machine at the front desk.

Volunteers carried out a day of service on May 21, helping to clean up the library grounds. Parks staff also surveyed the grounds and noted a number of issues, including invasive species, problems with drainage and settling and various minor maintenance tasks. Going forward, the City will care for the Margaret Pate garden on the south side of the library and the flowerbed at the base of the Homer Public Library sign.

June

The summer reading program kicked off on June 3. On June 21, local community members celebrated the summer solstice with a street fair on Hazel Avenue. David Scheel's author talk was a great success, with more than 50 attendees. The bookmobile received a new access ramp.

After nine years with the library, Jackie McDonough stepped down as Library Technician I on June 9. Over that time, she did superb work staffing the front desk, repairing materials, training volunteers, assisting with policy rewrites, organizing materials in the vertical files and duplicates collections, and generally being amazing. We will miss her!

- Jun. 21: Summer solstice celebration and street fair on Hazel Avenue.
- Jun. 22-Jul. 14: Teens collaborate to produce their own 'zine.
- Jun. 28: Leap into Science explores balance.
- Jul.-Sept.: The Art in the Library program displays oil paintings by Achim Jahnke.
- Jul. 4: The bookmobile participates in the Independence Day parade.
- Jul. 5: The library implements automatic renewals.
- Jul. 11-18: Mercedes Harness leads a writers club for young participants. Authors have the chance to add their books to the library's collection and read their work on KBBI.
- Jul. 12: Leap into Science explores wind.
- Jul. 15: The Story Walk Trail features *I Got Rhythm*, by Connie Schofield-Morrison.
- Jul. 19-22: LEGO contest.



Volunteers from Global Credit Union provided mountains of food for the End of Summer Reading Party on July 29

July

The library implemented automatic renewals on July 5, which means items renew themselves without human effort unless a) they're on hold, b) the renewal limit has been reached, or c) the patron's card is blocked. Patrons who have email addresses in the system receive a notice that the item has or has not renewed.

The entryway of the library displayed a friendship banner, painted by local schoolkids in honor of Homer's sister-city relationship with Teshio, Japan. It will hang there all through 2024, the 40th anniversary of the relationship.

Our tiny Friends of the Library volunteers were very enthusiastic about handing out books in the July 4 parade—we distributed 800-1,000 titles.

The summer reading program reached its grand conclusion on July 29! Upwards of 100 people attended, with lots of chalk-drawing, game-playing and hot-dog-eating. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped set up and take down, to say nothing of local businesses which donated prizes and food.

Much of the equipment in the server room was replaced on July 1-2. The new upgrades allow for better routing of traffic within the building and improvements to the wi-fi system. The public works department cut a new drainage channel from the staff parking lot and dredged the ditch at the south side of the main lot.

- Jul. 27-28: In partnership with Challenger Learning Center of Alaska, *Science in the Summer: Be a Physicist* teaches kids about science and science careers.
- Jul. 29: End of summer reading party includes music, games, ice cream and hot dogs, with prizes for reading-challenge participants and LEGO contest winners.
- Aug. 6: Commemoration of the Hiroshima bombing features a replanting of the memorial ginkgo tree.
- Aug. 8: Corky Parker, author of *La Finca*, visits the library to talk about her book.
- Aug. 15: The final Story Walk Trail book of the season is *Blueberry Shoe*, by Ann Dixon.
- Aug. 28: City Council passes Resolution 23-082, adopting the revised Homer Public Library Policies and Procedures.
- Sept. 5: Dawn Brooks begins work as a Library Technician I.
- Sept. 8-9: Fall Book and Plant Sale.



Staff from Public Works dredged out the drainage channel on the south side of the parking lot on August 15

August

On Aug. 6, the library hosted a ceremonial replanting of the ginkgo tree, commemorating the bombing of Hiroshima. On August 8, author Corky Parker delivered a talk about her life running a bed and breakfast in Puerto Rico.

On Aug. 29, City Council voted to approve the revised library policies and also allocated funding for upgrading the trail surface on the western lot. The Homer Public Library sign at the corner of Heath and Hazel received repairs and a fresh coat of paint. Thanks to artist Brad Hughes, who both created and repaired the work.

The library submitted three building-related projects for Homer's 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan: replacing the siding, installing a sliding gate at the entrance, and an engineering study for possible future remodeling.

September

The library hosted a candidate forum for borough mayor and borough assembly on Sept. 14, and a forum for city council candidates on Sept. 18. Despite some technical issues with the first one, both fora gave candidates a chance to present themselves directly to constituents. Many thanks to KBBI, KDLL, the Peninsula Clarion, the League of Women Voters and the other volunteers who put the event together.

Building maintenance installed new burners in the boiler room, which proved their worth during the later months of the year. The September book and plant sale went w

- Sept. 14: Candidate forum for Homer assembly seat and borough mayor.
- Sept. 18: Candidate forum for Homer city council.
- Sept. 26: Zoom author visit by Margaret Willson, author of *Woman, Captain, Rebel*. This is a followup to her in-person talk on March 24.
- Oct. 1-Jan. 31: Art in the Library displays works by Elizabeth Kandror.
- Oct. 6: Author visit by John Messick, author of *Compass Lines*.
- Oct. 12: Discussion panel with Guiding Growth.
- Oct. 20: New fish added to the fish wall in front of the library, honoring donors who contributed to the library endowment fund or the Friends of the Library endowment.
- Oct. 24-31: Wi-fi nodes upgraded throughout the library, allowing faster data and more simultaneous users.



Halloween in Homer is serious business

October

On Oct. 20, Moose Run Metalsmiths installed new fish on the fish wall, for the first time in nearly 20 years. The fish wall is an art installation in the plaza outside the library and features copper fish adorned with the names of major donors. Current policy awards a small fish to donors who contribute \$500 in direct financial assistance to the library (preferably through one of the endowment funds), while donors who give \$2,500 or more qualify for a large one.

On Oct. 10, work crews began spreading gravel for resurfacing the Story Walk Trail. Crews from public works have since made some changes to address drainage issues. The survey of plants on the western lot is complete, and the western lot committee chose a few plants to explore further for signage and programs. City IT staff upgraded the wi-fi system, which increases the number of simultaneous users from 40 to 60 and allows higher bandwidth.

- Oct. 26: Author visit by local writer Robert Stark, author of *Warflower*.
- Oct. 31: Trick or treat in the library.
- Nov. 30: *Juneau to Juneau* travelogue by Marylou Burton.
- Dec.: Revisions to the teen area, including new seating, tables and lighting.
- Dec.: Giving Tree up in the lobby.
- Dec. 31: The balance in the library endowment fund stands at \$56,496.11.

November

On Nov. 16, the Attorney General of Alaska posted a public letter to all school and public libraries in the state. The letter reviews state laws governing sexual offenses against minors, and warns librarians that including “indecent materials” in the library collection may be a prosecutable offense if minors are able to find those materials.

The library hosted an excellent travel program by Marylou Burton on Nov. 30, describing her six-and-a-half-year voyage around the world with her husband. Ninety-six people attended!

December

We added new chairs, tables and lighting in the teen section. Throughout the month, patrons purchased 38 books from the Giving Tree and donated more than \$900 in gift certificates to the Homer Bookstore.

We revived the digital picture frame that displays Homer patrons with their library cards from 2011, and it’s out on the table by the front desk. During 2024, the Friends of the Library will add new photos to the show.



In 2011, City IT Network Administrator Tomasz Sulczynski showed off his library card for the slide show

Thank you!

Our deepest thanks to all those who supported the library over the past year. Many members of the public contributed their time, energy and money to guarantee the success of the institution. We here recognize those who donated to the library's long-term sustainability:

Library Endowment Fund

Anonymous (2)

National Philanthropic Trust

Donna and Wayne Aderhold

Dave Berry

Marcia Kuszmaul

Kerry Ozel

Friends of Homer Public Library Endowment Fund

Anonymous

Doug and Landa Baily

2023 by the numbers at Homer Public Library



125,675

Visits to the library



157,634

Items checked out

729

New library cards issued

13,504

Patrons attended programs

1,135 attended
Summer Reading events

2,919 sessions
Study Rooms + Meeting Room

25,595 sessions
Public computers + library WiFi

2,466

Volunteer hours logged





THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Transportation and
Public Facilities

Office of the Commissioner

3132 Channel Drive
P.O. Box 112500
Juneau, Alaska 99811-2500
907.465.3900
dot.state.ak.us

January 9, 2023

Jennifer Carroll
Special Projects & Communications Coordinator
City of Homer
491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Ms. Carroll:

Thank you for your comments on the draft 2023-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. We greatly value stakeholder engagement and appreciate your attention to the draft STIP. This letter is in response to City of Homer Resolution 21-065, Resolution 23-083A as well as the City of Homer's comments provided in publicinput.com.

We note your request to add Homer Harbor Expansion to the 2024-2027 STIP and that the Homer Harbor Expansion project is estimated at \$278,000,000. The project description will describe that the project completes a US Army Corps of Engineers feasibility study with the purpose of constructing a large vessel harbor to the north of Homer's existing Port and Harbor. We apologize that this was missed in the initial draft, and this will be added as a community driven project seeking funding in the final STIIP.

We also appreciate the City's diligence in maintaining the Homer Harbor port infrastructure. As you note, we have included the Homer Harbor Critical Gloat System Replacement project in the community driven not yet funded portion of the STIP.

Access to the Homer Spit is critical to the Kenai Peninsula and Alaska. We recognize the need for the Homer Spit Coastal Erosion Mitigation project, and value our partnership in applying for discretionary grants to support mitigation and stabilization efforts. We also appreciate the City of Homer's support for the M/V Tustumena Replacement Vessel project, and recognize the AMHS reliance on the Homer Spit for the ferry terminal.

We note that the city of Homer is officially requesting the inclusion of the REACH (Realizing Equitable, Accessible Connectivity in Homer) project in the Alaska 2024-2027 STIP as an illustrative project. This project involves Planning, pre-development and construction activities to comprehensively transform Homer's major travel routes into complete streets with pedestrian pathways. We understand this initial effort is estimated at \$1,400,000. This will be added as a community driven project seeking funding in the final STIP.

We note your support for the Kachemak Drive pavement preservation project to include non-motorized accommodations and your desire to add it to the STIP. We will add this project to our needs list, and also encourage you to consider it for a discretionary grant opportunity in the future. We would be interested in collaborating with you on this effort.

"Keep Alaska Moving"

Thank you for your comments on the Sterling Highway Milepost 157-169 Reconstruction Project (Anchor Point to Baycrest Hill). We have passed your comments along to our design team, and will consider the improvements suggestions to Baycrest Overlook and Dimond Creek Crossing. We have received many comments in support of the Diamond Creek Crossing.

Thank you for your support of the Transportation Alternatives Program, the Community Transportation Program, the ADA Implementation and Guidance efforts, as well as the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure formula program.

We also note your proposal to add the following road projects to the STIP:

- Sterling Highway Milepost 172 Drainage Improvements. DOT&PF appreciates attention to this area, and the potential drainage problems. We have added to our needs list, and will be evaluating this area for subsequent projects in the near future.
- Homer Main Street Rehabilitation and Sidewalk. We appreciate your description of the need and have added this to our needs list.
- East Hill Road and West Hill Road Bike Lanes. We note this request and have added this project to our needs list.
- Sterling Highway Milepost 169-175 Pavement Preservation and Safety Upgrades. We note this request and have added this project to our needs list.

Sincerely,



Ryan Anderson, P.E.

Commissioner

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

**CITY OF SELDOVIA
RESOLUTION 24-26**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SELDOVIA, ALASKA
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION GENERAL
INVESTIGATION STUDY**

WHEREAS, Homer's Port & Harbor is a regional port and community hub which is critically important to those living in the City of Seldovia; and

WHEREAS, Homer's Port & Harbor serves the needs of commercial vessels operating across southcentral and western Alaska, and the Arctic in the maritime industrial, marine transportation and commercial fishing industries and, over time, the increased demand for services provided by the Homer Port & Harbor has outgrown Homer harbor's ability to safely and efficiently serve this fleet; and

WHEREAS, the City of Homer ("City") has identified a new large vessel port expansion among its highest ranked priority capital improvement projects since 2004 to (1) meet the growing needs of our commercial fleet, (2) address overcrowding and associated navigational safety concerns and high maintenance costs, and (3) support emerging regional and national economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of this need, the City and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE") entered into a Federal Cost Share Agreement in March 2023 to initiate a Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation ("GI") that investigates all planning aspects needed to build a large vessel harbor at the Homer Spit including, but not limited to: selecting a preferred design alternative and construction methods, evaluating social, economic and environmental factors, determining costs and conducting a cost benefit analysis; and

WHEREAS, the initial cost of the Homer Harbor Expansion GI study was set per the USACE Project Management Plan (PMP) at \$3,000,000, as a shared partnership between the USACE, the State of Alaska, and the City (\$1.5M federal/\$750,000 State of Alaska/\$750,000 City of Homer; and

WHEREAS, after reaching the study's Alternatives and Measures Milestone, the USACE project development team updated the PMP to include two additional activities in the GI scope (geotechnical analysis and ship simulation) so that the study would have sufficient data to develop the most realistic benefit to cost ratio; and

WHEREAS, the additional work increases the cost of the GI study by \$1,154,093 to be similarly shared between the Federal and local partners; and

WHEREAS, Homer City Council passed Resolution 23-130 agreeing to the revised scope and cost of the GI under the PMP, stating it is prudent to continue to explore options for a harbor expansion to relieve congestion and improve navigational safety within Homer's Port and Harbor; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the shared local match partnership, Homer City Council Resolution 23-130 additionally expresses the City of Homer's intent to appropriate funds in the amount of \$288,524 for fifty percent of the required local sponsor match and to seek State matching funds for the remaining fifty percent; and

WHEREAS, investment in the GI supports current and future maritime, marine transportation, and commercial fishing industry promoting the livelihood of individuals in the Kenai Peninsula, the City of Homer and its surrounding remote communities, and the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, support of for the GI study and the completion of the Homer Harbor Expansion project, aligns with the City of Seldovia's Comprehensive Plan and regional priorities and partnership between the City of Homer, City of Seldovia, and Seldovia Village Tribe;

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

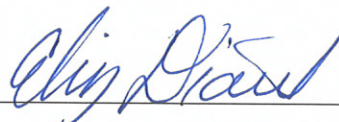
SECTION 1. That the City of Seldovia supports the State of Alaska providing \$288,523 in additional match funds in the FY25 State budget in order to fully fund local match requirements for the Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation study in partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Homer as the development of this public facility will help enhance safety and economic prosperity among the many Alaskan communities who depend on services operating out of Homer Port and Harbor.

SECTION 2. That copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Dunleavy and legislative delegates for the Kenai Peninsula.

SECTION 3. That this resolution is effective immediately upon adoption.

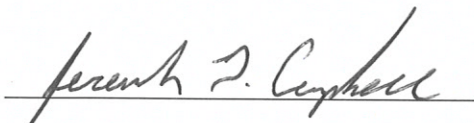
PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the City Council of the City of Seldovia on this 22nd day of January, 2024.

ATTEST:

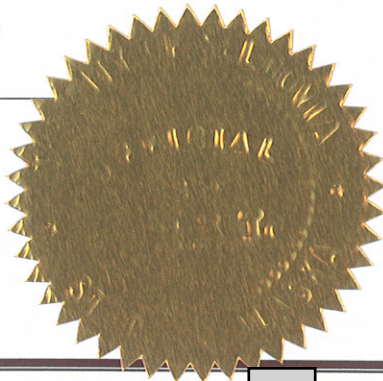


Liz Diamant, City Clerk

APPROVED:



Jeremiah Campbell, Mayor



Building a Strong Town

FREE • OPEN TO EVERYONE

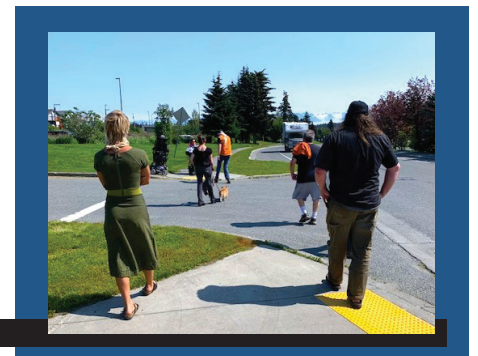
Homer community members, groups, and the City of Homer are actively seeking solutions to local challenges like sustainable growth, affordable housing, a walkable and bike-able community, and fiscally responsible local government.



A COMMUNITY PRESENTATION WITH CHUCK MAROHN STRONG TOWNS FOUNDER & PRESIDENT

Charles “Chuck” Marohn is the founder and president of Strong Towns. He is a land use planner and civil engineer with decades of experience. He holds a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning, both from the University of Minnesota.

Visit <https://www.strongtowns.org> for more info.



Tuesday February 20, 2024 • 6 pm - 7:30 pm

Doors open at 5:30 pm. Talk begins at 6 pm followed by Q&A

In Person: Kachemak Bay Campus, Room 202

Online: Zoom



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81377496791>
Meeting ID: 813 7749 6791
Passcode: 99603

Join the City of Homer and community partners for a special guest presentation, “Building a Strong Town” by Strong Towns founder Chuck Marohn. Strong Towns advocates for a new way of thinking about the way we build our world, and supports thousands of people across the United States and Canada who are working to make their cities safe, livable, and financially resilient.

We look forward to connecting Marohn and his organization’s experience with Homer residents interested in building a resilient and prosperous community, and to spark conversation and solutions as the City of Homer begins development of a new Comprehensive Plan that will guide our community for the next 10-20 years.

SPONSORED BY THE CITY OF HOMER

For more event info, contact:
planning@ci.homer.ak.us
Phone: (907) 93-3119



STRONG TOWNS

A FILM BY ELLEN FRANKENSTEIN & ATMAN MEHTA

CRUISE BOOM

A community on the cusp of change

- FREE ADMISSION -

HOMER SCREENING

sponsored by the City of Homer

TUESDAY | FEB 27TH | 6 PM | HOMER THEATRE



Archange Inc. presents
Directed, Filmed & Edited by Ellen Frankenstein & Atman Mehta
Consulting Editor Shirley Thompson - Animation Ryan Morse
Audio Post Tom Disher - Original Music by Bryan Lovett, Graham Lebron,
Fred Knowles, Rita [redacted] ps & Ethan Vastola
www.cruiseboomfilm.com



Watch the Trailer



Alaska Small Business Development Center

UAA BUSINESS ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

January 29, 2024

City of Homer
491 E. Pioneer Ave
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Mayor Castner, City Council, and City Staff,

This letter serves as our quarterly report from October 1 to December 31, 2023. Homer Business Advisor Robert Green finished the year on a high note, supporting 130 business owners and entrepreneurs while receiving 100% client satisfaction on surveys. It was a relatively slow year for capital infusion, with interest rates for business loans often double what they were two years ago. This past year, 78% of Homer clients chose to meet in person with Robert, indicating a strong preference from local business owners and entrepreneurs to have this service in their community rather than travel to Soldotna. Here is a summary of deliverables to the Homer community during the quarter (year):

Client Hours: 122.8 (622.1)	Jobs Supported: 40 (258)
Total Clients: 34 (130)	Capital Infusion: \$0 (\$293,000)
New Businesses Started or Bought: 6 (10)	Client Surveys: 100% positive (100% positive)

This report provides lists of the top advising topics and top industries obtaining technical assistance from the Alaska SBDC in Homer. Assistance to entrepreneurs looking to start new businesses and business planning were the top topics this quarter. Accommodation jumped into the top spot for industries advised, while retail stores and professional guides remained near the top of the list.

Topics

1. Start-up Assistance: 50.7 hrs (41%)
2. Business Planning: 30.8 hrs (25%)
3. General Management: 16.2 hrs (13%)
4. Buy/Sell Business: 9.0 hrs (7%)
5. Legal Issues: 8.1 hrs (7%)

Industries

1. Accommodation: 38.7 hrs (32%)
2. Retailers: 17.9 hrs (15%)
3. Guides: 14.5 hrs (12%)
4. Manufacturing: 13.7 hrs (11%)
5. Entertainment: 9.7 hrs (8%)

We would like to thank the City of Homer for their support of the Homer Business Advisor position. The \$10,000 funding provided by the mayor and city council is critical in retaining the Homer SBDC office in 2024. We greatly appreciate the knowledge, experience, and consistency Robert Green brings to efforts in Homer. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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Jon Bittner

Executive Director
Alaska SBDC

PARKS ART RECREATION & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION

2024 Calendar

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

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