



Agenda

Committee of the Whole

Monday, November 13, 2023 at 5:00 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: 953 057829 Password: 234696

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

CALL TO ORDER, 5:00 P.M.

Council Members Davis and Erickson request excusal.

AGENDA APPROVAL (Only those matters on the noticed agenda may be considered, pursuant to City Council's Operating Manual, pg. 6)

CONSENT AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

DISCUSSION TOPIC(S)

- a. Homer-Teshio Sister City 40th Anniversary Celebration Update Dave Berry, Library Director and Presentation from Megumi Beams and West Homer Japanese Class (20 minutes)

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE



ADJOURNMENT NO LATER THAN 5:50 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting is Monday, November 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., Work Session at 4:00 p.m. and Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.



Sister City Celebration

40th Anniversary of Homer-Teshio Relationship



Sister Cities International

- Sister Cities International was created in 1956
- Its mission is to “promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation one individual, one community at a time.”
- It serves a number of functions, including:
 - Encouraging exchanges of art and culture
 - Promoting trade and development
 - Providing educational opportunities for youth, particularly for studying abroad
 - Creating a forum for conversation and recognition

Homer and Teshio

- ▶ March 28, 1983: Sister City relationship established by Reso. 83-13, with unanimous approval from the City Council, Chamber of Commerce and Sister City ad hoc committee
- ▶ April 17, 1984: The Mayors of Homer and Teshio sign the Oath to Establish a Sistership Affiliation
- ▶ August 9, 2010: Ord. 10-35 appropriates \$9,900 for the 25th anniversary celebration
- ▶ August 8, 2016: Reso. 16-080 reconfirms the Sister City relationship

Sister City Delegations: Teshio to Homer


- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| ▶ Jun. 1985 | ▶ Jul./Aug. 1993 |
| ▶ Dec. 1986 (Youth) | ▶ Aug. 1994 (Youth and adults) |
| ▶ Aug. 1988 | ▶ Aug. 1999 |
| ▶ Jul./Aug. 1990 | ▶ Aug. 2005 |
| ▶ Jul./Aug. 1991 | ▶ Oct. 2007 |
| ▶ Sept. 1991 | ▶ Aug. 2010 |
| ▶ Jul./Aug. 1992 | ▶ Summer 2016 |

Sister City Delegations: Homer to Teshio

- ▶ Apr. 1984
- ▶ 1986
- ▶ 1993
- ▶ Apr. 1998
- ▶ Oct. 2007
- ▶ Summer 2016


Exchange Students

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ To Teshio ▶ 1986: Julie Jones ▶ 1990: Dana Mortimer ▶ 1991: Charlie Anderson ▶ 1993-94: Bobbie Moore ▶ 1998-99: Meriam Olson-Deutschle ▶ 2005-06: Rachel Tussey | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ To Homer ▶ 1989-90: Yoko Sudo ▶ 1992-93: Yuka Tamura ▶ 1997-98: Sachiko Kasai ▶ 2002-03: Kayo Toyota ▶ 2004-05: Nami Sato |
|---|--|



Japanese International Exchange: Projects since 2021

- ▶ Japanese class at West Homer and Paul Banks
- ▶ Online classes in Japanese and English
- ▶ Pen pal exchange
- ▶ Sakura band performed a spring concert with the Homer Youth String Orchestra Club
- ▶ Japanese tea party with handmade yunomi cups
- ▶ Friendship banners
- ▶ Online forum facilitated by the Japanese consulate in Anchorage
- ▶ Now creating cardboard taiko drums with Japanese drumsticks for performance in 2024



Sister City Festa

- ▶ Annual arts and culture contest
- ▶ Sponsored by the Japanese consulate in Anchorage
- ▶ Open for submissions now through Jan. 19
- ▶ Rules and more info on the City of Homer homepage



So, what about the 40th Anniversary?



Priority 1: Hosting the Teshio Delegation

- The City of Teshio is sending roughly 5 people to Homer for 4 days
- Estimated cost \$4,500-\$10,000
- Includes:
 - Translation services
 - Transportation
 - Food, including celebratory potluck
 - Lodging
 - Activities
 - Gifts for the delegation to take back to Japan



Priority 2: Enhancing Existing Relationships

- Demonstrate that Homer values this relationship through public displays on Japanese culture, especially items donated to Homer by the people of Teshio
- Estimated cost: \$20,000
- Includes:
 - Showing items from the City's art collection at the Pratt Museum
 - Exhibit catalog for museum show
 - A drums performance by the Japanese Club
 - Refurbishing the Sister City post, formerly displayed in WKFL Park
 - Decorative banners along the roads



Priority 3: Outreach to Homerites on Japanese Culture

- Make the celebration a yearlong event by hosting programs and inviting guests from around Alaska
- Estimated cost: \$20,000
- Includes:
 - Performance by Tomodachi Daiko on drums?
 - Monument in a public place
 - Community conversations
 - Video of the museum show




Priority 4: Send a Delegation to Teshio?

- ▶ Teshio is sending a delegation to Homer. Should we return the favor?
- ▶ Estimated cost: ?



Budget

- ▶ Currently have \$4,500
- ▶ Estimate for the entire list is \$30,000-\$50,000
- ▶ We can ask grantors to match City funds



Thanks to Volunteers and Sponsors

- ▶ Thanks to everyone who has volunteered their time and effort so far, including:
 - ▶ The Pratt Museum
 - ▶ PARCAC
 - ▶ Japanese International Exchange
 - ▶ All the members of the Sister City Committee
- ▶ We need more volunteers and business sponsors! If you're interested, please contact:
 - ▶ Dave Berry
 - ▶ dberry@ci.homer.ak.us
 - ▶ 907-435-3151
 - ▶ Or drop by the public library!