



Agenda

Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Cowles Council Chambers In-Person & Via Zoom Webinar

Homer City Hall

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

Zoom Webinar ID: 991 8847 0047 Password: 125016

<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 COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 minute time limit)

RECONSIDERATION

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Unapproved Minutes for the Regular Meeting of September 19, 2023

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Library Director Report - September/October 2023
- B. Monthly Fundraising Report - Boardmember Kuszmaul
- C. Monthly Legislative Report - Boardmember Finn

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2024 Regular Meeting Schedule
Memorandum from City Clerk as backup.
- B. History of Library Cards
Memorandum from Library Director as backup.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- [A.](#) LAB Annual Calendar 2023
- [B.](#) October 2023 City Newsletter
- [C.](#) City Manager's Report for City Council October 9, 2023
- [D.](#) Libraries in the News

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBER (If present)

COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is **Tuesday, 11/21/23 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.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Session 23-07, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Kate Finn at 5:35 p.m. on September 19, 2023 at the City Hall Conference Room Upstairs located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS BAILY, CARSSOW, FAIR, FINN, KUSZMAUL, MCKINNEY, ASSELIN-MARTIN

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Finn read the supplemental items into the record: **STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS Library Directors Report** Memorandum LAB 23-013 Library Director's Report Supplemental and Monthly Statistics 2023 **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS** New Mat-Su Citizens Library Committee to Review Dozens of Challenged Books by Tim Rockey, Alaska Public Media, Anchorage, dated September 13, 2023 requested a motion and second to approve the agenda as amended.

FAIR/CARSSOW MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

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

4. RECONSIDERATION

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Unapproved Meeting Minutes for August 15, 2023

CARSSOW/MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 15, 2023

Boardmember McKinney noted that on page 8, under the motion to approve the policies and procedures it states Carssow and Friend and stated it was Boardmember Fair that seconded the motion.

Chair Finn noted that the date for a worksession scheduled for September 20th was canceled that the Chairs for the Advisory Bodies were invited to attend and requested clarification from the Clerk.

Deputy City Clerk Krause explained that the worksession was moved to Monday, September 25th at 4:00 p.m. The Advisory Body Chairs were encouraged to attend this discussion on Ordinance 23-49 which addressed amendments to Homer City Code Title 2 establishing departments.

Boardmember Baily arrived at 5:38 p.m. He did not have any amendments to the minutes.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

6. VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

7. STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Director's Report for August 2023
Director's Report for August Supplemental 2023 – Supplemental Packet
2022 Annual Stats
2023 Annual Stats – Supplemental Packet

Chair Finn introduced the item and deferred to Library Director Berry.

Library Director Berry reviewed his reports in the packet. He provided input on the following:

- Western Library Trail funding
- Improved drainage
- Three projects recommended by the Board were adopted by City Council
- Friends of the Library have noted that there needs to be a better way to screen donations of materials to the Library. Implementing better screening techniques. Materials that do not sell they are offering some for free at the entrance to the Library.
- Events that were held at the Library since August 31st
- He will be attending a conference in Anchorage October 3-6th
- Council has held more discussion on the creation of a Community Development Department not so much on creating a Department of Technology or Library Department.

Boardmembers requested confirmation that their motion of support for making the Library a department was or would be forwarded to Council.

Deputy City Clerk Krause stated that she had it noted to submit the recommendation for the Council meeting on September 25th.

Library Director Berry responded to questions regarding the amendments to the Library Policies by Council were as follows:

- that the ADA Board was actually the ADA Advisory Board; and
- the forms not be included in the document because every time the document gets changed it requires going to Council for approval and the forms are a procedural item and do not need to go before Council; and
- pulled the list of equipment for the same reason.

Library Director Berry noted the 2022 Statistics and 2023 Statistics he stated that there was equipment issues so the WiFi stats are not included and circulation is climbing but still a bit lower than it was before COVID but it is climbing.

Chair Finn brought forward that Libraries in Massachusetts are printing Library cards with “Heroes” on them. Those heroes can be sports, movie, action, poetry, and they have received a large positive response and it might be a good thing to try here but it requires a large budget.

Library Director Berry provided information as background to get the Homer Library cards redone due to update design and larger print but they still have a large supply of unused library cards.

Boardmember Fair noted the increase in gate count is already passing 2022 numbers and Library Director Berry informed the Board that they are inline to surpass the previous high of 128000 and it would not be surprising to hit 140,000-145,000.

Further discussion on the receipt of grants, capital budget, higher use of the library as a business center, lower use of DVD’s, application for graphic novels that the Library did not get and upcoming events at the Library.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

B. Fundraising Update – Boardmember Kuszmaul
Quarterly Report from the Homer Foundation – April 1-June 30, 2023

Chair Finn introduced the item and invited Boardmember Kuszmaul to provide the report.

Boardmember Kuszmaul reported that there was no new information and no fish hung on the wall.

There was a brief discussion on how to accomplish getting the fish attached to the wall since that encourages more people to donate and get their fish on the wall. It was noted that there were only five fish to be installed.

Chair Finn noted that if there was anything that the Board could facilitate to get this done please bring it to our attention.

C. Legislative Update

Chair Finn reported that there was no legislation pre filed bills However, once the Governor has issued his budget. She mentioned the \$650,000 that has been vetoed by the Governor.

The Legislature comes back in Mid-January. So nothing until then. Chair Finn noted the passing of Representative Pelota’s husband.

8. PUBLIC HEARING(S)

9. PENDING BUSINESS

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget Discussions

Chair Finn announced the item and deferred to Library Director Berry.

Library Director Berry indicated that he did not have much, they are at the beginning of a new two year biennial budget and they did not get to it in August when it was originally scheduled since the agenda was so heavy, so it was moved to this meeting.

Further discussion by the Board determined that it would be best to move this topic to March where it would be more appropriate to discuss any possible mid biennium budgetary needs and then new fiscal biennium budget requests.

Library Director Berry responded to Boardmember Fair on the library exterior replacement explaining that Public Works had requested capital funding to replace the siding on the Library which is cracking and falling off, the Mayor pointed out that there was an actual vapor barrier behind the siding outside of the wall and the Mayor requested that follow-up be done on this matter. He confirmed that while there is a product and it is not designed for permanent exposure to the elements. It is designed to be placed on the building while the exterior siding is placed. It still presents a safety hazard and liability to the city. The existing siding is providing some protection and they should get through this winter. The vapor barrier material does provide some protection as well and it has been added to the Capital Improvement Plan.

This item was requested to be on the March agenda.

11. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. City Newsletter for August 2023
- B. LAB Annual Calendar 2023

Chair Finn noted the next Council meeting and requested a volunteer to make the LAB report. It was noted that the Chair could make the report at the regular meeting since she will be attending the worksession but Chair Finn declined.

Boardmember Kuszmaul expressed that she has a conflict.

Boardmember Carssow asked about what would be reported and Chair Finn explained but stated that she has a conflict and could not make the report. She then noted that she would be absent for the October meeting.

Boardmember Asselin-Martin volunteered to make the report.

Library Director Berry announced the opportunity for a Boardmember to participate on the Art in the Library Committee. He announced that they have not received any submissions so requested the Boardmembers to pass the word to their artist friends. Interest can be submitted to him and he will forward the submission to Committee. Typically the artists are in the service area which extends up to Ninilchik but since they have received no submissions artists can contact him.

Boardmember Carssow volunteered to serve on the committee.

There was a brief discussion on contacting Rachel Tussey regarding the Library cards.

Chair Finn commented on the Transportation Plan and believed that it will be a benefit to attend the meeting. She then noted the article regarding a Citizen Library Committee reviewing challenged books. Chair Finn related some information on the timing of amending their policies to three years between challenges for the same materials.

Boardmember Carssow commented on the passage in the article regarding the group not removing the Bible.

Chair Finn then announced that Tracy Hill, Executive Director of the Alaska Library Association received the FDR Freedom Award, there are 49727 members in the ALA and they have a 55 million dollar budget.

12. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

13. COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Library Director Berry responded that he was not quite sure as this idea was sprung on him just hours prior to the meeting so he did not really have a response. He pondered a moment and stated that maybe local art, graphic design, photos of Kachemak Bay or similar. He then noted that this is a project at least one year out since the Library currently has boxes of unused library cards at this point and it will be some time before they work through that to another alternative they can continue using the bland cards but give out stickers to kids to put on their cards which is great idea.

14. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember Asselin-Martin declared she had no comments but questioned what the Library Director would like to see regarding the Library Cards.

The Board was supportive of the idea of using stickers and providing the children a choice of stickers.

Library Director Berry offered to provide the history on issuing library cards to all new school students.

Chair Finn requested the history of library cards on the next month's agenda since it was not a heavy item month.

There was brief comments from Boardmembers Carssow and McKinney and Chair Finn on an event at Land's End that evening. Boardmember McKinney offered his seat to Chair Finn if she was able to get a ticket as he had heard that the event was sold out.

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board Chair Finn adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

Approved: _____

Library Director's Report

September 30, 2023

General Notes

On Sept. 25, the city manager gave a presentation to council regarding reorganizing the city's administration. The proposal remains to create standalone library and IT departments, but the structure of the community-development department is still in flux. An ordinance for the reorganization should be introduced on Oct. 9.

During October, the library will partner with the Food Pantry for "Trick or Eat," a food drive. Donations of food can be dropped off at the library from Oct. 1-31.

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.

The 40th anniversary of Homer's Sister City relationship with Teshio, Japan will occur in 2024. As part of that celebration, Kevin and I have been helping put together an exhibit of Teshio artwork for the Pratt Museum. Citywide, we expect to receive a delegation from Japan and put on various cross-cultural events throughout the year.

Staff Notes

I was out of town for the first half of September.

Director's meetings:

- Staff: 1
- LAB: 1
- FHL: 2
- Council: 1
- Department Heads: 1
- Other: Sister City planning, KBC library visit, various IT meetings

Facility

New burners have been fitted in the boilers. One piece of equipment was damaged in transit, so there will be some delay before both boilers are fully operational again, but it should be taken care of before winter.

Library Advisory Board (LAB)

On Sept. 19, the LAB heard updates on ongoing projects and reiterated its support for setting up the library as a standalone department.

Friends of the Homer Library (FHL)

The September book and plant sale went well, though we are still working out the kinks in the process for handling donations. (Library staff have also discussed the donations process, and we are inching towards a better system.) The board set April 20 as the target date for next year's Celebration of Lifelong Learning. "Lunch with a Councilmember" has changed its name to "Conversations with a Councilmember" to reflect the fact that no food is served. Planning for the Big Read is solidifying. There are various events scheduled for the rest of this year, but we need to ration our energy ahead of the Big Read. The ADA upgrades to the Story Walk Trail have been postponed until spring, due to a sudden increase in the contractor's estimates, but the plant survey is complete and the committee has begun discussing signage.

Ongoing Events

Mondays, 1:30-4:30: Knitting Club

Wednesdays, 10:30-11:00: Toddler Time

Wednesdays, 12:00-2:00: Community Defined Youth Outreach

Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30: Chess Club

Thursdays, 3:15-4:45: After School at the Library

Fridays, 10:30-11:30: Preschool Storytime

Fridays, 3:30-5:45: LARP

First Tuesday, 6:30-8:00: SPARC Radio Club

First Thursday, 1:00-3:00: Literary Ladies

First and Third Thursdays, 5:30-7:30: Tech Help

Second Wednesdays, 4:45-5:45: Teen Advisory Board

Third Thursday, 10:30-11:30: Radio Storytime on KBBI

Fourth Tuesday, 4:30-6:30: FHL/HPL Book Club

Tuesday following the first City Council meeting of the month, 12:00-1:00: Lunch with a Councilmember (schedule may vary depending on availability)

Special Events

- Sept. 4: Library closed for Labor Day.
- Sept. 5, 3:45-6:00: State Independent Living Center.
- Sept. 7, 3:00-4:00: Virtual author talk by Lidia Bastianich, author of *Life, Love, Family and Food*.
- **Sept. 8-9: Fall Book and Plant Sale.**
- Sept. 12, 11:00-1:00: Homer Hockey Association.
- Sept. 12, 6:00-7:45: Kachemak Swim Club.
- **Sept. 14, 6:00-7:00: Candidate forum for Homer assembly seat and borough mayor.**
- **Sept. 18, 6:00-7:00: Candidate forum for Homer city council.**
- Sept. 20, 10:15-11:45: Independent Living Center.
- Sept. 20, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk by Adam Alter, author of *How to Get Unstuck when it Matters Most*.
- Sept. 21, 10:30-12:00: Western lot planning meeting.
- **Sept. 26, 4:30-5:30: Zoom author visit by Margaret Willson, author of *Woman, Captain, Rebel*. This is a followup to her in-person talk on March 24.**
- Sept. 27, 4:00-5:00: Virtual author talk by Amor Towles, about writing three international bestsellers.
- Sept. 28, 6:00-7:30: Movie showing.
- Oct. 2, 4:45-5:45: Teen/Tween Rock Painting.

- **Oct. 6, 6:00-7:00: Author visit by John Messick, author of *Compass Lines*.**
- Oct. 10, 12:00-1:00: Virtual author talk by Rick Steves, on European travel.
- **Oct. 12, 6:00-7:30: Discussion panel with Guiding Growth.**
- Oct. 15, 10:15-11:45: Family Connect with the Independent Living Center.
- Oct. 18: Library closed for Alaska Day.
- Oct. 18, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk with Ruth Ware, master of suspense.
- Oct. 25, 10:15-11:45: Family Connect with the Independent Living Center.
- Oct. 26, 3:00-4:00: Virtual author talk with John Irving, on a lifetime of writing.
- **Oct. 26, 6:30-7:30: Author visit by local writer Robert Stark, author of *Warflower*.**
- Nov. 1, 4:00-5:00: Virtual author talk with actor John Stamos, on Hollywood, home, heart and healing.
- Nov. 9, 12:00-1:00: Virtual author talk by Tiffany “The Budgetnista” Aliche, on getting good with money.
- Nov. 11: Library closed for Veteran’s Day.
- Nov. 15, 10:15-11:45: Family Connect with the Independent Living Center.
- Nov. 16, 12:00-1:00: Virtual author talk with Joy Harjo, on why she writes.
- Nov. 23-24: Library closed for Thanksgiving.
- Nov. 30, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk with Naomi Alderman, on the power of women in science fiction.
- Dec. 6, 3:00-4:00: Virtual author talk by Victoria Aveyard on world building.
- Dec. 12, 10:00-11:00: Virtual author talk by Stephanie Land on motherhood, hunger and higher education.
- Dec. 25: Library closed for Christmas.
- Jan. 1: Library closed for New Year’s.



City of Homer

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Homer Public Library

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Memorandum

TO: Library Advisory Board
FROM: David Berry, Library Director
DATE: October 11, 2023
SUBJECT: Updates on Library Business

Here are updates since the last Director's Report:

- I attended a conference in Anchorage Oct. 3-6.
- On Oct. 9, the city council once again considered the ordinance to reorganize the city administration, including creating a standalone library department. The council postponed making a decision until Jan. 8.
- On Oct. 10, a crew put down gravel to begin resurfacing the Story Walk Trail. The section from the library to the Lucky Shot Trail will be completed shortly. The western portion of the trail will be finished in 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

For information.

Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2023

Date: 11-Oct-23

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
TOTAL (*Included)	11,912	11,843	12,613	11,546	11,646	12,422	13,492	15,594	14,813	0	0	0	115,881
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	9,322	9,289	9,449	8,728	8,933	9,900	10,782	12,842	11,907				91,152
*Other Physical items (n. 2)	91	108	116	90	109	111	128	121	115				989
*Alaska Digital Library	2,443	2,408	2,984	2,655	2,507	2,327	2,408	2,465	2,665				22,862
*Flipster e-magazines	28	22	36	26	27	32	51	30	20				272
*Kanopy streaming video	28	16	28	47	70	52	123	136	106				606
INTERLIBRARY LOANS													
Incoming (Borrowed)	24	14	17	24	13	7	20	21	14				154
Outgoing (Lent)	18	6	22	14	26	11	20	23	30				170
BUILDING USE													
Gate Count	10,232	11,500	12,884	12,022	13,253	12,711	10,327	9,676	9,734				102339
Study Rooms (# of group sessions)	200	219	244	236	237	224	188	256	220				2024
Study Rooms (# of people)	336	361	434	426	397	371	283	441	446				3495
Meeting Room (# of group sessions)	40	28	36	25	16	34	20	18	25				242
Meeting Room (# of people)	282	205	238	229	162	383	220	161	230				2110
INTERNET USE													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,701	1,840	2,510	2,224	2,427	2,851	2,695	1,226	2,612	0	0	0	20,086
*Wireless Internet sessions	1,006	1,055	1,401	1,372	1,533	1,763	1,588		1,553				11271
*Hardwired Internet sessions	695	785	1,109	852	894	1,088	1,107	1,226	1,059				8815
Website visits (sessions)	4,720	3,966	5,143	4,332	5,041	5,442			2,273				30,917
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)													
TOTAL (*Included)	947	933	1,101	915	1,206	1,342	1,061	1,200	1,191	0	0	0	9896
*Programs for Age 0-5	670	597	725	662	910	854	751	984	952				7105
*Programs for Age 6-11	176	160	143	63	150	217	170	67	78				1224
*Programs for Age 12-18	14	26	72	44	34	69	57	36	73				425
*Programs for Age 19+	63	44	161	58	85	80	49	76	84				700
*Programs for All Ages	24	106	0	88	27	122	34	37	4				442
OUTREACH													
# Events	2	2	4	2	2	2	1	3	2				20
# People	12	8	14	17	18	11	3	4	11				98
NEW CARDS ISSUED													
City	41	33	27	26	28	38	31	32	30				286
Borough	30	32	25	26	17	30	30	32	33				255
Temporary	0	1	0	0	1	5	3	4	2				16
Reciprocal	0	0	0	0	4	3	2	4	1				14
VOLUNTEER HOURS													
# of people	73	67	55	65	39	58	57	60	63				537
# of hours	312	227	150	233	198	173	157	196	240				1886
MATERIALS ADDED													
Books	324	180	143	311	265	190	125	303	189				2030
Audio	7	7	23	11	19	8	6	7	5				93
Video	56	31	26	46	74	20	32	18	15				318
Serials	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1				3
Electronic Resources	31	61	32	52	16	0	13	0	0				205
MATERIALS REMOVED													
Books	523	216	326	95	359	412	88	98	51				2168
Audio	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	0				8
Video	0	0	3	15	0	78	33	23	93				245
Serials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0				1
Electronic Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
REVENUES DEPOSITED													
Fines/Fees/Copies	865.00	1037.00	0.00	1101.00	971.00	915.00	1020.00	1709.00	900.00				8,518.00
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants													0.00
TOTALS	865.00	1,037.00	0.00	1,101.00	971.00	915.00	1,020.00	1,709.00	900.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$8,518.00

Data not available yet or incomplete

Note 1: Program attendance includes all programs sponsored by the library or the Friends of the Library. It does not include meetings of community groups. Programs are sorted by the age of the target audience, but totals include all attendees (i.e. parents as well as toddlers, etc.)

Note 2: Other physical items includes electronic devices, kits, toys, board games, sports equipment and videogames.

Note 3: Gate count for July may be low due to equipment failure.

Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2022

Date: 11-Oct-23

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
TOTAL (*Included)	11,269	10,348	12,360	11,394	9,965	11,919	12,015	13,136	11,843	11,313	10,441	10,467	136,470
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	8,788	8,085	9,856	8,940	7,892	9,717	9,620	10,614	9,583	8,849	8,267	8,163	108,374
*Other Physical items (n. 2)	93	78	80	109	76	118	122	117	101	92	73	86	1,145
*Alaska Digital Library	2,295	2,112	2,376	2,297	1,974	2,043	2,242	2,367	2,141	2,329	2,033	2,176	26,385
*Flipster e-magazines	93	73	48	48	23	41	31	38	18	25	39	22	499
*Kanopy streaming video	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	29	20	67
INTERLIBRARY LOANS													
Incoming (Borrowed)	59	46	20	14	21	11	18	22	11	20	32	28	302
Outgoing (Lent)	25	21	28	15	18	13	16	19	22	13	27	15	232
BUILDING USE													
Gate Count	4,929	5,120	6,573	7,613	6,719	7,675	8,905	8,794	12,042	9,628	6,919	6,570	91487
Study Rooms (# of group sessions)	102	136	145	147	269	194	160	261	222	161	174	156	2127
Study Rooms (# of people)	152	214	218	219	370	264	203	342	363	302	296	235	3178
Meeting Room (# of group sessions)	13	13	20	19	19	23	28	22	28	30	23	20	258
Meeting Room (# of people)	55	70	144	115	149	217	222	169	286	284	228	132	2071
INTERNET USE													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,414	1,683	2,053	2,265	2,396	2,995	3,383	3,678	2,399	2,035	1,827	1,700	27,828
*Wireless Internet sessions	765	951	1,147	1,389	1,560	2,075	2,348	2,548	1,488	1,242	1,176	1,039	17728
*Hardwired Internet sessions	649	732	906	876	836	920	1,035	1,130	911	793	651	661	10100
Website visits (sessions)	4,283	3,558	4,217	4,375	4,640	4,583	4,980	4,931	4,618	4,437	4,300	3,604	52,526
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,206	1,153	1,006	1,351	1,286	997	1,154	1,285	1,250	1,324	1,003	294	13309
*Programs for Age 0-5	1130	990	914	1184	665	768	658	983	810	930	748	116	9896
*Programs for Age 6-11	15	19	8	66	329	183	213	80	170	215	137	59	1494
*Programs for Age 12-18	22	1	3	4	2	18	9	0	5	31	3	12	110
*Programs for Age 19+	32	53	49	15	10	3	78	149	143	84	90	81	787
*Programs for All Ages	7	90	32	82	280	25	196	73	122	64	25	26	1022
OUTREACH													
# Events	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	3	2	1	21
# People	6	7	11	8	8	15	6	7	12	21	10	6	117
NEW CARDS ISSUED													
City	14	12	25	27	31	40	32	39	34	21	23	22	320
Borough	20	24	33	33	21	39	34	28	31	20	18	26	327
Temporary	1	0	2	1	2	7	3	3	2	1	0	0	22
Reciprocal	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	3	4	3	1	0	16
VOLUNTEER HOURS													
# of people	60	53	56	39	39	43	46	50	48	47	72	58	611
# of hours	203	206	193	232	159	133	182	183	179	146	288	309	2413
MATERIALS ADDED													
Books	282	207	219	231	277	327	272	285	108	295	147	239	2889
Audio	3	8	33	4	46	11	9	17	1	4	7	9	152
Video	25	23	47	68	73	45	35	43	10	27	20	33	449
Serials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electronic Resources	79	45	183	93	73	118	68	0	163	252	19	59	1152
MATERIALS REMOVED													
Books	168	304	543	567	531	139	272	157	270	229	329	252	3761
Audio	0	0	1	44	25	2	68	0	0	9	1	0	150
Video	0	0	0	33	131	72	0	4	1	79	116	0	436
Serials	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	9
Electronic Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUES DEPOSITED													
Fines/Fees/Copies	260.00	679.00	504.00	757.00	901.00	1075.00	517.20	1570.00	566.00	908.00	455.00	1378.00	9,570.20
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants							7000.00	8058.00					15,058.00
TOTALS	260.00	679.00	504.00	757.00	901.00	1,075.00	517.20	8,570.00	8,624.00	908.00	455.00	1,378.00	\$24,628.20

Data not available yet or incomplete

Note 1: Program attendance includes all programs sponsored by the library or the Friends of the Library. It does not include meetings of community groups. Programs are sorted by the age of the target audience, but totals include all attendees (i.e. parents as well as toddlers, etc.)

Note 2: Other physical items includes electronic devices, kits, toys, board games, sports equipment and videogames.



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Ordinance 23-49 Amending Title 2, Chapters 2.32 Departments and Boards, 2.44 Department of Administration, 2.48 Public Library, and Enacting Chapters 2.46 Department of Technology and 2.57 Department of Community Development. City Manager.

Item Type: Informational
Prepared For: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
Meeting Date: 16 August 2023
Staff Contact: Dave Berry, Library Director
Through: Robert Dumouchel, City Manager

Summary Statement:

The Library Advisory Board reviewed and discussed Ordinance 23-49 at their regular meeting on August 15, 2023. They approved a motion expressing support for the creation of a Library Department unanimously.

Excerpt of Approved Minutes for August 15, 2023:

B. Creation of a Library Department

Memorandum LAB 23-011 from Library Director as backup

Chair Finn introduced the item and deferred to Library Director Berry.

Library Director Berry reviewed his memorandum and provided a synopsis of the actions taken at Council level noting there has been no opposition to creating a standalone IT or Library Department. There has been some discussion and questions regarding the Community Development Department. He was asking for a motion of support from the Board to create the Library Department. City Council introduced the ordinance and then postponed until September 25, 2023, there will be a worksession and all the chairs for the advisory bodies will be invited to participate in the discussion.

FAIR/CARSSOW MOVED THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD SUPPORTS THE CREATION OF A STAND ALONE LIBRARY DEPARTMENT FOR THE CITY OF HOMER.

Discussion on the previous sentiment and opposition in the beginning of the Library Director taking on IT and hearing this is great news. Question was posed why the ordinance does not reflect the Library Department when all other departments are titled, such as Department of Information Technology, etc. The Board was informed of the previous historical actions of Council that changed the library from a department.

Boardmember Kuszmaul expressed that she would like it clarified as the Public Library throughout the ordinance since there are a number of different types of Libraries.

Library Director Berry responded that Public may be easy enough to amend, but does not recommend tinkering with the remaining document since there are so many details. He agreed that there is textual cleanup to remove contraindications required.

Boardmembers noted that while Library Department was not listed under the main listing Public Library was shown and then Library department was under the subheading 2.48.050

VOTE: YES. CARSSOW, BAILY, KUSZMAUL, FAIR, FINN

Motion carried.

Recommendation:

Approve Ordinance 23-49.



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Clerk

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

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

Memorandum

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

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

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

Recommendation

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

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

City Clerk

RESOLUTION 23-1xx

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HOLIDAYS – City Offices closed:

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

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

CITY COUNCIL (CC)

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

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

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

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

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION (EDC)

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

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

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD (LAB)

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

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

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

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

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

PLANNING COMMISSION (PC)

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

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

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

PORT AND HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION (PHC)

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

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

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

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

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

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

CITY OF HOMER

KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

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



Memorandum

TO: Library Advisory Board
FROM: David Berry, Library Director
DATE: October 17, 2023
SUBJECT: History of Library Cards

The library currently issues five types of library card:

- Adult: Requires local residency with proof of ID. Up to 25 simultaneous checkouts, including up to 10 DVDs (not counting digital library materials). Good for two years.
- Juvenile: Identical with adult card, except requires a guardian's authorization at time of issue.
- Institutional: Same as an adult card, but issued to a community entity, such as a school or retirement home. The representative of the organization can check out materials on behalf of other people, and the organization is responsible for any lost or damaged items.
- Temporary: No residency requirement. Up to 10 simultaneous checkouts. Good for six months. Costs \$25.
- Reciprocal: HPL has a relationship whereby we recognize cards from certain other libraries. Patrons who have a card from that library can use it to check out materials in Homer, but materials must also be returned in Homer.

We have also issued various types in the past, which have since been abandoned:

- Unverified (student): An effort to turn kids into lifelong library users. Children could get an extremely limited card (good for two checkouts and the digital library) without a guardian's signature, but would need a guardian's help to convert it into a real juvenile card. During the pandemic, we issued some cards over the phone to people who only needed electronic access. This never worked—virtually none of the unverified cards ever got upgraded, and the materials they checked out usually didn't come back. We stopped issuing them this year.
- Family: Essentially a double-temporary card, good for one year at a cost of \$50. In the years that we had this option, no one ever got one.
- Volunteers: Theoretically, volunteers might be roped into doing work within the catalog, and we would issue them a special card for the purpose. This has never happened.

RECOMMENDATION

For information.

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD 2023 Calendar

	AGENDA DEADLINE	MEETING	CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR REPORT*	ANNUAL TOPICS/EVENTS
JANUARY	Wednesday 1/11 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 1/17 5:30 p.m.	Monday 1/23 6:00 p.m. [Finn]	
FEBRUARY	Wednesday 2/15 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 2/21 5:30 p.m.	Monday 2/27 6:00 p.m. [Kuszmaul]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Review of Library Fees, Policies, Rules & Regulations • Annual Review of Board's Bylaws • Celebration of Lifelong Learning
MARCH	Wednesday 3/15 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 3/21 5:30 p.m.	Tuesday 3/28 6:00 p.m. [McKinney]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk Reappointment Notices Sent Out
APRIL	Wednesday 4/12 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 4/18 5:30 p.m.	Monday 4/24 6:00 p.m. [Asselin]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms Expire April 1st • Advisory Body Training Worksession • Election of LAB Officers • National Library Week, Library Workers Day, & Library Legislative Day
MAY	Wednesday 5/10 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 5/16 5:30 p.m.	Monday 5/22 6:00 p.m. [Baily]	
JUNE	No Regular Meeting			
JULY	No Regular Meeting – Conducted Worksession on July 11th			Draft Policies Update/Revision
AUGUST	Wednesday 8/9 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 8/15 5:30 p.m.	Monday 8/28 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Budget Review *may not be applicable during non-budget years • Library Policies Revision • CIP 2024-2029 Draft Recommendations
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 9/13 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 9/19 5:30 p.m.	Monday 9/25 6:00 p.m. Volunteer?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Card Sign-up Month
OCTOBER	Wednesday 10/11 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 10/17 5:30 p.m.	Monday 10/23 6:00 p.m. Volunteer?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve Meeting Schedule for Upcoming Year
NOVEMBER	Wednesday 11/8 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 11/21 5:30 p.m.	Monday 11/27 6:00 p.m. Volunteer?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Friends of Libraries Week
DECEMBER	Wednesday 12/13 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 12/19 5:30 p.m.	1/8/2024 6:00 p.m. Volunteer?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Review of Strategic Plan/LAB Goals

*The Board's opportunity to give their report to City Council is scheduled for the Council's regular meeting following the Board's regular meeting, under Agenda Item 8 – Announcements/ Presentations/ Borough Report/Commission Reports.

CITY OF HOMER NEWSLETTER



VOL. III - ISSUE II | OCTOBER 2023

WHAT'S INSIDE?

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023

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

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

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

Where's The Voter Pamphlet?

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

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

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



Helpful Links:

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

- Library Events
- Community Corner
- Public Works
- Homer Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Homer Airport Terminal New Artwork
- Homer Public Library
- Public Safety Corner - Halloween!
- Parks
- Port & Harbor
- Harbor Expansion Study Update
- Community Recreation
- Homer Volunteer Fire Department
- Meet City Staff
- Municipal Art Collection
- Stay Connected with City Council

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

Follow us on Social Media

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

Subscribe to the Monthly Newsletter

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

LIBRARY EVENTS

VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS

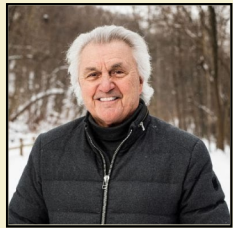
Zoom in and listen to your favorite authors talk about their latest books. For a complete list of Upcoming Speakers, go to library.org/homerlibrary/upcoming.



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

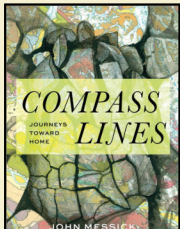


October 18 at 10 am
Master of Suspense:
An author talk with Ruth Ware



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

SPECIAL & ONGOING EVENTS



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



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



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

October 10: Donna Aderhold

CHECK OUT MORE LIBRARY
PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



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



COMMUNITY CORNER

What's happening around the City of Homer



**SOUTH PENINSULA HOSPITAL'S
WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS RETURN IN OCTOBER!**



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

SAFESITTER COURSE

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



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

PUBLIC WORKS

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

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

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

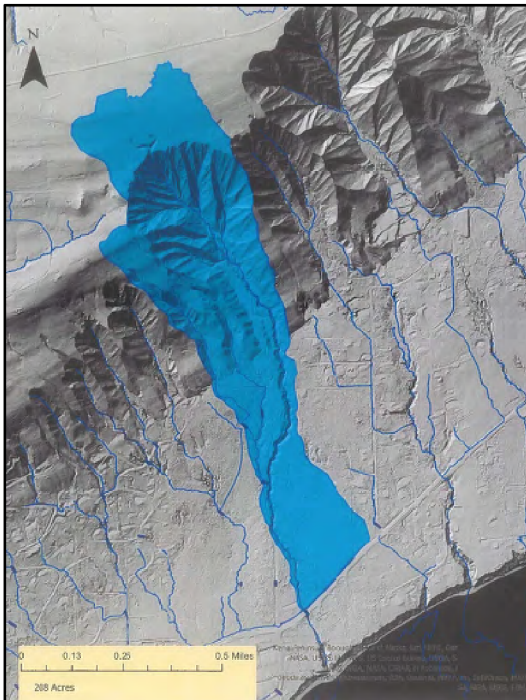
This extra inflow placed heavy demand on Homer's waste water facility. Public Works staff responded with the Vector Truck to pump out the manhole, clear debris, and repair the damaged section of pipe.



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

In an effort to restore road access as quickly

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



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

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

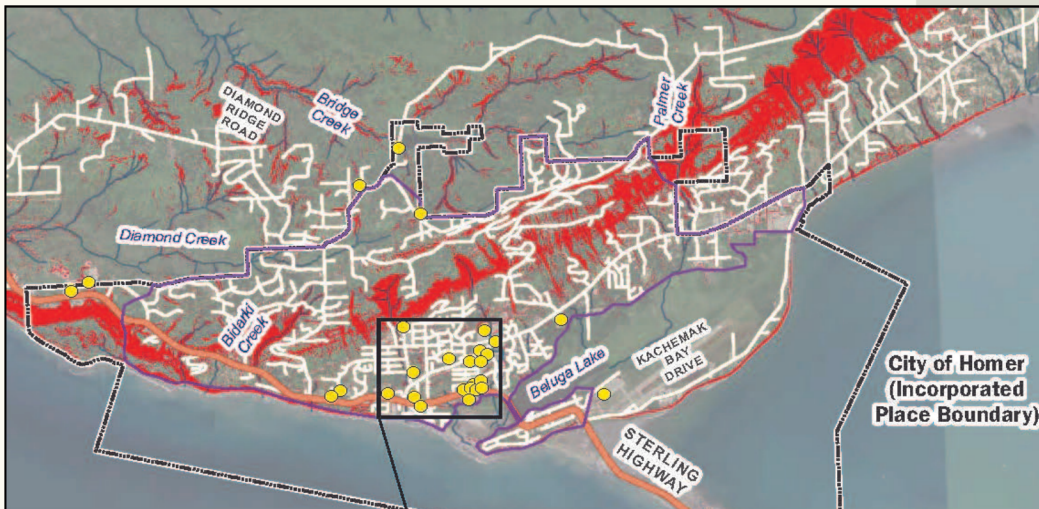
HOMER HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

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

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

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

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



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

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

Notable landslide failures in the last ten years include:

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

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

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

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

Mitigation Measures Suggested in the LHMP

Landslide Zone

Regulate development through zoning and permitting in landslide prone areas.

Hillside Protection

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

PUBLIC WORKS

NEW ARTWORK INSTALLED AT HOMER AIRPORT TERMINAL



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

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

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

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

What are peatlands?

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

Why are peatlands important?

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

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

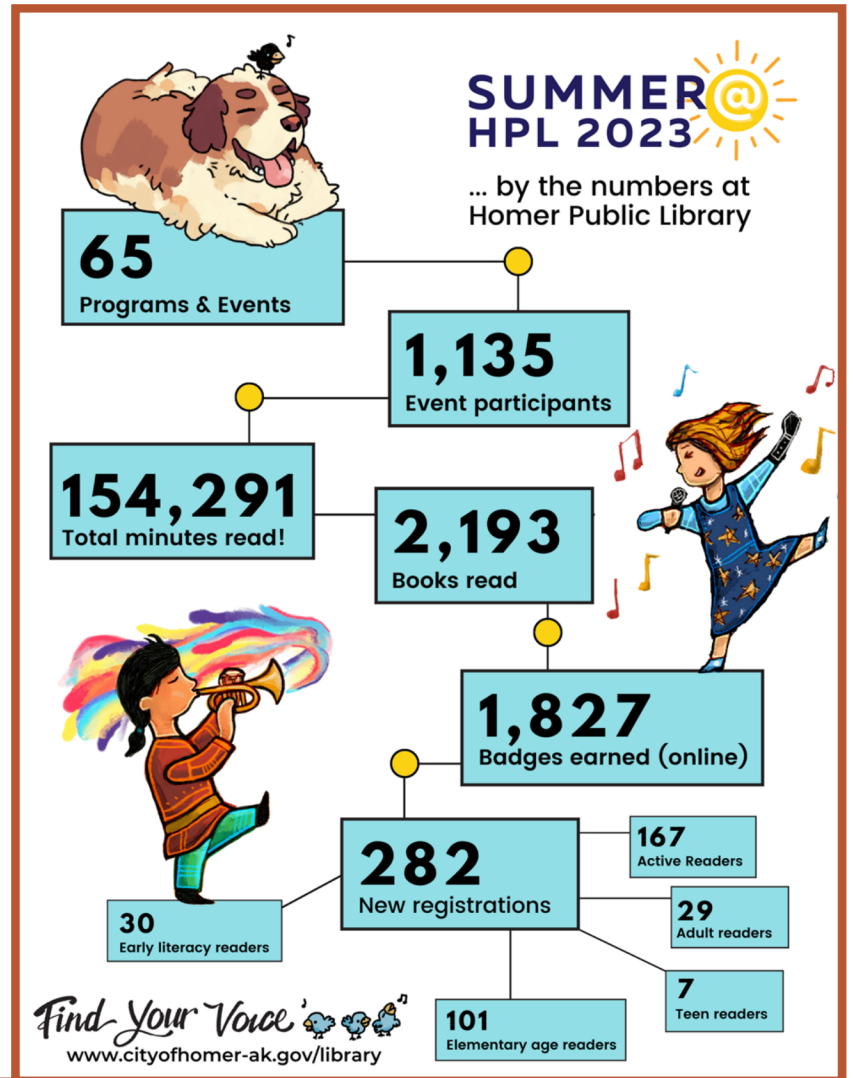
Globally, peatlands are recognized as the highest priority habitat to preserve in the face of climate change.

LIBRARY

SUMMER @ HPL A SUCCESS!

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

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



AFTER-SCHOOL @THE LIBRARY

For Elementary Students

EVERY THURSDAY 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

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





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

HALLOWEEN IN HOMER

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



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

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

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

HALLOWEEN NIGHT ONE-WAY TRAFFIC CONTROLS

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

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

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

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



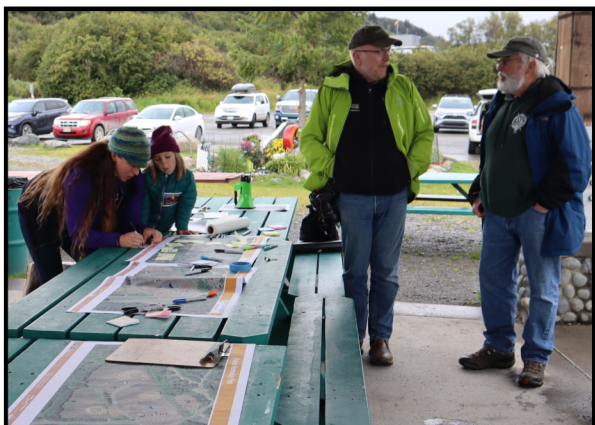
PARKS

PARK MASTER PLANS UNDERWAY

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



The public discussed a range of considerations for park improvements.



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

PORT & HARBOR

EROSION ISSUE AT THE DEEP WATER DOCK REPAIRED

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

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

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



HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION

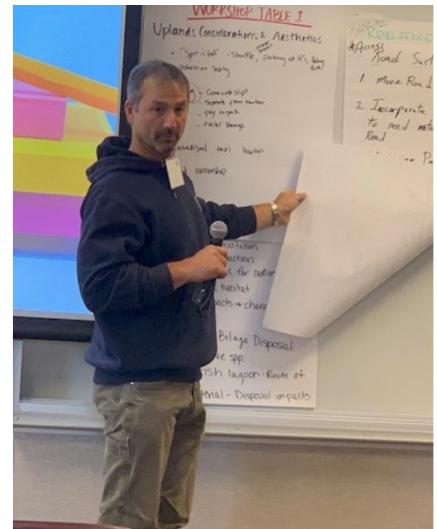
RECAP OF THE SEPTEMBER 23 PUBLIC MEETING

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

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

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

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



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

STUDY UPDATE



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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY RECREATION



COSMIC HAMLET PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT RECAP

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



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

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

SEPTEMBER TRAININGS

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



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



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

CITY STAFF
SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

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

MEET CITY
STAFF

Meet Cinda Nofziger

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



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

EMPLOYEE
HIGH FIVE!

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



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

High five, Jason!

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

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

CITY OF HOMER ROSTER

Mayor - Ken Castner (2024)

City Council

Donna Aderhold (2024)

Jason Davis (2025)

Shelley Erickson (2024)

Storm P. Hansen-Cavasos (2025)

Rachel Lord (2023)

Caroline Venuti (2023)

City Staff Leadership

Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

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

Mark Robl, Chief of Police

Bill Jirsa, Chief Technology Officer

Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager

Elizabeth Walton, Finance Director

Mark Kirko, Fire Chief

Dave Berry, Library Director

Andrea Browning, Personnel Director

Bryan Hawkins, Port Director

Jan Keiser, Public Works Director/City Engineer

Ryan Foster, City Planner

Mike Illg, Community Recreation Manager

Commissions and Boards

ADA Advisory Board

Economic Development Advisory Commission

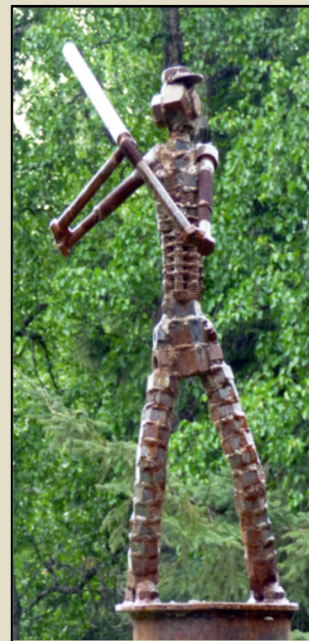
Library Advisory Board

Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

Planning Commission

Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION



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

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

Learn more about the municipal art collection at:

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

STAY CONNECTED TO CITY COUNCIL

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

October UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

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JOIN OUR TEAM

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

CURRENT JOB LISTING

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



ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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

City of Homer

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(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

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

Transportation Plan's Public Meeting Update

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



Audit Update

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

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

Airport Sidewalk Repair Update

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

ICMA Conference

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

Attachments:

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



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

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(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

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

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

Charles Lee

Police

3 Years

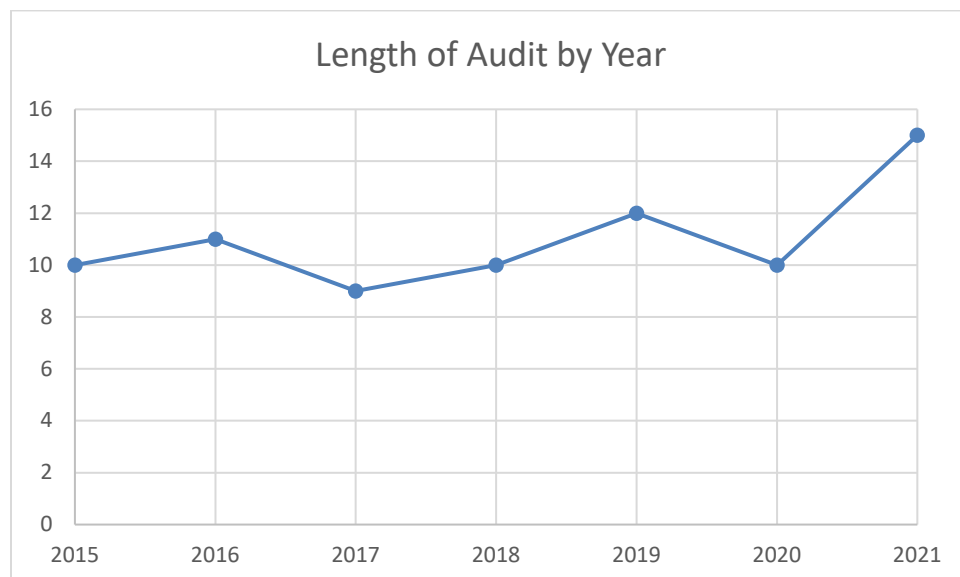


MEMORANDUM

FY22 Audit Context and Discussion

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Panel Discussion: What is Driving Change in Homer?



Sarah Richardson



Derotha Ferraro



Katie Gavenus



Julie Engebretsen



Brad Anderson

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

**Thursday,
October 12**

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



**Jane Rohr,
Moderator**

WORK SESSION

AGENDA CALENDAR 2023

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

President Biden announces library in honor of John McCain

Jeremy Diamond and Shania Shelton write: "President Joe Biden on Thursday announced the construction of an Arizona library in honor of his longtime friend, the late Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.). The McCain Library will boast 'a new multi-purpose facility to provide education, work, and health monitoring programs to underserved communities in the state,' a White House official said, with funding from the American Rescue Plan in partnership with the McCain Institute and Arizona State University (ASU) [in Tempe]." The library will be constructed at ASU, and McCain's widow Cindy McCain said she hopes it "can help refocus public attention to traditional norms and political civility."...
CNN, Sept. 28; Arizona Republic, Sept. 30



The roof on the Palmer Public Library partially collapsed on Feb. 15. (Courtesy PND Engineers)

With **nearly 80% of the vote**, Palmer residents approved a **\$10 million bond** Tuesday to repair or replace the Palmer Public Library. The **roof of the library collapsed** under a heavy snow load in February and the city has provided a **temporary library** at an alternate site since May. The city has already received \$5 million in funding for the library from the Alaska Legislature. The \$10 million bond could be taken from sales taxes, but City Manager John Moosey is hopeful that additional state or federal funding will help foot the bill. He said a decision hasn't been made on whether to repair or rebuild the old building. "We are working through that right now, so we've had Wolf Architecture, also from Palmer, working on that," Moosey said. "We've had community meetings, taking input, they are putting together some options for the city council." Just 6.5% of Palmer voters turned out to the polls. Moosey said that there is no defined timetable for when the city expects to begin construction. "We want to move diligently as possible, but I think the goal is to get it right for the community as opposed to get it fast, but we certainly want to do both," Moosey said. Tim Rockey, Alaska Public Media - Anchorage

Since 2020, the nonprofit Reporters without Borders has operated [The Uncensored Library](#), (“A meticulous, artistically-rendered Minecraft build, The Uncensored Library is a monument to press freedom and an innovative back door for access to censored content.”) which contains reporting that is banned in several countries. The Uncensored Library operates in the sandbox game Minecraft, which is generally available in countries where other media is blocked. **The Uncensored Library won a [Peabody Award](#) (“Stories that matter), in 2022 “for turning one of the largest digital platforms for youth into a global movement to fight censorship.”**