



## Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue

Homer, Alaska 99603

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

# City of Homer Agenda

**Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission Regular Meeting**

**Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 5:30 PM**

**Cowles Council Chambers via Zoom Webinar**

**Webinar ID: 965 6129 9938 Passcode: 307724**

**Dial: 1 669 900 6833 or 1 253 215 8782 or (Toll Free) 877 853 5247 or 888 788 0099**

**CALL TO ORDER, 5:30 P.M.**

## **AGENDA APPROVAL**

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

**VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS** (10 minutes)

## **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 or someone from the public, in which case the item will be moved to the regular agenda and considered in normal sequence.

A. Meeting Minutes for the August 20, 2020 regular meeting

**Page 3**

## **STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS / COMMITTEE REPORTS** (20 minute limit)

A. Staff Report - Parks - Matt Steffy, Parks Maintenance Coordinator

**Page 14**

- Camping Statistics - 2019 vs 2020 through August 2020
- Recommended Bench Locations
- Karen Hornaday Park COVID Statistics Report

B. Staff Report - Community Recreation - Mike Illg, Recreation Manager

**Page 20**

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

**PENDING BUSINESS** (15 minute limit)

A. Memorandum from Deputy City Clerk re: Letter to the Editor

**Page 22**

**NEW BUSINESS** (15-20 minute limit)

- A. Memorandum from Deputy City Clerk re: Annual Park Beach Walk Through Inspection **Page 24**

**INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

- A. 2020 Annual Calendar **Page 25**

- B. 2020 Commissioner Attendance at City Council Meetings **Page 27**

**COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE** (3 minute limit)

**COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**

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

**COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR**

**COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Next Regular Meeting is **Thursday, October 15, 2020 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.

Session 20-06, a Regular Meeting of the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair David Lewis at 5:40 p.m. on August 20, 2020 via Zoom Webinar from the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS ARCHIBALD, FAIR, HARRALD, AND LEWIS

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER LONEY, BARNWELL, ROEDL (EXCUSED)

STAFF: DEPUTY CITY PLANNER ENGBRETSSEN  
DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE  
PARKS MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR STEFFY  
COMMUNITY RECREATION MANAGER ILLG  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KEISER

### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Chair Lewis called for a motion to approve the agenda.

FAIR/HARRALD MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

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

### **VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**

### **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 or someone from the public, in which case the item will be moved to the regular agenda and considered in normal sequence.

A. Minutes from the June 18, 2020 Regular Meeting

Chair Lewis called for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

ARCHIBALD/FAIR - MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Staff Report - Deputy City Planner Engebretsen

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen reviewed her staff report that was included in the packet.

B. Parks Maintenance Report - Matt Steffy, Parks Coordinator

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy provided a brief summary of his staff report to the commission. He noted the following:

- Camping revenues were lower due to lack of out of state campers
- Reduction in parks staff
- Registration process and issues with the Special Use campers
- Bench donation from Rotary in process which will be on a future agenda
- Youth soccer is now using Jack Gist Park
- Comprehensive Trails inventory completed
- Restrooms are still a hurdle
- Burning Basket event is still in planning stages
- Development on the Skate Park
- Many groups using the parks effectively
- ADA Parking spot has created a non-compliant grade from the parking lot to the trail, a proposal was received to correct the approach.
- Revised Jack Gist Park Master Plan is needed due to the new subdivision

Commissioners and Staff discussed the following items:

- concerns expressed on conducting large gatherings such as the Burning Basket event with acknowledgement towards conducting familiar events;
- using CARES Act funding and what those funds are allowed to be used for such as equipment services and supplies
- Research by entities being conducted on how they can use Federal Funding to replace lost revenue
- Economically disadvantaged guidelines and transitioning those campers from Karen Hornaday Park to the Spit at the end of the season
- The difficulties in hiring janitorial staff was due to low pay range in comparison to unemployment received

C. Recreation Report – Mike Illg, Recreation Manager

Recreation Manager Illg reported on the following:

- Programming is challenging during COVID

- The recreation program lost all access to school facilities for the summer and that included the artificial turf. The School District closed them due to liability issues.
- Meeting with the school principal and working on a mitigation plan to try to get things going again indoors as they are currently in green status (related to COVID cases).
- Available recreational opportunities that are conducted in the HERC and information gathered on participants to make sure that programs stay COVID free
- Employing the social distancing guidelines and wearing of masks during all recreational events
- Working on a program for recreational bubbles, where families who have interacted can recreate together.
- Working on Native Youth Olympics guidelines during COVID
- Annual Parks Conference virtually and information will be forwarded to the Clerk for distribution to the Commission.
- The Great Outdoors Act was signed by the President and the Land and Water Conservation organization is the mechanism for funding.

Commissioner and Staff commented and discussed the following:

- Appreciated efforts to conduct recreational activities
- Will not be closely following the same protocols but wanting to stay in the green
- Loss of revenue approximately \$20,000

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

## **PENDING BUSINESS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Parks Proposed CIP Projects 2020**

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title.

Acting City Planner Engebretsen provided input and action requested from the Commission. She then noted the revisions to some of the projects plus the new Parks CIP document.

Acting City Planner Engebretsen reported that in the previous years the Commission has selected Karen Hornaday Park as number one project and if the Commissioners agreed they would keep it as their number one priority project.

The Commission agreed by consensus to keep Karen Hornaday Park as their number one project recommendation.

Commissioners and Staff discussed and recommended the following:

- Main Street Sidewalk Facility: Pioneer Avenue North
- Selecting the second project can be from any project contained in the CIP document
- The Main Street Sidewalk Project was supported by the Planning Commission

- Input from Public Works Director how valuable the project selection assists them and benefits the city having “shovel ready” projects
- Commissioners recommended Main Street Sidewalk

ARCHIBALD/FAIR MOVED THAT THE PARKS ART RECREATION & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMENDS TO CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CIP KAREN HORNADAY PARK IMPROVEMENTS AS NUMBER ONE AND MAIN STREET SIDEWALK FACILITY: PIONEER AVENUE NORTH AS NUMBER TWO

There was a brief discussion on the Karen Hornaday Park Improvements and expressed appreciation to the interest from the Public Works Director.

VOTE. YES. ARCHIBALD, FAIR, HARRALD, LEWIS

Motion carried.

B. Letter to the Editor – Topic Discussion

There was a brief discussion on selecting Poopdeck Trail completion and submitting to the Clerk.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Memorandum from Acting City Planner re: Donation of Sculptural Art for Placement on Bishop's Beach
- i. Donation Application from Bunnell Art Gallery
  - ii. Letter from the Ninilchik Traditional Council

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title and invited staff to provide input on the topic.

Acting City Planner Engebretsen reviewed the application noting that this was a large project and would be placed next year.

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy reported that the Commission could visit the Bunnell's website and view additional information on the proposed project.

Commissioners and Staff discussed the following:

- Appreciation for the project and being included in the opportunity
- Expressed concerns on vandalism proof, site location and lighting for the placement of the sculpture
- Lighting was in the development stage and may be solar and interior

ARCHIBALD/HARRALD MOVED THAT THE PARKS ART RECREATION AND CULTURE RECOMMENDS ACCEPTANCE OF THE DONATION OF THE SCULPTURE ENTITLED "TUYANITUM" TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION FOR PLACEMENT ON OR NEAR BISHOP'S BEACH.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. City Wide Public Restrooms – Discussion on Issues and Solutions

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title. He invited Public Works Director Keiser and Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy to provide input.

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy provided clarification that this discussion is primarily focused on the Karen Hornaday Park and Campground, Ben Walters, Fishing Hole, Bishops' Beach Park, Baycrest Overlook Restrooms. He then reviewed the conditions and proposed solutions of each facility and currently that many of these facilities have been closed and the use of portable toilets and hand wash stations are being used. Mr. Steffy also noted the costs and projected costs for the use of those portable toilets for the remainder of the year.

Public Works Director Keiser added that if the Commission agrees with the strategies put forth the goal would be to demolish the existing facilities so that there is no more continuing health hazards and be attractive nuisances, continue to use the portable toilets by requesting City Council double the budget for professional services for the parks for these extra toilets that comes from CARES Act Funding.

A brief discussion was held between Commissioners and Staff on the following:

- The vaulted toilets vaults although concrete are deteriorated beyond use as they contain the ambience of the odors
- Difference between the city restrooms and the newer restrooms at State parks and pullouts
- Additional issues that hinders repairs or replacement of faulty parts such as toilet seats attached to the riser
- No longer able to keep sanitary and functioning to public standards and expectations
- Cost to have a plumbed restroom for Bishop's Beach is in the works currently
- Using the campground fees that are collected annually or a portion thereof be directed to a fund for replacement and or repair of park amenities
- The development of new policies and criteria for using HAWSP Funds by City Council

- Land & Water Conservation Fund and Great American Outdoor grant funds for these projects

HARRALD/FAIR MOVED THAT THE PARKS ART RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION SUPPORTS THE RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTED BY STAFF FOR THE BISHOPS BEACH PARK, KAREN HORNADAY PARK AND BAYCREST OVERLOOK PUBLIC RESTROOM ISSUES AND CONCERNS AND FURTHER RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL COMMENCE DISCUSSION WITH THE STATE ON NEW RESTROOMS FOR THE BAYCREST OVERLOOK, PROCEED WITH THE CIP PROJECT TO REPLACE RESTROOMS AT KAREN HORNADAY PARK AND AUTHORIZE THE DESIGN AND PLANNING FOR FACILITIES AT BISHOP'S BEACH PARK.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

C. Memorandum from Acting City Planner re: Poopdeck Trail – Funding Request

Chair Lewis introduced the item and requested input from Acting City Planner Engebretsen

Acting City Planner Engebretsen provided a summary of the memorandum requesting a recommendation to Council in support of expenditure of the funds requested.

There was a brief discussion on the funding would be from HART – Trail Funds.

FAIR/ARCHIBALD MOVED THAT THE PARKS, ART, RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION SUPPORTS THE EXPENDITURE OF HART TRAIL FUNDS TO COMPLETE THE POOPDECK TRAIL IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$45,000.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

D. Memorandum from Acting City Planner Engebretsen re: Bishop's Beach Land Purchase Opportunity

Chair Lewis introduced the item on the agenda by reading of the title.



Acting City Planner Engebretsen reviewed her staff report for the Commission.

Extensive discussion ensued between Acting City Planner Engebretsen and the Commission on the following:

- Location and zoning is in the Central Business District
- Opportunity to add to parks land few and far between
- Use of land reserves over the parks reserves since that funding source covers repairs and maintenance is preferred
- Would be appropriate location for a new restroom
- Recommendation could include a combination of the funding sources
- Land Trust is interested in larger 5 acres or more plus habitat
- Availability of additional land in this area

HARRALD/ARCHIBALD MOVED THAT PARKS, ART, RECREATION AND CULTURE SUPPORTS THE PURCHASE OF THE ADJACENT PROPERTY AND RECOMMENDS CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS TO PURCHASE THE PORTION OF LAND IDENTIFIED AS T 6S R 13W SEC 20 SEWARD MERIDIAN HM PTN GL 2 BEGIN S 1/16 CORNER SECS 19 & 20 & NW CORNER OF GL 2 TH S 89 DEG 57'30" E 1094.3 FT TO PT TH S 38 DEG 0' W 310 FT TO ROB TH 90 DEG W 75 FT TO CORNER 2 TH S 38 DEG W 75 FT TO CORNER 3 TH 90 DEG E 75 FT TO CORNER 4 TH N 38 DEG E 75 FT TO POB PARCEL #17714011 AND FURTHER RECOMMEND THAT THE PURCHASE PRICE NOT TO EXCEED \$35,000 AND FUNDING SHOULD COME FROM THE LAND RESERVES ACCOUNT.

There was a brief discussion on negotiating the price down from the \$35,000.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

E. Memorandum from Acting City Planner Engebretsen re: Jack Gist Park Planning

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title.

Acting City Planner Engebretsen provided a summary of the memorandum and requested action of the Commission.

FAIR/ARCHIBALD MOVED THAT PARKS ART RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT CITY COUNCIL AMEND THE 2021 BUDGET LINE ITEM PARKS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES UP TO \$10,000 TO PAY FOR A LONG TERM PARK PLANNING FOR JACK GIST PARK AND FURTHER RECOMMEND THAT PARKS RESERVES BE USED TO FUND THE BUDGET AMENDMENT.

Comment was expressed on the increased use in Jack Gist Park and that the time and money invested into the planning of the park will be well spent and a betterment to the community.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

F. Trails Small Works Maintenance Program

- i. Memorandum from Public Works Director and Parks Maintenance Coordinator as backup

Chair Lewis introduced the item into the record by reading of the title.

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy reviewed the memorandum for the Commission. This final document will demonstrate when and what funds will be used for and can be updated on an annual basis.

Public Works Director Keiser noted that this was a precursor to the update for the Homer Non-Motorized Trails and Transportation Plan. She explained that the plan can be used to require developers to include trail easements and if the trail is not included in the plan then the city cannot request those easements and or requirements.

The Commission did not have any amendments or recommendations for the draft document and were in agreement with the strategies outlined.

G. Baycrest Overlook Project – Implementation Strategy

- i. Memorandum from Public Works Director as backup

Chair Lewis introduced the item by reading of the title.

Public Works Director Keiser provided background on refreshing the Baycrest Overlook. She reviewed the recommendations included in the approved plan that was developed by a variety of groups.

Discussion and points made by Staff and Commissioners were as follows:

- Signage be coordinated with wayfinding
- Including the indigenous aspect in the improvements
- The information building does not fit and lacks something
- Interpretive signage to be more relevant and not as maintenance intensive
- Gateway into the community and deserves continuity with the wayfinding efforts

- Wayfinding is more directional and interpretive is related more to description or identification
- Consistency can be included in the size, colors and materials used
- Contacting Adele Person at Bunnell to get their input on the themes included in the plan for wayfinding
- Improvements and repairs are needed since this a first impression for visitors to Homer and that there is time to incorporate the wayfinding aspects.
- Interpretive signage around the harbor as example was done by staff with no public input working with State and Harbor personnel
- Staff will approach the State on what is intended and will then bring back what is planned to the Commission.

ARCHIBALD/FAIR MOVED THAT THE PARKS ART RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION ENDORSES IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM AND REQUEST CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZE CITY STAFF TO BEGIN IMPLEMENTING THOSE STRATEGIES.

HARRALD/FAIR MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INCLUDE WAYFINDING, WORKING WITH BUNNEL ART GALLERY AND PUBLIC INPUT.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. (Amendment). NON-OBJECTION. UANNIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Discussion ensued on inclusion of indigenous names in interpretive signage.

ARCHIBALD/FAIR MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INCLUDE INDIGENOUS NAMES IN THE NEW INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE CREATED.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. (Secondary Amendment). NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VOTE. (Main as amended) NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

- A. PARC Commission Annual Calendar 2020
- B. PARC Commissioner Attendance at Council Meetings 2020

**COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

**COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**

Acting City Planner Engebretsen complimented the Commission on the expediency in getting through a long agenda.

Recreation Manager Illg thanked the Commissioners for their service and wished good luck to Julie for her upcoming trip outside and requested the Commission to keep the HERC on their radar and the multi-use facility as he doesn't know where it may go but wanted to put a plug in for it.

Public Works Director Keiser thanked the Commission for their service and thanked them for their support.

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Steffy thanked the Commission for the ninja like performance getting through the agenda and maintaining the time line. He is impressed.

**COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCILMEMBER**

**COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Lewis reported this was his first official Zoom meeting and it was fun. They have possibly spent a lot of money tonight and he enjoys spending money. He reminded everyone to practice social distancing.

**COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Harrald commented on seeing the amount of work that Jan and Matt have done was very impressive. She really appreciates all the efforts and the energy and the staff may be small but they are mighty.

Commissioner Fair echoed Commissioner Harrald's sentiments and hopes to never see another 192 page packet for a while. Thank you.

Commissioner Archibald commented about the lack of appropriate signage regarding vehicles on the beach, encounters with vehicles on the beach recently and Police responding to those violators.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PARKS, ART, RECREATION & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 20, 2020

UNAPPROVED

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RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

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



# City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

## Public Works

3575 Heath Street  
Homer, AK 99603

[publicworks@cityofhomer-ak.gov](mailto:publicworks@cityofhomer-ak.gov)

(p) 907- 235-3170

(f) 907-235-3145

## MEMORANDUM

To: Parks, Arts, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Commission.

From: Matt Steffy, Parks Maintenance Coordinator

Date: September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

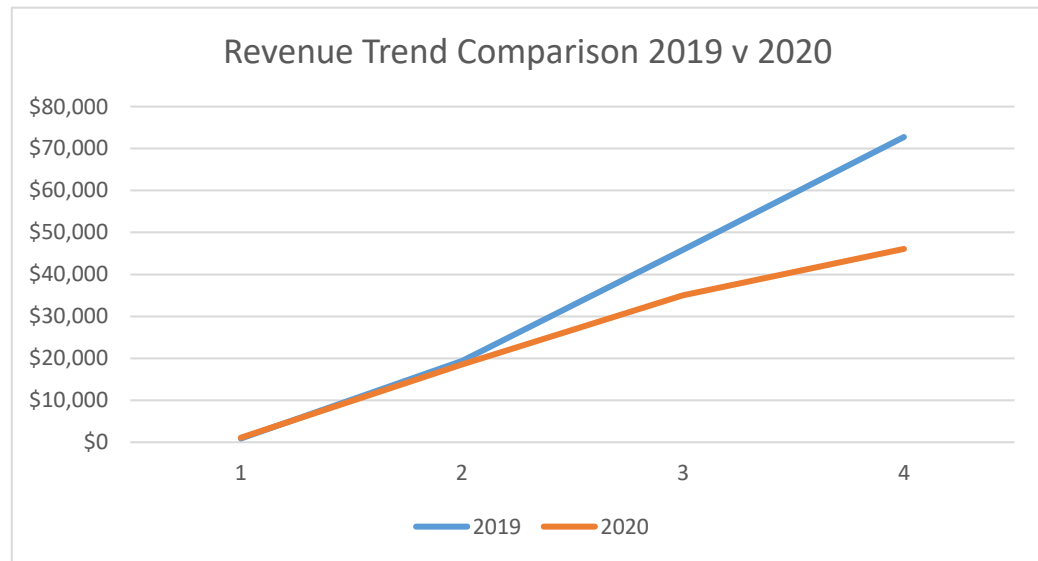
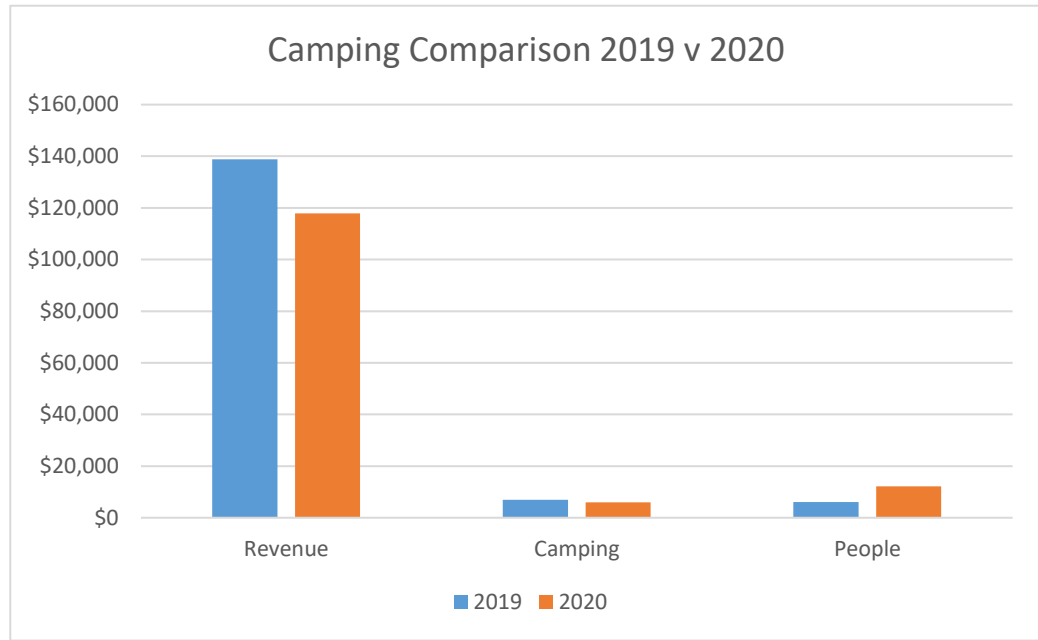
Subject: Greatest Parks in the Universe Staff Report

- 
- Camping has slowed down even more in August. Overall, the season is trending about 16% down in revenue over last year. The national average for loss this season is 35% down, so we are not doing too poorly. However, our numbers for August alone are trending 43% down over last year.
    - **See attached statistical summary.**
  - The community conversation surrounding the Special use Program at Karen Hornaday Park continues to develop. I met with City Manager, Police Chief, and Public Works Director to discuss the path forward. Parks staff will work on aggressively thinning out brush in the campground, a priority that has already been identified. I will coordinate the efforts of local social service agencies to strategize our approach to a growing transient and at-risk population.
    - **See attached memos to the City Manager from myself and Chief Robl.**
  - Development of the Small Works Trails Maintenance Plan has continued. Aaron Yeaton and I are working to project some costs associated with the prescribed maintenance. The document will continue to grow as we add special data for more non-City trails to map out connectivity.
    - **See attachment for current draft.**
  - Burning Basket will be a livestreamed event this year. The City will facilitate the placement of the basket at WKFL Park on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. This will allow community participation as folks are encouraged to stop by and contribute to the impermanent art. The burning of the basket will take place on private land and will be broadcast over Facebook along with poetry, music, and dance.
  - Parks staff completed a series of small projects up at Baycrest prior to the Labor Day weekend. Flower beds were serviced, branches removed, brush hauled out, and leaves removed, and a bit else. The Pioneers of Alaska have adopted the bed previously adopted by Carey Meyer, and it looks beautiful.
  - Following recommendation by the Commission, the City has reached out to Bunnell arts to discuss the development of interpretive installations at Baycrest Overlook that would include some Land Acknowledgement components highlighting the regions cultural history.
  - Rotary has followed up the conversation regarding a memorial bench for Gary Thomas with a suggestion by the family to place it at End of the Road Park, near the whale sculpture created by Melisse Riechman. Discussion is ongoing. Other locations considered are Water Trail Pavilion, and Bishops Beach. Commission can expect a Gift Donation form submittal from rotary.
    - **See attachment for placement suggestions.**
  - Parks is shifting into project season, with numerous construction and repair projects rolling out.

2019	Revenue	Camping	People
April	\$890	46	77
May	\$19,380	967	1,729
June	\$45,867	2,290	4,227
July	\$72,740	3,629	6,548
August	\$39,532	1,956	3,750
<b>YTD:</b>	<b>\$138,877</b>	<b>6,932</b>	<b>6,033</b>

2020	Revenue	Camping	People
April	\$1,086	54	138
May	\$18,547	928	1,822
June	\$34,987	1,746	3,425
July	\$46,079	2,333	4,951
August	\$22,719	1,141	2,311
<b>YTD:</b>	<b>\$117,881</b>	<b>5,921</b>	<b>12,123</b>

Monthly Comparison		
April	\$890	\$1,086
May	\$19,380	\$18,547
June	\$45,867	\$34,987
July	\$72,740	\$46,079
August	\$39,532	\$22,719
September		
October		



## **Bench locations suggested by Rotary for donation**

Proposed location for a Rotarian Memorial Bench at bishops Beach Park. Installation would be continuous with the paved parking lot to provide access.



Proposed location for a Rotarian Bench at Fishing Hole Campground. Bench would be continuous with the paved area of the Water Trail Pavilion to provide access. It would look out over the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon.







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(p) 907- 235-3170

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TO: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager  
FROM: Matt Steffy, Parks Maintenance Coordinator  
THROUGH: Jan Keisser, Director of Public Works  
SUBJECT: COVID related statistics for Karen Hornaday Park and Special Use designation

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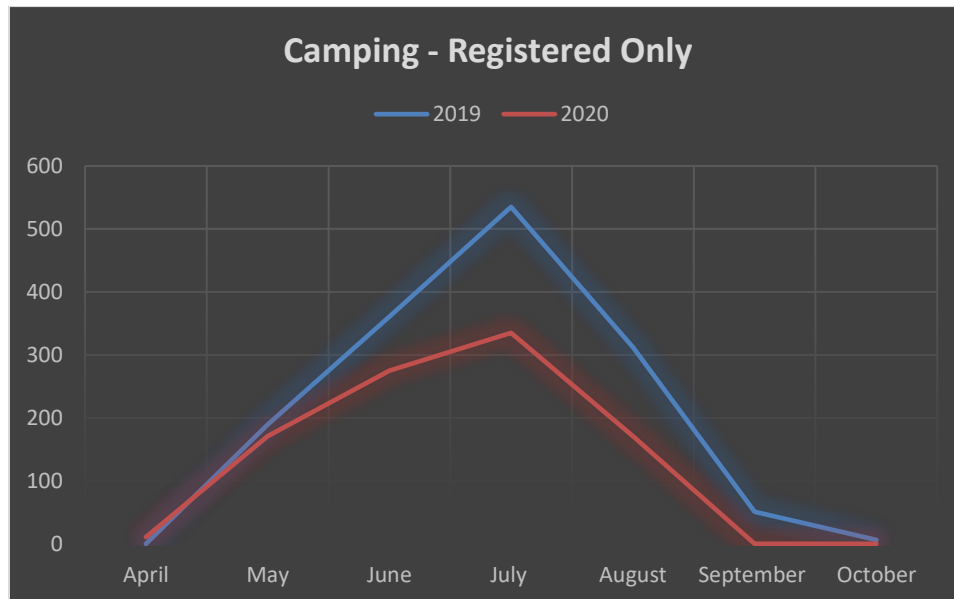
During the 2020 camping season, the City of Homer designated the Karen Hornaday Campground as a “Special Use” zone. The Special Use designation was a provision that waived camping fees for people who were under quarantine, sheltering in place, or experiencing economic displacement due to the pandemic. This Special Use policy is new, and did not exist before 2020. Before this, individuals staying in our campgrounds who could not pay were served two daily notices to make payment or contact staff, and the third notice would be a 72 hour impound notice.

In the attached statistical analysis, “Camping Events” refers to each individual night of campsite occupation. There are 30 campsites at KHP, so there are 900 potential camping events in a 30 day period. “Visitation” refers to the number of actual campers in each event. “Registered” refers to campers who have paid and submitted a fee envelope for their camping event.

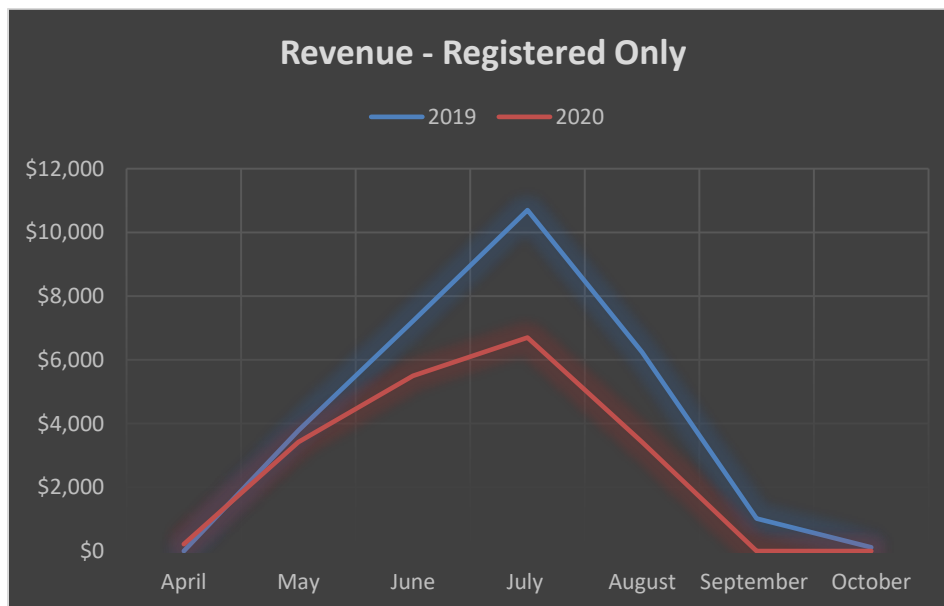
### Observations

- The revenue and registered camping events are down 32% over last year. The national trend this season, according to the National Recreation and Parks Association, is a 35% decrease.
- Visitation is only down 24%, reflecting an increase in the number of people in a party. The average for 2019 was 1.8 people per camping event, while the numbers for 2020 are at 2 people per camping event.
- Numbers for Special Use are an estimation, as detailed numbers were not collected through the season. These numbers are based on average weekly numbers throughout the season as observed by staff. The uncertain designation for unpaying [ ] ers that we could not contact left a lot of grey area.

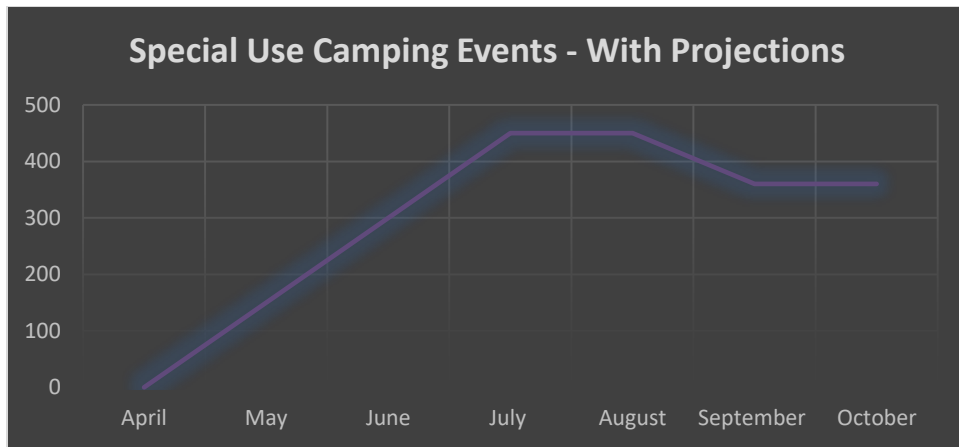
- We have calculated the value of the Special Use camping provided by the City as \$31,180 (this includes projections for September and October.) This does not mean that we would have that much additional revenue, as those individuals that cannot pay would normally be processed and moved along. This is purely to attach a monetary value to the service provided through the Special Use program.



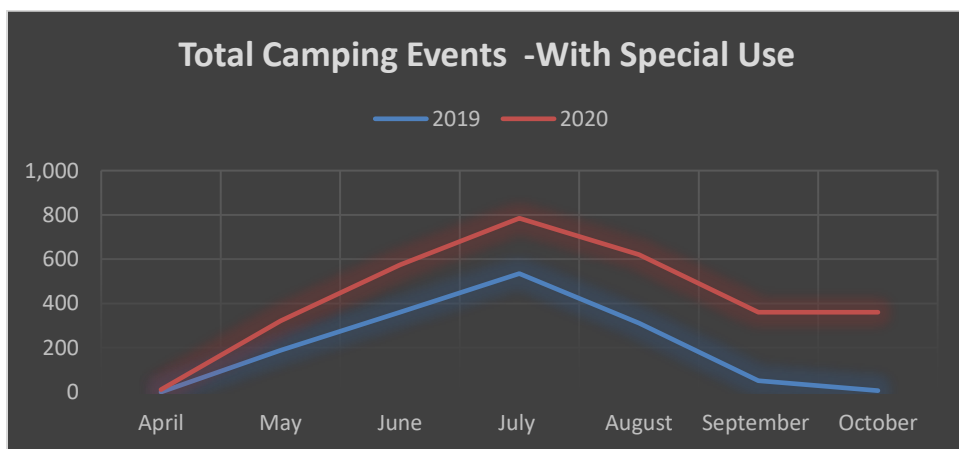
Camping Events – Users filling out their envelope and paying their fees



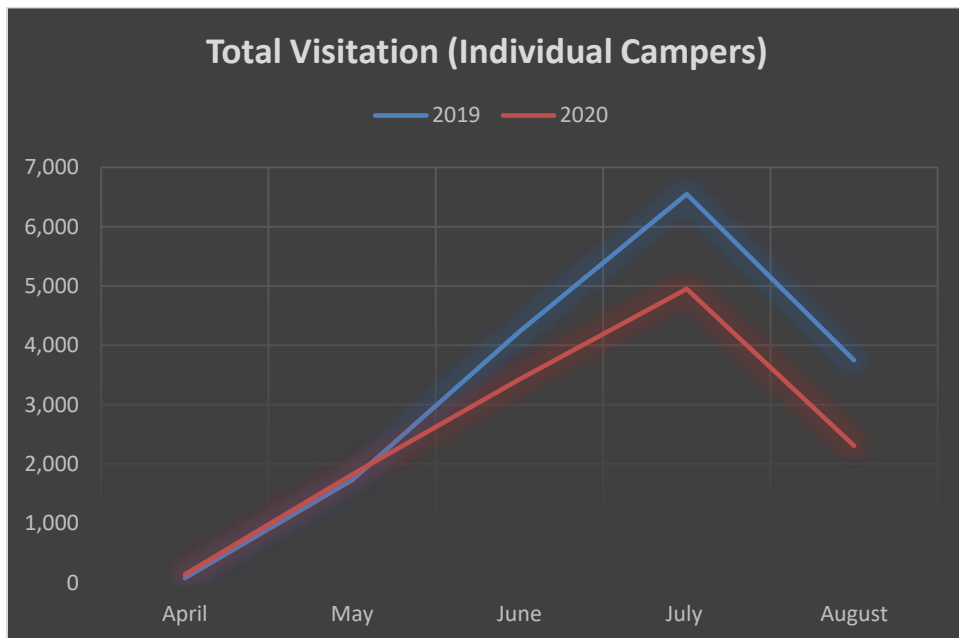
Revenue - Users filling out their envelope and paying their fees



Special Use campers



Total Camping Events – Special Use and Registered Campers



Totals campers from



# City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

## Community Recreation

HHS/600 East Fairview Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

[communityrecreation@cityofhomer-ak.gov](mailto:communityrecreation@cityofhomer-ak.gov)

(p) 907-235-6090

(f) 907-235-8933

## Memorandum

To: Parks, Arts, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

From: Mike Illg, Community Recreation Manager

Date: 9/10/20

Re: Community Recreation Update

The City of Homer Community Recreation Program is continuing to wade through the COVID related variables in an effort to safely provide programs for local residents.

- We are continuing to offer some indoor programming at the HERC facility. This includes reservation only pickleball, Zumba Dance and instructional karate.
- We are going to move forward with some additional indoor programming opportunities on a trial basis before promoting to the public at large. The proposals have been reviewed and approved but we are taking a very cautionary approach.
- I am working on a potential local hiking challenge as a possible “self-paced and individualized” recreational opportunity. The basic idea to encourage participants to complete a series of local hikes on their own, submit the completed list and receive a special patch and enter a final drawing. This is a work in progress as the details are not finalized.
- The Alaska Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA) is having its annual Conference this year virtually on October 8 & 9. While this is a free event as the PARCAC are ARPA members, I encourage you all to find time to participate in some of the sessions. Here is the link: [https://arpa.myrec.com/info/activities/program\\_details.aspx?ProgramID=29843](https://arpa.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=29843)
- Related to ARPA, I wanted to inform the PARCAC that I will be the new president of ARPA starting next month and I am excited to work with this organization as we continue to advocate and support parks and recreation programs, staff, education, volunteers and opportunities throughout Alaska.
- I have made COVID related Cares Act funding requests for some items to assist with our efforts to provide a safe indoor recreational opportunities. We requested 3 automatic hand sanitizer dispensers and hand sanitizer liquid (approved). We submitted requests for

recreational software and hardware to assist with online registration, online payment and scheduling features. This will ideally improve the safety of participants and staff with minimizing the exchange/handling of paper, pens, cash and checks (pending approval). We also submitted requests for 3 movable industrial fans to enhance the air flow of the HERC gym and multi-use room (pending approval).

- The Homer High and Homer Middle Schools are still not available for community use (including Community Recreation). We intend to revisit the possibility of activities again sometime in October.



# City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

## Office of the City Clerk

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Homer, Alaska 99603

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## Memorandum

TO: PARKS, ART, RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK  
DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2020  
SUBJECT: LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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### Background:

The Letter to the Editor is a quarterly submission from the Commission to keep the parks, art, recreation and cultural aspects of Homer in the readers minds. Commissioner Fair has graciously volunteered writing the offerings submitted the last few years and attached is his latest. Please review and make any recommendations for content or corrections.

### Recommendation

Make a motion to approve the draft letter to Editor and request staff to submit to the Homer News for publication.

## **Letter to the Editor**

### **Poopdeck Platt Community Park Trail**

During the final week of August 24, the City of Homer collaborated with the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust (KHLT), Homer Independent Living Center, 17 local volunteers, and 3 local businesses to complete Phase II of the Poopdeck Platt Community Park Trail. Over the next few weeks KHLT will begin installing interpretive signs, kiosks, ADA-accessible benches, dog waste receptacles, dog leash lending stations, and, if funding is available, an ADA ramp at the City of Homer Trailhead. These final touches will comprise the culmination of a seven-year collaborative effort. In 2013 KHLT began working with the National Park Service and the Trails and Conservation Assistance Program to develop a public open space on its 3.47-acre Poopdeck Platt parcel. In 2015, landscape architects and community members began work on a conceptual design. The Poopdeck Platt Park Conceptual Site Plan was completed in November 2016. In 2017, the City of Homer joined KHLT, the Independent Living Center and Alaska State Parks to begin designing ADA Accessible Trails on the Poopdeck Platt Park and the City of Homer parcel. The City of Homer completed the resurfacing the Poopdeck Trail from Grubstake Avenue to Hazel Avenue, and ADA parking spaces were installed at the KHLT trailhead and on the City of Homer land this July. The trail has been funded by Kachemak Bay citizen donations, Homer business donations, City of Homer HART Funds, a Recreations Trails Program grant with the State of Alaska, and Homer non-profit donations. KHLT has contributed significant funds and has coordinated the project.



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## Memorandum

TO: PARKS, ART, RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK  
DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2020  
SUBJECT: SCHEDULING FALL WALK THROUGH INSPECTION – PARKS AND OR BEACHES

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### Background:

The Commission typically schedules their fall park and or beach walk through for September or October.

The Commission is requested to select a day and time that would be convenient for the majority of those commissioners and staff to conduct a visual inspection of one or more of the city's parks and or beaches, typically taking approximately 1-1.5 hours to complete.

The Clerk's Office requests at least two weeks' notice so that it can be advertised appropriately.

### Recommendation

Discuss and select a day, date and time convenient for parks Staff and Commissioners to visit selected parks and or beaches for annual inspection.



**PARKS ART RECREATION & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION ANNUAL CALENDAR**  
**FOR THE 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE**

<b><u>MEETING DATE</u></b>	<b><u>SCHEDULED EVENTS OR AGENDA ITEM</u></b>
JANUARY 2020	No Meeting Scheduled
FEBRUARY 2020	COMPREHENSIVE PLAN/KAREN HORNADAY PARK PLAN REQUEST LETTER TO THE EDITOR TOPICS IN STAFF REPORT
MARCH 2020	LETTER TO THE EDITOR DRAFT FOR PUBLICATION IN APRIL
APRIL 2019	3 YEAR BUDGET TRENDS/FINANCIAL GOALS
MAY 2020	SPRING PARK &/ OR BEACH WALK THROUGH
JUNE 2020	REVIEW CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW PROJECT(S) IF ANY LETTER TO THE EDITOR TOPICS REQUESTED (IN STAFF REPORT)
JULY 2020	NO MEETING SCHEDULED
AUGUST 2020	LETTER TO THE EDITOR DRAFT SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW & APPROVAL
SEPTEMBER 2020	FALL PARK WALK THROUGH AND BEACH WALK; SCHEDULE KHP CLEAN UP DAY REAPPOINTMENT APPLICATIONS ARE DUE
OCTOBER 2020	REVIEW AND APPROVE THE 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE LETTER TO THE EDITOR ELECTIONS
NOVEMBER 2020	BEACH POLICY REVIEW
DECEMBER 2019	NO MEETING SCHEDULED HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

**PARKS ART RECREATION & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION ANNUAL CALENDAR**  
**FOR THE 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE**

Quarterly: Letters to the editor updating the Community on PARCAC activities

Odd Years: Comprehensive Plan (February) Strategic Plan review (March), Diamond Creek Plan (May), Camping Fees (May), Beach Policy (October), Art Policies

Even Years: HNMTTP, Karen Hornaday Park Plan, 3 year budget trends & progress toward financial goals (April/May)

**2020 HOMER CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS  
ADVISORY COMMISSION/ BOARD ATTENDANCE**

Commissions are invited to report to the City Council at the Council's regular meetings under Item 8 – Announcements/Presentations/Borough Report/Commission Reports. This is the Commission's opportunity to give Council a brief update on their work. Generally the Commissioner who will be reporting will attend one of the two meetings for the month they are scheduled to attend.

The 2020 meeting dates for City Council is as follows:

January 13, 27	_____
February 10, 24	<u>Ingrid Harrald</u> _____
March 9, 23	_____
April 13, 27	_____
May 11, 26* Tues	_____
June 8, 22	_____
July 27**	_____
August 10, 24	_____
September 14, 28	_____
October 12, 26	_____
November 23**	_____
December 14, 21****	_____

City Council's Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting at 5:00 pm to no later than 5:50 pm prior to every Regular Meeting which are held the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 pm.

\*Tuesday meeting due to Memorial Day

\*\* There will be no first regular meeting in July or November.

\*\*\*Council traditionally reschedules regular meetings that fall on holidays or high school graduation days, for the following Tuesday.

\*\*\*\*Council traditionally cancels the last regular meeting in December and holds the first regular meeting and one to two special meetings as needed. Generally the second special meeting the third week of December will not be held.