

MANAGERS REPORT
May 10, 2010

TO: MAYOR HORNADAY / HOMER CITY COUNCIL

FROM: WALT WREDE

UPDATES / FOLLOW-UP

1. Maritime Academy: At the last meeting, Council member Hogan asked for an update on efforts to establish a Maritime Academy in Homer. Last week, Bryan Hawkins and I participated in a teleconference with four federal Department of Transportation officials in Washington DC who have jurisdiction over the maritime academies nationwide. This meeting was rescheduled several times and I thought it would be prudent to learn as much as we could about the program before I went and talked to the Governor and his staff about it. We learned a lot. There are no barriers at the federal level to establishing an Academy in Alaska with the exception of funding. There are advantages to establishing a regional academy (perhaps partnering with Washington). All existing academies are regional in scope and include various levels of participation by multiple states. The federal match increases to \$500,000 per year for regional academies. The process starts with the Governor who would contact the Secretary of Transportation. The President could include money for this in his budget and it could also be added by Congress. Ultimately, Congress has to approve it. Our Congressional delegation would need to be in the loop and requesting this. So would our representatives in the legislature. Any money Congress contributes must be matched equally by the State and the City. It is possible that making the old school available after the College moves out could count as a local contribution. The curriculum would need to be approved by the Coast Guard. So, we will proceed with the process of working with the Governor, and if he is interested, the delegation unless Council instructs us otherwise. Bryan will be at the meeting if there are questions.
2. Corps of Engineers Permit / Seawall: At the last meeting, Councilmember Wythe requested an update and course of action report regarding Special Condition # 5 in the Corps of Engineers permit for seawall construction. A copy of the permit, including Special Condition # 5 is attached for your information. We are moving ahead on this and will try to satisfy this condition as quickly as possible. Terry Thompson at KBRR has met with the scientists who conducted the research and determined that the research is complete and that all of the information and data is available and easily assembled for review by the scientific and regulatory committee and the public. Dotti Harness in the Planning Department has been assigned the task of contacting the agency representatives about serving on the committee. She has done so and discussions are underway now about meeting schedules, agendas, and possible ways to include the public. The committee members are being mailed much of the information which includes a dissertation, several peer review articles on the dissertation, and 8 years worth of pictures

taken from the cameras mounted near the seawall. The goal is to have the first meeting ASAP. Both Tom Klinkner and Carey Meyer will be available at the meeting to take questions on this if needed.

3. Lease Policies: Both meetings in May include workshops / Special Meetings to discuss recommendations from the Economic Development Commission regarding the lease policies and the base lease document. Council members have stated that they want to hear comments from both myself and the City Attorney regarding these recommendations. This topic, and how best to proceed, was discussed at the last agenda meeting before the Mayor left town. The meeting included the Mayor, the Mayor Pro Tem, the Clerk, and myself. It was agreed that the best approach might be for the Council to use the first meeting (and maybe the second) providing the EDC an opportunity to present their recommendations and the reasons for them without having to address questions or counter arguments on individual recommendations along the way. That way the EDC could present its recommendations as a whole body of work. Comments from the administration and attorney could come later. I will definitely have comments when the time is right. I could put those comments into writing if Council wishes. After the Council hears from the EDC, I would recommend that it consider referring the matter to the Lease Committee. One of the primary responsibilities of the Lease Committee is to advise the Council on Lease Policies. The Lease Committee did not review the EDC recommendations except for a few chapters in the early going. The Committee decided to wait until the EDC was done with its work and review it in total at that time. The Committee was told that the recommendations would be coming back to them for comments when the EDC was done and that the CM and City Attorney would provide comments at that time.
4. City Website: We are getting very close to having a signed contract with the contractor. AHA will be here on May 26th and 27th to work with representatives from each department and kick-off the work. We are looking for one or two Council members that might be interested in participating. We could use you in two areas. One is a small committee that will work with the contractor on the overall design, look, and feel of the website. We also plan to have a City Council page. We would be looking for input from Council re: what is included on that page, how it looks, and what functions it has. Please let either Jo or Terry know if you are interested.
5. Energy Efficiency RFP: This agenda contains a resolution which adopts policies and procedures to implement the Revolving Energy Fund Program. The staff has prepared a Request for Proposals to conduct energy audits and capital improvements to increase energy efficiency in City Buildings and facilities. This is a major component of the Revolving Energy Fund Program. You will recall that the Council transferred \$315,000 into the REF from various depreciation funds at a recent meeting. In addition, the City will receive \$227,000 grant funds from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program. So, the City has over \$500,000 for this purpose. A resolution accepting and appropriating this grant is also on the agenda. If the Council adopts the REF Policies and procedures, we will put the RFP out on the street the same week.

6. Library Energy / Capital Improvements: At the last meeting, Eileen Faulkner, the Chair of the Library Advisory Board advised the Council that the LAB had reviewed the reports of the two consultants who looked at energy use in that building, and agreed on a set of recommendations. Eileen said that the LAB would be sending a letter to the City Manager. That letter is attached for your information. Assuming that the Council wishes to move forward on this, our plan is to work up a cost estimate and then bring an appropriation ordinance to either the May 24 or June 14 meeting. The money for this work can come from remaining library capital construction funds and/or the Revolving Energy Fund.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Corps of Engineers Permit / Seawall
2. May Employee Anniversaries
3. Press Release / Energy Efficiency
4. Correspondence from LAB