

**MANAGERS REPORT**  
**JUNE 28, 2010**

**TO:** MAYOR HORNADAY / HOMER CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** WALT WREDE

UPDATES / FOLLOW-UP

1. Jean Keene Memorial Sculpture: At the last meeting, the Council adopted a resolution that authorized the placement of a Jean Keene Memorial Sculpture in several City park locations. I informed Council that the sculpture and the organizers of this project were also talking to a private landowner. I learned this past week that the sculpture will be placed on the deck at Lands End Hotel. This seems appropriate since Jean spent so much time there. Good luck to all involved.
2. Library Energy Efficiency Ordinance: This meeting agenda contains second reading of an ordinance that proposes to spend funds to implement some of the energy efficiency recommendations we have received. There is a back-up Memorandum from the Public Works Director that provides some detail and context for the ordinance. We had a pretty good internal debate about where to get the money for this proposed work. The ordinance proposes that the funds come from the Library Project Fund, which is basically money left over from various old accounts dedicated to library construction and capital projects. However, this funding could just as easily come from the Revolving Energy Fund. There are pros and cons to each approach. Using the Library Project Fund seems appropriate because it is being used to do work that perhaps should have been done during construction. It is not money that would have to be paid back. And, it leaves REF funding to do more work in other City facilities. On the other hand, this work is exactly what the REF was intended to fund, and using it would leave more money in the Library Project Fund to do other capital project work, like fix parking lot drainage problems or designing and building a new more energy efficient entry way. Perhaps Council will want to weigh in on this one. Council was also informed at ordinance introduction that the Administration was recommending a sole source contract in this case. Council requested a back-up memo describing the reasons for this recommendation and the memo is included in your packet.
3. Community Recreation Program: At the last meeting, I informed you that I thought the immediate threat to the Community Recreation Program was averted and that negotiations with the School District on a new facilities agreement were back on track. I am happy to report that negotiations are going well. I fully expect to have a new agreement ready for Council consideration and approval at the July 26 meeting.
4. Seawall Meeting: The second seawall meeting took place last week at the Kenai Peninsula College campus in Soldotna. I think the meeting went very well and we emerged with road map on how to proceed from here. The Corps has indicated that the City will have completely satisfied Special Condition Number 5 as soon

- as one small damaged area on the wall is repaired. The meeting focused upon how the City and the property owners can work together to find the funding to design and build improvements that will both strengthen the wall and mitigate potential environmental impacts. We also need to formally transfer the permit over to the property owners so that there are no continuing arguments about who is responsible for repairs. If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to ask. I can go into much more detail at the meeting.
5. Enstar and Natural Gas: This meeting agenda contains a memorandum with a recommended course of action regarding the natural gas transmission line legislative grant.
  6. Spit Parking: The last Manager's Report contained a letter to DOT/PF regarding parking on the Spit. I am happy to report that we received a note from the Regional Director this week. The note basically said that the City's proposed course of action was approved and that DOT/PF would have a draft MOU to us within 30 days.
  7. Comprehensive Plan: Rick attended the Borough planning Commission and Borough assembly meetings in which the City Comprehensive Plan was discussed. The Plan sailed right through and the assembly approved it at its meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Rick said the Assembly really liked the plan and was very complimentary.
  8. Volunteers: I would like to give a big thank you to all of the volunteers who are stepping up to help maintain City facilities. As you know, the Friends of the Homer Public Library is spending its own money to hire a professional and organize volunteers to do landscaping at the library in coordination with Parks. I don't know if you have been there lately but the place looks great. Carey Meyer and staff from the Parks Department built a new flower garden wall around the new library sign. Homer Animal Friends is about to spend some of its time and money to do landscaping around the Animal Shelter and to provide a fenced in area where dogs can play and interact with each other, volunteers, and folks who are looking to adopt. This is being done in coordination with Public Works and I will likely be back to ask you for a small match (around \$3,000) for the fence. Finally, Mike is working with organizations that want to get more involved and take more responsibility for maintaining and operating the City Parks, especially Jack Gist and Karen Hornaday. There are broad discussions going on about MOUs and establishing a Parks Foundation. This is all very positive news from my perspective.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. Memo from Sheri Hobbs re: Salary and Benefit Study