

CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 90- 46

A RESOLUTION OF THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL
SUPPORTING SKATEBOARDING FOR LOCAL YOUTH AND
THE REOPENING OF THE SKATEBOARDING PARK.

WHEREAS, the Skateboard Task Force made up of parents, interested students, City Mayor, local school principals, school board member and community members was formed October 1988 in response to a growing need for a safe off-road skateboard facility; and

WHEREAS, after working closely with the Kenai Peninsula School District and Borough, this Task Force received permission in March of 1989 from then Superintendent of Schools, Fred Pomeroy, to use a field at the Homer Junior High for Skateboarding; and

WHEREAS, teacher Bruce Forester together with students interested in skateboarding built a model ramp as an example of what would be required for safe skateboarding; and

WHEREAS, parents and students during the Summer of 1989 purchased materials valued at \$1,000 and built said ramp for the use of our local youth; and

WHEREAS, in the interim the Homer Skateboarding Association was formed made up of over 50 youth with parents and community members; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Maintenance Department cleared brush in the area so that there would be clear visibility of the Skateboard area; and

WHEREAS, the Homer Skateboarding Association has been denied access to this area since spring of 1990; and

WHEREAS, the Homer Skateboarding Association is desirous of repairing and upgrading the current skateboard facility so that our youth may use the facility rather than local roads; and

WHEREAS, Skateboarding provides a healthy outlet for over 50 of our Homer youth; and

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School Board's Substance Abuse Committee has recognized the need for positive community/parent/student involvement for our youth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Homer City Council in conjunction with the Homer Advisory Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Homer hereby request that the Kenai Peninsula Borough and School District meet with the Homer Skateboarding Association to reopen the lines of communication and develop an acceptable plan that will enable the Skateboard Association to repair and upgrade the facility at Homer Junior High School so that our Homer youth can participate in Skateboarding within a safe environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Don Gilman, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, Acting Superintendent of Schools Dale Sandahl, members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School Board, and members of the Homer Skateboard Association.

CITY OF HOMER


JOHN P. CALHOUN, MAYOR

ATTEST:


MARY L. SHANNON, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

May 24, 1990

Mayor John Calhoun and
Members of the Homer City Council

Dear John,

At our meeting this evening the Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously approved the attached resolution in support of the Skateboard Association of Homer.

We respectfully request that the City Council endorse and likewise support our efforts in behalf of these young people.

Because of time constraints we ask your endorsement at your upcoming meeting of May 29th.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mildred M. Martin". The signature is written in dark ink and extends across the width of the page.

Mildred M. Martin, Chair
Homer Parks and Recreation
Advisory Commission

RESOLUTION
of
THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HOMER
in support of:

SKATEBOARDING FOR LOCAL YOUTH

WHEREAS: The Skateboard Task Force made up of parents, interested students, City Mayor, local school principals, school board member and community members was formed in October 1988 in response to a growing need for a safe off-road skateboard facility, and

WHEREAS: After working closely with the Kenai Peninsula School District and Borough, this Task Force received permission in March of 1989 from then Superintendent of Schools Fred Pomeroy to use a field at the Homer Junior High for Skateboarding, and

WHEREAS: teacher Bruce Forester together with students interested in skateboarding built a model ramp as an example of what would be required for safe skateboarding and

WHEREAS: parents and students during the Summer of 1989 purchased materials valued at \$1,000.00 and built said ramp for the use of our local youth, and

Whereas: in the interim the Homer Skateboarding Association was formed made up of over 50 youth with parents and community members, and

WHEREAS: the Borough Maintenance Department cleared brush in the area so that there would be clear visibility of the Skateboard area, and

WHEREAS: the Homer Skateboarding Association has been denied access to this area since spring of 1990, and

WHEREAS: the Homer Skateboarding Association is desirous of repairing and upgrading the current skateboard facility so that our youth may use the facility rather than local roads, and

WHEREAS: Skateboarding provides a healthy outlet for over 50 of our Homer youth and

WHEREAS: The Kenai Peninsula Borough School Board's Substance Abuse Committee has recognized the need for positive community/parent/student involvement for our youth, NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that the Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Homer hereby request that the Kenai Peninsula Borough and School District meet with the Homer Skateboarding Association to reopen the lines of communication and

develop an acceptable plan that will enable the Skateboard Association to repair and upgrade the facility at Homer Junior High School so that our Homer youth can participate in Skateboarding within a safe environment.

It is requested that copies of this resolution be sent to: the Homer City Council, Homer Mayor John Calhoun, Kenai Borough Mayor Don Gilman, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, Acting Superintendent of Schools Dale Sandahl, members of the Kenai Peninsula School Board, and members of the Homer Skateboard Association.

Voted and approved on May 24, 1990 1990.

Mildred M. Martin
Mildred M. Martin, Chair

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Principals
THRU: Dale Sandahl, Superintendent
FROM: Jack Webb, Risk Manager
DATE: May 15, 1990
SUBJECT: Use of School Properties for skateboard activities.

As I travel about the Borough school properties assessing the loss prevention and safety measures that need to be addressed, I frequently encounter students using skateboards on the walkways and throughout the parking areas around the schools. My personal observation has been that the skateboard activists generally seem to give little consideration to the pedestrian as they perform their jumps and various other maneuvers associated with the sport.

It is also noted that we have at least one location with a skateboard ramp structure. Although the structure is located within a chain link fenced area, a hole has now been cut through the fence, further indicating the lack of respect for public property that some of the skateboard enthusiasts have. The skateboard ramp is unattended by the club which originally built the structure and the structure is beginning to fall into a state of disrepair for lack of responsible persons to maintain the integrity of the structure. This structure should immediately be dismantled and removed from the school premises.

Surely we can anticipate an accident occurring at some point in time, and I would certainly imagine that the injured pedestrian will be quite critical of the School District for allowing skateboard activities on school premises. If we could depend on this activity being conducted only by responsible individuals, I would not be concerned; however, my experience is that few of the enthusiasts conduct the activity in a responsible manner; therefore, it is my recommendation that the activity cease.

I would feel certain that there will be many objections to my recommendation that skateboard activities cease on school premises; however, until such time as skateboard clubs are formed that will police their members and provide the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District with a hold harmless and indemnifying agreement and evidence of \$500,000.00 limits of general liability insurance covering their activity, it will remain my recommendation that the activity be banned.

HOMER SKATEBOARDING ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 1613
HOMER, AK 99603

May 14, 1990

Mr. John Dahlgren
Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Kenai Peninsula School District
148 N. Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

Dear Mr. Dalgren:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter recently sent to Mr. Rick Ladd of the Homer Intermediate School in which I expressed concerns over the padlocking of the Homer Skateboard Park.

As you know, this park was generously donated to the skateboarders of Homer for their use over a year ago. Last summer, boys and parents built a wooden ramp using funds they had saved from various fund-raising activities. The ramp at the skate park did not weather well over the winter and unfortunately the tarp had blown off at some point, causing the wood to crack, etc.

Our clean-up efforts included skaters and parents who donated an afternoon to pick up any litter and prepare the park for a "hosing" by the Fire Department. (This was requested to clean up the ash that had built up).

The reason I am writing is to let you know that the skateboarders in Homer are very concerned about their park and would like to see it reopen. I think it's time that the gate come down and let it have the appearance of "public" place for skaters of all abilities. This should be done as soon as possible as the skaters are now "back on the streets", skating in parking lots, malls, etc.

Our plans are to repair the ramp as soon as we can get in. I am in the process of obtaining appraisals for resurfacing the asphalt as it is in poor condition and not suitable for smooth skating. It would be wonderful if the Borough could take charge of resurfacing and perhaps construct a cover so that skaters can use the park no matter what the weather.

The founding organization, "Homer Skateboarding Association" would very much like to invite other skaters from the area to Homer to compete and "share" the park. This is something that they can be proud of and also an on-going project for parents and skaters.

Mr. Dahlgren, this park is a perfect location and a good opportunity for the Borough to grant permission to the City of Homer to develop this area as a public park. There are skaters of all ages -- kindergarten through high school who want to see this park happen. Skating is FUN -- it is a SPORT -- and for some, means of transportation. Please give us your support by "unlocking" the door so we can continue with our efforts down here.

Thanks for your time and anything that you can do to get the ball rolling on this public park for all the residents of Homer will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Loretta Marx

Loretta Marx
Concerned Parent and Promoter

cc: Mayor John Calhoun
Millie Martin
Dennis Dempsey
Lincoln Saito
Phil Shealy
Rick Ladd

Members of Homer Skateboard Association

HOMER SKATEBOARDING ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 1613
HOMER, AK 99603

May 7, 1990

*John
Lippin FH*

Mr. Rick Ladd, Principal
Homer Intermediate School
Sterling Highway
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Mr. Ladd:

It was with deep regret that I learned of your efforts to padlock the Homer Skateboard Park. I heard that you took pictures to send to the Borough in support of your request to close the park. If you were unsatisfied at the appearance of the park, you must have been unaware of our "Cleanup Day" which took place a week or so after you took pictures. Parents and skaters gathered with brooms and dustpans, trash bags, etc. to prepare the park for summer activities. I had also arranged with the Fire Department to hose down the asphalt and clean up the ash that has accumulated. They are on standby and willing to hose the park down as soon as they hear from me.

As you know, the skateboarders of Homer have worked and lobbied hard to secure a safe place to skate. In October of 1988 the Mayor appointed a Task Force for just this purpose. After several months, the Borough agreed to let the skateboarders use the old tennis courts at the Junior High. Denying them entrance to the park has put these youngsters back on the streets and in parking lots, or anywhere else they can find. I know that parents would rather see their kids at the park, in a safe environment.

I am not clear on the purpose of your requesting the park to be padlocked and I am sure at the time you took the pictures, lots of treasures had been unburied with spring breakup. Every property owner has to deal with this spring cleanup, and with the added burden of ash, it probably was unsightly. However, this was something that we had planned to take care of, and if you had only given me or any other parent a call with your concerns, we would have informed you of our plans for cleanup.

We would like to proceed with our cleanup plans and prepare the park for summer skaters. As a community project, several high school students and parents are donating time to repair the ramp using funds that were raised from the Homer Skateboard Association's fund raising events last year to purchase the needed supplies.

There are approximately 50 skateboarders in Homer -- and growing. Please don't deny these youngsters their park which they have worked so hard to obtain. The parents of these kids are interested, willing, and supportive of the organization and the park.

Please support our efforts by allowing the Homer Skateboard Park to be reopened. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Loretta Marx
for the Skateboarders in Homer

Copy to:

TASK FORCE MEMBERS:

Mayor John Calhoun

Millie Martin

Dennis Dempsey

Lincoln Saito

Phil Shealy

Parents of Homer's Skateboarders