



AGENDA

ADA Advisory Board Regular Meeting

Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 5:00 PM

City Hall 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: 998 6324 0301 Password 404451

<https://cityofhomer.zoom.us>

Dial: 346-248-7799 or 669-900-6833; (Toll Free) 888-788-0099 or
or 877-853-5247

1. **CALL TO ORDER, 5:00 P.M.**
2. **AGENDA APPROVAL**
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA** (3 Minute Time limit)
4. **RECONSIDERATION**
5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
 5. A. Unapproved Meeting Minutes
Unapproved Regular Meeting Minutes for May 11, 2023 **page 3**
6. **VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**
7. **STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT(S)/COMMITTEE REPORT(S)**
 7. A. ADA Coordinator Report ADA 23-011 **page 7**
8. **PUBLIC HEARING(S)**
9. **PENDING BUSINESS**
 9. A. Status of Advocacy Efforts for ADA Compliance in Homer
 9. B. Developing a Strategic Plan & Goals **page 9**
Memorandum ADA 23-012
 9. C. Scheduling Site Visits for City Trails Transition Plan **page 55**
10. **NEW BUSINESS**
11. **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**
 11. A. ADA Annual Calendar 2023 **page 56**
 11. B. City Manager's Report
CM Report for May 22, 2023 City Council Meeting **page 57**

- 12. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**
- 13. COMMENTS OF THE STAFF**
- 14. COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**
- 15. ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular meeting is **Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.** All meetings are scheduled to be held in City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska, 99603 and via Zoom webinar.

Session 23-03 a Regular Meeting of the ADA Advisory Board was called to order by Acting Chair Christine Thorsrud at 5:00 p.m. on May 11, 2023, from the Cowles Council Chambers, City Hall, located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom webinar.

PRESENT: BOARD MEMBERS PARSONS, SAFRA, SORTER AND THORSRUD

ABSENT: BOARD MEMBERS ADERHOLD AND GEISLER (excused)

STAFF: ADA COORDINATOR KRAUSE, CITY CLERK JACOBSEN

AGENDA APPROVAL

PARSONS/SAFRA MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 Minute Time limit)

RECONSIDERATION

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- 5. A. Unapproved Meeting Minutes
Unapproved Regular Meeting Minutes for April 13, 2023

PARSONS/SAFRA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 13, 2023 REGULAR MEETING.

There was no discussion

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT(S)/COMMITTEE REPORT(S)

- 7. A. ADA Coordinator Report ADA 23-009

ADA Coordinator Krause presented report to the Board and announced that Board Member Deadrick submitted her resignation. They selected dates for members to report to Council as follows:

May 22nd - Board Member Sorter
June 12th - Board Member Thorsrud

July 24th- Board Member Sorter (tentative)

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PENDING BUSINESS

9.A. Status of Advocacy Efforts for ADA Compliance in Homer

Board Member Safra reported she talked to Economic Development Manager Julie Engebretsen who referred her to Devony Lehner at the Independent Living Center (ILC), who was out of the office. She does her own advocacy as a resident and offers suggestions when she sees issues at businesses, like moving a shovel away from a ramp way or a bucket from behind the restroom door would allow someone in wheelchair to get in. She's planning to meet with the Aspen Hotel to look at their housing.

Board Member Parsons commented regarding anticipated updates to the Blue Path mapping application ILC has been trying to use that will improve the service. He'll reach out to Ms. Safra when the updates are complete.

Board Member Christine noted ongoing issue with college entrance.

NEW BUSINESS

10. A. Developing a Strategic Plan & Goals AIR ADA 23-010

ADA Coordinator Krause reviewed the memorandum in the packet.

During discussion the Board touched on goal 1, Advocate for ADA Compliance Budget and questioned how to appropriately address Council. ADA Coordinator Krause explained her efforts to coordinate with the Public Works Superintendent for status updates for the existing Transition Plan and the need for Council to budget for more costly needs in the plan.

Regarding goal 3, Actively advocate for ADA compliance with local businesses, programs, and services. Board Member Safra noted that's right up her alley and it sounds good, but questions how they are supposed to do that because it's technically not what the Board is tasked to do. They'll need to be specific on how they meet their mission, and do that too.

There was discussion regarding economic development and if it's a \$60 billion tourism industry then they need to pay attention, and that's working with businesses. That kind of focuses on the City because that's our tax base. It was suggested that could be a lead in with the Homer News as it doesn't single out businesses but addressed the bigger picture and identified opportunity. Another suggestion was that it might be worthwhile to invite groups to come and let us know what they are working on in terms of accessibility, rather than Board Members going out individually.

It was suggested this be postponed to the next meeting for further discussion.

PARSONS/SAFRA MOVED TO POSTPONE THE STRATEGIC PLAN AND GOALS DOCUMENT UNTIL THEIR JUNE MEETING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Acting Chair Thorsrud suggested at the next meeting they could begin drafting a list of potential entities to invite to present.

10. B. Scheduling Site Visits for City Trails Transition Plan

ADA Coordinator Krause explained in the process of gathering information for the packet she heard from Economic Development Manager Engebretsen who suggested the Board postpone this until possibly next summer because of development of the draft transportation plan, which will be presented to the Board for review. The Trails Criteria Manual is also being proposed for revision. The completion of those manuals may have bearing on the trails that are chosen for the Transition Plan to bring into compliance.

Board Members shared their concerns about waiting up to a year to start work on the Trails Transition Plan, issues of trail maintenance and potential for working with volunteers for trails maintenance.

Board Member Parsons suggested asking the folks working on the Transportation Plan to identify corridors that aren't recreation trails by their use and should be part of the pedestrian and non-motorized network.

PARSONS/SAFRA MOVED TO POSTPONE TO THE JUNE MEETING.

It was noted this was requested by Board Member Aderhold and they can postpone further if needed.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

11. A. ADA Annual Calendar 2023

11. B. City Manager's Report
CM Report for April 24, 2023 City Council Meeting
CM Report for May 8, 2023 City Council Meeting

Board Member Parsons gave a shout out to City Planner Abboud for all his efforts with Planning. He's worked with Mr. Abboud on projects and appreciates his professional and civic embracement for the community.

Board Member Safra explained what a Coast Guard City was and emphasized the importance of the designation.

11. C. City Monthly Newsletter
May 2023 Newsletter

Acting Chair Thorsrud recognized city employees and the work they do for the community and Board Member Parsons recognized Matt Steffy for a presentation he gave at the State Trails Convention.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Jim Laply, non-resident, commented he's been to the meetings before to address accessibility at the harbor and inquired about the vacancy on the Board and he was referred to the City Clerk's office for more information.

Board Member Parsons shared he learned about a lift that's used at a harbor in Boston, and the members commented regarding accessibility for people of all ages related to outdoor activities in our area.

COMMENTS OF THE STAFF

Staff had no additional comments.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Board Member Parsons recognized Rachel Tussey for her work in the Clerk's office.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board Acting Chair Thorsrud adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. All meetings are scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____



REPORT

ADA 23-011

Prepared For: ADA ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Date: JUNE 8, 2023
Staff Contact: RENEE KRAUSE, ADA COORDINATOR
Subject: ADA COORDINATOR FOR JUNE

Changes in City Clerk's Office

We have found a candidate who has accepted the position of Deputy City Clerk I and the gentleman is scheduled to start on June 19th. We are looking forward to his starting this month and getting him trained. Until that time work on previous projects is still progressing incrementally.

Recent Actions Before or Approved by City Council

Resolution 23-052, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Approving a Location to Install a Three-Part Mural by Alaskan Artist Kim McNett Inspired by the Homer Drawdown's Peatland Project To Be Placed Inside the Homer Airport Terminal Building. City Manager/Public Works Director. *Adopted.*

Resolution 23-048, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Adopting the 2023 Amendments to the Water and Sewer Utility Financial and Rate Setting Policies and Utility Financial Plan, Version 2021-01. City Manager/Public Works Director. *Adopted.*

Ordinance 23-37, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY23 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$42,500 from the Homer Accelerated Water and Sewer Fund (HAWSP) for the Purpose of Engineering and Installation of Water and Sewer for Jack Gist Park. Mayor. *Introduced May 22, 2023 Second Reading June 12, 2023.*

Ordinance 23-36, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Accepting and Appropriating a Healthy and Equitable Community Round Two Grant in the Amount of \$99,916 from the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) for Improvements to Bayview Park and to Complete a Community Health Improvement Plan. City Manager. *Introduced May 22, 2023 Second Reading June 12, 2023.*

Ordinance 23-35(A), An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer Alaska Amending the FY23 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$110,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Roads Fund for a Non-Motorized Opportunity Project on West Fairview Avenue. City Manager/Public Works Director. *Adopted.*

Future Agenda Items or Considerations

Facilities Transition Plan - I am working on getting an update from the Public Works Superintendent, Maintenance Supervisor and Port Maintenance Supervisor the week of June 5th on the Facilities Transition Plan so that document can be updated and presented to City Council. I am needing confirmation on the status of the ADA Compliance Projects outlined in that document. The last update was in April of 2021 and not completed. The City Council is to be updated annually on the progress of the ADA Compliance projects and this has been overlooked on 2021 and 2022. I aim to get that back on track. The updated document will be presented to the Board is planned for no later than August.

The Parks, Play Areas and Campgrounds Transition Plan - If everything runs smoothly for the remainder of the summer I am hoping to have this document for review by the ADA Board no later than the August meeting as well.

Report to Council

Board member Thorsrud volunteered for June 12th @ 6:00 p.m.

Board member Sorter has tentatively volunteered for July 24th @ 6:00 p.m.

Is there a volunteer for the following:

Monday, August 14th 6:00 p.m. _____ **OR** August 28th 6:00 p.m. _____



MEMORANDUM

Prepared For: ADA ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Date: JUNE 08, 2023
Staff Contact: RENEE KRAUSE, ADA COORDINATOR
Subject: DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC PLAN & GOALS

At the May 11, 2023 regular meeting the Board briefly discussed the proposed draft of the Strategic Plan and Goals.

Following is the excerpt from the minutes of the discussion:

During discussion the Board touched on goal 1, Advocate for ADA Compliance Budget and questioned how to appropriately address Council.

ADA Coordinator Krause explained her efforts to coordinate with the Public Works Superintendent for status updates for the existing Transition Plan and the need for Council to budget for more costly needs in the plan.

Regarding goal 3, actively advocate for ADA compliance with local businesses, programs, and services. Board Member Safra noted that's right up her alley and it sounds good, but questions how they are supposed to do that because it's technically not what the Board is tasked to do. They'll need to be specific on how they meet their mission, and do that too.

There was discussion regarding economic development and if it's a \$60 billion tourism industry then they need to pay attention, and that's working with businesses. That kind of focuses on the City because that's our tax base. It was suggested that could be a lead in with the Homer News as it doesn't single out businesses but addressed the bigger picture and identified opportunity. Another suggestion was that it might be worthwhile to invite groups to come and let us know what they are working on in terms of accessibility, rather than Board Members going out individually.

The Board postponed this item to this meeting due to members being absent as well as to continue discussion and review.

Currently, as of this memorandum response has not been received regarding a requested meeting with the Public Works Superintendent, Building Maintenance Supervisor and Port Maintenance Supervisor to review and update the Facilities Transition Plan. At this time I am still working on this goal, which will provide projects to lobby for Council's attention regarding mid-biennial budget requests.

There were some additional small amendments made to the document and I provided the other advisory bodies Strategic Plans & Goals as examples.

RECOMMENDATION

Continue review and discussion on the attached draft for the Board's Strategic Plan; be prepared to make change suggestions. Any action for approval must be made by way of motion.

ADA ADVISORY BOARD (ADAAB)
2023-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN & GOALS
Second Draft 06 08 2023

MISSION STATEMENT

The ADA Advisory Board shall act in an advisory capacity to the City Manager and City Council concerning Title II Regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act within the borders of the City of Homer which covers programs, activities, and services of public entities and its facilities pursuant to the powers and duties in Homer City Code 2.70.040.

VALUES, ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

General Administrative	Advise the City Manager and the City Council on necessary steps to ensure city facilities, programs and services are compliant with Title II of the ADA.
Policy	Work with the ADA Coordinator to establish written policies to effect and maintain accessibility for and in City facilities, programs, and services to include but not limited to parks, play areas, recreational programs, trails and campgrounds for approval by the City Council.
Planning	Ensure that the ADA Transition Plan(s) have implementation and evaluation components.
Fiscal	Advocate for an annual budget line item for ADA Compliance in the City Budget and assist in the preparation and presentation of budget requests in accordance with city code.
Advocacy	Promote the mission of the Board within the community. Advocate for ADA Compliance with legislators and local businesses.
Meetings	Participate in all advisory board meetings. Report on ADAAB and ADAAB activities to City Council once each month at their meetings.

GOALS

1. Advocate for an ADA Compliance Budget

- a. Ensure the budget is sufficient to address compliance issues outlined in the adopted transition plan(s) on an acceptable progress level that expresses the commitment Council made by adoption of Resolution 17-075(A) to become a universally accessible city to all and to maintain compliance.
- b. Review needs for physical upkeep and efficiencies.
- c. Promote future funding of ADA needs.
 - i. (List capital projects that may require large sums to complete see attached excerpt from current CIP document for project recommendations)

2. Explore opportunities to increase and improve service to all community members, especially students and underrepresented user-groups.

- a. Work with various department representatives and the ADA Coordinator to develop and include programs, with schedules that aid with completing non-compliant repairs and or providing accessible programming.

3. Actively advocate for ADA compliance with local businesses, programs, and services.

- a. Develop relationships with local and state organizations to assist with encouraging ADA compliance and awareness for economic success.

DUTIES OF THE BOARD & STAFF

Boardmembers

- Attend City Council meetings as assigned.
- Attend worksessions and training opportunities.
- Come to meetings prepared to take action through motions, or ask staff before the meeting for more information.
- Communicate with City Council members to gain support on ADA-related projects that need sponsorship at the Council level.

Staff Liaison

- Aid the Chair in setting the agenda.
- Compile packet material from boardmembers, write backup memos, and submit to City Manager.
- Provide information on items the board needs to review annually.
- Inform the board of City Council actions and discussion of ADA-related issues.

Clerk's Office

- Track yearly items such as reappointments and election of officers.
- Advertise any seat vacancies and process new appointment applications.
- Help the board learn to be more efficient and effective in their meetings.
- Support the board's ability to communicate with the Mayor and City Council (through Memorandums, Resolutions, and Ordinances).



Legislative Request FY2024

**City of Homer FY2024 State & Federal Legislative Priorities
approved by
Homer City Council Resolution 22-078**

1. Port of Homer: New Large Vessel Harbor
2. Slope Stability & Erosion Mitigation Program
3. Pioneer Avenue Gateway Redevelopment:
Multi-Use Community Center
4. Karen Hornaday Park Public Restroom Facility
5. Homer Harbor Critical Float System Replacement:
Float Systems 4 & 1
6. New Public Works Facility
7. A-Frame Water Transmission Line Replacement
8. Homer Spit Erosion Mitigation
9. Homer Fire Hall Expansion



1. Port of Homer: New Large Vessel Harbor

Project Description & Benefit: This project will construct a new multi-modal large vessel harbor to the north of Homer’s existing Port and Harbor. The new large vessel port will support economic development in Alaska by meeting demands of the marine industrial transportation sector and creating jobs. It will address navigational safety hazards, advance national security interests and be a backup port for marine transportation & cargo handling which is critical for Alaska’s resilience and recovery in the event a major disaster disables the Port of Alaska.

Currently, large vessels are moored at System 4 and System 5 transient floats in Homer’s Small Boat Harbor. Due to shortage of moorage space, large vessels are rafted two and three abreast constricting passage lanes, creating navigational hazards and overstressing the harbor float system.

- The new facility fills unmet moorage, maintenance and repair needs which currently send Alaska’s marine industrial, cargo and commercial fishing fleet to ports in the Lower 48 due to their overall size, draft, and simply lack of moorage space. Data show that 63% of Alaska homeported vessels spent the months of August through December 2022 in non-Alaska ports in the lower 48. This comes with significant operating costs for Alaska’s marine industrial fleet. Port expansion will capture economic activity that Alaska loses annually and create good, living wage Alaskan jobs.
- The project will also meet the US Coast Guard’s long-term mooring needs for the Arctic Security and Search & Rescue missions. The large vessel harbor will be built to USCG specifications for layover and repair of fast cutters and other assets deployed to the Arctic.

Centrally located in the Gulf of Alaska, Homer’s Port & Harbor is the region’s only ice-free gateway to Cook Inlet, the port of refuge for large vessels transiting the Gulf of Alaska, Cook Inlet, and Kennedy Entrance, and is the marine industrial and transportation system hub for central and Western Alaska.

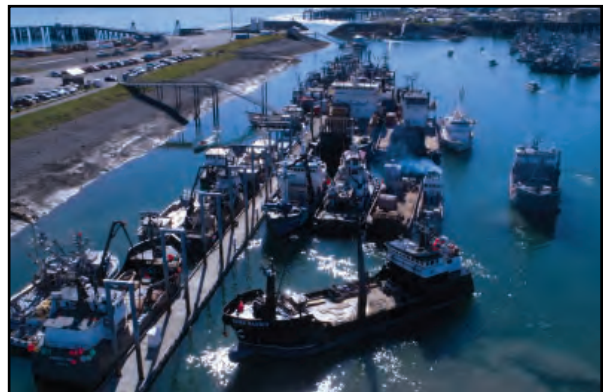
Plans & Progress: The City, State of Alaska DOT, and Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) partnered on a feasibility study in 2007, which was put on hold because preliminary results indicated the project’s Benefit to Cost ratio would be non-competitive for Federal funding. High demand and favorable changes in cost drivers since then prompted the City and USACE to reexamine feasibility utilizing a Section 22 Planning Assistance to States Program grant in 2019. Positive results led the USACE to initiate work on a new General Investigation (GI).

Federal funds for the GI have been secured through an FY23 Federal appropriation and the City and State of Alaska have committed the 50% local match required to initiate the three-year study. The GI is scheduled to begin in Federal FY23.

Estimated Project Cost:	\$278,000,000	
General Investigation:	\$ 3,000,000	(Federal funds and local match completed FY23)
Construction Estimate:	\$275,000,000	
FY2024 State Request:	\$ 46,000,000	
FY2024 Federal Request:	\$183,000,000	
City of Homer Match:	\$ 46,000,000	



Port expansion adds a new basin with its own entrance adjacent to the existing Small Boat Harbor. It will relieve large vessel congestion in the small boat harbor, provide secure moorage compatible with the USCG’s assets and cargo areas..





3. Pioneer Avenue Gateway Redevelopment: Multi-Use Community Center

Project Description & Benefit: The Pioneer Avenue Gateway Redevelopment project completes a comprehensive revitalization plan and initiates cleanup on a 4.3-acre Brownfield site located in the heart of Homer’s commercial district at the corner of the Sterling Highway and Pioneer Avenue. This project creates an economically viable reuse program that will catalyze site cleanup and construction of a multi-use community center to meet Southern Kenai Peninsula community needs, while contributing to the overall economic development of Homer’s central business district. This project is the first phase in designing and constructing a multi-use community center to adequately serve the social, recreation, cultural, and educational needs of the Homer community.

The community has long prioritized re-developing this site to better serve recreation needs and to create a welcoming gateway for visitors to Homer. A 2015 City of Homer Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture (PARC) Needs Assessment validated this perceived need; a 2022 follow up assessment showed increased public demand for recreation space, reflecting the community’s high priority on access to public recreation and educational spaces. Public input describes the community center as a comprehensive multi-generational facility that offers something for people of all ages and identified a general-purpose gymnasium, multi-purpose space for safe walking/running, meeting and convention or events space, dedicated space for youth and emergency shelter as priority features.

Over the years, the City has performed a variety of structural and feasibility analyses. However, contamination in the two former school buildings (asbestos, PCBs, mercury and lead-containing materials) requiring controlled removal and disposal has thwarted all efforts. The building is in a state of disrepair; it is only a matter of a few years before it can no longer be utilized for recreation or for City maintenance and community recreation staff currently housed in the building. The next steps to accomplishing the community goal of a new facility is twofold: finalizing design and site cleanup.

Plans & Progress: In 2018, a City Council appointed Task Force completed several months of study and recommended building a new community facility, rather than trying to rehabilitate the current building. The retrofits needed to bring the building into modern code compliance exceeds the cost of new construction. In September 2021, City Council appropriated \$75,000 for to update the recreation needs analysis, public process, produce concept designs and construction cost estimates for different options for a new multi-use center. This is a big step towards refining the scope of the project and moving it forward.

The next step is finalizing design, cost estimates and completing a feasibility study for ongoing operations and maintenance. In spring of 2022, the City determined the smaller of the two former school buildings was unsafe for occupancy, and began planning demolition of that building. The City will proceed with demolition of the smaller building while planning for a new community facility.

Total Project Cost:	\$15,795,666
FY24	
Phase 1: Abate HazMat	\$ 176,377
Phase 2: Demolish HERC2	\$ 78,094
Final Design & Feasibility Study	\$ 350,000
FY25	
Phase 3: Demolish HERC1	\$ 191,195
Construction	\$ 15,000,000
FY24 State Request:	
Phase 1, 2 & 3	\$ 350,000
(City of Homer Match: \$	445,666)
FY24 Federal Request:	
Phase 3	\$15,000,000



Conceptual design for a new community recreation facility to revitalize a Brownsfields site at the gateway to Homer.



4. Karen Hornaday Park Public Restroom Facility

Project Description & Benefit: Karen Hornaday Park is Homer’s largest, most diverse public recreation space. At 40 acres in size, it offers a wide variety of activities, including camping, ballfields, playgrounds and two public pavilions with picnic facilities, barbecue grills and campfire circles. For those looking to relax, the park offers benches to view Kachemak Bay and the surrounding mountains and glaciers, as well as access to a more intimate, natural area along Woodard Creek on the park’s eastern boundary. The park hosts an estimated 100,000 user days each year. This includes 18,000 campers, 2,000 Little League participants and spectators, plus general use park visitors and attendees of approximately 1,000 small gatherings and large events reserved in the park annually such as the Scottish Highland Games festival and concerts.

The Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan, first approved in 2009, is outdated. Development of a new plan by the Park, Arts, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission and adoption by City Council is necessary to configure and coordinate efforts to provide safe and accessible park entry for vehicles and pedestrians, and accessible park amenities in the play area and pavilion, which the park currently lacks.

The highest immediate need is an ADA accessible public restroom facility. At present, the park only offers portable toilets; the former restroom facility was demolished in 2020 due to safety concerns. Over the years the physical structure had deteriorated and its advanced age combined with high use resulted in worn interior finishes, making cleaning difficult; aged bathroom fixtures and dilapidated stalls made it nearly impossible for City maintenance personnel to provide a safe, sanitary facility. The portable toilets currently provided are inadequate to support the needs of the many visitors and groups who utilize this public recreation space.

This project significantly improves safety for pedestrians and accommodates a variety of park users with varying abilities, facilitating access to the park and ensuring inclusive recreational opportunities for all to enjoy.

Plans & Progress: Phase 1 of park improvements (including ballfields, drainage, a new playground) were accomplished through an Alaska Legislature appropriation of \$250,000 in FY 2011 and community grassroots efforts of HoPP. A Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant in 2103 completed campground improvements and developed a new day use area between the two ball fields. Significant volunteer efforts and HART Program funding in 2017 constructed two new footpaths providing pedestrian access to the park along Fairview Avenue on the southern border of the park and from Danview Avenue. Neither of these trails are ADA accessible and they do not address safety issues of children running across the road from the parking lot to access the park.

Total Project Cost: \$425,000

Restroom Utilities & Construction: \$425,0000

FY24 State Request: \$340,000

(City of Homer Match: \$85,000)



High priorities for the park are designing and constructing an entry road, parking area and accessible pathway and public restroom facilities to improve safety and accessibility.



Mid-Range Projects

Part 2: Mid-Range Projects

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ADA Transition Projects

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City Hall Access Barrier Removal

Project Description & Benefit: Under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all State and local governments must be accessible to, and usable by, people with disabilities. The basic principles of the ADA are equal opportunity, integration, and inclusion. From 2017-2019, the City of Homer ADA Compliance Committee and City Staff evaluated City Facilities to identify accessibility barriers. The results were compiled into the City’s Transition Plan, in accordance with Title II of the ADA regulations. City Hall is one of the most used city buildings throughout the year and this project corrects access barriers (ADA Priority Level 1 issues) to get into the building.

City Hall access barriers include:

- Cross slopes that exceed 1:48 ratio for all designated accessible parking spaces;
- absence of van accessible parking;
- incorrect dimensions of accessible parking spaces;
- improperly located signage;
- absence of a level landing at the top of the curb ramp below the front entrance ramp;
- handrails on ramp protrude into the path of travel and reduces the width to less than 36” width requirement;
- push bar on main entrance door protrudes into the doorway and reduces the width of the opening to less than 32” width requirement; and
- front door entrance threshold height.

Plans & Progress: Public Works Staff assisted the ADA Compliance Committee during the self-evaluation process, and together developed solutions and remedies that are included in the Transition Plan. City Council approved the Transition Plan in Resolution 19-024. This project would ideally be addressed in conjunction with local paving and asphalt repair projects in 2023-24 to take advantage of the paving equipment and contractors that will be mobilized locally.

Total Project Cost: \$400,000

Schedule: 2023-2024

Priority Level: 1



The cross slope of the accessible parking spaces at the lower entrance to City Hall exceeds the maximum allowed 1:48 under ADA standards.



Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon Accessible Ramp & Fishing Platform

Project Description & Benefit: The Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon located on the Homer Spit is a man-made marine basin that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game annually stocks with king and silver salmon smolts to provide an easily accessible recreational sport fishing opportunity. This road accessible, shore based salmon fishing site attracts a wide array of sport anglers. When salmon return to the terminal fishery from May through September, over 250 anglers line the bank at any one time.

Due to its popularity, the City of Homer enlarged the lagoon to five acres (twice its original size) in 1994, and in 1999 added accessibility features (handicapped parking and a series of ramps and landings inside the fishing lagoon) to expand recreational sport fishing opportunities to anglers with mobility challenges. The City also maintains fish cleaning tables, restroom facilities, a small picnic area and adjacent campground to serve fishermen’s needs.

The existing twenty-year old ADA platform is subject to damage from tidal action, gravel build-up and ice scouring. Over the years, despite annual maintenance, it has succumbed to these forces and no longer serves its purpose of providing ADA access to the fishing waters. Parts of it have detached from the main body and are a safety hazard. A new access ramp and fishing platform, designed and located to resist these forces, is needed to restore accessibility to the Fishing Lagoon, improve the fishing experience, and if possible, reduce maintenance.

Once a final design and Fishing Hole location is determined, Phase 2 of the project will be to make improvements necessary to connect the ramp to uplands amenities such as accessible parking spaces, restrooms, the Fishing Hole campground and fish cleaning tables.

Plans & Progress: The City has been working in concert with Alaska Department of Fish and Game to design and seek funding to replace the ramp. In 2022, the City and State prepared conceptual design options for consideration. Initially, the preferred option is for floating access (similar to a dock) that provides over-water fishing opportunities. The floats will allow the dock to move up and down during tidal swings to provide ADA access to fishing for the entire tidal fluctuation. A gangway to the dock would be affixed to a fixed pier above the high water level. The floating portion of the dock and the gangway should be designed to be removable to avoid seasonal ice damage and to perform maintenance as necessary.

Total Project Cost: \$ 770,000

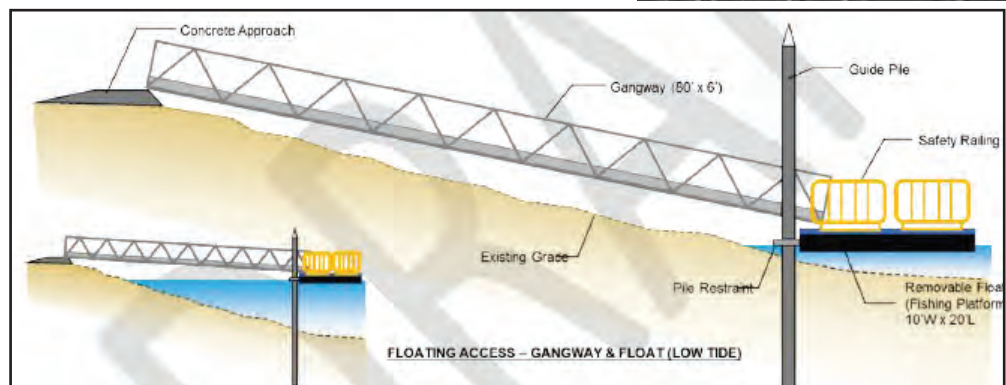
Concept Design \$ 30,000 Completed 2022;
City of Homer funds

Final Design \$70,000

Construction \$ 700,000

Schedule: Final Design 2023
Construction 2024

Priority Level: 1



A concept design of a removable gangway and floating fishing platform to restore ADA angler access to the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon.



Removing Parking and Pavement Accessibility Barriers at City Facilities

Project Description & Benefit: Under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all State and local governments must be accessible to, and usable by, people with disabilities. The basic principles of the ADA are equal opportunity, integration, and inclusion. From 2017-2019, the City of Homer ADA Compliance Committee and City Staff evaluated City Facilities to identify accessibility barriers. The results were compiled into the City’s Transition Plan, in accordance with Title II of the ADA regulations. This project corrects parking and pavement barriers (ADA Priority Level 1 issues) at City facilities to aid the entire community in accessing and participating in programs, services or activities provided by the City of Homer.

ADA regulations standardize the size and number of marked accessible parking spaces in a lot and appropriate signage placed such that it cannot be obscured by a vehicle parked in the space. Accessibility standards also require firm, stable and slip resistant surfaces. Many City of Homer facilities do not meet these standards.

This project will correct the following parking barriers in the vicinity of the Homer Harbor, at Public Works, Homer Public Library, the Animal Shelter, Baycrest pullout bathroom facility and the Fire Hall:

- Absence of accessible parking;
- absence of van accessible parking;
- incorrect dimensions of accessible parking spaces;
- improperly located signage;
- accessible parking spaces where water pools and snow melt creates icy conditions that become hazardous in the winter;
- parking space identified in gravel lots that fail to provide a path of travel to a sidewalk or facilities; and
- cross slopes that exceed 1:48 ratio on paved lots.

Plans & Progress: City staff assisted the ADA Compliance Committee during the self-evaluation process and together developed solutions and remedies that were included in the Transition Plan. City Council approved the Transition Plan in Resolution 19-024. This project is expected to proceed incrementally. In 2021, accessible vehicle and van parking spaces were paved at Harbor Ramps 3, 4 and 5, and at public restrooms and compliant signage and pavement markings were completed.

Total Project Cost: \$385,600

Phase 1: Harbor Accessible Parking, completed \$49,100

Schedule:

2024: Facility Parking Lot Cross Slopes & Signage \$336,500

Priority Level: 1



While inaccessibility issues in these spaces has been remedied since this photo was taken, it provides an example of spaces needing to be paved and a path of travel to the sidewalk provided .



Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture

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Bayview Park Restoration

Project Description & Benefit: Bayview Park is a neighborhood park at the top of Main Street in the heart of Homer. This project seeks to improve accessibility and safety of the Park and its playground elements to make the park more user-friendly for preschool age children and for children with disabilities or mobility issues.

In 2011, volunteers with Homer’s Early Childhood Coalition adopted Bayview Park and coordinated with Corvus Design to create a park master plan. While some elements of the plan have been implemented, much more work needs to be done to fully transform the park into a fun, safe and accessible destination for young families. Project goals include:

- Replacing the existing high-maintenance, and rickety white picket fence with a wood frame-chain link fence to improve the stability and durability of the fence. The fence also provides a level of safety for young children around the busy roads and deep water-filled ditches surrounding the park.
- Procuring and installing inclusive playground equipment and safety surfacing to reduce risk of injuries, new playground equipment to ADA standards, and extending ADA trail to the new elements.

Plans & Progress: . In 2022, the City installed an ADA accessible sidewalk to the park from Main Street as part of the new Main Street Sidewalk project. The design replaces the existing open ditch on the east side of Bayview Park with a closed storm drain system and creates accessible parking and access to that side of the park. The Kachemak Bay Rotary Club committed \$10,000 in 2022 to help procure new playground equipment, which the City plans to install in 2023 with the help of community volunteers.

Total Project Cost: \$190,000

Schedule: 2023-2024

Priority Level: 1



Though charming, the white picket fence that surrounds Bayview Park is in need of constant repair. A more practical chain length fence is needed to keep young children out of roads and ditches.



Homer Spit Campground Renovations

Project Description and Benefit: The Mariner Park and Fishing Hole campgrounds are situated on the Homer Spit. Their waterfront locations and close proximity to recreational activities and visitor support services make the campgrounds very popular with both Alaskans and out-of-state visitors. City campgrounds are heavily used in the summer and shoulder seasons, hosting over roughly 20,000 campers annually and generating up to \$200,000 in revenue through camping fees.

The campgrounds are primitive. Campers use porta potties and have no means of hand washing. Campsites are pot holed, poorly marked and without tent pads. Many lack picnic tables and fire rings.

This renovation project greatly improves the camping experience and makes it easier to maintain the campgrounds to a higher standard of cleanliness and safety. Renovations include installing hand wash stations, grading campgrounds, delineating and labeling campsites, developing tent pads in tent camping areas and installing picnic tables and fire rings at sites that currently lack these basic amenities. Mariner Park Campground would also benefit from landscaping.

Completing these renovations bring the campgrounds to a minimum standard to keep them healthy, attractive and competitive. Visitors have a choice of where to stay on the Kenai Peninsula. We anticipate these upgrades will attract new visitors and motivate existing visitors to extend their stays or come back. Summer and shoulder season visitors contribute significantly to Homer’s overall economy through their patronage of local businesses throughout their stay.

Plans and Progress: This project is 80% shovel ready.

Total Project Cost: \$95,000

Mariner Park Campground	\$50,000
Fishing Hole Campground	\$45,000

Schedule: 2023-2024

Priority Level: 1



Mariner Campground at the base of the Homer Spit.



Homer Spit Trailhead Restroom

Project Description & Benefit: The parking lot at the intersection of the Ocean Drive bike path and Homer Spit Trail gets heavy use year round. The Spit trail is a popular staging area for biking, running, walking, and roller blading. Parents bring their young children to ride bikes because the trail is relatively flat and has few dangerous intersections. An ADA accessible restroom would be used by recreationalists and commuters using both trails.

Total Project Cost: \$400,000

Schedule: 2025

Priority Level: 2



The parking lot at the Spit trail head full of cars on a sunny day.



Jack Gist Park Improvements, Phase 2

Project Description & Benefit: Jack Gist Park was founded in 1998 on 12.4 acres of land donated to the City of Homer by a private landowner. As originally envisioned by the Jack Gist Recreational Park Association, this parcel has been developed primarily for softball fields. It also features a disc golf course.

The proposed project will complete Phase 2 by improving drainage around the upper ball field. Phase 3 will provide potable water (water main extension) and construct a plumbed restroom.

Plans & Progress: Phase 1 of this project was completed in 2011 after a five year period of incremental improvements. In 2005-2006, a road was constructed to Jack Gist Park from East End Road, a 70-space gravel parking area was created, and three softball fields were constructed including fencing, dugouts, and backstops. In 2008, bleachers were installed at all three softball fields. In 2009, three infields were resurfaced. In 2010, with volunteer help, topsoil was spread and seeded on two of the three fields and the parking area was improved and expanded. 2011 saw improvements to the third ball field: drainage improvements on the outside perimeter (right and left field lines), imported material to improve the infield and topsoil and seeding to improve the outfield. In 2022, the City installed a bike path connecting Jack Gist Park to two new nearby residential developments and to East End Road.

Phase 2 Project Cost: \$60,000

Schedule: 2024-2025

Priority Level: 2



One of the softball fields at Jack Gist Park.



Harbor Ramp 8 Public Restroom

Project Description & Benefit: Ramp 8 serves System 5, the large vessel mooring system. Previously, restroom facilities for Ramp 8 consisted of an outhouse. This outdated restroom brought many complaints to the Harbormaster’s office. Sanitary restroom facilities are expected in modern, competitive harbors along with potable water and adequate shore power. The Ramp 8 outhouse was removed in 2015. A new public restroom in this location is needed to serve the crew members of large vessels when they come to port.

Plans & Progress: Design costs for this project would be minimal as the City has standard public restroom plans engineered that can be easily modified for this location.

Total Project Cost: \$400,000

Schedule: 2025

Priority Level: 3



Ramp 8 sees heavy use from crews of large vessels moored in System 5. Since this outhouse was removed in 2015, crews either use a porta potty provided by the Port & Harbor, or walk 1.5 blocks to use the nearest restroom facility.



Ben Walters Lane Sidewalk Facility

Project Description and Benefit: This project will provide approximately 6,150 feet of ADA-compliant sidewalk, curb and gutter on Ben Walters Lane from Lake Street to East End Road. The need for a sidewalk on Ben Walters Lane was first articulated in Homer’s 2004 Non-Motorized Transportation and Trail Plan and has been included in the 2021 update. This project also aligns with transportation goals articulated in the City’s Comprehensive Plan.

Ben Walters Lane is a busy mixed-use collector street, collecting traffic from adjacent neighborhoods and connecting it to two of Homer’s main thoroughfares: East End Road and Lake Street. Ben Walters Lane supports both residential and commercial traffic. For example, the street is home to many single family residences, some multi-family residences, two City parks, multiple businesses and health care facilities. Further, Ben Walters provides access to two schools located on East End Road and numerous businesses located on Lake Street.

Ben Walters traffic is not just leisure neighborhood traffic; motorists travel Ben Walters at times to bypass the East End Road and Lake Street intersection, hoping to move more quickly to the Sterling Highway, and on their way to and from work places located on Ben Walters Lane. Because Ben Walters Lane has no sidewalks, pedestrians travel along the side of the road, which is hazardous. The road is narrow and side drainage ditches are deep and often flowing with water.

A sidewalk facility will create a safe environment for pedestrians as well as young children biking to school and will fill a missing gap in connectivity between East Road and lower Lake Street sidewalks and connect to the East End Road bicycle and pedestrian path.

Plans & Progress: The overall project is conceived as one ADA accessible sidewalk located within the vehicular right of way on one side of Ben Walters Lane from East End Road to Lake Street. Some drainage work within the right-of-way would be required to properly direct storm water runoff to catchment basins and adjacent roadside ditches. An engineer’s conceptual cost estimate for the project has been developed. The City has commissioned the design of the facility and the project will be fully shovel ready in fall 2022.

Total Project Cost: \$1,673,436

Design & Survey: \$ 73,436 (City of Homer FY22 Capital funding)

Schedule: 2023

Priority Level: 1





Heath Street Rehabilitation

Project Description & Benefit: This project rehabilitates Heath Street, a collector street in Homer that runs north-south from Pioneer Avenue to the Sterling Highway. Heath Street provides critical access for Homer’s public safety responders: Homer Volunteer Fire Department at the top of Heath Street on Pioneer Avenue, Homer Police Department further south on Heath Street and Homer Public Works Department at the bottom of Heath Street on the Sterling Highway. Other major destinations on Heath Street include a US Post Office, the University of Alaska’s Kenai Peninsula College, a 55,000 square foot commercial building, financial institutions and the Homer Public Library.

Heath Street is a paved road that is showing signs of failing. The vehicle wheel tracks are depressed, almost like ruts in the asphalt. Public Works believe this is being caused by a failing storm drain system and inadequate drainage that is allowing water to infiltrate the road bed causing soft spots. The condition is getting worse with each freeze-thaw cycle.

Plans & Progress: The City is in the process of performing soils investigations, survey and preliminary design to better understand the scope of the problem. Initial plan is to correct the storm drain system and repave Heath Street.

Estimated Project Cost: \$4,100,000

Schedule: 2025

Priority Level: 2



Photo showing the beginning of soft spots mid-way down Heath Street.



Homer Airport Terminal Improvements

Project Description and Benefit: The Homer Airport Terminal, built in 1994, suffers from obsolescence and deferred maintenance of its major systems such as the antiquated fire system, obsolete air handling system and failing exterior doors. While the interior lobby space offers an attractive welcome, some of the public features do not comply with the ADA, including the restrooms. The interior also needs renovation and refreshing to improve the desirability and function of its leased spaces. The exterior is showing its age – peeling paint is allowing the weather to penetrate the building’s protective siding. Broken and uneven sidewalks compromise ADA accessibility to the building, as does poorly delineated ADA accessible parking.

This project will complete repairs and renovations needed for ADA-compliance, energy efficiency, security and resilience. Improvements will benefit the Homer Airport, a Regional Airport that provides access to the intrastate air transportation system for all of the Southern Kenai Peninsula and Kachemak Bay region and supports light plane service to several small communities on the south shore of Kachemak Bay which otherwise are only accessed by boat. Aviation plays a critical role in the everyday life of rural Alaska towns; our economy, citizens, businesses, industries, and government agencies depend on aviation, often as a primary mode of transportation for travel, medical services, shipment of goods, and tourism. At times when highways are shut down, the airport facility is a lifeline. Addition of an emergency backup power generator will keep the terminal operational in times of emergency and power outages.

The project additionally benefits visitors. The City has developed a cohesive, City-wide plan for consistent and attractive wayfinding. Directional and informational signs at Homer’s gateways are the highest priority in Homer’s Wayfinding Plan. This project implements wayfinding designed for the Airport Terminal to help people get where they want to go and improve the visitor experience.

The AK Department of Transportation and Public Facilities owns the airport and leases space upon which the Homer Airport Terminal sits, to the City of Homer. The City is responsible for building maintenance, repair and renovations. The Terminal is a joint use passenger/cargo terminal comprised of a 8,673 SF, single-story building, including 1,200 SF of cargo terminal. The functional areas in the building include departure lounge/security, lobby/waiting area, airline space, baggage claim/bag car unloading, concessions, circulation, and administration/mechanical.

Total Project Cost: \$1,402,570

Interior Renovations \$378,000
ADA restroom and other ADA compliance issues
Commercial kitchen
Furniture upgrade for ADA compliance

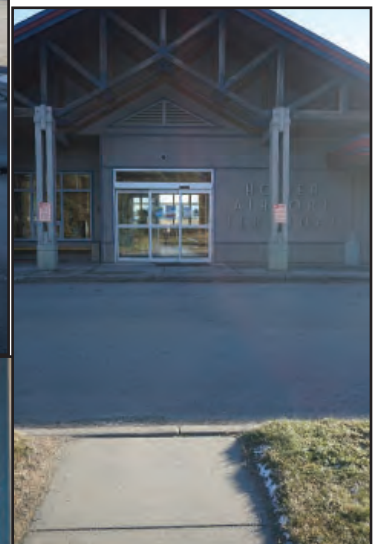
Fire/Life Safety Systems 159,156
Replace HVAC and fire alarm systems
Replace automatic entry doors for security/energy efficiency

Exterior Renovations \$659,812
Provide ADA-compliant parking and access to terminal building
EV Charging Station
Paint exterior siding
Install wayfinding signage/kiosk

Resilience Measures: \$205,602
Install backup generator for emergency power
Solar installation -

Schedule: 2024

Priority Level: 1





Homer All Ages & Abilities Pedestrian Path

Project Description and Benefit: This project combines two high priority sidewalk projects to significantly improve pedestrian access to everyday destinations, key facilities and recreational opportunities. HAPP fills major gaps in Homer’s non-motorized pathways to provide equitable, safe and low-stress pedestrian facilities connecting neighborhoods, Coast Guard housing and the Senior Center to service providers, businesses and schools. Local residents will have a safe, year-round, accessible route for daily activities; wayfinding signs and online tools will complement the project by identifying and easily sharing the route with visitors. The Independent Living Center is currently developing “Accessible Homer” and a “Blue Path” online map that identifies ADA accessible routes, businesses, service providers, and recreational opportunities within Homer. Together these efforts will increase tourism access to and economic benefits to the Central Business District. Major destinations along the HAPP include: the Public Library, markets, pharmacy, Post Office, banks, recreation areas. Improvements installed to the north and east of the Senior Center will provide a safe and accessible route to the hospital and medical district.

HAPP is two interconnected loops. The north loop connects the Senior Center on Svedlund Street south to Pioneer Avenue, and west to Main Street along Herndon and Lee Streets. The south loop intersects the north loop at Svedlund and Pioneer Avenue where an enhanced crosswalk is needed. South of Pioneer Avenue, the south loop continues on City-maintained Poopdeck Trail, connects to sidewalk on Hazel Avenue and then south to the Sterling Highway, where a highly visible pedestrian crosswalk is needed. The route then joins an existing trail from the Islands and Oceans Visitor Center, south to Old Town. From Old Town the route turns north on Main Street continuing uphill to Lee Street.

Much of the route is already constructed. The scope of this project completes and connects the two HAPP loops by constructing sidewalk on Svedlund Street from Pioneer Avenue to the Senior Center and from Herndon Street to Lee Drive to Main Street and on the State-owned portion of Main Street south from the Sterling Highway to Ohlson Lane. Right of way for the two sidewalk sections is secured and an environmental checklist review shows no concerns. Where the HAPP crosses Pioneer Avenue and the Sterling Highway, both arterial roads, crosswalk improvements (such as Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons, high-visibility pavement markings and/or curb extensions) are essential for pedestrian safety.

Plans & Progress: The City’s recent investment of \$1.4M to construct a sidewalk on Main Street from Pioneer Avenue north completed one major missing portion of the HAPP. Private sector support included sidewalk construction by the Aspen Hotel in 2019, connecting to the Sterling Highway and to the Island and Ocean Visitor Center sidewalk and public trails. The City adopted a Wayfinding Plan in 2022; the City has funding to provide wayfinding improvements at several locations along the HAPP.

Total Project Cost: \$3,900,000
Svedlund/Herndon & Lee Street: \$1,600,000
Main Street South to Ohlson Lane: \$2,000,000
Crosswalk improvements: \$300,000

Schedule: 2024

Priority Level: 1



HAPP completes important sidewalk connections and installs high visibility crosswalks to improve non-motorized transportation and safety..



Svedlund/Herndon Street Sidewalks

Project Description and Benefit: This project constructs an ADA-compliant sidewalk connecting the Senior Center to Pioneer Avenue via Svedlund Street and to Main Street via Herndon Street, which are currently lacking sidewalk facilities. The Senior Center, an Assisted Living center and two independent senior housing developments are located on Svedlund and Herndon Streets, just one block from Pioneer Avenue, the Independent Living Center and everyday services provided by Homer’s central business district and a few blocks to Main Street and several medical providers. The construction of a safe, accessible route for residents to travel to Homer’s Central Business District and Medical District is a relatively small project with great impact.

Seniors and disabled citizens face challenges with regard to mobility and independence in an automobile oriented society. For those who do not drive, maintaining a high quality of life depends upon the proximity and accessibility of the non-motorized transportation system. Being able to move about the community without having to rely on others is vital for maintaining physical and emotional wellbeing, reduces the risk of isolation and quality of life improves.

Plans & Progress: The plan is for installing a sidewalk, curb and gutter on the west side of Svedlund to Pioneer Avenue and on Herndon Street to Lee Street.

Total Project Cost: \$1,600,000

Schedule: 2024

Priority Level: 2



Pictured above, the sidewalk that might connect Homer Senior Center and independent senior housing to Pioneer Avenue ends after only a few steps north on Svedlund Street. Senior Center.

Herndon Street, pictured at left, also has no sidewalk.



Wayfinding & Streetscape Plan Implementation

Project Description and Benefit: Homer lacks coherent wayfinding for visitors and residents alike to find destinations by vehicle or on foot. The City hired Corvus Design to create a wayfinding plan for the City in 2021, which was adopted in 2022. Recommended improvements include working with the Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) to revise many Sterling Highway signs, and install themed signage for drivers and pedestrians so they can easily find destinations. The work also included recommendations on benches, trash cans and landscaping which contribute to the small town character of downtown Homer.

Plans & Progress: The City of Homer adopted a wayfinding and streetscape design scheme in 2022.

Total Project Cost: \$271,000

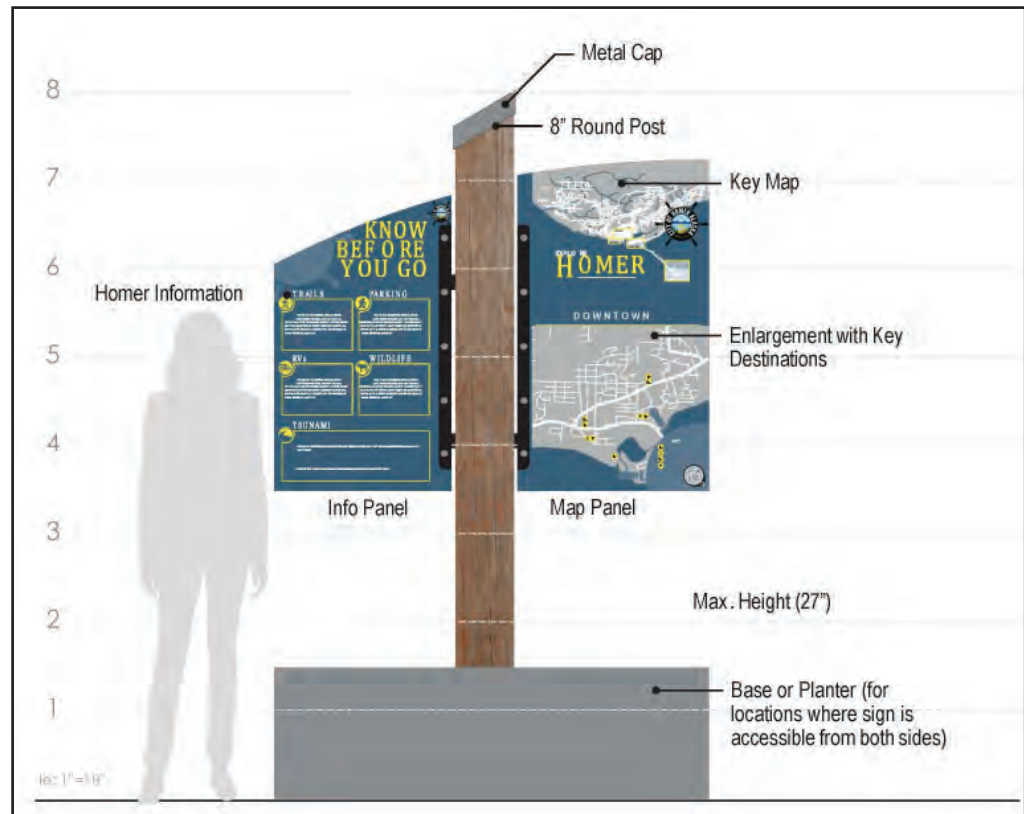
Phase 1: \$120,000

Installation of twenty-six Pioneer Avenue banners, twenty-six wayfinding signs, ten benches and begin DOT sign replacement.

Phase 2: Installation of twenty six wayfinding signs, two gateway signs and an additional ten benches.

Schedule: Phase 1 2023

Priority Level: 2



Schematic design of wayfinding sign.



Baycrest Overlook Gateway Improvements Phase 3

Project Description & Benefit: When you drive to Homer on the Sterling Highway, it is hard to resist pulling over at the Baycrest Hill Overlook, even if you have been there before. The overlook (constructed in the 1990's by visionaries at Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities during a Sterling Highway reconstruction project) has become the primary entrance to Homer. and creates a powerful first impression. The first experience of that Baycrest view is cited by many residents as the primary reason for deciding to settle in Homer.

Baycrest Overlook is one of three gateways into Homer and is part of Homer's Gateway Project, which entails enhancing visitor and resident experiences at the entrances to Homer. This project requests that the State Department of Transportation complete Phase 3 of the Baycrest Overlook Interpretive Plan -- paving the parking lot near the Welcome to Homer sign and upgrading the restroom facility -- as part of the Sterling Highway Reconstruction project Anchor Point to Baycrest Hill.

The City of Homer's ADA Transition Plan identified immediate needs to bring the site into ADA compliance, making the site accommodating for all visitors. The Van Accessible parking space needs clear demarcation with new painted lines and a "Van Accessible" sign. Public restroom improvements include relocating the grab bars to meet all location requirements, specifically addressing objects below the grab bar, and marking the restroom for the visually impaired.

Plans & Progress: The Gateway Project began in 2009 when a collaborative effort (involving the City of Homer, Alaska State Parks, National Park Service, Kachemak Research Reserve and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) created a beautiful diorama in Homer's airport terminal highlighting the wealth of public and private lands available to everyone who comes to Kachemak Bay.

In 2013, the City and State of Alaska DOT continued the focus on Homer's gateway sites by collaboratively producing the Baycrest Overlook Interpretive Plan which outlines three phases for improving the overlook. Many of the goals of the first two phases have been achieved, including making the site more welcoming, orienting visitors to the natural landscape and community, helping encourage commerce and allowing travelers a comfortable place to linger, rest and enjoy the spectacular setting.

To address the immediate accessibility issues, the City of Homer Public Works Department will evaluate the options of scheduling repairs in house as time and budget allow, and preparing cost estimates and requesting funds for a contractor to correct accessibility barriers cited in the ADA Transition plan.





Kachemak Drive Non-Motorized Pathway

Project Description & Benefit: This project constructs a separated non-motorized pathway along Kachemak Drive from East End Road to Ocean Drive. Kachemak Drive, a State-owned/operated road in the City of Homer, is a primary east-west transportation corridor. It is a 35-miles per hour, narrow, winding road with essentially no shoulders, only side-slopes and drainage ditches along most of its length.

The road provides access to a state airport with general aviation businesses, light industrial businesses, private residents and connects the Homer Spit to several marine storage and repair businesses, most notably Northern Enterprises, the largest industrial marine storage, repair and boat launch complex on the southern Kenai Peninsula. As a major truck route and commuter route for residents in Kachemak City and other communities further out East End Road, traffic is often heavy, with over 1,500 vehicles daily. Kachemak Drive is also a tsunami evacuation route and is the only alternate route connecting Homer to East End Road should emergencies close the primary west to east Pioneer Avenue route.

Kachemak Drive is also heavily used by pedestrians and cyclists. Bicycle traffic has increased over the years due to the advent of wide-tire winter bicycles and Homer’s increasing popularity as a bicycle-friendly town. Recreational and commuter bicyclists and pedestrians use Kachemak Drive to connect to non-motorized paths along the Homer Spit, Ocean Drive, and East End Road. However Kachemak Drive is inherently unsafe for non-motorized users due to narrow lane width, the lack of shoulders, traffic levels and design speed. Cyclists are forced to the left of the fog line. Motorists typically slow down behind bicyclists, wait until there is no oncoming traffic, then pass by crossing the center line. This condition is dangerous to motorists and cyclists, especially on curves and the hill leading up from the base of the Spit to the airport, where visibility is low -- creating the perfect storm for conflict between motorized and non-motorized users at best, and injury or fatalities at worst.

The benefit of constructing a two-lane, unpaved separated path that runs parallel to Kachemak Drive is two-fold. Foremost, it will significantly improve safety for non-motorized users, provide greater accessibility and pedestrian path connectivity, as well as a higher quality of life for residents and visitors alike. The project, if coupled with the Green Infrastructure Erosion Mitigation project will aid in road longevity by mitigating significant frost heaving caused by ground water.

Plans & Progress: The City has long identified this route as a high priority safety issue. In 2012, the City invested \$20,000 to develop a conceptual design for the first half-mile of a Kachemak Drive Path, from the intersection of Kachemak Drive and Ocean Drive to a parking area at the crest of a hill on Kachemak Drive. This work resulted in a recommended trail cross-section for an 8-foot wide path to be built on the south side of Kachemak Drive.

When Alaska DOT&PF began scoping a “1R” road project for Kachemak Drive, Homer City Council passed Resolution 21-065 requesting that DOT include accommodations for non-motorized users in the 1R project plan and evaluate a future project to create safe and sustainable pedestrian amenities along Kachemak Drive. The AK DOT&PF Preconstruction Manual states, “Expect bicycle traffic along most roads and streets. Where bicyclists are allowed, all new construction and reconstruction must provide for use by bicyclists and pedestrians.”

The City proposes to partner with the State to accomplish this goal.

Estimated Project Cost: \$2,000,000



Bicyclists riding in the right-of-way after turning onto Kachemak Drive from the Homer Spit bicycle path..



Main Street Rehabilitation

Project Description & Benefit: This project will rehabilitate storm drains and pavement on the state-owned portion of Main Street from Pioneer Avenue south to Ohlson Lane. Ideally this project will include a curb gutter and sidewalks to provide a safe means for pedestrians to travel from Ohlson Lane in Old Town north to Pioneer Avenue, making it a complete street.

Main Street is a primary north-south corridor running from Bayview Avenue (near the hospital) to Ohlson Lane (near Bishop's Beach). As such, it is a busy mixed-use collector street, collecting traffic from adjacent neighborhoods and connecting it to Homer's main thoroughfare – the Sterling Highway, which is part of the state's highway system. It is a main commercial corridor and supports residential traffic as the street is also home to many single family residences, some multi-family residences, and leads to trails systems and one of the City's most popular parks.

The road condition has deteriorated over the past several years. The pavement is raveling and the drainage system is inadequate, allowing water to infiltrate the road bed. This adversely impacts the structural integrity of the road, particularly during freeze/thaw cycles. The lower portion suffers from potholes, triggering continual complaints from the traveling public. The storm drain systems needs to be rehabilitated.

Plans & Progress: The City has held off doing any technical work because it is a State road, but would like to work with the State to identify a mechanism to make these much needed improvements to Main Street.

Estimated Project Cost: \$4,300,000



State-owned portion of Main Street in Homer, Alaska.



Main Street Sidewalk: Pioneer Avenue South to Ohlson Lane

Project Description & Benefit: This project will provide curb and gutter, sidewalks and storm drainage for the state-owned portion of Main Street from Pioneer Avenue south to Ohlson Lane.

Homer’s Main Street is a primary north-south corridor running from Bayview Avenue (near the hospital) to Ohlson Lane (near Bishop’s Beach). As such, it is a busy mixed-use collector street, collecting traffic from adjacent neighborhoods and connecting it to Homer’s main thoroughfare – the Sterling Highway, which is part of the state’s highway system. It also supports residential traffic as the street is home to many single family residences, some multi-family residences, and leads to trails systems and one of the City’s most popular parks.

Despite its proximity to businesses and residential neighborhoods, Main Street has no sidewalks, making pedestrian travel unpleasant and hazardous. Sidewalks on this busy street will enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors alike and provide economic benefits to local businesses and the community as a whole.

Plans & Progress: Main Street is city-owned from Pioneer Avenue northward, and a State street from Pioneer Avenue south. The Homer Non-Motorized Transportation and Trail Plan, adopted by the City Council in 2004, calls for construction of sidewalks on both sides of Main Street to provide a safe means for pedestrians to travel between Old Town and Pioneer Avenue, and stresses that this should be regarded as a “near term improvement” to be accomplished in the next two years. Further, City Council passed Resolution 06-70 in June 2006 requesting DOT & PF upgrade Main Street with a sidewalk facility.

In 2022, the City of Homer completed a \$1.4M project to install sidewalks on the city-owned portion of Main Street, from Pioneer Avenue North. Over the last several years, State of Alaska DOT & PF obtained \$2.8 million to make safety improvements to Main Street Intersections. In 2016, they installed a four-way stop and flashing overhead beacon at the Pioneer and Main Street intersection. They then installed a traffic signal at the Sterling Highway and Main Street intersection. However, this work did not address pedestrian safety improvements on Main Street itself.

The City strongly supports development of a continuous pedestrian facility along the whole of Main Street, leveraging it’s funding to help secure State funding for the construction of an ADA accessible sidewalk located within the vehicular right-of-way on the west side of Main Street from Pioneer Avenue to its southern terminus. Some drainage work within the right-of-way would be required to properly direct storm water runoff to catchment basins and adjacent roadside ditches.

The City is applying for Federal IIJA planning grant funds to bring to 65% design completion an equitable, accessible connected non-motorized transportation network in Homer. The City needs State partnership in this planning effort.

Estimated Total Project Cost:
\$2,000,000

Cost includes a WAG of \$100,000 for storm drain improvements.



A mother pushes a stroller along Main Street between the Sterling Highway and Bunnell Street, while another pedestrian walks on the other side of the road.



Capital Improvement Long-Range Projects

The following projects have been identified as long-range capital needs but have not been included in the Capital Improvement Plan because it is not anticipated that they will be undertaken within the six-year period covered by the CIP. As circumstances change, projects in the long-range list may be moved to the six-year CIP.

Local Roads

Fairview Avenue – Main Street to East End Road: This project provides for the design and construction of Fairview Avenue from Main Street to East End Road. The road is approximately 3,000 linear feet and the project will include paving, water and sewer mains, stub-outs, storm drains, and a sidewalk or trail. The project extends from the intersection of Main Street to the Homer High School, and finally to East End Road, and will provide an alternative to Pioneer Avenue for collector street access east/west across town. This roadway would benefit the entire community by reducing congestion on Pioneer Avenue, the major through-town road, and would provide a second means of access to the high school. It would also allow for development of areas not currently serviced by municipal water and sewer.

This improvement is recommended by the 2005 Homer Area Transportation Plan. Necessary right of way has already been dedicated by the Kenai Peninsula Borough across the High School property.

Cost: \$1.75 million

Fairview Avenue – Main Street to West Hill Road: This project provides for the design and construction of Fairview Avenue from Main Street to West Hill Road. The road is approximately 4,200 linear feet and the project will include paving, water and sewer mains, stub-outs, storm drains, and a sidewalk or trail. In conjunction with the Fairview to East End Road project, this project will benefit the entire community by providing an alternative to Pioneer Avenue for collector street access east/west across town, thereby reducing congestion on Pioneer Avenue and developing alternative access for emergency vehicle response. The need for the road extension has increased markedly with the development of three major residential subdivisions in the area.

This improvement is recommended in the 2005 Homer Area Transportation Plan.

Cost: \$3 million

Parks And Recreation

East Trunk/Beluga Lake Trail System: This project will create two connecting trails:

- The Beluga Lake Trail will partially encircle Beluga Lake with a raised platform trail that includes a wildlife observation site. The trail will connect neighborhoods and business districts on the north and south sides of the lake.
- The East Trunk Trail will provide a wide gravel pathway from Ben Walters Park east along the City sewer easement, along the north side of Beluga Lake (connecting with the Beluga Lake Trail), and eventually reaching East End Road near Kachemak City

The completed trail system will connect Paul Banks Elementary School, the Meadowood Subdivision, and other subdivisions and residential areas to Ben Walters Park. It will additionally provide hiking, biking, and wildlife viewing opportunities around Beluga Lake. In addition, it will provide an important non-motorized transportation route.

The Beluga Lake Trail, a trail connection to Paul Banks Elementary School and East End Road are included in the 2004 City of Homer Non-Motorized Transportation and Trail Plan.

Cost: Beluga Lake Trail—\$1.5 M East Trunk Trail—\$2 M



Capital Improvement Long-Range Projects

Port & Harbor

Deep Water/Cruise Ship Dock Expansion, Phase 1: Upgrades to and expansion of the Deep Water Dock Expansion will boost Homer Port & Harbor cargo capability. The City has a 30-acre industrial site at the base of the dock which can support freight transfer operations and serve as a staging area for shipping to and from the Alaska Peninsula, the Aleutians, and Bristol Bay. Handling containerized freight delivery to the Kenai Peninsula would reduce the cost of delivering materials and supplies to much of the Peninsula. The dock expansion will also enhance cruise ship-based tourism in Homer by providing moorage at the dock for two ships (a cruise ship and a smaller ship) at the same time, reducing scheduling conflicts. Dock improvements will also fulfill a contingency planning requirement under Homeland Security provisions. The Port of Alaska, through which 90% of the cargo for the Alaska Railbelt areas and the Kenai Peninsula passes, is vulnerable. If the Port of Anchorage were to be shut down and/or incapacitated for any reason, Homer's port would become even more important as an unloading, staging, and trans-shipping port. A \$1,250,000 feasibility study was completed in September 2016.

Cost: Cost estimates are \$1,750,000 for design and \$32,000,000 for construction.

Harbor Float System 5 Redesign: System 5, built in 1988, moors large industrial vessels within Homer's Small Boat Harbor. Over the years, as the number and size of large vessels has grown, the System has been used at and beyond its engineered capacity. System 5 will have to be replaced within the next ten years. In the next three years, the City will be conducting a US Corps of Engineers General Investigation into building a new harbor basin dedicated to these large vessels. Once constructed, the large vessel fleet will move off System 5, freeing up the area around System 5 (approximately 20% of the small boat harbor) to be redesigned. A newly designed System 5 will better accommodate the needs of the many small vessels on the harbor stall wait list and help define the maximum benefits of building the large harbor expansion. Conceptually, System 5's main float could be built closer to the bank and extend further toward the harbor entrance with a Tee out provide more moorage than the current system. This would also provide the option to prioritize the use of the float closest to the harbor entrance for vessels needing that kind of access (such as a Coast Guard small boat station, water taxi pickup and drop off, and emergency medical transport vessels) and to explore upgrading the old commercial ramp near System 5 to a drive down float to meet the needs of small cargo vessels, passenger loading and commercial fishing vessels.

Cost: This project works with engineers to conceptually design options for System 5 and produce rough order magnitude cost estimates.

Old Main Dock Removal and Disposal: This project removes the old Main Dock from inside the Pioneer Dock facility, which is a derelict structure in the Port & Harbor, a safety hazard and potential liability for the City. The old Main Dock was the original ocean dock in Homer, built in 1965 at the time of the first dredging for the Homer Harbor. When the Main dock was no longer safe as a commercial pier in 2001, the City built the new Pioneer Dock around it, leaving the Main Dock in place. It has deteriorated to the point that it is unsafe even for an individual to walk on. This project removes and disposes of the structure in a method that satisfies safety and environmental requirements. Where possible, salvaged materials may be sold.

Cost: Unknown



Capital Improvement Long-Range Projects

Utilities

Water Storage/Distribution Improvements Phase 4 - Spit Water Line: The existing Homer Spit water line is 40 years old and constructed of 10-inch cast iron pipe. In recent years it has experienced an increasing number of leaks due to corrosion. The condition has been aggravated by development on the Spit resulting in increased load from fill material on an already strained system. This project consists of slip lining approximately 1,500 linear feet of water main to the end of the Spit. Slip lining versus replacing the line will reduce cost while ensuring an uninterrupted water supply for public health, fire/life and safety needs, and protecting economic activities on the Spit. Grant funds from the EPA allowed the City to complete project design in 2014.

Cost: \$400,000

Bridge Creek Watershed Acquisition: Bridge Creek Reservoir is Homer's sole water source; land in this area owned by the City is protected by a watershed protection district. The City seeks to acquire additional land for the district to protect the watershed from development that could threaten the water supply, and to ensure the availability of land for future water supply. Conservation easements may also be utilized to restrict development that is incompatible with clean water.

Cost: \$1,000,000

Alternative Water Source: Currently Bridge Creek Reservoir is Homer's sole water source. Population growth within the City, increased demands for city water from residents outside City limits, increasing numbers of tourists and summer residents, and climate change has reduced surface water availability. These factors demonstrate the need for a new water source to augment the existing reservoir. An alternative water source also builds redundancy into this essential life/safety municipal infrastructure, making it possible to serve town with treated drinking water and adequate fire protection in the event of contamination or earthquake damage to Bridge Creek Reservoir.

Cost: \$16,750,000

West Hill Water Transmission Main and Water Storage Tank: Currently, water from the Skyline water treatment plant is delivered to Homer via two transmission mains. One main (12-inch) is located along East Hill Road and delivers water to the east side of town. The other (8-inch) runs directly down to the center of town. A third transmission main is needed to deliver water to the west side of town, provide water to the upper West Hill area, and provide backup support to the two existing transmission mains. A new water storage facility is also needed to meet the demands of a rapidly growing community. The addition of a third water transmission main has been identified in comprehensive water plans for over 20 years.

Cost: Design—\$500,000 Construction—\$4.5 M

STATE PROJECTS

Ocean Drive Reconstruction with Turn Lane: Ocean Drive is a segment of the Sterling Highway connecting Lake Street with the Homer Spit Road. It sees a great deal of traffic, particularly in the summer, and has become a safety concern. Currently, a bicycle lane runs on the south side of Ocean Drive. However, it is common for vehicles to use the bicycle lane to get around vehicles that have stopped in the east-bound traffic lane to make a left turn, presenting a significant risk to bicyclists and pedestrians using the bike lane. Attendance at the Homer Farmers Market during the summer season contributes significantly to traffic congestion in the area. In addition, following complete streets design, this project creates a center turn lane, well-marked crosswalks, and a separated bike path to improve traffic flow on Ocean Drive and reduce risks to drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians. The project will also enhance the appearance of the Ocean Drive corridor by moving utilities underground and providing some landscaping and other amenities.



Capital Improvement Plan Appendices

- **CIP Development Schedule61**
- **Resolution 22-07862**
- **City of Homer Financing Assumptions64**



Capital Improvement Plan Appendices

**CITY OF HOMER
2023-2028 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING PROCESS
&
FY 2024 LEGISLATIVE REQUEST DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE**

ACTION	TIME FRAME
City Council Approval of CIP Planning Schedule	May 23, 2022
Solicit new/revised project information from City Departments, local agencies and non-profits	May 24, 2022
Input for New Draft Requested By	June 30, 2022
Prepare and Distribute Draft CIP to City Advisory Groups for Review and Input:	
Planning Commission	August 3
Park, Arts, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission	August 18
Port and Harbor Advisory Commission	August 24
Economic Development Advisory Commission	August 23
ADA Committee	August 15
Administrative Review and Compilation	August 29 - September 6
City Council Worksession to Review Proposed Projects	September 12
Resolution on CIP - Legislative Request Public Hearing for CIP - Legislative Request	September 26
Adoption of Resolution by City Council	September 13
Administration Forwards Requests for Governor’s Budget	November 15
Distribution of CIP and State Legislative Request	November 15
Compilation/Distribution of Federal Legislative Request	November 2022 & January 2023



Capital Improvement Plan Appendices

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**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

Mayor/City Council

RESOLUTION 22-078

A RESOLUTION OF THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL ADOPTING THE 2023-2028 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND ESTABLISHING CAPITAL PROJECT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024.

WHEREAS, A duly published hearing was held on October 10, 2022 to introduce the final draft of the 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and to obtain public comments on capital improvement projects and legislative priorities; and

WHEREAS, The Council received comments from all of the City of Homer Advisory Boards, Commissions and the public at a duly published works session meeting on August 26, 2022 worksession; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the City Council to provide the Governor, the State Legislature, State agencies, the Alaska Congressional Delegation, and other potential funding sources with adequate information and priorities regarding the City’s capital project funding needs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Homer, Alaska, that the “City of Homer Capital Improvement Plan 2023-2028” is hereby adopted as the official six-year capital improvement plan for the City of Homer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following capital improvement projects are identified as priorities for FY2024 State and Federal Legislative Requests:

1. Port of Homer: New Large Vessel Harbor
2. Slope Stability Program
3. Pioneer Avenue Gateway Redevelopment: Multi-Use Community Center
4. Karen Hornaday Park Public Restroom
5. Homer Harbor System 4 Float Replacement
6. New Public Works Facility
7. A-Frame Water Transmission Line Replacement
8. Homer Spit Erosion Mitigation
9. Fire Hall Expansion

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby instructed to advise appropriate State and Federal representatives and personnel of the City’s FY 2024 capital project priorities and take appropriate steps to provide necessary background information.



Capital Improvement Plan Appendices

Page 2 of 2
RESOLUTION 22-078
CITY OF HOMER

44 PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the City Council for the City of
45 Homer on this 10th day of October 2022.

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CITY OF HOMER

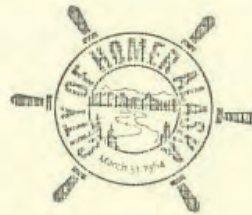
KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

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MELISSA JACOBSEN, CITY CLERK

Fiscal Note: N/A





Capital Improvement Plan Appendices

City of Homer Financing Assumptions: Capital Improvement Program

Implementation of the City of Homer Capital Improvement Plan requires utilization of various financing mechanisms. Financing mechanisms available to the City of Homer include:

- Federal grants or loans
- State grants or loans
- General obligation bonds
- Limited obligation bonds
- Revenue bonds
- Special assessment bonds
- Bank loans
- Pay as you go
- Private sector development agreements
- Property owner contributions
- Lease or lease–purchase agreements

The use of any of the financing mechanisms listed above must be based upon the financial capability of the City as well as the specific capital improvement project. In this regard, financing the CIP should take into consideration the following assumptions:

1. The property tax cap of six-mill (at which point sales tax goes away) precludes use of this revenue source for major capital improvements. Available revenue should be utilized to fund operation and maintenance activities.
2. The operating revenue of enterprise funds (Port & Harbor, Water & Sewer) will be limited and as such, currently only fund operation and maintenance activities.
3. The utilization of Federal and State grants will continue to be significant funding mechanisms. Grants will be pursued whenever possible.
4. The 1½ percent sales tax approved by voters of Homer for debt service and CIP projects is dedicated at ¾ percent to sewer treatment plant debt retirement, with the remaining balance to be used in water and sewer system improvement projects, and ¾ percent to the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Program for building, improving and maintaining Homer’s roads and trails. The annual budget will transfer a minimum of \$550,000 of the ¾ percent dedicated sales tax exclusively for road and trail capital improvements and construction. The HART Program will require property owner contributions of \$30 per front foot for road reconstruction, with an additional \$17 per front foot for paving.
5. The Accelerated Water and Sewer Program will only be considered if the fund has a debt service of 1.25 or greater.
6. The private sector will be encouraged to finance, construct, and operate certain nonessential capital improvements (e.g., overslope development).
7. The utilization of bonds will be determined on a project-by-project basis.
8. The lease and/or lease–purchase of capital improvements will be determined on a project-by-project basis.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION
2022-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN & GOALS**

<p>Ongoing Goals</p>	<p>1. Use the Commission’s SWOT analysis to develop strategies to implement policies that support Homer’s quality of life.</p>
	<p>2. Keep our ears to the ground and seek out areas of "lack." Confer with Julie about communicating with City Council and advising them on ways to overcome barriers- "the nexus of economic goals."</p>
<p>Near Term Goals < 6 Months</p>	<p>1. Familiarize with smart growth principles and best practices, and also green infrastructure concepts. Have these in our toolbox when development decisions come our way for consideration.</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Staff to provide smart growth resources.</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Promote energy resiliency through diversity and efficiency. Invite a speaker to talk about energy as that impacts cost of doing business and cost of living. (Perez)</p>
	<p>2. View economic development through the lens of balancing growth with quality of life.</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Create an EDC Mission statement as a guiding principle for what the EDC does.</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Define positive economic development, and what is the role of the EDC is in balancing growth and quality of life.</p> <p>(Perez volunteered, first quarter 2023)</p>
	<p>3. Housing: affordable short and long term housing. Seasonal workers, general work force, seniors, etc. affordable year round housing. (Marks)</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Stay engaged with the City for all housing conversations</p>
	<p>4. Present an annual report of EDC accomplishments to the City Council</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Approve memo to Council, read accomplishments to Council</p>
	<p>5. Have a conversation with the Chamber of Commerce about other economic development beyond tourism. How can the City and the Chamber work together to promote quality of life, and economic development for industries other than tourism, including messaging?</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Have a work session with the Chamber</p>
<p>Mid Term Goals 1 - 3 Years (2022 – 2025)</p>	<p>1. BR&E – review annually and plan for a new report (5 year mark is 2022-2023) <i>Opportunity:</i> Consider a funding request for the FY 2024-2025 budget</p>
	<p>2. Downtown vitalization momentum and wayfinding/streetscape plan</p> <p><i>Status:</i> Wayfinding and Streetscape work ongoing through 21 and implementation activities in 2022-2024</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Participate in the Transportation Plan, focusing on a walkable town with greenspace and connected business districts</p> <p><i>Longer term:</i> Consider storefront/Downtown and landscaping improvement program</p>

	<p>3. Economic resiliency planning.</p> <p><i>Opportunity:</i> EDC provide suggestions to KPEDD on the business tool box. EDC promote tool box to community.</p> <hr/> <p>4. Assess jobs training needs, workforce development, availability of workers and workforce supports including child care, housing.</p> <p><i>Opportunity:</i> Invite KBC Director Reid Brewer as speaker, how does the college make course offering decisions? How is work force development part of the planning? What does the KBC Advisory Board do?</p> <p><i>Opportunity:</i> Invite 9-Star to make a presentation</p> <p><i>Opportunity:</i> Brief survey to businesses and employees on their needs.</p>
<p>Long Term Goals 5 Years or More (2025+)</p>	<p>1. Multipurpose community center (HERC)</p> <p><i>Status:</i> Scoping study has been funded. Demolition of the smaller building has been funded; tear down planned in 2023.</p>

OVERALL EDC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Economic Development Advisory Commission will act in an advisory capacity to the City Manager and the City Council on the overall economic development planning for the City of Homer in accordance with Homer City Code Chapter 2.76; www.codepublishing.com/AK/Homer. The EDC also assists with official City planning documents including the following:

- Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District (KPEDD) – Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (link will bring you to all KPEDD reports): <https://kpedd.org/reports>
- Homer’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/economicdevelopment/comprehensive-economic-development-strategy
- Business Retention and Expansion Survey Report (BR&E): <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/economicdevelopment/2017-business-retention-expansion-survey-report>
- Homer Comprehensive Plan: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/planning/comprehensive-plan>

DUTIES OF COMMISSION/STAFF

Commissioners

- Attend City Council meetings as assigned.
- Attend work sessions and training opportunities.
- Come prepared to make a motion for action at meetings, or ask staff before the meeting for more information.
- Communicate with City Council members to gain support on EDC-related projects that need sponsorship at the Council level.

Staff (Julie Engebretsen)

- Aid the Chair in setting the agenda.
- Compile packet material from commissioners, write backup memos, and submit to Clerk.
- Provide information on items the commission needs to review annually.

- Inform the Commission of City Council actions and discussion of economic development related issues.

Clerk's Office

- Aid Staff in compiling packet materials and print/distribute them to the Commission.
- Aid Staff and Chair in setting the agenda.
- Tracking yearly items such as reappointments and elections.
- Help the Commission learn to be more efficient and effective in their meetings.
- Support the Commission's ability to communicate with the Mayor and City Council (through Memorandums, Resolutions, and Ordinances).

**PORT AND HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION
2022-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN**

Approved April 27, 2022

Annually, the PHC prioritizes a list of ongoing, short, medium and long-term goals to aid the commission in charting a general course for the year and keeping on-task.

Ongoing Goals	1. Provide timely, relevant comment to the City Council on Port and Harbor issues.
	2. Harbor Budget: Gain a better understanding of the process, have more communication on budget/projects between City and Harbor Staff, and review it at least annually at meetings.
	3. Establish committees when needed to work on specific tasks.
	4. Maintain the Port and Harbor Marketing Plan, continue lobbying efforts to City Council to maintain marketing funds and working closely with the Homer Marine Trades Association.
	5. Promote and support the new Large Vessel Port Expansion Project.
Short Term Goals By End of 2022	1. Continue working with City Council and City Manager to lower administrative costs to the Harbor Enterprise.
	2. Continue developing more paid parking on the Spit.
	3. Continue identifying other sources of revenue.
	4. Establish a goal for reserves and continue to understand the budget, include setting fees, and dedication of sales tax.
	5. Promote workforce development and housing on the Spit, specifically to seasonal workers.
	6. Develop recommendations to hire a Port and Harbor Project Manager.
Mid Term Goals 1 - 3 Years (2023 – 2025)	1. Create a 5-year Float Replacement Plan for the Small Boat Harbor.
	2. Seek funding to construct the Large Vessel Haul-out and Repair Facility.
	3. Develop a Homer Spit Parking Lot Improvement Plan.
	4. Explore a vessel and vehicle traffic study for the Spit to address congestion issues in the harbor.
	5. Review and provide support on rewriting the Spit Comprehensive Plan.
Long Term Goals 5 Years or More (2027+)	1. Work with Federal and State agencies to develop long-term erosion control measures for the Spit.
	2. Continue to work on overslope opportunities and leasable properties.

OVERALL PHC DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The purpose of the PHC is to act in an advisory capacity to the City Manager and the City Council on the problems and development of the City's Port and Harbor facilities. Consideration may include the physical facilities, possible future development, and recommendations on land use within the port and harbor areas. Duties and responsibilities are outlined in the PHC's Bylaws and under Homer City Code 2.64.040.

Links to online info:

- Homer City Code 2.64: www.codepublishing.com/AK/Homer
- Homer Port and Harbor Website: www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/port
- Port of Homer Terminal Tariff No. 1: www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/port/port-homer-terminal-tariff-no-1
- City of Homer Adopted Budget: www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/finance/budgets
- Spit Comprehensive Plan: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/planning/spit-comprehensive-plan-2011>

DUTIES OF COMMISSION/STAFF

Staff Liaison

- Assisting the Chair in setting meetings, preparing agendas, and other documentary material, and coordinating the acquisition of needed materials and training.
- Drafting/submitting reports, memos, and recommendations for those agenda items requiring decisions or recommendations by the Commission to City Council.
- Provide yearly information about the budget.
- Inform the Commission of City Council actions and discussion of harbor-related issues.

Commissioners

- Attend City Council meetings as assigned.
- Attend worksessions and training opportunities.
- Come prepared to make a motion for action at meetings, or ask staff before the meeting for more information.
- Request information from the Staff Liaison or Presiding Clerk.
- Understand their role as an advisory body to City Council; for any change to happen regarding City policies or code usually a council member has to support a PHC's idea and be willing to sponsor a resolution or ordinance to change established City policies or rules.
- How the commission (as a whole) can communicate:
 - Work with the City Manager through the Staff Liaison to keep City Council informed on developing initiatives.
 - Send memos to Council periodically so they have a written report of what's going on; these are written by staff and likely will be part of the City Manager Report or under the PHC Report.
 - Have a Commissioner speak at a Council Meeting under Reports; the PHC is scheduled to give a report at the next City Council meeting following the PHC's regular monthly meeting. It is best to rotate members so Council gets to see and hear from each of you over time. Pay attention to feedback from Council; the Commission may need to change direction, or come up with more support for the topic.

Clerks

- Helps with packet preparation and dissemination
- Records meetings and prepares meeting minutes
- Ensures meetings are properly advertised
- Helps members understand and comply with City policies and procedures governing advisory bodies
- Helps the Commission learn to better communicate with City Council (Memorandums vs Resolutions and Ordinances)

**LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
2023 STRATEGIC PLAN & GOALS**

Approved at the February 21, 2023 Regular Meeting

MISSION STATEMENT

The Library Advisory Board shall act in an advisory capacity to the City Manager and City Council concerning the Homer Public Library and its programs pursuant to the powers and duties in Homer City Code 2.48.050.

VALUES, ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

General	Advise the Library Director and the City Council to ensure quality library service.
Administrative	Advise city government to recruit, employ and retain a qualified library director.
Policy	Work with the Library Director to establish written policies to govern the operation and program of the library for approval by the City Council.
Planning	Ensure that the library has a strategic plan with implementation and evaluation components.
Fiscal	Solicit donations of money and/or property for the benefit of the library. Assist in the preparation and presentation of the annual budget in accordance with city code. Oversee fundraising efforts and collaboration between Friends of the Homer Library and the library's Planned Giving Program/endowment fund.
Advocacy	Promote the mission of the library within the community. Advocate for the library to legislators.
Meetings	Participate in all advisory board meetings. Report on LAB and library activities to City Council at Council meetings.
Networking	Join United for Libraries national organization and/or Alaska Library Association as a resource for policies, operations and advocacy for libraries.

GOALS

1. Advocate for Library Budget

- a. Ensure the library has a collection development budget sufficient to build and maintain a current and robust collection of materials relevant to the community.
- b. Review needs for library physical plant upkeep and efficiencies.
- c. Promote future funding of library technology needs.
 - i. Scheduled replacement of public use computers.
 - ii. Requests for new or updated technologies (printers, scanners, security, etc.)

2. Implement the Planned Giving Program for the Library

- a. Identify and use the tools provided by the Homer Foundation and the American Library Association to learn how to ask potential donors if they would be interested in donating to the Library Endowment Fund.
- b. In the next year:
 - i. Ask a person to donate to the Library Endowment Fund.
 - ii. Get one “Big Fish” donation to the Endowment Fund.

3. Explore opportunities with the Library to increase and improve library service to all community members, especially students and underrepresented user-groups.

- a. Work with Library Director to develop a schedule of community partner visitors/presenters, including partners that aid with outreach to students and underrepresented user groups.

4. Actively recruit for LAB boardmembers**DUTIES OF THE BOARD & STAFF**Boardmembers

- Attend City Council meetings as assigned.
- Attend worksessions and training opportunities.
- Come to meetings prepared to take action through motions, or ask staff before the meeting for more information.
- Communicate with City Council members to gain support on LAB-related projects that need sponsorship at the Council level.

Staff Liaison

- Aid the Chair in setting the agenda.
- Compile packet material from boardmembers, write backup memos, and submit to Clerk.
- Provide information on items the board needs to review annually.
- Inform the board of City Council actions and discussion of library-related issues.

Clerk’s Office

- Aid Staff in compiling packet materials and print/distribute them to the board.
- Aid Staff and Chair in setting the agenda.
- Track yearly items such as reappointments and election of officers.
- Advertise any seat vacancies and process new appointment applications.
- Help the board learn to be more efficient and effective in their meetings.
- Support the board’s ability to communicate with the Mayor and City Council (through Memorandums, Resolutions, and Ordinances).

PARK, ART, RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION
STRATEGIC PLAN 2017 (September 2017)

MISSION STATEMENT

The Commission is established to advocate in an advisory capacity to the City Manager and the City Council on behalf of the residents and users of the City of Homer. The Commission serves to address the maintenance, development, and support of parks and recreation facilities, as well as the recreation, artistic, and cultural programs of the Homer community.

STRATEGIC GOALS OF THE COMMISSION – What is the focus for the commission?

General Goals of the Commission

- Advocate for obtaining open and green space
- Receive notification of future land disposals with attention to park and recreation needs
- Keep existing green space and public open space
- Preserve areas of natural beauty and access
- Receive notification of vacations of public access
- Receive annual status report on the cemetery
- Increase walkability of Homer
- Improve Public Outreach for parks, recreation and trails opportunities. Provide a quarterly point of view article in the newspaper to update the community. One article a year should be about public art.
- Keep existing staffing levels for Parks Maintenance
- Increase Community Rec staffing by .5 FTE over the 2015 budget.
- To encourage and include art in public spaces in Homer
- To educate the Council and public about the mission and projects of the City's public art program
- To advocate with the City of Homer's city council, manager and staff to include public art when planning all city upgrades, renovations and new projects
- Oversee execution of Public Arts Projects, RFPs, and selections committees
- Continue uniform sign installation at all city parks, trails and campgrounds
- Encourage programing for seniors, therapeutic and adaptive users *(CR is open to any/all classes the Community wishes to offer.)*
- Encourage ADA compliance and accessibility for parks and recreation programs
- Keep HERC available for education and recreation

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMISSION – Must have achievable results, an action statement.

1-2 Year Projects

- Create a criteria for sidewalk projects, how to prioritize them, and a list of the top 5 projects.
- Diamond Creek Recreational Improvement Plan –
 - o Next Steps, Trails improvements, Trail head parking lot, consider building a summer trail. Work with other user groups to accomplish next steps.

- Continue work on Karen Hornaday park drainage, the parking lot, and master plan implementation. Immediate goal of identifying small projects in concert with the master plan. Drainage issues behind the ballfields are an immediate goal. Restroom remodel/replacement needs to be planned for.
- Increase the city budget for parks and recreation. Increase reserve savings and add 0.5 FTE. (budget request, annually)
- Improve pedestrian access to Mariner Park from the Homer Spit Road and the bike path. Lobby to have the extension of the bike path placed on the STIP list.
- Continue to use the HERC building for Community Recreation as long as possible.
- Complete park user agreements with user groups (staff)
- Investigate Endowment funding
- Increase PARCAC budget by \$500 a year for public arts duties (\$1500 total Commission budget) *(2018 request)*
- Investigate requiring parks within new subdivisions (staff to provide info)
- Organize parking at Coal Point Park in conjunction with leases
- Install beach signage (Mariner Park is next)
- Increase public access to public art
- Make the sister city art collection more visible to the public *(working with Pratt)*
- Work with DOT to install directional signage to Reber Trail on West Hill Road
- Install Reber Trail directional signage on Fairview Ave so its easier to find
- Develop a plan to promote parks, public art and trails (Parks day and Trails Symposium)

3+ Year Projects

- Advocate for a Parks and Recreation Department, and funding a department
- Support efforts for a multi-use recreational facility
- Mariner Park Site Improvements – Level parking area, delineation of day use area and camping area, define and improve campsites, increase number of spaces and revenues
- Keep greenspace on the Spit
- Make an annual report to City Council about public art

ACTIONS OF THE COMMISSION –Who will do what, when and how?

- Have quarterly reports in the newspaper.
- Have a committee go to City Council with recommendations, action plan and time frame.
- Every time there is a memo from the Commission to City Council a Commissioner should go to the meeting and speak about it.
- A commissioner should attend every council meeting to speak with council and keep them informed about what they are working on.
- Provide comments during Comments of the Commission if Commissioners are involved in outside organizations that involve a concern of the Commission.
- When visiting clerk's office, grab the minutes of other groups. Attend an upcoming meeting if items of P&R interest are being discussed. (Or subscribe to email updates on the City website).
- Network with other committees and commissions, in city and outside of city limits



MEMORANDUM

Prepared For: ADA ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Date: JUNE 8, 2023
Staff Contact: RENEE KRAUSE, ADA COORDINATOR
Subject: POSTPONEMENT OF SCHEDULING SITE AUDITS FOR CITY TRAILS

The City has a number of known and unknown trails and walking paths or shortcuts that are used by the residents of Homer. Many of these trails are not maintained City facilities and as such are not mandated to be ADA Compliant. There are also trails that are located within right of ways that are actually owned by the State or federal government but are maintained by the City and are considered Pedestrian trails or even a multi-modal trail. These should be and for the most part are ADA Compliant but are in need of better maintenance.

Below are trails that are being mentioned in the Transportation Plan draft:

Homer Spit Trail
Beluga Slough Trail
Poopdeck
Library Trail
Lucky Shot

Economic Development Manager Engebretsen has recommended waiting until after the final draft of the Transportation Plan so that work can be coordinated on these trails and in tandem with proposed future Improvements. The transportation plan draft should be presented in the next several weeks.

RECOMMENDATION

Make a motion to postpone site audit visits until review and presentation of the Draft Transportation Plan at the recommendation of Staff

ADA ADVISORY BOARD 2023 Calendar

	AGENDA DEADLINE	MEETING	CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR REPORT*	ANNUAL TOPICS/EVENTS
JANUARY	No Meeting Scheduled			
FEBRUARY	Wednesday 2/1 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 2/09 5:00 p.m.	Monday 2/13 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADA Budget Review *may not be applicable during non-budget years Development of Annual Strategic Plans & Goals
MARCH	No Meeting Scheduled			
APRIL	Wednesday 4/5 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 4/13 5:00 p.m.	Monday 4/24 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review first draft Parks, Play Areas & Campgrounds Transition Plan • ADA Budget Review FY23-FY25
MAY	Wednesday 5/3 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 5/11 5:00 p.m.	Monday 5/22 6:00 p.m. [Sorter]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in Education and outreach activities for ADA Compliance in Local businesses to promote Accessible Homer • Draft Strategic Plan for 2024
JUNE	Wednesday 6/7 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 6/8 5:00 p.m.	Monday 6/12 6:00 p.m. [Thursrud]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule Site Audits for Trails • Finalize Strategic Plan
JULY	Wednesday 7/5 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 7/13 5:00 p.m.	Monday 7/24 6:00 p.m. [Sorter] Tentative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term Expiration Notices/Reapplications Sent Out • 2nd Draft Parks, Play Areas & Campgrounds Transition Plan • Site Audits for Trails
AUGUST	Wednesday 8/2 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 8/10 5:00 p.m.	Monday 8/14 6:00 p.m. []	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reapplications Due • Continued Site Visits for City Trail Transition Plan, • Review Draft Transition Plan Parks
SEPTEMBER	No Meeting Scheduled			
OCTOBER	Wednesday 10/4 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 10/12 5:00 p.m.	Monday 10/23 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve Meeting Schedule for Upcoming Year • Board Training by City Clerk
NOVEMBER	Wednesday 11/1 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 11/9 5:00 p.m.	Monday 11/13 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Strategic Plan & Goals for 2024
DECEMBER	No Meeting Scheduled			

*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.



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Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE: May 18, 2023
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for May 22, 2023 Council Meeting

US Army Corps Charrettes

The US Army Corps of Engineers' charrette process got underway on Wednesday, May 17th and is scheduled to run through Friday, May 19th. Working together with the Army Corps, and our owner's representative HDR, the charrette process was expanded and public engagement opportunities increased beyond what would be provided in a "standard" project study. Only one day of the charrette occurred before submittal of my report, but I have high hopes for the outcome of this early checkpoint in the study.



Todd Cook Wins AWWMA Large System Manager of the Year Award!

In addition to the City's award for the large wastewater system of the year, Todd Cook, Homer's Water/Sewer Superintendent, received the Large System Manager of the Year Award from the Alaskan Water & Wastewater Management Association (AWWMA) at its annual conference in Anchorage on May 10, 2023. This award is in "recognition of excellence in performance as a manager of a large water and/or waste water system in Alaska. "Large" refers to any system serving 2,500 or more customers, which means Todd was chosen from managers representing Anchorage, Wasilla, Juneau and other, much larger cities. Todd has served the citizens of Homer for almost 14 years. He has been instrumental in introducing upgrades to the City's water and waste water operational and maintenance protocols that have improved water quality for Homer customers and Kachemak Bay. Prior to coming to Homer, Todd worked for the water/sewer utilities of Cordova and Sitka.

He plays the Native American flute, bass guitar and drums. His eight children include multiple wrestling champions, boys and girls, who have represented Homer at state and national wrestling tournaments over a period of over 10 years. I'm planning on having Todd make a brief presentation to Council in June about our water and wastewater systems.

Information Technology Plan Update

The IT Division, under the direction of Library Director Dave Berry, developed its first comprehensive Information Technology Plan in 2021. In a time of pandemic, high demand for tech services, and low staffing levels, it was very helpful to deploy a well-structured planning framework to focus our IT efforts. Earlier this year, Bill Jirsa joined the IT team as the Chief Technology Officer. He is currently leading the team through an update to the IT Plan for FY24 and beyond. Our main priorities for the foreseeable future are cyber-security, service management, and infrastructure reliability. We're still understaffed for the size and complexity of our organization's IT assets (I would recommend building up to at least five FTE across the next few years), but with all three budgeted positions filled in IT we are seeing a lot of great work from the team.

Budget Chat on KBBI

Mayor Castner, Councilmember Lord, and I were the guests for this week's Coffee Table program. We spent the hour talking about the budget currently before Council, the process of developing the budget, and answered questions from the host and listeners about the budget.

Summer Reading Program

The Homer Public Library's summer reading program launches on June 3rd. There are numerous special events planned for June and July listed on the City's website: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library/summer-hpl-2023>

Return to Municode Meetings

After a year of working with iCompass for agenda management, the Clerk's Office is returning to Municode Meetings. Across the last year, staff worked with iCompass to transition to their platform. Ultimately the program was not a good fit for the City. We did, however, receive benefit from the process. We are quite happy with the look of the new agenda layout, we've also made improvements to internal processes inspired by things we learned in our attempt to transition platforms. We are in the process of moving back to the Municode Meetings program we were using previously. Municode doesn't have as many bells and whistles as iCompass, but it has proven to be a better fit for how we do things here in Homer.

Public Works Campus Land Purchase

I mentioned at a previous meeting that we may be close to having a parcel for Council to consider purchasing as part of a long-term plan to move parts of Public Works out of the tsunami zone and into better fitting facilities for our heavy equipment. Finding an appropriate parcel has been a priority since the Public Works Task Force completed its work in fall of 2021. We've had difficulties finding parcels that meet the City's needs, are available for sale, and have sellers willing to let them go for a price that can be supported by an appraisal. We have zeroed in on an 8+ acre parcel that checks those boxes. I anticipate that an ordinance will come to Council at the next regular meeting for introduction to move forward with a purchase of a parcel for Public Works. We don't currently have a timeline for the next phase of that project, however, if we do purchase land it will open up grant opportunities not currently available to us for relocating the campus.