#### **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

#### 1. **Call to Order**

#### 2. **Approval of Agenda**

**Public Comment:** The public may speak to the Commission regarding matters on the agenda that are not 3. scheduled for public hearing or plat consideration. (3 minute time limit).

#### **Reconsiderations:** None 4.

#### 5. **Adoption of Consent Agenda**

All items on the consent agenda are considered routine and non-controversial by the Planning Commission and are approved in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a Planning Commissioner or someone from the public, in which case the item will be moved to the regular agenda. Page 1

- **A.** HAPC minutes from June 1, 2016
- B. Time Extension: Foothills Sub Sunset View Estates Addn. No 2 Page 6

#### Presentations: None 6.

7. Reports: Staff Report PL 16-33, City Planner's Report

8. Public Hearings: None. Testimony limited to 3 minutes per speaker. The Commission conducts Public Hearings by hearing a staff report, presentation by the applicant, hearing public testimony and then acting on the Public Hearing items. The Commission may question the public. Once the public hearing is closed the Commission cannot hear additional comments on the topic. The applicant is not held to the 3 minute time limit.

#### 9. **Plat Consideration:** A. Staff Report PL 16-31, Homer School Survey 2016 Replat Preliminary Plat Page 11 10. **Pending Business:** A. Staff Report PL 16-34, Towers Page 21

#### 11. New Business:

12. **Informational Materials:** City Manager's Report, June 8, 2016

#### **Comments of the Audience:** Members of the audience may address the Commission on any subject. (3 min limit) 13.

- 14. **Comments of Staff**
- **Comments of the Commission** 15.
- 16. Adjournment: Next regular meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2016. Meetings will adjourn promptly at 9:30 p.m. An extension is allowed by a vote of the Commission.

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Page 33

Session 16-09, a Regular Meeting of the Homer Advisory Planning Commission was called to order by Chair Stead at 6:30 p.m. on June 1, 2016 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS BRADLEY, HIGHLAND, STEAD, VENUTI

ABSENT: BOS, ERICKSON, STROOZAS

STAFF: CITY PLANNER ABBOUD DEPUTY CITY CLERK JACOBSEN

#### Approval of Agenda

Chair Stead called for a motion to approve the agenda.

HIGHLAND/BRADLEY SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

#### **Public Comment**

The public may speak to the Planning Commission regarding matters on the agenda that are not scheduled for public hearing or plat consideration. (3 minute time limit).

#### Reconsideration

#### Adoption of Consent Agenda

All items on the consent agenda are considered routine and non-controversial by the Planning Commission and are approved in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a Planning Commissioner or someone from the public, in which case the item will be moved to the regular agenda and considered in normal sequence.

A. Approval of Minutes of May 18, 2016

Chair Stead called for a motion to adopt the consent agenda.

BRADLEY/HIGHLAND SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

#### Presentations

#### Reports

A. Staff Report PL 16-28, City Planner's Report

City Planner Abboud reviewed the staff report.

There was brief discussion about the helicopter by Beluga Lake. Their plan is to make a floating dock for the helicopter to operate from. City Planner Abboud explained he may need to talk to them about their temporary structure in the uplands and he may have to address flood standards. They went through permitting with DOT and there are copies at the Planning Office. The City doesn't have much say about anything operative on the lake, but does have a little more authority on the uplands.

Question was raised regarding public notice and if the city has any say about flight paths. City Planner Abboud explained the DOT followed their process, but wasn't sure of the specifics. It was handled through the Central Region Aviation Leasing Agent Manager, Jamie Brooks, and he has copies of the permits in the Planning office. It isn't clear in Alaska Statues, but they say it's a float plane lake because it's the traditional use of the lake. There was some discussion that it's arguable whether local zoning codes apply the aviation owned land around the lake, but no one has pursued it so far. In the future maybe they can look at an airport district for the airport land to make it more specific for their operation. The area the helicopter is now is CBD, which is also problematic. Mr. Abboud said flight paths are FAA territory. The advice he has received that our authority is valid until it starts to impede or interfere with operational aspects of the airport.

#### **Public Hearings**

Testimony limited to 3 minutes per speaker. The Commission conducts Public Hearings by hearing a staff report, presentation by the applicant, hearing public testimony and then acting on the Public Hearing items. The Commission may question the public. Once the public hearing is closed the Commission cannot hear additional comments on the topic. The applicant is not held to the 3 minute time limit.

A. Staff Report Pl 16-29 Draft Ordinance 16-xx, Amending HCC 21.41.040 Basis for Establishing Flood Hazard Areas

City Planner Abboud reviewed the staff report.

Chair Stead opened the public hearing.

Katherine Carssow, city resident, commented in support of the draft ordinance. She explained that on the old map her property on Ocean Drive is less than 2 feet into old flood zone and to date it has cost them more \$12,000 in flood insurance. She urged them to please pass this because every month that goes by costs money and there is no threat to the house that warrants that much money.

There was brief discussion that the new maps won't go into effect until the date on the map.

There were no further comments and the hearing was closed.

HOMER ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES JUNE 1, 2016

VENUTI/BRADLEY MOVED THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVES THE DRAFT ORDINANCE AMENDING HCC 21.41.040 BASIS FOR ESTABLISHING FLOOD HAZARD AREAS AND FORWARDS IT TO CITY COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION.

There was brief discussion that this seems very straight forward and should be moved on to Council.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

#### **Plat Consideration**

A. Staff Report PL 16-30 for Glacierveiw Subdivision 2016 Replat, Preliminary Plat

City Planner Abboud reviewed the staff report.

Scott Smith, founder and President of Youth with a Mission and applicant, said he didn't have any comments, but thanked them for the CUP approval at last month's meeting. It seem like everything is moving forward. He's still working with the Fire Marshall and hopes to have that work wrapped up by the end of the week. This action to move the lot line will help orient the positioning of various structures they hope to build in the next several years.

There were no public comments and no questions from the Commission.

BRADLEY/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT STAFF REPORT PL 16-30 GLACIERVIEW SUBDIVISION 2016 REPLAT PRELIMINARY PLAT WITH STAFF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

There was brief comment that this preliminary plat is very straight forward and should be approved.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

#### Pending Business

A. Staff Report PL 16-31, Comprehensive Plan Update Chapter 6 Parks & Recreation (formerly Chapter 7)

City Planner Abboud reviewed the staff report and the Parks and Recreation chapter.

Initial discussion points included:

- Benefits of the Adopt-a-Park program and the need for the City to do more advertising to raise awareness and get the word out that we are looking for partners
- Ways to establish an endowment fund
  - o City provides seed money
  - o The Homer Foundation may be a resource for ideas to get it started

- Promoting affluent citizens to put their names on parks
- Matching fund opportunities

Commissioner Highland expressed her thoughts that parks and recreation should have its own chapter. She thinks the Parks, Recreation, and Culture chapter in the current plan is done really well. Homer plays an important part of parks and recreation in the state. She doesn't want to see it get absorbed by other things, but that it is its own chapter and its own thought process.

City Planner Abboud explained how the information was broken down into other sections or plans. For example, the trails are in transportation and we have a trails plan, so it doesn't seem appropriate to repeat the goals for trails in another section; and open space and green infrastructure mapping is in Chapter 4. He touched on other items, noting the information is still there, just separated out into more appropriate sections.

Other commissioners agreed it would be nice to have a parks and recreation chapter, but understand the reasoning for moving things around and that it might be better to have the topics moved into more appropriate slots. The current plan is a bit cumbersome and these changes could help stream line the updated plan.

They continued to review the implementation plan in the current plans chapter 7, touching on

- A high tunnel and volunteers to for the city's green house
- Physical barriers and parks
- Merging with community recreation is something Council would have to approve but would include a director, new employees, and probably higher wages.
- The multi-purpose arts and cultural facility and the arts and culture plan are things that need partners and something the private or non-profit sector would bring to the city.
- Updating 1E9 from ten years to five years.
- Include from the current plan page 7-2 desired improvements programs hold critical importance to the quality of life and its economic vitality.

Commissioner Highland said she was involved in putting some map together with Steve Baird. She will see if she can find it and bring it.

#### **New Business**

#### **Informational Materials**

A. City Manager's Report – May 23, 2016

#### **Comments of the Audience**

#### **Comments of Staff**

Deputy City Clerk Jacobsen said Commissioner Erickson is not planning to request re-appointment and the Clerk's office will advertise a vacancy. She also let them know the City is working on doing an ADA self-evaluation and transition plan on city facilities later this year.

#### **Comments of the Commission**

Commissioner Highland commented that Homer lost a very special person with the passing of Carmen Fields.

Commissioner Bradley thanked the group for the work on the Comprehensive Plan. She has been going over the museum's policy and procedure on collections and its hard work trying to figure out where things go.

Commissioner Venuti asked if the vacancy could be filled by a non-city resident, and City Planner Abboud confirmed that it could. Mr. Venuti said it was an an interesting meeting.

Chair Stead thanked everyone for the good discussion tonight.

#### Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers. A worksession may be held at 5:30 p.m.

MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

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

#### AGENDA ITEM C. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Time Extension Request
  - Foothills Sub Sunset View Estates Addn. No 2 Time Extension KPB File 2006-004; [Imhoff/Sunset View Estates LLC] Location: City of Homer

#### STAFF REPORT

PC Meeting: 06/13/16

#### 2006

The preliminary design for this phased subdivision was conditionally approved by the KPB Plat Committee on January 9, which was valid through January 9, 2007. On November 15, a one year time extension was requested by the surveyor on behalf of his clients and was granted and valid through December 11, 2007

#### 2007

The first phase of this design was recorded and extended the approval to May 8, 2008.

#### 2008

On April 7, the surveyor submitted a request to extend preliminary approval for another two years on behalf of his clients. The request was granted and was valid through April 28, 2010.

#### <u>2010</u>

The surveyor on behalf of his clients requested another two year time extension on March 31 that was granted and valid through March 31, 2012.

#### <u>2012</u>

On March 26, the surveyor requested to extend preliminary approval for two years on behalf of his clients. The request was granted and was valid through April 23, 2014.

#### <u>2014</u>

On March 27, the surveyor requested to extend preliminary approval for two years on behalf of his clients. The request was granted and was valid through April 28, 2016.

#### <u>2016</u>

On April 13, the owners of the property requested to extend preliminary approval for two years. They would like to sell the remaining lots of Phase 1 before developing more lots.

There have been no changes in the area that would affect this plat.

Approval of the requested time extension will extend preliminary approval to 2018, which is 12 years after the initial preliminary plat approval. <u>The owner and surveyor are put on notice</u> that staff may recommend any additional time extension requests revert the subdivision review to the new subdivision code (KPB 20.25, 20.30, and 20.60).

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Extend preliminary plat approval for two years, through June 13, 2018, subject to the following:

- 1. Copy of plat with current utility reviews being submitted with the final plat.
- 2. Plat must comply with any subsequent changes to Kenai Peninsula Borough Code up to February 11, 2014.
- 3. Concurrence by the Homer Advisory Planning Commission.





Planning 491 East Pioneer Avenue Homer, Alaska 99603

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Planning@ci.homer.ak.us (p) 907-235-3106 (f) 907-235-3118

#### Staff Report 16-33

Homer Advisory Planning Commission
Rick Abboud, City Planner
June 15, 2016
City Planner's Report

**City Council:** Due to scheduling the City Council has not met since the last Planning Commission meeting. They will introduce the ordinance to adopt the new flood maps and the rezone for the plat at their meeting of June 13<sup>th</sup>. These items are planned to up for public hearings on June 27<sup>th</sup>. The memo from the Planning Commission regarding Hickerson Memorial Cemetery is part of the City Manager's Report on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Staffing:** We have hired back Shelly Rosencrans to work our front desk Monday through Wednesday. At this time, it is a temporary position through the end of the year. Dotti will still be working in the office on Thursday and Friday. The office staffing will be reevaluated at the beginning of the new fiscal year in January.

**Comprehensive Plan:** Julie is presenting to the Economic Development Commission June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**AKDOT, Lake Street Rehabilitation:** A public meeting will be held June 21<sup>st</sup> in the Council Chambers, 4-7pm. The flyer for the meeting is included as an attachment.

#### HAPC Spokesperson at City Council meetings:

- June 13<sup>th</sup> Tom Stroozas
- June 27<sup>th</sup> Roberta Highland

July 25<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Attachments</u> AKDOT public meeting flyer



# Lake Street Rehabilitation

Homer, Alaska Project No: Z524610000

# **Project Overview**

Lake Street travels through the core of Homer, serving as an important north-south thoroughfare and accessing many local businesses. In order to improve pedestrian and bicycle facilities, improve drainage, and extend the life of the existing roadway, the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) plans to rehabilitate Lake Street.

What kind of improvements are planned? The project will:

- Rehabilitate 2,500 feet of pavement;
- Widen the road to the west and add bike lanes to both sides of the road;
- Reconstruct curb/gutter and sidewalk on the east side of the road;
- Re-establish existing ditches;
- Improve drainage by replacing failing culverts;
- Improve the intersection with the Sterling Highway;
- Acquire right-of-way interests as needed; and Relocate utilities as needed

What is next? This fall DOT&PF plans to begin the process of appraising property required for the construction. Construction is planned to take place during the summer of 2018. The date is dependent upon funding, acquiring property, obtaining permits, and other items which could delay construction.

**How can I get involved?** Please consider attending the public Open House on June 21, 2016. Options for contacting the project team are below:

Send an email to: <u>carla.smith@alaska.gov</u> Get more information on DOT&PF and its programs at: <u>http://dot.alaska.gov/</u>

Mail your comments to:

Carla Smith, P.E., Project Manager DOT&PF, Highway Design Section P.O. Box 196900, Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6900 Tel: 907-269-0544

The DOT&PF operates Federal Programs without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Full Title VI Nondiscrimination Policy: dot.alaska.gov/tvi\_statement.shtml. To file a complaint go to: dot.alaska.gov/cvlrts/titlevi.shtml.

The DOT&PF complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to participate in this public meeting should contact Jill Reese, 1-907-269-0772 or TDD number 711. Requests should be made at least 5 days before the accommodation is needed to make any necessary arrangements.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities oversees 249 airports, 11 ferries serving 35 communities, 5,619 miles of highway and 720 public facilities throughout the state of Alaska. The mission of the department is to "Keep Alaska Moving through service and infrastructure."



# **Public Meeting**

DOT&PF invites you to a public meeting about the Homer Lake Street Rehabilitation Project:

Date:Tuesday, June 21stTime:4 pm – 7 pmLocation:Cowles Council Chambers, City Hall, 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, AK 99603

Information will also be available on the Pioneer Avenue Pavement Preservation project, the Homer: East End Rd: MP 5.5-12.6 Pavement Preservation project, and the Sterling Hwy: Beluga Lake Dam Improvements project. Representatives of DOT&PF will be available to answer your questions and discuss the projects. Please join us!

Schedule Legend: 🗱 Milestone 🔶 Open House

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	20	16	2017	2018
Received Funding Approval (8/2010)	8							and the second		
Preliminary Design & Environmental	PRELIMINARY DESIGN			and the second	1.2.2.2					
Open House (8/2012)			$\Rightarrow$		使日本地名					
Homer Area Projects Open House (8/2013)	in sector	Nilson Alle		$\Rightarrow$	6.6	and the				
Environmental Document Approved (2014)					8					and a shirt
Final Design (Fall 2014 - Spring 2018)	a state of the second state of the state of the			and the second	FINAL DESIGN					
Design Study Report Approved (3/2015)			en de la composition de la composition La composition de la c	Salar Jargari		8	1	Several I		
75% Design Review Meeting (8/2015)	Maria ang kanang kan Maria kanang k	an a		Autorite Autorite	and the	1	3			
Open House (6/2016)	Sector Sector						$\prec$	$\geq$		Sector Sector
Right of Way (Fall 2016 - Fall 2017)	al mount		n - weeks he	Service State					ROW	
Open House (Spring 2018)	Carl and	T AND				a and a second	and Change			12
Construction										



STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES





Planning 491 East Pioneer Avenue Homer, Alaska 99603

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Planning@ci.homer.ak.us (p) 907-235-3106 (f) 907-235-3118

### Staff Report 16-30

TO:	Homer Advisory Planning Commission
FROM:	Rick Abboud, City Planner
DATE:	June 15, 2016
SUBJECT:	Homer School Survey 2016 Replat

**Requested Action:** Preliminary Plat approval to divide one larger lot into two smaller lots

#### **General Information:**

Applicants:	Seabright Survey + Design Kenton Bloom, PLS 1044 East End Rd, Suite A Homer, AK 99603	Mike Navarre, Mayor Kenai Peninsula Borough 144 N. Binkley St. Soldotna, AK 99669
Location:	SW corner Homer Middle Scho the Sterling Highway.	ool site, east of W Pioneer Ave on
Parcel ID:	17510069	
Size of Existing Lot(s):	33.12 acres	
Size of Proposed Lots(s):	3.564 & 29.548 acres	
Zoning Designation:	Rural Residential District & (portion within 75 ft. of center l	Scenic Gateway Corridor Overlay ine of the Sterling Highway),
Existing Land Use:	Middle School	
Surrounding Land Use:	North: Residential South: Hotel/Commercial East: Residential, Office, and West: Vacant/Residential.	HERC.
Comprehensive Plan: Ch 4, Goal 3:	Encourage high quality bu complements Homer's beautifu	-
Wetland Status:	Discharge Slope and Wetland U site.	Jpland Complex are found on the
Flood Plain Status:	Zone D, areas in which flood possible.	hazards are undetermined, but
BCWPD:	Not within the Bridge Creek Wa	tershed Protection District.
Utilities:	City water and sewer are availa	ble.

Public Notice: Notice was sent to 148 property owners of 135 parcels as shown on the KPB tax assessor rolls.

**Analysis:** This subdivision is within the Residential Office District. This plat vacates a common lot between two parcels.

#### Homer City Code 22.10.051 Easements and rights-of-way

A. The subdivider shall dedicate in each lot of a new subdivision a 15-foot-wide utility easement immediately adjacent to the entire length of the boundary between the lot and each existing or proposed street right-of-way.

**Staff Response:** Need to add 15 foot utility easement along ROW.

B. The subdivider shall dedicate in each lot of a new subdivision any water and/or sewer easements that are needed for future water and sewer mains shown on the official Water/Sewer Master Plan approved by the Council.

**Staff Response:** The plat meets these requirements.

C. The subdivider shall dedicate easements or rights-of-way for sidewalks, bicycle paths or other non-motorized transportation facilities in areas identified as public access corridors in the Homer Non-Motorized Transportation and Trail Plan, other plans adopted by the City Council, or as required by the Kenai Peninsula Borough Code.

Staff Response: The plat meets these requirements.

**Preliminary Approval, per KPB code 20.25.070 Form and contents required**. The commission will consider a plat for preliminary approval if it contains the following information at the time it is presented and is drawn to a scale of sufficient size to be clearly legible.

- A. Within the Title Block:
- 1. Names of the subdivision which shall not be the same as an existing city, town, tract or subdivision of land in the borough, of which a plat has been previously recorded, or so nearly the same as to mislead the public or cause confusion;
- 2. Legal description, location, date, and total area in acres of the proposed subdivision; and
- 3. Name and address of owner(s), as shown on the KPB records and the certificate to plat, and registered land surveyor;

**Staff Response:** The plat meets these requirements.

B. North point;

**Staff Response:** The plat meets these requirements.

C. The location, width and name of existing or platted streets and public ways, railroad rights-of-way and other important features such as section lines or political subdivisions or municipal corporation boundaries abutting the subdivision;

Staff Response: The plat meets these requirements.

D. A vicinity map, drawn to scale showing location of proposed subdivision, north arrow if different from plat orientation, township and range, section lines, roads, political boundaries and prominent natural and manmade features, such as shorelines or streams;

**Staff Response:** The plat meets these requirements.

E. All parcels of land including those intended for private ownership and those to be dedicated for public use or reserved in the deeds for the use of all property owners in the proposed subdivision, together with the purposes, conditions or limitation of reservations that could affect the subdivision;

**Staff Response:** The plat meets these requirements. No public use areas are dedicated with this plat.

F. The names and widths of public streets and alleys and easements, existing and proposed, within the subdivision; [Additional City of Homer HAPC policy: Drainage easements are normally thirty feet in width centered on the drainage. Final width of the easement will depend on the ability to access the drainage with heavy equipment. An alphabetical list of street names is available from City Hall.]

**Staff Response:** Public Works is asking for a 20' easement, 10' feet on each side of the C/L Drainage.

G. Status of adjacent lands, including names of subdivisions, lot lines, block numbers, lot numbers, rights-of-way; or an indication that the adjacent land is not subdivided;

**Staff Response:** The plat meets this requirement.

H. Approximate location of areas subject to inundation, flooding or storm water overflow, the line of ordinary high water, wetlands when adjacent to lakes or non-tidal streams, and the appropriate study which identifies a floodplain, if applicable;

**Staff Response:** The plat meets this requirement.

I. Approximate locations of areas subject to tidal inundation and the mean high water line; **Staff Response:** The plat meets these requirements (not applicable).

J. Block and lot numbering per KPB 20.60.140, approximate dimensions and total numbers of proposed lots;

**Staff Response:** The plat meets these requirements.

K. Within the limits of incorporated cities, the approximate location of known existing municipal wastewater and water mains, and other utilities within the subdivision and immediately abutting thereto or a statement from the city indicating which services are currently in place and available to each lot in the subdivision;

**Staff Response:** The plat meets these requirements.

L. Contours at suitable intervals when any roads are to be dedicated unless the planning director or commission finds evidence that road grades will not exceed 6 percent on arterial streets, and 10 percent on other streets;

**Staff Response:** The plat meets these requirements. No rights-of-way are dedicated by this action.

M. Approximate locations of slopes over 20 percent in grade and if contours are shown, the areas of the contours that exceed 20 percent grade shall be clearly labeled as such;

Staff Response: The plat meets these requirements.

N. Apparent encroachments, with statement indicating how the encroachments will be resolved prior to final plat approval; and

**Staff Response:** This plat meets this requirement; there are no apparent encroachments.

O. If the subdivision will be finalized in phases, all dedications for through streets as required by KPB 20.30.030 must be included in the first phase.

**Staff Response:** The plat meets these requirements.

Public Works Comments: Add a 20' easement on the drainage (10' either side of marked drainage).

#### Fire Department Comments: No issues

**Staff Recommendation:** Planning Commission recommend approval of the preliminary plat with the following condition.

1. Add a 20' easement centered on the drainage line.

#### Attachments:

- 1. Preliminary Plat
- 2. Public Notice
- 3. Aerial Map



# NOTICE OF SUBDIVISION

Public notice is hereby given that a preliminary plat has been received proposing to subdivide or replat property. You are being sent this notice because you are an affected property owner within 500 feet of a proposed subdivision and are invited to comment.

Proposed subdivision under consideration is described as follows:

#### Homer School Survey 2016 Replat Preliminary Plat

The location of the proposed subdivision affecting you is provided on the attached map. A preliminary plat showing the proposed subdivision may be viewed at the City of Homer Planning and Zoning Office. Subdivision reviews are conducted in accordance with the City of Homer Subdivision Ordinance and the Kenai Peninsula Borough Subdivision Ordinance. A copy of the Ordinance is available from the Planning and Zoning Office. **Comments should be guided by the requirements of those Ordinances.** 

A public meeting will be held by the Homer Advisory Planning Commission on Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at Homer City Hall, Cowles Council Chambers, 491 East Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Anyone wishing to present testimony concerning these matters may do so at the meeting or by submitting a written statement to the Homer Advisory Planning Commission, 491 East Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska 99603, by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

The complete proposal is available for review at the City of Homer Planning and Zoning Office located at Homer City Hall. For additional information, please contact Travis Brown in the Planning and Zoning Office, 235-3106.

NOTICE TO BE SENT TO PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN 500 FEET OF PROPERTY.

\*\*\*\*\*\*

# VICINITY MAP ON REVERSE









Planning 491 East Pioneer Avenue Homer, Alaska 99603

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Planning@ci.homer.ak.us (p) 907-235-3106 (f) 907-235-3118

#### Staff Report PL 16-34

TO:	Homer Advisory Planning Commission
FROM:	Rick Abboud, City Planner
DATE:	June 15, 2016
SUBJECT:	Towers

**Introduction:** This subject was sent back to the Planning Commission by the City Council in order to address a few specific policies. Those policies include a mechanism for recovering the cost of a third party review and bonding requirement to ensure site remediation after a tower is no longer in use or presents a danger.

**Analysis:** The City Attorney has addressed the above subjects and introduced another in the process. Although not specifically requested by the City Council, I found the Attorney's suggestion worthy of further considerations.

1. Lines 194-206. Costs of third party review.

This provides the requirement that the applicant provides a deposit for the actual cost of the review. I will be looking into what exactly the appropriate amount may be. This may come with a RFP for a firm which is qualified to make the review. The fee schedule may be amended without Planning Commission approval and would be passed along to the City Council. My guess is that we could be looking at an amount between \$5-8k and some sort of administrative fee for the city.

2. Lines 303-320. Insurance requirements.

This seems to be a concern of most. We would expect that businesses would have liability insurance. This provides an appropriate amount (what we would expect from a tenant of the city) and a mechanism for the city to be notified if the policy lapses. I believe this is a worthy amendment and provides those onsite and nearby with some additional measure of security regarding financial liability.

3. Lines 331-336. Bonding.

This amendment provides a vehicle to provide funds for decommission and removal of a tower if the tower is found unsafe and the owner is unwilling to repair or the tower is no longer operational.

**Staff Recommendation:** Please review, make amendments if appropriate, and schedule for public hearing.

Attachments: Draft Ordinance (Attorney edit 6.3.16)

1	
2	ORDINANCE 16-xx
3	Planning Commission
4	ridning commission
5 6	AN ORDINANCE OF THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL AMENDING
7	HOMER CITY CODE 21.03.040, DEFINITIONS USED IN ZONING
8	CODE, HOMER CITY CODE 21.05.030, MEASURING HEIGHTS,
9	AND HOMER CITY CODE 21.70.010, ZONING PERMIT
10	REQUIRED; REPEALING HOMER CITY CODE CHAPTER 21.58,
11	SMALL WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS; AND ENACTING HOMER
12	CITY CODE CHAPTER 21.58, TOWERS AND RELATED
13	STRUCURES.
14	
15	THE CITY OF HOMER ORDAINS:
16	
17	Section 1. Homer City Code Chapter 21.03.040, Definitions used in zoning code, is
18	amended by adding the following definitions:
19	"Collegation" many the placement of installation of using the second structure
20	"Collocation" means the placement or installation of wireless communications
21 22	equipment on an existing wireless communications support structure or in an existing equipment compound.
22	equipment compound.
24 24	"Equipment compound" means the area occupied by a wireless communications
25	support structure and within which wireless communications equipment is located.
-5 26	
27	"Tower, amateur radio" means a fixed vertical structure used exclusively to support an
28	antenna used by an amateur radio operator licensed by the Federal Communications
29	Commission, plus its accompanying base plates, anchors, guy cables and hardware.
30	
31	"Tower, communications" means a fixed vertical structure built for the primary purpose
32	of supporting wireless communications equipment, plus its accompanying base plates,
33	anchors, guy cables and hardware.
34	
35	"Wireless communications equipment" means the set of equipment and network
36	components used in the provision of wireless communications services, including without
37	limitation antennas, transmitters, receivers, base stations, equipment shelters, cabinets,
38	emergency generators, power supply cables, and coaxial and fiber optic cables, but excluding
39	any wireless communications support structure.
40	"Wireless communications services" means transmitting and receiving information by
41 42	electromagnetic radiation, by an operator (other than an amateur radio operator) licensed by
42 43	the Federal Communications Commission.
43 44	
-1-1	

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45 "Wireless communications support structure" means a structure that is designed to 46 support, or is capable of supporting, wireless communications equipment, including a 47 communications tower, utility pole, or building.

- 48 49 <u>Section 2</u>. Subsection (b) of HCC 21.05.030, Measuring heights, is amended to read as 50 follows:
- 51 52 b. When measuring height of a building, the following are excluded from the 53 measurement:
  - **<u>1. Steeples</u>**, spires, belfries, cupolas and domes if not used for human occupancy, chimneys, ventilators, weather vanes, skylights, water tanks, bulkheads, monuments, flagpoles, wind energy systems, television and radio antennas, other similar features, and necessary mechanical appurtenances usually carried above roof level.
    - 2. Wireless communications equipment that does not extend more than 10 feet above the height of the building.
- 61 62 <u>Section 3</u>. Subsection (d) of Homer City Code 21.05.030, Measuring heights, is 63 amended to read as follows:
- 64 d. When determining the height of a nonbuilding structure, such as a sign, or fence, 65 amateur radio tower, communications tower or wireless communications support 66 structure, the height shall be calculated as the distance from the base of the structure at 67 normal grade to the top of the highest part of the structure, excluding lightning rods. For this 68 calculation, normal grade shall be construed to be the lower of (1) existing grade prior to 69 construction or (2) the newly established grade after construction, exclusive of any fill, berm, 70 mound, or excavation made for the purpose of locating or supporting the structure. In cases in 71 which the normal grade cannot reasonably be determined, structure height shall be calculated 72 on the assumption that the elevation of the normal grade at the base of the structure is equal 73 to the elevation of the nearest point of the crown of a public street or the grade of the land at 74 the principal entrance to the main building on the lot, whichever is lower. 75
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- Section 4. Homer City Code Chapter 21.58, Small Wind Energy Systems, is repealed.
- 78
  79 Section 5. Homer City Code Chapter 21.58, Towers and Related Structures, is enacted
  80 to read as follows:

## CHAPTER 21.58

## TOWERS AND RELATED STRUCTURES

- Article I. Communications Towers and Wireless Communications Equipment
- 86 87

88	21.58.010 Purpose.
89	The purpose of this article is to provide standards and procedures for communications
90	towers and for wireless communications equipment.
91	
92	21.58.020 Exemption from regulation.
93	a. Each of the following communications towers is a permitted principal or accessory
94	use or structure in each zoning district and is exempt from the provisions of this article:
95	1. A communications tower that is placed temporarily to support wireless
96	communications equipment that is provided in response to a state of emergency
97	declared by a federal, state, or local government authority and is removed within 12
98	months after the termination of the state of emergency.
99	2. A communications tower that is placed temporarily to support wireless
100	communications equipment that is provided for media coverage of a special event, and
101	that is placed no more than 30 days before the special event and removed no more than
102	15 days after the end of the special event.
103	3. A communications tower with a height not exceeding 35 feet.
104	4. An amateur radio tower, to the extent that it is exempt from regulation under
105	AS 29.35.141.
106	b. The collocation, removal, replacement or installation of wireless communications
107	equipment is a permitted principal or accessory use or structure in each zoning district and is
108	not subject to approval under this title if it meets all of the following requirements:
109	1. The collocation, removal or replacement is in an existing wireless
110	communications support structure or existing equipment compound that is in
111	compliance with the requirements of this title in effect at the time of its construction
112	and with the terms and conditions of any previous final approval under this title.
113	<ol><li>The collocation, removal or replacement will not do any of the following:</li></ol>
114	A. Increase the overall height of the wireless communications support
115	structure by more than 20 feet or 10% of its original height, whichever is
116	greater.
117	B. Increase the width of the wireless communications support structure
118	by more than the minimum necessary to permit the collocation, removal or
119	replacement.
120	3. The collocation, removal or replacement complies with the terms and
121	conditions of any previous final approval of the wireless communications support
122	structure or equipment compound under this title.
123	4. The installation is on an existing building that is in compliance with the
124	requirements of this title and with the terms and conditions of any previous final
125	approval under this title, and the wireless communications equipment does not extend
126	more than 10 feet above the height of the building.
127	
128	21.58.030 Permission for communications towers.
129	a. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a communications tower is
130	permitted as a principal or accessory use or structure in each zoning district.

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b. A communications tower that exceeds the following maximum height for the zoning district in which the communications tower is located is permitted only when authorized by conditional use permit issued in accordance with Chapter21.71.

		•			
134	<u>District</u>	<u> Maximum Height (feet)</u>			
135	CBD	60			
136	TC	60			
137	GBD	60			
138	GC1	120			
139	RO	85			
140	UR	60			
141	RR	85			
142	CONS	60			
143	GC2	120			
144	EEMU	120			
145	MI	120			
146	MC	120			
147	OSR	60			
148	BCWPD	120			
149					
150		21.58.040 Application requirements.			
151	. ,	on for a zoning permit or condition			

a. An application for a zoning permit or conditional use permit for a communications tower that is subject to regulation under this article shall include the following information, in addition to information required by other provisions of this title:

154

1. A level two site plan that shows the location of the communications tower.

2. A written narrative explaining why placing wireless communications 155 equipment at the proposed location is necessary to the applicant's wireless 156 communications services coverage, including confirmation that there is no available 157 site for collocation of the wireless communications equipment within a radius of 1,000 158 feet from the proposed location in consideration of the proposed technology, why an 159 existing structure may not be used, an evaluation of alternate communications tower 160 locations that the applicant considered, and an explanation why the proposed location 161 is the best alternative. 162

1633. A demonstration that the height of the communications tower is the164minimum required for the effective operation of the wireless communications165equipment plus the present and future collocations that it supports.

equipment plus the present and future collocations that it supports. 4. A map showing the locations of the applicant's existing communications towers that serve customers in the city and of all current and currently proposed communications towers that the applicant intends to construct to serve customers in the city.

A detailed list of major components of the wireless communications
 equipment that the communications tower will support, and accessory structures such
 as equipment cabinets and generators.

6. An analysis of the potential visual impacts of the communications tower at 173 distances of 500 feet and 1,500 feet from the proposed location, through the use of 174 photo simulations of the communications tower and the wireless communications 175 equipment that it will support. The analysis shall include, to the extent practicable, the 176 visual impact along two lines extending from the shore of Kachemak Bay through the 177 communications tower site that are separated by an angle of at least 90 degrees, and 178 show the relationship of the communications tower to structures, trees, topography, 179 and other intervening visual barriers. The analysis will include recommendations to 180 mitigate adverse visual impacts of the communications tower on other properties. 181

1827. A certificate from an engineer licensed in Alaska that the communications183tower, and all antennas and other wireless communications equipment located on it,184meet industry standards for their construction, including ANSI 222 G or most recent185version.

186 8. Evidence that all wireless communications equipment supported by the 187 communications tower meets applicable Federal Communications Commission 188 requirements.

1899. A determination of no hazard to air navigation for the communications tower190issued by the Federal Aviation Administration.

19110. For a conditional use permit, minutes of each public meeting held under192Section 21.58.060(a), and copies of all public comments received under Section19321.58.060(b)(5).

b. The applicant shall pay the cost of an independent technical review of the 194 communications tower application by a consultant retained by the city. The applicant shall 195 submit with the application a deposit according to the fee schedule established by resolution 196 of the City Council toward the cost of the technical review. If at any time the city finds that the 197 actual cost of the technical review will exceed the amount of the deposit, the city may require 198 the applicant to increase the amount of the deposit to equal the city's current estimate of the 199 cost of the technical review. Continued review of the application shall be conditioned upon the 200 city's receipt of the increased deposit amount. After final city action on the application, the 201 city shall determine the actual cost of the technical review. If the actual cost exceeds the total 202 deposit received, the applicant shall pay the balance to the city prior to permit issuance; if the 203 total deposit received exceeds the actual cost, the city shall refund the excess to the applicant. 204 Deposits received under this subsection shall be disbursed only as authorized by this 205 subsection and shall not bear interest. 206

- 207 208
- 21.58.050 Communications tower standards.

a. The distance from a communications tower to the closest property line of a lot that contains a dwelling unit, dormitory, hotel, motel, bar, restaurant, school, day care facility, church, retail establishment or place of public assembly may not be less than 1.1 times its total height.

b. The height of the communications tower shall not be greater than the minimum height required for the effective operation of the wireless communications equipment and collocations that it will support upon its initial construction. Page 6 of 11 ORDINANCE 16-CITY OF HOMER

c. The communications tower and any related equipment compound are painted or coated in a color that blends with the surrounding environment, except to the extent that obstruction marking is required by the Federal Aviation Administration, and the fence or wall that surrounds the equipment compound at the base of the communications tower, combined with any landscaping adjacent to its exterior, shall obscure the equipment compound to view from its exterior.

d. All guy wires, cables and other accessory support structures for a communications tower shall be on the same lot as the tower, but may be located within required setback areas, and shall be properly jacketed to ensure visibility in accordance with applicable safety standards.

e. The equipment compound for a communications tower shall conform to the minimum setback requirements of the zoning district in which it is located.

f. Not less than two off-street parking spaces conforming to the requirements of this title shall be provided on the lot where a communications tower is located for use in the operation and maintenance of the communications tower and the wireless communications equipment that it supports.

h. The equipment compound at the base of a communications tower shall be surrounded by a fence or wall not less than six feet in height with a secured gate. The lowest part of a climbing apparatus that provides access to equipment on a communications tower shall be at least 12 feet above the ground, and the tower shall have no handholds or footholds below the climbing apparatus.

h. Except for switch type lighting, no artificial lighting shall be mounted on a communications tower, and a communications tower shall not be illuminated with artificial lighting, except when required by the Federal Aviation Administration.

i. Signs. No sign, flag or pennant may be attached to a communications tower except that the following shall be posted in a location that is visible from the ground outside the equipment compound:

1. A sign identifying the party responsible for the operation and maintenance of the communications tower, with a 24-hour emergency contact telephone number.

245 2. Any antenna structure registration number required by the Federal 246 Communications Commission.

247 3. Warnings of dangers associated with the communications tower or 248 equipment that is located on the communications tower.

- 249
- 250

21.58.060 Public notification of communications tower application.

a. The applicant for a conditional use permit for a communications tower shall hold at least one meeting informing the public of the application that conforms to the following requirements.

1. The meeting shall be held at city hall, or at a public facility that is nearer to the location of the proposed communications tower and capable of seating a minimum of 20 people.

2. The meeting shall be held on a day that is not a city holiday at least 15 days 2. The meeting shall be held on a day that is not a city holiday at least 15 days 2. The meeting shall be held on a day that is not a city holiday at least 15 days

- 3. The meeting shall be scheduled to last a minimum of two hours and shall not 259 start before 5:00 p.m. or after 7:00 p.m. 260 b. The applicant shall notify each record owner of property within 1200 feet of the 261 262 parcel that is the site of the proposed communications tower by first class mail at least 15 days before the meeting of the following: 263 1. The legal description, street address and a map of the vicinity, of the parcel 264 that is the site of the proposed communications tower; 265 2. A description of the proposed communications tower, including its height, 266 267 design, and lighting, the proposed access to the site and the services proposed to be 268 provided by the tower; 3. The date, time, and location of the meeting; 269 4. A contact name, telephone number, and address of the applicant; and 270 5. A form on which to submit written comments, with a comment submittal 271 deadline and instructions. 272 273 21.58.070 Action on communications tower application. 274 a. The reviewing authority shall approve a communications tower only if the applicant 275 demonstrates that it meets the following criteria: 276 1. The communications tower conforms to the requirements in Section 277 21.58.050, and the other applicable standards in this title. 278 2. The coverage for the applicant's wireless communications services customers 279 280 that the communications tower will provide cannot be provided by collocation on an existing wireless communications support structure. 281 3. Of the available alternate sites, the selected site provides necessary coverage 282 283 for the applicant's wireless communications services customers with the least visual impact on other properties. 284 b. No action may be taken on a communications tower application on the basis of the 285 286 environmental effects of radio frequency emissions to the extent that the wireless communications equipment that will be located on the tower complies with Federal 287 288 Communications Commission regulations concerning such emissions. 289 c. The reviewing authority shall act on a communications tower application within a reasonable period of time after the application has been filed with the city taking into account 290 the nature and scope of the application, but within no more than 150 days after the application 291 292 is filed. The 150-day period excludes (i) any time that begins when the reviewing authority gives written notice to the applicant within 30 days of receipt of the application that the 293 application is incomplete, clearly and specifically delineating all missing documents or 294 information, until the applicant makes a supplemental submission in response to the notice of 295 incompleteness; and (ii) any time that begins when the reviewing authority has given written 296 notice to the applicant within 10 days of receipt of such a supplemental submission that the 297
- supplemental submission did not provide the information identified in the original notice delineating missing information until the applicant makes another supplemental submission.
- 300 d. An action denying a communications tower application shall be in writing and 301 supported by substantial evidence contained in a written record.

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302	
303	21.58.080 Communications tower insurance requirements.
304	The issuance and continuation of a zoning permit or conditional use permit for a
305	communications tower that is subject to regulation under this article shall be conditioned upon
306	the permittee securing and at all times maintaining insurance meeting the requirements of this
307	section.
308	a. The insurance policy shall provide commercial general liability coverage for personal
309	injuries, death and property damage with limits not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and
310	\$3,000,000 aggregate.
311	b. The insurance policy shall be issued by an agent or representative of an insurance
- 312	company licensed to do business in the State of Alaska and with an AM Best's rating of at least
313	Α.
314	c. The insurance policy shall contain an endorsement obligating the insurance company
315	to furnish the city with at least thirty (30) days prior written notice in advance of the
316	cancellation of the insurance.
317	d. The permittee shall provide the city with an insurance policy or certificate of
318	insurance demonstrating compliance with the requirements of this section before the permit is
319	issued, and a renewal or replacement policy or certificate at least fifteen (15) days before the
320	expiration of the insurance that is to be renewed or replaced.
321	
322	21.58.090 Communications tower removal requirements.
323	a. The owner and the lessee of the property that is the site of a communications tower
324	are jointly and severally responsible for its removal:
325	1. If corrective action is not taken within six months after notice that the City
326	Engineer has found the communications tower, or equipment on the communications
327	tower, to be unsafe or not in compliance with applicable law.
328	2. Within 90 days after all wireless communications equipment on a
329	communications tower has not been operational for a period of at least 12 consecutive
330	months
331	b. The issuance and continuation of a zoning permit or conditional use permit for a
332	communications tower that is subject to regulation under this article shall be conditioned upon
333	the permittee providing the city with a performance bond in an amount of at least \$150,000
334	issued by corporation licensed to act as a surety in Alaska and securing the obligations of the
335	owner and the lessee of the property that is the site of the communications tower under
336	subsection (a) of this section.
337	
338	Article II. Small Wind Energy Systems
339	
340	21.58.110 Purpose and application. The purpose of this article is to establish minimum
341	health and safety standards for small wind energy systems. It applies to small wind energy
342	systems in all districts where they are allowed as permitted or conditional uses.
343	
344	21.58.120 Installation requirements.

- a. The wind turbine of a small wind energy system may be mounted on a building or a 345 346 wind energy system tower. b. The surfaces of all small wind energy system components that are visible when the 347 348 small wind energy system is in operation shall be painted a nonreflective, neutral color.
- c. A zoning permit application for a small wind energy system shall include the 349 following information: 350
- 351

- 1. A level one site plan that shows the location of the small wind energy system.
- 2. Specifications for the small wind energy system including manufacturer make 352 and model, an illustration or picture of the turbine unit, maximum rated power output, 353 blade diameter, total height, tower color and, if proposed, the location of ladders 354 and/or climbing pegs. 355
  - 3. Tower foundation blueprints or drawings.
- 356 4. Noise decibel data prepared by the wind turbine manufacturer or qualified 357 engineer indicating noise decibel level at the property line nearest to the location of the 358 small wind energy system. 359
- 360 5. Evidence of compliance with, or exemption from, Federal Aviation Administration requirements. 361
- 6. Evidence that the small wind energy system complies with current 362 Underwriters Laboratories standards for local utility connections. 363
- d. Dimensional Requirements. 364
- 1. The distance from a small wind energy system to the closest property line 365 366 may not be less than 1.1 times its total height.
- 2. All guy wires, cables and other accessory support structures for a small wind 367 energy system must be on the same lot as the small wind energy system, but may be 368 located within required setback areas, and shall be properly jacketed to ensure visible 369 safety standards. 370
- 371 21.58.130 Operation standards. 372
- a. Electrical Standards. 373
  - 1. A small wind energy system shall comply with the National Electric Code.
- 2. All electric transmission wires connected to a small wind energy system must 375 be underground, or within the building on which the small wind energy system is 376 mounted. 377
- 378 3. A small wind energy system shall not interfere with television, microwave, navigational or radio reception. 379
- b. Noise and vibration from a small wind energy system shall not exceed the levels 380 permitted in HCC 21.59.010(b) and (c), except during short-term events such as utility outages 381 and severe wind storms. 382
- c. Tower Safety. 383
- 1. The lowest part of a climbing apparatus that provides access to a wind turbine 384 shall be at least 12 feet above the ground, and the wind energy system tower or 385 building on which the wind turbine is mounted shall have no handholds or footholds 386 below the climbing apparatus. 387

2. The lowest point through which a wind turbine blade rotates must be at least 388 20 feet above the ground. 389 d. Lighting. Except for switch type lighting, no artificial lighting shall be mounted on a 390 small wind energy system, and a small wind energy system shall not be illuminated with 391 artificial lighting, except when required by the Federal Aviation Administration and approved by 392 conditional use permit. 393 e. Signs. No sign, flag or pennant may be attached to a small wind energy system 394 except for the following: 395 1. A sign identifying the manufacturer or installer of the small wind energy 396 system. 397 2. Signs warning of dangers associated with the small wind energy system. 398 f. Removal. The owner and the lessee of the property that is the site of a small wind 399 energy system are jointly and severally responsible for its removal: 400 1. If corrective action is not taken within six months after notice that the City 401 Engineer has found the small wind energy system to be unsafe or not in compliance 402 with applicable law. 403 2. Within 90 days after the small wind energy system has not been operational 404 for a period of at least 12 consecutive months. 405 406 Section 6. Subsection (c) of Homer City Code 21.70.010, Zoning permit required, is 407 amended to read as follows: 408 409 c. The following are exempt from the requirement to obtain a zoning permit, but not 410 from compliance with applicable requirements of the Homer Zoning Code, such as, but not 411 limited to, the development activity plan or stormwater protection plan: 412 1. Any change to an existing building that does not increase the height, or 413 exterior dimension of any floor, of the building, and any change to an existing structure 414 that does not increase the height, or footprint area, of the structure. 415 2. Erection or construction of a one-story detached accessory building used as a 416 tool and storage shed, playhouse, or other accessory use, provided the building area 417 does not exceed 200 square feet; and further provided, that there is already a main 418 building on the same lot. 419 3. Erection or construction of a communications tower with a height not 420 exceeding 35 feet, or an amateur radio tower. 421 43. Fences or walls used as fences, unless otherwise regulated by the Homer 422 City Code. 423 54. Removal of any building or structure. 424 65. Termination of any type of use. 425 426 Section 7. This Ordinance is of a permanent and general character and shall be included 427 in the City Code. 428 429

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ENACTED BY THE CITY CO 2016.	UNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA, this day of
	CITY OF HOMER
ATTEST:	MARY E. WYTHE, MAYOR
JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK	
AYES:	
NOES:	
ABSTAIN:	
ABSENT:	
First Reading:	
Public Hearing:	
Second Reading:	
Effective Date:	
Reviewed and approved as to form:	
Mary K. Koester, City Manager	Holly C. Wells, City Attorney
Date:	Date:
Date:	Date:

# Office of the City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue Homer, Alaska 99603





www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov (p) 907-235-8121 x2222 (f) 907-235-3148

# Memorandum

TO: Mayor Wythe and Homer City Council

FROM: Katie Koester, City Manager

DATE: June 8, 2016

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report - June 13, 2016

### Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Destination Earns Homer Recognition

In July of 2015 Council passed Resolution 15-064 nominating some lands in the Beluga Slough Area to become part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. Deputy Planner Julie Engebretsen and George Matz were instrumental in working with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, USFWS and AK DFG in coordinating the nomination. Attached is a copy of the Anchorage Daily News article, the State's press release, and the certificate from WHSRN. Not only was the area of the network expanded, the Kachemak Bay site has now also been designated a site of international importance. Congrats for putting Homer on the map!

## Homer Ranks as One of Top Small Towns for Wine Lovers

And speaking of maps...not only are we known for great birding, but we are known for our wine thanks to Bear Creek Winery. Top Value Reviews recently published an article online listing Homer as one of the top small towns in the U.S. for wine lovers. Just adds to the list of things to visit Homer for, though technically the winery is in Kachemak City.

## Homer Library in National Spotlight (Again!)

Claudia Haines, Homer Youth Services Librarian, is quoted in a new book for librarians, "Inspired Collaboration: Ideas for Discovering and Applying your Potential" by Dorothy Stoltz and published by the American Library Association. Also a picture from our Children's library featuring Megan Murphy and daughter Olivine reading with Sevie, a trained companion dog.

## **Repairs to Load and Launch Ramp**

During the extreme low tides that occurred in April it was reported to Harbor staff that there was a "drop off" at the end of lane 5 of the launch ramp. Staff was able to get a closer look at the bottom during those same tides and took photos of other issues of concern all along the bottom edge of the ramp in the transition between concrete and the rock runout. Port and Harbor Director Hawkins contacted the Engineers and Fish and Game (partners on the project) for an onsite meeting. Since then, a full underwater video survey was conducted and the contractor has been back to re-work these areas where the deficiencies were found. This work was conducted during the extreme tides at the latter part of May and again in June and will continue until the project is completed as designed and signed off by the engineers

and accepted by Fish and Game and the City. All lanes are open for use and the "holes" have been addressed.

From a contract standpoint, money has been held back from payment and there is a security bond in place that will not be released until our launch ramp project is completed as designed.

#### Award of ATAP Grant Could Delay Soundview Sidewalk Project

City of Homer has prepared a draft Alaska Transportation Alternatives Program (ATAP) grant application to fund Soundview sidewalk improvements. In consultation with AK DOT&PF, we have learned that some complexities of the Federal funding process could delay actual construction of the project (if funded) until next spring. The August 2016 date for the grant agreement originally published by AK DOT&PF could very well be pushed back due to DOT's right-of-way certification process and their requirement to approve project cost estimates. Even though the City will not be able to build the project this year if the grant is successfully awarded, it is still worth pursuing. The grant will cover approximately 70% of project cost which allows us to expand the scope of the project to bring the sidewalk all the way to the school in addition to saving some funds for other HART eligible projects. We should know by the end of July if we are going to receive the grant.

#### **GSFA and EDA Grant**

The City of Homer has been approached multiple times over the last 2 years by non-profit Global Sustainable Fisheries of Alaska (GSFA- also known as Ocean Rich Communities of Alaska) about leasing lots 9A and 10A near the Fish Dock to construct a training facility for modular flash freezing technology. GSFA plans to construct modular units for flash freezing fresh seafood using Cells Alive System, – or CAS – technology that preserves the freshness much longer than traditional methods. The units would be built on the Homer Spit and shipped to villages along the Alaska coastline for value added processing in rural Alaska. Employees would be trained on how to use the modular units at a facility on the Homer Spit. This project has great potential to provide jobs in Homer, for our rural neighbors, and change the way fresh seafood is preserved in Alaska. However, it also faces financial hurdles for startup funds which has stalled the project thus far and prevented them from submitting a complete lease application. GSFA has approached the U.S. Economic Development Association for a \$1.6 million grant to launch the project. As owners of the land, the City of Homer had to sign as a co-applicant on the EDA application. The application is contingent on a joint agreement that will come before Council at the next meeting detailing the City of Homer's responsibility which will be limited to owner of the land. It is important that the City not give special treatment to any leaseholder, regardless of the prospects of their project. The EDA will require GSFA to go through the proper channels before being awarding any grant, including review by the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission and approval by Council. If for any reason the Council does not award a lease to GSFA, the City would notify EDA and their grant application would be put on hold.

Page 3 of 3 CITY MANAGER'S REPORT JUNE 13, 2016

#### **Reminder of Pioneer Avenue Upgrades**

As a reminder, sod leveling continues in the right-of-way along Pioneer Avenue. Crews are trying to finish up this week so grass has time to take hold (you may have noticed hydro seeding of the completed sections). Over time the grass has grown above the curb resulting in a steep drop off between the grass and the pavement. This is a tripping hazard, unsightly, and gets in the way of snow removal equipment. Public Works is leveling those areas out and reseeding them, bringing in extra topsoil when needed. Where they are sloping, they will slope the grade so there is no steep drop off. Public works crews will also be removing, or moving back, obstructions in the first 18-24 inches of the right-of-way that hamper plowing and maintenance of Pioneer. This includes some dead stumps of mountain ash trees that have not fared well over the years and have nothing but a few scraggly shoots coming out of them. All live trees will remain.

Enc:

Maps/Press release/ADN article for WHSRN Excerpt from online article "Small Towns for Wine Lovers" Letter from Library Director to USDA inquiring about refinancing library loan Excerpt from Inspired Collaboration: Ideas for Discovering and Applying your Potential Draft letter to Kenai City Council in support of KPHI housing Letter submitted to KPB Assembly on proposed Landfill Management Plan Thank you note from Pratt Homer Foundation Quarterly Report