

MANAGERS REPORT
May 9, 2011

TO: MAYOR HORNADAY / HOMER CITY COUNCIL

FROM: WALT WREDE

UPDATES / FOLLOW-UP

1. Dredge Materials: We got off to a rocky start with the dredging projects this year. We were scheduled to have the harbor entrance and parts of the main fairway dredged this spring. The contractor arrived late which placed us under a time constraint since all work had to be completed by April 30. Last Wednesday, the contractor overfilled the dewatering pond on Lot 49 and flooded the end of the Spit with silt and seawater. The businesses out there were not impressed and it was a pretty bad week overall in terms of PR. The contractor paid to clean-up the mess on private property and the Corps of Engineers closed the project down. So, the end result is that the rest of the dredging will have to take place in the fall. Also, we agreed to allow the remaining materials on Lot49 to stay there until the fall dredging and then all of the materials can be transported at once to the storage site. This will save the Corps a great deal of money but it will also mean that the materials is there all summer; pretty unsightly from a tourism perspective. The pipeline and the big mound on the road will be removed. There is another special project in July that will remove about 10,000 yards of material from under the Pioneer Dock. This is an experiment to see if creating a sink to capture materials before they are transported to the Hickory berth will lower the cost of operations for maintaining that berth. This dredging can be done from the beach at a much lower cost. An excavator will load this material directly on to trucks for transport away from the sight. But again, while necessary, the timing is not the best from a tourism perspective. All of this reminds us again about the need for a long term dredging plan.
2. Old Water Treatment Plant: This demolition project is basically complete. The next step for us is to bring the Council a proposal for establishing a satellite fire station there.
3. Parks News: The City staff is working with volunteer groups to find ways to get them involved and take advantage of their energy and desire to improve the parks. As you know, at the last meeting the Council accepted a donation for playground equipment at Bayview Park. This week, the staff had a meeting on-site at the Karen Hornaday playground with parents who wish to help design the playground and raise money for improvements. We are presently working on an MOU with Jack Gist Park advocates and have had discussions with others about volunteer opportunities in all of the parks. This week the staff drafted a resolution and some policies and procedures to implement an Adopt-A-Park Program. This will be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission at its next meeting and presented to the Council for approval on May 23. The main driver behind this effort is the Rotary Club's desire to adopt Ben Walters Park and invest in

improvements there. I believe all of these efforts should be encouraged and could not come at a better time.

4. New Personnel: I would like to formally introduce the newest members of the management team. At the last meeting, many of you met Andrea Petersen for the first time. Andrea is the new Personnel Director and will be assuming the duties formerly handled by Sheri Hobbs. Andrea spent the past three years working in the HR Department for South Peninsula Hospital. Her experience, training, and certifications make her uniquely qualified for the job. Andrea began work on April 4th and benefitted from almost an entire month of orientation while Sheri was still here. Sheri also served as the Airport Terminal Manager and supervised the Community Recreation Program. I have moved those duties elsewhere so that Andrea can focus her full attention on HR duties. The Library Director position has been accepted by Ann Dixon. Anne spent three days orienting with Helen Hill before she left and will officially start work at the end of May. Ann has a wide variety of library experience and the desired education and certifications. She comes to us from Willow Alaska where she has lived for many years. She has been director of the Willow Public Library and is presently the librarian for the Willow Public School. Anne is also a well known author of children's books. Please welcome these new employees when you get the chance.
5. Redistricting: The Mayor and I attended the public hearing held by the Redistricting Board in Homer on May 3. Copies of the proposed House and Senate districts will be available at the meeting. Written testimony and comments will be accepted until early June, at which time the Board must adopt its final plan. There are two options put forward by the Board and several by other organizations. Both Board options have Homer in an identical House District. Basically the House District no longer includes Seward and it goes up along Cook Inlet toward Kenai. At least one of the proposals put forward by other entities has Homer and Seward in the same House District. There are two options regarding the Senate district put forward by the Board. One has Homer grouped with Kodiak and Seward, much as we are now. The other has Homer in a Senate district with the Kenai area.
6. Bridge Creek Fire Mitigation Project: The Fire Mitigation Project has basically wrapped up for the season because of the rapidly diminishing snow and warm temperatures. I think the contractor did a very job with the mechanical work. He may have to come back next winter to finish his work and clean-up a few things. There will likely be some hand crews at work this summer cutting dead trees in sensitive and buffer areas. A tree stock assessment will also be conducted to see if replanting would be beneficial. The head of the Borough Spruce Bark Beetle Program, Duane Bannock, will be here to give you a report at the next meeting.
7. Request for Proposals / Leased Land on Spit: An RFP has been prepared and is about to be publicized. The RFP invites proposals to lease City land on all lots approved for lease by the Council in the Land Allocation Plan. The Lease Committee will be reviewing the proposals and making recommendations to Council in early June.
8. Proposal Deadline / Old Middle School: The deadline for proposals is Friday, May 6. By meeting time, I should be able to tell you if we received any. At the

time this report was written, there were only two parties on the plan holders list. The Lease Committee has scheduled a special meeting for May 17 to review the proposals. The Lease Committee will be supplemented by available members of the Economic Development Commission since it is likely that body will not have a quorum.

9. Land Sales: Appraisals have been commissioned for the lots designated for sale in the Land Allocation Plan. As soon as we have the appraisals, we will take the steps necessary to put those parcels up for sale.
10. TORA Agreement: We are back on track with the proposed Transfer of Responsibility Agreement (TORA) with ADOT/PF. You will recall that this is the agreement that transfers responsibility for parking, pedestrian amenities, and seasonal speed limits to the City. We have one or two additional things to work out and we expect to bring you a resolution at the next meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

1. May Employee Anniversaries
2. March Department Statistical Reports
3. Memorandum from Port and Harbor Director, Re: Change Order to the Fish Dock Crane Card Access System Upgrade Project