



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

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Memorandum

TO: Mayor Zak and Homer City Council
FROM: Katie Koester, City Manager
DATE: February 7, 2018
SUBJECT: February 12 City Manager Report

Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Plan Review

A group representing various sectors of the community are meeting monthly to review the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Area Plan. Deputy Planner Julie Engebretsen is the City of Homer representative on this group and has provide the update below for Council and the public.

At the January 17th meeting, the group made it about half way through the discussion of harbor operations. Harbormaster Bryan Hawkins attended the meeting and shared his expertise. The working group members were appreciative of his participation.

Outcomes of the meeting:

- The CHA will remain closed to derelict and abandoned vessels. Existing language allows the sinking of derelict boats to create artificial reefs: this language will be removed.
- The oil and gas section is done and the language will remain very close to the existing policy. The plan allows for limited surveying in the Bay, but no exploration or development.
- Float homes will not be allowed. This does not appear to be an issue currently in the CHA but is a growing concern in southeast Alaska.

Upcoming topics:

- Discussion will continue at the next meeting on harbor operations, and vessel anchoring
- Drill rig storage
- Aquatic farms and docks

Over the summer, there will be smaller working groups on the following topics. City staff does not anticipate participating in all of these smaller groups, but plans to attend City of Homer related working groups and those where staff can provide expertise.

- Disposal of Harbor dredge materials, and shoreline alteration/erosion control, particularly on the Spit and within the City of Homer.
- Trails and motorized vehicle usage

- Water quality
- Aquatic farming (includes shellfish, kelp etc.), and
- Cattle grazing in the Fox River Flats CHA.

After Action Report for Tsunami Warning

The earthquake and ensuing Tsunami warning on January 23rd was a great opportunity for agencies across coastal Alaska to dust off their Emergency Operations Plan and prepare for an event with more seriousness than a drill can provide – and the City of Homer was no exception. City officials, HVFD volunteers and on-duty State Troopers met at the Emergency Operations Center, Fire Hall, in the early hours Tuesday to stand up a small Incident Management Team. The evacuation was smooth and orderly thanks to the citizens of Homer self-evacuating in an orderly and controlled fashion. Homer Police Department followed up evacuating low lying areas, going door to door in some cases. Public Works mobilized and evacuated heavy equipment to the High School Parking lot, about the inundation zone. Agencies all over Alaska have been taking the last two weeks to debrief and apply lessons learned. Some of the items that the City does not manage but have come up are the fact the warning sirens only went off once and the inconsistency in the cell phone alerts. Lessons learned that the City will be working on that require constant cultivation include public education, developing community partners, and continued preparedness training.

One important take away was the need for continued public education on the Tsunami Inundation Zone. A new draft map has recently been released for potential Tsunami inundation zones in the Homer and Kachemak Bay area applying lessons learned from Japan, which produced far more severe Tsunamis than predicted. During the evacuation the City relied on Pioneer Avenue as a clear and easy to understand cut off for evacuating. In reality, the modeling and topography is more nuanced. It would be useful to spend some time as a community studying the map and developing a public education plan for those neighborhoods most at risk or right on the line. The final map has not been released yet and still has to undergo an extensive peer review process before publication.

Other items we would like to work on are developing community partners to help evacuate those who need assistance since in an event it is likely that our first responders will be busy and making sure the Red Cross is ready to stand up a shelter for a multiday event with provisions. Communication is probably the single most important role we can play in making sure accurate information is out there and making sure our Public Information Officers are trained and ready to respond is key for any level of emergency.

Midterm planning includes updating the City of Homer Emergency Operations Plan which was adopted in 2013 and should be refreshed every 5 years. This will give us an opportunity to update procedures and critical contact and community partner response information. The last update was performed internally with a small task force, however a firm was hired to draft the initial document. Our next step will depend on whether or not FEMA will be requiring a change in format.

Another follow up I would like to take advantage of is additional training of staff, City Council, and a drill that takes January 23rd to the next step of a Tsunami. An earthquake and Tsunami event (at least a warning) a likely scenario in Homer. I have been in touch with Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) Emergency Services Training Institute (ESTI) about coming up to lead some drills and trainings for the City this summer.

Safety a Priority in Homer

Homer was named the second safest City in Alaska by SafeWise, a home security company. While the ranking is a marketing technique to drive traffic to their website, it is based on relevant data and reflects how safety and sense of security are a priority in our small town. SafeWise selects their cities based on the number of reported violent crimes and population data. The full report and methodology can be read at <https://www.safewise.com/blog/safest-cities-alaska/>

Waterline Repairs

Early Monday morning (February 5), for the third time since the earthquake, Public Works employees realized we had another water main break. Sensors on the distribution system indicated that we were losing almost 1000 gallons per minute. Water distribution employees at 2:00 AM started closing valves to identify and isolate the problem. During this time water pressures were reduced in some areas and a few customers temporarily experienced loss of service. By 9:00 AM the break was located on East End Road between East End and Mattox. Flows were reduced through that section of main, with special attention to maintaining water service to Paul Banks Elementary.

Public Works crews worked all day to funnel traffic through the affected area, locate and protect other underground facilities in the area of the break, and excavate through frozen ground to expose the 15' deep main. During this time, water pressures in the immediate area were lower than normal and two residents continued to not have water service. KBBI was contacted and a public service announcement was broadcast to inform the community of the situation and provide phone numbers for questions. Lloyd Moore provided a tanker truck to help maintain water service to the School and East Road Services provided a backhoe capable of effectively reaching the deep main.

Early Tuesday morning the main was repaired. Normal water service was back to normal by 10:00 AM Tuesday morning. The hole was backfilled and traffic control was removed by late afternoon. Repairs to the sidewalk and road way will be completed as weather permits. The Water and Sewer budgets for repairs such as this and all three breaks were repaired using monies in the budget dedicated to responding to these types of emergencies. All costs can be absorbed by the budget and water loss will not affect future water rates.

Enc:

February Employee Anniversaries

Homer Foundation Quarterly Report



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TO: MAYOR ZAK AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: Katie Koester
DATE: February 12, 2018
SUBJECT: February Employee Anniversaries

I would like to take the time to thank the following employees for the dedication, commitment and service they have provided the City and taxpayers of Homer over the years.

Dan Miotke,	Fire	16	Years
Tim Yarbrough,	Fire	16	Years
Debra Waldorf,	Library	10	Years
Jim Knott,	Police	8	Years
Mike Parish,	Public Works	6	Years
Nate Hull,	Police	5	Years
Jenny Carroll	Admin	2	Years
Austin McAvoy	Police	2	Years
Morgan Tracy	Police	1	Year

HOMER FOUNDATION
Quarterly Report to Fund Holders
Jul - Sep 2017

Fund Holder City of Homer
Fund **City of Homer Fund**

Fund Type: Field of Interest
Fund Code: 1305

PORTFOLIO SHARE (Corpus)

Beginning Balance	197,520.61
Contributions	-
Withdrawals	-
Portfolio Market Change	(6,614.29)
Ending Balance	190,906.32

AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION (Earnings)

Beginning Balance	13,773.29
Earnings Allocation	781.94
Grants Awarded:	
none this quarter	-
	-
	-
Grants Total	-
Ending Balance	14,555.23

