



PARKS, ARTS, RECREATION AND CULTURE (RECREATION AND CULTURE) NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Prepared for the City of Homer, Alaska
by Agnew::Beck Consulting
Spring 2015



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you everyone for their hard work and dedication in helping to complete this needs assessment. Thanks to the City of Homer with staff support and project management provided by Walt Wrede and Julie Engebretsen, and guidance from the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture (PARC) Advisory Committee, which included:

- Gail Edgerly, Homer Council on the Arts (HCOA)
- Matt Steffy, Parks and Recreation Commission
- Jan Rumble, Homer Hockey
- Megan Murphy, MAPP of the Southern Kenai Peninsula
- Kate Crowley, ReCreate Rec
- Asia Freeman, Bunnell Arts Center
- Mike Illg, City of Homer Community Recreation Coordinator
- Corbin Arno, Homer Voice for Business, Motorized Sports
- Karin Marks, Art Shop Gallery, Homer Voice for Business, volunteer
- Kelly Cooper, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, Homer Voice for Business, volunteer

Special thanks to advisory committee members for their efforts in initiating, guiding and engaging neighbors and colleagues in this planning process. Thank you also to all those community members who participated in surveys, interviews, focus groups, and the community workshop. Because of all these efforts, this document contains many ideas that synthesize the inspiration, realism and creativity of the greater community and exciting possibilities for the future.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HOMER RECREATION AND CULTURE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture (PARC) Needs Assessment is intended to determine the resources and prioritize the needs for the area community (including the City of Homer and four neighboring census tracts: Anchor Point, Fritz Creek, Diamond Ridge and Kachemak City) concerning parks, arts, recreation and culture (PARC) facilities and programs. To accomplish this, the project involved:

- Assessing community values, wants and needs related to PARC resources, based on feedback from a broad range of organizations, individuals, and businesses;
- Identifying gaps between identified needs and existing facilities and programs; and
- Investigating strategies for meeting priority needs, recognizing the realities of finite resources (e.g., funding, volunteers, profitable business opportunities) and Homer's relatively small population. Strategies include better use of existing facilities, while investigating options for new resources to support future recreation and culture improvements.

The results reflect the reality that many residents, businesses, organizations of and visitors to the greater Homer area deeply value PARC resources for their social, health and quality of life benefits, for the economic opportunities they provide, and because they make greater Homer the community and the place in which they choose to live. The greater Homer area has attracted a community of people with great vision and capacity to make things happen: community members dedicate a remarkable number of volunteer hours, have started and maintained numerous nonprofits, hosted community events, and donated materials and funding toward various community resources.

AMBITIOUS, REALISTIC AND STRATEGIC

With all this community effort, greater Homer already has a wealth of PARC resources. The needs assessment reveals a desire for even more: a broad and ambitious list of ways to further expand and fill PARC gaps. At the same time, it is clear that there are limits in the community's ability to meet all expressed wishes, and that there is a desire to be realistic about how much the community is able to take on and sustain over time. To satisfy these goals, this summary of identified needs is presented within the context of an overall set of strategies:

- Maximize the use of existing public resources.
- Look for and take advantage of opportunities for the private sector to fill gaps.
- Explore new ways to improve the efficiency and coordination of providing PARC resources and related information sharing.

- Maintain existing facilities while developing funding strategies for highest priority future expansion or renewal projects.

SUMMARY OF IDENTIFIED PRIORITY NEEDS

A full list of identified needs is included in the attached Identified Needs Inventory. This list was generated from a review of previous relevant plans and studies, an online community survey, an online provider questionnaire, community workshop and focus group discussions, and key informant interviews. From this inventory, a set of priorities was determined by filtering the identified needs based on whether they had:

- Broad support from multiple user groups and the general public and therefore would directly serve the largest portion of the community, *or*
- High level of support from one or more organized user group(s) and therefore already has a project champion, although it may directly serve a smaller subset of the community.

The identified needs were also filtered through a set of specific criteria developed by the community as the basis for prioritization; these criteria determined that priorities should:

- Contribute to the economic vitality of the community.
- Bring together multiple organizations and user groups (such as seniors and youth).
- Support the capacity and mission of existing organizations.
- Be affordable to users.
- Be able to be staffed and maintained.
- Have a user group.
- Be physically accessible to community members, in a central location, and complement adjacent land uses (if applicable).
- Include both passive and active recreation together.

The priorities that emerged through this filtering process focus on the need for indoor facilities/activities and improvements to PARC resource coordination, and also included a number of more modest of outdoor facilities and programming needs.

INDOOR FACILITIES

Of the priorities that filtered to the top, the most significant was space for indoor activities. The most pressing needs are for a general-purpose gymnasium and a multi-purpose space for dance, martial arts, performing arts (rehearsals, performances), and community events. It will be difficult for the community to meet these types of programming needs until adequate space is created. Specific identified needs include:

- Active recreation space: large multi-purpose gymnasium, indoor walking track, affordable weight room, martial arts gym, indoor (and outdoor) racket sports-
- Space for the arts: centralized location for music activities (including practice studio, recording studio and/or programming), more spaces for making art, 200-300 seat performance space, and
- Spaces for youth: toddler and family spaces,¹ teen space while school is not in session.
- Space that can support varied community events and gatherings.

Depending on specific designs, many or even all of these needs might be met in a single facility. A multi-purpose community center was the most frequently identified need across providers, user groups, existing plans and the general public. Although frequently mentioned, a new multipurpose facility would be costly. Considering the other identified needs, this project might best be deferred to a medium or long-term status, giving time to raise the necessary funding as well as time for the area's population, industry and tax base to grow. The next step for the community will be to determine how best to meet priority indoor space needs through existing facilities, new discrete facilities or grouped within a single multi-use project. Investigating options will include consideration of: the availability of existing spaces and their ability to adequately meet the identified needs; potential project providers (who will own and operate the space, who will run the activities), their responsibilities, level of commitment and ability to sustain use/participation; potential funding mechanisms and willingness to pay; and which uses will be compatible or incompatible in a multi-use facility. While these decisions are being made, the City should investigate ways to keep the HERC open (e.g., for another 10 years) to help meet indoor space needs.

Another priority that came up repeatedly during the needs assessment is the need to stabilize the financial future of the Kevin Bell Ice Arena. Though the City is not responsible for this facility, thousands of people use the facility (up to 800 in a week). The facility supports local users and also attracts teams from outside the community who spend time (and money) in Homer. Aside from the debt of the building and land, the rink's revenue has supported its yearly operations since it opened in 2005. Current debt totals \$2.74 million, and it will require \$60,000 per year to repay. The rink has become an institution in Homer, providing healthy lifestyle choices and also important winter revenue with the annual tournaments and games, bringing visitors from other cities. The Needs Assessment is not the forum in which to work out the specific near term strategies on this time-sensitive issue. The community can continue to seek opportunities to meet existing user needs at the hockey arena (e.g., indoor walking, climbing) as well as investigate longer term revenue sources that could help sustain the facility. The idea was raised to consider dedicating some amount of City funds to cover a portion of the \$60,000 annual debt payment.

¹ Some of these space needs may be fulfilled by better communication about existing toddler-friendly spaces and activities; many programs are already offered and new activities starting.

OUTDOOR FACILITIES

Priority outdoor facilities include: upgrading the softball fields, car-free ice skating at Beluga Lake, a warming hut on the spit, an outdoor amphitheater, and multi-use trail connections. These outdoor improvements, while important, present a much lower threshold of cost and complexity than the possible need for some form of new, multipurpose indoor facility(ies).

ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, PROGRAMING

A number of programming needs were identified, listed below. Exploring options to meet these identified needs is important, but must be considered in the context of the management and/or addition of indoor facilities, which is closely tied to many of these identified needs.

- Indoor, winter event space and programing, activities (e.g. laser tag, bumper cars, go cart track, child play area), and longer hours for programs or facilities (e.g. late night and/or early morning).
- Multi-generational activities, for parents and toddlers, for mentally and physical disabled older people, for seniors in general.
- Activities at McNeil Canyon School and in Anchor Point, specifically.
- Short courses/workshops (one day or less), with smaller time and financial commitment.
- Specific activities/classes: folk school, healthy cooking, lifelong learning programs, Zumba, wildfoods safety, marine safety, adult indoor soccer.

MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

Outreach results make clear that participants recognize the need for new strategies to meet these priorities and identified the following solutions:

- Make better use of what already is available:
 - Centralized community calendar and information sharing (e.g., via mobile phone app).
 - Transportation improvements to get people to activities/events (e.g., affordable cross-bay transportation, rides for youth and seniors who do not drive).
 - Continued coordination and access to school district resources, particularly the high school.
- Improve the delivery of PARC resources:
 - Centralized meeting room list/scheduler.

- Consolidated community PARC leadership to reduce the number of volunteer boards and enable better coordination among providers (e.g., calendaring, networking, partnerships on projects, joint fundraising or grant applications, reciprocal membership agreements).
 - Consider a centralized City Parks and Recreation Department with additional City of Homer recreation staff (existing staff are currently at capacity, and the City could potentially leverage increased community involvement toward providing services and completing park improvement projects with additional staff.).
 - Consider ways to maintain the PARC Committee and continued City involvement in PARC resource management.
- Investigate new funding options (e.g., service area); consistent capital funding is needed, whether for the HERC, ballfields, or park improvements.

OPPORTUNITIES TO USE EXISTING FACILITIES

The community felt strongly that Homer’s many existing resources should be used to meet existing needs before any new facilities were built or programs started. The Needs Assessment included an analysis of the extent to which priority needs could be met with existing resources, based on the needs and existing resources inventories generated through the needs assessment process. Many identified needs could potentially be met through existing or new resources, depending on the will of the community.

NEXT STEPS AND IMPLEMENTATION RESOURCES

Parks, art, recreation and culture are important enough to area residents that a majority support some degree of increased public funding for recreation and culture facilities and services through various means. In the near term, recreation and culture leaders could continue to focus on the operational and organizational priority needs to better coordinate and consolidate existing resources in terms of space, funding and fundraising efforts, information sharing, and planning for longer-term priorities, such as a new multi-purpose facility or addressing the future ownership of the Kevin Bell Ice Arena.

The statistically valid survey indicates a level of support and willingness to dedicate City funds toward these two large capital projects. Just over half of the statistically-valid telephone survey respondents (56.8 percent) said that a new multi-purpose community center should be a City priority within the next 10 years and indicated a willingness to contribute some amount of property taxes to its development. Similarly, just over half of the statistically-valid telephone survey respondents (53.6 percent) indicated that the City should provide approximately \$10,000-\$15,000 per year in new funding to help cover a portion of the loan payment on the hockey arena, and look to the Homer Hockey Association to find the remaining funding for the Kevin Bell Ice Arena. Another 20.1 percent of survey respondents indicated a willingness to dedicate city funding to pay the entire \$60,000 annual mortgage payment on the ice arena.

The statistically valid survey also indicates a level of support for different potential funding mechanisms. The most frequently indicated choice of municipal funding mechanism for new recreation and culture services was to reallocate existing funding from other municipal sources (25 percent). Support for taxes (property, sales, other) as the preferred funding mechanism ranged from approximately 12-18 percent, while survey results also indicate that over 55 percent of area residents would to some degree favor the creation of a service area in the Homer area to fund new recreation and culture services. The most likely and robust strategy for funding existing and new recreation and culture facilities and services is to leverage funding from a variety of sources, including city tax funding, user fees, grants and continued volunteer support.

INTRODUCTION

For a long time, the Homer area has had a rich offering of recreation and culture amenities. Community parks and beaches, indoor and outdoor sports, visual and performing arts, cultural events and festivals are all part of the local quality of life for residents of all ages. This is part of what makes Homer what it is, part of what brings new friends and family to live in the area, and part of what keeps residents healthy and engaged in community life.

While the community is abundant in recreation and culture resources, the City and a number of community organizations face tight budgets, overcommitted or inadequate physical facilities, and other limitations to their ability to sustain programming and facilities. The Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment is intended to help the greater community to get creatively organized about how to make the most of what Homer has already, to build on that foundation to provide new amenities, or to move existing programs and facilities in new directions. The needs assessment also provides greater clarity about the value of recreation and culture activities to the community and identifies potential resources and strategies to sustain and grow the amenities that make Homer the place residents want to live. The needs assessment does this by:

1. Assessing community values, wants and needs related to PARC resources, based on feedback from a broad range of organizations, individuals, and businesses;
2. Identifying gaps between identified needs and existing facilities and programs; and
3. Investigating strategies for meeting priority needs, recognizing the realities of finite resources (e.g., funding, volunteers, profitable business opportunities) and Homer's relatively small population. Strategies include better use of existing facilities, while investigating options for new resources to support future recreation and culture improvements.

The results of the needs assessment reflect the reality that many residents, businesses, organizations of and visitors deeply value recreation and culture resources for their social, health and quality of life benefits, for the economic opportunities they provide, and because they make Homer the community and the place in which they choose to live. Homer has attracted a community of people with great vision and capacity to make things happen: community members dedicate a remarkable number of volunteer hours, have started and maintained numerous nonprofits, hosted community events, and donated materials and funding toward various community resources.

With all this community effort, Homer already has a wealth of parks, art, recreation, and cultural resources. The needs assessment reveals a desire for even more: a broad and ambitious list of ways to further expand and fill recreation and culture gaps. At the same time, it is clear that there are limits in the community's ability to meet all expressed wishes, and that there is a desire to be realistic about how much the community is able to take on and sustain over time. To satisfy these goals, identified needs are presented within the context of an overall set of strategies:

1. Maximize the use of existing public resources.
2. Look for and take advantage of opportunities for the private sector to fill gaps.
3. Explore new ways to improve the efficiency and coordination of providing recreation and culture resources and related information sharing.
4. Maintain existing facilities while developing funding strategies for highest priority future expansion or renewal projects.

METHODOLOGY

A full list of identified needs was generated from a review of previous relevant plans and studies, an online community survey (989 responses, representing approximately 1,700 people), an online provider questionnaire (21 responses), community workshop (approximately 40 participants) and focus group discussions (approximately 55 participants), and key informant interviews. From this inventory, a set of priorities was determined by filtering the identified needs based on whether they had:

1. Broad support from multiple user groups and the general public and therefore would directly serve the largest portion of the community, or
2. High level of support from one or more organized user group(s) and therefore already has a project champion, although it would directly serve a smaller subset of the community.

The identified needs were also filtered through a set of specific criteria developed by the community as the basis for prioritization; these criteria determined that priorities should:

1. Contribute to the economic vitality of the community.
2. Bring together multiple organizations and user groups (such as seniors and youth).
3. Support the capacity and mission of existing organizations.
4. Be affordable to users.
5. Be able to be staffed and maintained.
6. Have a user group.
7. Be physically accessible to community members, in a central location, and complement adjacent land uses (if applicable).
8. Include both passive and active recreation together.

A gap analysis of recreation and culture needs was performed with the priorities that emerged through this filtering process. The City of Homer oversaw the process, with staff support and project management provided by Walt Wrede and Julie Engebretsen, and guidance from the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture (PARC) Advisory Committee, which represented perspectives from the Homer Council on the Arts (HCOA), Parks and Recreation Commission, Homer Hockey, MAPP of the Southern Kenai Peninsula, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, ReCreate Rec, Bunnell Arts

Center, City of Homer Community Recreation, Homer Voice for Business, and motorized sports groups (e.g., Snomads).

A statistically valid telephone survey was conducted by Ivan Moore Research, primarily to assess the community's willingness to pay for identified recreation and culture needs. Survey results indicated that recreation and culture are important to the majority of area residents and that there is some support for increasing public funding for recreation and culture facilities and services through various means. The full survey report cross-tabulates responses by categories such as zip code, age, and income for a more detailed picture of how people value recreation and culture resources, as well as funding options at the time of the survey.

RECREATION AND CULTURE IN GREATER HOMER

THE GREATER HOMER COMMUNITY

Residents, businesses, organizations of and visitors to the greater Homer area deeply value recreation and culture resources for their social, health and quality of life benefits, for the economic opportunities they provide, and because they make greater Homer the community and the place in which they choose to live. The greater Homer area has attracted a community of people with great vision and capacity to make things happen: community members dedicate a remarkable number of volunteer hours, have started and maintained numerous nonprofits, hosted community events, and donated materials and funding toward various community resources.

Figure 1: Greater Homer Area Population, 2013



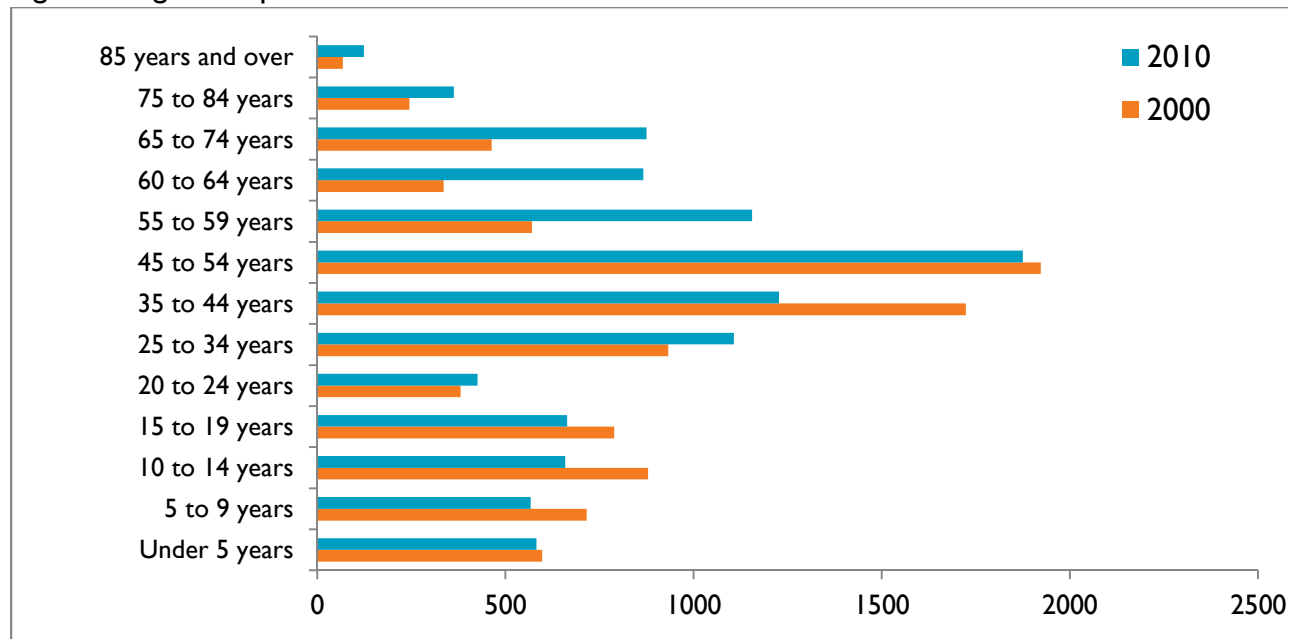
Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and U.S. Census Bureau

POPULATION TRENDS

The Homer Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment focuses on the City of Homer and four neighboring census tracts: Anchor Point, Fritz Creek, Diamond Ridge and Kachemak City. The population of this area totaled 10,842 in 2013.² Changing age distribution in this area between 2000 and 2010 suggests that it will see greater recreation and culture participation by seniors and stable or decreased participation by other age groups. The population of people age 55 to 74 nearly doubled during that time, while the population age 35-44 decreased by almost 500.

² Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 2: Age of Population in Greater Homer, 2000 and 2010



Sources: 2000 Census, 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-year estimate; Greater Homer area includes Homer city, Kachemak city, Diamond Ridge, Fritz Creek, and Anchor Point.

The population over 65 is projected to almost double in the next forty years. This trend suggests that the greater Homer area is likely to see more recreation and culture participation by seniors; this increase could include more potential volunteers among active seniors.

Figure 3: Projected senior population 2012-2042

	2012	2017	2022	2032	2042	annual increase	total increase
Homer Population	10,783	11,217	11,628	12,183	12,434	1%	15%
Homer Population 65+	1,733	2,150	2,789	3,325	3,094	3%	78%
65+ percent of total population	16%	19%	24%	27%	25%		

This projection method assumes the Homer population will remain the same size relative to the Kenai Peninsula Borough (19 percent of total population) and applies the 65 and older population annual increase in the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) to the Homer population.

Source: 2010, Census, 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-year estimate; Alaska Population Estimates by Borough, Census Area, City, and Census Designated Place (CDP), 2010-2013; State of Alaska Population Projections 2012-42

Youth population trends are less clear, suggesting that recreation and culture resources should remain flexible to accommodate changing youth populations. While the number of the young people under age 19 living in greater Homer decreased dramatically between 2000 and 2010, the population under five years old has decreased by a significantly smaller amount than the older youth population, indicating that the decrease in youth population may be slowing. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the number of young people is (or will soon be) increasing because of the number of infants that have been born within the last two to three years. The Kenai Peninsula Borough is projected to have an overall increase in young people.

Figure 4: Population Change in the Greater Homer Area, Age 19 and Under, 2000-2010

Age	2000	2010	Change
Under 5 years	598	583	-3%
5 to 9 years	716	567	-21%
10 to 14 years	879	659	-25%
15 to 19 years	789	664	-16%
All age 19 and under	2,982	2,473	-17%

Source: 2010, Census, 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-year estimate; Alaska Population Estimates by Borough, Census Area, City, and Census Designated Place (CDP), 2010-2013

Figure 5: Kenai Peninsula Borough population projections 2012-2042

	2012	2022	2032	2042	% increase
Kenai Peninsula Borough	56,718	61,391	64,321	65,647	16%
19 and under	14,423	15,483	16,865	17,403	21%

Source: State of Alaska Population Projections 2012-42

THE VALUE OF RECREATION AND CULTURE

Results from both an online (non-statistically valid) survey and a telephone (statistically-valid) survey indicate that recreation and culture activities are important to Homer community members. Seventy five percent of online community survey respondents (self-selected) said arts and recreation activities were important or very important to them and their immediate family.³ Just over 59 percent of statistically-valid telephone survey respondents indicated that recreation and culture activities are important or very important to them and their immediate family and friends.

Figure 6: Importance of arts and recreation activities to immediate family and friends? (online survey)

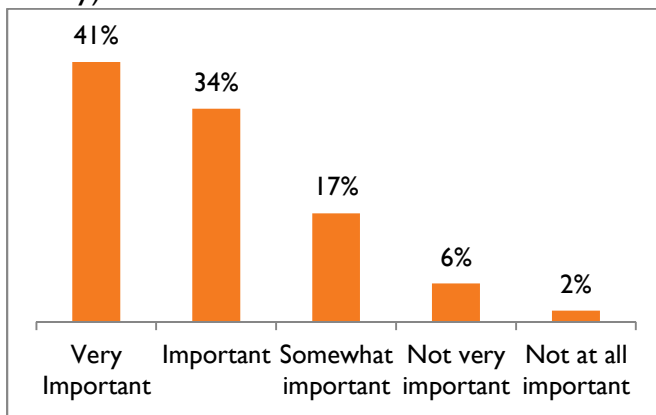


Figure 7: Importance of Recreation and Culture Activities

How important are the availability of recreation and culture activities to you and your immediate family and friends?

Response	Percent	Number
Very important	43.6%	113
Important	15.7%	41
Somewhat important	24.3%	63
Not very important	7.1%	18
Not at all important	8.7%	23
Not sure.	0.6%	2

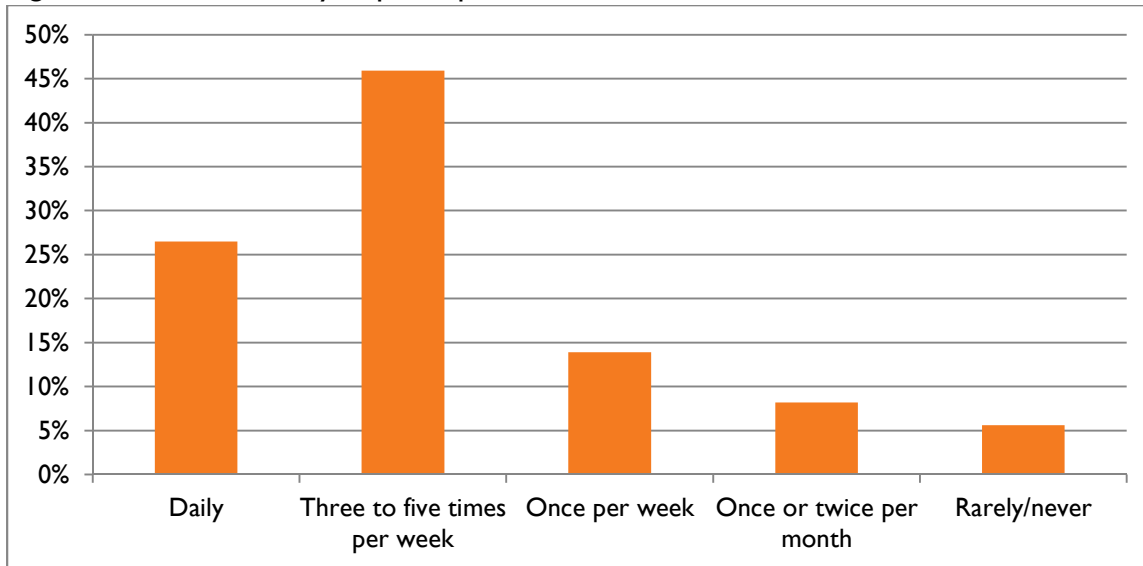
Source: 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Public Opinion Survey, Ivan Moore Research. Raw survey results

³ The online survey asked residents to rate the importance of arts and recreation separately. To compare results with the statistically valid survey, respondent answers to the importance of art and recreation were combined to create an index representing the combined importance of recreation and arts.

are weighted according to the following: 1) Responses apportioned by zip code according to the adult population in each; 2) Marital status balanced by gender in both zip codes (i.e., the percentage of married men equals that of married women and the percentage of single men equals that of single women); 3) The age distribution is weighted to match the census distribution of head of household; 4) Cellphone-only responses were appropriately weighted against landline responses.

Survey results also suggest that recreation and culture are an important part of residents' daily life. Around 75 percent of online community survey respondents participate in a recreation and culture activity three or more times per week.

Figure 8: How often do you participate in activities?



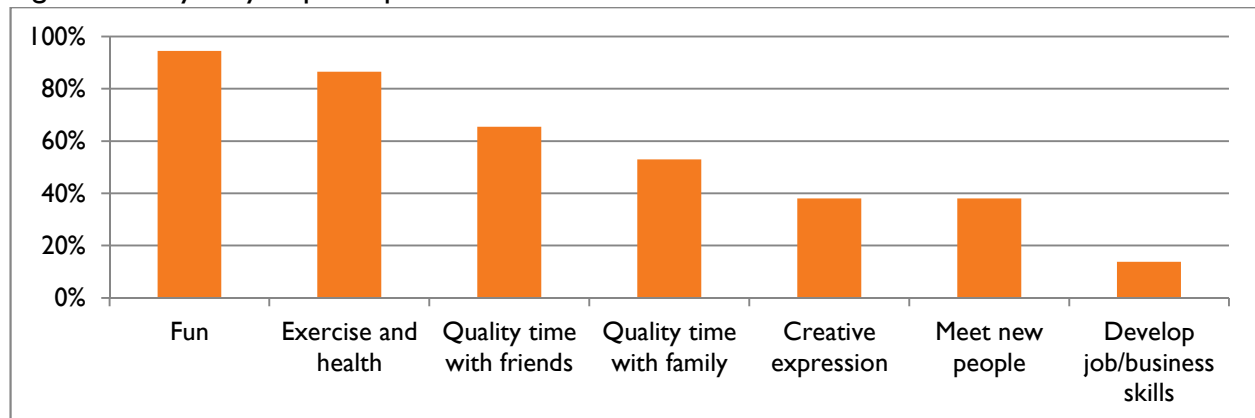
Source: 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Online Community Survey

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Fun is the number one reason Homer residents participate in recreation and culture activities. Ninety percent of the nearly 1,000 survey respondents said fun was one reason they participated in recreation and culture activities. Recreation and culture activities provide utilitarian benefits as well: nearly 85 percent of respondents said they participated for exercise and health benefits. Respondents said that recreation and culture activities help with stress management, spiritual health and quality of life during the winter months.

Recreation is a quality of life priority for my family and I value youth activity opportunities above almost all else.

Figure 9: Why do you participate in recreation and culture activities?



Source: 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Online Community Survey

Community workshop participants identified these intangible benefits of recreation and culture to the Homer community:

- **Health benefits** | Community safety; mental and physical health.
- **Family and social wellbeing** | Networking, role modeling, having places for people to interact, as an extended family, especially when many people have family far away.
- **Education** | Opportunities for young people to spend free time and/or to develop their vocations; contributes to a great school system.
- **Natural resource conservation** | Opportunities to learn about and experience the natural environment, fosters conservation.
- **Economic wellbeing** | Generates business opportunities and is a visitor destination.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Recreation and culture amenities also provide direct and indirect economic benefits. Respondents to the Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Provider Survey reported that recreation and culture resources provide about 175 full-time, part-time, or contracted jobs in the Homer community. The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development estimates that around 300 people have experience in this job category.

Figure 10: Number of Workers with Experience in PARC Industries, 2009–2013

Place	Arts, entertainment, recreation employment experience by place of residence
Homer city	181
Anchor Point	28
Diamond Ridge	27
Fritz Creek	50
Kachemak city	15
All	301

Source: Number of Workers with Experience in Industry 2009–2013, Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section. Last updated on August 26, 2014.

Indirect economic benefits come mainly through the visitor industry. The average visitor to Homer spends \$257 per trip, including \$87 on tours, activities and entertainment; 16 percent of Homer workers are employed in leisure and hospitality.⁴ The Provider Survey also indicated that recreation and culture resources do attract visitors who support the Homer economy, drawing anywhere from 500-600 attendees to recreation and culture events, with the average event drawing about 115 people in addition to the people producing, performing or competing in the event. Other providers indicate that:

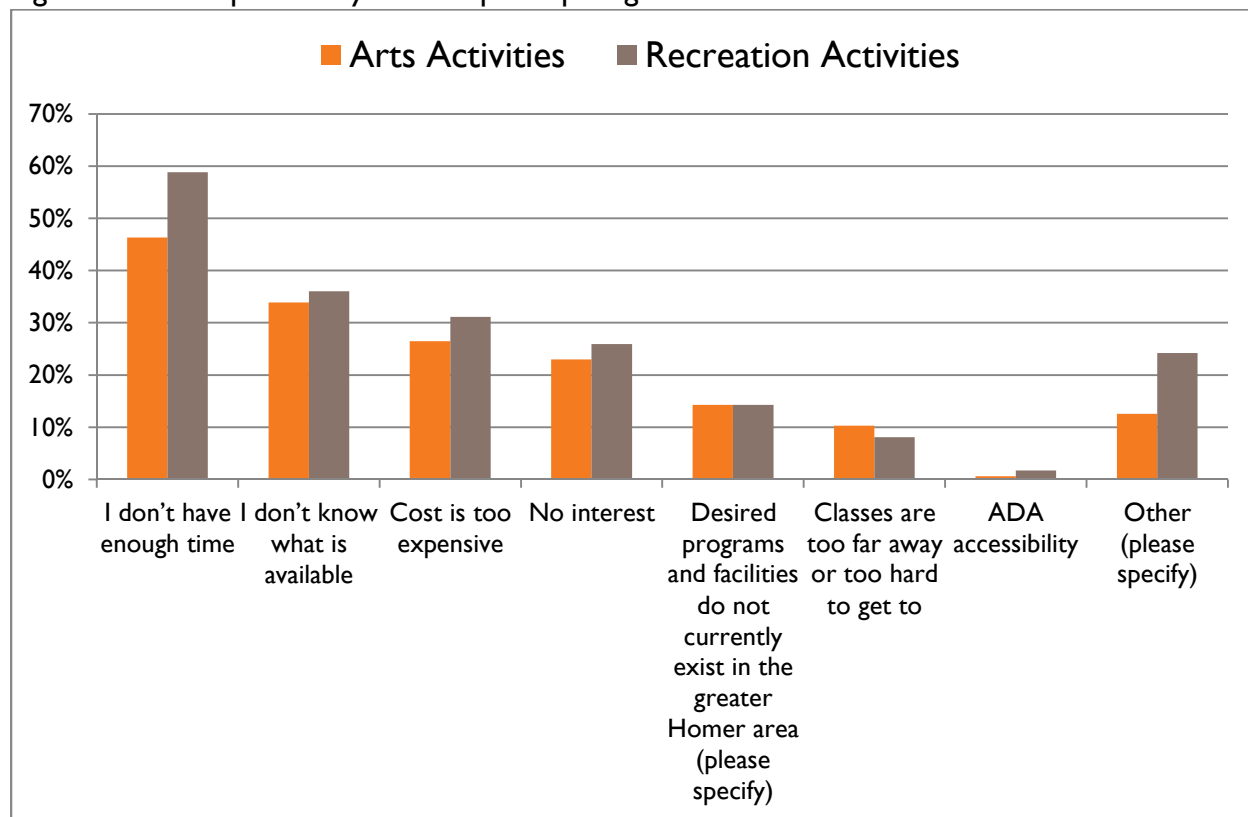
- Nearly 90 percent of campground users come from outside of Homer (City of Homer Parks Maintenance).
- About 10 percent of the Kachemak Wooden Boat Society festival attendees come from out of town.
- Every Saturday visiting Little League teams from the Kenai Peninsula or Anchorage visit Homer to play ball, eat lunch and dinner. Many spend the night and plan a fishing trip (Homer Little League).

⁴ Source: Alaska Economic Trends, June 2013, AKDOLWD; Alaska Visitor Statistics Program VI: Summer 2011, McDowell Group.

BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

Through the online community survey (self-selected), the needs assessment identified a number of barriers to participation in recreation and culture activities, as well as common themes for overcoming these barriers. A number of survey respondents also indicated that they are fully satisfied with recreation and culture offerings in the Homer area and believed that no changes are needed.

Figure 11: What prevents you from participating in recreation and culture activities more often?



Source: 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Online Community Survey

The assessment identified several common themes for overcoming these barriers to participation:

- **Time** | Lack of time or scheduling conflicts prevent people from participating in what is available. Sometimes there are too many things happening at the same time.
- **Space** | Some spaces (e.g., open gym, publicly-accessible workshop) are unavailable when people want to use them; some are not available at all.
- **Communication** | People don't always know what is available to them, and/or don't know where to find out about events, classes, and other resources that might interest them.
- **Location/Transportation** | Some people indicated that they live too far away, or have no transportation to get to the programs and facilities they want to use. Several

also mentioned a lack of safe pedestrian and bicyclist routes in town, where most of Homer's recreation and culture opportunities exist.

- **Money** | Some don't have the money needed to participate in all the activities they are interested in. For some, rising land values and a lack of the right job opportunities have made it difficult to afford to even live in Homer, particularly for young families.
- **Youth and Childcare** | Some people said they need more childcare options or supervised activities for children; some young people said they need more places to go outside of school hours.
- **Volunteers** | Some said more volunteers are needed, there too many opportunities and people are getting burned out, others said they need to volunteer less in order to have more time available for PARC activities.

Youth and seniors echoed many of these common themes. Among youth, the most common barriers to participating in more recreation and culture activities include transportation, money and weather. Seniors mentioned the need for more ways for new arrivals to Homer to connect with recreation and culture activities and groups. Caregivers for less active seniors pointed out that because it takes extra time and energy to help these less independent elders out of the house, planned activities and events are better for outings, while short unstructured activities are easier at home or in places like the Senior Center.

We visit Homer at least twice a year so more festivals would be nice so we can plan a little getaway from Anchorage. As for arts, they are pretty expensive, because it is worth it.

EXISTING RECREATION AND CULTURE

The Homer has many existing recreation and culture resources. The Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment indicated a few common overarching themes:

- A number of space constraints were identified for indoor activities.
- Outdoor facilities are well used.
- A large number and wide variety of activities, events and programming are available; there appears to be more participation in outdoor than indoor activities.
- There is a desire for more consolidation and leveraging resources to more effectively manage and advertise recreation and culture facilities, activities, events and programming.

An inventory of recreation and culture resources is included in Appendix A.

SUMMARY OF EXISTING RECREATION AND CULTURE RESOURCES

INDOOR FACILITIES

The Needs Assessment confirms that Homer currently has a number of different indoor recreation and culture spaces, yet there are also space constraints, scheduling conflicts and a lack of certain types of indoor facilities. These space constraints exist in part because some existing facilities, such as the HERC and the High School, are already used to their current capacity. The gap analysis provides more information about the capacity of different spaces to meet identified needs.

Existing large indoor multi-purpose spaces include the Homer High School gym, the HERC building and middle and elementary school multipurpose rooms. The Mariner Theater hosts large performances; Pier 1 puts on productions in the summer; and smaller winter season shows use spaces like the Bunnell Street Arts Center, the Homer Council on the Arts (HCOA) Gallery, the Homer Theater, the Pratt Museum, and bars/restaurants. Smaller indoor recreation spaces for dance and yoga include the Bay Club, the High School, private yoga studios, and the HERC building. There are spaces for specific activities, like pottery or woodworking, throughout Homer, but the most accessible studio spaces are at the High School and have experienced a number of scheduling conflicts. Homer also has a number of flexible spaces, which offer the potential to be temporarily or permanently reconceived to meet the demand for additional specialized spaces that are currently unavailable. For example, Kachemak Bay Campus, the Pratt Museum and Homer Council on the Arts already host multiple types of events. See Appendix A, Indoor Flexible Spaces, for an additional list of spaces that can meet the needs of a variety of events and uses.

OUTDOOR FACILITIES

The Needs Assessment confirmed that the area’s existing parks, trails and other outdoor spaces are well-used and that a number of projects have benefitted from the coordination of various public and outdoor interest groups to plan and raise funding for improvements.

The City provides 17 dedicated parks and seven park areas for recreational purposes. The Kenai Peninsula School District maintains outdoor fields and tennis courts at the High School. The Homer area also has a number of year-round multi-use trails. Outdoor facilities also include:

- Homer Ski Club rope tow
- Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association Cottonwood Horse Park
- Outdoor basketball courts at the HERC and High School
- Softball, baseball, football, and soccer fields
- Multiuse trails (for mountain biking, cross country skiing, hiking, and other activities)
- Disc golf course
- Street art
- Outdoor space at the Pratt Museum (10 acres)
- Outdoor amphitheaters at the library, Pratt Museum, and Islands and Ocean Center.

Figure 12: Participation in Outdoor Activities

Outdoor Activity	Responses (Percent)	Responses (Raw number)
Walking	71%	646
Recreational Fishing	58%	531
Camping	58%	530
Bicycling	56%	510
Recreational Boating	48%	435
Cross Country Skiing	46%	416
Gardening	45%	405
Wildfood Harvesting	41%	377
Festivals	38%	342
Photography	37%	339

Source: 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Online Community Survey

ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, PROGRAMMING

The Needs Assessment confirmed that the greater Homer community offers a relatively large number and variety of recreation and culture activities, events and programming. Residents and visitors are very involved in recreation and culture activities, as participants or users, as providers and as volunteers. The activities and events that draw the most frequent and steady participation tend to change over time as new activities are introduced and others fade in popularity. Some

Figure 13: Participation in Indoor Activities

Indoor Activity	Responses (Percent)	Responses (Raw number)
Swimming	43%	365
Performance Art	40%	344
Gym	38%	321
Lifelong Learning	33%	280
Hockey/Ice Sports	28%	242
Yoga/tai chi/meditation	28%	237
Cooking	25%	216
Visual Arts	23%	193
Basketball	20%	168
Card and board games	18%	155

Source: 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Online Community Survey

outdoor activities and use outdoor spaces. Outdoor activities could be more popular in general. They may also be more accessible: often there is no membership or user fee involved for outdoor activities, and there may be fewer scheduling constraints because people can usually participate in outdoor activities at any time of day. Greater participation in outdoor activities may also be an indication of the shortage of indoor facilities reported by the community.

MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

A desire for consolidation and simplification was the overall theme that emerged from the Needs Assessment about the state of provider management of and communication about recreation and culture resources in the Homer area. Although Homer has a robust volunteer base and a community culture that supports volunteerism, some providers have been challenged to find volunteer staff and board members, and expressed a desire for consolidation. The community also recognizes that pooling efforts and resources may allow providers to leverage even more resources. For instance, some providers suggested the benefits of working together to pursue funding for joint projects.

activities/events have seen a decline in participation, but many providers reported steady or growing participation. For example, Concert on the Lawn will be discontinued in 2015 because of decreased attendance, while Colors of Homer is thriving as a shared community arts event that includes music.

Providers and users emphasize that these activities and events bring new people to visit or even live in the Homer area. Some providers indicated the desire to expand their programming, but have encountered space constraints.

Community survey results⁵ suggest that more people participate in

⁵ 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Online Community Survey.

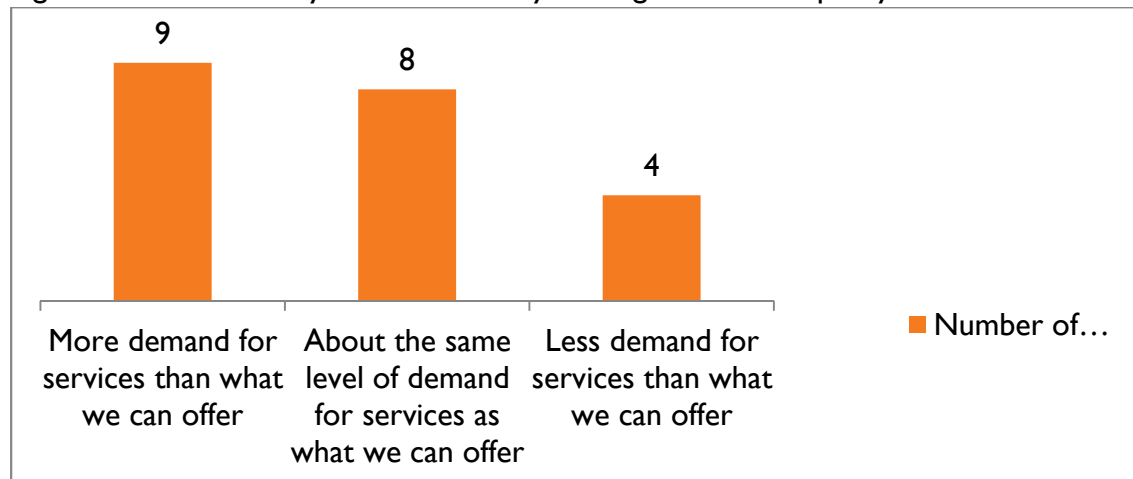
Existing City staff managing parks and City recreation programs are at or above capacity to meet local demand for these programs, and could benefit from partnerships with providers.

While participation in specific events and activities naturally ebbs and flows, most of Homer's recreation and culture providers indicated that interest in their programs has been strong. Yet Homer has so much recreation and culture that residents and visitors are not always aware of what is available to them. Some of the most frequently identified needs are not for new programs and facilities, but for more centralized and internet-based communication about what is happening and available.

Providers | In addition to the Homer area's stunning natural landscape, provider organizations are the engine of arts and recreation opportunities. For the purposes of this needs assessment, the Recreation and Culture Committee defined recreation and culture providers as a business or organization that provides classes or puts on performances or events. Activity user groups (e.g., Snomads) were also considered recreation and culture providers. Churches and civic groups are also recognized as providing valuable recreation and culture opportunities for adults and young people alike. Additionally, sole proprietor artists, co-ops, and galleries add to making Homer the rich recreation and culture community that it is.

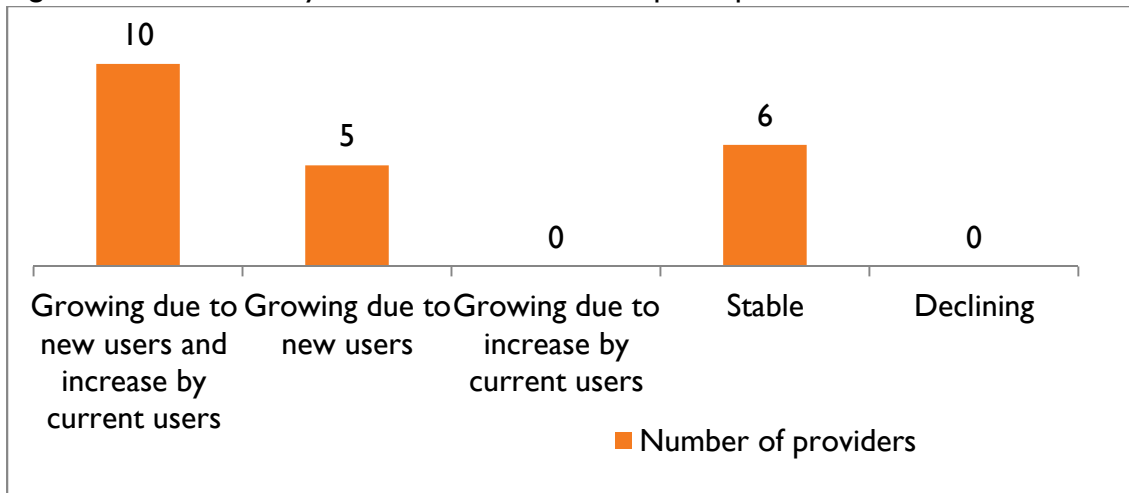
Twenty one providers responded to the provider questionnaire. Most providers are stable or growing. Figure 14 shows that less than half of the providers surveyed were operating at a capacity that fit their organization. Nine said they had more demand for services than they could provide and four said they had less demand than they could provide. Providers highlighted the importance of their volunteers, the difficulty of finding heated indoor space, and the difficulty of finding funding.

Figure 14: How would you characterize your organization's capacity?



Source: 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Provider Survey

Figure 15: How would you characterize trends in participation or use?



Source: 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Provider Survey

The City of Homer and Community Recreation | Recreation services are supported by two departments and three divisions of the City of Homer. The Community Recreation program, under the direction of the Department of Administration, provides programming and facility access in two main non-municipal locations and one city-owned property, the HERC building. The Division of Parks in the Public Works Department maintains recreation facilities, primarily parks, trails and campgrounds. Some stakeholders advocated consolidating these functions under a single Parks and Recreation Department to provide better services. Figure 16 shows that of the 25 largest cities in Alaska in 2010, approximately 76 percent had local parks and recreation departments and 76 percent had a community or recreation center in 2010. Only three of communities (Homer, Dillingham and Houston) had neither a Parks and Recreation Department nor a Borough to provide coordinated park and recreation services. Homer is one of three of Alaska’s 25 largest cities that uses local schools as a recreation center.

Figure 16: Recreation and Culture Services in Alaska’s 25 Largest Cities

City	Population	Parks and Recreation Department	Borough provides?	Community/ Recreation Center
Anchorage	291,826	Yes	No	Yes
Fairbanks	31,535	No	Yes	Yes
Juneau	31,275	Yes	Combined city/borough	Yes
Sitka	8,881	Yes	Combined city/borough	No
Ketchikan	8,050	No	No	Yes
Wasilla	7,831	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kenai	7,100	Yes	No	No
Kodiak	6,130	Yes	Combined city/borough	No (schools)
Bethel	6,080	Yes	No	Yes
Palmer	5,937	Yes	Yes	Yes
Homer	5,003	No	No	No (schools)
Unalaska	4,376	Yes	No	Yes
Barrow	4,212	Yes	No	Yes
Soldotna	4,163	Yes	No	Yes
Valdez	3,976	Yes	No	Yes
Nome	3,598	Yes	No	Yes
Kotzebue	3,201	Yes	No	Yes
Petersburg	2,948	Yes	Combined city/borough	Yes
Seward	2,693	Yes	No	Yes
Wrangell	2,369	Yes	Combined city/borough	Yes
Dillingham	2,329	No	No	No
Cordova	2,239	Yes	No	Yes
North Pole	2,117	No	Yes	No
Houston	1,912	No	No	No (schools)
Craig	1,201	Yes	No	Yes

Source: City of Homer Community Recreation, 2010 Census.

Other Recreation and Culture Coordinators | In addition to the City, several organizations coordinate and facilitate multiple types of recreation and culture opportunities and bring user groups and spectators together across activities. These coordinators include:

- MAPP of Homer
- Homer Arts and Culture Alliance
- Homer Council on the Arts, including Artist Registry
- Kenai Peninsula School District
- Homer Chamber of Commerce

Information and Advertising | Getting the word out about recreation and culture facilities and programs is just as important as having the resources to begin with. Participation might be low for some programming because people are unaware of what is available, especially for visitors and new residents who are just learning about the community and what it has to offer. Providers, users and the general public repeatedly mentioned the need for a centralized community calendar. MAPP of Homer is currently working on an integrated web based calendar that providers can use, so meeting the need for more coordinated information sharing might be close. Existing community calendars and information sources include:

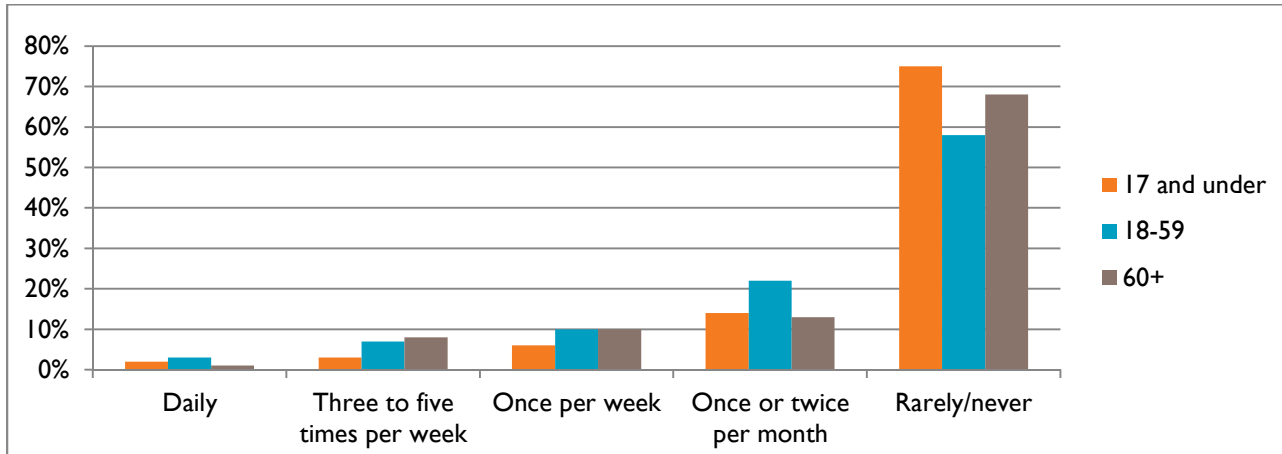
- Homer News
- City of Homer
- Individual arts, recreation, civic organizations
- Homer Council on the Arts website, arts calendar and e-news and artist registry
- Homer Public Radio AM 890
- Pop411.org
- KBBI calendar

Volunteers | Providers and community members highlighted the importance of volunteers in sustaining recreation and culture activities and amenities in Homer. Recreation and culture provider survey respondents totaled:

- 52,742 volunteer hours per year, or 144 hours per day (not including the organization that approximated “literally thousands” of volunteer hours annually).
- At least 85 board member positions.
- At least 133 formal volunteer positions.
- Recreation and culture providers rely on at least 796 informal or event specific volunteer positions.

Community respondents also reported volunteering. Fifteen percent volunteer once per week or more, and 65 percent rarely or never volunteer. Working age survey respondents reported volunteering more frequently than youth or seniors.

Figure 17: On average, how often do you volunteer at recreation and culture programs and activities?



Source: 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Online Community Survey

GAP ANALYSIS OF RECREATION AND CULTURE NEEDS

To be realistic about how much the greater Homer community is able to take on and sustain over time, identified needs are presented within the context of an overall set of strategies:

1. Maximize the use of existing public resources.
2. Look for and take advantage of opportunities for the private sector to fill gaps.
3. Explore new ways to improve the efficiency and coordination of providing recreation and culture resources and related information sharing.
4. Maintain existing facilities while developing funding strategies for highest priority future expansion or renewal projects.

SUMMARY OF IDENTIFIED PRIORITY NEEDS

Identified priority needs focus on the need for indoor facilities/activities and improvements to recreation and culture resource coordination, and also included a number of more modest of outdoor facilities and programming needs.

Figure 18: Provider Space Needs

Facility need	Providers	Percent
We need more heated indoor space	11	52%
We need more outdoor space	9	53%
We need specialized space	12	57%
We currently do not have any space needs.	2	10%
Other [1]	9	53%

[1] Includes: Access at high priority times (e.g., right after school); ADA accessible space; Access to calendar and coordinating for space that is available; Headquarters/space that different user groups can overlap and interact in; Childcare space.

Source: 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Provider Survey

INDOOR FACILITIES

Of the priorities that filtered to the top, the most significant was space for indoor activities. The most pressing needs are for a general-purpose gymnasium and a multi-purpose space for dance, martial arts, and performing arts rehearsals. The City will be unable to expand these types of programming until adequate space is created. Specific identified needs include:

- Active recreation space: large multi-purpose gymnasium, indoor walking track, affordable weight room, martial arts gym, indoor (and outdoor) racket sports.

- Space for the arts: centralized location for music activities (including practice studio, recording studio and/or programming), more spaces for making art, 200-300 seat performance space, and
- Spaces for youth: toddler and family spaces,⁶ teen space while school is not in session.

Depending on specific designs, many or even all of these needs might be met in a single facility. A multi-purpose community center was the most frequently identified need across providers, user groups, existing plans and the general public. Although frequently mentioned, a new multipurpose facility would be costly. Considering the other identified needs, this project should be

Looking forward to retirement and would really like to see a community facility with many activities available under one roof and a park facility for multipurpose outdoor activities

deferred to a medium or long-term status, giving the area population, industry and tax base time to grow. In the near term, the next step for the community will be to determine whether to meet priority indoor space needs through existing facilities, new discrete facilities or grouped within a single multi-use project. This discussion will involve consideration of: the availability of existing spaces and their ability to adequately meet the identified needs; potential project providers (who will own and operate the space, who will run the activities), their responsibilities, level of commitment and ability to sustain use/participation; potential funding mechanisms and willingness to pay; and which uses will be compatible or incompatible in a multi-use facility. While these decisions are being made, the City should investigate ways to keep the HERC open (e.g., for another 10 years) to help meet indoor space needs. The Pratt Museum might also be able to fulfill some of these needs in the interim and in future. The Museum is currently conducting a capital campaign to build a new building in the near future. The existing building could be repurposed to provide artist space, art and culture space, and potentially a small theater.

Another priority that came up repeatedly during the needs assessment is the need to stabilize the financial future of the Kevin Bell Ice Arena. Though the City is not responsible for this facility, thousands of people use the facility (up to 800 in a week). The facility supports local users and also attracts teams from outside the community who spend time (and money) in Homer. Aside from the debt of the building and land, the rink's revenue has supported its yearly operations since it opened in 2005. Current debt totals \$2.74 million, and it will require \$60,000 per year to repay. The rink has become an institution in Homer, providing healthy lifestyle choices and also important winter revenue with the annual tournaments and games, bringing visitors from other cities. The Needs Assessment is not the forum in which to work out the specific near term strategies on this time-sensitive issue. The community can continue to seek opportunities to match existing user needs to

⁶ Some of these space needs may be fulfilled by better communication about existing toddler-friendly spaces and activities; many programs are already offered and new activities starting.

the arena (e.g., indoor walking, climbing) as well as investigate longer term revenue sources that could help sustain the facility. Consider expanding City funding to cover a portion of the \$60,000 annual debt payment.

OUTDOOR FACILITIES

Priority outdoor facilities include: upgrading the softball fields, car-free ice skating at Beluga Lake, a warming hut on the spit, an outdoor amphitheater, and multi-use trail connections. These outdoor improvements, while important, present a much lower threshold of cost and complexity than the possible need for some form of new, multipurpose indoor facility(ies).

ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, PROGRAMING

A number of programming needs were identified, listed below. Exploring options to meet these identified needs is important, but must be considered in the context of the management and/or addition of indoor facilities, which is closely tied to many of these identified needs.

- Indoor, winter event space and programing, activities (e.g. laser tag, bumper cars, go cart track, child play area), and longer hours for programs or facilities (e.g. late night and/or early morning).
- Multi-generational activities, for parents and toddlers, for mentally and physical disabled older people, for seniors in general.
- Activities at McNeil Canyon School and in Anchor Point, specifically.
- Short courses/workshops (one day or less), with smaller time and financial commitment.
- Specific activities/classes: folk school, healthy cooking, lifelong learning programs, Zumba, wildfoods safety, marine safety, adult indoor soccer.

I think it would be great to offer a space that could accommodate children's activities and parent activities that run in conjunction. So kids have an opportunity to socialize and play while parents get time to exercise or take a class in their area of interest. For those of us who do not have extended family around, our friends are our family. We live here for the unmatched quality of life and sometimes need a little extra community support to pursue our own health and learning goals. – Survey Respondent

MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

Outreach results make clear that participants recognize the need for new strategies to meet these priorities and identified the following solutions:

- Make better use of what already is available:

- Centralized community calendar and information sharing (e.g., via mobile phone app).
- Transportation improvements to get people to activities/events (e.g., affordable cross-bay transportation, rides for youth and seniors who do not drive).
- Continued coordination and access to school district resources, particularly the high school.
- Improve the delivery of recreation and culture resources:
 - Centralized meeting room list/scheduler.
 - Consolidated community recreation and culture leadership to reduce the number of volunteer boards and enable better coordination among providers (e.g., calendaring, networking, partnerships on projects, joint fundraising or grant applications, reciprocal membership agreements).
 - Consider a centralized City Parks and Recreation Department with additional City of Homer recreation staff (existing staff are currently at capacity, and the City could potentially leverage increased community involvement toward providing services and completing park improvement projects with additional staff.).
 - Consider ways to maintain the Recreation and Culture Committee and continued City involvement in recreation and culture resource management.
- Investigate new funding options (e.g., service area); consistent capital funding is needed, whether for the HERC, ballfields, or park improvements.

If we had another gym, we could fill that with more school activities, let alone more community rec activities. There are a lot of groups that would like to be in there, just don't have time or space for them. - Douglas Waclawski, Principal, Homer High School

Figure 19: Priority Identified Needs

Table Key							
●	Indicates primary tier priority						
◆	Indicates secondary tier priority						
Project				Outreach Source			
Priority	Project	Category	Potential Community Center Element	Fall 2014 Outreach	Community Survey	Provider Survey	Previous Planning
●	Community recreation facility	Multi-purpose Indoor		■	■	■	
●	Multi-purpose gym	Multi-purpose Indoor	○	■	■	■	■
●	Convention center	Multi-purpose Indoor	○	■			
●	Multi-purpose community art space and more art classroom space (e.g., wood shop, kiln, press, darkroom)	Multi-purpose Indoor		■	■	■	■
●			○	■	■	■	■
●	200-250 person theater	Specialized Indoor		■	■	■	
●	Children's art space; toddler/family/pre-school space, indoor play structure	Specialized Indoor		■	■	■	
●	Indoor walking facility/track	Specialized Indoor		■	■		■
●	Kevin Bell Arena financial support	Specialized Indoor		■	■	■	■
◆	Affordable weight room	Specialized Indoor		■	■		■
◆	Indoor and outdoor racket sports, including tennis	Specialized Indoor		■	■		
◆	Martial arts gym	Specialized Indoor	○		■		
◆	Music/recording studio	Specialized Indoor	○	■	■	■	
◆	Private music and art studios	Specialized Indoor	○	■			

Project				Outreach Source			
Priority	Project	Category	Potential Community Center Element	Fall 2014 Outreach	Community Survey	Provider Survey	Previous Planning
●	Space and programming for children and teens when school is not in session (e.g. Boys and Girls Club)	Central space/ headquarters (Indoor)	○	■	■	■	■
◆	Space and/or programs for music (e.g. open jam, mentoring/volunteer taught lessons, community band, practice spaces)	Central space/ headquarters (Indoor)	○	■	■	■	
●	Maintained, car free ice skating at Beluga Lake	Outdoor			■		
◆	Outdoor stage/amphitheater	Outdoor	○	■		■	■
◆	Warming hut on spit for water sports	Outdoor		■	■		
◆	Adequate parking at some facilities (e.g., Karen Hornaday Park, Jack Gist Park).	Outdoor		■		■	■
◆	Upgrade softball fields	Outdoor		■	■	■	■
●	Construct more non-motorized trails; bike and walking trails throughout the city and on main roads and neighborhoods; enhanced trail connections	Trails		■	■	■	■
●	Provide more ski trails in Anchor Point	Trails		■	■		■
◆	Improved maintenance for trails	Trails		■	■		
◆	Move toward multi-use trails in future	Trails		■	■	■	
●	Multi-generational activities	Programing		■			
●	Longer hours for programs or facilities (e.g. late night and/or early morning)	Programing		■	■		
●	More indoor activities (e.g. laser tag, bumper cars, go cart track, child play area)	Programing		■		■	■

Project				Outreach Source			
Priority	Project	Category	Potential Community Center Element	Fall 2014 Outreach	Community Survey	Provider Survey	Previous Planning
●	More for mentally and physical disabled older people, and for seniors in general	Programing	○	■			■
●	Marine safety programing	Programing		■	■		
●	More activities at McNeil Canyon School	Programing			■		
●	More activities in Anchor Point	Programing		■	■		
●	Parent-toddler classes	Programing			■		
◆	Folk school classes	Programing			■		
◆	Healthy cooking classes	Programing		■	■		
◆	Indoor soccer (adults only)	Programing			■		
◆	More short courses/workshops (1 day or less) with smaller time and financial commitment (e.g. at the University)	Programing		■	■		
◆	Vocational-technical classes and apprenticeship programs	Programing		■		■	■
◆	Wildfoods safety class	Programing			■		
◆	Zumba	Programing			■		
●	Improved, central community calendar (flyers, website, email updates, social media)	Coordination + Information		■	■		■
●	Continue to work with school district to enable off hours and off season use to the extent possible; Elementary, Middle and/or High School open to public for community schools or evening programs, as possible	Coordination + Information		■	■	■	■
●	Centralized Parks and Recreation Department	Coordination + Information		■		■	■
●	Expand capacity to maintain facilities and offer programs	Coordination + Information		■		■	■
●	Consolidate recreation and culture leadership. Reduce the number of volunteer boards; more coordination among providers (e.g., calendaring, networking, partnerships on projects, joint fundraising or grant applications, reciprocal membership agreements)	Coordination + Information		■	■	■	■
◆	More recreation and culture employees to provide project coordination and fundraising support, particularly grantwriting; could be	Coordination + Information		■		■	■

Project				Outreach Source			
Priority	Project	Category	Potential Community Center Element	Fall 2014 Outreach	Community Survey	Provider Survey	Previous Planning
	shared by various providers.						
◆	Meeting room List	Coordination + Information		■		■	
●	Park endowment fund	Funding		■			■
●	Park, Arts, Recreation and Culture, and Trails Foundation	Funding		■			
●	Sliding payment scale for participation in sporting activities and equipment, lower gym fees, including teen discount	Funding		■	■	■	■
◆	Recreation Service District	Funding		■			
◆	Reevaluate senior property tax exemption	Funding		■			
◆	Charge people who live outside of the city more to use city facilities and programs	Funding			■		
●	Transportation improvements, especially for those who don't drive (e.g. carpooling/ridesharing, improvements to trails and sidewalks, bike lanes, road crossings, better signage, connecting trails and paths through town, make places for people to park and walk)	Supporting		■	■	■	■
◆	Affordable transport across the bay	Programing		■	■		■
◆	Town center/square/plaza	Supporting	○	■			■

OPPORTUNITIES TO USE EXISTING FACILITIES

The community felt strongly that Homer’s many existing resources should be used to meet existing needs before any new facilities were built or programs started. Agnew::Beck analyzed the extent to which priority needs could be met with existing resources, based on the needs and existing resources inventories generated through the needs assessment process. The results are summarized in the table below. Many identified needs could potentially be met through existing or new resources, depending on the will of the community.

Figure 20: Opportunities to Use Existing Resources to Meet Priority Recreation and Culture Needs

Identified Need	Improve Coordination, Calendaring and Communication	Space Dependent	New Facility	Existing Resource(s)
Community Center				
Multi-purpose facility with gymnasium	Yes	Yes	Yes	HERC, High School, Middle School
Centrally located convention center	No	Yes	Yes (for larger events that require a central location)	Land’s End, Bidarka Hotel, Islands and Ocean, Kevin Bell Ice Arena (with flooring), Pratt Museum
200-300 seat performance venue ⁷	No	Yes	Yes	Mariner Theater, Pier One, Homer Theater, Homer Council on the Arts, Pratt Museum (if renovated)
Martial arts gymnasium/mat room ⁸	Yes	Yes	Yes	High School, private businesses
Toddler-family spaces	Yes	Yes	Maybe (depends on specific activities)	Senior Center, Library, Islands and Ocean , Homer Council on the Arts, Pratt Museum, Kevin Bell Arena, Pool, Schools, private businesses.
Teen space	Yes	Yes	Yes	High School, others (e.g., rec room)

⁷ 200-300 seat performance venue could be integrated with a main multi-purpose space, with green room (backstage warm-up/dressing room/rehearsal space for performers) as auxiliary space or additional black box (flexible space that is less constrained for other uses than the typical raised stage, permanent seating of a traditional theater).

⁸ A martial arts gymnasium/mat room could be designed to also serve as the green room noted above.

Identified Need	Improve Coordination, Calendaring and Communication			
	Space Dependent	New Facility	Existing Resource(s)	
Music hub	Yes	Yes	Yes	High School, private businesses (e.g., Lindianne’s Music Garden)
Art studios and art classroom space	Yes	Yes	Yes	Schools, Kachemak Bay Campus, Homer Council on the Arts, Pratt Museum
Affordable weight room	Yes	Yes	Maybe	High School
Indoor walking track	Yes	Yes	Yes	High School, Kevin Bell, Elementary Schools
Outdoor amphitheater	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Pratt Museum, Library, Islands and Ocean
Other Projects				
Community calendar MAPP Calendar	Yes	No	No	Homer News, City of Homer, Individual arts, recreation, civic organizations, Homer Council on the Arts, Homer Public Radio AM 890, Pop411.org, KBBI calendar
Address scheduling conflicts with Kenai Peninsula Borough District Resources. ⁹	Yes	Yes	Maybe	High School (has scheduling application), other schools, Community Recreation, others
Consolidated community recreation and culture leadership	Yes	No	No	Recreation and Culture Committee
Centralized City Park and Recreation Department ¹⁰	Yes	No	No	City of Homer Park Maintenance, Community Recreation

⁹ Schools may already be used to capacity. The high school is used for school, Kachemak Bay Campus, Community Recreation activities and other community events. All space availability is dependent on scheduling and budgets for the associated operations and maintenance costs.

¹⁰ A centralized City Park and Recreation Department would be a new City department; it would require additional staff members, who could potentially leverage additional community involvement/coordination.

Identified Need	Improve Coordination, Calendaring and Communication			New Facility	Existing Resource(s)
	Space Dependent				
Programming					
Indoor soccer (adults only)	Yes	Yes	Yes		Community Recreation
More indoor activities (e.g. laser tag, bumper cars, go cart track, child play area)	Yes	Yes	Yes (at a large scale)		At a limited scale, opportunity for future offerings by new or existing providers. Community Recreation
Winter event space and programing	Yes	Yes	Maybe (depends on specific activities)		Community Recreation, Schools, Kachemak Bay Campus, Bunnell St. Art, Homer Council on the Art Center, Islands and Ocean, Pratt Museum
More for mentally and physical disabled older people, and for seniors in general	Yes	Yes	Maybe (depends on specific activities)		Community Recreation, Independent Living Center TRAILS Program
More activities in Anchor Point ¹¹	Yes	Yes	Maybe (depends on specific activities)		Anchor Point library, senior center
Longer hours for programs or facilities (e.g. late night and/or early morning)	Yes	Yes	Maybe		Private businesses and various providers
Multi-generational activities	Yes	No	Maybe (depends on specific activities)		Community Recreation, Senior center, non-profits, library
Marine safety programing ¹²	Yes	No	No		High School (pool), Kachemak Bay Campus, boat harbor (working boats and boat yard businesses)

11 Specifically: general and summer-specific activities, swimming at the Anchor Point pond, bike route to Anchor Point, trails in Anchor Point.

12 The high school and college are already working to increase marine-industry related curricula and secure appropriate space(s).

Identified Need	Improve Coordination, Calendaring and Communication			
	Space Dependent	New Facility	Existing Resource(s)	
More activities at McNeil Canyon School	Yes	Yes	No	McNeil Canyon School
Parent-toddler classes	Yes	No	Maybe (depends on specific activities)	Community Recreation, SPROUT, Pratt Museum, Harbor School of Music and Dance, Homer Soccer Assoc., other providers
Folk school classes	Yes	No	Maybe (depends on specific activities)	North Pacific Folk School, Kachemak Bay Campus, High School classrooms
Healthy cooking classes	Yes	No	No	SVT Health and Wellness, South Peninsula Hospital, local churches
Short courses/ workshops (1 day or less) with smaller time and financial commitment	Yes	Maybe	No	Kachemak Bay Campus, various providers
Vocational-technical classes and apprenticeship programs	Yes	Maybe	Maybe ¹³	Kachemak Bay Campus, High School
Wildfoods safety class	Yes	No	No	
Zumba	Yes	No	No	Community Recreation, Bay Club, Senior Center

¹³ The college and High School work together to fulfill their space needs.

IMPLEMENTATION RESOURCES

Fulfilling priority identified needs will involve some smaller, more easily-implemented improvements (low-hanging fruit) and larger projects that require significant planning, coordination and financial investment. The Needs Assessment was also used as an opportunity to learn more about how the greater Homer community could and would be willing to support these larger recreation and culture projects in the future. The bulk of this chapter focuses on financing for larger, mostly capital projects, or ongoing coordinated service and facility provision (e.g., an area-wide Parks and Recreation department).

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Homer area has seen a growing interest in community parks, indoor and outdoor sports, visual and performing arts, cultural events and festivals, which are all part of the local quality of life for residents of all ages. Community organizations and municipalities face financial and space limitations to sustain programming and facilities. Maintaining and improving these resources requires funding and other forms of support.

Results from both an online (self-selected) survey and a telephone (statistically-valid) survey revealed that recreation and culture are important to the majority of area residents, and that there is community support for exploring options to fund new recreation and culture services and facilities.

Figure 21: Support for New Funding Strategies

Maintaining and/or improving recreation and culture opportunities requires funding and other forms of support. Do you support exploring new strategies to maintain and/or expand recreation and culture opportunities in the greater Homer area?

Response	Percent	Number
Yes, it is important to explore new resources and strategies	69%	604
Maybe, depends on what the options are.	21%	187
No, I think what is spent today is adequate or more than adequate.	4%	34
Not sure, need to learn more about current resources, and future options.	6%	51

Source: 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Online Community Survey

SUPPORT FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS

The statistically-valid telephone survey was used to better understand the level of community support for funding two projects in particular: the creation of a new multi-purpose community center that could fulfill a number of the space needs identified during the Needs Assessment, and the willingness to dedicate public funding to assist with mortgage payments on the Kevin Bell Ice Hockey Arena.

Multi-purpose community center | One proposal is to build a multi-purpose community center in Homer to provide a year-round facility for indoor activities like recreation, performing arts, community gatherings, education and specialty activities. Such a facility will cost at least 18 million dollars to build. Funding for construction would come from several sources but would certainly require area residents to contribute, on average, several hundred dollars a year per household through both user fees and increased taxes.

Figure 22: Support for City Funding New Multi-purpose Community Center

Response	Percent	Number
This is a desirable facility; it should be a priority within the next 5 years ; and I would be willing to contribute to support its development.	30.1%	78
This is a desirable facility; it should be a priority 5-10 years from now , providing time for the community to grow and increase the tax base.	26.7%	69
This facility should not be a priority , and I would not be willing to contribute any amount of additional taxes to support its development.	39.2%	101
Not sure.	3.9%	10

Source: 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Public Opinion Survey, Ivan Moore Research. Raw survey results have been weighted according to the following: 1) Responses apportioned by zip code according to the adult population in each; 2) Marital status balanced by gender in both zip codes (i.e., the percentage of married men equals that of married women and the percentage of single men equals that of single women); 3) The age distribution is weighted to match the census distribution of head of household; 4) Cellphone-only responses were appropriately weighted against landline responses.

Kevin Bell Ice Hockey Arena | The Kevin Bell Ice Hockey Arena is well used, with programs serving 800 people each week. The loan to pay for the building is now due, requiring mortgage payments of approximately \$60,000 per year for the next 20 years. User fees can cover operations costs, but won't cover the building loan payments.

Figure 23: Support for City Funding Kevin Bell Ice Hockey Arena

Response	Percent	Number
The City of Homer should not put any funding into the building , even if this means the facility will close.	20.4%	52
The City should provide approximately \$10,000-\$15,000 per year in new funding to help cover a portion of the loan payment, and look to the Homer Hockey Association to find the remaining funding.	53.6%	136
The City should pay the full \$60,000 per year loan payment, and fund this expenditure with tax revenues.	20.1%	51
Not sure.	5.9%	15

Source: 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Public Opinion Survey, Ivan Moore Research. Raw survey results have been weighted according to the following: 1) Responses apportioned by zip code according to the adult population in each; 2) Marital status balanced by gender in both zip codes (i.e., the percentage of married men equals that of married women and the percentage of single men equals that of single women); 3) The age distribution is weighted to match the census distribution of head of household; 4) Cellphone-only responses were appropriately weighted against landline responses.

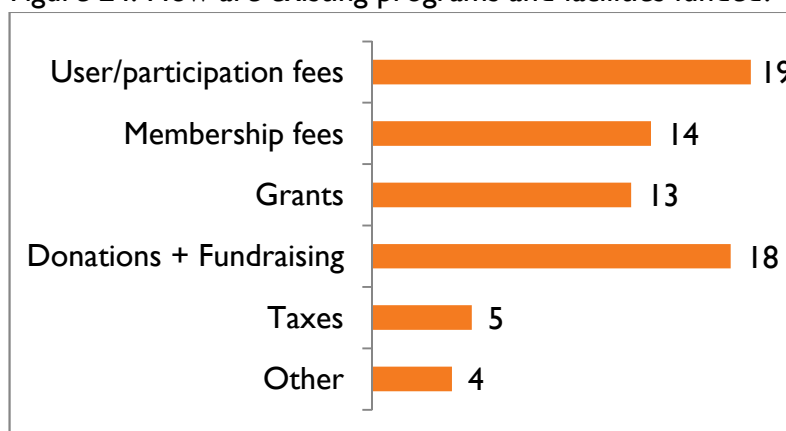
FINANCING LOCAL RECREATION AND CULTURE

A variety of financing tools could be used for large capital projects, to help support ongoing operations, and for helping to subsidize activities for those who would not otherwise have the financial means to participate. A few examples of ideas brought up during the Needs Assessment are explained in this chapter. Residents and local business owners also emphasized the importance of growing the area population and economy through new industry and job opportunities in order to build a solid base of participation and tax base for recreation and culture facilities and programs.

Existing Financial Support |

The provider survey indicated that Homer’s existing recreation and culture programming and facilities are supported by a number of sources. In general, that support is stable or growing more often than it is in decline. These findings suggest that providers are effectively managing their day-to-day operations.

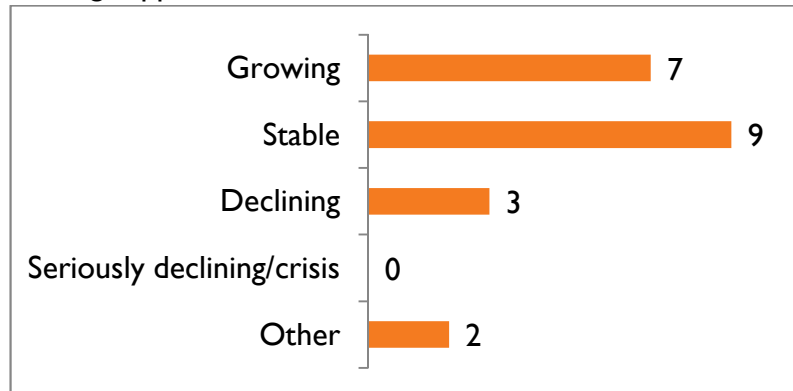
Figure 24: How are existing programs and facilities funded?



Source: 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Provider Survey

Support for Future Funding Mechanisms | Telephone (statistically-valid) survey results indicate that area residents would prefer to see a variety of taxes used to fund new recreation and culture services funded. Only 18 percent of survey respondents indicated that they would prefer that the City not fund new recreation and culture services at all.

Figure 25: How would you characterize your current funding/support resources?



Source: 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Provider Survey

Figure 26: Support for Specific Funding Sources

Which funding source would you most prefer to see used to fund new recreation and culture services in the Homer area?

Response	Percent	Number
Property taxes	12.2%	31
Sales tax	17.2%	44
Other taxes	18.3%	47
Reallocate existing funding from other municipal sources	25.0%	64
Don't fund new recreation and culture services at all	18.0%	46
Not sure	9.3%	24

Source: 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Public Opinion Survey, Ivan Moore Research. Raw survey results weighted according to: 1) Responses apportioned by zip code according to the adult population in each; 2) Marital status balanced by gender in both zip codes; 3) The age distribution is weighted to match the census distribution of head of household; 4) Cellphone-only responses weighted against landline responses.

DEDICATED SERVICE AREA

One funding option used in the Kenai Peninsula Borough to pay for a desired service is the creation of a service area. Nikiski and Seldovia, for example, both have recreational service areas that pay for services provided in their communities. Residents within the service area would vote to approve property taxes to pay for recreation and culture services (i.e., facilities, programs, staff) to be provided in that area. These taxes would be collected and spent from their own separate fund. They would only be used to pay for allowable recreation and culture services or facilities provided within the service area. For instance, property taxes could be used to pay for a community center that would serve the entire service area.

Property taxes are collected in the form of a mill levy (or tax rate). The property tax amount due each year is based on adding together the mill levy for each service area in which the property lies. To calculate the property tax, the taxing authority multiplies the assessed value of the property by the mill rate and then divides by 1,000. For example, a property with an assessed value of \$50,000 located in a municipality with a mill rate of 20 mills would have a property tax bill of \$1,000 per year. If the City had a dedicated recreation and culture service area, a mill levy would be set for the service area, and would be added to any other mill levies collected by the City, then multiplied by the property’s assessed value and divided by 1,000 to arrive at the overall property tax.

Current taxes | “The property tax rate in Homer totals 11.3 mills (4.5 City of Homer, 4.5 Kenai Peninsula Borough, and 2.3 South Peninsula Hospital). This translates to a tax levy of \$1,130 for every \$100,000 in assessed valuation. However, the first \$20,000 in valuation is tax exempt for most residents who request the exemption. In addition, senior citizens (age 65 and older) benefit from an exemption on the first \$150,000 in valuation for the City of Homer portion and on the first \$300,000 in valuation for the Kenai Peninsula Borough portion. The KPB exemption applies to service area tax assessments as well; for example, the one which supports South Peninsula Hospital.” (2014 City of Homer Budget, p25)

Who pays | A dedicated service area would allow the City to collect taxes for recreation and culture services directly from property owners.

Statistically-valid telephone survey results indicate that over 55 percent of area residents would to some degree favor the creation of a service area in the Homer area to fund new recreation and culture services.

Figure 27: Support for Recreation and Culture Service Area

Response	Percent	Number
Strongly favor	27.5%	71
Mildly favor	27.8%	72
Neutral	3.7%	9
Mildly oppose	17.7%	45
Strongly oppose	18.9%	49
Not sure	4.4%	11

Source: 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Public Opinion Survey, Ivan Moore Research. Raw survey results weighted according to: 1) Responses apportioned by zip code according to the adult population in each; 2) Marital status balanced by gender in both zip codes; 3) Age distribution matches head of household census distribution; 4) Cellphone-only responses against landline responses.

REALLOCATE EXISTING FUNDING

The City of Homer receives funding from taxes and other funding mechanisms. These revenues are allocated to the City's the General Fund and to special funds dedicated for specific services or capital improvements (facilities). With voter approval, some of these existing funds could be appropriately reallocated specifically to fund new recreation and culture services. Statistically-valid telephone survey results indicate that 25 percent of area residents would most prefer to see new recreation and culture services in the Homer area funded through reallocation of existing funding from other municipal sources.

One example of a dedicated fund that might be reallocated (with voter approval) is known as the HART Fund. Voters within the City of Homer approved to dedicate three-quarters of one percent (or 0.0075 percent) of all sales tax for the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Program. The HART Program calls for 90 percent of the revenue to be allocated towards road improvements and 10 percent of the annual revenue to be spent on trails and sidewalk projects. The HART Program only pays for capital projects (facilities); the funding does not pay for ongoing operating costs, such as utilities or salaries for trail planning and maintenance staff (City residents would have to vote to allow the HART Fund pay for operating costs for any facilities).

The City uses these funds to leverage grants, to cost share with land owners on road projects, and has considered using the funds to match state road funding for local roads through legislative appropriations on City of Homer roads.

Figure 28: Current HART Fund Allocation

	<u>Roads</u> (.0075*.9 = .00675)	<u>Trails</u> (.0075*.1 = .00075)	<u>Total</u> (.0075%)
2012:	\$1,059,830	\$102,007	\$1,161,837
2013:	\$1,222,088	\$123,172	\$1,345,260
2014:	(projected) \$1,113,701	(projected) \$125,193	(projected) \$1,238,894
Current balance:	\$6,902,873	\$439,787	\$7,342,660

The existing HART fund could be re-allocated so that a portion of it was also dedicated to Recreation capital (facility) improvements. For example, if 66 percent (two-thirds) of the .075 percent HART Fund was allocated to Roads and Trails (90 percent of which was still allocated to roads, and 10 percent of which was still allocated to trails), and 33 percent (one-third) of the HART Fund was re-allocated to Recreation, the funding distribution would look like this:

Figure 29: Hypothetical HART Fund Reallocation to Include Recreation

	<u>Roads</u> (.0075*.66*.9 = .0045%)	<u>Trails</u> (.0075*.66*.1 = .0005%)	<u>Recreation</u> (.0075*.33 = .0025%)	<u>Total</u> (.0075%)
2012:	\$690,131	\$76,681	\$383,406	\$1,161,837
2013:	\$812,537	\$88,787	\$443,936	\$1,345,260
2014:	\$735,903	\$81,767	\$408,835	\$1,238,894
Balance:	\$4,361,540	\$484,615	\$2,423,078	\$7,342,660

These funds could be used for capital improvements only, but much of the deferred maintenance to Homer’s public parks could be quickly addressed if the City dedicated \$100,000 each year in capital funds for recreation facilities, particularly if the City followed an endowment model and awarded matching grants to community organizations to complete projects in city parks. Re-allocating the funding in this way would also require voter approval.

DEDICATED SALES TAX

The City could also establish a dedicated sales tax specifically for recreation and culture services. This tax would be collected at the point of sale on retail goods and services by the retailer and passed on to the municipality. It would be charged as a percentage of the cost of goods and services sold, e.g., 1% recreation and culture tax. This would be in addition to any other sales tax the City collects. Statistically-valid telephone survey results indicate that 17.2 percent of area residents would most prefer to see new recreation and culture services in the Homer area funded through a sales tax.

Current taxes | “The sales tax in Homer is 7.5% (4.5% City of Homer and 3% Kenai Peninsula Borough). Non-prepared foods are exempt from sales tax from September through May.” (2014 City of Homer Budget, p25)

Who pays | A dedicated sales tax would allow the City to collect revenue for recreation and culture services from Homer residents and non-residents who patronize businesses in the City of Homer. The sales tax is one of the few financing mechanisms described here that would draw funding from visitors to Homer. Though visitation numbers fluctuate from year to year, visitors to Alaska are expected to increase in 2015 because of improvements in the national economy and lower fuel prices. In the near term, Homer may see a rise in sales tax receipts from increased visitor traffic, which could be invested into recreation and culture resources that would continue to draw visitors to the area.

USER FEES

Providers of recreation and culture programs and facilities may charge fees to users, such as facility rental fees, class tuition and fees, membership fees (e.g., gym membership fees), or ticket sales to events. For facility-based events (e.g., sport stadium, theater) the organization operating the facility might also sell concessions (food, drink, other merchandise, gift shop) as a way of increasing revenue for facility operations. State and national parks may also charge fees for licensing activities like guiding, fishing and hunting; these license fees also help to manage the number of people doing a particular activity within the park during a given time period.

As one recreation and culture provider, the City of Homer could consider adjusting or instituting new user fees for recreation and culture facilities and services (e.g., higher community recreation fees for non-city residents). Other recreation and culture providers could also consider changes to their user fees to support their facilities and programs.

Current fees | There are too many recreation and culture providers in Homer to list all of the fees, but as an example, The City of Homer charges fees to individuals who sign up for community recreation programs. The fees are set for each individual class or program, and include monthly fees, punch-cards, and per-class fees.

Who pays | Users of the facility or program would pay. Fees could be tiered based on resident/non-resident status, age, income or other characteristic. The Needs Assessment revealed a desire for free or low cost programs, events, and facility access, particularly for those with low income, families (e.g., discounted family rate), and youth. Community members also suggested offering annual membership fees for facilities such as the hockey arena and the pool.

GRANTS AND LOCAL PHILANTHROPY

The Homer Foundation currently supports a number of community members, non-profits and initiatives through scholarships and small grants toward things like education, healthcare, the library, food security, animal welfare, recreation and the arts. The foundation responds to the applications that come in, so the distribution of awards changes from year to year. According to last year's annual report, approximately 42 percent of the Homer Foundation's awards went toward recreation and culture (14 percent to sports and recreation, eight percent to arts and culture, 20 percent to youth). These funds help pay for youth to participate in programs and contribute to local non-profits.

- The Homer Foundation also raised \$50,000 locally in order to leverage larger funding commitments from donors like the Rasmuson Foundation for the Homer library project. Because Homer has a relatively small base of potential funders and tax base, this model is unlikely to be duplicated anytime soon.
- The Homer Foundation could be a fiscal agent, or pass-through for grant funding toward recreation and culture programs and facilities.

The Homer Foundation is not set up to take on managing facilities or programs. However these other community foundation examples provide some inspiration for how different entities within the Homer area could work together in new ways to provide programs and facilities.

- Juneau built a field house through a community foundation, then created an oversight administrative organization to manage the facility. Homer could adopt a similar arrangement to build a new facility, with the City or a quasi-nonprofit entity to manage the facility once built.
- The Anchorage Park Foundation goes beyond funding through grants and scholarships to leverage support for parks, trails and recreation opportunities through several programs, including Challenge Grants (in which community members apply for grants from the APF to match their own fundraising efforts for park and trail improvement projects), Youth Employment in Parks (in which teens are hired to complete park improvement projects, including trail building, forestry, waterway restoration, and urban park improvements) and neighborhood park fix-its (in which the APF selects park improvement projects based on community input and coordinates community volunteers to carry them out). Other organizations in Homer could consider similar programs to sustain and maintain facilities.

Through the Needs Assessment outreach process, community members identified other related ideas, such as collaboration among providers to apply for grants, helping people find volunteer opportunities, and monthly fundraisers to benefit folks who want to participate, but can't necessarily afford it. The senior focus group referenced a program a real estate agent ran, which gave new property owners a free one-year membership to a community organization in Homer. The program was paid for through the property sale commission. Reviving this program could be a way to invite new residents into the community and establish a pattern of supporting recreation and arts organizations through private giving.

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Homer could also engage in public-private partnerships to provide desired recreation and culture facilities and programs. For example, a community recreation center could be planned to be linked to a hotel that could subsidize the recreation center costs and attract more non-resident users able and willing to pay a user fee for the facility. In Anchorage, the Dimond Center followed a similar model, building a hotel into a shopping mall plan. In Togiak, a Family Resource Center included a few rooms of lodging that provide an operating subsidy that, along with other sources of building revenue (e.g., rents from non-profit service providers), more than covers the building's operating costs (which include staffing).

NEW PATHWAYS

Rasmuson Foundation, EmcArts, the Foraker Group, and the Alaska State Council on the Arts offer a program for and with Alaska's arts and cultural organizations, called New Pathways Alaska. The

program is designed to help participant organizations better sustain themselves organizationally and financially through workshops and participant forums, coaching, project facilitation, capital grants and online learning tools.

APPENDIX A. EXISTING RESOURCES INVENTORY

INDOOR FACILITIES

Large Indoor Multi-Purpose

Anchor Point Gym
McNeil Canyon School Multi-Purpose Room
HERC Building
Homer High School Gym
Homer Middle School Gym
Paul Banks Elementary School Gym
West Homer Elementary School Gym

Performance/Presentation

Islands and Ocean Theater (60-Person Capacity)
Mariner Theater at Homer High (400-Person Capacity)
Pier One Theater (100-Person Capacity)
Homer Council on The Arts (70-Person Capacity)
Homer Theater (250-Person Capacity)
Pratt Museum and Amphitheater

Small Indoor Recreation

Art Barn
Bay Club
HERC Building
Many Rivers
Private Dance Studio(s)

Flexible Spaces (Meeting, Classroom, Event, Office)

Bayview And Pioneer Halls (Kachemak Bay Campus, 100-Person Capacity, Each)
Bunnell Street Gallery
Churches
City Hall
Elementary, Middle, High School Classrooms
HERC Building, Classrooms
Homer Council on the Arts, Gallery and Back Room
Kachemak Bay Campus, Commons and Additional Classrooms
Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association Cabins (20)
Kachemak Community Center
Kachemak Ski Club Lodge
Library
Pratt Museum

Specialized Spaces

Art classrooms (Homer High School, Paul Banks Elementary School, West Homer Elementary School, Homer Middle School)
Art studio (Kachemak Bay Campus)
Auto shop (Homer High School)
Computer Room (Kachemak Bay Campus)
Gymnastics Room (Homer High School)
Kevin Bell Hockey Arena
Kitchen (HERC building)
Individual Art or Music Studios (Homer High)

Pools (Homer High School, Bay Club)
Pottery Room (Homer High School)
Practice Rooms (Homer High)
Racquetball Court (Bay Club)
Weight Room (Homer High School, Bay Club)
Wrestling Room (Homer High School)
Welding Shop (Homer High School)
Wood Working Shop (Homer High School)

Youth Oriented Indoor Spaces

Schools
Rec Room

Senior Oriented Indoor Spaces

Homer Senior Center

OUTDOOR FACILITIES

KPB School District

Artificial Turf (Homer High School)
Tennis Courts (4, Homer High School)

City of Homer

Campgrounds (4)
Trails (5.41 miles on 6 trails)
Other area trails (3)

17 dedicated parks and 7 park areas for recreational purposes:

Baycrest	Jeffrey
Bayview	Karen Hornaday
Ben Walters	Louie's Lagoon
Bishops Beach	Mariner Park
Coal Point	Skatepark
Diamond Creek Recreation Area	Triangle
End of the Road	W.R. Bell
Fishing Lagoon	WKFL
Jack Gist	Woodside

Other

Cottonwood Horse Park (Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association)
Disc Golf Course
Fields: Softball, baseball, football, soccer
Kachemak City Picnic Shelter and Park
Outdoor Basketball Court (HERC, schools)
Rope Tow (Homer Ski Club)
Street Art
Pratt Museum 10 acres outdoor space
Tennis Courts (2, Kachemak City)
Trails: mountain bike, cross country, multiuse

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, PROGRAMING (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Event/Festival

Burning Basket
Farmer's Market
Homer Epic 100
Homer Gardener's Weekend
Homer Highland Games
Homer Jackpot Halibut Derby
Homer Yacht Club Races
Hunter Safety
Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival
Kachemak Bay Wooden Boat Festival
Kenai Pen. Orchestra Summer Music Festival

Nutcracker
Safe Kids Fair/Bike Rodeo
Ski Swap
Seldovia Summer Solstice Music Festival
Spit Run
Tamamta Katurlluta: A Gathering of Native Tradition
Telluride Film Fest
Winter Bike Fest
Wrestling Tournament
Writer Conference

Formal programs (youth, adult, mixed age)

Adult Performing Arts Show
Art Shop
Artquest
Ballroom Dance
Basketball (General, Bruin, Youth, Girls', Pick Up)
Bellydance
Blues In The Schools
Climbing
Creative Communities and Cart
Dodgeball
Fencing
Hunter Education
Jubilee
Lost Wax Casting
Karate (Youth, Adult)
Kayaking (Youth)
Musical Theatre
Nature Art Summer Workshop (Youth)
Pickleball

Pilates
Ping Pong
Play Group
Pratt Play Dates
Refurbish Class
Silversmith
Soccer (General, Youth, Indoor Adult)
Spanish
Summer Music Camps
Summer Circus Arts Camp
Tai Chi
Tango Dance
Theatre Shakes
Tumbling & Gymnastics
Volleyball
Weight Training
Wrestling (Popeye, Youth)
Zumba
Online Classes (Various)

Users Groups/Activities

Alaska Training Room
Backcountry Skiing
Bird Monitoring
Baseball
Beach Walking, Bonfires
Birding
Boat Building
Boating, Recreational
Bowling
Boy Scouts
Camping
Card and Board Games
Community Dancing and Drumming
Community Fundraising
Contra Dancing
Cooking
Cross Country Skiing
Dog Mushing
Downhill Skiing
Disc Sports
Dog Training
Exhibits and Art Shows
Festival Attendance
Fiber Arts
Figure Skating
Fish Feeding
Fishing (Subsistence, Recreational)
Football
Four Wheeling
Frisbee Disc Golf
Functional Arts
Gardening
Geocaching
Go Carts
Ham Radio Club
Hiking
Hockey
Indoor Climbing
Indoor Soccer
Indoor Walking
Kayaking
Lacrosse
Legos
Lifelong Learning
Literary Arts
Martial Arts
Motorcycle Riding
Movies
Museum
Music Production
Native Arts and Crafts
Open Gym
Outdoor Education
Outdoor Ice Skating, Hockey
Parkour
PE Class
Performing Arts, Attendance
Photography
Picknicking
Playground
Pony Club
Public Art
Racquetball
Recreational Hunting
Remote control cars/airplanes
Running
Shooting
Skateboarding
Slacklining
Sledding
Snowboarding
Snowshoeing
Softball
Strong Homer Women
Surfing
Swimming
Tree Climbing
Video Games
Video Streaming
Visual Arts
Wake Boarding
Watch Wildlife
Water Aerobics
Weaving
Welding
Wildfood Harvesting
Wood Carving
Writing
Youth Group Worship

MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

Coordinators

City of Homer Community Recreation
Homer Arts and Culture Alliance
Homer Chamber of Commerce
Homer Council on the Arts, Artist Registry
Kenai Peninsula School District
MaPP of the Southern Kenai Peninsula

Community Calendars

City of Homer
Homer News
Homer Council on the Arts website, arts calendar and e-news and artist registry
Homer Public Radio AM 890
Individual arts, recreation, civic organizations
KBBI calendar
Pop411.org

APPENDIX B: IDENTIFIED NEEDS

PRIORITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

INDOOR FACILITIES

Multi-purpose community center | A multi-purpose community center facility was the most frequently identified need across providers, user groups, existing plans and the general public. The current demand for multi-purpose space for activities like soccer, basketball, pickleball and wrestling make community access to a large gym a very high priority. The uncertain future of the HERC building leaves users worried that if it closes, many activities will be left without a space. Providers and the business community expressed the desire to generate new economic development opportunities through a community center that could also serve as a convention center or attract visitors to attend sports and other events. The City commissioned a convention center feasibility study in 2005, which concluded that (at the time) Homer possessed a number of facilities that could host various events, but that a number of issues constrained their ability to effectively accommodate traditional meetings and conferences, and that a more traditional convention center would likely be utilized comparable to similar facilities in Sitka, Ketchikan and Valdez. The facility could possibly contain these auxiliary spaces: performance or theater space, including a backstage rehearsal space, weight room, studio space for art, music, woodworking, etc., and incubator or headquarter space for various recreation and culture program providers. A multi-purpose community center in a central downtown location could also respond to community desire to create a town center.

Indoor walking track | Walking is one of the most outdoor activities, and most desired indoor and outdoor activities. Indoor walking serves all ages, and in particular, seniors who desire an ice free location for exercise in the winter. Schools offer uninterrupted, flat surfaces for walking. However, access to schools is limited during school hours. The Kevin Bell Arena might have a large enough space for a seasonal walking loop. A calendar that identifies locations and times for walking indoors could help leverage existing resources to meet this need.

Kevin Bell Hockey Arena | There is an acute need to address the financial future of the Kevin Bell Hockey Arena. While the City is not responsible for this project directly, thousands of people use the facility, and it provides a public recreational benefit. The location makes it less appealing as a location for uses that would drive economic development in a more central location, such as a convention center. But there may be opportunities for the arena to host some identified needs, such as an indoor walking area.

Toddler and family spaces | There is anecdotal evidence of growth in the number of young families in Homer. The Needs Assessment findings reveal significant demand for play spaces and programs for young families. Ideally, a children's play space is easily accessible and integrated with

parent routines. Existing providers, such as the Senior Center, Kachemak Bay Campus, Library, Islands and Ocean, Homer Council on the Arts, Pratt Museum, Schools, may have spaces that could be creatively reinterpreted as a mixed-age learning and play experience.¹⁴

Teen space while school is out of session | Teenagers often do not have their own transportation and are limited to accessing recreation and culture resources outside of school. Creating an interesting, safe place for teens to linger between town outings is beneficial for teens, parents, and community members. There may be opportunities for flexible and underused spaces to be adapted for this use.

Centralized music studio | The Needs Assessment revealed a desire for co-location of music instruction, practice studio space, recording studio and related programming. Many people, especially teens, identified a recording studio as one component of a needed community music space. This space could meet at least some of the need for teen space outside of school and provide the mentors and mixed-age interaction that the community desires. The provider questionnaire indicated that a local business may expand to meet some or all of this identified need.

Art workshop or studio space | Providers and users expressed interest for more art classrooms and studios for individuals and to offer classes for youth and children. Art classrooms currently exist in the schools and at Kachemak Bay College, although scheduling constraints may prevent them from meeting this identified need. The Kachemak Wholesale Building was also identified as a potential space for art classrooms.

Performance space with capacity for 200-300 people | This need could be met in a number of ways, such as a simple “black box” theater for 250 people with wings, theater lighting, a backstage rehearsal area, and bathrooms. Spaces exist in Homer that could somewhat meet this identified need, but they lack some of the specific amenities or access needs that potential users desire. For example, the Mariner Theater is too large for most events, Pier One is used seasonally in summer only, the Homer Theater has film programming during evening hours, private restaurants or bars may not be family-friendly, and although the Homer Council on the Arts has a portable stage, it has none of the audience and backstage amenities. There may be existing spaces in the area that could be improved or retrofitted to accommodate the desired performance space, or it could be designed as part of a new facility.

Affordable weight room | Ready access to a low-cost weight room was a frequently identified need. The Homer Community Recreation program offers limited access to weightlifting facilities at the Homer High School for a relatively low fee, but the hours are limited by the school’s scheduling constraints. The Bay Club currently offers weightlifting facilities for a monthly membership fee,

¹⁴ The Imaginarium at Anchorage Museum is one model for mixed-age learning and play experience.

which may be higher than some community members are able or willing to pay. Private business owners have opened lower-cost fitness facilities in the past, and may be able to do so in the future.

Martial arts gymnasium/practice space | Martial arts are enjoyed by multiple ages and have sustained steady participation as after-school programming, so would fulfill some of the identified broad programming needs. A martial arts practice space could also be used by Popeye Wrestling to host out of town teams. This identified need may also be met through private business: a martial arts program for youth has been privately operated out of the Kachemak Wholesale building.

Courts for racket sport | Racket sports, including tennis, pickleball and other sports, are popular activities for many area residents. The HERC building and Bay Club currently offer the only indoor facilities for racket sports, and Homer also has a number of outdoor tennis courts at the high school. Additional indoor and/or outdoor facilities could be included in plans for new recreational facilities. There may also be plans to complete construction of additional courts from the past.

OUTDOOR FACILITIES

Upgrade softball fields | This identified need reflects a desire to complete improvements to existing facilities. The costs to improve and maintain the softball fields would be somewhat balanced by the benefits of additional games and events that would bring out-of-town visitors to Homer.

Car free ice skating at Beluga Lake | Outdoor ice skating is a low-cost, health-promoting community activity that was identified in the survey several times. Creating a designated skating area at Beluga Lake would be primarily a policy change that would require some enforcement but few capital costs.

Outdoor amphitheater | This identified need could reflect a lack of communication about existing resources. Outdoor amphitheaters currently exist at the Pratt Museum, the Homer Library, and Islands and Ocean Center; similar facilities exist at the Homer Farmer's Market and Karen Hornaday park.

Multi-use trails | Trails were frequently identified as recreation needs, and reflected the popularity of outdoor trail-based activities as well as the desire for more pedestrian and non-motorized transportation routes in order to attend recreation and culture events and programs. The community online survey results indicated that walking, bicycling and cross country skiing were among the most popular outdoor activities in Homer: 71 percent of survey respondents indicated that they walk for recreational purposes, 56 percent ride a bicycle and 46 percent cross country ski. Biking, walking and cross country skiing were also among the most-frequently identified activities that survey respondents wanted to do more often. Related identified needs include: the desire for shared multi-use trailheads, streamlined trail easements and acquisition, and single track trails on Diamond Ridge (which could also serve as an economic driver given the growth of bike-packing and snow biking in recent years). Because trails are addressed specifically in the Homer Non-Motorized Transportation

Plan, the Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment focuses on other types of recreation and culture facilities.

ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, PROGRAMING

The specific programs offered in Homer will fluctuate with need and popularity. Decisions about which programs to offer will balance a number of different factors: the desire for new programs, to expand already popular activities, possibly discontinue programs that are challenged to bring in enough participants to sustain themselves, availability of appropriate space, and availability of appropriate staff (teachers, coaches, administrators, etc.), among others. The identified needs included a variety of desired programing, some of which is already provided in Homer. Existing providers could better meet some of these needs by improving their coordination and information sharing efforts, discussed in the following section.

MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

Improved community calendar and information sharing | The Needs Assessment revealed that community members do not always know which activities and events are available to them, or that there is too much going on and overlapping events lower participation from what it would otherwise be. A centralized community calendar would help users, providers and visitors better coordinate existing recreation and culture programing. Potential visitors could also use a centralized calendar to plan visits to Homer around recreation and culture activities. MAPP is already working on a centralized calendar that could be used for this purpose, and the Homer Tribune maintains a community calendar. Community members also suggested a weekly subscription-based email that would advertise local programming.

A mobile phone application could also solve the need for “one stop” access to information about recreation and culture resources. An app could provide different levels of access for providers and users, including a calendar to promote better scheduling and learn about existing activities. There could be a social media component to facilitate space sharing. The app could also be integrated with a visitor website and be used to help orient visitors to resources in and around Homer. The app could be financed through advertising or user/subscription fees.¹⁵

Transportation improvements | Additional options for non-motorized, public or shared transportation would increase access to existing facilities and resources, particularly for those who do not drive. This identified need could be met through a local bus system, expanding the taxi voucher program, an improved in-town ride share.

¹⁵ A number of other cities in the U.S. and Canada have created similar apps:
<http://www.activenetwork.com/blog/city-and-recreation-mobile-apps/>

Continued coordination and access to school district resources | Area schools can provide a popular and relatively low-cost location for community programs and activities, particularly the Homer High School. The high school is a well-loved community resource that was built and bonded with the intention of serving as a community school. It is possible that the High School has reached its use capacity, especially for spaces such as the gymnasium, weight room, art studios and performing arts rehearsal spaces. All facilities must be closed for maintenance periodically, and the more often the facilities are used, the more maintenance they require, which drives up the facility operating costs. The Needs Assessment identified continued interest in the Homer High School, Anchor Point and McNeil Canyon schools as venues for community programming. To the extent that scheduling conflicts, cost or liability concerns prevent these schools from being used for community events, alternatives will have to be considered.

Centralized system for booking facilities | Spaces for different events and programs are offered by a variety of public and private providers in the Homer area. A centralized booking system could connect recreation and culture providers with rentable spaces, helping to reduce the number of under-used spaces and relieve pressure on popular facilities.

Consolidated PARC leadership | Providers and community members expressed a desire to reduce the number of volunteer boards, consolidate and coordinate among existing providers to offer more programming with less administration (e.g., calendaring, networking, partnerships on projects, joint fundraising or grant applications, reciprocal membership agreements). Some form of consolidated or more coordinated leadership would allow providers to avoid duplication among organizations, share administrative staff, and better leverage existing resources. Community members stressed the importance of having a coalition effort for any large new facility project. Meeting this identified need could take several different forms, such as:

- The Recreation and Culture Committee that formed to guide this Needs Assessment could be formalized and continue to work closely with the City to manage recreation and culture resources.
- A more centralized City Parks and Recreation Department could work with other provider organizations to support coordination efforts.
- MAPP's existing efforts to coordinate among various community service organizations could be expanded to act as a hub for recreation and culture organizations.
- An umbrella organization could be designated or created to stabilize some of the smaller non-profit initiatives, acting as a fiscal agent and charging an indirect rate in exchange for a package of support mechanisms, including space and administrative support.

Centralized City Parks and Recreation Department | Recreation management at the City of Homer is dispersed across two departments in three physical locations. A centralized department could facilitate partnerships with other providers for obtaining funding, constructing new facilities or upgrading existing facilities, and providing services.

More PARC employees | Existing City of Homer recreation staff are currently at capacity. With additional staff, the City could potentially leverage increased community involvement toward providing services and completing park improvement projects. Provider organizations also identified a desire to share the costs of employing grantwriters to help them access new sources of funding.

THE POTENTIAL OF A MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNITY CENTER

Many of the recreation and cultural needs identified as part of this process could be met through existing resources or in a single multi-purpose center. Figure 26 indicates identified needs that could most likely benefit from co-location in a multi-purpose center, though not all of these uses are expected to be accommodated by a single new facility.

Figure 30: Identified needs that could be met by a multi-purpose community center

Table Key		
●	Indicates primary tier priority identified need	
◆	Indicates secondary tier priority identified need	
□	Indicates non-priority identified need	

Priority Level	Identified Need	Notes
Possible primary uses in new multi-purpose facility		
●	Multi-purpose gym	
●	Convention center	
●	200-250 person theater	Integrated with main multi-purpose space, with auxiliary multi-purpose space for use as backstage/green room or additional black box
	Town center/square plaza	
	Multi-generational activities	
	Winter event space and programming	
	More indoor activities (e.g. laser tag, bumper cars, go cart track, child play area)	
	Longer hours for programs or facilities (e.g. late night and/or early morning)	
	More for mentally and physical disabled older people, and for seniors in general	
	Parent-toddler classes	
	Indoor soccer (adults only)	
Possible secondary uses in new multi-purpose facility		
◆	Martial arts gym/wrestling/mat room	Auxiliary space (could also be used as “green room” or backstage area)
●	Children’s art space; toddler/family/pre-school space, indoor play structure	
●	Space and programming for children and teens when school is not in session (e.g. Boys and Girls Club)	
◆	Music/recording studio	

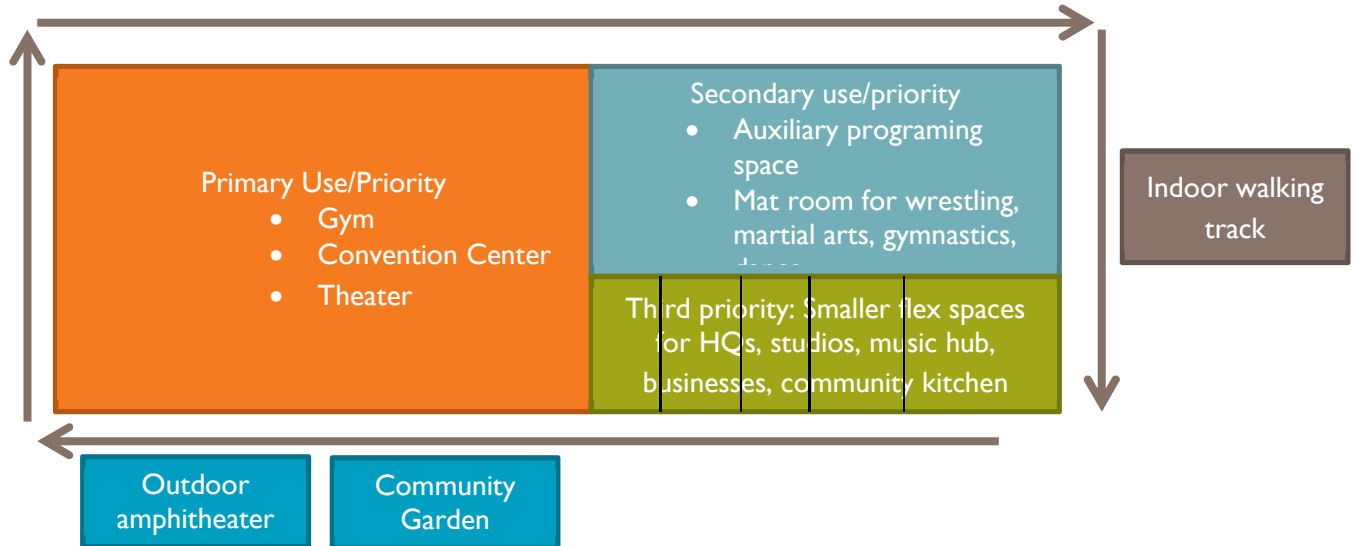
Priority Level	Identified Need	Notes
♦	Private music and art studios	
♦	Space and/or programs for music (e.g. open jam, mentoring/volunteer taught lessons, community band, practice spaces)	
	Dance hall with wooden floor	
Possible tertiary uses in new multi-purpose facility		
●	Multi-purpose community art space and more art classroom space (e.g., wood shop, kiln, press, darkroom)	
♦	Affordable weight room	
●	Indoor walking facility/track	
♦	Outdoor amphitheater	If part of a town plaza
	Community kitchen	
	Indoor climbing facility	
	Maker space	
	Incubator space for recreation and culture providers and/or small businesses	
	Community garden	
	Healthy cooking classes	
	Short courses/workshops	

The center could be designed to fulfill the need for additional gymnasium space, a performance venue, and smaller flexible spaces that could meet the needs for a variety of specific programming needs like music recording, art studios and/or PARC headquarters and businesses. A smaller auxiliary space could serve as a mat room for wrestling, martial arts, and yoga, with a removable floor and a “back stage” to the main space for performances.



These images illustrate examples of multi-purpose gymnasium and performance spaces. The image on the far left seats 300 people; the image on the far right seats 100 people.

An indoor walking track could be included in the design of the main gymnasium space or around the entire building envelope. Outdoor projects, such as an outdoor amphitheater and additional community gardens could also be integrated into the design. The following diagram illustrates how spaces can be combined in a multi-use facility to meet several needs at once.



NON-PRIORITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

Multi-purpose Indoor

Basketball court
 Dance hall with wooden floor
 Provide gym in Anchor Point

Specialized Indoor

Arcade
 Community bike shop
 Community kitchen
 Community wood working shop
 Curling
 Futsal court (indoor soccer)
 Indoor climbing facility
 Indoor skate park
 Maker space
 Robotics/auto shop
 Water park

Central space/ headquarters (Indoor)

Circumpolar educational center with sailing classes
 Folk School headquarters
 HQ for recreation and culture provider organizations
 Incubator space for new businesses
 Wooden Boat Society headquarters (library and meeting space, shop, boat and equipment storage)

Outdoor

Paintball/airsoft course
Another disc golf course at Hornaday Park or Bishop's Beach
Buy land for parks (e.g. at the bottom of West Hill)
Community garden (greenhouse, high tunnels, rented to people for growing their own food)
Covered Park and Ride for bikes
Covered, unheated shelter near athletic fields
Flag football
More sports fields
Motocross track
Playground on the spit
Public outdoor swimming (e.g. an Anchor Point pond, Lampert Lake)
RC flying field/track
Shooting range
Sledding hill
ATV programs or facilities
Helicopter access to backcountry (e.g., for heli-skiing)
Improve the boat ramp ("speed divots" between every concrete log)
Jet skiing programs or facilities
Expand outdoor activities/facilities across the bay
Warming hut on spit (*There is a plan and seed money in place for this project as of 2015. No action required from City.*)

Trails

Develop a non-motorized path/trail adjacent to Kachemak Drive connecting the Homer Spit Trail to the EER pathway.
Light ski trails at McNeil
Mountain bike single track trails (Diamond Ridge)
More multi-use access at Ohlson Mt Road

Programming

3-D Printer	Lacrosse
Classes for adults	Mini golf
Affordable art classes	Rentals on the spit (kayaks, boats)
Basket weaving	Sailing
Boxing	Childcare while adult recreation activities are happening
Circus arts	Community stitching/knitting
Dodgeball	Tennis lessons
Field Hockey	Tournaments (e.g. pickle ball, tennis, ping pong, martial arts)
Film school	Video gaming club
Food preservation	Weaving
Game library	Wildflower identification
Golf lessons	Ski loan program
Indoor shooting	
Industrial art classes	
Jewelry class	

Coordination and Information

Consolidated advertising
Cultivate recreation and culture leadership
More volunteer and service organization coordination (e.g., adopt a park)
Bathrooms at the base of the spit

APPENDIX C: COMMUNITY OUTREACH

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROCESS

The Homer Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment is a thoughtful look forward over the next 10 to 15 years to understand the big picture of our existing recreation and culture activities and resources, what is missing, and which changes the community would like to see. For this endeavor to be meaningful, it was important that the variety of activities and viewpoints of the greater community were included. Outreach to providers, users, the general public and other stakeholders informed much of the study, and with key informant interviews, focus groups, a community workshop, several planning documents, and almost 1,000 survey responses, there was no shortage of information. The City of Homer oversaw the process, with staff support and project management provided by Walt Wrede and Julie Engebretsen, and guidance from the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture (PARC) Advisory Committee. The involved three target populations: recreation and culture providers, recreation and culture users, and the general public. The Needs Assessment included a special focus to reach out to young people and seniors in the study area. The outreach activities described below were used to understand the particular needs and potential resources of these target populations.

RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee included: Gail Edgerly (Homer Council on the Arts, HCOA), Matt Steffy (Parks and Recreation Commission), Jan Rumble (Homer Hockey), Megan Murphy (MAPP of the Southern Kenai Peninsula), Kate Crowley (ReCreate Rec), Asia Freeman (Bunnell Arts Center), Mike Illg (City of Homer Community Recreation Coordinator), Corbin Arno (Homer Voice for Business, Motorized Sports), Karin Marks (Art Shop Gallery, Homer Voice for Business, volunteer), and Kelly Cooper (Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, Homer Voice for Business, volunteer).

The Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee provided context for overarching issues to be addressed through the Needs Assessment process, as well as guidance for how the Needs Assessment can be a useful tool to meet the goals of the City, Homer community and recreation and culture providers. The group also guided the statistically valid survey, informed the gap analysis of identified needs, and helped to identify initial funding and implementation strategies for meeting priority needs.

ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEY

For this Needs Assessment, an online community survey gathered the input of 989 respondents, representing approximately 1,700 people.¹⁶ The City publicized the survey in newspapers and community events. The Recreation and Culture Committee also facilitated the online community survey at Homer Middle School and Homer High School during Physical Education classes to better understand the youth perspective on Homer’s recreation and culture needs.

PROVIDER QUESTIONNAIRE

Twenty one recreation and culture providers filled out an online questionnaire to inform how they use volunteers and paid staff, what they anticipated their needs to be and identify potential resources they could contribute toward meeting community recreation and culture needs. The survey also helped to understand the potential secondary economic impacts of recreation and culture in Homer. Providers included: City of Homer Community Recreation, Bruins Basketball, Homer Council on the Arts, Homer Softball Association, Kachemak Bay Wooden Boat Society, Lindianne's Music Garden, Homer Little League, Kachemak Ski Club, Soccer Association of Homer, Kachemak Bay Campus, Kachemak Swim Club, North Pacific Folk School, Popeye Wrestling, Homer Cycling Club, Homer Hockey Association, Many Rivers Yoga (with Healing Transformations, The Floating Leaf Sangha, Homer Center for Spiritual Living, and The Artful Eddy), Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association, Bunnell Street Arts Center, Pratt Museum, Snomads Inc., and City of Homer Parks Maintenance.

Figure 31: Where do you live?

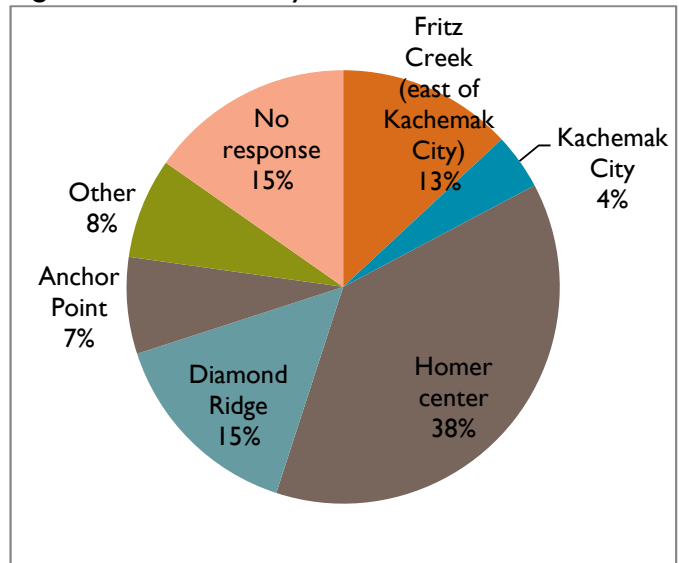
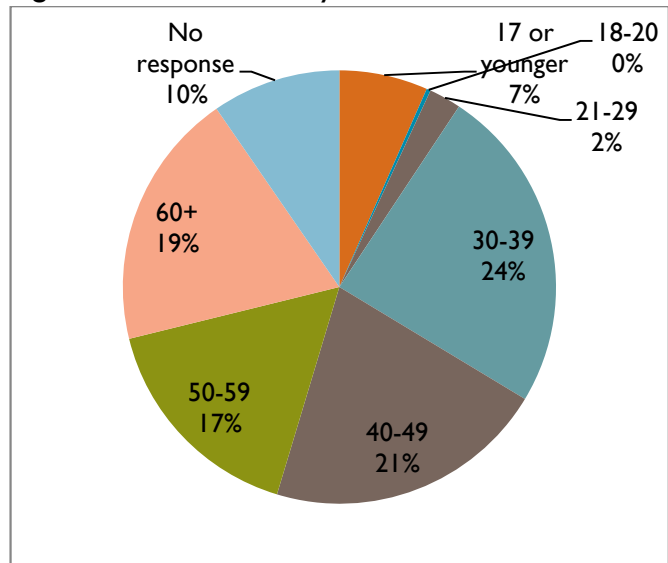


Figure 32: How old are you?



Source: 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Online Community Survey

¹⁶ Respondents were able to respond for themselves or household, and then indicate their household size.

NOVEMBER 12-14, 2014 SITE VISIT

Ski Swap Outreach | 6-8 p.m., Wednesday, November 12, 2014. This activity allowed the project team to connect with recreation and culture users who might not otherwise come to a public meeting or fill out survey. A poster display shared the results of the Needs Assessment to date, including a list of identified needs categorized by facility, program or management strategy. Participants were invited to indicate whether identified needs were best met using existing resources or whether a new facility was truly needed. Participants commonly noted the need for a new affordable gym space, more opportunities for toddlers and parents to recreate together, and transportation improvements. Participants also indicated the desire to improve the coordination of existing organizational structures, such as calendars, funding opportunities and nonprofit boards to improve access and availability of recreation and culture resources.

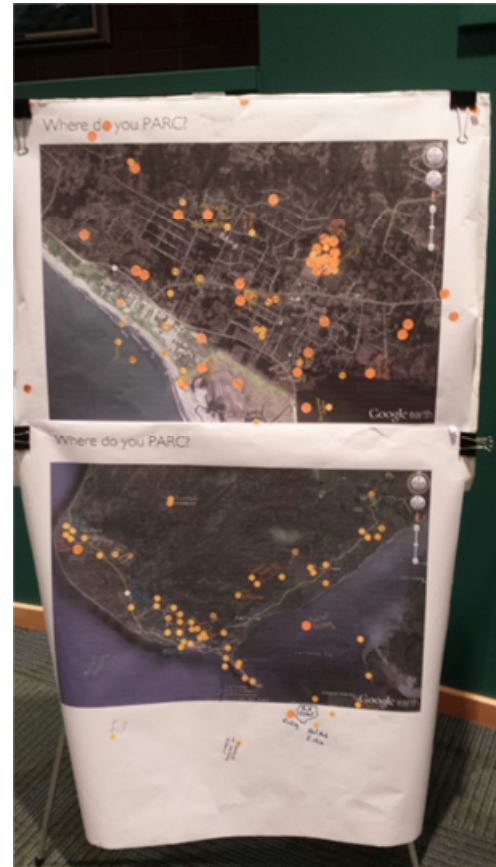
Business Community Focus Group | 12-1 p.m. Thursday, November 13, 2014. The Business Focus Group discussed a number of strategies for recreation and culture resources:

- Improve information sharing: include education; consolidate advertising and communication tools.
- For both organizations and businesses: cultivate leadership; coordinate among silos; identify who has responsibility for implementing projects (building new or improving existing facilities, starting new or changing existing programs, etc.).
- For facilities: make better use of existing facilities if possible; for proposed new facilities, assess the financial feasibility of projects and ensure there is the means to cover costs.

The group emphasized that these strategies all work toward the goal of strengthening the local economy and growing the population, particularly younger people and families.

High School Focus Groups | 1-4pm Thursday, November 14. The Planning Team conducted two focus groups. The first group was with the Homer High Symphonic Band. About 40 students worked together to create a list of their top recreation and culture activities

Figure 33: Where do Homer High students participate in recreation and culture activities?



(playing music, drawing and sketching, playing video games, creative writing and poetry, skiing, hiking, walking the dog) and map where they do them. Then the students worked together to answer three questions: What do we need or want more of? What are barriers to meeting those needs? What are possible solutions to overcome the barriers? After presenting and discussing their work, the students asked the facilitators to describe how arts and recreation are currently funded. Recreation and Culture Committee members Mike Illg and Asia Freeman reviewed the funding mechanisms for the organizations they represented. The second focus group helped to review the previous group's list of identified needs and synthesize the findings into three highest-priority needs, which included:

- 1) A multi-use, mixed-age space including the following amenities:
 - Publicly-accessible music recording studio
 - Practice rooms
 - Games/game library
 - Pottery
 - 3-D printer
 - Maker space
- 2) A performance space, for activities like Color of Homer
- 3) Maintaining the trails

Teens listed transportation, time, money and weather as barriers to participation. They indicated that a multi-use space would provide a place to be if they did not want to go in and out of town. The taxi voucher program was offered as a model for solving the transportation barrier.

Community Workshop | 5:30-8:15.p.m, Thursday, November 14. Around 40 people, five Parks and Recreation Commissioners and five Recreation and Culture Committee members attended the workshop. The workshop began with an open house where people could review research and work to date. The planning team presented the results of the demographic and survey analyses with small group breakout to discuss guiding questions. Discussion focused on identifying high priority projects and the characteristics that they would need to move forward. Participants also expressed a desire to focus recreation and culture resources around a walkable downtown and to pursue sport and tourism events. The idea of a town center or plaza anchored by multi-purpose recreation and culture space or convention center emerged as a popular desire. Participants also discussed implementation strategies such as public-private partnerships and coordinating with a private foundation to help leverage funding and volunteer efforts to develop a new multi-purpose facility. Other identified needs highlighted in workshop discussions included:

- A Medium-sized theater for 250 people with wings, black box, lighting, bathrooms, heat, beer and alcohol permits, accessible, maintained
- In and outdoor racket sports

- Maker space; communal art studio space for 15- 20 studios
- A dance hall with a wooden floor
- A community kitchen
- A meeting room list
- A centralized calendar
- Area for walking indoors
- A couple more recreation and culture employees (city)
- Non-motorized routes for walking and skiing through town, sidewalks to public buildings; trail network that isn't tied to the road system
- Bathrooms at the base of the spit

Community Workshop



Senior Focus Group | 10-11 a.m. Friday, November 15. Seniors are a diverse group, including people who have raised families and now are aging in Homer, retirees from other parts of the state, and less able individuals and their caregivers who use services like the Friendship Center adult day program and assisted living. The focus group attendees all agreed that the growing population of this diverse group will have an impact on the Homer community in the coming years.

The focus group highlighted the importance of a centralized calendar to share activities with new retirees to town. The multitude of events each weekend is a draw for retirees. One person said she could easily come up with 12 people who were visitors in town for pickleball alone. The group referenced a program a real estate agent ran that gave new property owners a free one-year membership to a community organization in Homer (paid for through the property sale commission). Reviving this program could be a way to invite new residents into the community and establish a pattern of supporting recreation and arts organizations through private giving. There was also discussion of the senior tax exemption. Both seniors and non-seniors expressed discomfort that because of the exemption, some seniors are not contributing as much as they would like to city and borough services.

The senior focus group also liked the idea of an intergenerational space with mixed programming, and remarked on the popularity of the paved multi-use trails for walking. They noted that people become tired of “fighting the snow” in winter, though the City has been good about keeping the trails clear. An indoor space for walking would be used frequently by active seniors and provide a

place for assisted living, adult day providers and caregivers to bring less mobile seniors out in the winter, either for a safe walk, or to be around other people in an unstructured environment.

However, they also maintained that scheduled activities work well for less independent individuals, as caretakers must plan extra time to get less mobile residents to an activity.

Recreation and Culture Committee

Work Session | 12 noon – 2 p.m.
Friday, November 15. The Recreation and Culture Committee decided to invite more representatives from the business community to bring their expertise in economic development and private-sector project financing to discussions about the direction of the Needs Assessment and any large-scale priority projects that might come out of it. The Committee discussed previous successful

Community Workshop



projects in which the City was a partner, and how lessons learned from those projects (e.g., the animal shelter, library, Old Town) could be applied to the Needs Assessment project. Past successful efforts had a lead organization with goals, plans, volunteers and seed money; the City was better able to contribute as a partner with an outside lead organization (for instance, the City provided land for the hospital).

INTERVIEWS

The planning team conducted key informant interviews with all members of the Recreation and Culture Committee as well as a few key providers including, Carol Swartz (Kachemak Bay Campus), Douglas Waclawski (Homer High School Principal), Joy Steward (Homer Foundations), and Rick Malley (Independent Living Center).

STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY

A statistically valid telephone survey was conducted by Ivan Moore Research, primarily to assess the community’s willingness to pay for identified recreation and culture needs. Survey results indicated that recreation and culture are important to the majority of area residents and that there is some support for increasing public funding for recreation and culture facilities and services through various means. The full survey report cross-tabulates responses by categories such as zip code, age, and income for a more detailed picture of how people value recreation and culture resources, as well as funding options at the time of the survey.

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IVAN MOORE
RESEARCH

**HOMER/ANCHOR POINT
PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY**

March 2015

Conducted for:

Agnew:Beck Consulting
441 W. 5th Ave, Suite 202
Anchorage AK 99501

&

The City of Homer

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INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This survey was fielded between March 19th and 22nd, 2015. A total of 258 respondents resident in the Homer/Anchor Point area of the Kenai Peninsula participated in the survey. Respondents were interviewed on both landlines and cellphones, with all numbers selected using a random digit dial methodology. Screening was conducted to ensure that all respondents are at least 18 years of age or older, and that they lived within the two zip codes that define the area, 99603 and 99556.

A sample size of 258 drawn from the total adult population of the survey area yields frequency results for measured data that are subject to a maximum margin of error of +/-6.0% at 95% confidence. In other words we can be 95% sure that our results differ from their true population proportions by no more than 6.0% on either side.

Measured data was weighted to provide for a distribution of responses from the two zip codes in proportion to adult population and a distribution of respondent age that matches census data for heads of household in the area.

AREA	Weighted sample	Weighted percent
99603	201	79.2%
99556	54	20.8%
18-24	9	3.6%
25-34	31	12.4%
35-44	36	14.7%
45-54	56	22.6%
55-64	67	27.4%
65+	47	19.3%

103 interviews were conducted on cellphones, 155 on landlines. Cellphone interviewing took place only on the weekend or on weekday evenings when the great majority of cellphone users have free minutes, and respondents were screened to ensure they could participate safely and conveniently. Proprietary survey questioning was used to ascertain how the incidence of landline and cellphone use intersects in the population and data was weighted to match this profile.

Fielding for this survey was conducted by telephone using CATI interviewing. Collected data has been data entered, verified, checked for accuracy, coded, weighted and processed using SPSS, a standard statistical package for survey research. The elements of this report include the questionnaire in its final form collated with the frequency results for each question, and a crosstabulation section that breaks the sample down into core demographic groups.

Quality control measures were taken to ensure as high a response rate as possible for this study. These included supervision of interviewers, limitation of the calling set, repeated callbacks, interview monitoring, post-interview quality control surveys, and calling at various times of day and evening over the course of the fielding period. As a result, we can be very confident of the accuracy of results within the statistical margin of error.



IVAN MOORE
RESEARCH

HOMER PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY
MARCH 2015

Hi, my name is _____ and I'm calling for Ivan Moore Research, an Alaska public opinion research firm. We are conducting a public opinion survey today in the Homer area about some issues that are important to the community. The survey should take no more than five minutes.

S1. What is the zip code where you live?

ZIPCODE:		
	Count	%
99556	53	20.8%
99603	201	79.2%

IF OTHER ZIP OR UNSURE, THEN SAY "Do you live in the Homer/Anchor Point area?" IF NO, TERMINATE.

IF CELLPHONE RESPONDENT... We'd like to get your input to the survey as a cellphone respondent. We've deliberately called you (on the weekend/after 7pm)* so that we're not using up your minutes, and we'd like to ask if you can safely respond to the survey where you are right now.
IF YES, CONTINUE...

IF LANDLINE RESPONDENT... Is this a residential telephone?
IF YES, CONTINUE...

If they are available, I'd like to speak with the youngest male aged 18 or older in your household.

IF AVAILABLE, SWITCH AND REPEAT INTRO.

IF NOT AVAILABLE... How about the youngest female aged 18 or older?

IF AVAILABLE, SWITCH AND REPEAT INTRO.

IF NOT AVAILABLE, CONTINUE WITH RESPONDENT.

All phone numbers used for this survey were randomly generated. We don't know your name, but your opinions are important to us, and we'd appreciate your participation if that's OK with you. Of course, your responses will be completely confidential.



1. First of all, how long have you lived in the Homer area?

YEARS OF HOMER RESIDENCY:		
	Count	%
Less than 15 years	99	39.2%
15-25 years	71	28.3%
More than 25 years	82	32.5%

Mean = 21.1 years

The Homer area has seen a growing interest in community parks, indoor and outdoor sports, visual and performing arts, cultural events and festivals, which are all part of the local quality of life for residents of all ages.

While we have parks, recreation and cultural resources, community organizations and municipalities face financial and space limitations to sustain programming and facilities.

2. First of all, how important are the availability of recreation and culture activities to you and your immediate family and friends, very important, important, somewhat important, not very important or not at all important?

IMPORTANCE OF RECREATION AND CULTURE ACTIVITIES:		
	Count	%
Very important	113	43.6%
Important	41	15.7%
Somewhat important	63	24.3%
Not very important	18	7.1%
Not at all important	23	8.7%
Not sure	2	.6%

We'd now like to know what you think about certain proposals that currently exist to develop, sustain and/or improve certain recreation and culture facilities in Homer.

3. One proposal is to build a multi-purpose community center in Homer to provide a year-round facility for indoor activities like recreation, performing arts, community gatherings, education and specialty activities. Such a facility will cost at least 18 million dollars to build. Funding for construction would come from several sources but would certainly require area residents to contribute, on average, several hundred dollars a year per household through both user fees and increased taxes. Which of the following statements best matches your views?

A: This is a desirable facility, it should be a priority within the next 5 years, and I would be willing to contribute to support its development.

B: This is a desirable facility, but it should be a priority 5-10 years from now, providing time for the community to grow and increase the tax base.

C: This facility should not be a priority, and I would not be willing to contribute any amount of additional taxes to support its development.

OPINION OF COMMUNITY CENTER:		
	Count	%
Priority in next 5 years	78	30.1%
Priority later	69	26.7%
Not a priority	101	39.2%
Not sure	10	3.9%

4. The Kevin Bell Ice Hockey Arena is well used, with programs serving 800 people each week. The loan to pay for the building is now due, requiring mortgage payments of approximately \$60,000 per year for the next 20 years. User fees can cover operations costs, but won't cover the building loan payments. Which of the following statements below best matches your views?

A: The City of Homer should not put any funding into the building, even if this means the facility will close.

B: The City should provide approximately \$10,000-\$15,000 per year in new funding to help cover a portion of the loan payment, and look to the Homer Hockey Association to find the remaining funding.

C: The City should pay the full \$60,000 per year loan payment, and fund this expenditure with tax revenues.

OPINION OF FUNDING OF ICE ARENA:		
	Count	%
No funding	52	20.4%
Pay \$10-15k partial	136	53.6%
Pay full \$60k	51	20.1%
Not sure	15	5.9%

5A. Which funding source would you most prefer to see used to fund new recreation and culture services in the Homer area? Would you like to see them funded with new property taxes, funded with new sales taxes, funded other kinds of taxes, funded with existing money reappropriated from other municipal sources, or not funded at all?

PREFERRED FUNDING SOURCE:		
	Count	%
Property taxes	31	12.2%
Sales tax	44	17.2%
Other taxes	47	18.3%
Reappropriate	64	25.0%
Don't fund	46	18.0%
Not sure	24	9.3%

5B. One funding option used in the Kenai Peninsula Borough to pay for a desired service is the creation of a service area. Nikiski and Seldovia, for example, both have recreational service areas that pay for services provided in their communities. These service areas use property taxes to pay for local services like, for example, a community center. Generally speaking, do you strongly favor, mildly favor, mildly oppose or strongly oppose the creation of a service area in the Homer area to fund potential recreation and culture services?

	FAVOR OR OPPOSE SERVICE AREA?	
	Count	%
Strongly favor	71	27.5%
Mildly favor	72	27.8%
Neutral	9	3.7%
Mildly oppose	45	17.7%
Strongly oppose	49	18.9%
Not sure	11	4.4%

The following questions are for statistical purposes only.

6A. (IF LANDLINE, THEN ASK...) Do you use a cellphone?

6B. (IF CELLPHONE, THEN ASK...) Do you have a landline telephone in your home?

6C. (IF YES TO EITHER 6A OR 6B, THEN ASK...) On which line do you conduct most of your day-to-day telephone communication, your landline or your cellphone?

	LANDLINE/CELL STATUS:	
	Count	%
Land only	11	4.4%
Both - land dominant	25	9.6%
Both - cell dominant	88	34.0%
Cell only	134	52.0%

7. What is your registered party affiliation? Are you a Democrat, a Republican, are you registered with another party, or are you no party?

	PARTY AFFILIATION:	
	Count	%
Democrat	30	11.9%
Republican	55	22.0%
Other party	20	8.2%
No party	144	58.0%

8. In what year were you born?

AGE OF RESPONDENT:		
	Count	%
18-24	9	3.6%
25-34	31	12.4%
35-44	36	14.7%
45-54	56	22.6%
55-64	67	27.4%
65+	47	19.3%

Mean = 51.8 years

9. Of the people currently living in your household, how many are children or adolescents aged 18 or under?

CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD:		
	Count	%
None	163	65.0%
One or more	87	35.0%

Mean = 0.71

10. Are you married or single?

MARITAL STATUS:		
	Count	%
Married	152	61.1%
Single	97	38.9%

11. In which of the following broad categories does your household income fall?

HOUSEHOLD INCOME:		
	Count	%
\$0-40,000	71	31.6%
\$40,000-80,000	63	28.3%
\$80,000-120,000	57	25.4%
\$120,000+	23	10.3%
Not sure	10	4.4%

Median = \$62,900

12. Do you own or rent the home you live in?

OWN OR RENT HOME?		
	Count	%
Own	214	86.3%
Rent	34	13.7%

13. GENDER...

GENDER OF RESPONDENT:		
	Count	%
Male	132	51.0%
Female	127	49.0%

That completes the survey. I have a telephone number for Ivan Moore Research that you can call with any comments, compliments or complaints. Would you like the number?

Thank you very much for your help. Goodbye.

THE FOLLOWING VARIABLE WAS CALCULATED USING MEASURED DATA:

MARITAL STATUS BY GENDER:		
	Count	%
Married males	78	31.3%
Married females	74	29.7%
Single males	49	19.7%
Single females	48	19.3%

CROSSTABULATION TABLES

Zip Code

Column Percents

	ZIPCODE:		Total
	99556	99603	Col %
	Col %	Col %	
YEARS OF HOMER RESIDENCY:			
Less than 15 years	60.6%	34.4%	39.7%
15-25 years	9.3%	32.2%	27.5%
More than 25 years	30.0%	33.4%	32.7%
IMPORTANCE OF RECREATION AND CULTURE ACTIVITIES:			
Very important	19.6%	50.2%	43.8%
Important	22.1%	14.0%	15.7%
Somewhat important	25.6%	23.3%	23.8%
Not very important	13.3%	5.6%	7.2%
Not at all important	17.6%	6.6%	8.9%
Not sure	1.8%	.3%	.6%
OPINION OF COMMUNITY CENTER:			
Priority in next 5 years	10.1%	35.1%	29.9%
Priority later	38.6%	23.1%	26.3%
Not a priority	48.2%	37.7%	39.8%
Not sure	3.1%	4.2%	4.0%
OPINION OF FUNDING OF ICE ARENA:			
No funding	10.5%	23.2%	20.5%
Pay \$10-15k partial	47.7%	54.8%	53.3%
Pay full \$60k	25.3%	18.9%	20.2%
Not sure	16.5%	3.2%	6.0%
PREFERRED FUNDING SOURCE:			
Property taxes	8.4%	13.2%	12.2%
Sales tax	10.1%	19.2%	17.3%
Other taxes	17.8%	18.5%	18.3%
Reappropriate	31.2%	22.7%	24.5%
Don't fund	21.9%	17.3%	18.2%
Not sure	10.6%	9.1%	9.5%
FAVOR OR OPPOSE SERVICE AREA?			
Strongly favor	23.9%	29.1%	28.0%
Mildly favor	20.5%	28.9%	27.1%
Neutral	.7%	4.5%	3.7%
Mildly oppose	24.5%	15.6%	17.4%
Strongly oppose	22.5%	18.3%	19.2%
Not sure	8.0%	3.6%	4.5%
Total	20.9%	79.1%	100.0%

	ZIPCODE:		Total
	99556	99603	Col %
	Col %	Col %	
LANDLINE/CELL STATUS:			
Land only	3.0%	4.9%	4.5%
Both - land dominant	6.5%	10.6%	9.7%
Both - cell dominant	29.4%	34.9%	33.8%
Cell only	61.1%	49.6%	52.0%
PARTY AFFILIATION:			
Democrat	5.3%	14.0%	12.1%
Republican	28.6%	20.7%	22.4%
Other party	13.4%	6.8%	8.2%
No party	52.6%	58.5%	57.2%
AGE OF RESPONDENT:			
18-34	15.4%	16.6%	16.3%
35-44	26.0%	11.9%	14.9%
45-54	24.4%	22.6%	23.0%
55+	34.2%	48.9%	45.8%
CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD:			
None	48.7%	68.5%	64.3%
One or more	51.3%	31.5%	35.7%
MARITAL STATUS:			
Married	76.6%	56.4%	60.7%
Single	23.4%	43.6%	39.3%
HOUSEHOLD INCOME:			
\$0-40,000	30.5%	32.7%	32.3%
\$40,000-80,000	24.9%	29.1%	28.2%
\$80,000-120,000	31.1%	23.2%	24.8%
\$120,000+	7.8%	11.2%	10.5%
Not sure	5.8%	3.8%	4.2%
OWN OR RENT HOME?			
Own	96.3%	83.3%	86.1%
Rent	3.7%	16.7%	13.9%
GENDER OF RESPONDENT:			
Male	48.9%	50.4%	50.1%
Female	51.1%	49.6%	49.9%
MARITAL STATUS BY GENDER:			
Married males	38.3%	28.2%	30.4%
Married females	38.3%	28.2%	30.3%
Single males	11.7%	21.8%	19.7%
Single females	11.7%	21.8%	19.7%
Total	21.2%	78.8%	100.0%

CROSSTABULATION TABLES

Years of Homer Residency

Column Percents

	YEARS OF HOMER RESIDENCY:			Total
	Less than 15 years	15-25 years	More than 25 years	Col %
	Col %	Col %	Col %	
IMPORTANCE OF RECREATION AND CULTURE ACTIVITIES:				
Very important	41.7%	42.4%	45.3%	43.1%
Important	14.8%	23.1%	10.6%	15.8%
Somewhat important	19.9%	26.7%	28.7%	24.7%
Not very important	10.1%	6.1%	5.1%	7.3%
Not at all important	13.3%	1.8%	9.9%	8.9%
Not sure	.3%		.4%	.2%
OPINION OF COMMUNITY CENTER:				
Priority in next 5 years	36.3%	32.3%	20.9%	30.2%
Priority later	21.9%	28.2%	31.4%	26.8%
Not a priority	41.1%	35.4%	43.5%	40.2%
Not sure	.8%	4.2%	4.2%	2.8%
OPINION OF FUNDING OF ICE ARENA:				
No funding	16.5%	22.7%	24.7%	21.0%
Pay \$10-15k partial	48.4%	53.2%	57.7%	52.8%
Pay full \$60k	24.1%	21.8%	15.1%	20.5%
Not sure	11.0%	2.3%	2.4%	5.7%
PREFERRED FUNDING SOURCE:				
Property taxes	11.8%	17.7%	8.7%	12.5%
Sales tax	13.0%	18.2%	21.2%	17.1%
Other taxes	18.5%	20.8%	14.1%	17.7%
Reappropriate	26.4%	28.4%	22.2%	25.6%
Don't fund	20.6%	6.4%	25.6%	18.2%
Not sure	9.8%	8.4%	8.2%	8.9%
FAVOR OR OPPOSE SERVICE AREA?				
Strongly favor	29.9%	28.5%	22.0%	27.0%
Mildly favor	28.2%	29.7%	26.8%	28.2%
Neutral	.8%	6.8%	4.6%	3.7%
Mildly oppose	16.1%	15.1%	21.1%	17.4%
Strongly oppose	19.2%	18.2%	20.8%	19.4%
Not sure	5.7%	1.7%	4.8%	4.3%
Total	39.1%	28.4%	32.5%	100.0%

	YEARS OF HOMER RESIDENCY:			Total
	Less than 15 years	15-25 years	More than 25 years	Col %
	Col %	Col %	Col %	
LANDLINE/CELL STATUS:				
Land only	1.6%	4.8%	7.1%	4.3%
Both - land dominant	4.0%	11.5%	14.9%	9.7%
Both - cell dominant	27.2%	28.3%	43.2%	32.7%
Cell only	67.2%	55.4%	34.7%	53.3%
PARTY AFFILIATION:				
Democrat	6.2%	17.6%	14.8%	12.1%
Republican	19.9%	24.9%	21.4%	21.8%
Other party	11.0%	5.9%	4.2%	7.4%
No party	62.9%	51.6%	59.6%	58.7%
AGE OF RESPONDENT:				
18-34	10.6%	28.2%	12.8%	16.4%
35-44	25.4%	12.3%	4.7%	15.0%
45-54	31.4%	19.5%	14.0%	22.4%
55+	32.6%	40.0%	68.4%	46.3%
CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD:				
None	55.2%	60.3%	80.3%	64.9%
One or more	44.8%	39.7%	19.7%	35.1%
MARITAL STATUS:				
Married	56.7%	48.0%	77.2%	60.9%
Single	43.3%	52.0%	22.8%	39.1%
HOUSEHOLD INCOME:				
\$0-40,000	28.7%	45.1%	23.4%	31.6%
\$40,000-80,000	32.7%	21.2%	29.1%	28.4%
\$80,000-120,000	23.3%	25.1%	28.9%	25.6%
\$120,000+	7.2%	8.6%	15.6%	10.3%
Not sure	8.1%		3.0%	4.2%
OWN OR RENT HOME?				
Own	77.5%	82.9%	98.5%	86.0%
Rent	22.5%	17.1%	1.5%	14.0%
GENDER OF RESPONDENT:				
Male	58.1%	52.9%	40.6%	51.0%
Female	41.9%	47.1%	59.4%	49.0%
MARITAL STATUS BY GENDER:				
Married males	31.5%	29.7%	31.2%	30.9%
Married females	25.2%	18.3%	46.0%	30.0%
Single males	25.6%	23.7%	10.3%	20.1%
Single females	17.7%	28.3%	12.5%	19.0%
ZIPCODE:				
99556	31.0%	6.9%	18.7%	20.3%
99603	69.0%	93.1%	81.3%	79.7%
Total	39.7%	27.5%	32.7%	100.0%

CROSSTABULATION TABLES

Party Affiliation

Column Percents

	PARTY AFFILIATION:				Total
	Democrat	Republican	Other party	No party	Col %
	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	
YEARS OF HOMER RESIDENCY:					
Less than 15 years	20.2%	36.3%	59.0%	42.6%	39.7%
15-25 years	41.0%	32.4%	22.8%	25.0%	28.4%
More than 25 years	38.8%	31.3%	18.1%	32.4%	31.9%
IMPORTANCE OF RECREATION AND CULTURE ACTIVITIES:					
Very important	69.6%	29.5%	44.9%	43.4%	43.5%
Important	16.1%	7.4%	17.1%	17.3%	14.9%
Somewhat important	11.4%	42.7%	10.6%	23.3%	25.1%
Not very important		5.4%	1.3%	9.5%	6.8%
Not at all important	3.0%	15.0%	21.4%	6.2%	9.0%
Not sure			4.7%	.4%	.6%
OPINION OF COMMUNITY CENTER:					
Priority in next 5 years	46.3%	13.1%	42.9%	31.7%	30.2%
Priority later	28.7%	28.9%	2.9%	28.8%	26.7%
Not a priority	18.7%	58.0%	42.3%	36.6%	39.7%
Not sure	6.4%		11.8%	2.9%	3.4%
OPINION OF FUNDING OF ICE ARENA:					
No funding	17.4%	27.9%	7.1%	19.0%	19.9%
Pay \$10-15k partial	69.4%	55.6%	39.9%	51.9%	53.8%
Pay full \$60k	13.2%	6.7%	49.2%	22.9%	20.2%
Not sure		9.8%	3.8%	6.2%	6.1%
PREFERRED FUNDING SOURCE:					
Property taxes	22.9%	7.7%	11.6%	12.3%	12.5%
Sales tax	15.2%	7.2%	12.7%	22.4%	17.4%
Other taxes	23.0%	21.8%	20.9%	15.4%	18.2%
Reappropriate	27.5%	32.3%	12.3%	23.5%	25.0%
Don't fund	4.1%	29.3%	33.2%	14.5%	18.0%
Not sure	7.4%	1.6%	9.3%	11.9%	8.9%
FAVOR OR OPPOSE SERVICE AREA?					
Strongly favor	44.3%	17.8%	40.3%	26.3%	27.7%
Mildly favor	28.2%	23.8%	7.1%	32.4%	27.9%
Neutral	2.2%	.5%	1.7%	5.5%	3.7%
Mildly oppose	11.8%	29.1%	7.6%	16.2%	17.8%
Strongly oppose	2.6%	25.2%	34.9%	17.2%	18.7%
Not sure	11.0%	3.7%	8.3%	2.5%	4.2%
Total	11.9%	22.0%	8.2%	58.0%	100.0%

	PARTY AFFILIATION:				Total
	Democrat	Republican	Other party	No party	Col %
	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	
LANDLINE/CELL STATUS:					
Land only	9.7%	2.8%	6.3%	3.2%	4.2%
Both - land dominant	5.6%	11.4%	16.5%	7.6%	8.9%
Both - cell dominant	32.9%	42.0%	35.0%	29.3%	33.0%
Cell only	51.7%	43.8%	42.3%	60.0%	54.0%
AGE OF RESPONDENT:					
18-34	20.7%	24.2%		14.9%	16.4%
35-44	9.2%	12.5%	27.5%	15.3%	15.0%
45-54	30.6%	24.2%	11.4%	22.8%	23.1%
55+	39.5%	39.1%	61.1%	47.0%	45.6%
CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD:					
None	64.1%	51.2%	77.5%	67.2%	64.2%
One or more	35.9%	48.8%	22.5%	32.8%	35.8%
MARITAL STATUS:					
Married	70.2%	60.1%	48.8%	59.8%	60.2%
Single	29.8%	39.9%	51.2%	40.2%	39.8%
HOUSEHOLD INCOME:					
\$0-40,000	41.2%	20.4%	33.1%	33.9%	31.6%
\$40,000-80,000	28.7%	31.6%	1.5%	31.2%	28.6%
\$80,000-120,000	16.3%	31.6%	23.7%	25.1%	25.4%
\$120,000+	13.8%	6.9%	26.6%	7.8%	9.9%
Not sure		9.5%	15.1%	1.9%	4.5%
OWN OR RENT HOME?					
Own	92.5%	93.3%	70.9%	84.0%	86.0%
Rent	7.5%	6.7%	29.1%	16.0%	14.0%
GENDER OF RESPONDENT:					
Male	35.3%	65.2%	73.4%	46.7%	51.6%
Female	64.7%	34.8%	26.6%	53.3%	48.4%
MARITAL STATUS BY GENDER:					
Married males	32.9%	38.2%	41.9%	27.3%	31.6%
Married females	37.2%	21.9%	6.9%	32.4%	28.7%
Single males	2.4%	25.6%	30.5%	20.4%	20.1%
Single females	27.4%	14.3%	20.7%	19.9%	19.6%
ZIPCODE:					
99556	9.4%	27.4%	35.1%	19.8%	21.5%
99603	90.6%	72.6%	64.9%	80.2%	78.5%
Total	12.1%	22.4%	8.2%	57.2%	100.0%

CROSSTABULATION TABLES

Age of Respondent

Column Percents

	AGE OF RESPONDENT:				Total
	18-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Col %
	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	
YEARS OF HOMER RESIDENCY:					
Less than 15 years	25.3%	66.3%	54.8%	27.6%	39.1%
15-25 years	49.5%	23.6%	25.0%	24.9%	28.8%
More than 25 years	25.2%	10.2%	20.1%	47.5%	32.1%
IMPORTANCE OF RECREATION AND CULTURE ACTIVITIES:					
Very important	57.3%	37.5%	44.5%	41.7%	44.2%
Important	9.7%	18.0%	19.5%	14.2%	15.2%
Somewhat important	32.2%	33.2%	16.3%	23.1%	24.5%
Not very important			11.1%	8.8%	6.6%
Not at all important		11.2%	8.6%	11.1%	8.8%
Not sure	.8%			1.1%	.6%
OPINION OF COMMUNITY CENTER:					
Priority in next 5 years	22.2%	34.1%	38.2%	30.1%	31.3%
Priority later	34.3%	22.1%	26.6%	27.0%	27.4%
Not a priority	38.3%	41.3%	33.8%	40.3%	38.7%
Not sure	5.2%	2.6%	1.4%	2.6%	2.7%
OPINION OF FUNDING OF ICE ARENA:					
No funding	21.7%	22.9%	10.5%	21.5%	19.4%
Pay \$10-15k partial	52.9%	46.0%	63.0%	52.2%	53.7%
Pay full \$60k	21.1%	30.3%	15.8%	20.6%	21.1%
Not sure	4.4%	.8%	10.8%	5.6%	5.8%
PREFERRED FUNDING SOURCE:					
Property taxes	9.6%	6.6%	9.4%	17.5%	12.7%
Sales tax	14.2%	6.2%	25.9%	19.5%	18.1%
Other taxes	30.2%	25.3%	18.3%	11.8%	18.2%
Reappropriate	31.0%	45.7%	18.4%	19.4%	24.9%
Don't fund	2.5%	12.1%	17.8%	23.2%	17.0%
Not sure	12.4%	4.2%	10.2%	8.7%	9.0%
FAVOR OR OPPOSE SERVICE AREA?					
Strongly favor	8.9%	40.5%	40.9%	23.4%	27.6%
Mildly favor	44.1%	14.9%	16.9%	34.4%	29.1%
Neutral	11.6%			3.9%	3.7%
Mildly oppose	18.1%	18.5%	21.0%	14.6%	17.2%
Strongly oppose	6.0%	19.9%	21.2%	20.5%	18.2%
Not sure	11.3%	6.2%		3.2%	4.2%
Total	16.1%	14.7%	22.6%	46.7%	100.0%

	AGE OF RESPONDENT:				Total
	18-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Col %
	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	
LANDLINE/CELL STATUS:					
Land only				9.4%	4.4%
Both - land dominant	6.6%	4.8%	7.2%	12.2%	9.1%
Both - cell dominant	32.1%	23.0%	32.9%	36.0%	32.8%
Cell only	61.2%	72.2%	59.9%	42.4%	53.8%
PARTY AFFILIATION:					
Democrat	14.8%	7.2%	15.5%	10.1%	11.7%
Republican	31.9%	18.1%	22.6%	18.5%	21.6%
Other party		14.9%	4.0%	10.9%	8.1%
No party	53.3%	59.8%	57.9%	60.5%	58.6%
CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD:					
None	40.3%	30.5%	48.8%	92.1%	64.9%
One or more	59.7%	69.5%	51.2%	7.9%	35.1%
MARITAL STATUS:					
Married	47.7%	56.8%	66.5%	63.4%	60.6%
Single	52.3%	43.2%	33.5%	36.6%	39.4%
HOUSEHOLD INCOME:					
\$0-40,000	44.9%	29.2%	20.0%	33.8%	32.1%
\$40,000-80,000	29.8%	30.6%	30.6%	25.8%	28.2%
\$80,000-120,000	23.6%	30.7%	37.7%	19.9%	25.9%
\$120,000+		9.5%	11.7%	14.2%	10.5%
Not sure	1.6%			6.3%	3.2%
OWN OR RENT HOME?					
Own	72.1%	90.9%	81.8%	92.1%	86.3%
Rent	27.9%	9.1%	18.2%	7.9%	13.7%
GENDER OF RESPONDENT:					
Male	52.0%	50.3%	61.0%	45.3%	50.7%
Female	48.0%	49.7%	39.0%	54.7%	49.3%
MARITAL STATUS BY GENDER:					
Married males	26.5%	29.9%	41.3%	29.1%	31.5%
Married females	21.2%	26.9%	25.3%	34.3%	29.1%
Single males	25.5%	21.5%	20.8%	16.7%	19.8%
Single females	26.8%	21.7%	12.6%	19.9%	19.6%
ZIPCODE:					
99556	20.1%	37.4%	22.7%	16.0%	21.4%
99603	79.9%	62.6%	77.3%	84.0%	78.6%
Total	16.3%	14.9%	23.0%	45.8%	100.0%

CROSSTABULATION TABLES

Children in Household

Column Percents

	CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD:		Total
	None	One or more	Col %
	Col %	Col %	
YEARS OF HOMER RESIDENCY:			
Less than 15 years	33.0%	49.5%	38.8%
15-25 years	26.5%	32.2%	28.5%
More than 25 years	40.5%	18.3%	32.7%
IMPORTANCE OF RECREATION AND CULTURE ACTIVITIES:			
Very important	39.7%	53.5%	44.6%
Important	14.7%	15.1%	14.8%
Somewhat important	29.2%	15.1%	24.2%
Not very important	4.8%	10.4%	6.8%
Not at all important	10.8%	5.6%	9.0%
Not sure	.8%	.4%	.6%
OPINION OF COMMUNITY CENTER:			
Priority in next 5 years	27.8%	35.9%	30.6%
Priority later	25.3%	30.3%	27.0%
Not a priority	42.2%	32.8%	38.9%
Not sure	4.8%	1.1%	3.5%
OPINION OF FUNDING OF ICE ARENA:			
No funding	16.7%	26.5%	20.2%
Pay \$10-15k partial	53.2%	53.9%	53.5%
Pay full \$60k	24.4%	12.8%	20.3%
Not sure	5.6%	6.8%	6.0%
PREFERRED FUNDING SOURCE:			
Property taxes	15.9%	5.3%	12.1%
Sales tax	18.0%	17.4%	17.8%
Other taxes	14.0%	26.8%	18.5%
Reappropriate	24.0%	25.4%	24.5%
Don't fund	20.2%	14.7%	18.3%
Not sure	7.9%	10.4%	8.8%
FAVOR OR OPPOSE SERVICE AREA?			
Strongly favor	24.8%	30.9%	27.0%
Mildly favor	30.3%	25.4%	28.6%
Neutral	4.3%	2.8%	3.8%
Mildly oppose	16.4%	18.6%	17.2%
Strongly oppose	21.2%	15.1%	19.0%
Not sure	2.9%	7.2%	4.4%
Total	65.0%	35.0%	100.0%

	CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD:		Total
	None	One or more	Col %
	Col %	Col %	
LANDLINE/CELL STATUS:			
Land only	6.3%	.7%	4.3%
Both - land dominant	9.1%	10.2%	9.5%
Both - cell dominant	32.7%	34.8%	33.4%
Cell only	51.9%	54.3%	52.8%
PARTY AFFILIATION:			
Democrat	12.1%	12.1%	12.1%
Republican	17.2%	29.3%	21.5%
Other party	9.7%	5.1%	8.1%
No party	61.0%	53.4%	58.3%
AGE OF RESPONDENT:			
18-34	10.0%	27.5%	16.2%
35-44	6.9%	29.3%	14.8%
45-54	16.8%	32.7%	22.4%
55+	66.2%	10.5%	46.7%
MARITAL STATUS:			
Married	56.1%	71.3%	61.4%
Single	43.9%	28.7%	38.6%
HOUSEHOLD INCOME:			
\$0-40,000	31.6%	30.9%	31.4%
\$40,000-80,000	26.9%	32.7%	28.8%
\$80,000-120,000	24.3%	28.8%	25.8%
\$120,000+	12.3%	6.7%	10.4%
Not sure	4.8%	.9%	3.5%
OWN OR RENT HOME?			
Own	85.0%	89.4%	86.5%
Rent	15.0%	10.6%	13.5%
GENDER OF RESPONDENT:			
Male	50.1%	51.6%	50.6%
Female	49.9%	48.4%	49.4%
MARITAL STATUS BY GENDER:			
Married males	26.4%	41.0%	31.5%
Married females	29.7%	30.3%	29.9%
Single males	24.0%	11.1%	19.4%
Single females	19.9%	17.6%	19.1%
ZIPCODE:			
99556	16.2%	30.6%	21.3%
99603	83.8%	69.4%	78.7%
Total	64.3%	35.7%	100.0%

CROSSTABULATION TABLES

Marital Status

Column Percents

	MARITAL STATUS:		Total
	Married	Single	Col %
	Col %	Col %	
YEARS OF HOMER RESIDENCY:			
Less than 15 years	36.3%	43.1%	38.9%
15-25 years	22.4%	37.9%	28.5%
More than 25 years	41.3%	19.0%	32.6%
IMPORTANCE OF RECREATION AND CULTURE ACTIVITIES:			
Very important	44.1%	44.5%	44.3%
Important	10.5%	23.0%	15.4%
Somewhat important	26.2%	20.2%	23.9%
Not very important	9.3%	2.9%	6.8%
Not at all important	9.5%	8.4%	9.1%
Not sure	.4%	1.0%	.6%
OPINION OF COMMUNITY CENTER:			
Priority in next 5 years	28.4%	33.8%	30.5%
Priority later	30.1%	22.8%	27.3%
Not a priority	39.1%	38.9%	39.0%
Not sure	2.4%	4.5%	3.2%
OPINION OF FUNDING OF ICE ARENA:			
No funding	20.3%	20.2%	20.3%
Pay \$10-15k partial	53.6%	54.1%	53.8%
Pay full \$60k	20.0%	20.6%	20.2%
Not sure	6.2%	5.1%	5.8%
PREFERRED FUNDING SOURCE:			
Property taxes	8.0%	18.1%	11.9%
Sales tax	19.4%	15.5%	17.9%
Other taxes	18.2%	20.0%	18.9%
Reappropriate	23.1%	27.1%	24.6%
Don't fund	22.3%	10.4%	17.7%
Not sure	9.0%	8.8%	9.0%
FAVOR OR OPPOSE SERVICE AREA?			
Strongly favor	27.2%	28.6%	27.7%
Mildly favor	27.8%	28.8%	28.2%
Neutral	1.8%	6.9%	3.8%
Mildly oppose	17.4%	16.4%	17.0%
Strongly oppose	20.7%	16.5%	19.0%
Not sure	5.0%	2.8%	4.2%
Total	61.1%	38.9%	100.0%

	MARITAL STATUS:		Total
	Married	Single	Col %
	Col %	Col %	
LANDLINE/CELL STATUS:			
Land only	4.4%	4.9%	4.6%
Both - land dominant	10.2%	8.1%	9.4%
Both - cell dominant	38.3%	24.3%	32.9%
Cell only	47.1%	62.6%	53.1%
PARTY AFFILIATION:			
Democrat	14.2%	9.1%	12.2%
Republican	21.6%	21.7%	21.7%
Other party	6.5%	10.4%	8.1%
No party	57.7%	58.8%	58.1%
AGE OF RESPONDENT:			
18-34	12.8%	21.6%	16.3%
35-44	13.6%	15.9%	14.5%
45-54	24.7%	19.1%	22.5%
55+	48.9%	43.4%	46.7%
CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD:			
None	59.2%	73.9%	64.9%
One or more	40.8%	26.1%	35.1%
HOUSEHOLD INCOME:			
\$0-40,000	21.8%	46.9%	31.8%
\$40,000-80,000	28.5%	28.9%	28.6%
\$80,000-120,000	32.9%	15.4%	25.9%
\$120,000+	12.7%	6.3%	10.1%
Not sure	4.2%	2.6%	3.5%
OWN OR RENT HOME?			
Own	97.4%	68.4%	86.1%
Rent	2.6%	31.6%	13.9%
GENDER OF RESPONDENT:			
Male	51.3%	50.5%	51.0%
Female	48.7%	49.5%	49.0%
MARITAL STATUS BY GENDER:			
Married males	51.3%		31.3%
Married females	48.7%		29.7%
Single males		50.5%	19.7%
Single females		49.5%	19.3%
ZIPCODE:			
99556	26.7%	12.6%	21.2%
99603	73.3%	87.4%	78.8%
Total	60.7%	39.3%	100.0%

CROSSTABULATION TABLES

Household Income

Column Percents

	HOUSEHOLD INCOME:					Total
	\$0-40,000	\$40,000-80,000	\$80,000-120,000	\$120,000+	Not sure	Col %
	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	
YEARS OF HOMER RESIDENCY:						
Less than 15 years	36.5%	46.2%	36.5%	28.1%	77.4%	40.1%
15-25 years	39.8%	20.9%	27.3%	23.2%		27.9%
More than 25 years	23.7%	32.9%	36.2%	48.7%	22.6%	32.0%
IMPORTANCE OF RECREATION AND CULTURE ACTIVITIES:						
Very important	50.4%	45.4%	42.5%	61.6%	16.9%	46.6%
Important	20.8%	12.4%	15.9%	4.1%	2.9%	14.7%
Somewhat important	10.0%	36.0%	32.8%	13.0%	21.6%	24.0%
Not very important	8.8%	6.2%		1.5%		4.7%
Not at all important	8.2%		8.7%	19.8%	55.2%	9.3%
Not sure	1.7%				3.4%	.7%
OPINION OF COMMUNITY CENTER:						
Priority in next 5 years	33.8%	25.7%	32.4%	51.6%	14.4%	32.1%
Priority later	19.8%	42.0%	34.8%	9.8%	2.5%	28.1%
Not a priority	41.2%	27.0%	32.8%	38.6%	83.1%	36.6%
Not sure	5.2%	5.3%				3.1%
OPINION OF FUNDING OF ICE ARENA:						
No funding	15.1%	34.9%	11.3%	12.4%	10.7%	19.4%
Pay \$10-15k partial	52.4%	50.6%	68.5%	38.7%	44.8%	54.1%
Pay full \$60k	31.7%	10.6%	15.4%	39.8%	27.0%	22.3%
Not sure	.9%	3.8%	4.8%	9.1%	17.4%	4.3%
PREFERRED FUNDING SOURCE:						
Property taxes	11.6%	14.3%	12.4%	26.6%	3.0%	13.8%
Sales tax	25.6%	18.2%	13.6%	10.1%		17.9%
Other taxes	17.1%	19.9%	26.8%	9.6%	25.1%	19.9%
Reappropriate	31.2%	21.1%	31.2%	19.9%	26.2%	27.0%
Don't fund	9.5%	14.5%	13.4%	29.8%	45.7%	15.3%
Not sure	5.0%	12.0%	2.5%	4.1%		6.1%
FAVOR OR OPPOSE SERVICE AREA?						
Strongly favor	19.0%	29.6%	38.6%	38.5%	5.4%	28.4%
Mildly favor	30.8%	42.9%	19.8%	20.0%	24.2%	30.0%
Neutral	8.8%	.4%	1.0%	3.2%		3.5%
Mildly oppose	20.1%	13.8%	16.9%	2.5%	29.3%	16.1%
Strongly oppose	15.6%	9.8%	19.4%	31.7%	41.1%	17.7%
Not sure	5.8%	3.5%	4.4%	4.1%		4.4%
Total	31.6%	28.3%	25.4%	10.3%	4.4%	100.0%

	HOUSEHOLD INCOME:					Total
	\$0-40,000	\$40,000-80,000	\$80,000-120,000	\$120,000+	Not sure	Col %
	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	
LANDLINE/CELL STATUS:						
Land only	10.5%	2.4%	1.0%	5.9%		4.8%
Both - land dominant	9.9%	3.8%	13.5%	10.2%	8.8%	9.0%
Both - cell dominant	20.9%	38.8%	35.2%	50.1%	25.2%	32.8%
Cell only	58.8%	55.1%	50.4%	33.8%	66.0%	53.3%
PARTY AFFILIATION:						
Democrat	16.6%	12.8%	8.2%	17.7%		12.7%
Republican	15.4%	26.3%	29.5%	16.6%	49.8%	23.8%
Other party	8.5%	.4%	7.5%	21.7%	27.0%	8.1%
No party	59.5%	60.5%	54.7%	43.9%	23.2%	55.4%
AGE OF RESPONDENT:						
18-34	24.2%	18.3%	15.8%		8.9%	17.3%
35-44	13.4%	15.9%	17.4%	13.3%		14.7%
45-54	13.2%	23.0%	30.9%	23.6%		21.3%
55+	49.2%	42.7%	35.8%	63.1%	91.1%	46.7%
CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD:						
None	67.6%	62.6%	63.2%	78.8%	92.0%	67.1%
One or more	32.4%	37.4%	36.8%	21.2%	8.0%	32.9%
MARITAL STATUS:						
Married	41.2%	59.8%	76.4%	75.2%	70.9%	60.1%
Single	58.8%	40.2%	23.6%	24.8%	29.1%	39.9%
OWN OR RENT HOME?						
Own	66.5%	96.0%	89.4%	100.0%	95.9%	85.2%
Rent	33.5%	4.0%	10.6%		4.1%	14.8%
GENDER OF RESPONDENT:						
Male	49.9%	39.3%	58.8%	71.4%	69.4%	52.2%
Female	50.1%	60.7%	41.2%	28.6%	30.6%	47.8%
MARITAL STATUS BY GENDER:						
Married males	20.9%	20.8%	40.6%	58.6%	57.2%	31.1%
Married females	20.3%	39.0%	35.7%	16.6%	13.7%	29.0%
Single males	29.7%	19.0%	18.2%	15.3%	3.7%	21.3%
Single females	29.1%	21.3%	5.5%	9.5%	25.4%	18.6%
ZIPCODE:						
99556	19.9%	18.6%	26.4%	15.7%	29.2%	21.1%
99603	80.1%	81.4%	73.6%	84.3%	70.8%	78.9%
Total	32.3%	28.2%	24.8%	10.5%	4.2%	100.0%

CROSSTABULATION TABLES

Own or Rent Home?

Column Percents

	OWN OR RENT HOME?		Total
	Own	Rent	Col %
	Col %	Col %	
YEARS OF HOMER RESIDENCY:			
Less than 15 years	34.4%	61.1%	38.1%
15-25 years	28.1%	35.4%	29.1%
More than 25 years	37.6%	3.4%	32.8%
IMPORTANCE OF RECREATION AND CULTURE ACTIVITIES:			
Very important	40.6%	67.9%	44.4%
Important	15.2%	18.8%	15.7%
Somewhat important	27.8%	3.4%	24.4%
Not very important	7.9%		6.8%
Not at all important	7.9%	9.1%	8.1%
Not sure	.6%	.8%	.6%
OPINION OF COMMUNITY CENTER:			
Priority in next 5 years	28.6%	42.9%	30.6%
Priority later	30.1%	11.6%	27.6%
Not a priority	38.2%	39.4%	38.4%
Not sure	3.1%	6.0%	3.5%
OPINION OF FUNDING OF ICE ARENA:			
No funding	20.8%	15.3%	20.1%
Pay \$10-15k partial	53.3%	57.7%	53.8%
Pay full \$60k	20.1%	27.1%	20.9%
Not sure	5.8%		5.1%
PREFERRED FUNDING SOURCE:			
Property taxes	10.2%	27.4%	12.5%
Sales tax	18.0%	11.8%	17.1%
Other taxes	18.7%	19.6%	18.8%
Reappropriate	24.9%	22.9%	24.6%
Don't fund	18.6%	11.9%	17.7%
Not sure	9.6%	6.3%	9.2%
FAVOR OR OPPOSE SERVICE AREA?			
Strongly favor	26.6%	33.2%	27.5%
Mildly favor	29.7%	18.3%	28.2%
Neutral	2.2%	13.5%	3.8%
Mildly oppose	17.6%	15.7%	17.3%
Strongly oppose	18.9%	19.3%	18.9%
Not sure	5.0%		4.3%
Total	86.3%	13.7%	100.0%

	OWN OR RENT HOME?		Total
	Own	Rent	Col %
	Col %	Col %	
LANDLINE/CELL STATUS:			
Land only	5.0%	1.9%	4.6%
Both - land dominant	10.5%	4.4%	9.7%
Both - cell dominant	36.4%	17.5%	33.9%
Cell only	48.0%	76.2%	51.9%
PARTY AFFILIATION:			
Democrat	13.2%	6.5%	12.2%
Republican	22.8%	10.0%	21.0%
Other party	6.7%	16.8%	8.1%
No party	57.3%	66.7%	58.6%
AGE OF RESPONDENT:			
18-34	13.6%	33.2%	16.3%
35-44	14.9%	9.4%	14.2%
45-54	21.7%	30.5%	22.9%
55+	49.7%	26.9%	46.6%
CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD:			
None	64.1%	72.6%	65.3%
One or more	35.9%	27.4%	34.7%
MARITAL STATUS:			
Married	69.1%	11.4%	61.1%
Single	30.9%	88.6%	38.9%
HOUSEHOLD INCOME:			
\$0-40,000	25.1%	72.8%	32.1%
\$40,000-80,000	32.5%	7.9%	28.8%
\$80,000-120,000	27.1%	18.6%	25.8%
\$120,000+	12.3%		10.4%
Not sure	3.1%	.8%	2.8%
GENDER OF RESPONDENT:			
Male	48.1%	64.8%	50.4%
Female	51.9%	35.2%	49.6%
MARITAL STATUS BY GENDER:			
Married males	35.8%	2.7%	31.2%
Married females	33.4%	8.7%	30.0%
Single males	13.2%	62.1%	20.0%
Single females	17.7%	26.4%	18.9%
ZIPCODE:			
99556	23.9%	5.7%	21.4%
99603	76.1%	94.3%	78.6%
Total	86.1%	13.9%	100.0%

CROSSTABULATION TABLES

Gender of Respondent

Column Percents

	GENDER OF RESPONDENT:		Total
	Male	Female	Col %
	Col %	Col %	
YEARS OF HOMER RESIDENCY:			
Less than 15 years	44.7%	33.5%	39.2%
15-25 years	29.4%	27.2%	28.3%
More than 25 years	25.9%	39.3%	32.5%
IMPORTANCE OF RECREATION AND CULTURE ACTIVITIES:			
Very important	40.1%	47.1%	43.6%
Important	17.0%	14.3%	15.7%
Somewhat important	21.1%	27.7%	24.3%
Not very important	10.2%	3.9%	7.1%
Not at all important	11.1%	6.2%	8.7%
Not sure	.5%	.8%	.6%
OPINION OF COMMUNITY CENTER:			
Priority in next 5 years	32.4%	27.8%	30.1%
Priority later	22.8%	30.8%	26.7%
Not a priority	41.1%	37.3%	39.2%
Not sure	3.8%	4.0%	3.9%
OPINION OF FUNDING OF ICE ARENA:			
No funding	22.1%	18.8%	20.4%
Pay \$10-15k partial	47.9%	59.3%	53.6%
Pay full \$60k	22.1%	18.1%	20.1%
Not sure	7.8%	3.9%	5.9%
PREFERRED FUNDING SOURCE:			
Property taxes	12.8%	11.7%	12.2%
Sales tax	15.9%	18.6%	17.2%
Other taxes	20.4%	16.1%	18.3%
Reappropriate	23.9%	26.1%	25.0%
Don't fund	20.5%	15.4%	18.0%
Not sure	6.6%	12.1%	9.3%
FAVOR OR OPPOSE SERVICE AREA?			
Strongly favor	30.8%	24.1%	27.5%
Mildly favor	15.9%	40.1%	27.8%
Neutral	4.1%	3.2%	3.7%
Mildly oppose	17.6%	17.7%	17.7%
Strongly oppose	28.6%	8.9%	18.9%
Not sure	2.9%	6.1%	4.4%
Total	50.8%	49.2%	100.0%

	GENDER OF RESPONDENT:		Total
	Male	Female	Col %
	Col %	Col %	
LANDLINE/CELL STATUS:			
Land only	3.1%	5.8%	4.4%
Both - land dominant	7.8%	11.5%	9.6%
Both - cell dominant	29.1%	39.0%	34.0%
Cell only	60.0%	43.6%	52.0%
PARTY AFFILIATION:			
Democrat	8.1%	15.9%	11.9%
Republican	27.8%	15.8%	22.0%
Other party	11.6%	4.5%	8.2%
No party	52.4%	63.8%	58.0%
AGE OF RESPONDENT:			
18-34	16.5%	15.6%	16.1%
35-44	14.6%	14.8%	14.7%
45-54	27.2%	17.9%	22.6%
55+	41.7%	51.7%	46.7%
CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD:			
None	64.3%	65.7%	65.0%
One or more	35.7%	34.3%	35.0%
MARITAL STATUS:			
Married	61.5%	60.7%	61.1%
Single	38.5%	39.3%	38.9%
HOUSEHOLD INCOME:			
\$0-40,000	30.2%	33.1%	31.6%
\$40,000-80,000	21.3%	36.0%	28.3%
\$80,000-120,000	28.6%	21.9%	25.4%
\$120,000+	14.0%	6.2%	10.3%
Not sure	5.9%	2.8%	4.4%
OWN OR RENT HOME?			
Own	82.4%	90.3%	86.3%
Rent	17.6%	9.7%	13.7%
MARITAL STATUS BY GENDER:			
Married males	61.5%		31.3%
Married females		60.7%	29.7%
Single males	38.5%		19.7%
Single females		39.3%	19.3%
ZIPCODE:			
99556	20.3%	21.3%	20.8%
99603	79.7%	78.7%	79.2%
Total	50.1%	49.9%	100.0%

ANNOUNCEMENTS
PRESENTATIONS
BOROUGH REPORT
COMMISSION REPORTS

CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA

MAYOR ' S PROCLAMATION

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK
MAY 3 – 9, 2015

WHEREAS, Americans are served every single day by public employees at the federal, state, county and city levels; these unsung heroes do the work that keeps our nation working; and

WHEREAS, Many public employees including military personnel, police officers, firefighters, border patrol officers, embassy employees, health care professionals and others, risk their lives each day in service to the people of the United States and around the world; and

WHEREAS, Public employees include teachers, doctors and scientists . . .train conductors and astronauts . . . nurses and safety inspectors . . . laborers, computer technicians and social workers . . and countless other occupations. Day in and day out they provide the diverse services demanded by the American people of their government with efficiency and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Without these public employees at every level, continuity would be impossible in a democracy that regularly changes its leaders and elected officials.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mary E. Wythe, Mayor of the City of Homer, do hereby proclaim

May 3 – 9, 2015 as Public Service Recognition Week

and encourage all citizens to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of government employees at all levels — federal, state, county and city.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Homer, Alaska, to be affixed this 27th day of April, 2015.

CITY OF HOMER

MARY E. WYTHER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

Mayor's Proclamation

Municipal Clerks Week

May 3 - 9, 2015

WHEREAS, The Office of the Municipal Clerk, a time honored and vital part of local government exists throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, The Office of the Municipal Clerk is the oldest among public servants; and

WHEREAS, The Office of the Municipal Clerk provides the professional link between the citizens, Mayor and City Council and agencies of government at other levels; and

WHEREAS, Municipal Clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all; and

WHEREAS, The Municipal Clerk serves as the information center on functions of local government and community; and

WHEREAS, Municipal Clerks continually strive to improve the administration of the affairs of the Office of the Municipal Clerk through participation in education programs, seminars, workshops and the annual meetings of their state, province, county and international professional organizations; and

WHEREAS, It is most appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments of the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mary E. Wythe, Mayor of the City of Homer, do hereby proclaim the week of May 3 - 9, 2015 as:

MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK

and encourage all residents to take advantage of the variety of information, records assistance and services that the City Clerk's Office provides.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE Seal of the City of Homer, Alaska, to be affixed this 27th day of April, 2015.

CITY OF HOMER

MARY E. WYTHE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA

MAYOR ' S PROCLAMATION

MAY 2015 BIKE MONTH

WHEREAS, Bicycle riding is a viable and environmentally-sound form of transportation, an alternative means of commuting to work, an excellent form of fitness, and provides quality family recreation; and

WHEREAS, The City of Homer, Alaska, recognizes the bicycle as a legitimate roadway vehicle and therefore is entitled to legal and responsible use of all public roadway facilities in the Homer area; and

WHEREAS, Whether traveling by bike, foot, car or truck, road users should always be careful and conscientious of their surroundings; and

WHEREAS, The City of Homer, Alaska, encourages the increased use of the bicycle, benefiting all citizens of Homer by improving air quality, reducing traffic congestion and noise, decreasing the use of and dependence upon finite energy sources, and fostering exercise; and

WHEREAS, During the month of May the Homer Cycling Club reminds everyone that Homer Shares the Road.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mary E. Wythe, Mayor of the City of Homer, do hereby proclaim

May 2015 as Bike Month

May 11-15 as Bike Week

May 15 as Bike to Work and School Day

in Homer, and encourage all in the Homer area to participate in Bike Month activities, to always be aware of people on bikes, and to recognize and practice bicycle safety throughout the year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Homer, Alaska, to be affixed this 27th day of April, 2015.

CITY OF HOMER

MARY E. WYTHER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

Session 15-05, a Regular Meeting of the Homer Advisory Planning Commission was called to order by Chair Stead at 6:30 p.m. on March 18, 2015 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS BOS, BRADLEY, ERICKSON, HIGHLAND, STEAD

ABSENT: STROOZAS, VENUTI

STAFF: CITY PLANNER ABBOUD
DEPUTY CITY CLERK JACOBSEN

Approval of Agenda

Chair Stead called for agenda approval

HIGHLAND/BOS 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).

Larry Slone, city resident, commented regarding the Land Allocation Plan. He doesn't think the HERC property will work for the new Public Safety Building because it will be too costly. He thinks they will have to plan for a smaller size and there are smaller city lots that may come in to play in the future. He suggested the commission recommend the old FAA lot on page C5 or the old library lot on page D3. He is interested in hearing their feedback.

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 February 18, 2015 meeting

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

BOS/HIGHLAND SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Presentations

None

Reports

A. Staff Report PL 15-17, City Planner's Report

City Planner Abboud reviewed the staff report.

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 15-18 Draft ordinance for Site Development Requirements

City Planner Abboud reviewed the staff report.

Chair Stead opened the public hearing.

Larry Slone, city resident, commented that he agrees with the change to 9 months for re-vegetation.

There were no more public comments and the hearing was closed.

HIGHLAND/BRADLEY MOVED TO FORWARD THE DRAFT ORDINANCE AMENDING 21.50 SITE DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND RECOMMEND ADOPTION.

Commissioner Highland expressed concern about the nine month re-vegetation timeframe carrying over into winter.

There was discussion that planning staff will talk to applicants about the time frame and address it then and encourage starting their re-vegetation as the finish up the dirt work. Because of our seasons, most people start their projects early to take advantage of the full building season and finish up before winter.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

Plat Consideration

Pending Business

- A. Staff Report PL 15-19, Bridge Creek Watershed Protection District

City planner Abboud reviewed the staff report.

The commission did not make any further amendments and agreed by consensus to forward it to the attorney to review prior to scheduling a public hearing.

New Business

- A. Staff Report Pl 15-20, Land Allocation Plan

City Planner Abboud reviewed the staff report and updates since the last plan was adopted.

Commissioner Bos commented regarding some of the undesignated lots. The lots on page C-4 are small and unbuildable and don't serve much purpose to the city. He suggested they could be deeded to the adjoining property owners. The property on page C-8 could also be split between neighboring property owners or sold. The lot on page D-3 is a fantastic lot, but it would take a lot of effort to get the grade down, however with city projects going on the city could use the material as fill and create a great building opportunity for a lot of different things there.

There group briefly discussed the merits of Commissioner Bos's suggestions.

BRADLEY/BOS MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE LOTS ON PAGE C-4 BE REDISTRIBUTED TO THE STATE OR ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

ERICKSON/BOS MOVED TO RECOMMEND SELLING THE LOT ON PAGE C-8 FOR ITS ASSESSED VALUE OR DISPOSE OF IT TO THE NEIGHBORING PROPERTY OWNER ON THE NORTH OR SOUTH.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

There was further discussion of the property on page D-3 that was formerly part of the old library site. They acknowledged the challenges of trying to develop it, that it could be a future site for a facility like

the public safety building, and there is a lot of fill that will be needed for projects and removing it would make the property far more marketable.

ERICKSON/BOS MOVED TO REEVALUATE THE PRICE OF THE LOT ON PAGE D-3 TO MAKE IT MARKETABLE.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES: BOS, HIGHLAND, ERICKSON, BRADLEY
NO: STEAD

Motion carried.

Chair Stead commented he voted no because he thinks it should be held for a secondary site for the public safety building.

Informational Materials

A. City Manager's report for March 9, 2015 Council Meeting

Comments of the Audience

Members of the audience may address the Commission on any subject. (3 minute time limit)

Larry Slone, city resident, expressed his appreciation for the commissioners reference to his input related to the old library property on page D-3.

Comments of Staff

City Planner Abboud noted there haven't been any CUP applications. He is hopeful to have the tower ordinance back from the attorney in time for the next meeting. He will be in touch with the Chair to talk about what to work on.

Comments of the Commission

Commissioner Highland had no comment.

Commissioner Bradley said she would be absent at the next meeting and possibly the one following.

Commissioner Erickson had no comment.

Commissioner Bos said he would like to talk about and be educated on the the process for approving, installing, and testing of septic and drain field systems. There seem to be reports of them failing at a high rate and devaluing property. He would also like to discuss junk yards around town. He commended the city on their work in the clearing in the area behind Safeway.

Chair Stead said they did a good job tonight.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers. A worksession will be held at 5:30 p.m.

MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: _____

**HOMER FOUNDATION
REPORT: City of Homer Grants Program 2015**

This is the 16th year of the City of Homer Grants Program administered by the Homer Foundation. Over \$700,000 has been awarded through this program since inception in 2000.

Applications for the 2015 funding cycle were made available in January and completed applications were due February 20th. A total of \$31,020 was available for distribution. This funding included \$14,000 of the City's current year \$19,000 allocation, the remaining \$5000 was credited to the corpus of the City of Homer Fund. The additional funds included \$16,134 in earned income from the City of Homer's endowment fund, and \$886 in earned income from the City of Kachemak's endowment fund. Kachemak City adds their earnings annually in the spirit of good neighbors. We appreciate having the flexibility to allocate these funds each year depending on need.

This year's Distributions Committee consisted of HF Board of Directors John Mouw (chair), Polly Prindle-Hess, and Steve Albert, who were joined by community members James Dolma, Janie Leask, Bill Overway and Sue Post. The committee members received their packets March 4th, and reconvened on March 18th, at 6 pm in the Homer Foundation conference room to review and score applications. All committee members agreed in writing to adhere to the Homer Foundation's Conflict of Interest Policy. John Mouw chaired the meeting, but recused himself from voting on the applications as he is a fiduciary of one of the grantees. There were no other disclosures made, and no conflicts existed.

Ten applications were received. Committee members scored the organizations using the weighted criteria established for the four areas covered in the application: Financial Health (30 pts.), Governance (15 pts.), Correlation of Mission to Programs (40 pts.), and Leverage (15 pts.). They used these scores to prioritize applicants and recommend funding levels. The Homer Foundation board of trustees approved the Committee's recommendations at their March 25th board meeting. The following grant recommendations were approved for funding:

Organization	2015 Awards
<u>Bunnell Street Gallery</u>	\$ 3,000
<u>Center for AK Coastal Studies</u>	\$ 3,200
<u>Cook Inlet Keeper</u>	\$ 3,000
<u>Homer Community Food Pantry</u>	\$ 3,375
<u>Homer Council on the Arts</u>	\$ 3,000
<u>Hospice of Homer</u>	\$ 3,245
<u>Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic/REC Room</u>	\$ 3,000
<u>Kachemak Heritage Land Trust</u>	\$ 3,200
<u>Kachemak Nordic Ski Club</u>	\$ 3,000
Total:	\$31,020

I regret that I am unable to make this report in person this year. Spring is our very busy scholarship season. I am happy to report to the Council at any time in the future should you so request it. The Homer Foundation appreciates the opportunity to assist the City of Homer by administering this annual grants program that provides important operating funds to Homer's vital nonprofit community.

Report submitted by Joy Steward, Ex. Director, The Homer Foundation 4/15/15.



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the Mayor

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

mayor@ci.homer.ak.us
(p) 907-235-3130
(f) 907-235-3143

April 20, 2015

EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC)
Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OPA 2006-0090
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

RE: The City of Homer, Alaska Comments on 40 CFR Parts 110 and 300, National Contingency Plan Subparts A and J

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

The City of Homer located on Kachemak Bay, Alaska is strongly affected by a healthy marine ecosystem. We have a large commercial fishing, sport fishing, tourist and recreation industry that depends on our marine environment. It is incumbent on us to ensure the maximum protection to our marine environment. Please accept the following comments on behalf of the citizens of Homer.

1. As a Member City of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council (PWSRCAC), we are in support of the comments developed by the PWSRCAC Dispersant Project Team.
2. Homer strongly supports a cautious approach to the use of chemical agents. With further science developing from the Deepwater Horizon spill it is apparent, as ongoing studies are made public, the effects of agents used on the Deepwater Horizon spill are having adverse effects on the health of the marine environment and humans. The scientific information coming from the application of agents upon this spill is ongoing and becoming more alarming. Citizens of Homer would be on the front line of a response in Alaska using dispersant agents. It is incumbent upon industry and regulators to understand the negative effects of an agent on our ecosystem and human health before permitting its use. It is apparent that there are many unanswered questions on the use of dispersants.
3. The toxicity and sub-chronic effects of chemical agents has to be understood and science based outcomes developed before each product is put into use. The safety and effectiveness of designated chemical agents needs to be scientifically tested for the environment in which its use is planned. Alaskan waters are colder and can contain large amounts of suspended solids in the water column due to massive fresh water runoff, thus reducing the effectiveness of dispersant agents.
4. Preauthorization of areas for dispersant use should not mean pre permission. The application of an agent should only be considered if all elements for effective use are on hand and a decision is developed through multi-agency process. This should include The Area Committee, Subarea Committee, Local, State and Federal Trustee Agencies, Tribal Entities and Scientific Support.

5. Citizens of Homer recognize that manufactures of agents should be held responsible to disclose under the Right to Know Law, the effects of their product. The EPA should further require scientific, third party testing for toxicity, sub-chronic effects and effective results for any agent permitted for use.
6. The authority to use a dispersant should be science based. The chain of authorization should include all stakeholders and not be superseded by higher authority in the EPA. The approval process needs to follow the agreed upon progressions developed in the preplanning processes.
7. The use of dispersant or sinking agents in the Alaskan environment should not be considered as the residual product will produce a toxic soup in the water column and cover the ocean floor with residue. Cold temperatures will further decrease the bacterial degradation action of products. Until there is science based evidence of products effectiveness in a cold-water environment and documented history of a marine ecosystem emerging in a healthy state, these products should not be used in waters off Alaska.
8. The City of Homer recommends *expanded requirements for toxicity testing* to evaluate the full spectrum of potential adverse endocrine, immune, or developmental effects to human populations or wildlife. A multi-species, system-level approach is essential to accurately predict both the protective and detrimental effects to both humans and the natural environment from the application of dispersants to accidentally released oil.
9. The City of Homer has concerns about the manner in which the proposed rule considers subsurface dispersant use as an established approach. We do not believe that there is enough data demonstrating that dispersants add value to subsurface oil spill response. In an area like the Cook Inlet, where we have exploration and production activities, there is also the potential for a subsea release from a damaged sub surface pipeline or a damaged exploration or production shallow water platform and we are concerned about the potential for the new Subpart J rule to open the door to preauthorized use of subsurface dispersants in Alaska.

The State-of-Science for Dispersant Use in Arctic Waters working group, a consortium of leading dispersant scientists in which PWSRCAC participates, has expressed uncertainty about the effectiveness of subsea dispersants under some conditions, and the ability to measure effectiveness for sub-surface dispersant applications.

For these reasons, the City of Homer urges the EPA to remove subsurface dispersant application from Subpart J at this time, and revisit the issue in the future when there is more definitive science to inform the tradeoffs involved in applying dispersants to subsurface oil spills.

10. Throughout the proposed rule, requirements are proposed for testing and monitoring to be conducted by the Responsible Party, (RP) at the time of a spill, or the Chemical Agent manufacturer prior to listing the product on the approved product schedule. The City of Homer strongly urges the EPA to consider all possible opportunities to require independent science or rigorous peer review of all studies that are conducted by the RP or vendor. When a spill occurs, the RP faces significant civil and criminal liability based on environmental damages, including

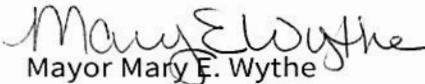
damages caused by spill treatment decisions. This creates a conflict of interest for assessing potential adverse impacts from treating agents.

Similarly, the product manufacturers and vendors have a financial interest in selling their product, and therefore have a motive to present results that might over estimate potential effectiveness or understate toxicity. We recommend that the EPA consider opportunities to audit or independently vet studies to ensure fairness and transparency.

11. The City of Homer does not oppose the use of burning agents to enhance in-situ burning of a spill; however, we believe that it is important to ensure that any burning agent applied to an oil slick be fully combustibile, and that the potential toxicities of the burning agent alone, the combusted oil slick (smoke), and the burn residue be considered in the decision making process.

The City of Homer thanks the Environmental Protection Agency for the opportunity to comment on the proposed 40 CFR Parts 110 and 300, National Contingency Plan Subparts A and J. It is our hope that with the comprehensive input from the public, the revise National Contingency Plan will have significant improvements.

Sincerely,


Mayor Mary E. Wythe
CITY OF HOMER

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

**CITY OF HOMER
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Ordinance 15-10

A **public hearing** is scheduled for **Monday, April 27, 2015** during a Regular City Council Meeting. The meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. in the Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

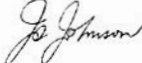
Ordinance 15-10 internet address:
<http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/ordinances>

Ordinance 15-10, An Ordinance of the Homer City Council Amending the FY 2015 Operating Budget by Appropriating \$30,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trail Program (HART) Fund to Repair Fireweed Avenue and Cottonwood Lane and Matching an Amount That the Property Owners Fund for Repairs to the Roads. City Manager/Public Works Director.



All interested persons are welcomed to attend and give testimony. Written testimony received by the Clerk's Office prior to the meeting will be provided to Council.


** Copies of proposed Ordinances, in entirety, are available for review at Homer City Clerk's Office. Copies of the proposed Ordinances are available for review at City Hall, the Homer Public Library, and the City's homepage - <http://clerk.ci.homer.ak.us>. Contact the Clerk's Office at City Hall if you have any questions. 235-3130, Email: clerk@ci.homer.ak.us or fax 235-3143.


Jo Johnson, MMC, City Clerk
Publish: Homer Tribune: April 22, 2015

CLERK'S AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

I, Renee Krause, Deputy City Clerk I for the City of Homer, Alaska, do hereby certify that a copy of the Public Hearing Notice for the **Ordinance 15-10**, Amending the FY 2015 Operating Budget by Appropriating \$30,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trail Program (HART) Fund to Repair Fireweed Avenue and Cottonwood Lane and Matching and Matching an Amount That the Property Owners Fund for Repairs to the Roads was distributed to the City of Homer kiosks located at City Clerk's Office, and the Homer Public Library on April 17, 2015 and posted the same on City of Homer Website on Thursday, April 16, 2015.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said City of Homer this 16th day of April, 2015.


Renee Krause
Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I

ORDINANCE REFERENCE SHEET
2015 ORDINANCE
ORDINANCE 15-10

An Ordinance of the Homer City Council Amending the FY 2015 Operating Budget by Appropriating \$30,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trail Program (HART) Fund to Repair Fireweed Avenue and Cottonwood Lane and Matching an Amount That the Property Owners Fund for Repairs to the Roads.

Sponsor: City Manager/Public Works Director

1. City Council Regular Meeting April 13, 2015 Introduction
 - a. Memorandum 15-028 from Public Works Director as backup
2. City Council Regular Meeting April 27, 2015 Public Hearing and Second Reading
 - a. Substitute Ordinance 15-10(S)
 - b. Memorandum 15-028 from Public Works Director as backup

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**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

City Manager/
Public Works Director

ORDINANCE 15-10

AN ORDINANCE OF THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL AMENDING THE
FY 2015 OPERATING BUDGET BY APPROPRIATING \$30,000 FROM
THE HOMER ACCELERATED ROADS AND TRAIL PROGRAM (HART)
FUND TO REPAIR FIREWEED AVENUE AND COTTONWOOD LANE
AND MATCHING AN AMOUNT THAT THE PROPERTY OWNERS
FUND FOR REPAIRS TO THE ROADS.

WHEREAS, Sections of Cottonwood Lane and Fireweed Avenue are in desperate need
of road improvements due to gravel roadways that are sub-standard and break up in areas;
and

WHEREAS, Each spring portions of roadway break up to a point where they are
impassable without a four-wheel-drive vehicle with good ground clearance; and

WHEREAS, Property owners have expressed an interest in contributing to the cost of
repairs of the roads; and

WHEREAS, City administration has determined \$30,000 may be funded from the
Homer Accelerated Roads and Trail Program (HART) for the proposed work and the City will
provide a matching amount that the property owners fund for repairs to the roads.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF HOMER ORDAINS:

Section 1. The Homer City Council finds that the requested road repairs of Fireweed
Avenue and Cottonwood Lane are necessary and in the public interest.

Section 2. The Homer City Council hereby amends the FY 2015 Operating Budget by
appropriating \$30,000 from the HART Program for road repairs to Fireweed Avenue and
Cottonwood Lane and a matching amount that the property owners fund for repairs to the
roads as follows:

38 Expenditure:

39 <u>Account Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
40 160-0766	HART Roads	\$30,000

41

42 Section 3. This is a budget amendment ordinance, is not permanent in nature, and
43 shall not be codified.

44

45 ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA, this ___ day of _____
46 2015.

47

48 CITY OF HOMER

49

50

51 _____

52 MARY E. WYTHE, MAYOR

53 ATTEST:

54

55

56 _____

57 JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

58

59 YES:

60 NO:

61 ABSTAIN:

62 ABSENT:

63

64 First Reading:

65 Public Hearing:

66 Second Reading:

67 Effective Date:

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70 Reviewed and approved as to form:

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72

73 _____

74 Mary K. Koester, City Manager

75

76 _____

77 Date: _____

Thomas F. Klinkner, City Attorney

Date: _____

1 **CITY OF HOMER**
2 **HOMER, ALASKA**

3 City Manager/
4 Public Works Director

5 **ORDINANCE 15-10(S)**
6

7 AN ORDINANCE OF THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL AMENDING THE
8 FY 2015 OPERATING BUDGET BY APPROPRIATING \$30,000 FROM
9 THE HOMER ACCELERATED ROADS AND TRAIL PROGRAM (HART)
10 FUND TO REPAIR FIREWEED AVENUE AND COTTONWOOD LANE
11 AND **ADDING \$7,000 TO MATCHING AN THE** AMOUNT THAT THE
12 PROPERTY OWNERS FUND FOR REPAIRS TO THE ROADS.
13

14 WHEREAS, Sections of Cottonwood Lane and Fireweed Avenue are in desperate need
15 of road improvements due to gravel roadways that are sub-standard and break up in areas;
16 and
17

18 WHEREAS, Each spring portions of roadway break up to a point where they are
19 impassable without a four-wheel-drive vehicle with good ground clearance; and
20

21 WHEREAS, Property owners have expressed an interest in contributing to the cost of
22 repairs of the roads; **and property owners on Fireweed Avenue will contribute \$3,500 and**
23 **property owners on Cottonwood Lane will contribute \$3,500;** and
24

25 WHEREAS, City administration has determined \$30,000 may be funded from the
26 Homer Accelerated Roads and Trail Program (HART) for the proposed work and the City will
27 provide a matching amount **of \$7,000 from the HART** that the property owners fund for
28 repairs to the roads.
29

30 NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF HOMER ORDAINS:
31

32 Section 1. The Homer City Council finds that the requested road repairs of Fireweed
33 Avenue and Cottonwood Lane are necessary and in the public interest.
34

35 Section 2. The Homer City Council hereby amends the FY 2015 Operating Budget by
36 appropriating \$30,000 from the HART Program for road repairs to Fireweed Avenue and

37 Cottonwood Lane and a matching amount **of \$7,000** that the property owners fund for
38 repairs to the roads as follows:

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Expenditure:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
160-0766	HART Roads	\$30,000
<u>160-0766</u>	<u>HART Roads as match</u>	<u>\$ 7,000</u>
	<u>to property owners</u>	
	<u>contribution</u>	

Section 3. This is a budget amendment ordinance, is not permanent in nature, and shall not be codified.

ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA, this ____ day of _____
2015.

CITY OF HOMER

MARY E. WYTHE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

YES:

NO:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

First Reading:

Public Hearing:

Second Reading:

Effective Date:

76 Reviewed and approved as to form:

77

78

79 _____

80 Mary K. Koester, City Manager

81

82

83 Date: _____

Thomas F. Klinkner, City Attorney

Date: _____



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Public Works

3575 Heath Street
Homer, AK 99603

publicworks@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907- 235-3170

(f) 907-235-3145

Memorandum 15-028

TO: Marvin Yoder - City Manager
FROM: Carey Meyer – Public Works Director
DATE: February 27, 2015
SUBJECT: **Fireweed Avenue and Cottonwood Lane Road Conditions**

The City currently has two sections of gravel roads that are in desperate need of road improvements. Property owners annually complain that the City needs to fix the problem. One section is 1000 lineal feet of Fireweed Avenue, and the other is 1000 lineal feet of Cottonwood Lane (see attached map). There are many miles of gravel roadways that are sub-standard and break up in areas, most of which can be dealt with in a maintenance fashion. But, these two sections are extreme, requiring reconstruction, and this department does not currently have the authorization to give these problem areas the immediate attention that they need.

Each spring these portions of roadway break up to a point where they are impassable without a four-wheel-drive vehicle with good ground clearance. The folks that drive it each day get to a point where they call this department pleading for assistance. There are times when emergency vehicles would likely get stuck while attempting to travel the roadway. Public Works cannot put heavy equipment on the road to grade it until it is dried up and the frost is gone, without creating additional damage to the roadway.

The issues on these roads have been going on for many years, and road LID attempts have failed because the folks that drive through these areas have no right-of-way (ROW) frontage along these stretches. Without frontage on the ROW they have no say in the matter. The property owners that can initiate a road LID (those being immediately adjacent to the ROW where the failing roadway is) have no interest in an LID because they don't live in the area or the lots are vacant.

Public Works is tasked with maintaining roads and the department does minor repairs. But, this department is not tasked with, or funded to, build roads. The folks that are impacted by these failed roadways cannot initiate or affect a road LID. So, there has been this impasse in resolving the matter for years.

This department is proposing a couple of options for consideration and discussion in an attempt to solve this ongoing problem:

1. Option 1 - Allow the affected property owners to collectively pay for materials (gravel and fabric) to construct a roadway 18' wide with 18" of gravel, and the PW department will place the material. This is a stop-gap scenario at least allows for year round maintenance. The ultimate city-standard road improvements would take place in the future as lots adjacent to the work area sell or develop and the property owners are motivated to initiate a road LID.

This option would be quick and would allow these two sections of road to be addressed fairly soon were the folks in the area be inclined to fund the materials. Informal conversations with the folks on Fireweed indicate that they would support the effort. No conversations have taken place with the Cottonwood folks regarding this type of funding scenario.

2. Option 2 - Have council consider initiating a road LID in these areas where effected property owners do not have the ability to initiate or vote on a road LID based on public safety. Criteria for such a move and other considerations such as whether to place deferred assessments would need to be discussed.

This option would provide a better road, and the improvements would be of a permanent nature. This option would take longer and may be more challenging as this type of LID would basically be imposed rather than initiated.

3. Option 3 - Do nothing. If this option is utilized, it would be good to formally communicate the city's position with the effected property owners that drive these sections of road.

Due to the abnormal winter weather conditions this year, Homer has experienced a couple of break-up periods already, which is why complaints about these roads have already begun. These areas are going to experience more severe break-up as spring arrives in force.

Recommendation

City Council provide direction as to which option the Public Works Department should initiate.

ORDINANCE(S)

ORDINANCE REFERENCE SHEET
2015 ORDINANCE
ORDINANCE 15-11

An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending Homer City Code Section 17.04.100, Subdivision After Levy of Assessments, to Provide for Subdivisions of Property Subject to Natural Gas Distribution Assessments.

Sponsor: City Manager

1. City Council Regular Meeting April 27, 2015 Introduction
 - a. Memorandum 15-056 from Interim City Manager as backup

1 **CITY OF HOMER**
2 **HOMER, ALASKA**

3 City Manager

4 **ORDINANCE 15-11**

5
6 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,
7 AMENDING HOMER CITY CODE SECTION 17.04.100, SUBDIVISION
8 AFTER LEVY OF ASSESSMENTS, TO PROVIDE FOR SUBDIVISIONS
9 OF PROPERTY SUBJECT TO NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION
10 ASSESSMENTS.

11
12 THE CITY OF HOMER ORDAINS:

13
14 Section 1. Homer City Code 17.04.100, Subdivision after levy of assessments, is hereby
15 amended to read as follows:

16
17 17.04.100 Subdivision after levy of assessments.

18 a. Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, upon the subdivision of
19 a property assessed as a single parcel, the amount of the assessment shall be allocated
20 among the resulting lots that benefit from the improvement on the same basis that the
21 assessment originally was allocated.

22 b. Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, upon ~~Upon~~ the subdivision of a
23 property assessed as a single parcel in an assessment district where assessments were levied
24 in an equal amount per parcel (i.e., without regard to parcel area, dimension or other
25 characteristic), then no resulting parcel, other than the parcel that contains the original
26 connection to the improvement for which the assessment was levied, may connect to the
27 improvement until a subdivided property connection fee is paid for the parcel.

28 1. The amount of the connection fee shall be equal to the amount of the
29 original assessment, adjusted up or down by a percentage equal to the change in the
30 Consumer Price Index, All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Anchorage, Alaska, from the
31 end of the calendar year preceding the original assessment date to the end of the
32 calendar year preceding the date the parcel is connected to the improvement.

33 2. If the original assessment was payable in installments the City may enter
34 into a written agreement for the payment of the connection fee in installments on
35 terms that are substantially the same as those authorized for the payment of the
36 original assessment, secured by a deed of trust on the parcel.

37 3. Upon receiving connection fee payments, the City shall allocate such
38 payments to each property assessed in the district in proportion to the amount
39 originally assessed against the property, either by adjusting the original assessment
40 amount or disbursing a payment to the record owner at the time of disbursement.

41 c. Upon the subdivision of a property assessed as a single parcel in an assessment

[Added language underlined. Deleted language stricken through.]

42 district for natural gas distribution improvements where assessments were levied in an equal
43 amount per parcel (i.e., without regard to parcel area, dimension or other characteristic), the
44 assessment levied on the property that is to be subdivided shall be paid in full before the
45 recording of the final plat. No parcel that results from the subdivision shall be subject to
46 assessment for the improvements, but shall be charged for connecting to the improvements
47 in accordance with the tariff of the public utility that provides natural gas service to the
48 parcel.

49
50 Section 2. This Ordinance is of a permanent and general character and shall be
51 included in the City Code.

52
53 ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA, this _____ day of
54 _____, 2015.

55
56 CITY OF HOMER
57
58
59 _____
60 MARY E. WYTHE, MAYOR

61 ATTEST:
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64 _____
65 JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

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72 YES:
73 NO:
74 ABSTAIN:
75 ABSENT:
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77
78 First Reading:
79 Public Hearing:
80 Second Reading:
81 Effective Date:

[Added language underlined. Deleted language stricken through.]

82 Reviewed and approved as to form.

83

84

85 _____
Mary K. Koester, City Manager

Thomas F. Klinkner, City Attorney

86

87 Date: _____

Date: _____

88

89

90 Fiscal Note: NA

[Added language underlined. ~~Deleted language stricken through.~~]



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-8121 x2222

(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum 15-056

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL
FROM: MARVIN L. YODER, INTERIM CITY MANAGER
DATE: APRIL 22, 2015
SUBJECT: GAS ASSESSMENT DISTRICT LOOSE ENDS

At the City Council work-session in February, the City Council considered some of the loose ends regarding the Natural Gas Line Project.

There was discussion about the Free Main Allowance, Subdivision of lots that were already assessed, allocation of funds collected apart from the regular assessments, and the eventual distribution of any remaining funds after the construction loan is paid in full.

On the Council Regular agenda is an Ordinance which sets forth the procedure for lots that are not currently on the Assessment roll but may be connected to the Natural Gas line in the future. Also, included is an email from the attorney providing background information for the Council.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to differentiate between adding new parcels to the City's water and sewer utility districts and additions to the natural gas district. The proposed Ordinance provides that all future additions to the gas district will be handled by Enstar. The City will not be involved beyond receiving the free main allowance.

Email from Tom Klinkner:

The "main extension advance" is the amount (\$12,085,632) that the City paid ENSTAR to install the distribution system. The reference to a "new Customer" is to a customer whose property was not included in the assessment district. When such a new customer connects to the distribution system during the calendar year of its construction or in either of the two following calendar years, the ENSTAR tariff provides for allocation of part of the "main extension advance" to the new customer. Thus, if there are 3,816 parcels in the district, ENSTAR would charge the new customer $\$12,085,632 \div 3,817$ as its prorated share of the Main

Extension Advance. ENSTAR refunds this amount to the City, and the City eventually refunds it to property owners who paid assessments in the district.

Note that this Ordinance does not address the issues with Free Main Allowance. Ordinance 13-03(S)(2), adopted 2/25/2013, establishes 3 funds.

1. The Sinking Fund - This fund receives the assessments and is to be used to pay the bonds.
2. The Reserve Fund - This fund receives revenue from the Free Main Allowance and several other sources.
3. The Guaranty Fund - This is a trust fund, established by the City Council to make Bond payments in the event that there are insufficient funds in the Sinking and/or Reserve funds to pay the bonds.

The Ordinance clearly states that “Until the Bond has been discharged ... the Reserve Fund may be used only to pay ... principal and interest” on the bonds.

The Ordinance does not proscribe a method for distribution of any remaining balance after the Bonds are discharged.

From: Thomas Klinkner [<mailto:tklinkner@BHB.com>]
Sent: Friday, April 03, 2015 1:24 PM
To: Marvin Yoder
Subject: Gas Assessment District--Post Assessment Subdivisions

Marvin,

Unless an ordinance is passed to prescribe a different method, the assessment of lots that are subdivided after the levying of natural gas assessments would be governed by HCC 17.04.100(b), which provides:

b. Upon the subdivision of a property assessed as a single parcel in an assessment district where assessments were levied in an equal amount per parcel (i.e., without regard to parcel area, dimension or other characteristic), then no resulting parcel, other than the parcel that contains the original connection to the improvement for which the assessment was levied, may connect to the improvement until a subdivided property connection fee is paid for the parcel.

1. The amount of the connection fee shall be equal to the amount of the original assessment, adjusted up or down by a percentage equal to the change in the Consumer Price Index, All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Anchorage, Alaska, from the end of the calendar year preceding the original assessment date to the end of the calendar year preceding the date the parcel is connected to the improvement.

2. If the original assessment was payable in installments the City may enter into a written agreement for the payment of the connection fee in installments on terms that are substantially the same as those authorized for the payment of the original assessment, secured by a deed of trust on the parcel.

Upon receiving connection fee payments, the City shall allocate such payments to each property assessed in the district in proportion to the amount originally assessed against the property, either by adjusting the original assessment amount or disbursing a payment to the record owner at the time of disbursement.

This subsection appears to be designed for water and sewer assessment districts, and not for natural gas. It also conflicts with the ENSTAR tariff, which provides:

§602e(2) Customer Additions

(a) Any previously paid Main Extension Advances for a completed Main Extension, except a Feeder Main, must be recomputed when a new consuming Customer who was not a Participant in the Main Extension is added in the calendar year of construction and for two full calendar years following. The new consuming Customer will become a Participant and will be required to pay, as a Main Extension Advance, a prorated share of the original Main Extension Advance. The Utility will calculate the new consuming Customer's Free Main Allowance using the applicable Standard Load Allowances in effect at the time the new consuming Customer joins the system.

(b) Any new consuming customers added to the Main Extension after two full calendar years following the calendar year of construction will not be required to pay a prorated share of the original Main Extension Advance.

According to the tariff, if a newly subdivided lot receives natural gas service during the year of construction of the improvement or within the next two calendar years, it contributes to the capital cost of the improvement. Thereafter, no capital contribution is required.

The attached ordinance adds a new HCC 17.04.100(c), which requires that the natural gas assessment for a newly subdivided lot be prepaid before the final plat is recorded, just as the current year's property tax must be prepaid (compare Kenai Peninsula Borough Code 20.60.030). This approach avoids the difficulty of determining how to allocate the assessment after a subdivision, and potential conflict with the ENSTAR tariff provision quoted above.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Tom

Thomas F. Klinkner
Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot
1127 West 7th Ave | Anchorage AK 99501
Tel 907.263.7219 | Main 907.276.1550
tklinkner@bhb.com | www.birchhorton.com
[Bio](#) | [vCard](#)

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CITY MANAGER'S REPORT



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

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Homer, Alaska 99603

citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-8121 x2222

(f) 907-235-3148

City Manager's Report

TO: Mayor Wythe and Homer City Council
FROM: Katie Koester, City Manager
DATE: April 22, 2015
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report

Mental Health Trust Land Sale

The Council had lingering questions after the April 13 City Manager's report regarding the Mental Health Trust land at the mouth of the harbor.

In 2013 while acquiring right of way for the construction of the Homer Spit Trail it came to the City's attention that what is known as 'Lot 42' at the mouth of the harbor was not wholly owned by the City. This is where the trail to Coal Point Park is and where rip rap was installed to protect the trail from erosion along the mouth of the harbor. It is a confusing title situation: likely what happened is in the 90's the small boat harbor was re-platted without recognizing the Trust owned the property. From the best the City can tell DNR owns a small 30 foot strip, the City owns the triangle of land at the back corner of the lot, and the Trust owns the rest, including an oddly configured strip of land that goes through the mouth of the harbor. There are many reasons it is in the best interest of the City to have clear title to this land: it is the mouth of the harbor, is crossed by a City trail, and its location close to the fish dock makes it an ideal space for potential economic development opportunities. Icicle is the current lessee and they use the land for storage.

The Trust is amendable to the sale of the land and is moving forward with having the parcel appraised (see attached letter RE: Agreement of Appraisal Scope of Services). The direction to the appraiser includes appraising it as raw land with no improvements (i.e., the rip rap that the City installed cannot be used to increase the value of the lot). Also, the land that extends into the harbor will be assessed as tidelands. Further action and any decision on whether or not to purchase the land will come before Council after the appraisal is complete, sometime later this summer.

Lake Street Rehabilitation

The 2015 amendment to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) delays funding for Lake Street Rehabilitation (Rehabilitate pavement of approximately 0.47 miles, construct a sidewalk on both sides of the road, improve the intersection at Pioneer to enhance safety, and provide drainage improvements).

Over \$300,000 was scheduled to be spent this year on initial stages of the project. This has been delayed until 'after 2015.' City Planner Abboud submitted public comment from the City expressing the need for the project in the attached letter.

Main Street Intersection

DOT has selected an alternative for Main Street Intersection Improvements. Known as 'option 3' in the public meetings held, it is a stop light with a turning lane. The attached letter from DOT explains their reasons for not selecting a roundabout (cost of right of way acquisition) and the need for a turning lane (safety). According to conversations City Planner Abboud has had with DOT, if ROW acquisition goes smoothly, they plan on advertising for project construction in 2016. A 4-directional flashing red beacon will be installed at the Pioneer and Main Street intersection by October 31 of this year.

Kachemak Drive

As you are aware, approximately 100 feet of Kachemak Drive sloughed into Mud Bay around 8am Sunday morning April 19 about ½ mile in from the intersection of Ocean Drive/Homer Spit Road and Kachemak Drive. City of Homer Police Department was on the scene early, barricaded the road and contacted AKDOT/PF. As of Monday April 20 DOT was hoping to complete repairs in one week. Under that timeline the road should be repaired by the time of the Council meeting. I hope to be able to provide additional verbal updates at the meeting. The City is very interested in Kachemak Drive being repaired quickly. With summer season around the corner there are boats that need to travel to the harbor, people who need to be able to quickly get to their boats and shops, and many other businesses along Kachemak Drive, including the old airport, where convenient access is critical, not to mention the many residences along Kachemak Drive. Kachemak Drive is also a Tsunami evacuation route and having it closed is a safety concern. We will be following the repairs closely and applaud DOT for understanding the need to respond quickly to the situation.

Assistant City Manager

I am planning on evolving the Community and Economic Development Coordinator position to an Assistant City Manager position. Many of the job duties and functions will remain the same. The Assistant job description pulls some things that I was doing for the City over to the City Manager job (legislative relations, coordinating strategic doing, and representation on certain boards for the City) and adds coordinating the Social Media Policy, land management, and eventually some supervisory authority.

Eleven people report directly to the City Manager. In order for every Department/Division to get the attention it deserves from their manager, in time I foresee the Assistant taking over the supervision of a couple Departments or Divisions. However, I want to wait until I have some time under my belt with all of the Departments/Divisions and the Assistant has time in the position to have an understanding of how to structure the best possible fit for the City.

The Assistant City Manager will be expected to maintain grant research and oversight, though actual grant writing will depend on capacity at the time of the application. In the past 2 years

I have not written any substantial grants and have been fully tasked in the Community and Economic Development Coordinator position. A grant writer can be contracted at less than the cost of staff time, would accurately represent the cost of the grant, and in some cases reimbursement can be written into the grant. That being said, in times of declining state revenue, we will need to be turning over more rocks for opportunities and grant research to identify potential opportunities will be an important component of the job.

There are many benefits to an Assistant City Manager position. The Assistant will provide continuity for the Council and staff when the City Manager is absent, allow more representation of the City in the community and more accurately reflects the duties of the position (marketing, economic development, special initiatives by the manager/council). Salary will be absorbed within the current budget. The position will be posted this week.

USCG Solicits Public Comment on Decommissioning Oil Spill Response Equipment Caches

Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council sent the attached notice to the City asking for member organizations to comment in favor of keeping USCG oil spill response equipment Caches in the region. The Coast Guard is recommending decommissioning the caches due to funding constraints. Comments are due by July 1. Please let me know if the Council would like to take any action on this or request further information.

Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee

After the Seabulk Pride grounding in 2006, Cook Inlet RCAC received funding to conduct a Risk Assessment for Cook Inlet. Homer was invited to participate and Harbormaster Hawkins represented the City in the study. One of the main recommendations from the Assessment was to form a Harbor Safety Committee (HSC). According to Hawkins, the HSC is a group of industry professionals coming together to address specific maritime safety issues who will then make advisory motions to the USCG Captain of the Port (person in charge). This management method has proven to be very effective in other major US waterways. The need for such an organization is justified given the volume of large vessel traffic and sensitive cargo in Cook Inlet. Nuka Research is soliciting comments of the draft charter (see attached letter from Nuka Research and draft charter). With your approval, I will draft a letter from the City expressing support for the Harbor Safety Committee and reinforcing the need to keep safety and protecting Kachemak Bay and Cook Inlet a top concern. Comments are due by May 20.

Cook Inlet Waterways Suitability Assessment for Cook Inlet

Alaska LNG has submitted a Waterways Suitability Assessment for Cook Inlet. The first meeting was a planning session held in Anchorage on March 31st. Harbormaster Hawkins attended and will be following this issue closely due to the potential impact of AKLNG on our Port and Harbor and Kachemak Bay. The assessment is necessary due to the proposed increase in traffic and the size of the proposed fleet. AKLNG is proposing 20 Panamax tankers (thousand foot class) per month for 30 years. The next meeting will be a three day work session in Anchorage.

Enc:

Agreement of Appraisal Scope of Services for Three Mental Health Trust Parcels

Letter to DOT from City Planner RE: 2012-2015 STIP Amendment 14: Need ID 23197, Lake Street Rehabilitation

Letter from DOT RE: Main Street Intersection Alternative Selected

Email from Prince William Sound RCAC Requesting Public Comment on the USCG Decommissioning of Oil Spill Response Equipment

Letter from Nuka Research RE: Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee, Draft Charter for Public Review



Trust
Land Office

April 6, 2015

2600 Cordova Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99503
Tel 907.269.8658
www.mhtrustland.org

Carey Meyer, P.E., MPA
Public Works Director/City Engineer
City of Homer
3575 Heath Street
Homer, AK 99603

via email at
cmeyer@ci.homer.ak.us

**RE: Agreement of Appraisal Scope of Services for Three Mental Health Trust Parcels
MHT 9200607
MH Parcels: SM-0335, SM-0339, and SM-0342**

Dear Mr. Meyer:

The Trust Land Office (TLO) is processing the City of Homer's (City) application to purchase three Mental Health Trust parcels on the Homer Spit through a negotiated sale. As we discussed in previous communications, it would be in the best interest for both the City and the TLO to mutually agree on the appraisals terms and the assumptions. Below are the agreed upon terms and the assumptions of the appraisals.

1. The TLO will procure the services of Black-Smith, Bethard & Carlson, LLC to perform the appraisal but acknowledge that Derry and Associates will be used if the City does not find the results of the first appraisal acceptable.
2. The parcels to be appraised have the following legal description:
 - a. Township 07 South, Range 13 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska
Section 1: Lot 4 in Block 2 of Engineering Plat File No. 28-96, Coal Bay Alaska Subdivision. Containing 0.595 acres, more or less.
According to the survey plat filed in the Homer Recording District on December 3, 1963 as serial no. 63-1097.
 - b. Township 07 South, Range 13 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska
Section 1: Parcel 2 of Engineering Plat File No. 28-96, Coal Bay Alaska Subdivision
Containing 1.00 acres, more or less.
According to the survey plat filed in the Homer Recording District on December 3, 1963 as serial no. 63-1097.

- c. Township 07 South, Range 13 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska
Section 1: Lot 1 of Engineering Plat File No. 34-27
Containing 0.22 acres, more or less.
According to the survey plat filed in the Homer Recording District on December 3, 1963 as serial no. 63-1094.
3. The appraisals will meet the most current Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) standards as published by the Appraisal Foundation.
4. The appraisals will use the definition from page 23 of The Appraisal of Real Estate, Thirteen Addition, 2008, to define market value as, "The most probable price, as of a specified date, in cash, or in terms equivalent to cash, or in other precisely revealed terms for which the specified property rights should sell after reasonable exposure in a competitive market under all conditions requisite to a fair sale, with the buyer and seller each acting prudently, knowledgeably, and for self-interest, and assuming that neither is under undue duress."
5. The appraisals must include identification of the appraisal problem and scope of work (part of USPAP standards).
6. The appraiser must make an onsite inspection of the property.
7. Appraisals must contain onsite photographs that clearly illustrate the character and quality of the property. Photographs may be used by the TLO for any other purpose without additional compensation to the appraiser.
8. Appraisals must contain comparable sale data with comparable sale locations mapped in relation to the appraised property.
9. Data Analysis and Conclusions. Data will include market analysis, highest and best use, and land valuation. Adjustments made in relating comparable transactions to the subject property must be discussed and presented in an adjustment table.
10. The appraisal reports are a public document that may be made available to the public upon request. The appraisals shall not contain any language that restricts public use.
11. The appraisal will include the following assumptions:
 - a. The parcel boundaries will be defined from the 1963 Engineering Plat File No. 28-96 and the 1963 Engineering Plat File No. 34-27.
 - b. The parcels will be appraised as raw land with no improvements.
 - c. The parcels will be appraised free and clear of any clouds on the title.
 - d. That portion of Trust parcel SM-0339 that extends in the harbor will be considered tidelands.
12. The City will receive a hard copy and a digital format of the appraisal.
13. The City will reimburse the TLO for all appraisal costs. The reimbursement of the appraisal will be paid to the TLO before a deed will be issued.

It is estimated the appraisals will cost between \$6,000 and \$8,000. The appraisals will be completed no later than June 30, 2015.

By signing below the City of Homer and Trust Land Office has read and agrees to the terms and assumptions of the appraisals stated in this letter for the three described Trust parcels on the Homer Spit.

Sincerely,



Victor Appolloni
Southcentral Area Lands Manager



Cindi Bettin, Senior Lands Manager
Trust Land Office

4/15/15

Date



Marvin Yoder, Interim City Manager
City of Homer

April 13, 2015

Date



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Planning

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

Planning@ci.homer.ak.us

(p) 907-235-3106

(f) 907-235-3118

April 16, 2015

State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

Division of Program Development

ATTN: STIP

PO BOX 112500

Juneau, AK 99811-2500

dot.stip@alaska.gov

RE: 2012-2015 STIP Amendment 14: Need ID 23197, Lake Street Rehabilitation

The City of Homer strongly recommends that funds scheduled for FY 2015 remain and that the project, for which substantial resources have already been invested in the environmental assessment, public meeting, and design, not be indefinitely delayed.

Lake Street is an essential connection and preferred truck route between the Sterling Highway and East End Road. It represents one of the three major surface transportation routes through Homer. Lake Street has not undergone a major rehabilitation project since 1997. The pavement, excluding the abnormally mild winter this year, routinely experiences major failure every year. The thin asphalt overlays applied to sections of the street in 2011 and 2013 are not expected to offer any structural correction of the deficiencies that will inevitably lead to reoccurrence of the annual failures.

Please reconsider your proposal and leave the funds appropriated for FY15 for the continuation of the project without undo delays.

Sincerely,

Rick Abboud
City Planner



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Transportation
and Public Facilities

DESIGN & ENGINEERING SERVICES
Traffic Safety & Utilities

PO Box 196900
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6900
Phone: 907.269.0544
Toll Free: 800.770.5263
TDD: 907.269.0473
TTY: 800.770.8973
Fax: 907.269.0654

April 10, 2014

Mr. Walt Wrede, City Manager
Homer City Hall
491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Mr. Wrede :

This letter is to inform you that the State of Alaska Department of Transportation (ADOT) has selected an alternative for the Sterling and Main Street intersection improvements. The three alternatives reviewed to solve intersection crashes and improve traffic flow are a roundabout, a signal with no turn lanes and a signal with turn lanes.

ADOT considered the impacts of each alternative including Right of Way (ROW), cost and project schedule. Both the signal alternatives have less ROW impact, cost and provide a faster project delivery schedule than the roundabout option. The signal with right turn lanes will provide better traffic operations over the signal with no turn lanes. Constructing the turn lanes can be completed at a much lower cost as part of the initial signal installation, rather than revisiting the intersection to install the turn lanes in the future. Based on this information, we will move forward with design of the signal with turn lanes alternative.

Signals constructed by ADOT outside of the Municipality of Anchorage continue to be budgeted and maintained by ADOT&PF. As budgets are constrained and more signals are desired in the future, it will be valuable for our agencies to discuss long term funding of maintenance for signals before more are constructed.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Carla J. Smith in cursive.

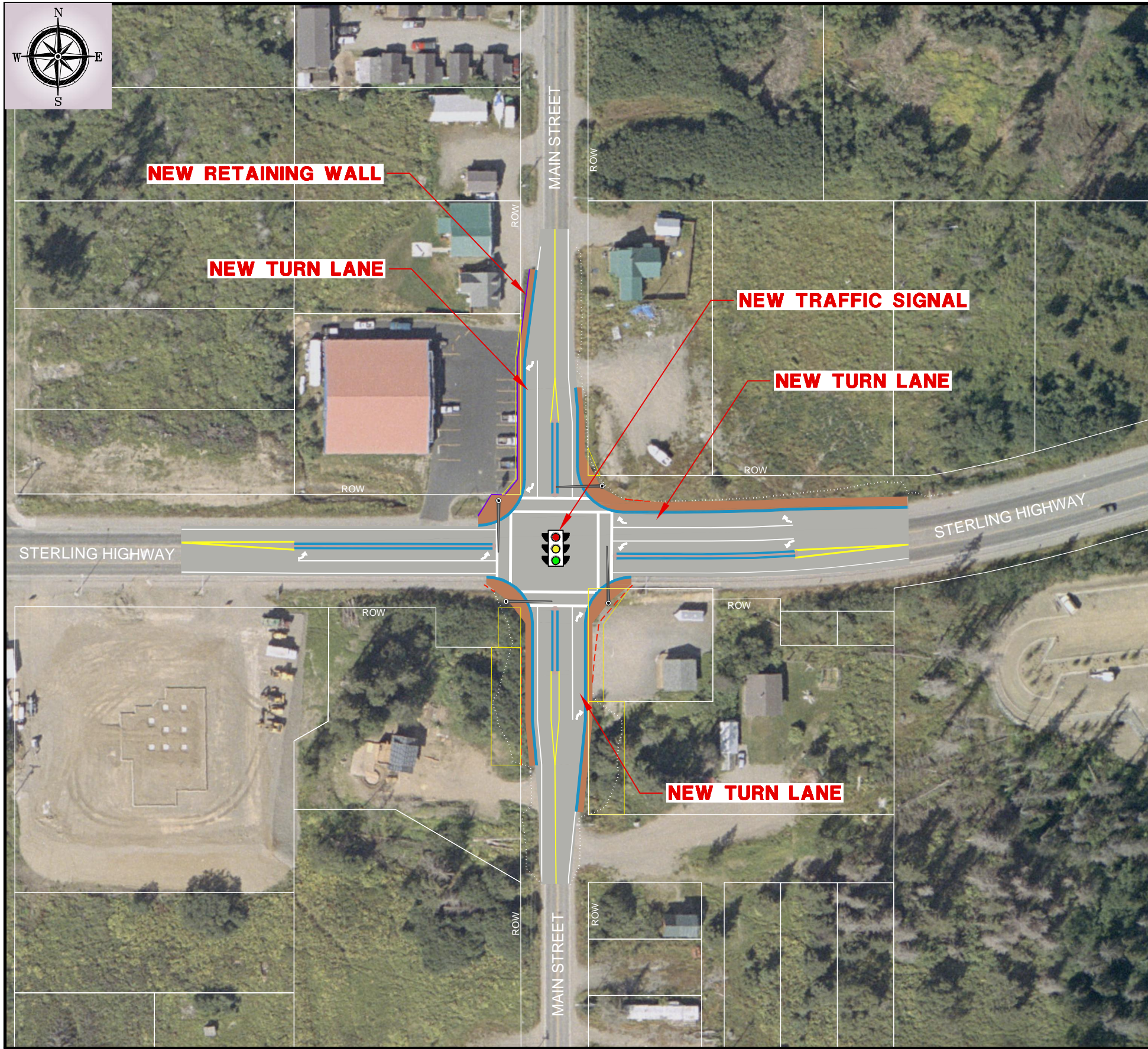
Carla J Smith, P.E

carla.smith@alaska.gov

RECEIVED

APR 24 2014

CITY OF HOMER
PLANNING/ZONING



DOT(CR) HSIP
STERLING HWY AND MAIN ST IMPROVEMENT
ALTERNATIVE 3 - SIGNAL WITH NEW TURN LANES



Marvin Yoder

From: Swanson, Mark A <mark.swanson@pwsrca.org>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2015 4:19 PM
Subject: The USCG is seeking public comment on a proposed decommissioning of remotely located oil spill response equipment trailers (caches) throughout Alaska

Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (RCAC) Member Entities, Board and Committee Members and Other Interested Stakeholders:

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) is seeking public comment by July 1, 2015 on the proposed decommissioning of their oil spill response equipment caches located throughout Alaska. This equipment is pre-positioned in remote areas to help local communities mount an early response to pollution incidents in order to minimize environmental damage. The justification for their removal is mostly due to the cost of maintaining this equipment because of the remote location of many of the sites. Another justification is that many of the caches are co-located with other oil spill response equipment owned by private oil spill response organizations or the State of Alaska. More information on the specific locations of the USCG Alaska-based equipment caches, including a complete inventory of equipment at each location, can be found at: <http://www.uscg.mil/d17/D17%20Divisions/drm/DRAT/DRATpage.asp>

The Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (RCAC) strongly supports retaining the USCG equipment caches in our region, including Chenega Bay, Cordova, Valdez, Port Graham, Seward, Kodiak, Homer and Kenai. Equipment caches in locations outside our region are equally important for the same reasons, and span from the Pribilof Islands to Unalaska all the way down to Ketchikan (see attached U.S. Coast Guard map with specific locations). In many cases, USCG-owned equipment may be the first and only line of defense to respond to and protect sensitive areas during the early hours of an oil spill. Additionally, other equipment that may be co-located, but owned by private oil spill response organizations, may not necessarily be made available to a community for use on a spill that is not directly related to a client of that private organization.

Attached in the following link <http://www.pwsrca.org/announcements/the-u-s-coast-guard-is-seeking-public-comment-on-the-proposed-decommissioning-of-their-oil-spill-response-equipment-caches-located-throughout-alaska/> is a letter the Prince William Sound RCAC submitted to the USCG in support of retaining these important oil spill response caches. We encourage you to consider sending your own letter of support, or sending a letter endorsing our comments. We also encourage you to distribute this information to other communities, organizations or individuals that might be interested. The USCG needs to receive support from interested stakeholders in order to justify the funding required to maintain these equipment caches.

Comments are due to the U.S. Coast Guard by July 1, 2015 and should be directed to:

Admiral Dan Abel
Daniel.B.Abel@uscg.mil

and

LT James Nunez
james.d.nunez@uscg.mil

17th Coast Guard District
P.O. Box 25517
Juneau, AK 99802-5517

Specific questions to the USCG can be directed to LT James Nunez at (907) 463-2806. Any questions regarding this transmittal or the PWSRCAC's comments can be directed to Mark Swanson at (907) 834-5060. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration of this important oil spill response tool.

Respectfully

Mark Swanson
Executive Director,
Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council
PO Box 3089, 130 South Meals.
Valdez, Alaska, 99686

Valdez Office: 907.834.5060

Anchorage Office: 907.273.6225

Cell: 907.441.2051

E-mail: mark.swanson@pwsrcac.org

web: www.pwsrcac.org



Nuka Research & Planning Group, LLC

P.O. Box 175

Seldovia, Alaska 99663

tel 907.234.7821 • fax 240.368.7467

contact@nukaresearch.com



April 20, 2015

Re: Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee, Draft Charter for Public Review

Dear Sir or Madam:

One of the key recommendations from the Final Report of the Cook Inlet Risk Assessment (CIRA) is the formation of a Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee (HSC). The recommendation states:

The Advisory Panel recommends that a Harbor Safety Committee be established for Cook Inlet. A Cook Inlet HSC would provide a continuum started by the CIRA by gathering a group of individuals with diverse perspectives to identify potential problems, develop or recommend nonregulatory mitigation measures, and evaluate the success or areas of improvement. The Cook Inlet HSC would provide a means of prioritizing the consideration of relevant topics and mitigation measures.

On November 13 last year we held a meeting in Kenai to introduce the concept of developing a Harbor Safety Committee for Cook Inlet. Forty-five members of the maritime community in Cook Inlet attended the meeting and there was almost universal support for the concept of developing a HSC.

After the meeting in November, the CIRA Management Team established a Convening Workgroup (CW) to work through the process of establishing a HSC based on the following principles:

- The process will be conducted in as **transparent** and **inclusive** manner as possible in order to found a HSC that will have the **credibility** necessary to conduct business effectively.
- The Cook Inlet HSC will have the opportunity/authority to modify the structure, charter, and membership once formed.
- Once the CW has developed a draft structure, charter, and membership, these documents will be published for public review and comment. The CW will consider all comments and modify the draft documents, as they deem appropriate.
- Interested parties will be invited to apply for membership on the Cook Inlet HSC via a public solicitation. They will be required to submit a letter of interest and a statement of qualification.

The Convening Workgroup consisted of the following individuals:

Captain Ed Page, Marine Exchange of Alaska

Captain Lynn Korwatch, Harbor Safety Committee of San Francisco Bay Region

Captain Marc Bayer, Tesoro Maritime Company

Captain Ron Ward, Southwest Alaska Pilots Association

Gary Folley, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Steve Catalano, Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council

Captain Paul Mehler, USCG COTP Western Alaska
Commander Hector Cintron, U.S. Coast Guard, Sector Anchorage
Lieutenant Eugene Chung, U.S. Coast Guard, Sector Anchorage

The CW met four times since February to developed the attached Draft Charter Document. The Charter sets out the mission and scope of the HSC, as well as the structure and other important organizational information. We would appreciate your review and comments on this document by May 20, 2015. Comments can be submitted by the following means:

Email: cira.comments@nukaresearch.com

Fax: 240.368.7467

Mail: c/o Nuka Research, PO Box 175, Seldovia, AK 99663

After the review period, the CW will finalize the Charter, a Managing Board will then be established, and the process of soliciting and selecting the initial membership with begin. We hope to convene the first meeting of the HSC in June.

Sincerely,

Michael Munger,
Executive Director,
Cook Inlet RCAC

Steven Russell
Alaska Dept.
Environmental Conservation

Paul Mehler
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port Western Alaska
Sector Anchorage

Cook Inlet Risk Assessment Management Team:

**Cook Inlet Regional Citizens
Advisory Council**
910 Highland Avenue
Kenai, Alaska 99611
tel 907.283.7222 • fax 907.283.6102

**Alaska Department of Environmental
Conservation**
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
tel 907.269.3063 • fax 907.269.7649
451

United States Coast Guard
SECTOR ANCHORAGE
510 L Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-8545
tel 907.271.6700 • fax 907.271.6751



Public Review **DRAFT**

Charter

17th April 2015

1. Charter

This Charter establishes the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee (HSC) mission, scope, organizational structure, and membership. This Charter may be amended by the Managing Board.

2. Mission

The mission of the Cook Inlet HSC is to enhance marine safety and environmental stewardship through collaboration of the maritime community and other stakeholders. The purpose of the Cook Inlet HSC is to provide a forum for identifying, assessing, planning, communicating, and implementing operational and environmental practices beyond statutory and regulatory requirements that promote safe, efficient and environmentally sound maritime operations in the Cook Inlet. Maritime safety, accident prevention, and waterways management will be the primary focus of the Cook Inlet HSC. Planning and response to oil spills and hazardous substances is the domain of the Cook Inlet Subarea Committee, but the nexus of prevention and response planning will be considered by the Cook Inlet HSC.

The Cook Inlet HSC will accomplish its mission by developing Standards of Care and best practices for maritime operations in the Cook Inlet waterway. The HSC may act as an education and resource network for the dissemination of information to waterway users. The HSC may provide recommendations to regulatory bodies on maritime safety issues and seek actions to enhance maritime safety. The HSC will serve as a subject matter expert for Cook Inlet and be the facilitator for bringing together all relevant maritime stakeholders to identify and resolve, when possible, waterway management issues through the adoption of best practices and Standards of Care.

3. Scope

The geographic scope for the HSC will be the Cook Inlet waterway encompassing the marine waters and coastal areas from the seaward boundary of a line drawn from the southernmost extremity of Kenai Peninsula at longitude 151° 44.0 W to East Amatuli Island Light; to Latx Rocks Light north of Shuyak Island; thence to the eastern most extremity of Cape Douglas.

4. Organizational Structure

The Cook Inlet HSC consists of a Managing Board, the Harbor Safety Committee, and work groups.

4.1 Managing Board

An independent Managing Board oversees the organization and administration of the Cook Inlet HSC. Serving in the manner of a “board of directors,” the members of the Managing Board provide the executive functions for the non-profit organization.

The Managing Board consists of the following individuals:

- President, South West Alaska Pilots Associations (SWAPA)
- Director of Operations, Cook Inlet Regional Citizen’s Advisory Council (CIRCAC)
- Two marine industry representatives from different sectors (to be selected for a three year term by the other members of the board)

- Chairman of the Cook Inlet HSC

The Managing Board will select and appoint the primary voting members and their alternates from a list of qualified applicants. With the exception of the Chairman of the HSC, members of the Managing Board are not eligible to serve on the HSC.

4.2 Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee

The Cook Inlet HSC is the deliberative body, responsible for carrying out the mission of the organization. They provide the forum for discussion of issues related to matters of waterway safety and management and they establish appropriate best practices and Standards of Care for safe operations in the waterway. The HSC is responsible for the development and adoption of a Harbor Safety Plan for the Cook Inlet Waterway.

A Chairman and Vice Chairman are appointed by the Managing Board for a two year term to lead the HSC.

4.3 Work Groups

The Cook Inlet HSC shall have the ability to establish work groups as needed to address specific issues. Work groups may be standing work groups working on specific, long-range strategic goals or they may be temporary ad-hoc work groups with short-term objectives. The HSC will establish mission or scope-of-work statements that will serve as a work group's guide for measuring progress and success.

Two standing work groups are established through this charter:

- Navigational Safety Work Group to be chaired by a SWAPA Pilot
- Harbor Safety Plan Work Group to be chaired by USCG Sector Anchorage Waterways Management Chief

The Chairman of the HSC will appoint a chairman for any additional work groups formed by the Cook Inlet HSC.

Work groups will operate by consensus of those present and shall present their recommendations to the HSC for approval.

4.4 Secretary

The Secretary of the HSC will be the Chief of Waterways Management Division from USCG Sector Anchorage or his/her designated representative. The Secretary will take notes/minutes during the meetings and provide updates/recommendations to the USCG Captain of the Port.

5. Membership

The membership of the Cook Inlet HSC includes voting and non-voting members.

5.1 Voting Membership

The voting membership seats will be filled by a primary and alternate members appointed from qualified applicants for each of the following 20 stakeholder categories:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (a) Commercial Fishing Organization | (c) Marine Oil Terminal Operators |
| (b) Environmental Organization | (d) Tanker Operators |

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| (e) Liquefied Natural Gas Carrier Operators | (n) SWAPA |
| (f) Dry Cargo Ship Operators | (o) CIRCAC |
| (g) Cruise Ship Operators | (p) Port of Anchorage |
| (h) Small Passenger Vessel Operators | (q) Port MacKenzie |
| (i) Ferry Operators | (r) Port of Homer |
| (j) Tug and Barge Operators | (s) Response/Salvage Organization |
| (k) Harbor Tug Operators | (t) Ship Agents |
| (l) Offshore Oil Production Operators | |
| (m) Recreational Boaters | |

In order to qualify as a member for seats 4.1(a), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), and (n) an individual must have maritime expertise as documented by one of the following:

- i. Has held or currently holds a Merchant Officer's credential,
- ii. Has held or currently holds a position on a commercial vessel that includes navigational responsibility, or
- iii. Has or currently holds a position in a company that operates commercial marine vessels in Cook Inlet.

Individuals with onboard navigational experience will be given preference.

In order to qualify as a member for seats 4.1(b), (c), (l), (m), (o), (p), (q), (r), (s), and (t) an individual must reside in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Municipality of Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, or another Alaska community that is contiguous to Cook Inlet and present evidence that they are a member or employee of an organization that represents their stakeholder group.

The member and alternate are charged with broadly representing their stakeholder group's interests. In order to provide effective representation, they are expected to communicate between themselves and with other members of their respective stakeholder group.

The Managing Board will appoint voting members from a list of qualified applicants, after a 30 day public solicitation for applicants.

The terms of voting members and alternates shall be three years, except for the initial appointment where half of the committee will be appointed for two years to allow for terms to be staggered. Primary and alternate members will likewise be staggered in the initial term. There are no term limits.

5.2 Non-voting Membership

Non-voting members will include the following seats:

- a. U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
- b. U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Alaska District
- c. U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- d. Department of Defense, Joint Base Elmendorf - Richardson
- e. Marine Exchange of Alaska

- f. Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
- g. Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Non-voting members will be appointed by the head of their respective agency or organization.

6. Meetings

Meetings for the Managing Board, Cook Inlet HSC, and various work groups are described below. Notice of all meetings, an agenda, and a meeting summary will be posted on the Cook Inlet HSC webpage.

6.1 Managing Board Meetings

The Managing Board will meet as necessary to conduct the business of the organization, but at least once per year. Meetings of the Managing Board are not open to the public, but a meeting summary will be posted as a public document.

6.2 Harbor Safety Committee Meetings

The Cook Inlet HSC will meet as necessary to carry out their mission, but at least quarterly. All meetings of the Cook Inlet HSC are open to the public and a limited public comment period will be provided on the agenda.

Meeting location will rotate between the Ports of Anchorage, MacKenzie, Nikiski, and Homer.

6.3 Work Group Meetings

Work groups will meet as necessary to carryout their mission. Meetings of work groups are not open to the public, but a meeting summary will be posted as a public document.

7. Governance

Governing rules for meetings shall be the Cook Inlet HSC Charter, and Robert's Rules of Order. Members should strive to obtain a consensus on decisions and actions of the Cook Inlet HSC. Any official action or publication requires adoption by a simple majority of a quorum of the HSC. In matters requiring a vote, one vote is allowed per membership category and will be casted by the primary member, unless that person is not present at a meeting, in which case the vote will be cast by the alternate. The chairman will not vote except in the event of a tie vote, in which case the chairman will cast the deciding vote. A quorum of the Cook Inlet HSC shall be considered to be two thirds of the non-vacant seats of the HSC.

The Chair will develop agendas, distribute them to other members of the HSC, and post them on the Cook Inlet HSC website no fewer than 7 days prior to scheduled meetings.

Voting and non-voting members may participate in meetings telephonically at the discretion of the chairman, but votes cannot be cast telephonically.

8. Amendments

Amendments to this Charter require a simple majority of a quorum of the Managing Board. A quorum of the Managing board will be 4 members.

Signature Page

Managing Board



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Clerk

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

Memorandum

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK
DATE: APRIL 22, 2015
SUBJECT: BID REPORT

RFP FOR GENERAL CONCESSIONS LEASE AT THE HOMER AIRPORT TERMINAL- Sealed proposals for the leasing of two (2) general concession spaces at the Homer Airport Terminal will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, AK 99603 prior to 2:00 p.m. on Friday, May 1, 2015. General concession leases could include, but are not limited to businesses such as: food vendors, coffee stands, and other airport related services. The time of receipt will be determined by the City Clerk's time stamp. Proposals received after the time fixed for the receipt of the proposals shall not be considered.

ITB 2015 Septic Pumping Services - Sealed Bids for Septic Pumping Services will be received by the Office of the City Clerk, at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska 99603 until **2:00 p.m., May 6, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened. Bids received after the time fixed for receipt of the Bid shall not be considered. **All bidders must submit a City of Homer Plan Holders Registration form to be on the Plan Holders List and to be considered responsive.** Plan holder registration forms, and Plans and Specifications are available on line at <http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/rfps>

RFP Homer Spit Property Lease for an Owner-Operated/Subleased Wireless Communication Tower - The City of Homer, Alaska is requesting proposals from qualified wireless facilities and communication service provider(s) that are interested in designing, permitting, constructing, operating, maintaining, owning, and subleasing a wireless communications tower for the purpose of providing improved wireless voice and data services to the general public and the City. Successful proposer will be offered the opportunity to negotiate for a 30-year term lease with the City of Homer to construct a communications tower on a portion of City-owned land that is located on the Homer Spit. Sealed proposals for the **Homer Spit Property Lease for an Owner-Operated/Subleased Wireless Communication Tower** will be received at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, City of Homer, 491 East Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska, until **4:00 PM, Thursday, May 14, 2015**. The time of receipt will be determined by the City Clerk's time stamp. A Lease Application Fee of \$30.00 will be due upon submittal of proposal.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE
COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK
COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER
COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR
COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
ADJOURNMENT

