



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

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City Manager's Report

TO: Mayor Wythe and Homer City Council
FROM: Katie Koester, City Manager
DATE: May 6, 2015
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report

Cannabis vs. Marijuana

Interim City Manager Yoder sits on the Alcohol and Beverage Control Board and spent some time last week discussing Marijuana regulations. He called to let us know that the ballot language used the word marijuana and in order to be consistent all of the state regulations will use the word marijuana and not cannabis.

New Port and Harbor Building

The Port and Harbor has committed to May 16th as the final move in date. We considered trying to squeeze in a ribbon cutting on May 11th to take advantage of the Senator and Representative's presence, but schedules were just too tight. The Port and Harbor has set aside June 11th at 5pm as the date/time for an official grand opening and ribbon cutting for the new port and harbor building. Unless Council has conflicts, we will move forward with making arrangements for that date. Please let us know if you have any ideas for the ribbon cutting to make it extra special.

Waterway Suitability Assessment Workshop

Port and Harbor Director Hawkins has been asked to participate in the Alaska LNG Project Waterway Suitability Assessment Workshop on Waterway Safety Assessment. This is a 3 day workshop in Anchorage, though Hawkins will only be able to attend the first day. Due to the sensitive nature of the plans being discussed, Hawkins had to sign a confidentiality agreement to attend the meeting. The City of Homer has a high degree of interest in the safety of our waters and will be following this project and the Waterway Suitability Assessment process closely. I think it will be a good use of his time.

Public Service Picnic

City Council is invited to a Public Service Picnic at City Hall Thursday May 14th from 11:30am-1:30pm. The City will provide dogs and burgers and departments are asked to bring their favorite side. It will be a great opportunity to appreciate our public employees and share some good food, good company, and hopefully welcome in a beautiful spring and summer.

RFP for Insurance Benefit Broker and Consulting Services

The City will issue an RFP for Insurance Benefit Broker and Consulting Services in June. The City's consulting needs have changed over the last year and holding off on issuing the RFP has allowed us to realize some savings and establish new patterns of usage with private insurance that will be valuable to whomever the consultant is. With conversations on health insurance just around the corner this fall, it is timely to secure a consultant this summer. Personnel Director Browning provides more detail in the attached memo.

Homer Student for 2015 Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders

Homer High Sophomore Robert Martin will be attending the 2015 Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders in Boston, Massachusetts this summer. It is a tremendous honor to be able to send a Homer student to this prestigious congress. Robert will learn a great deal about science, technology and represent the City of Homer and State of Alaska among his colleagues. The City of Homer is proud of Mr. Martin's accomplishments. We are quite fortunate to have a youth with such extraordinary talent in our community. For more information on the Congress, see the attached press release.

Public Service Recognition Picnic



WHERE: CITY HALL

WHEN: May 14th 2015

TIME: 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

**COME ENJOY HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS, AND THE
FIXINGS AS WE CELEBRATE THE DEDICATION OF
PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES!**

-PLEASE BRING A SIDE TO SHARE-

(A sign up sheet will be available at the Admin. desk)



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Port and Harbor

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Memorandum 15-061

TO: HOMER CITY COUNCIL & CITY MANAGER KATIE KOESTER
FROM: BRYAN HAWKINS, PORT DIRECTOR/HARBORMASTER
DATE: MAY 6, 2015
SUBJECT: CERTIFIED PORT EXECUTIVE PROGRAM REPORT

On April 13 through 19, 2015, I attended the Certified Port Executive training course in Vancouver, BC, which focuses on Port management and planning. The instructor Captain Jeff Monroe, who wrote and developed this course, had been the port director for both Boston and Main Ports. After reading the instructor's biography and speaking with the organizers, I realized that this course was going to be valuable training; a one week brain dump in the classroom on all port management-related information. During the five, 8-hour classroom days, Captain Monroe presented over 900 power point slides and spoke on this very intensive subject matter. Fortunately, the course is carefully backed-up with a well, laid-out binder and a take-home USB so I can go back and review the material as needed.

Homer has big plans for expansion and I have been working toward this goal for many years. I read about other ports in the trades publications, talk with other directors in and around Alaska, and pay special attention to other facilities when I travel. The two weeks of travel and training have been extremely valuable; it has helped me step away from life in Homer and take a much wider look at transportation in general with an eye for where Homer fits into the big picture. Throughout the year, we will be completing a study on expanding the Deep Water Dock. After taking this course and trip, I feel I at least know the right questions to ask the hired pros conducting the in-depth study.

The Pacific West coast is an excellent place to use to learn about multi-module transportation. Beginning at the Seattle Airport, we took the light rail downtown and then caught a passenger train to Vancouver, BC. Traveling by rail gave me a four hour snap shot of one of the most important links in the West coast's transportation corridor: rail ways. From the comfort of my seat, I got the working view of every seaport between these two major transportation hubs. This is fascinating stuff for a Port Director! Once we got settled into Vancouver our walking tour began. We walked for miles around the coastal trails and took in all the sights of their expansive, protected seaport. I learned from talking with my fellow students who work for the Port of Vancouver that the port has recently been re-organized into one, multi-module port management system. This means they are much diversified in their operations in both products and handling methods, covering all forms of cargo transportation: Air, Sea, Highways, and Rail.

Time is money, as well as the number of times that a cargo must be handled before it arrives at its final destination. When talking about real estate the catch phrase is location, location, location. When talking about a seaport we also have to add the word CONNECTION. You can live in the most beautiful location in the world, like we do, but if you can't connect with the rest of the world in as many forms of travel as possible, then you won't be a major Port.

Where does Homer fit into the big picture? When talking about transportation in connection with ports, we use the analogy: the relationship between a hub and a spoke. In Alaska, especially South central, Anchorage is the "hub" and Homer, Seward, Whitter, and Valdez are the "spokes". There is

nothing wrong with being a spoke, same as nothing wrong with thinking that Homer could grow into something more than a spoke.

Attached: CPE Program Agenda Vancouver, BC – April 13 – 17, 2015

CPE Certified Port Executive Program Agenda Vancouver, BC April 13-17, 2015

check in 4/12
out 4/17
- King - Øsnote.

DAY 1 – March 13, 2015		DAY 2 – March 14, 2015		DAY 3 – March 15, 2015		DAY 4 – March 16, 2015		DAY 5 – March 17, 2015	
Start Time: 08:30	Start Time: 08:00	Start Time: 08:00	Start Time: 08:00	Start Time: 08:00	Start Time: 08:00	Start Time: 08:00	Start Time: 08:00	Start Time: 08:00	Start Time: 08:00
Course Objectives	Module 5 – The Harbour and the Vessel Voyage	Module 10 – Tariffs, Terminal Regulations and Operating Plans	Module 11 - Safety and Security	Module 12 – Emergency Planning and Response	Module 13 – Business Development and Marketing Business Development Planning Discussion	Module 14 – Property and Facility Management	Module 15 – Administration and Finance	Module 16 – Public and Media Relations	Practical Exercises and Evaluation
Module 1 – World Wide Transportation System	Module 6 - Marine Terminal Operations	Module 7 - Cargo Management	Module 8 – Transportation Pricing	Module 9 – Regulatory Requirements and Legal Issues	Module 17- Strategic, Master Planning and Cargo Planning				
Module 2- The International Port Industry	Lunch: 12:00-1:00	Lunch: 12:00-1:00	End Time: 5:00	End Time: 5:00	End Time: 5:00				
Lunch: 12:30-1:30	Module 2A-Language of the Industry	Module 3 - Port Governance and Management							
Module 4 – The Marine Terminal									End Time: 12:00
									<u>check out</u>
End Time: 5:00									

The Coast Vancouver Airport Hotel-1041 SW Marine Drive Vancouver, BC V6P 6L6
Our Contact Person there is: Tracey Fagg/Reservation and Catering Manager

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Seminar Leader: Captain Jeff Monroe, MM, CPE Cell phone: 207-615-7989, e-mail: mirage@maine.rr.com

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Human Resources

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Memorandum 15-063

TO: MAYOR WYTHER AND CITY COUNCIL
THRU: Katie Koester, City Manager
FROM: Andrea Browning, Personnel Director
DATE: May 6, 2015
RE: 2015 Benefit Broker / Consultant RFP

The City of Homer switched from a self-insured health care plan to a fully-insured plan in January 2015, currently utilizing Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska for the employee health insurance plan.

The City issued a Request for Proposal in August 2011 for Insurance Benefit Broker and Consulting Services, which was awarded to Mercer Health Benefits of Spokane, Washington. The City utilized Mercer through December 31, 2014 – paying them \$48,000 annually for their services.

On October 27, 2014 City Council passed Resolution 14-112 authorizing an RFP for employee benefit broker and consulting services, with the contract term to begin on January 1, 2015.

After much consideration, then City Manager Wrede and Personnel Director Browning decided to delay issuing the RFP in order to give the City time in the upcoming months to decide what the scope of work would be, given the City's switch to a fully-insured plan, and additionally save some funds during the first half of the year.

The City will be able to issue an RFP with a more limited, specified scope of work at this time. This should bring the cost of the services down, while still allowing the City to define cost-effective opportunities for improvement in design and administration of the health insurance benefit program, as well as assisting the City with navigating through the complexity of compliance with ever-changing state and federal regulations.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Robert Martin, 907-235-6034
robert.martin@g.kpbsd.org

Robert Martin Chosen for 2015 Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders in Boston, MA

HOMER, ALASKA — Robert Martin, a sophomore at Homer High School of Homer Alaska has been nominated to attend the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders in Boston, MA on June 28th - June 30th, 2015.

The Congress is an honors-only program for high school students who are passionate about science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM). The purpose of this event is to honor, inspire, motivate and direct the top students in the country who aspire to be scientists and technologists, to stay true to their dream and, after the event, to provide a path, plan and resources to help them reach their goal.

Robert Martin was nominated by American hero and astronaut Buzz Aldrin, Science Director of the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists to represent based on his academic achievement, leadership potential and passion for science and technology.

During the three-day Congress, Robert Martin will join students from across the country and hear Nobel Laureates and National Medal of Science Winners talk about leading scientific research; be given advice from deans of the world's top tech universities; be inspired by fellow teen science prodigies; and learn about cutting-edge advances and the future of science and technology.

"This is a crucial time in America when we need more nimble-minded and creative scientists and technologists who are even better prepared for a future that is changing exponentially," said Richard Rossi, Executive Director, National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists. "Focused, bright and determined students like Robert Martin are our future and he deserves all the mentoring and guidance we can give him."

The Academy offers free services and programs to students who have the desire to learn more about their future in science or technology. Some of the services and programs the Academy offers include online social networks through which these future scientists and technologists can communicate; opportunities for students to be guided and mentored by tech and science leaders; and communications for parents and students on college acceptance and finances, skills acquisition, internships, career guidance and much more.

The Academy was founded on the belief that science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education plays a critical role in enabling the United States to remain the economic and technological leader of the global marketplace of the 21st century and that we must identify prospective talent at the earliest possible age and help these students acquire the necessary experience and skills to take them to the doorstep of vital careers. Based in Washington, DC and with an office in Boston, MA, the Academy was chartered as a nonpartisan, taxpaying institution to help address this crisis by working to identify, encourage and mentor students who wish to devote their lives to advances in society as scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians.

For more information visit www.scitechleaders.com or call 617-307-7425.

