



City of Homer

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Office of the City Clerk

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Supplemental Packet

TO: MAYOR LORD AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: AMY WOODRUFF, CITY CLERK
DATE: July 27, 2026
SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL PACKET ITEMS

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

VISITORS (10 Minute limit per report)

- a. Homer Pool Update, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Superintendent Clayton Holland

Public Comment Received

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CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. City Manager's Report

Public Comment Received

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COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Public Comment received on Matters Not on the Agenda

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From: [Emilie Otis](#)
To: [Department Clerk](#)
Subject: Kate Kuhns Aquatic center
Date: Thursday, June 25, 2026 7:23:44 AM

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June 25, 2026

Dear Mayor Lord,

I am writing to express my strong support for keeping the Kate Kuhns Aquatic Center open. As a resident who has utilized Homer's community pool since 1995, I have witnessed firsthand its invaluable role as a cornerstone of our community.

Over the past three decades, I have seen the pool serve diverse user groups spanning every generation, from infants to seniors. The aquatic center provides critical services that directly impact the health, safety, and economy of our region:

- **Water Safety & Economy:** The pool teaches foundational swimming skills to our children. This is a literal lifesaver in a coastal community where many youth, including my own two children, grow up to work in the commercial and sport fishing industry.
- **Accessibility & Senior Health:** For our senior population and residents living with disabilities or amputations, the pool offers a low-impact environment to stay healthy and active when land-based exercise is not physically possible.
- **Youth & Lifelong Athletics:** The facility fosters competitive athletes who carry swimming forward as a lifelong healthy habit. Furthermore, open swim sessions provide teenagers with a positive, safe environment to socialize with peers.
- **Winter Wellness:** During our long Alaskan winters, when ice-covered roads make outdoor recreation hazardous, the pool serves as a vital, safe haven for physical exercise.

We cannot afford to lose this essential resource. I urge the city to actively collaborate on a sustainable management solution, whether that involves the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD), the Borough, the City of Homer, or a partnership with a local non-profit organization.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and dedication to the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Please help us find a creative, collaborative path forward to keep the Kate Kuhns Aquatic Center open for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Emilie Otis

otisemilie@gmail.com

41364 Charlie Drive

Homer, AK 99603

SUBJECT Public and Ecological concerns
Regarding Tree Removal at Karen Hornaday
Park Next To The main Road

- Dear Honorable mayor and members of The City Council, I am writing to formally share my concerns regarding the recent clearing of the Native alder trees along the trail system near the main Road within Karen Hornaday Park. While Trail maintenance is necessary for our community the extensive removal of healthy alder trees poses significant risk to the local environment and city infrastructure.

I ask the City Council to Review the current clearing practices based on the following critical points:

- Slope Stability and Landslide prevention:

The Bluffs and slopes in Homer are highly prone to erosion. The Alder trees possess dense intertwined root systems that act as a natural netting binding the loose coastal soil together. Removing them significantly weakens the hillside and increases the risk of slope failure and landslides.

- Stormwater and flood management:

Karen Hornaday Park contains sensitive wetlands and areas with high water tables. Live alder trees absorb massive amounts of groundwater increasing the risk of localized flooding and heavy stormwater runoff. Protection for surrounding forest: alders serve as a vital biological shield for our shallow-rooted -

SITKA Spruce Trees acting as a Natural WindBreak
• Furthermore, as Nitrogen-Fixing Trees alders
Naturally enRich The soil providing The essential
Nutrients That The Surrounding Forest Needs To survive
When Native Vegetation is classified simply as "Brush"
OR "weed" The city misses The profound engineering
and ecological Role These plants Play in protecting
our Town's Beautiful infrastructure.

I Kindly Request That the city Council Direct The
Public Works Department To pause clearing
on steep slopes and wetlands margins within The
Park until a proper environmental and slope -
Stability assessment can be conducted Thank you
for your Time your Leadership and your Dedication
To keeping Homer Safe and Beautiful Nature wise
Sincerely

a Nature wather who Love's The alder Trees
Please Love mother earth Homer is way more Then
Just a Town its mother Nature at Her Best LETS
Keep it This way please

From: [sharon.whytal](#)
To: [Department Clerk](#)
Subject: Homer harbor expansion draft feasibility report
Date: Monday, June 22, 2026 12:31:31 PM

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

Thank you for all of your ongoing time on considering this important issue. I'm so grateful that you, Rachel could attend the recent Women of Action meeting to give us more detail on the history of the project and the forces that are driving it now. I think there is misunderstanding about this in the community, so your time was very valuable to a large group of us who will also carry the info further out into the community. I realize this juncture is regarding the document of the Corps regarding feasibility and environmental assessment. However I understand that the Corps going forward mostly represents taking an industrial or commercial approach, rather than a recreational harbor approach, which is what I understood to be the direction we received from citizen input on the issue. I hope these two directions will be clarified and seriously considered overall, given the impacts to both the habitat and the overall infrastructure that could be consequences of expanding the harbor. Before looking at the document, I felt confused about why this was a given, and if we the residents are going to be left fiscally responsible and quality of life-impacted, with a lack of infrastructure to accommodate ANY growth (schools, hospital, environmental impact, tourism impact if our shorebirds are negatively impacted, housing-already a crisis- and other services, if we are saying "yes" to harbor growth overall. Maybe we need to answer that question before we answer the "how much" question that this document seems to address. Am I wrong about this? First, I understand that the waitlist alone begs expansion, unless we as a city decide to stop

adding to a waitlist and actually say "no" to further expansion for the time being," which sends the message "Don't wait around—we are not big enough for your needs and won't be for at least 8-10 years." I have my own experiences with waiting in line or tying up 3-deep on a transient dock here, so I understand both the safety issues and the frustration, but I'm not sure why we are continuing to grow a "waiting list," which creates a perception that expansion is a given, and expected. I hope that the question of purpose for our harbor, and benefit to the community while mitigating environmental hazards, can all happen together before we open the red carpet, so to speak. Does Homer want to be a bigger facility? I don't personally know- but I bet that's a conversation we could all learn from. Certainly marine trades are a core of our community, which we value. And moderate economic growth that is careful and protects our natural beauty as a tourism basis, was indeed favored in the citizen input. I may have missed it, but has this question of harbor purpose been addressed? (I am concerned that people can feel entitled to a slip, if they are on a waiting list and assume that expansion is guaranteed and is funded.)

Second, I am concerned that the primary draw to homer tourism is our environment and the wildlife that thrive here. Industrial development should come second, and after investigation of negative impacts of that development. Expanding beyond the current breakwater and beyond the Harbormaster area is certain to bring more forces around the corner into Mud Bay, with the possibility of impacting our precious shorebird habitat and the NERR in general. These seem to me important to thoroughly explore BEFORE making a goal of supporting increased industrial usage. I am not the person with that expertise, but I do expect that those who are will be consulted and weigh in.

I appreciate that the Corps has laid out 4+ options to the “no action” option, and that this precedes any clear direction to apply for funding. I also appreciate the understanding that federal funding if granted would constitute 50% of the funding. However we are not Valdez and the pipeline terminal, so we do not have cash to pay for what would be our local 50 percent, and we have all seen how hospital, town square, school district and other bond issues have not been passed by voters over many recent years. I wonder if harbor expansion would be any different, in this time when household economics are so challenged and the federal government is creating so much uncertainty about the future. And if not, what would happen next?

I’m not going to make specific comments about the feasibility document here, as I appreciate the Corps efforts to answer the “which” question with as many options as possible. And I appreciate the Council’s intention to explore options, since we do need to know which direction we are going. Access to our beautiful environment by marine travel is essential for enjoying where we live and for sharing it, as well. And certainly for accommodating our fishing fleet more favorably! I hope there will be more public discourse about the industrial vs recreational purposes and some specifics about what a bond issue could look like. I know that Homer is full of thoughtful residents with expertise in all areas of these questions, so I know we can move forward with safe consideration of the environment. I realize I have not kept up with these details and now that I am more up to speed, I’ll pay more attention to the steps as they unfold. I hope to remain a more informed resident on this important issue now. Thank you for always engaging the public and then listening to input, knowing it will be varied as well, but that consensus is possible and improves the outcomes of any choices we make!

Sincerely,

Sharon Whytal, RN, BSN
(city resident)

From: [jason](#)
To: [Department Clerk](#); [Donna Aderhold](#); [Shelly Erickson](#); [Storm Hansen](#); [Caroline Venuti](#); [Bradley Parsons](#); [Jason Davis](#)
Subject: Karen Hornaday Park Loop Trail
Date: Thursday, July 9, 2026 4:10:42 PM

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Good afternoon,

I am writing in support of construction of the Karen Hornaday Loop Trail, but I would like to see it done in a fiscally responsible manner. As such, I have a suggestion for the City of Homer for a potential work force for building and maintenance of a trail. Our local division of forestry fire staff can often be seen driving around in their vehicles patrolling waiting for fires to occur (a rare occurrence). As a former wildland firefighter, current state employee, and Homer citizen, I believe there are better uses of their time such as project work in easily accessible places. Accessibility of work sites is important so that they can respond to a fire in a timely manner. The work helps keep crews stay engaged and develop the skills needed for wildland firefighting such as brush removal, tree felling, and line (trail) digging/creation. Project work used to be a staple of crew development and resource use, and I believe it should be again. I suggest that the City of Homer approach the Department of Forestry about using fire crews for maintenance and trail building projects. Another project crews could be used for is limbing and cutting the alder/willow growth along road ways for beautification that road crews have used power mowers to cut back. These cuts are unsightly and not beneficial for the view scape of our community. A prime example can be seen in front of the Islands and Oceans building coming into town.

Sincerely,

Jason Herreman