



City of Homer

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Office of the City Manager

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City Manager's Report

TO: Honorable Mayor Wythe and Homer City Council
FROM: Katie Koester, City Manager
DATE: February 8, 2016
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report

City Manager's Office Staffing

I am happy to welcome Jennifer Carroll to the City Manager's Office as the new Special Projects/Communications Coordinator. Jenny brings a lot of experience working with the community as a grant writer, non-profit executive director and facilitator. I am looking forward to having the help in the office; we have a lot going on!

Website email subscriptions

When the City transferred from the old website to the new one, things went fairly smoothly except for a few broken links. However, one thing that did get dropped was the subscribers who had signed up to receive email notifications when various things were posted to the website (press releases, job offerings, bid openings, etc.) As soon as we became aware of this, we sent an email to all subscribers asking that they re-subscribe to the service. Sign up for email notifications on the City site under How Do I? Alerts & Notifications.

Dog Statue Donation for the Animal Shelter

Last fall, local area resident Alan Kelly passed away. Alan loved dogs and frequently walked them on Bishop's Beach. His brother, Steve Kelly, is a bronze sculpture artist. He has made a bronze sculpture of a dog as a memorial to Alan. Steve has been communicating with the Homer Animal Friends and would like to donate the statute to the Friends in his brother's memory. The Friends would like to place the statue in the memorial garden which is to the left of the driveway in the rocky area in front of the shelter. Alan's friend Ken Lewandowski has offered to pour a small concrete pad for the statue to sit on.

The statue is 2½ feet high and about 2 feet wide. It sits on a round bronze base and has a plaque at the base of its feet. It has horns and wings to represent a dog as being part angel and part devil. The artist estimates the value of this piece at \$6,000.

Since this artwork will be placed on city property, Homer Animal Friends will go before the Public Arts Committee on the 11th to discuss the statue and request Council accept it and authorize the installation.

A Road for the Big Boats

Bay Welding, a local welding and boat building business, requested a letter of support for a project proposal to the DOT/Marine Administration Small Shipyard grant program. With the approval of Council, I will draft a letter of support for their application.

The project consists of the construction of a road linking Bay Welding to the Northern Enterprises yard. This will allow more efficient transportation of larger vessels to the water without using the public roadways. With the construction of this road the size limitations for future boat construction, improvements, and repairs will be expanded. Future projects will encompass a broader customer base with services that up until now were not available in Homer. The road would benefit Homer by making our marine trades professionals more accessible to large vessels. This equates to jobs, quality, efficiency, and marketability in the marine market. See attached map for a visual.

Neighborhood Street Lighting

Public Works has received a number of calls this winter requesting installation of neighborhood street lighting. Currently we have around 50 lights that we pay HEA \$30 a month to operate. There is an installation cost for these lights of \$3,000 - \$4,000. Another option would be city-owned street lights; however installation costs are as much as \$20,000 and the monthly electric bill would be about what we pay HEA. Public Works has told people the funding is not there to install new street lights. I would like to get feedback from Council on how, or if, to approach this issue. See email from Public Works Superintendent Gardner for more information. Possible solutions include:

- 1) Establish a SAD program for street lighting. Pro is you get neighborhood buy-in and cost sharing (not everyone wants a street light on their corner). Con would be the administrative cost of a SAD for a relatively small project (estimate \$400 in staff time) and the ongoing electric bill.
- 2) Do nothing. At this time, the City cannot afford to take on new capital or operational costs.
- 3) Develop a criteria for when it justifies installing a neighborhood street light at the cost of the City.

Enc:

Map from Bay Welding grant application

Picture of dog statue

Email from Superintendent Gardner

Children's Library infographic

Letter of Support for DBAC Proposal

Proposed location of road to connect Bay Welding to Northern Enterprises Boat Yard







In memory of
Alan Robert Kelly
"Kelly"
Nov. 2, 1955 - Sept. 12, 2015
Dogs' best friend

Katie Koester

From: Dan Gardner
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 11:46 AM
To: Katie Koester
Cc: Carey Meyer
Subject: Street Lighting Info
Attachments: Street Lights Map 1.jpg; Street Lights Map 2.jpg

Katie,

Per our meeting last week on considering the addition of more neighborhood street lights (HEA owned/maintained) or the consideration of installing in-series street lighting (owned/maintained by city, like Heath Street), I have the following cost information:

- We currently have 50 neighborhood lights owned/maintained by HEA at an annual cost of about \$18,000 (\$30 per light per month)
- We own 3 in-series street lights on Heath Street mounted on steel poles. We pay HEA based on meter consumption. Annual cost is \$1000, \$30 per light per month.
- We own one other steel street light at the intersection of Wright and Rangeview that runs \$42 per month.

If we chose to have HEA install a bunch of new neighborhood lights, there would be no discounted bulk installation rate. The light installation costs could range from \$3000 to \$4000 as previously mentioned. Some installations could be as low as \$25 if there were an existing pole and pedestal nearby. There is no way of knowing the installation costs without first providing HEA with a map of the desired locations. They would then provide us with an installation cost.

As far as HEA using LED fixtures and providing a potentially less cost per month, that does not appear to be a possibility. They are not using LEDs yet, but have gone to a Metal Halide in a 150 watt fixture, but the rate is still the same as what we are currently paying.

As discussed, the city could consider making a project where either city-owned street lights are installed or more HEA lights are installed. The HEA option would be less expensive to accomplish. Street lighting would require a design, considerable conduit and electrical lines, concrete column bases, and more expensive steel poles and fixtures than what HEA would install. But, depending on the street location, city-owned street lights may be a more applicable type than the HEA lights and poles. An installation cost estimate for city-owned street lights would be around \$18,000 to \$20,000 each.

Of course, the initial installation is just the beginning. The funding for a potential expansion project could potentially be funded from HART funds, but the annual GF operating budget would need to increase due to the increase in monthly electrical/operating costs for additional lighting. I have no estimate for this since I have no idea how many lights may be part of an expansion project. If 20 new lights were installed, the annual increase in the operating budget would be \$7000 to \$8000.

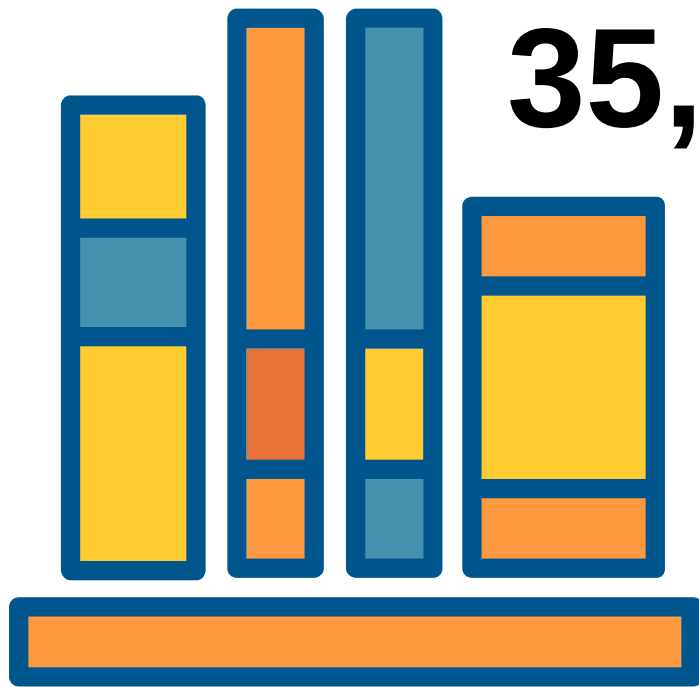
As discussed, I am bringing this issue up due to about a half dozen calls that have come in over the winter where folks are requesting a street light in their area and/or requesting to know what the process is for getting one. My answer has been, and continues to be, that the city does not have funding at present to make additions and that we are going to be looking at developing a process/criteria. As a reminder, Kenai has about 100 of the HEA neighborhood lights and they have no formal policy or criteria for installing additional lights. Sean, the PW Director, advised me that since he's worked there, only one light has been installed and it was driven by partying/littering in a darkened area.

Attached is a map of central Homer with existing HEA lighting shown.

I hope this information is helpful in determining how you may want to discuss it with council.

Dan

Children's Services 2015



35,775

children's books,
audiobooks, CDs,
toys & magazines
were checked out



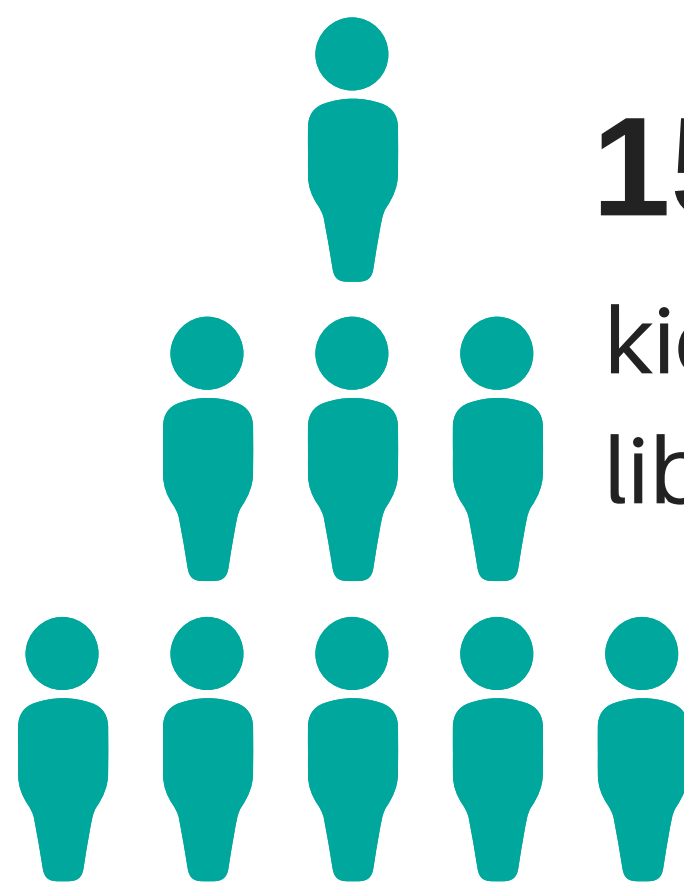
3,851

caregivers & children
attended 80
early literacy storytimes
at the library



321

school age
kids attended
afterschool
programs



155

kids visited the
library on a field trip

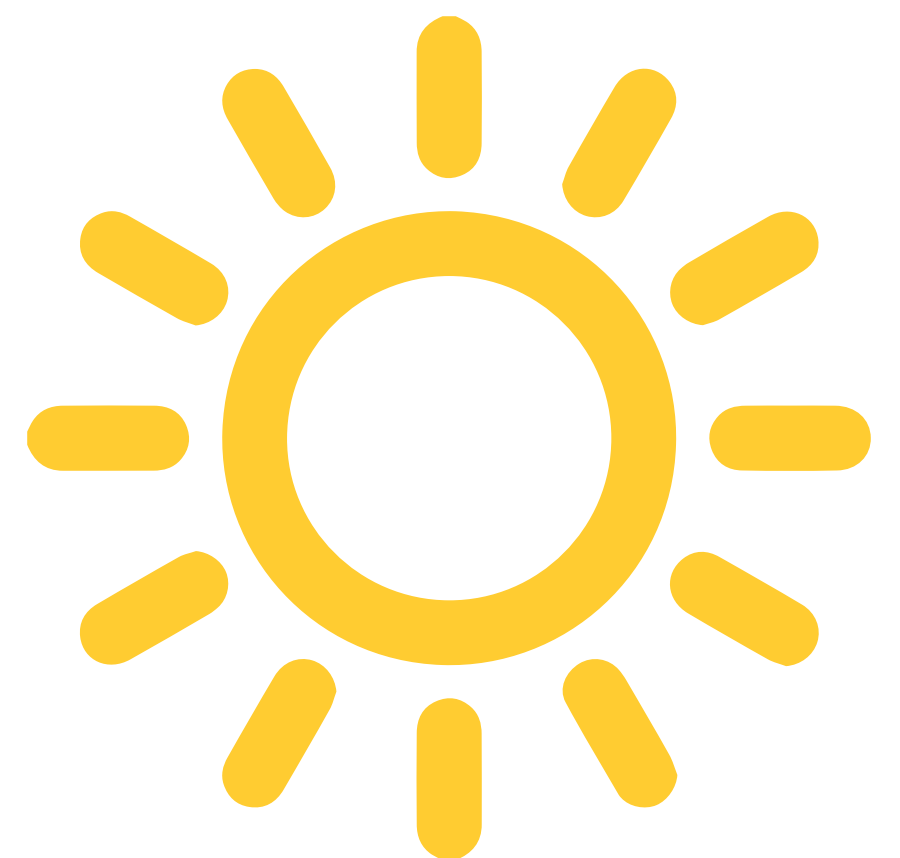


150

kids got a new library card

845

kids participated in
23 Summer@HPL events



Homer Public Library



235-3180 || www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library



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January 29, 2016

Kevin Gardner
Environmental Program Manager
ADEC Contaminated Sites Program
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Gardner:

Please accept this letter of support for the DBAC proposal submitted for 305 East Pioneer Avenue in Homer, Alaska.

Pioneer Avenue represents the heart of Homer; it is the centerpiece of our business community. The City of Homer supports this area by providing street maintenance, beautification, and economic development coordination. Homer has a tremendous economy on the Spit during summer months; we'd like to replicate that success to support year round jobs and economic activity in Downton Homer. One impediment to increasing the activeness and economic climate on Pioneer is the abandoned property at 305 East Pioneer Ave.

The property at 305 East Pioneer Avenue lies idle in the middle of Pioneer Avenue, and without additional assistance, it will remain a blight on the area. The Homer Chamber of Commerce, who is currently pursuing a \$500,000 grant to enhance Pioneer Avenue and the area around 305 East Pioneer through the Deluxe Small Business Revolution on Main Street grant program; while the prospects for obtaining this support remain uncertain, the process through which the proposal has been developed has spurred other funding acquisition efforts. The City, Chamber of Commerce, Bunnell Arts, a local arts organization, and private businesses on Pioneer are collaborating to apply for an ArtPlace America grant in the amount of \$150,000, to leverage other public and private funds to revitalize Pioneer Ave. We envision that every property owner will become involved in streetscape improvements, and building facelifts through the arts. This has been a successful model used in Old Town Homer, which was a previous recipient of ArtPlace funding. The Homer community can successfully improve the downtown core, but as a small community with small businesses with small budgets, we cannot overcome the hurdles of a contaminated site without additional funding.

As a result, support from the DBAC program would go a long way toward helping the community of Homer take an important step toward re-purposing a defunct property in the middle of town, and would reinforce ongoing efforts to enhance business and public-use opportunities.

Thank you for considering this letter and the DBAC proposal, and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Katie Koester
City Manager