

BAYCREST IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
491 E. PIONEER AVENUE
HOMER, ALASKA

JANUARY 15, 2013
TUESDAY AT 1:00 P.M.
COWLES COUNCIL CHAMBERS

**MEETING NOTICE
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. AGENDA APPROVAL**
- 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
 - A. Regular Synopsis from December 11, 2012 Meeting Page 3
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA**
- 5. VISITORS**
- 6. STAFF & COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS/COMMISSION REPORT**
- 7. PENDING BUSINESS**
 - A. Discussion, Review and Updates on the Project on Interpretive Themes Page 5
- 8. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Next Meeting Dates Page 23
- 9. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**
- 10. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**
- 11. COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF** *(If present)*
- 12. COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE**
- 13. ADJOURNMENT/THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, _____, 2013
_____ AT COWLES COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 491 E. Pioneer Avenue Homer, Alaska 99603**

Baycrest Overlook Improvement Committee

Meeting Synopsis

December 11, 2012

Cowles Council Chambers

The *purpose* of the meeting was to discuss the progress of the Baycrest Hill Overlook Interpretive Plan. The following is a synopsis of the discussion:

- The bulk of this meeting focused on the interpretive subthemes. Originally, seven themes were identified at the meeting held in mid-September. However, it was decided that two of the themes were not relevant enough, so the number was reduced to five subthemes. Those subthemes are the spit, volcanoes, bay and inlet, wildlife and habitat, public lands and waters, and glaciers.
- Subthemes do not dictate the language of each panel to be developed, but they provide guidance for individual panel development.
- It was decided that the committee should review the subthemes and provide comments to Emily Lochart by December 21st.

DRAFT INTERPRETIVE THEMES

PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME:

Homer, with its famous Spit, reaches into Kachemak Bay, inviting us to explore public lands, waters, and diverse communities beyond the end of the road, while drawing us back to the “Cosmic Hamlet by the Sea.”

SUBTHEMES:

The Spit: The Homer Spit is a striking geologic feature that has been shaped by a receding glacier, impacted by an earthquake, and shored back up to maintain our vital link to the bay.

Volcanoes: Perched on the Pacific Ring of Fire, Homer is witness to our dynamic earth’s simultaneous powers of creation and destruction as evidenced by the active volcanoes seen across Cook Inlet, and the continuously rising Kenai Mountains, which dominate the horizon across Kachemak Bay.

Bay and Inlet: Kachemak Bay and Cook Inlet are wild, ecologically diverse, and expansive estuaries shaped by dramatic and dynamic forces, like earth movements, tides and currents.

Wildlife and Habitat: Visitors may view a diverse range of terrestrial and marine life and their habits from Baycrest Hill.

Public Lands and Waters: The surrounding public lands you can see from Baycrest Hill have been designated as special places that allow a seemingly endless list of recreational opportunities.

Glaciers: Fresh water from the glaciers of the Kenai Mountains mixes with salt water in Kachemak Bay, creating a rich estuarine soup, but as these rivers of ice recede in our changing climate, the rich marine life that thrives in this unique ecosystem may drastically change.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Replace the existing Gold Rush interpretive panel with up to eight new interpretive panels using the identified themes and a unified design scheme. Place them in or adjacent to the planters with one by the Halibut sign or spread them out based on the theme. If necessary and useful, provide a QR code on the panel for more information.
- Replace the existing wood carving of Kachemak Bay with multiple metal sculptures. The sculptures should be a piece of art that can withstand the elements and depicts and identifies the natural features that can be seen from that specific vantage point. The new metal art should use the long fence line, but should not obstruct the view. Details such as the type of metal and how it is applied to the fence should be left to the artist.
- To benefit visitors and residents, add picnic tables to the overlook. One option would be to place a couple between the planters. However, after new interpretation is added, picnic tables may clutter the area. To avoid this, another option would be to create a picnic area to the east and west of the core area of the overlook where cars currently park.

- Replace restrooms with an eco-friendly, lower maintenance, and weather-resistant alternative that is more aesthetically pleasing
- Add recycling containers and make all trash and recycling containers bear-resistant
- Remove or cut back vegetation that is impeding the view (i.e. alders behind the Halibut sign)
- Consider using interpretive art at necessary structures such as restrooms and benches, and even in the ground along sidewalks.
- Alter the fence and railing so that there are more areas that are lower to allow more opportunities for unobstructed viewing by visitors in wheelchairs as well those of small stature such as children.

Renee Krause

From: Aplin, Marianne <marianne_aplin@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 21, 2012 10:24 AM
To: Lochart, Emily S A (DNR); Renee Krause
Subject: Re: my Baycrest theme statement re-write suggestions

Oh sorry - I loved all of your recommendations - thanks Emily!

Have you heard anything from Mary McBurney? I've just sent her my draft comments and asked her to respond to you and Renee with any input from Lake Clark.

Marianne Aplin
Islands & Ocean Visitor Center Manager
Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge

907-226-4619

<http://www.IslandsAndOcean.org> LIKE Islands & Ocean on [Facebook](#)

<http://AlaskaMaritime.fws.gov> LIKE the Refuge on [Facebook](#)

"With every drop of water you drink, every breath you take, you're connected to the sea. No matter where on earth you live." - Sylvia Earle

On Fri, Dec 21, 2012 at 10:12 AM, Lochart, Emily S A (DNR) <emily.lochart@alaska.gov> wrote:

Thanks Marianne. Would you like to comment on the draft recommendations too? If not, I won't be able to work on them until after the next meeting, put us back about a month.

Emily

From: Aplin, Marianne [mailto:marianne_aplin@fws.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 17, 2012 12:57 PM
To: Renee Krause; Thompson, Terry S (DFG); Lochart, Emily S A (DNR)
Subject: my Baycrest theme statement re-write suggestions

I've cc'd Terry because I included a couple of questions in my comments that I hope he'll be able to answer.

Marianne Aplin

Islands & Ocean Visitor Center Manager

Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge

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Renee Krause

From: Aplin, Marianne <marianne_aplin@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 21, 2012 10:23 AM
To: Mary McBurney; Rebekah Jones; Renee Krause
Subject: Fwd: my Baycrest theme statement re-write suggestions
Attachments: DRAFT Themes and Recommendations_MAccomments.docx

Hello Mary & Rebekah,

We were sure hoping that you would jump into the Baycrest discussion. Your input has been missed! These are Emily's draft themes with my comments. At our last Baycrest meeting we agreed to get her our input on these draft themes by December 21. You may already have sent something in to Emily - but I wanted to make sure you saw this deadline. Please send any suggested changes/edits/kudos to Emily and Renee - thank you!!

Happy Holidays!

Marianne Aplin
Islands & Ocean Visitor Center Manager
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Aplin, Marianne** <marianne_aplin@fws.gov>
Date: Mon, Dec 17, 2012 at 12:56 PM
Subject: my Baycrest theme statement re-write suggestions
To: Renee Krause <RKrause@ci.homer.ak.us>, terry.thompson@alaska.gov, emily.lochart@alaska.gov

I've cc'd Terry because I included a couple of questions in my comments that I hope he'll be able to answer.

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Renee Krause

From: Lochart, Emily S A (DNR) <emily.lochart@alaska.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 21, 2012 10:12 AM
To: Thompson, Terry S (DFG); Renee Krause
Subject: RE: Comments - Baycrest Overlook subthemes

Thanks Terry! Did you want to comment on the draft recommendations too?

Renee,

Is it possible to send out a reminder email for folks to comment by the end of today? I was really hoping to get some comments on the draft recommendations too otherwise it's going to put us behind until we meet again. Comments on both sections will give me more to do until the next meeting.

Emily

From: Thompson, Terry S (DFG)
Sent: Friday, December 21, 2012 8:41 AM
To: Renee Krause (RKrause@ci.homer.ak.us); Lochart, Emily S A (DNR)
Subject: Comments - Baycrest Overlook subthemes

Good morning Renee and Emily, I've attached some additional comments to the subtheme document for the Baycrest Overlook project. You'll see that I just piggybacked on the comments that Marianne Aplin provided.

I hope you both have a wonderful holiday!

Terry

Terry Thompson
Reserve Manager
Kachemak Bay Research Reserve
Alaska Department of Fish and Game/Sport Fish Division
95 Sterling Highway, Suite 2
Homer, AK 99603
907 226-4656 (o)
907 299-0023 (c)
907 235-4794 (f)

Renee Krause

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Sent: Friday, December 21, 2012 8:41 AM
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Comment [MA1]: My drafts include some comments from Carmen Field with the Research Reserve.

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SUBTHEMES:

The Spit: The Homer Spit is a striking geologic feature that has been shaped by a receding glacier, leveled by an earthquake, and shored back up to maintain our vital link to the bay. The Homer Spit, a striking geologic feature and center for regional tourism, is a destination as well as a gateway to Kachemak Bay.

Comment [MA2]: This was brought home to me when I drove out to observe the King Tide effects on Saturday evening. Huge ocean swells were sending our already big tides right over the wall and onto the road. It's a precarious link.

Volcanoes: The active and powerful Cook Inlet volcanoes seen on the horizon across Cook Inlet are visible evidence of the region's global connections to the Pacific Ring of Fire, while the Kenai Mountains across the bay have their own dramatic story of birth from the meeting of two continental plates.

Comment [MA3]: Since the 1960s, a gradual erosion of the spit has occurred. The spit actually fell back into the bay as a result of an earthquake.

Bay and Inlet: Kachemak Bay and Cook Inlet are wild, ecologically diverse, and expansive places estuaries shaped by dramatic and dynamic forces, like earth movements, and tides and currents, that connect people to their livelihoods and their adventures.

Comment [MA4]: I made this sentence just wanted to make sure to point out my thoughts.

Transportation: Boats and planes seen from the overlook indicate that Kachemak Bay is a working waterway providing access to jobs and recreational opportunities.

Wildlife and Habitat: A variety of habitats can be seen from Baycrest Hill where visitors may view a diverse range of terrestrial and marine life and their habits from Baycrest Hill.

Public Lands and Waters: The surrounding public lands and waters are protected for everyone so that these places may play host to allow a seemingly endless list of recreational opportunities for everyone.

Comment [MA5]: I liked Roger's comments on this but didn't.

Glaciers and Kenai Mountains: Fresh water from the glaciers and mountains of Kachemak Bay the Kenai Mountains are constantly changing due to the same geologic forces that shaped the landscape, mixes with salt water in Kachemak Bay, creating a rich estuarine soup, but as these rivers of ice recede in our changing climate, the rich marine life that thrives in this unique ecosystem may drastically change.

Comment [MA6]: Preparation on the bay area (critical habitat) has been done for the loss of fish and wildlife which secondarily provides for recreational opportunities.

Climate and Weather: Baycrest Hill provides an ideal place to view the dramatic skies of a dynamic maritime climate. Note that we didn't think that this was a full panel, but that it might be good to insert the idea into other panels of the Japanese current and other maritime influences that make our climate so mild.

Comment [MA7]: Could KBRR scientists or NOAA's Kris Holdreid double check this one as per Carmen's suggestion?

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

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Renee Krause

From: Jones, Rebekah <rebekah_a_jones@nps.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 21, 2012 2:56 PM
To: Renee Krause; emily.lochart@alaska.gov
Subject: Baycrest volcanoes theme statement re-write suggestion

Hello Emily and Renee,

Marianne Aplin suggested that interpretation staff from Lake Clark National Park & Preserve might want some input in the volcanoes theme statement for the Baycrest overlook panels. I apologize that Mary McBurney and I have not been able to attend the committee meetings regularly for this project. Please cc me on any further messages regarding this project, along with Mary.

Below is my suggested theme revision, which Marianne and Carmen reviewed and edited to ensure it includes the principle ideas the committee wants to convey. I thank you for considering it.

"Perched on the Pacific Ring of Fire, Homer is witness to our dynamic earth's simultaneous powers of creation and destruction as evidenced by the active volcanoes seen across Cook Inlet, and the continuously rising Kenai Mountains, which dominate the horizon across Kachemak Bay."

Happy Solstice and Merry Christmas,

Rebekah A. Jones
Park Ranger, Interpretation
Lake Clark National Park & Preserve
Homer Field Office
Phone: (907) 235-7903
rebekah_a_jones@nps.gov

<https://www.facebook.com/LakeClarkNPS>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Aplin, Marianne** <marianne_aplin@fws.gov>
Date: Fri, Dec 21, 2012 at 10:22 AM
Subject: Fwd: my Baycrest theme statement re-write suggestions

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Happy Holidays!

Marianne Aplin
Islands & Ocean Visitor Center Manager
Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge

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Comment [MA2]: This was brought home to me when I drove out to observe the King tide effects on Saturday evening. If the ocean walls were so high our area, big tides might over the wall and on the road. It's a precarious link.

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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Comment [MA5]: Liked Roger's comments on this but didn't.

[REDACTED]

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- I would suggest a few more "cut downs" of the fence/railing which will allow more opportunities for viewing by both visitors in wheelchairs, as well as those of small stature such as kids (it will keep them from having to crawl on the fence/metal sculptures to see the view)

Office of the City Clerk

Jo Johnson, CMC, City Clerk
Melissa Jacobsen, CMC, Deputy City Clerk II
Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I



491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603
(907) 235-3130
(907) 235-8121
ext: 2224, 2226, or 2227
Fax: (907) 235-3143
Email: clerk@ci.homer.ak.us

MEMORANDUM

TO: BAYCREST IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK
DATE: JANUARY 11, 2013
RE: **NEXT MEETING DATES**

Background

Currently there are no further meeting dates set for this committee. After the necessary time change it seemed that most members appreciated the afternoon start time. If the committee is interested in keeping the meeting time to a time after noon these are the following Tuesdays I have available for the Council Chambers.

If you require another day please note I will have to double check the Clerk's meeting calendar and let you know the availability.

February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2013 Anytime up to 3:00 p.m.

March Select any date and I will confirm if available most dates are good prior to 3:00 p.m.

RECOMMENDATION

Make a motion to establish more than one meeting date for the committee for February and March. These can be canceled as required but our calendar fills up very quickly and it would be a shame to miss out.

