



AGENDA

Sister City 40th Anniversary Task Force Regular Meeting

Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.

City Hall Cowles Council Chambers In-Person & Via Zoom Webinar

Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Zoom Webinar ID: 969 4359 4973 Password: 403783

<https://cityofhomer.zoom.us>
Dial: 346-248-7799 or 669-900-6833;
(Toll Free) 888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247

CALL TO ORDER, 3:30 P.M.

AGENDA APPROVAL

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

REPORTS

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
Memorandum SCTF-24-001 from Acting City Clerk as backup. **Page 3**
- b. Establishing the Task Force Meeting Schedule
Memorandum SCTF-24-002 from Acting City Clerk as backup. **Page 5**

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- a. Appointments to the Task Force **Page 7**
- b. Notes from Other Sister Cities **Page 13**
- c. Pratt Museum Display Brochure **Page 16**
- d. Taiko Drum Flyer **Page 24**
- e. Resolution 24-029, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska,
Creating a Sister City 40th Anniversary Task Force and Establishing the
Scope of Work and Parameters Under Which the Task Force will Operate **Page 26**

f. Memorandum CC-24-061 from Assistant to the City Manager as backup.

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COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBER (If Present)

COMMENTS OF THE TASK FORCE

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is scheduled for **WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024 AT 3:30 P.M.** All meetings scheduled to be held via Zoom Webinar and in person in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom webinar.



MEMORANDUM

Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: Sister City 40th Anniversary Task Force
Date: May 1, 2024
From: Renee Krause, MMC, Acting City Clerk

Member Xander Underwood as the first applicant will open the meeting as Acting Chair and take the group through the agenda to the selection of Chair and Vice Chair.

The responsibilities of the Chair and Vice Chair are as follows:

- The duty of the Chair is to preside at all meetings, facilitate orderly and relevant discussion of agenda items brought before the Task Force, and report the recommendations to City Council.
- The duty of the Vice Chair is to fill the role of the Chair in their absence.

Mr. Underwood will open the floor for selection of Chair.

- A Task Force member will move to appoint _____ as Chair.
- A Task Force member can second or nominate another member of the Task Force
- When the motion passes that person will assume the gavel and open the floor for selection of Vice Chair.
- A Task Force member will move to appoint _____ as Vice Chair.

Another option available is to wait until all positions on the Task Force have been filled. We do have word of a potential applicant, but it hasn't been received as of this memorandum. The Election can be postponed to the next meeting.

Recommendation

Conduct election or make a motion to postpone to a the next meeting when the vacancies are filled.



MEMORANDUM

Approval of Sister City 40 Anniversary Task Force Meeting Schedule

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: Sister City 40th Anniversary Task Force
Date: May 1, 2024
From: Renee Krause, MMC, Acting City Clerk

The recommendation from staff is that the Sister City Task Force is to meet monthly on a day and time that is agreeable to the majority of the Task Force. Staff recommendation is the following:

The previous working group was meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month. If that works for everyone we can keep it the same but would recommend moving the time to a bit earlier in the day if possible such as 3:00 p.m. or 3:30 p.m. This would provide the Task Force 1.5 to 2 hours to meet or longer if required.

Wednesday, May 22 nd	Wednesday, July 24 th	Wednesday, September 25 th
Wednesday, June 26 th	Wednesday, August 28 th	Wednesday, October 23 rd

Additional dates will be scheduled the dates above are provided as an example. Additional meetings can be scheduled as needed as long as the Clerk's Office has two weeks prior notice of the meeting date and time in order to advertise the meeting.

If this meeting scheduled is adopted a member of the Task Force will be required to attend the first meeting of each month that is scheduled for City Council at 6:00 p.m. to provide an update on the activities of the Task Force. This can also be done via Zoom, however in person is preferred. A written report is always welcomed.

Recommendation: Move to approve the Task Force meeting schedule of the Fourth Wednesday of the month at 3:00 p.m.



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 23, 2024

John Alexander Underwood
3933 Main Street, Apt. A
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Xander,

Congratulations! Council confirmed/approved your appointment to the Sister City 40th Anniversary Task Force during their Regular Meeting of April 22, 2024, via Memorandum CC-24-088. Your term will expire with the completion of the tasks outlined in Resolution 24-029 or no later than December 31, 2025.

Thank you for your willingness to serve the City of Homer on the Task Force.

Cordially,

Ken Castner, Mayor

Enc: Memorandum CC-24-088
Certificate of Appointment
Resolution 24-029
Robert's Rules of Order City Officials Guide to an Effective Meeting

City of Homer

Homer, Alaska

Mayor's Certificate of Appointment

Greetings

Be It Known That

John "Xander" Underwood

Has been appointed to

serve as a

"Member"

on the

"Sister City 40th Anniversary Task Force"

This appointment is made because of your dedication to the cause of good government, your contributions to your community and your willingness to serve your fellow man.

*In Witness whereof I hereunto set my hand
this 23rd day of April, 2024*



Ken Castner, Mayor

Attest:



Renee Krause, MMC, Acting City Clerk





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www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the Mayor

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April 23, 2024

Charles Anderson
PO Box 2453
Homer, Alaska 99603

Dear Charles,

Congratulations! Council confirmed/approved your appointment to the Sister City 40th Anniversary Task Force during their Regular Meeting of April 22, 2024, via Memorandum CC-24-088. Your term will expire with the completion of the tasks outlined in Resolution 24-029 or no later than December 31, 2025.

Thank you for your willingness to serve the City of Homer on the Task Force.

Cordially,

Ken Castner, Mayor

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City of Homer

Homer, Alaska

Mayor's Certificate of Appointment

Greetings

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Has been appointed to

serve as a

“Member”

on the

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this 23rd day of April, 2024*

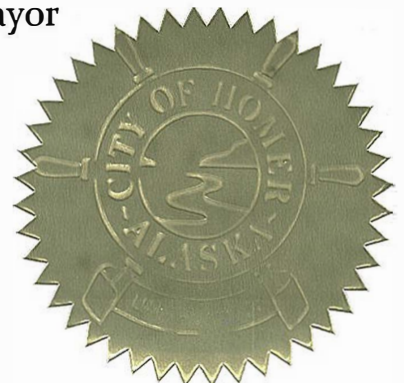


Ken Castner, Mayor

Attest:



Renee Krause, MMC, Acting City Clerk





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Office of the Mayor

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Homer, Alaska 99603

mayor@ci.homer.ak.us

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

April 23, 2024

Gary Lyon
61770 Skyline Drive
Homer, Alaska 99603

Dear Gary,

Congratulations! Council confirmed/approved your appointment to the Sister City 40th Anniversary Task Force during their Regular Meeting of April 22, 2024, via Memorandum CC-24-088. Your term will expire with the completion of the tasks outlined in Resolution 24-029 or no later than December 31, 2025.

Thank you for your willingness to serve the City of Homer on the Task Force.

Cordially,

Ken Castner, Mayor

Enc: Memorandum CC-24-088
Certificate of Appointment
Resolution 24-029
Robert's Rules of Order City Officials Guide to an Effective Meeting

City of Homer

Homer, Alaska

Mayor's Certificate of Appointment

Greetings

Be It Known That

Gary Lyon

Has been appointed to

serve as a

“Member”

on the

“Sister City 40th Anniversary Task Force”

This appointment is made because of your dedication to the cause of good government, your contributions to your community and your willingness to serve your fellow man.

*In Witness whereof I hereunto set my hand
this 23rd day of April, 2024*



Ken Castner, Mayor

Attest:



Renee Krause, MMC, Acting City Clerk



Other sister cities in the Notes from other cities on Sister-City Organizing

SEWARD

From Kris Peck, City Clerk

Yes we likely have some good information to share. We were also brand new at this and had the following exchanges take place:

- In August 2023 we had 4 high school students visit from Obihiro, Japan. (plus their chaperone)
- In September 2023 we had a delegation of Obihiro city officials + citizens visit.
- In October 2023 we sent a similar mix of city officials and citizens to Obihiro.

To answer your specific questions:

1. Basically the City Clerk's Office is in charge as the coordinator. We formed a subgroup of Deputy City Clerk + 1 Council Member + 1 Chamber of Commerce Member to help with the planning.
2. We have a city budget set aside for the sister city exchanges. There was no fundraising.
3. Our council decided on 5 city officials (City Manager, 2 Council Members, Deputy City Clerk and a Chamber of Commerce Representative) to go with the airfare paid by the city. We opened up applications for citizens to join the delegation and they were all selected to go. However, the citizens would pay their own airfare. The perk for them was to utilize the homestays in Obihiro and join the group activities.

I am Cc'ing our Deputy City Clerk Jodi on this one as she can provide you with more information. She also went along on the delegation to Obihiro, whereas I stayed home.

From Jodi Kurtz, Deputy City Clerk

After we knew who were going to Obihiro and had out dates picked, we looked up the cost of the flight for the Japan trip (ANC-Obihiro and Obihiro-ANC) for the dates that we were scheduled to be there. (Arriving Oct 26-Nov 2). We found an Alaska Airline flight to Anchorage and from Obihiro. Then we use that cost of the trip and told the City officials who were chosen to go (5) that they need to get their flight. Some chose to do a small own vacation prior to (or at the end) of the scheduled date. But that we (City) would only reimburse them the cost of the ticket up to the amount we found for the direct flight for those specific dates. This also had to be approved by council to pay for these tickets. The chosen citizens that went who had applied to go and were chosen, like Kris stated, paid their own airfare.

That direct flight that we found for those specific dates was \$2400 per person and for all 5 it came to roughly \$14,000 just for flights. This doesn't include the meal per diem that the city paid for those 5

city delegates when that was needed, and that was only if meal wasn't provided from the host family or an event that provided the meal.

KETCHIKAN

From Jill Walker with Fish and Game

Standalone nonprofit, mainly focused on education. Sends up to 15 eighth-graders to Japan every June, and receives a return class in March. Classes are two weeks long. Also does an annual teacher exchange for one teacher from each community.

Funding comes partly from grants from the school district. Grants pay for airfare, but students are responsible for funding all other expenses. Every winter they do a gift wrap exchange. Raffles. Cookie sales, sponsorships. Community fundraising. Trying to diversify. Grant funding and student-raised funds are kept completely separate.

The nonprofit board is made up of volunteers who are responsible for logistics—arranging a visa for the teacher exchange, interviewing student applicants. The only paid employee is the teacher who is sent to Japan.

The nonprofit has no relationship with the local government aside from receiving the school-district grants. Mayors have gone over to Japan in the past, with their travel funded by one-time grants.

She strongly recommends establishing a 501c3, it helps a lot with fundraising.

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

From Casady Herding and Dana Cannava in the KPB Mayor's Office

KPB has no standing committee or coordinator for sister city stuff. When an official delegation is planned, it's funded on a case-by-case basis by the borough assembly. The assembly pays for its own members to travel, and the mayor's office has a budget line item for travel in general. The government will pay only for officials. Any private citizens that wish to go along, including spouses, must pay their own way.

The government sending the delegation pays for airfare and accommodations. The hosts pay for in-country travel, food and activities. There is currently no mechanism for private fundraising.

KPB had tentatively planned for sending a delegation this fall, but it was cancelled due to cost—airfare was over \$2,000 apiece. Always buy tickets a year in advance. The last delegation the borough received was in 2017.

The driving force behind the sister city relationship is a local Japanese teacher. She organizes the student exchanges, typically 6-8 students and teachers of high school and college age. One year they sent hiphop dancers, another year it was sports teams.

She also advises on gifts. Gifts symbolize a lot more than you think. Don't do ivory or bone; formality is vitally important. She wanted to do a training with personnel about what is appropriate. The higher ranked you are, the less talking you do.

Typical delegation visits include a tour of the city, visiting the landfill to compare services. Golfing, fishing.



CELEBRATING OUR SISTER CITY:

40 Years of Gifts
from Teshio, Japan



Exhibition
May 1 - September 7
Pratt Museum





CH69: Kabuki dolls performing the Ren-Jishi 'Lion Dance'

Date Received: April 19-22, 2002

Location: Japan

Materials: Dolls & fabric hangings, porcelain, Silk cloth, yak hair, paper

Size: 17.5 x 14.15 x 2.5"

Interpretation: These dolls represent the 19th century kabuki play "Ren-Jishi". The actors wear huge red and white manes and perform their coming-of-age-story of a lion-father passing on the family legacy to his lion-son.

CH73: Wooden Owl Carving

Creator: Ainu Artisans

Region: Hokkaido

Materials: wood carving

Size: 6 x 7"



Interpretation: The Ainu believe that every animal has a spirit, a kamuy. The owl spirits were believed to watch over the land and teach humans the rituals needed to live in balance with the spirit world.



CR07:Hagoita Ceremonial Racquet

Creator: Japanese Artisans

Date: Received 1991

Materials: Fabric / Wood, paper, silk, paint, gold leaf

Size 11 x 30"

Interpretation: These wooden racquets are used to play hanetsuki, a special game played by children around the New Year's holiday for good luck.

CH74: Clay Vase

Creator:

Hokkaido Artisans

Date Received: April 1986

Location: Japan

Materials: Fired clay

Size: 8 x 11.5"

Interpretation: This vase invokes the Jomon culture that lived in Japan 10,000 - 15,000 years ago. Today, the Jomon pottery of Hokkaido is some of the oldest known to humanity.





CR01: Samurai with Mt Fuji
 Artist: Tokusa
 Date Received March 1989
 Location: Japan
 Materials: silk print, paper, silk, paint, gold leaf
 Size: 21.25 x 74”
 Interpretation: This samurai rides in full dress with a long-bow yumi before Mt Fuji.



CR02: Katana Japanese Ceremonial Swords
 Date Received: 1995
 Location: Japan
 Materials: Steel / other
 Size: 45 x 17.25”
 Interpretation: These are the Wakizashi and Uchigatana, the “Soul of the Samurai”. These are mounted with their handles to the left, to honor our guests with peaceful intent.

CR06: Iroha, Japanese alphabet poem

Artist: Keisuke Kerizawa, 1895-1984
 Location: Japan
 Materials: fabric
 Size: 14.5 x 21.5”
 Interpretation: Iroha—the Japanese



ABC’s. The first two lines (right to left, top to bottom):
 “I-ro-ha-ni-ho-he-to,
 to-ri-nu-ru-wo...”
 “Even the blossoming flowers,
 will eventually scatter...”

CR05: Mikoshi, Portable Shinto Shrine

Date Received: 1995
 Location: Japan
 Materials: Metal / cloth
 Size: 14.5 x 21.5 x 13.75”

Interpretation: A mikoshi is a portable Shinto shrine used for festivals and special events. There are over 100,000 Shinto shrines in Japan, each one dedicated to a different spirit—kami.



CR10: Traditional Woven Basket

Creator: Ainu Artisans

Location: Hokkaido

Materials:
natural
materials,
bark



Size:
16.25”
diameter

Interpre-
tation:

This tra-
ditional
woven
basket
from Hokkaido bears a striking resem-
blance to the traditional baskets made
here in Alaska.

CR14 Daikokuten’s Lucky Hammer

Creator:

Hokkaido

Artisans

Location:

Made in

Japan

Materials:

Wood / tas-
sel

Size: 7.5 x
6”



Interpretation: This is the lucky hammer
of Daikokuten, the Japanese Buddhist
deity of wealth and good fortune. In
folklore, the hammer is used to make
wishes come true.

**CR16: Wooden gift
plaque**

Creator: Yorozuyako

Mimatsu

Date: June 2nd, 1995

Materials: Wood

Size: 2.25 x 6”

Interpretation: ”A gift from
Teshio-town by Yorozuyako
Mimatsu on June 21st
1985”



**CR20: Wooden gift
plaque**

Materials: natural ma-
terials

Size: 1.5 x 3.25”



CR19: Kutani Vase

Creator: Kutani Ware

Materials: natural materials, bark

Size: 8.5” diameter vase

Interpretation: Kutani ceramics came
onto the world art scene during the
1873 Vienna World’s Fair. Much like
ukiyoe prints, kutani ceramics deeply
influenced the European impression-
ists and subsequent modern art
movements.





CR25: Geta, Traditional Wooden Sandals

Materials: wood / fabric
Size: 3.25 x 9 x 2”

Interpretation: Geta are traditional dress shoes, worn to mark special occasions in a person’s life. The thick wooden soles make a distinctive sound on ancient cobblestone streets and mountain temple paths.



CR23: Wooden gift plaque for kabuto

Materials: wood
Size: 3.24 x 9 x .5”

Interpretation: “Star helmet”

CR24: Koto Traditional Stringed Instrument

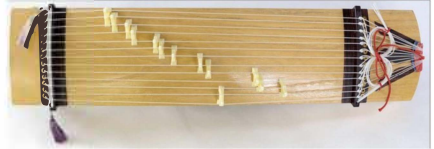
Creator: Japanese Artisans

Location: Made in Japan

Materials: Paulownia wood & other materials

Size: 23 x 5.25 x 3”

Interpretation: The koto is the national instrument of Japan. The 13 strings are plucked with 3 fingerpicks on the right hand, and the bridges are moved to provide different tunings. This is a portable koto, a full size is about 6’ long.



CR26: Sensu Folding Paper Fan

Creator: Japanese Artisans

Materials: Paper / wood

Size: 15 x 8.75”

Interpretation: There are many types of fans used around the world, but the folding paper fan is a Japanese invention from the 6th century. Form and function combine to create an art object that is almost too beautiful to use.



CR27: Wooden gift plaque

Location: Hokkaido

Materials: wood

Size: 3 x 8 x .75”

Interpretation: An Illustration of the Monument to Japan’s Northernmost Point at Cape Wakkanai. “Japan’s northernmost city proof of arrival”



CR29: Wooden Plaque

Date Received: 2005

Materials: wood

Size: Double sided, 11.75 x 13.5 x 2.75”



CR30: Sensu Traditional Fan

Creator: Japanese Artisans

Materials: Paper / Gold leaf

Size: 9.5 x 7”

Interpretation: Fans are used for cooling down in hot Japanese summers, but they are



also used in tea ceremonies, kabuki performances and as gifts.



CR31: Ainu Spoon

Creator: Ainu Artisans

Date Received: 1991

Location: Hokkaido

Materials: Wood

Size: 19” x 2.5”

Interpretation: The Ainu are the Indigenous people of northern Japan. The intricate carved lines on this spoon are reminiscent of the Formline art of the indigenous First Nation peoples of Northwest America. The Ainu believed that these patterns of intricate knots protect the user by trapping evil spirits.

CR04: Ukiyoe Kabuki Performers

Artist: Utagawa Toyokuni

Received March 1989

Location: Japan

Materials: textile print

Size: 33 x 59”

Interpretation: Ukiyoe “The Floating World” is a style of art that came to fame throughout the world in the 1600-1800’s. These are two kabuki actors performing a play.



There are more treasures that have been gifted to the City located at City Hall in the Conference Room that were not included in the display due to limitation on space.



自然のめぐみに包まれる



T E S 2 3 H I O

Experience Japanese Taiko Drums with Tomodachi Daiko!



Join us for Tomodachi Daiko's immersive Japanese traditional drum performances and workshops in Homer.



Workshop Details: FREE event

When: Friday, May 3, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Where: Kachemak Bay Campus
Room 202 (533 E. Pioneer Avenue)

What: Witness the craftsmanship behind Taiko drum building and enjoy a live performance.

Format: Potluck style! Bring a dish to share with fellow enthusiasts.

Performances: FREE events

When: Saturday, May 4

Where: Homer High School
Mariner Theater

Showtimes:

11:00 am - 11:45 am

1:00 pm - 1:45 pm

4:30 pm - 5:15 pm



Additional Workshop (May 4):

With a special performance from the Alaska Japanese Club students.

Time: 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Location: Mariner Theater



Help us celebrate the city's 40th Sister City Anniversary with Teshio, Hokkaido, Japan.

Sponsored by the City of Homer

For more info 907-235-8121 ext. 2222 24



**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

Lord/Venuti

RESOLUTION 24-029

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,
CREATING A SISTER CITY 40TH ANNIVERSARY TASK FORCE AND
ESTABLISHING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND PARAMETERS UNDER
WHICH THE TASK FORCE WILL OPERATE.

WHEREAS, The City of Homer has a longstanding and cherished sister city relationship with Teshio, Japan; and

WHEREAS, The 40th anniversary of our sister city relationship in 2024 presents an opportunity for a significant celebration to enhance cultural exchange, understanding, and friendship; and

WHEREAS, A Sister City Working Group, formed in August 2023 of interested stakeholders, has diligently developed plans for the celebration, including events, exhibits, and programs; and

WHEREAS, The Sister City Working Group has proposed many ideas that lie outside the operations of the City of Homer, but may be supported by private groups or individuals; and

WHEREAS, The City desires to create a formal Task Force to clearly distinguish between celebrations sponsored by the City of Homer and privately-supported events, and to manage the City's celebrations without impeding the ability of other groups to develop and promote events of their own; and

WHEREAS, The Task Force is intended to exist until it completes its mission as defined below, but it shall not extend beyond December 31, 2025 at the latest.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, hereby creates the Sister City 40th Anniversary Task Force for the following purposes:

1. Foster close relations with our sister city government in Teshio, by collaborating with them on planning joint activities, possibly including an exchange of delegations in 2025.
2. Plan and organize events for the 40th anniversary celebrations. The Task Force shall formalize a plan for events in calendar years 2024 and 2025, building off the planning already completed by the Sister City Working Group. The plan shall include a timeline, specific budget figures, and a strategy for carrying out the events in collaboration with local businesses and community groups. The Task Force shall present its plan to the

44 City Council no later than June 30, 2024, with updates provided to the Council at the
45 end of each fiscal quarter thereafter.

- 46
- 47 3. Keep the celebrations within the constraints imposed by limited funding, and advise
48 the City Council on expenditure of City funds allocated for the 40th anniversary
49 celebrations. Utilizing funds allocated by the City Council for this effort, the Task Force
50 shall follow the City of Homer's Procurement Policy and all other applicable City
51 policies, maintain all requisite financial documentation, and make regular reports on
52 funding status and budget oversight by memo to the City Council. Nothing shall
53 preclude private individuals or businesses from raising funds for their own celebrations,
54 provided it is clear that such events are separate from, and outside the scope of,
55 activities carried out by the Task Force.
- 56
- 57 4. Community engagement. In coordination with the City staff liaison, the Task Force shall
58 actively conduct public outreach and recruit volunteers in support of its activities. The
59 Task Force shall coordinate and direct volunteer efforts and acknowledge those
60 volunteers at the conclusion of its operations.

61

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the task force will set its own meeting schedule through
63 coordination with the Clerk's office, with meetings to be held during regular business hours.

64

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Task Force will consist of five private citizen members.
66 A City staff liaison will be assigned by the City Manager. The deadline to apply for the task force
67 shall be March 25th with appointments made by the Mayor and approved by the City Council at
68 the April 8th Homer City Council meeting.

69


70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Mayor will nominate appointees to the Task Force from
71 a list of applicants; nominees must be approved by City Council. All appointees shall serve at
72 the pleasure of the Council and may be removed from their position by a majority of the
73 Council at any time without cause.

74

75 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 11th day of March, 2024.

76

77 CITY OF HOMER

78 
79 _____
80 KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

81 ATTEST:

82 
83 _____
84 MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

85

86 Fiscal note: Staff time and advertising.





MEMORANDUM

Resolution 24-029, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska to Create a Sister City 40th Anniversary Task Force and Establishing the Scope of Work and Parameters under which the Task Force will Operate. City Manager.

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor and City Council
Date: March 11, 2024
From: Lori Pond, Assistant to the City Manager / Sister City Coordinator
Through: Rob Dumouchel

Summary: The purpose of this Memorandum is to recommend the creation of a Sister City 40th Anniversary Task Force and establish the scope of work and parameters under which the Task Force will operate.

Background: The 40th Anniversary of the Sister City relationship between Homer and Teshio, Japan is in 2024. This anniversary offers a chance for a meaningful celebration promoting cultural exchange and friendship. On February 12, 2024, Homer City Council adopted Ordinance 24-11 appropriating \$20,000 from the General Fund Capital Asset Repair and Maintenance Allowance (CARMA) Fund to support events, exhibits, and programs celebrating this 40th anniversary.

Within Ordinance 24-11 City Council additionally requested that a 40th Anniversary Sister City Task Force be formed. Resolution 24-0xx, before you, establishes the 40th Anniversary Sister City Task Force and establishes the scope of work and parameters under which the Task Force will operate.

In addition to a city staff liaison, who will be assigned by the City Manager, the Task Force will consist of five private citizen members.

The duration of the Task Force will exist until it completes its mission as defined in Resolution 24-029, but it shall not extend beyond December 31, 2025 at the latest.

A dedicated Sister City Working Group, established in August 2023, has worked diligently to plan events, exhibits, and programs for the celebration. The Task Force would continue with carrying out those plans.

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution 24-029