



AGENDA

Economic Development Advisory Commission Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 6:00 PM

City Hall Conference Room In-Person & Via Zoom Webinar

Homer City Hall

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

Zoom Webinar ID: 990 0366 1092 Password: 725933

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, 6:00 P.M.**
2. **AGENDA APPROVAL**
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA** (3 minute time limit)
4. **RECONSIDERATION**
5. **CONSENT AGENDA** (Items listed below are considered routine and non-controversial by the Commission and are approved in one motion. If a separate discussion is desired on an item, a Commissioner may request that item be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda under New Business.)
 - 5.A. EDC Meeting Minute Approval **Page 3 - 6**
[Unapproved January 10, 2023 EDC Minutes](#)
6. **VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**
7. **STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS** (5 minute time limit)
 - 7.A. February Staff Report **Page 7 - 8**
[Agenda Item Report EDC 23-004](#)
 - 7.B. Mayor's Report
 - 7.C. Homer Marine Trades Association (HMTA) Report **Page 9 - 12**
[HMTA Meeting Minutes 1/4/2023](#)
[HMTA Meeting Agenda 1/26/2023](#)
8. **PUBLIC HEARING(S)**
9. **PENDING BUSINESS**
 - 9.A. Housing and Short Term Rentals **Page 13**
[Agenda Item Report EDC 23-005](#)
10. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - 10.A. Wayfinding and Streetscape: Banner Design **Page 14 - 15**
[Agenda Item Report EDC 23-006](#)

10.B.	Land Allocation Plan Agenda Item Report EDC 23-007	Page 16 - 22
10.C.	Chamber of Commerce Strategic Plan Worksession Agenda Item Report EDC 23-008	Page 23 - 27
10.D.	EDC Mission Statement and Defining Positive Economic Development Agenda Item Report EDC 23-009	Page 28 - 30
11.	INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS	
11.A.	Small Business Development Center Quarterly Report SBDC Homer Quarterly Report 2022 Oct-Dec	Page 31
11.B.	Kachemak Bay Campus Job Fair Job Fair Flier 3/3/2023	Page 32
11.C.	City of Homer Newsletter February 2023 Issue	Page 33 - 44
11.D.	City Manager's Reports (<i>laydown</i>)	
11.E.	EDC Strategic Plan 2022-23 EDC Strategic Plan	Page 45 - 47
11.F.	EDC Meeting & City Council Report Calendar EDC 2023 Calendar	Page 48
12.	COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)	
13.	COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF	
14.	COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION	
15.	ADJOURNMENT Next Regular Meeting is Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. and a Worksession on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. All meetings are scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Session 23-01 a Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Karin Marks at 6:06 p.m. on January 10, 2023 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Gordon Pitzman was appointed November 14, 2022 to fill the vacant seat.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS MARKS, AREVALO, GAMBLE, PEREZ

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS PITZMAN, CHEROK, BROWN (excused)

CONSULTING: STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE PEARSON

STAFF: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER ENGBRETSSEN, DEPUTY CITY CLERK TUSSEY

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

GAMBLE/PEREZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

4. RECONSIDERATION

5. CONSENT AGENDA (Items listed below are considered routine and non-controversial by the Commission and are approved in one motion. If a separate discussion is desired on an item, a Commissioner may request that item be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda under New Business.)

5.A. EDC Meeting Minute Approval
November 1, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes

Deputy City Clerk Tussey read the Consent Agenda. Chair Marks requested a motion.

GAMBLE/PEREZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

6. VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

7. STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.A. EDC Staff Report
Agenda Item Report - EDC 23-003

Economic Development Manager Engebretsen spoke to her written report, highlighting the notable events and work that took place through December. She verified with the commission that they would

like to add the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District (KPEDD) Industry Outlook Forum to the EDC's calendar for every January as a reminder for participation and to have it as an agenda item.

There was brief discussion on the new Food System Resilience tool that Commissioner Arevalo provided information on.

- 7.B. Homer Marine Trades Association (HMTA) Report
HMTA Meeting Minutes 11/8/2022
HMTA Agenda 1/4/2023

Chair Marks noted the HMTA meeting information that was provided in the packet.

8. PUBLIC HEARING

9. PENDING BUSINESS

- 9.A. Housing Report
Agenda Item Report - EDC 23-002

Chair Marks introduced the agenda item by reading the title.

Economic Development Manager Engebretsen explained how the City was intending to host a housing forum partially as a way to give people the opportunity to speak their concerns, and partially to help staff with Comprehensive Plan work. Staff recently learned that there are other organizations in the community who would like to do the same thing. So rather than duplicate that effort the City would like to collaborate with those groups, such as MAPPS and South Peninsula Hospital Foundation, and what some of that joint effort may look like. Any forums or public events scheduled will likely be in March.

Chair Marks noted there will be an initial stakeholders meeting on January 30th; she and Ms. Engebretsen will be participating and she encouraged other commissioners to attend if interested.

There was discussion on the upcoming housing stakeholder's meeting and who is involved, when it's taking place, and what information will be discussed at that meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- 10.A. Discussion of KPEDD Industry Outlook Forum & EDC Strategic Plan
Agenda Item Report - EDC 23-001

Chair Marks introduced the agenda item by reading the title. She noted the agenda from the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District (KPEDD) Industry Outlook Forum is in the packet and deferred to Economic Development Manager Engebretsen.

Ms. Engebretsen highlighted a few of the forum presentations she had good takeaways from, including:

- Demographic statistics from the Alaska Travel Industry Association on who is visiting the State of Alaska and Kenai Peninsula, and what those stats may be saying about Homer.
- Upcoming resource opportunity on how to start and operate an in-home daycare.
- Infrared drying technology, initially started for fish products but is now being used by peony industries.

Chair Marks shared her takeaways from the forum and how she applied them to the EDC's strategic plan, most notably:

- Efforts by a local State employee to get better understanding of what it takes to license and work with the State.
- Local resources that provide workforce development; lots of work being done by the transit task force; that workforce development is getting that child care and transportation to get people to/from home and work. Potentially having person from Nine Star present to EDC at a future meeting. Ms. Engebretsen suggested the presentation be at the Council level.
- "Long Trail" project; using existing trails and creating signage and connection points that creates one long trail from Fairbanks to Seward, maybe to Homer as well.

There was discussion on the various forum sessions, the comments made by Chair Marks and Ms. Engebretsen, and how the EDC can address some of these topics at future meetings and through their strategic plan. In response to Chair Mark's comments regarding job presentations at the high school, commissioners and Student Representative Pearson further discussed the Focus On Learning (FOL) classes for high school students where they learn about specific topics or careers. Some commissioners voiced an interest in giving future presentations.

11. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- 11.A. Alaska's Economic Performance in National Context by the UA Center for Economic Development
UAA Handout, November 2022
- 11.B. Appointment of Gordon Pitzman to EDC
EDC Pitzman Appointment Application & Materials, November 2022
- 11.C. City of Homer Newsletter
January 2023 Issue
- 11.D. City Manager's Reports
CM Report for November 14, 2022
CM Report for November 28, 2022
- 11.E. EDC Meeting & City Council Report Calendar
EDC 2023 Calendar

Chair Marks noted the informational items in the packet.

Deputy City Clerk Tussey facilitated discussion on the EDC calendar to determine who would be reporting at upcoming Council meetings. She noted she will work with Economic Development Manager Engebretsen on updating the Annual Topic/Events column, and they can fill in the remaining Council Report openings at the next meeting when more commissioners are in attendance.

12. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

13. COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Deputy City Clerk Tussey shared information on the Special Mayoral Election that will be taking place February 14, 2023. Ms. Engebretsen clarified that would mean the EDC's February 14th meeting will be held in the upstairs Conference Room.

Economic Development Manager Engebretsen commented it was a great meeting and thanked the commission for brainstorming on some of the ways she can help connect people and businesses in the community.

14. COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Perez announced he now has a happy healthy little girl.

Student Representative Pearson commented on the "long trail" project and how she thinks a lot of people she knows would be really interested in that idea. Chair Marks noted the Homer Trail Alliance would very much appreciate having additional input, particularly from younger people. Ms. Pearson suggested it be one of the Focus On Learning topics.

Commissioner Arevalo commented on how technology allowed her to join the meeting while driving to the meeting, and on the Homer Grown show on KBBI. The show interviews local business people in the agriculture realm or local scientists and other professionals who assist those on the Southern Kenai Peninsula regarding their food system businesses. Episodes can be found on the KBBI website or any podcast platform.

Commissioner Gamble spoke to Commissioner Arevalo's comments in relation to food security and how we are not producing enough food in our area. He agreed with Student Representative Pearson's point that they cannot go after seniors for work/job recruiting because they already have plans for post-graduation; they should be directing job training efforts towards freshman and sophomores. He commented on the "long trail" project and how it was an extremely large undertaking, is glad to hear there's a lot of local resources and activity, but it's important to advocate for it on a State level. In response to Commissioner Gamble's inquiry on where they were at with meeting with the Chamber, Ms. Engebretsen confirmed with the commission around when they would like to hold a worksession. Commissioner Gamble congratulated Commissioner Perez on the birth of his daughter.

Chair Marks remarked on Commissioner Arevalo's comments on technology, setting a worksession with the Chamber possibly in April or earlier, and on the Outlook Industry Forum topic of broadband. Commissioner Arevalo had spoken to it earlier and things are seriously moving forward on it at the Federal level.

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Marks adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m. The next regular meeting is Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. and scheduled to be held in the City Hall Conference Room and via Zoom Webinar.

RACHEL TUSSEY, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

Approved: _____



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

February Staff Report

Item Type: Informational Item
Prepared For: Economic Development Advisory Commission
Meeting Date: 14 Feb 2023
Staff Contact: Julie Engebretsen

Summary Statement:

- March meeting: Head Count! Please let staff know if you will be gone for the March 14th meeting (spring break if you have kids in school).
- HERC work session: On March 20th, staff will have a worksession with Council on the HERC buildings/Pioneer Ave Gateway project. The time is not yet set, but late afternoon/early evening is the idea.
- Port Expansion project: You may be hearing about the proposed expansion of the Homer Harbor. The next step is a three year process with the Army Corps of Engineers, called the General Investigation (GI). This process has not started but should in the coming weeks/months. It includes quite a bit of public process, and a full NEPA review. Check out the project web page on the Port and Harbor website. You can also sign up for project updates via email. If you are interested, watch the Port and Harbor Commission agendas. (When things officially get started, you can expect a lot more outreach. I am not heavily involved in this project, and I don't expect that to change much. Longer term, like fall, think about how/if the EDC wants to participate.

Old Town Work

City staff including Public Works Director Jan Keiser, Economic Development Manager Julie Engebretsen, and Associate Planner Bella Vaz, partnered with Bunnell Street Arts Center to host a neighborhood meeting to discuss road improvements in Old Town on Tuesday, February 7. In July 2022, City staff and their consultant, Nelson Engineering, asked the neighborhood's community members for ideas on what road improvements they would like to see in the Old Town area. At the February 7 meeting, Nelson Engineering presented design options that were drafted in response to that conversation. Design options included landscaping, parking, and sidewalks along Ohlson Lane and Bunnell Avenue. Residents and business owners had the opportunity to voice their concerns and provide feedback, and staff was able to gather valuable community input on the proposed project as a result of the meeting.

The meeting was attended by neighborhood residents and business owners who had suggestions on the proposed designs for the two streets. There was overall support of the construction of the sidewalk and parallel parking along Ohlson Lane from the group, so discussion was focused on the design of West Bunnell Avenue. Specifically, on how parking stalls could be aligned in the two blocks of West Bunnell Avenue and where crosswalks could be located. Representatives from Kinney Engineering, who are the City’s consultants for the Transportation Plan, also attended the meeting. Kinney Engineering provided an overview and feedback on traffic calming and parking to meeting attendees. A component of this work in Old Town will be reflected in the Transportation Plan.

From some of the attendees, there was support for making the area more pedestrian-friendly and less vehicle-centric. Staff provided the opportunity of utilizing the upcoming comprehensive plan update and zoning code rewrite processes for community members to contribute walkability ideas to the overall vision of the community. More information from Public Works is to come on this project, as it is competing for resources with other needed infrastructure improvement projects in the city. Public Works Director Jan Keiser will be available to provide a presentation and answer questions in an upcoming work session to the Planning Commission.



**Homer Marine Trades Association
Regular Business Meeting
January 4, 2023
Bay Welding Services**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Vice President, Eric Engebretsen.

Officers/Directors Present: Eric Engebretsen, Cinda Martin, Josh Hankin-Foley, Kate Mitchell, Mark Zeiset and Bruce Friend. Aaron Fleenor, Claire Neaton, Adam Smude and Jen Hakala were absent/excused.

Guests: Amy Woodruff, Jesus Trejo and Harbormaster, Bryan Hawkins

Guest Presentations:

- Amy Woodruff – applicant for our Communications Director; she currently holds an administrative supervisor position at The Port & Harbor primarily in the billing area which expertise, knowledge and existing work schedule will compliment HMTA and be mutually beneficial. Her resume has been provided to board members.
- Jesus Trejo – previous marine trade coordinator at KPC, has been able to establish a relationship with the Training Resources Limited Maritime Institute and can now proctor USCG approved online courses and testing. He is looking for an office to use periodically to proctor exams. He also assists the students with submitting certification documentation. He asked that we include information on our site/social media about the option for the online courses with local testing. Bryan offered the conference and meeting rooms at the Port & Harbor as an option.
- Bryan Hawkins – reported that they are working with the Army Corps of Engineers to get started on the study since receiving budget approval. The City has hired HDR as the contractor to work with the Corps. They are also working on the City's priority legislative list and will be visiting Juneau soon. He is serving on the board for Alaska Marine Exchange which covers vessel tracking; they are currently looking for some funding to tackle improvements for communications with Voice over IP to improve marine safety. He would like HMTA to write a letter of support if possible.
- Lindsey Martin, FLEX Careers Teacher (not present) – Josh presented on her behalf; she is looking for career presenters to do a short presentation/hands on activity for her students. Contact her at lmartin2@kpbsd.k12.ak.us

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Kate Mitchell to approve the Agenda as amended, 2nd carried.

Approval of Minutes of November meeting: Motion by Kate Mitchell to approve the Minutes of the November, 2022 meeting as written, 2nd and carried.

Treasurer's Report – Kate Mitchell for Jen Hakala; reviewed the Trial Balance through January 4th, attached for the record. All bills have been paid to date.

Review 3-Year Comparison Profit & Loss – Jen is working on preparing a comparison spreadsheet and would like to review at another meeting

Committee Reports:

- Advertising – Kate reported that the Tide Books came in and the last box was delivered today; our net income from the Tide Book is about \$800 after raising the ad rate to \$375 from \$350. We may look at raising it again for 2024. The membership brochure was printed in time for Fish Expo, there are copies to distribute to members. Fisherman’s News and Pacific Fishing are up for renewal; the City typically covers the cost of the ads as part of their advertising budget. We continue to have a local radio presence advertising our efforts toward workforce development. It was suggested that the committee create a master list with events/ads, dates and responsible parties. Will re-visit next meeting.
- Website/Social Media – Josh reported that he and Claire were working on updating the membership list; Claire indicated that the list was just about complete, Josh will connect with Claire to finish up
- Workforce Development -
 - FOLs – Mark reported that he did his in November; all of the December FOL’s were postponed to January however there has been no follow up with Walter. Eric will see if he can contact Walter.
 - KPC courses – Kate reported that there is no replacement for Jesus but that Reid and Jill are working on coordinating courses. Eric reported that the collaboration between Bay Welding and the KPC Welding course is moving forward and all paperwork has been completed and a class schedule has been advertised. Cinda will invite Jill to attend our next meeting to give an update on the new courses.
 - Career Fair at KPC 3/3/23 – Cinda reported that she will be putting a Marine Trades panel together to present at the Career Fair; will need a few member businesses to participate and some panel discussion topics. HMTA will have a table and Cinda will email members for any information they would like presented. HMTA will be advertising the Fair through the website and social media and will cover any cost which should be minimal.
 - Jesus Trejo – private license to proctor
- Scholarship – Cinda reported that there have been no applications to date for course reimbursements. She will check in with Jill at KPC.
- Membership – no report

Old Business:

- Anchorage Boat Show – Feb 17, 18, 19, 2023 at Dena’ina Center – Eric reported that Bay Weld will be taking two full size boats as well as the Chamber raffle boat. The Chamber will be paying for their space/table within our block. Looking for vendors to participate in our block. Published price is \$8/sf for a 10x10 booth. Eric will be negotiating the cost of the space, just needs to lock down the size of the space. Bruce and Eric will be negotiating/organizing the block. Historically we take a 50’ x 60’ space with 20’ x 60’ available for vendor displays but may need more space this year with the inclusion of the Chamber. We will need to have an email vote since we have no firm numbers at this point. Eric/Bruce will negotiate the contract and email the board with a plan and Bruce will work on filling spots. It is anticipated that they will want their booth space fee upfront.
- PME 2022 Recap – Kate reported that the show was successful however the booth was the same 10’ x 30’ as in the past but we did not have the traditional HMTA representation. The booth primarily consisted of the Port & Harbor and NOMAR which made for very long days for those

two participants. Member businesses should be encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity; start prospecting early.

- Communications Director Position – candidate review, resume attached for Amy Woodruff. Will need to include in the job description who the position reports to, suggested President/Secretary. Motion by Mark Zeiset that the compensation be set @ \$500/month for 12 months (\$6,000/yr) as a contractor with the contractor to regulate their hours estimated at 4-5 hours per week/16-20 hours per month with the expectation that some times during the year will be busier than others, 2nd and carried. Motion by Cinda Martin to revise attached job description to include reporting structure (President/Secretary), that the position will be contract labor according to the compensation approved in the previous motion, 2nd and carried. Motion by Cinda Martin to present Amy Woodruff with the offer according to the above motions, 2nd and carried. Eric will revise the job description, circulate to the board members via email prior to presenting the offer to Amy.

New Business

- Marine Exchange letter of support – Josh volunteered to write the letter of support and will email to Cinda to attach to next meeting agenda for approval
- PME – 2023

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 26, 2022 at the Homer Harbor Office

Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the members, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cinda Martin
Secretary

**Homer Marine Trades Association
Regular Business Meeting
January 26, 2023
Harbor Master's Office**

AGENDA

Call to Order

Guest Presentations

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of January meeting

Treasurer's Report –Jen Hakala
Review 3-Year Comparison Profit & Loss

Committee Reports:

- Advertising – Kate
- Website/Social Media – Josh
- Radio – Mark details of Alpha Media ad
- Workforce Development - Aaron
 - FOLs – follow up with Walter
 - KPC courses – follow up with Jill
 - Career Fair at KPC 3/3/23 – Cinda
- Scholarship – Cinda
- Membership –

Old Business:

- Anchorage Boat Show – Feb 17, 18, 19, 2023 at Dena'ina Center
 - Set up – Eric
 - Booths - Bruce
- Communications Director Amy Woodruff
 - Tasks to start?
 - Update Member Lists/Mail Chimp for broadcast emails

New Business

- PME – 2023

Next Meeting:

Adjourn:



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Housing and Short Term Rentals

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: Economic Development Advisory Commission
Meeting Date: 14 Feb 2023
Staff Contact: Julie Engebretsen

Summary Statement:

Strategic Plan, Near Term Goals:

3. Housing: affordable short and long term housing. Seasonal workers, general work force, seniors, etc. affordable year round housing. (Marks)

Task: Stay engaged with the City for all housing conversations

This staff report has two parts: General housing conversation, and short term rentals. No Action requested.

Housing - Chair Marks will give an update on efforts toward a community event on Housing, scheduled for March.

Short term rentals: The City Council will hold a public hearing and vote on Monday Feb 13th on the purchase of software to track short term rentals. You can read the draft ordinance here: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/ordinance/ordinance-23-05-funding-short-term-rental-tracking-services-govos>

Myself or Mayor Castner can provide any updates on Council's actions and intentions. To my knowledge, the purpose of the software for the first year will be to gather data. With some data, then the City can make an informed decision about whether a permit system specific for short term rentals is needed.

Staff Recommendation:

No action; discussion only



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Wayfinding and Streetscape: Banner Design

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: Economic Development Advisory Commission
Meeting Date: 14 Feb 2023
Staff Contact: Julie Engebretsen
Attachments: [Draft Banners](#)

Summary Statement:

Peter Briggs with Corvus Design is under contract with the City to help create new summer banners for Pioneer Ave. Peter worked with a graphic artist to create the four attached banners. A 5th banner with the City logo is also planned.

I expect staff will have the final approval of the designs so we can get these ordered and up this spring. If you want to be more involved in final approval, let me know and I can include you in emails about the project!

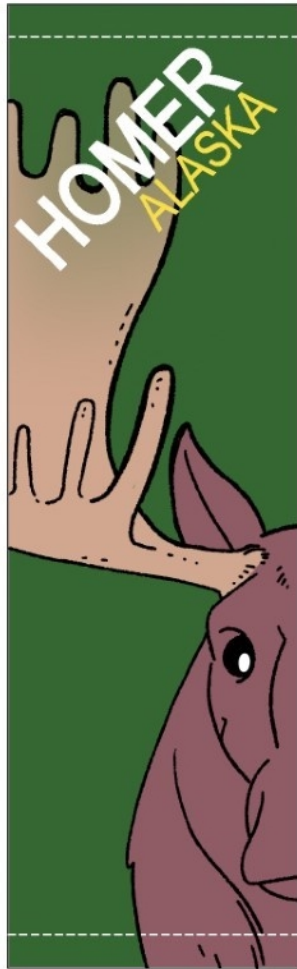
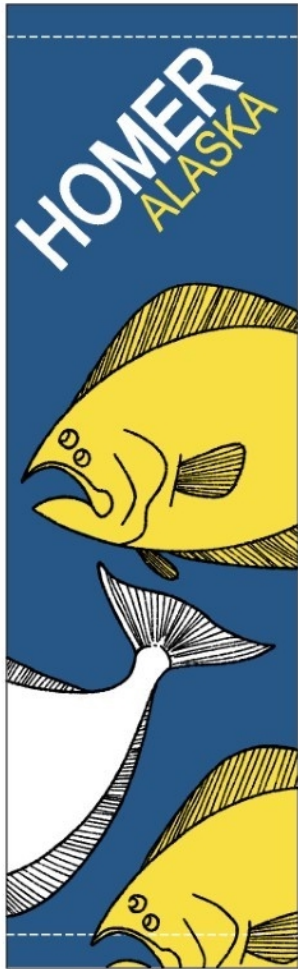
Are there any objections to these draft banners?

Staff Recommendation:

For discussion, no motion necessary.

Attachments:

[Draft Banners](#)





AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Land Allocation Plan

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: Economic Development Advisory Commission
Meeting Date: 14 Feb 2023
Staff Contact: Julie Engebretsen
Attachments: [Section A Available for lease](#)

Summary Statement:

Each year, the EDC and the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission (PHC) review the City's Land Allocation Plan (LAP). The purpose of the review is to make a recommendation to Council on which City lands should be available for lease. Most years these lands are on the Spit, and PHC provides the majority of the comments. Staff also uses this process to bring up problems with City lands. For this meeting please review Section A of the LAP, Lands Available for Lease.

Staff Discussion: You'll notice the over slope areas around the harbor on page A-3. These are locations someone would build a boardwalk out over the edge of the harbor, and there are four locations available for lease. *Staff recommends* removing areas 2,3 & 4 from lease. Area 1 has a prospective tenant that has been working through the process, so I would not want to change the status of that area at this time. But for the others, there has been no interest. These locations are very complex to develop, and the City needs a plan for parking, etc. We've learned a lot through the process on Area 1. I don't think the City is really ready to lease these over slope areas, and our time is better spent on other work. Commission thoughts?

On Page A-4, those two lands should be reserved for fisheries uses or short term lease.

Staff Recommendation:

Make a recommendation on lands available for lease.

Attachments:

[Section A Available for lease](#)

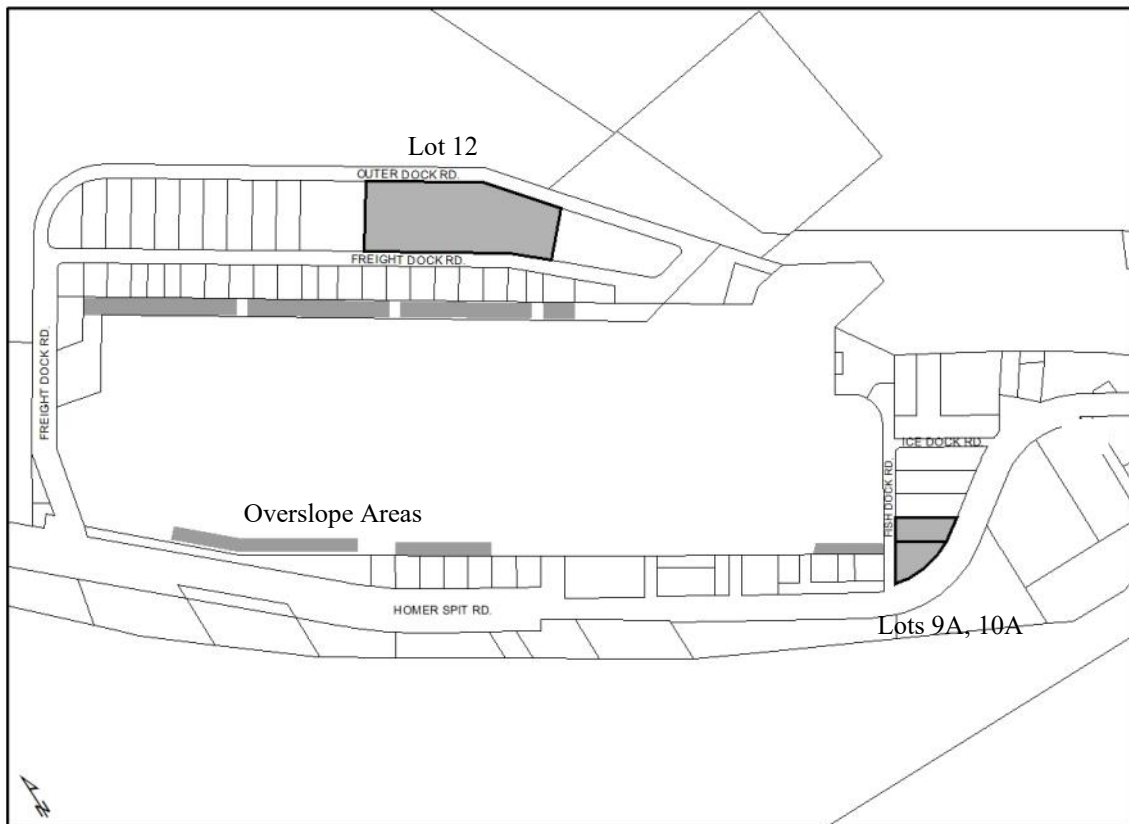
Section A

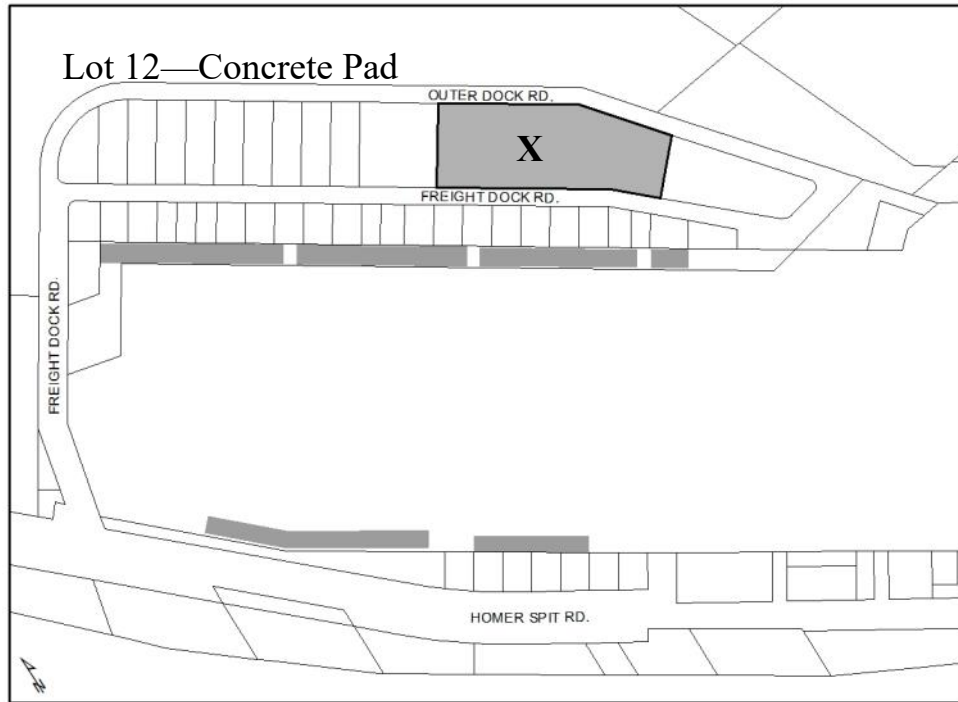
Lands available for lease

The following lots, and select areas within the Homer Airport are available for lease in 2020. Lease procedures follow the City of Homer City Code, Title 18.

The ~~Port and Harbor~~ **Economic Development** Office provides information on long term leasing on the Homer Spit **as well as**. ~~The Harbor also manages~~ short term leases and license agreements, such as vending machines, bike rentals and itinerant merchants. For more information, contact 907-435-3119.

The City Manager's Office handles airport terminal leasing. For more information, contact 907-235-8121 ext 2222.





Designated Use: Lease
Acquisition History:

Area: 5 acres

Parcel Number: 18103220

2022 Assessed Value: \$764,700 (Land: \$507,400, Structure/Improvements: \$257,300)

Legal Description: Homer Spit Subdivision no 5 Lot 12

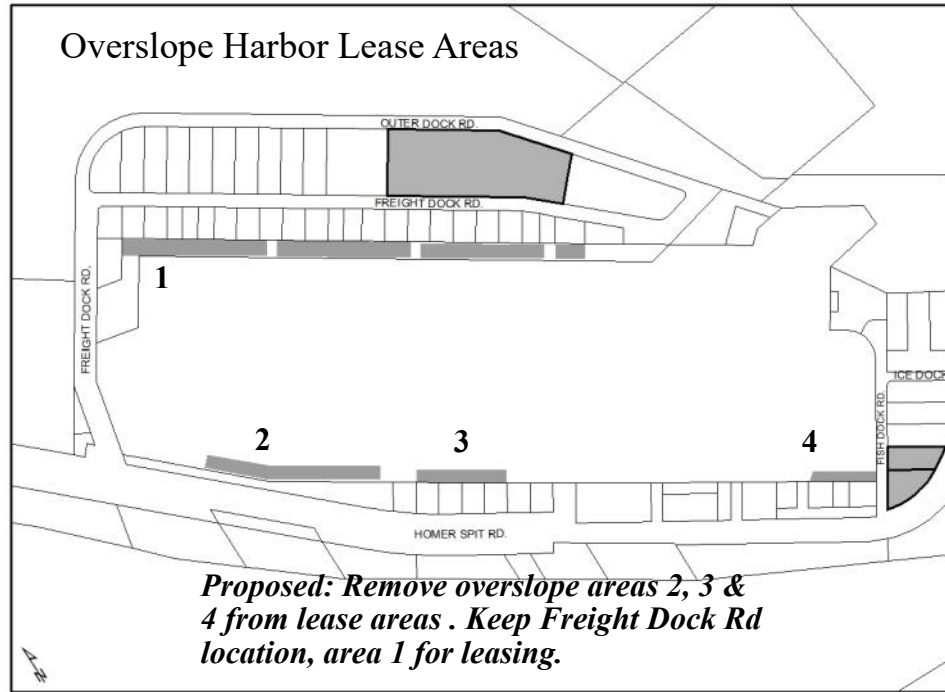
Zoning: Marine Industrial

Infrastructure: Water, sewer, paved road access, fenced, security lighting

Address: 4380 Homer Spit Road

Notes: 1 acre portion under lease per Resolution 18-084 to Alaska Scrap and Recycling, 5 year lease

Prior to a long-term lease the site is appraised. The appraised lease rates for up-lands is approximately \$0.90 per square foot, per annum. Lease rates vary; contact the **Economic Development at 907-435-3119**. Harbor Office at 907-235-3160.



Designated Use: Lease
 Resolution 17-33

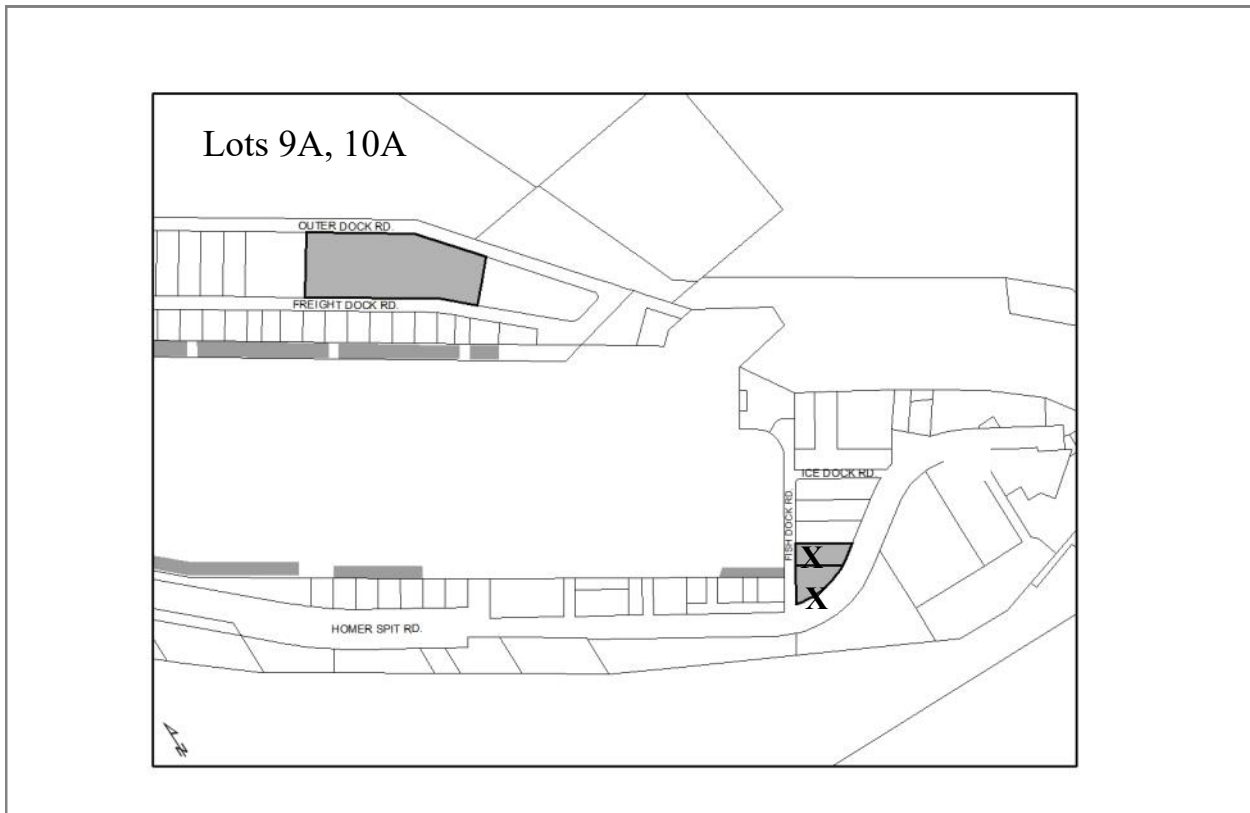
Area:	Parcel Number:
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Legal Description:

Zoning: Marine Commercial and Small Boat Harbor Overlay	
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Infrastructure:	Address:
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Prior to a long-term lease the site is appraised. The appraised lease rates for uplands is approximately \$0.90 per square foot, per annum. Lease rates vary; contact the **Economic Development at 907-435-3119**. Harbor Office at 907-235-3160.



Designated Use: Lease Lands	
Acquisition History:	
Area: 1.05 acres (0.52 and 0.53 acres)	Parcel Number: 18103477, 78
2022 Assessed Value: Land value \$333,500	
Legal Description: T 7S R 13W SEC 1 SEWARD MERIDIAN HM 2007136 HOMER SPIT REPLAT 2006 LOT 9-A and 10A	
Zoning: Marine Industrial	
Infrastructure: Water, sewer, gas, Spit Trail, paved road access	Address:
<p>Prior to a long-term lease the site is appraised. The appraised lease rates for uplands is approximately \$0.90 per square foot, per annum. Lease rates vary; contact the <u>Economic Development at 907-435-3119</u>. Harbor Office at 907-235-3160.</p>	
Finance Dept. Code:	

Homer Airport Terminal



Designated Use: Airport
Acquisition History:

Available for lease

- Concession area across from baggage claim, 110 square feet, \$2/psf plus concession fees plus taxes.

Contact the City Manager's office at 907-235-8121 ext. 2222 for more information

Finance Dept. Code:



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Chamber of Commerce Strategic Plan Worksession

Item Type:	Action Memorandum
Prepared For:	Economic Development Advisory Commission
Meeting Date:	14 Feb 2023
Staff Contact:	Julie Engebretsen
Attachments:	Homer Chamber-Visitor Center Strategic Plan (2027) v3 7-28-22

Summary Statement:

The Commission is scheduled to have a work session with Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Brad Anderson on Tuesday February 28th, at 5:30 pm. Former EDC Commissioner Adele Person has agreed to facilitate the conversation. At the work session we will talk about the role of each organization. This is an opportunity to have a conversation about how we can work together on some common goals.

Please review the Chamber's strategic Plan, attached, prior to the work session. The goal of the work session is spelled out in the EDC's strategic plan under near term goals:

5. Have a conversation with the Chamber of Commerce about other economic development beyond tourism. How can the City and the Chamber work together to promote quality of life, and economic development for industries other than tourism, including messaging?

Task: Have a work session with the Chamber

Staff Recommendation:

Review the Chamber's Strategic Plan prior to the worksession of February 28, 2023.

Attachments:

[Homer Chamber-Visitor Center Strategic Plan \(2027\) v3 7-28-22](#)

CORE PURPOSE Support members through cooperative economic development and service to the community

CORE VALUES Comprehensive Community Engagement ♦ Partnerships ♦ Non-Partisan ♦ Preserving “Homer Culture” ♦ Advocacy ♦ Quality of Life

CORE PROGRAMS Member Services ♦ Visitor Center ♦ Community Engagement ♦ Business Advocacy

LONG-TERM ENVISIONED FUTURE (2032) – Thriving, Multi-Dimensional Homer Economy: Through strong partnerships, the Homer Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center (HCOC and Visitor Center) envisions a thriving, multi-dimensional economy, highlighted by completion and operation of a Deep Water Port, with multiple outcomes for Homer – resolving housing and workforce issues, attracting more visitors, associated growth of the Coast Guard’s presence, and inspiring more year-round commerce.

MID-TERM ENVISIONED FUTURE (2027) – Sustainable Homer Economy: On the way to 2032, the HCOC and Visitor Center envisions an inspiring and exciting future in which it is being true to its name – as Homer’s Chamber of Commerce and Visitor’s Center – growing a balanced, sustainable Homer economy by focusing equally on sustainable year-round small business and an essential visitor industry. Achieving this Envisioned Future will result from focus on six Strategic Operating Priorities between now and 2027.

STRATEGIC OPERATING PRIORITIES (2022 – 2027)

- **Building a Diversified Homer Economy.** HCOC and Visitor Center is focused on bringing a balanced, sustainable year-round economy to Homer – one with full-time, year-round employment opportunities, built upon a thriving visitor industry, marine trades, and a business climate supporting economic growth during the year.
- **Growing Organizational Stability and Resilience:** HCOC and Visitor Center is building a robust organization, with greater financial stability, enabling it to leverage resources for members and the community, while establishing a sustainable human resources infrastructure.
- **Better Engaging the Homer Community:** HCOC and Visitor Center will continue to seek greater community engagement in economic development efforts through strategic events and programs.
- **Solid Reputation with Engaged Members:** HCOC and Visitor Center has become Homer’s go-to source for all things commerce – it has a growing reputation for getting things done, and expanding membership, such that HCOC has the highest number of members of any other Peninsula chamber.
- **Maximizing Effective, Mutually Beneficial Partnerships:** HCOC and Visitor Center continues to identify and pursue strategic partnerships that improve its ability to meet Core Purpose and achieve the Envisioned Futures for 2027 and 2032.
- **Improving Business Advocacy Impact:** HCOC and Visitor Center is a recognized advocate, among members and throughout the community and Peninsula, for addressing the most pressing commerce issues impacting the growth of Homer’s economy.

Under each of the above Strategic Operating Priorities, the Homer Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center will address specific objectives in 2022 and through 2023.

Implementation details on objectives are presented in the next section of the Strategic Plan.

**STRATEGIC OPERATING PRIORITIES (2022 - 2023)
(with Implementation Details)**

PRIORITY: Building a Diversified Homer Economy. HCOC and Visitor Center is focused on bringing a balanced, sustainable year-round economy to Homer – one with full-time, year-round employment opportunities – built upon a thriving visitor industry, marine trades, and a business climate supporting economic growth throughout the year.

- Identify and address the immediate economic concerns around Homer’s declining food/restaurant industry
 - Reconsider whether to hold the 2022 Restaurant Week event
- Focus on improving the presence of a Marine Trades voice in governance, programs and services, and ultimately HCOC and Visitor Center’s impact
 - Consider establishing a Marine Trades Advisory Group/Committee that specifically works to identify the tangible impacts of the marine trades on the year-round Homer economy, advocacy issues requiring action, and clarifying the role of a strong Marine Trades industry in bringing a Deep Water Port to Homer
- Help revitalize Pioneer Avenue as a central commercial hub and compelling destination for visitors, and better incorporate it into HCOC and Visitor Center marketing.
- Re-envision the website to ensure balance – encouraging small business/supporting the visitor industry

PRIORITY: Growing Organizational Stability and Resilience: HCOC and Visitor Center is building a robust organization, with greater financial stability and security, enabling it to best leverage resources for members and the community, while establishing a sustainable human resources infrastructure.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

- Board and leadership to focus on making decisions now to build future financial security
 - For instance, exploring a Trust or Foundation
- Determine what to do with the property, focusing on its potential for helping meet Core Purpose
 - Can the property be an enterprise part of HCOC and Visitor Center, generating unrestricted revenue?
- Develop a Sustainable Income Plan, identifying long-term potential for generating more, and more diverse revenue for HCOC and Visitor Center
 - Focus is one being more resilient, self-sustaining, encouraging innovation, building reserves
 - For instance, ad sales in the Homer Magazine, enhanced contract with the City of Homer to provide Visitor Center services, raffles, increased membership and associated fees, purposeful events, strategic grants, and increased corporate sponsorship
 - With respect to events, ensure there is an understanding of the true costs to HCOC and Visitor Center.
 - Establish financial metrics for all programs and events, to help evaluate success.
- Consider bringing back some sort of modified Halibut fund-raising event

SUSTAINABLE HUMAN RESOURCES

- In the long term, develop a Three-Year Sustainable Staffing Plan highlighting desired staffing infrastructure, and making HCOC and Visitor Center a first-choice employer in Homer
 - Complete a Compensation & Benefits Survey
 - Consider third-party technical assistance/consultancy to assist, i.e., Foraker Group
 - What positions should stay? Be adjusted? New positions? Outsourcing/contracting?

- In the short-term, consider adding a high-level marketing person to focus on members and events, from a 40,000 foot view versus a marketing technician
- Staff to clarify the preferred role of members with respect to projects
 - The aim is supplementing staff, providing opportunities for member engagement/volunteerism
- Explore backroom support/shared services opportunities to increase capacity

PRIORITY: Better Engaging the Homer Community: HCOC and Visitor Center will continue to seek greater community engagement in economic development efforts through strategic events and programs.

- Establish success metrics and rubrics to evaluate events and programs in ensure efforts align with Strategic Operating Priorities. A
- Establish a process to regularly survey the local business community, members and nonmembers, to identify local priorities and opportunities to better engage the Homer community
- Better community infrastructure to support business and the visitor industry
 - HCOC and Visitor Center to remain involved as a partner in the City’s “Way-Finding” project to promote commerce throughout Homer’s numerous business neighborhoods

PRIORITY: Solid Reputation with Engaged Members: HCOC and Visitor Center has become Homer’s go-to source for all things commerce – it has a growing reputation for getting things done, and expanding membership, such that HCOC has the highest number of members of any other Peninsula chamber.

- Visitor Center referrals that benefit member businesses, and commerce
- Commit to a formal plan aimed at increasing membership by 5-10% per year
- Begin focused efforts to retain and grow the local small business culture
 - Develop more business resources for local entrepreneurs
 - Develop Homer-specific educational offerings for start-up businesses, for instance:
 - Online curriculum: “So you want to start a year-round business in Homer!”
 - Complete inventory of small business financial support/start-up funding, grant resources, strategies, etc.
- Ensure HCOC and Visitor Center’s marketing and outreach is first, balanced, with equal parts visitor industry and small business support, and second, that it is effective, as demonstrated by best available data and metrics
 - Complete “About” portion of the website to better highlight small business aspects of HCOC and Visitor Center
 - Review current website for balance between the visitor industry and year-round commerce
 - Ensure the Homer Magazine – formerly the Visitor’s Guide – pays balanced attention to both the visitor industry and development of year-round commercial activity
 - Formalize name change from “Visitor Guide” to something with broader appeal, such as “Business and Visitor Magazine”
 - Feature Pioneer Avenue more prominently, as an example of year-round commerce

PRIORITY: Maximizing Effective, Mutually Beneficial Partnerships: HCOC and Visitor Center continues to identify and pursue strategic partnerships that improve its ability to meet Core Purpose and achieve the Envisioned Futures for 2027 and 2030.

- Clarify the partnership with the City of Homer regarding provision of Visitor Center services
 - Ensure a new contract with the city is negotiated for maximum benefit to HCOC and Visitor Center that it:
 - Is less proscriptive, and offering greater space for flexibility and innovations
 - That it reflects the “true costs” to HCOC and Visitor Center of providing Visitor Center services, without financially subsidizing the City of Homer
- Focus on ensuring a robust relationship between the HCOC and Visitor Center and the City of Homer’s new economic development staff, and the Homer Economic Development Advisory Commission
 - HCOC and Visitor Center to continue engaging in implementation of the 2021 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Homer
- Continue efforts to build strong partnerships with local economic development organizations on the Kenai Peninsula and beyond, for instance:
 - The Kenai Peninsula Economic Development Corporation
 - The Anchorage Economic Development Corporation
 - The Kodiak Economic Development Corporation

PRIORITY: Improving Business Advocacy Impact: HCOC and Visitor Center is a recognized advocate, among members and throughout the community and Peninsula, for addressing the most pressing commerce issues impacting the growth of Homer’s economy.

- Board to clarify the importance of remaining non-partisan in all of its work, particularly its advocacy work, while affirming the essential role of active issue advocacy in meeting Core Purpose
- Clarify the role of the HCOC and Visitor Center as a leading advocate for the most essential issues affecting a sustainable economy in Homer – for instance:
 - Deep Water Port
 - Lack of Housing
 - Workforce Shortage
 - Local taxation issues that affect local commerce
- As part of formalizing its business advocacy, develop “Business Advocacy Criteria” aimed at helping HCOC and Visitor Center determine which issues require its advocacy, and at what level of engagement, for instance:
 1. Community wide economic impact?
 2. Expectation of significant member support?
 3. Is HCOC and Visitor Center the most relevant voice?
 4. Does HCOC and Visitor Center have the internal capacity – people and money – to commit fully to advocacy efforts?
 - And in those advocacy efforts, is HCOC and Visitor Center taking the lead? Is it partnering with others on shared advocacy? Is it convening a multitude of voices? Or is it monitoring?
 5. Is there a potential for generating unrestricted revenue?



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

EDC Mission Statement and Defining Positive Economic Development

Item Type:	Action Memorandum
Prepared For:	Economic Development Advisory Commission
Meeting Date:	14 Feb 2023
Staff Contact:	Julie Engebretsen
Attachments:	Homer EDC - Vision 2 14 23 meeting

Summary Statement:

Commissioner Perez has drafted the attached document to start work on an EDC Mission Statement. Please read through the ideas. Its likely at this meeting we won't have a lot of time to talk through this item, but we will at a future meeting.

Strategic Plan, Near Term Goal:

2. View economic development through the lens of balancing growth with quality of life.

Task: Create an EDC Mission statement as a guiding principle for what the EDC does.

Task: Define positive economic development, and what is the role of the EDC is in balancing growth and quality of life.

(Perez volunteered, first quarter 2023)

Staff Recommendation:

Read through the draft documents, and ask questions at the meeting. Full discussion will happen at the March meeting or at a future work session.

Attachments:

[Homer EDC - Vision 2 14 23 meeting](#)

Homer EDC - Vision Statement Development

Below Excerpted from - Strategic Management Concepts - Fred David

Vision Statements: What Do We Want to Become?

It is especially important for managers and executives in any firm to agree on the basic vision the organization strives to achieve in the long term. A **vision statement** should answer the basic question, “What do we want to become?” A clear vision provides the foundation for developing a comprehensive mission statement. Many organizations have both a vision and mission statement, but the vision statement should be established first. Examples of vision statements are provided in Table 2-1. The vision statement should be short, preferably one sentence, and as many managers as possible should have input into developing the statement. Recall Proverbs 29:18 that says “Where there is no vision, the people perish.”

TABLE 2-1 Six Exemplary Vision Statements (paraphrased)

-
- Dr Pepper Snapple: to be the best beverage business globally; our brands are synonymous with refreshment, fun, and flavor today and tomorrow.
 - IBM: to be the world’s most successful information technology company focused on helping customers apply technology to solve their problems now and in the future.
 - Hilton Worldwide: to fill the Earth with the light and warmth of hospitality by delivering exceptional experiences—every hotel and guest for all time.
 - Starbucks: to be the premier purveyor of the finest coffee in the world while maintaining uncompromising principles as we steadily grow.
 - Kellogg: to enrich and delight the world through foods and brands that matter today and tomorrow.
 - Harley-Davidson: to fulfill dreams through the experiences of motorcycling for all time.
-

Characteristics of a Vision Statement:

1. Clear: Reveals type of industry and what firm strives to become
2. Futuristic: Reveals what the firm strives to become or accomplish within time frame
3. Concise: One sentence
4. Unique: Reveals firm’s competitive advantage
5. Inspiring: Motivates the reader’s to support firm

Workshop: Developing the Homer EDC Vision Statement

EDC Vision Statement Current Examples:

1. “To nurture and enhance the economic well-being of the community through the promotion of a sustainable economy. To develop a resilient strategy for economic development that promotes economic health and vitality for all stakeholders in Great Barrington, one that is recognized for its quality of life, diverse entrepreneurial energy, and pride of place.”

[Great Barrington, MA - EDC Vision & Mission - 2019](#)

2. “The City of Corinth’s Economic Development Corporation will become a vital factor in the successful development of businesses and jobs, tourism trade, and a higher quality of life to contribute to an overall self-sustaining economy for the City.”
[Corinth, TX - EDC Vision & Mission](#)
3. “To be a healthy, proud, and business oriented community that is economically self-sufficient.”
[West Bank First Nation - EDC - Strategic Plan - Vision](#)
4. “The Economic Development Commission consists of business and citizen volunteers dedicated to supporting the business community and striving to provide a healthy, thriving, high quality experience for all our residents, businesses and visitors. The Commission works together with its partners, The Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce, (GMACC) and The Mount Airy Main Street Association, (MAMSA) as well as other civic groups and organizations to support all the industries within our business community. Whether your business is new, existing, or looking to expand, we are here to help and guide you in any way that we can. To achieve this vision, the Commission will work to maintain Mount Airy’s reputation as a highly desirable place to live, work, and play, with a well-rounded workforce as well as maximize the community's strategic location as a valuable resource and a robust, prosperous suburban hub encompassing many industries from restaurants and retail, food service and catering, finance and technology, medical and professional, automotive, and other trades as well as agricultural and manufacturing.”
[Mount Airy, MD - EDC - Overview/Vision Statement](#)
5. “Des Moines, an economically thriving community that maximizes the potential of its natural assets.”
[Des Moines, IA - EDC Vision](#)
6. “Queen Anne’s County Economic Development Commission envisions an economically and demographically vibrant community, full of promise for current and future residents and businesses, yet uncompromisingly dedicated to the preservation of the County’s environment, heritage, and rich culture.”
[Queen Anne’s County, MD - EDC Vision](#)
7. Alternate example - Seattle 10 Year Vision (2013-2023) - vision mapping of how the commission envisions the city in 10 years & outlines steps for EDC to support vision
[Seattle, WA - EDC - 10 year Vision Statement](#)

Option 1: David Model

- Concise, Forward Looking, Inspirational , & Competitive Advantage

1. Example below drafted by T. Perez:
“The Homer Economic Development Commission strives to provide a forum for civic and business engagement for the City of Homer with the goal of supporting the growth of a diverse community and economy while preserving its cultural and natural heritage.”

Option 2: Seattle Example - 10 Year Model

1. Run a workshop mapping out 10 year vision (align with strategic plan)



January 18, 2023

City of Homer
491 E. Pioneer Ave
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Mayor Castner, City Council, and City Staff,

This letter serves as our quarterly report for the period October 1 to December 31, 2022. The Homer Business Advisor, Robert Green, had a strong finish to the calendar year, even with his first vacation since joining the Alaska Small Business Development Center in 2020. Not only did Robert's advising result in the creation of 16 new businesses, he also achieved the second highest amount of non-COVID relief capital infusion for the Homer area in a calendar year, with \$2.5 million in loans and investments. Robert provided assistance to 115 business owners and entrepreneurs, which supported 342 jobs in the Homer area. SBDC assistance in the Homer area has been very well received, with Robert providing 392.7 more advising hours in 2022 than what was provided in 2019, the last year Homer did not have an SBDC advisor. Here is a summary of deliverables to the Homer community during the quarter (year):

Client Hours: 71.6 (556.8)	Jobs Supported: 70 (342)
Total Clients: 34 (115)	Capital Infusion: \$2,040,000 (\$3,172,650)
New Businesses Started or Bought: 3 (16)	Client Surveys: 100% positive (92% positive)

The contract rate for a business advisor is \$55 per hour, which includes salary, benefits, fixed, and administrative expenses. In addition to local expertise, the Alaska SBDC provides IBISWorld industry reports, retailing for \$925 each, and ProfitCents financial analyses, valued at \$2,750 each, to clients free of charge. Here is a summary of value provided to the Homer community during the quarter (year):

Business Advisor: \$10,340 (\$51,755)
IBISWorld Industry Reports: \$3,700 (\$36,075)
ProfitCents Financial Analyses: \$2,750 (\$33,000)
Total: \$16,790 (\$120,830)

We would like to thank the City of Homer for their support of the Homer Business Advisor position. Not only has Robert excelled in Homer, but he has become a valued part of the Alaska SBDC staff. We greatly appreciate the knowledge, experience, and consistency he brings to our team. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Jon Bittner

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Jon Bittner
Executive Director
Alaska SBDC



COLLEGE FAIR & JOB FAIR

Friday, March 3, 2023
10am - 2pm

Looking for a summer job? A year-round Job?
A new career? A college degree?
Figure out your next move!

Homer's College and Job Fair is open to everyone! If you are looking for job opportunities or college and career advice this is the place to be. Come meet with representatives from various companies, organizations and career pathways. We hope to see you there!



Where?

Kachemak Bay Campus
533 E. Pioneer Ave.
Homer, Alaska
For more information call
Homer Job Center at
907-226-3040 Option 1

A cooperative community event brought to you by:

UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination



Monthly Newsletter from the office of the City Manager

Celebration of Lifelong Learning

Every year, the Friends of Homer Library recognize two library patrons who have shown dedication to personal growth and sharing knowledge with others. Nominations open in winter and this year featured two independent nominations for *Samantha Cunningham*, our Adult Lifelong Learner. We also saw strong support for *Thea Person*, the Youth Lifelong Learner. Those who know these two people will recognize their conscious striving towards self-improvement and service to the community.



Samantha Cunningham



Thea Person

Join the Friends of the Library for the annual Celebration of Lifelong Learning. Tickets can be purchased at the front desk of the library and by contacting members of the Friends board. The evening will recognize the lifelong learners and will also feature live music, a demonstration of Live Action Role Playing, a silent auction and the trivia tree.

More information about the Celebration of Lifelong Learning can be found at the Friends of the Library website, <https://friendsofthehomerpubliclibrary.wildapricot.org/page-18251>.

Celebration of Lifelong Learning
Homer Public Library
500 Hazel Street
February 25, 2023 | 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

WHAT'S NEW?

- Library Events
- Community Corner
- Community Recreation
- Economic Development
- Fire Department
- Planning Department
- Police Department
- Port & Harbor
- Public Safety Notes
- Public Works
- Meet the Staff
- Municipal Art Collection
- Stay Connected with City Council
- Join Our Team

We hope you'll discover something new today as we share the latest information and ways you can tap into what's going on at City Hall and in the Homer community.

Check us out on Facebook

- City Hall - @cityofhomerak
- Parks & Recreation - @homerparksandrec
- Homer Public Library - @homerpubliclibrary
- Homer Police - @homerpolice
- Fire Department - @HomerVolFireDept



Share this link with your friends, so they can get the newsletter too - <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/citymanager/monthly-email-newsletter>

LIBRARY EVENTS



Accordion-Book Box Workshop

February 4 & 9

4:30 - 5:30pm

Join us for an afternoon of crafts and learn how to make an accordion-book box with Alice Porter.

Virtual Author Talks

Zoom in and listen to your favorite authors talk about their latest books.



February 9: *Back in a Spell*, Lana Harper - 3:00 p.m.

February 16: *Tastes Like War*, Grace M. Cho - 9:00 a.m.

February 28: *The House of Eve*, Sadeqa Johnson - Noon

2nd Sunday Shakespeare

February 12: *Taming of the Shrew*, 1:00 p.m.

March 12: *Measure for Measure*

April 9: *Pericles*

May 14: *Henry VIII*



Friends of the Homer Library, in partnership with Pier One Theatre and Kachemak Bay Campus, invite you to participate in an online reading of a play by William Shakespeare. [Zoom instructions found here.](#)

Lunch with a Council Member

February 14

Noon - 1pm

Join us for a Valentine's Day conversation with Council Member **Caroline Venuti**. Bring your questions and topics for discussion and enjoy lunch over Zoom. [Follow instructions here.](#)

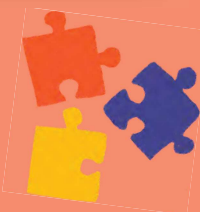


PUZZLE-RAMA!

February 11

10am - 6pm

Like puzzles? Join us for a festive community event for all ages. Featuring a variety of puzzles around the library, including the Children's Library.



Check out the complete Line-up of Library programs



Homer Public Library
500 Hazel Street - (907) 235-3180
circ@ci.homer.ak.us
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library

National Love Your Library Month

February is National Love Your Library Month and the Friends of the Library will be conducting prize drawings each week, so drop by the Homer Public Library to enter your name.

Library Advisory Board Upholds Decision

On January 17, the Homer Library Advisory Board (LAB) unanimously voted to uphold a decision to keep 55 books in the children's section of the public library. The decision follows a month-long debate over the future children and young adult titles that largely feature LGBTQ themes.

In October, Library Director Dave Berry denied a request for books to be removed from the children's and young adult sections of the library. An appeal was made to the board in November. The list of books being contested were read by the seven member advisory board, which led to their ultimate decision to keep the books in place. Further exploration of how to handle contested titles will be reviewed at the LAB's next meeting on February 21st.

Emergency Crews Respond to Boat Fire

Homer Police Department and Homer Volunteer Fire Department alongside fire services from across the Kenai Peninsula service area responded to a call in the Northern Enterprises Boatyard Thursday, January 19. They arrived to find the R/V *Qualifier 105* fully engulfed, which spread a cloud of black smoke over the area. Flames were extinguished, but the research vessel sustained extensive damage. The cause of the fire is yet to be determined. The *Qualifier*, operated by Support Vessels of Alaska, is a research vessel that typically creates hydrographic surveys, charts for NOAA and contract work for other government agencies.



Community Recreation

Check out these fun and exciting featured programs. To see the entire program list, go to <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/com-rec>



Yoga with Joanna

Ashtanga inspired yoga helps increase strength and flexibility drawing from the primary series and works to unite the body, mind and breath. Class is limited to 15 participants. Call Joanna at 907-756-8985 or email jmgreene@live.com to reserve your spot.

When: Tuesdays, February 7-28, 5:30-6:30pm

Where: HERC Activity Room

Fee: \$10 per class/per person payable to instructor

Inlet Wind Community Band

Back this Spring! We're excited to welcome back Director Eric Simonsen and Assistant Director Mary Simonsen who will lead the concert band with a select program of pieces that are exciting to play. Geared toward adults with previous band experience who know how to read music and advanced high school students by invitation or with director approval. Our first concert is scheduled for April 22.

When: Rehearsals Monday evenings 6:30-8:30pm

Where: Homer High School Band Room

Fee: \$35

To sign up, download the form and to find out more details, go to <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/com-rec/community-inlet-wind-band>

Homer Winter Carnival Event FREE Family Dodgeball

Come play a little friendly dodge ball! As part of the Annual Homer Winter Carnival festivities, this family-friendly game for participants ages 6 and older are invited to come play dodgeball!

When: February 11, 12-2pm

Where: HERC Gym

Fee: FREE

Jewelry Making with Art Koeninger

Sign up now for these great jewelry making classes with Homer artist Art Koeninger. Space is limited, so reserve your space today! Call Art at 907-235-1014 or email akoeninger@me.com. Cost per class is \$150, (\$90 for students repeating the same class) + cost of materials. To read more: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/com-rec/jewelry-making-classes-spring-2023>

March 4 & 5: Introduction to Silversmithing

March 24 - 26: Lost Wax Casting

April 1 & 2: Intermediate Silversmithing



Economic Development

KPEDD Industry Outlook Forum

Mayor *Ken Caster* (top) and City Manager *Rob Dumouchel* joined local business owner *Kathryn Ault* of Inlet Charters and Homer of Chamber of Commerce Executive Director *Brad Anderson* (far right) at the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District on January 5th for the annual Industry Outlook Forum. Economic Development Commission Chair *Karin Marks* (far left) moderated a session on transportation, childcare, retaining/retention of a local workforce and housing- all hot topics in our community. The event rotates annually between cities on the peninsula to explore relevant issues effecting our communities.



Mayor Ken Castner at the KPEDD Forum.



Panel members discuss hot topics in the community.

Old Town Neighborhood Conversation on Future Road Improvements - Part 2

February 7, 5-7pm

Bunnell Street Art Gallery

If you live, work or own a business in the Old Town district, please join us to continue the conversation about road improvements on Ohlson Lane and Bunnell Avenue to South Main Street. We value your input on this project as plans continue to evolve with the City's transportation plan. We hope to see you there.

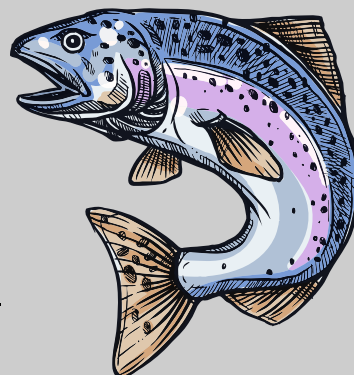
- Presentation at 5:15 p.m.
- Refreshments will be served

Community Photos Needed

We are looking for photos from the community to illustrate the need for improvements to sidewalks and trails. If you're out and about, please snap a photo of people walking on sidewalks, or on the road where there is no sidewalk, waves hitting the road on the Spit and anywhere you see that could use improvement. Submit your pics to jengebretsen@ci.homer.ak.us

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Winter
King Salmon
Tournament
March 18**



For more information visit the **Homer Chamber of Commerce**
or call 907-235-7740



Waves crashing on Spit Road

Fire Department



Winter Training Exercises

January was extra exciting at the Fire Station with training exercises, 'double-tone' calls and recruitment. Traditionally the winter months are when we sink our teeth into training exercises. Deputy Chief Kahles had staff going every which way, training to search for and then rescue a victim. What you can't tell is that the Firefighters have "blackout" shields in their helmets, so they follow the hose back out with their (very heavy) victim while 'blindfolded'. This technique trains firefighters how to rely on their hose, each other, and their skills when conditions are too smoky for any visibility during rescue.

Keeping Up With Call Volume

The HVFD has seen run volume grow through the roof, with an average of 2.75 calls daily. The number of "double tones," (i.e., two calls overlapping each other) have risen too, keeping everyone on their toes. The call at Homer Boatyard on January 19 saw a turnout of 14 providers from Homer with Mutual Aid response from KESA and WESA. We were grateful for the assistance to cover the 100 foot boat. In a critical event like that, it's always good to have plenty of help on scene in addition to the staff needed to ensure 911 is still on duty for other calls.

Recruitment News

Newly graduated EMS students are responding to calls along with last spring's more seasoned EMTs. We now have 13 more providers to take care of our community.

Deputy Chief Kahles will be adding to our numbers with the **Firefighter 1 class starting up February 13th**. Already, we have a great crew ready to get started, including both brand-new providers, students from Homer High School, and in-house active volunteers looking to up their game. There's always room for more though!

Firefighter course set to start 2/13

Spring Firefighter I Class starts soon and there's still time to sign up! The course runs from February 13 through April 29. and meets conveniently on Monday and Wednesday evenings, and Saturdays. Completion of the course is required to obtain FF1/EMT1 certification. **Train local - Serve local!**

- Mondays & Wednesdays, 6-10pm
- Saturdays, 9am-5pm

To sign up and get more information, please contact **HVFD Deputy Chief Joe Kahles** at 907-299-5618 or Email jkahles@ci.homer.ak.us

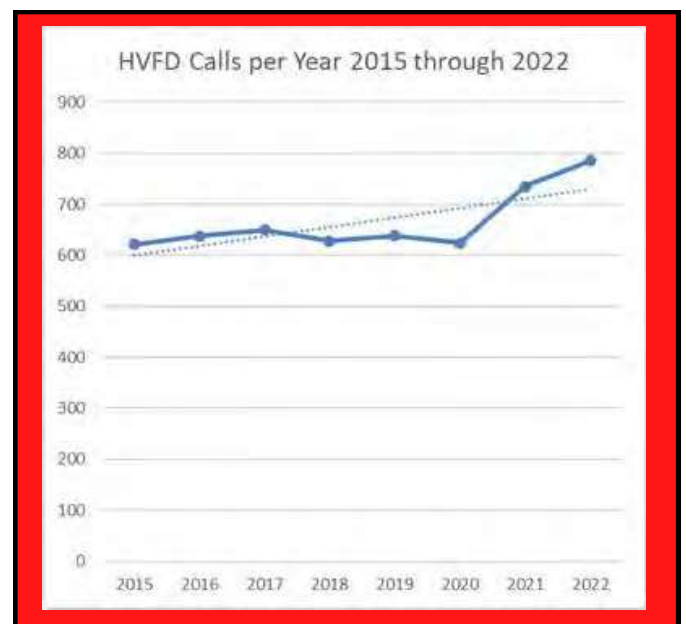


**WE NEED YOU
TO VOLUNTEER!**

Volunteer Fire Calls for 2022 – 785!

The Volunteer Fire Department exceeded projections for 2022 and responded to 785 calls. The chart below shows what that growth looks like over the last seven years.

As our community grows, so does the need for public safety services. A volunteer fire department like HVFD relies on valuable community members to be trained and available to respond to emergency calls. **Thank you volunteers!**





Flood Map and Protection Information

The City of Homer regulates development on coastline properties to mitigate risk and comply with FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The City's Planning Department has the following information available to help explain the NFIP.

- Determine whether a property is in or out of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) as shown on the current Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The current maps became effective on October 20, 2016.
- Provide additional flood insurance information for any address, such as the community number, FIRM zone, panel number and suffix, date of the current FIRM, and the base flood elevation.
- Obtain handouts explaining the mandatory flood insurance purchase requirement for property owners who need a federally backed mortgage or loan.
- More information on existing elevation certificates for new and substantially improved structures that have been built in a SFHA since 1999.
- Review mapping data for area wetlands, coastal erosion, and tsunami inundation zones. City Planning can provide lot-specific maps and information regarding development in these sensitive areas including best management practices and regulation requirements.
- Obtain information about areas that provide natural floodplain functions such as Beluga Slough, Louie's Lagoon, and the Homer Airport Critical Habitat Area.

Community members interested in developing a site located in a mapped flood area should be sure to contact the City Planning department to determine what permits are needed at 907-235-3106 or planning@ci.homer.ak.us.

More information can be found on the City's Flood Maps, Permits and Flood Protection Information webpage:

<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/planning/flood-maps-permits-and-flood-protection-information>.



SEVERE WEATHER



Alaska is no stranger to extreme weather including thunderstorms, lightning, hail, heavy and drifting snow, freezing rain/ice storms, extreme cold and high winds. No wonder folks fly south for the winter!

Winter storm events involve precipitation like snow, sleet or freezing rain and can be accompanied by high winds, cold temperatures, and a storm surge. Storms in our area can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to blizzard conditions with blinding wind-driven snow that can last several days. Homer has a more temperate climate, so storms are often experienced during other seasons throughout the year too.

What does this mean to me? The entire Homer area is vulnerable to the effects of severe weather. Strong winds can cause widespread power outages, downed trees and structural damage. Accompany these winds with freezing temperatures, it is a good idea to have an emergency power source and provisions on hand should roads become unpassable.

Notable severe weather from 2000 to 2021 include:

- In December 2019, a southerly jet stream brought several low-pressure systems to Southcentral Alaska. These were accompanied by above freezing temperatures, abundant rainfall, and high winds as the fronts passed through. A primary impact of this event was the flooding of the Anchor Point River. In addition, North Fork Road was impassable, and the Sterling Highway was flooded in several locations between mile 161 and 163, there was flooding across East End Road at Bear Creek Drive, and a mudslide on East End Road at Kachemak Bay Drive.
- In January 2020, a low-pressure system developed south of the Aleutian Islands and then moved north along the Alaska Peninsula and up Cook Inlet. A strong high-pressure system that followed brought a large amount of cold air, which created high winds through the Cook Inlet area. Homer reported 8 hours of blizzard conditions and near-whiteout conditions.

Police Department



Parenting in a Digital Age

Join HPD's Lt. Ryan Browning, **Saturday February 4th, at 6pm** in the Homer High Theater for a presentation and conversation on parenting in the digital age. This will be an **ADULT/PARENT ONLY**, very candid, and probably uncomfortable conversation on what our children are seeing and experiencing online and how to help them navigate responsibly and safely.

Side note: We want this to be a safe space for you to listen, share and have some authentic dialogue with us. No recording will be permitted. If we get feedback that it's worth doing, we'll do it again.



Self-Defense Class a 'Hit' in Soldotna

The Homer Police Department took their show on the road in January to host another free women's self defense class in Soldotna. Thanks for All American Training Center, APOA, Soldotna Police Department, City of Kenai Police Department, Alaska State Troopers for your staff and time; Mae, Jennifer, Britney, Pam and Karlene from Redemption MMA, Megan Stoll and Timberline Tree Care provided refreshments. Most importantly - thanks to the 71 amazing women who came out to empower themselves and have a great time with law enforcement.

IF YOU CAN'T CALL 911, TEXT 911

As of January 16th, contacting 911 in the event of an emergency situation is a little easier. If you are unable to call 911, you can now text 911. In some situations, texting for help might be more convenient and safer than making a phone call.



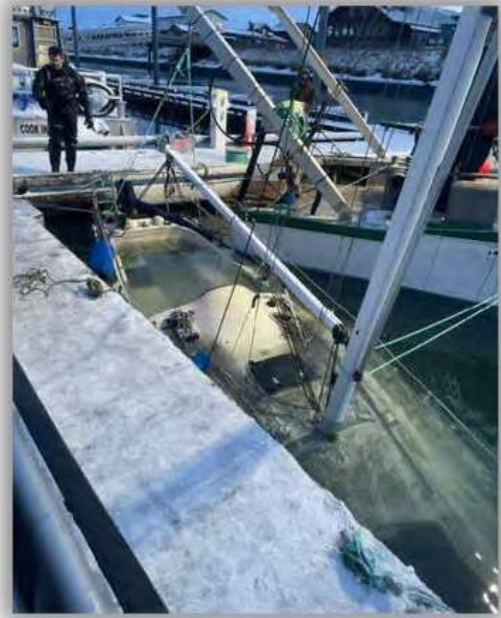
Port & Harbor



Homer Harbor Crew and Team Salvage Submersed Sailboat

Shout out to the Port and Harbor for their efforts to salvage a vessel that need to be rescued and hauled out of the water quickly to prevent further damage. On December 27-28, Deputy Harbormaster Matt Clarke led the charge to engage the harbor tug and hydraulic winch to salvage the 28-foot sailboat. With the owner's permission, Clarke called on services from C & C Aquatics, a local dive salvage operator, to help efforts to save the immersed vessel.

The Port and Harbor is staffed 24 hours a day to keep an eye over the facility and to respond to issues as quickly as possible. To keep the 'ship' running smoothly, the Homer Harbormaster has 19 full-time employees to cover administration, operations, maintenance and crew for the fish dock/ice plant. During peak summer months, more staff is employed for additional support.



[Read the Homer News January 5th article here.](#)

Port Expansion Charrette

The City, working together with Corvus Design, hosted a port expansion charrette on January 16th. The event was held because the existing conceptual design is getting old and with the Army Corps' General Investigation on the horizon, it was a good time to conduct public engagement related to the design of the port expansion. While the original intention was to keep the work session relatively small, nearly 40 participants participated, which included a large number of individuals who make a living on the water, or supporting those who do. Corvus will be reviewing the information collected during the charrette and creating two design concepts that will be used to continue engaging the federal delegation, the State legislature, and the public.

Four groups of commercial and industrial users with vested interest in the project broke into groups to share their knowledge.



Peter Briggs of Corvus Design introduces the exercise.

General categories of discussion included:

- Facilities and amenities needed by potential users of the Port Expansion
- Improvements needed to existing infrastructure
- Factors that could influence the success of the facility.
- The best location for the expansion.

The purpose of the charrette was to gather information to develop a revised conceptual master plan for the proposed Large Vessel Harbor to better reflect current and projected future needs. The plan will be used to communicate the project to continue to develop support and to seek funding.

The large vessel harbor will be solely for commercial and industrial uses, with the significant benefit of removing these uses from the existing small boat harbor.



Group #4 at work during the charrette.

PUBLIC SAFETY NOTES

"Public Safety" covers a lot of areas - from health and wellness to fire safety, safe driving practices and winter tips for safe travel. Don't forget our pets too! Each month we strive to provide relevant information to help you live well and stay healthy. If you have a tip to share, please let us know - email us.



Ready, Set, GO! Help Spread the Word!

Be Aware. Be Prepared. Go Now!

The Kenai Peninsula Borough Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has a new website that provides information, real-time maps and preparedness tips by hazards.

"Ready, Set, Go! Program" (RSG!) is a new local program designed specifically for the Kenai Peninsula to address natural disasters such as floods, wildfires, volcanoes, weather, earthquakes and more. RSG! not only highlights prevention-based topics, but also vital evacuation and re-entry updates during a disaster.

Help spread the word; visit the website at info.kpb.us and be sure to select the "Community Influencers" tab and sign up for KPBA Alerts!

Make a Difference in Your Community

Become a
Volunteer
Firefighter
or EMT

Stop by the Homer fire
station for more information



Public Works



Hornaday Park: Campground Closure and Playground Improvements

Like last year, under the authority of Homer City Code 19.08.030(d), all City-operated campgrounds were closed for winter 2023. Winter camping has been problematic in years past and requires too much staff time to manage successfully. This year, the Karen Hornaday Campground will not re-open, so we can take time to determine needs for improvements.

Hornaday Campground is the least popular of our facilities with a most number of complaints. Since 2020, 101 calls for service have been recorded by HPD at the park for various disturbances, including vandalism, harassment, assault and drug activities with multiple arrests over the last three years. Suspending Hornaday Campground for 2023 will give City staff the opportunity to break the cycle of abuse the campground has been experiencing and work with PARCAC on a master plan for the best use of the space - Improved camping program? Fitness trail with park exercise equipment? Some other yet to be determined use?

Last year, the Homer Foundation reached out to discuss ideas for the potential use of approximately \$20,000 in remaining funds from the Homer Playground Project and the Boat House Pavilion. The City proposed directing the funds to repair and replace certain pieces of equipment at Hornaday Park playground to include swings, diggers, slides, tire swings, and more including ADA equipment considerations.

Want to learn more or get involved? Come to a Parks, Arts and Culture Advisory Commission (PARCAC) meeting to share your ideas and lend your expertise toward this and other projects in Homer.



Meet the Staff



This section is to highlight staff achievements, promotions, retirements, departures and new hires to the City's workforce.

Christine Drais

Assistant to the City Manager



Christine joined the City of Homer ranks in May 2021. A transplant from South Carolina, she brought her talent and personality to brighten up City Hall and the City Manager's office. Among her many duties, Christine produces the monthly newsletter, works on special projects, manages the website and City's Facebook page, enjoys marketing projects, and hosts special events for staff and VIP visitors. Prior to moving here, she owned a large gift shop near Clemson, SC. *Go Tigers!* Christine holds a BA in Business Administration from University of Central Florida and a MS in PRTM from Clemson University. Christine's family also lives in Homer. She has two Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, enjoys quilting, baking (did you see the Halloween cake she made?), and home improvement projects.

Christine's smile and sense of humor is contagious, so y'all come say 'hey' next time you're in City Hall.

January Anniversaries

We would like to recognize City staff members with anniversaries this month. Thank you for the dedication, commitment and service you've provided the City and taxpayers of Homer over the years. You all are an integral part of what makes the City of Homer a great place to work and the community.

Teresa Sundmark	Library	16	Years
Tomasz Sulczynski	IT	15	Years
Andrea Browning	Admin	11	Years
Brody Jones	Public Works	9	Years
Jona Focht	Dispatch	8	Years
Lynda Gilliland	Finance	5	Years
Amy Woodruff	Port	2	Years
Rose Riordan	Port	1	Year

**The City of Homer
has current Job Openings!**

Sign up for Job Alerts or Apply Online at:
cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs



Special KPB Mayoral Election February 14

The Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) is holding a **Special Mayoral Election** Tuesday, February 14, 2023. Absentee in Person voting for the Special Election will be available at the KPB Annex Building located at the intersection of E Pioneer Avenue and Lake Street, and open January 30th through February 13th. Day-of election will be held at your usual polling locations from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Questions? Contact the Borough Clerk's Office

- Phone: (907) 714-2160
- Email: assemblyclerk@kpb.us

For more information visit the KPB Election website at

<https://www.kpb.us/assembly-clerk/elections/elections>

Need to register to vote or update your Voter Registration?

Visit the Alaska Division of Elections at

<https://www.elections.alaska.gov>.

♡ Your Pics ♡



Christine Drais found this handsome poser.

City of Homer Roster

Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
 Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk/Deputy Director of Administration
 Andrea Browning, Personnel Director
 Rick Abboud, City Planner
 Mark Robl, Chief of Police
 Mark Kirko, Fire Chief
 Bryan Hawkins, Port Director/Harbormaster
 Elizabeth Walton, Finance Director
 Jan Keiser, Public Works Director/City Engineer
 Dave Berry, Library and IT Director
 Mike Illg, Community Recreation Manager
 Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager

Mayor - Ken Castner (2024)

City Council

Donna Aderhold (2024)
 Jason Davis (2025)
 Shelley Erickson (2024)
 Storm P. Hansen-Cavasos (2025)
 Rachel Lord (2023)
 Caroline Venuti (2023)

Commissions & Boards

ADA Advisory Board
 Economic Development Advisory Commission
 Library Advisory Board
 Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission
 Planning Commission
 Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION

Learn more about the municipal art collection at:

<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection>



Title: **Darwin's Theory of Evolution by Herbert**

Location: Cowles Council Chambers Lobby

Size: 18 x 23 inches

Medium: Framed colored pencildrawing

Date: 1988

STAY CONNECTED TO CITY COUNCIL

Go to: cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/stay-connected-city-council. Here you will find instructions on how to listen, provide testimony and participate in the meetings via Zoom.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February

1	5:30pm	Planning Commission Worksession
	6:30pm	Planning Commission Regular Meeting
9	5:00pm	ADA Advisory Board Regular Meeting
13	5:00pm	City Council Committee of the Whole
	6:00pm	City Council Regular Meeting
14	6:00pm	Economic Development Advisory Commission Regular Meeting
15	5:30pm	Planning Commission Worksession
	6:30pm	Planning Commission Regular Meeting
16	5:30pm	Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission Regular Meeting
21	5:30pm	Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting
22	4:00 pm	Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Worksession
	5:00pm	Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meeting
27	5:00pm	City Council Committee of the Whole
	6:00pm	City Council Regular Meeting
28	5:30pm	Economic Development Advisory Commission Worksession

JOIN OUR TEAM

The City of Homer has current Job Openings.

Sign up for Job Alerts or Apply Online at:

cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs

CURRENT JOB LISTINGS

- Building Custodian, Full-time
- Firefighter/EMT I, II or III
- Police Officer
- Public Safety Dispatcher I, Full-time
- Temporary Firefighter/EMT-Basic/EMT-Advanced
- Treatment Maintenance Technician I or II
- Water & Wastewater Utilities Technician I, II or III
- Mechanic I or II

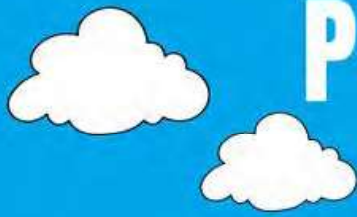


**Offices Closed Monday, February 20
 in observance of Presidents' Day**

City of Homer

491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska 99603
 907-235-8121

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov



Parenting in the Digital Age



A Candid Conversation
& Presentation
with Lt. Ryan Browning,
Homer Police Department

Saturday, February 4
at 6pm
Homer High School Theater

**ADULTS-PARENTS-
GUARDIANS ONLY**

- What are kids seeing & experiencing online?
- How can we help them navigate responsibly & safely?
- You're invited to participate in this open, safe place to talk candidly about what kids are exposed to online.

*69th Annual Winter Carnival
Celebration & Parade*
**Breaking Out of
Hibernation**

HOMER
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
& VISITOR CENTER



**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 11, 2023**

*Come & Enjoy the 69th Annual Winter
Carnival Celebration & Parade*

**HOMER HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT
LINE UP STARTS AT 11AM
PARADE STARTS AT 12 NOON**

PARADE FLOAT ENTRY FORMS CAN BE FOUND
ON OUR WEBSITE AT HOMERALASKA.ORG ON
THE EVENTS TAB UNDER THE WINTER
CARNIVAL SECTION.

SUBMIT FLOAT ENTRIES TO: JULIANNE TURNER MEMBERSHIP@HOMERALASKA.ORG

Sponsors: City of Homer & Bear Creek Winery

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION
2022-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN & GOALS**

<p>Ongoing Goals</p>	<p>1. Use the Commission’s SWOT analysis to develop strategies to implement policies that support Homer’s quality of life.</p>
	<p>2. Keep our ears to the ground and seek out areas of "lack." Confer with Julie about communicating with City Council and advising them on ways to overcome barriers- "the nexus of economic goals."</p>
<p>Near Term Goals < 6 Months</p>	<p>1. Familiarize with smart growth principles and best practices, and also green infrastructure concepts. Have these in our toolbox when development decisions come our way for consideration.</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Staff to provide smart growth resources.</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Promote energy resiliency through diversity and efficiency. Invite a speaker to talk about energy as that impacts cost of doing business and cost of living. (Perez)</p>
	<p>2. View economic development through the lens of balancing growth with quality of life.</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Create an EDC Mission statement as a guiding principle for what the EDC does.</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Define positive economic development, and what is the role of the EDC is in balancing growth and quality of life.</p> <p>(Perez volunteered, first quarter 2023)</p>
	<p>3. Housing: affordable short and long term housing. Seasonal workers, general work force, seniors, etc. affordable year round housing. (Marks)</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Stay engaged with the City for all housing conversations</p>
	<p>4. Present an annual report of EDC accomplishments to the City Council</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Approve memo to Council, read accomplishments to Council</p>
	<p>5. Have a conversation with the Chamber of Commerce about other economic development beyond tourism. How can the City and the Chamber work together to promote quality of life, and economic development for industries other than tourism, including messaging?</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Have a work session with the Chamber</p>
<p>Mid Term Goals 1 - 3 Years (2022 – 2025)</p>	<p>1. BR&E – review annually and plan for a new report (5 year mark is 2022-2023) <i>Opportunity:</i> Consider a funding request for the FY 2024-2025 budget</p>
	<p>2. Downtown vitalization momentum and wayfinding/streetscape plan</p> <p><i>Status:</i> Wayfinding and Streetscape work ongoing through 21 and implementation activities in 2022-2024</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Participate in the Transportation Plan, focusing on a walkable town with greenspace and connected business districts</p> <p><i>Longer term:</i> Consider storefront/Downtown and landscaping improvement program</p>

	<p>3. Economic resiliency planning.</p> <p><i>Opportunity:</i> EDC provide suggestions to KPEDD on the business tool box. EDC promote tool box to community.</p> <hr/> <p>4. Assess jobs training needs, workforce development, availability of workers and workforce supports including child care, housing.</p> <p><i>Opportunity:</i> Invite KBC Director Reid Brewer as speaker, how does the college make course offering decisions? How is work force development part of the planning? What does the KBC Advisory Board do?</p> <p><i>Opportunity:</i> Invite 9-Star to make a presentation</p> <p><i>Opportunity:</i> Brief survey to businesses and employees on their needs.</p>
<p>Long Term Goals 5 Years or More (2025+)</p>	<p>1. Multipurpose community center (HERC)</p> <p><i>Status:</i> Scoping study has been funded. Demolition of the smaller building has been funded; tear down planned in 2023.</p>

OVERALL EDC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Economic Development Advisory Commission will act in an advisory capacity to the City Manager and the City Council on the overall economic development planning for the City of Homer in accordance with Homer City Code Chapter 2.76; www.codepublishing.com/AK/Homer. The EDC also assists with official City planning documents including the following:

- Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District (KPEDD) – Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (link will bring you to all KPEDD reports): <https://kpedd.org/reports>
- Homer’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/economicdevelopment/comprehensive-economic-development-strategy
- Business Retention and Expansion Survey Report (BR&E): <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/economicdevelopment/2017-business-retention-expansion-survey-report>
- Homer Comprehensive Plan: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/planning/comprehensive-plan>

DUTIES OF COMMISSION/STAFF

Commissioners

- Attend City Council meetings as assigned.
- Attend work sessions and training opportunities.
- Come prepared to make a motion for action at meetings, or ask staff before the meeting for more information.
- Communicate with City Council members to gain support on EDC-related projects that need sponsorship at the Council level.

Staff (Julie Engebretsen)

- Aid the Chair in setting the agenda.
- Compile packet material from commissioners, write backup memos, and submit to Clerk.
- Provide information on items the commission needs to review annually.

- Inform the Commission of City Council actions and discussion of economic development related issues.

Clerk's Office

- Aid Staff in compiling packet materials and print/distribute them to the Commission.
- Aid Staff and Chair in setting the agenda.
- Tracking yearly items such as reappointments and elections.
- Help the Commission learn to be more efficient and effective in their meetings.
- Support the Commission's ability to communicate with the Mayor and City Council (through Memorandums, Resolutions, and Ordinances).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION 2023 Calendar

	AGENDA DEADLINE	MEETING	CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR REPORT*	ANNUAL TOPICS/EVENTS
JANUARY	Wednesday 1/4 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 1/10 6:00 p.m.	Monday 1/23 6:00 p.m. [Arevalo]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Budget Review/Develop Requests *may be n/a during non-budget years • Land Allocation Plan Review • KPEDD Industry Outlook Forum
FEBRUARY	Wednesday 2/8 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 2/14 6:00 p.m.	Monday 2/27 6:00 p.m. [Gamble]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KPC Job Fair
MARCH	Wednesday 3/8 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 3/14 6:00 p.m.	Tuesday 3/28 6:00 p.m. [Perez]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk Reappointment Notices Sent Out • Update from Public Works Director • KPEDD CEDS Review
APRIL	Wednesday 4/5 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 4/11 6:00 p.m.	Monday 4/24 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms Expire April 1st • Advisory Body Training Worksession • Election of EDC Officers
MAY	Wednesday 5/3 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 5/9 6:00 p.m.	Monday 5/22 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Plan Review • Annual Review of Commission's Policies
JUNE	Wednesday 6/7 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 6/13 6:00 p.m.	Monday 6/26 6:00 p.m.	
JULY	No Regular Meeting			
AUGUST	Wednesday 8/2 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 8/8 6:00 p.m.	Monday 8/14 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Improvement Plan Review • Update from Public Works Director
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 9/6 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 9/12 6:00 p.m.	Monday 9/25 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Development Speaker
OCTOBER	Wednesday 10/4 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 10/10 6:00 p.m.	Monday 10/23 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Review of EDC's Strategic Plan/Goals & BR&E
NOVEMBER	Wednesday 11/8 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 11/14 6:00 p.m.	Monday 11/27 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chamber's Annual Presentation to EDC • Approve Meeting Schedule for Upcoming Year
DECEMBER	No Regular Meeting			

*The Commission's opportunity to give their report to City Council is scheduled for the Council's regular meeting following the Commission's regular meeting, under Agenda Item 8 – Announcements/ Presentations/ Borough Report/Commission Reports.