



AGENDA

Economic Development Advisory Commission Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 09, 2023 at 6:00 PM

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

Homer City Hall

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

Zoom Webinar ID: 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. Unapproved EDC Minutes
Unapproved Regular Meeting Minutes for April 11, 2023 **page 3**
6. **VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**
 6. A. Trails as Economic Drivers for the Community Presentation
Cameale Johnson, Homer Trails Alliance **page 9**
7. **STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 7. A. EDC Staff Report for April
 7. B. HERC Update **page 27**
 7. C. Chamber of Commerce Report
 7. D. Homer Marine Trades Association (HMTA) Report **page 28**
 7. E. Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District (KPEDD) Report
 7. F. Port Expansion Project **page 31**
8. **PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

9. PENDING BUSINESS

- 9. A. Housing Update
Agenda Item Report EDC 23-023 **page 32**
- 9. B. EDC Budget Requests FY24 & FY25
Agenda Item Report EDC 23-024 **page 33**
- 9. C. EDC Mission Statement
Agenda Item Report EDC 23-025 **page 34**
- 9. D. Revision to SWOT Analysis
Agenda Item Report EDC 23-026 **page 36**

10. NEW BUSINESS

- 10. A. Election of EDC Officers
Agenda Item Report EDC 23-027 **page 37**
- 10. B. EDC Bylaws Review
Agenda Item Report EDC 23-028 **page 38**

11. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- 11. A. City of Homer Newsletter – May 2023 Issue **page 43**
- 11. B. City Manager’s Reports
CM April 24, 2023 Report **page 55**
CM May 8, 2023 Report
- 11. C. EDC 2022-23 Strategic Plan **page 74**
- 11. D. EDC Meeting & City Council Report Calendar **page 77**
- 11. E. Appointment of Melvin Kim to EDC Supplemental packet

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, May June 13, 2023 at 6:00 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.

The Economic Development Advisory Commission held a Worksession on April 11, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. to 5:32 p.m. for EDC annual training, facilitated by City Clerk Melissa Jacobsen.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Session 23-04 a Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Karin Marks at 6:01 p.m. on April 11, 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. One seat is vacant from the resignation of Commissioner Jay Cherok on March 15, 2023.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS MARKS, PITZMAN, AREVALO, BROWN, PEREZ

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER GAMBLE (excused) & STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE PEARSON

STAFF: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER ENGBRETSSEN & DEPUTY CITY CLERK TUSSEY

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

AREVALO/BROWN MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON 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. Unapproved March 14, 2023 EDC Minutes

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

AREVALO/PITZMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

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 for April

Economic Development Manager Engebretsen spoke to her written report, highlighting the many City jobs that are currently open, staff transitions happening in the Planning office, and the purchase status

of the street banners. In response to questions from commissioners, Ms. Engebretsen provided more information on the new group in Homer “Guiding Homer’s Growth”. There was brief discussion on commissioners reaching out to them.

7.B. Chamber of Commerce Report

Economic Development Manager Engebretsen verbally reported on the last Chamber meeting. They have a newly-elected board and are in the process of divvying up into different subcommittees. She shared her involvement with the legislative government issues subcommittee and how it can help with bringing awareness to the things the Chamber and City are both working on, and the two groups working together as they communicate with legislators or the public.

7.C. Homer Marine Trades Association (HMTA) Report

7.D. Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District (KPEDD) Report

8. PUBLIC HEARING

9. PENDING BUSINESS

9.A. Housing Update
Action Item Report EDC 23-017

Chair Marks introduced the agenda item by reading the title. She provided a recap of the Homer Housing Conversation event that took place March 25th and spoke to the live survey links that are available online. This coalition is primarily going to help interest groups learn what next steps to take. The report generated from that event will soon be publicly available and a presentation will take place at City Council.

There was discussion on some of the statistics and facts realized at the event, what will be included in the report, and the commission’s desire for housing/rental fact-checking/data collection and vetting.

9.B. EDC Mission Statement
Action Item Report EDC 23-018

Chair Marks introduced the agenda item by reading the title and deferred to Commissioner Perez.

Commissioner Perez recapped the characteristics and components of a mission statement, provided examples, and facilitated discussion with the commission on what components the EDC can agree on to help craft the statement. There was unanimous support for the vision statement corrections that had been finalized at the March meeting.

The commission discussed the nine mission statement components drafted out on page 12 of the regular meeting packet:

1. Customers – agree; Homer and surrounding area residents and businesses
2. Products or services – agree; interface between citizens and City government
3. Markets – agree; Homer and surrounding area, and Lower Kenai Peninsula
4. Technology – remove the suggested ones, add use of surveys
5. Concern for survival and growth – suggested word changes; revisions to the statement can happen at next meeting

6. Philosophy – agree; directly from the vision statement
7. Distinctive competence – suggested word change “broad” for “unique”
8. Concern for public image – agree; ensure priorities provide value to the City, and dedicated to our community
9. Concern for employees – n/a

Commissioner Perez confirmed he will bring a draft mission statement to the May meeting.

- 9.C. EDC & Homer Chamber of Commerce Conversation Re: Economic Development in Homer
Action Item Report EDC 23-019

Chair Marks introduced the agenda item by reading the title and deferred to Economic Development Manager Engebretsen.

Ms. Engebretsen recapped some of the changes the Homer Chamber of Commerce has made to their marketing plan, and the results of their joint worksession. She suggested certain changes to the EDC’s Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis concerning Chamber marketing if they want this document to remain current.

PEREZ/PITZMAN MOVED TO REMOVE THE WORDING “RETHINK CHAMBER MARKETING” FROM THE SWOT ANALYSIS.

There was discussion on how the Chamber’s actions should not be in their SWOT analysis, how the amendment potentially changes the intent of the section, and there may need to be more wordsmithing on it to make the goal reflect the efforts of the joint EDC/Chamber worksession.

There was mutual agreement to remove the wording but bring a revised version back to the next meeting. Commissioner Arevalo volunteered to craft a new phrase to bring back to the May meeting.

VOTE: NO: AREVALO, BROWN, PITZMAN, MARKS, PEREZ

Motion failed.

Chair Marks spoke to scheduling an annual worksession and having it on their EDC calendar and opened the floor for discussion.

Discussion ensued with the commission mutually agreeing to have the joint Chamber worksession be a standing annual item under February.

- 9.D. Land Allocation Plan, Part 2 & Large City Projects Update
Action Item Report EDC 23-020
Presentation Slides

Chair Marks introduced the agenda item by reading the title and deferred to Economic Development Manager Engebretsen.

Ms. Engebretsen shared a presentation she had given to the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission at their last meeting on how the Land Allocation Plan, Comprehensive Plan, and Zoning Codes fit together, and gave an update on where those document revision projects are at with the Council and City staff. She summarized other City projects that are in the works including a port business plan and where the public can sign up for updates on the City’s website for Harbor Expansion Project.

In response to her request for a commissioner to join her for the presentation to Council, Commissioner Perez volunteered to be present.

There was discussion on Mayor Castner's veto of the Comprehensive Plan contract, and the line item reduction to conduct a planning and zoning code rewrite but not the Comprehensive Plan.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.A. Alaska Small Business Development Center (AKSBDC) Budget Request Action Item Report EDC 23-021

Chair Marks introduced the agenda item by reading the title and deferred to Economic Development Manager Engebretsen.

Ms. Engebretsen explained the Alaska Small Business Development Center's request to budget the Homer Business Advisor position in the upcoming budget cycle. In the past the amount has been higher, but the Kenai Peninsula Borough was able to increase their funding level specifically for this Homer position so that the City would not have to pay as much. Chair Marks spoke to the number of councilmembers that have been sponsors of this funding in the past, and then asked for a motion.

PITZMAN/PEREZ MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL FUNDING FOR THE ALASKA SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER HOMER BUSINESS ADVISOR POSITION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000 FOR FY24 AND \$15,000 FOR FY25.

Commissioner Brown confirmed with Ms. Engebretsen that this request would add it to the upcoming budget where it was not initially included.

Commissioner Perez commented on the information provided and his support for the funding request. He spoke to the value of this position's service in our community.

Commissioner Arevalo opined having the position be a little bit more mobile in terms of finding things out for people with particular types of businesses for our area is good.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

10.B. Port Expansion Update Action Item Report EDC 23-022

Chair Marks introduced the agenda item by reading the title and deferred to Economic Development Manager Engebretsen.

Ms. Engebretsen reported on the three different resolutions about the harbor expansion project that were discussed at last night's City Council meeting. She requested feedback from the commission on what their level of interest is on this subject, and if there is an interest, if it should be a running agenda item or a type of report.

Commissioners each voiced their support for regular updates and the importance of staying abreast of the harbor expansion investigation study and project as they interact with the community. There was mutual agreement that as updates come up a written report in their meeting packet would suffice.

11. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- 11.A. City of Homer Newsletter – April 2023 Issue
- 11.B. City Manager’s Reports
CM March 28, 2023 Report
CM April 10, 2023 Report
- 11.C. EDC 2022-23 Strategic Plan
- 11.D. EDC Meeting & City Council Report Calendar

Chair Marks noted the informational materials. She reminded Commissioner Perez he will be giving the EDC report at the April 24th Council meeting, and requested someone consider volunteering for the May meeting since Commissioner Cherok is no longer on the commission.

12. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

13. COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Deputy City Clerk Tussey announced she has given her notice with the City and her last day is April 21st. She thanked the commission for all their work, for helping her become a seasoned clerk, and that she will still be in Homer so hopes to see them out in the community. At Chair Marks’ request, she noted EDC Election of Officers will be on their May agenda.

Economic Development Manager Engebretsen thanked Ms. Tussey for her work, Commissioner Perez for his work on the mission statement, and the commission for a good meeting.

14. COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Perez thanked everyone for participating. He shared he enjoys the direction they are heading and looks forward to what else they get to do.

Commissioner Arevalo shared she is sad to see Ms. Tussey go. She reported on the local food security/food system gatherings that have taken place. One was a collaboration between Homer Soil and Water and the Alaska Food Policy Council to help inform staff at the college as part of their new sustainable agriculture program. The second gathering was a broader invite to the community to discuss if a working group existed that focused on local food security and food system issues, what different issues should they focus on.

Commissioner Brown wished Ms. Tussey luck and noted it’s going to be hard to replace her. She commented on the joint worksession between EDC and the Chamber of Commerce; she was unable to attend but listened to the recording. She agreed with the majority of the discussion but wanted to share her thoughts on the higher-than-national-average cost of living and suggested that be an area they explore further, along with property taxes.

Commissioner Pitzman shared he’s sad to see Ms. Tussey go; she is really good at her job and has been very helpful for him getting going as a new commissioner. He voiced his appreciation for everybody’s input and thought it was a great meeting.

Chair Marks shared she will miss Ms. Tussey, how she keeps her on track, and that she's known her since she was young so is glad she isn't leaving Homer. She noted it was a good meeting and is looking forward to the second half of the year and their other plans.

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Marks adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m. The next regular meeting is Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. All meetings are scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers and via Zoom Webinar.

RACHEL TUSSEY, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

Approved: _____

Trails as Economic Drivers for the Community

- 2021 – Outdoor recreation sector increased 3.6% of GDP
- ONLY sector to increase & one of highest in nation
- Tourism contributes but most trail users are Alaskans; Alaskans spend money recreating
- Folks decide where they are going to go based on what kinds of trails are available
- Trails are not a luxury; they are a need to have
- No trails on northside of Kachemak Bay



Funding



100 Women Who Care
Donation



Homer Foundation grants



Community Assistance
Program (CAP) grant



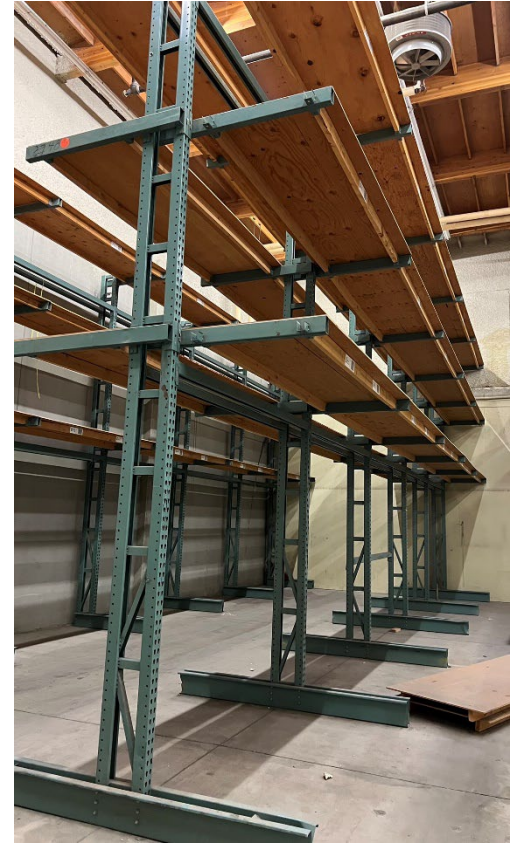
Private donations



Very resourceful at salvaging
materials that can be used
for building trails

6x8 guardrail timbers
from local road rehab
project

Shelving from
warehouse that needed
to get moved; metal
supports strong enough
to be used as
boardwalk joists



Who We Work With

City of Homer

Homer Soil & Water
Conservation District

Kachemak Nordic Ski
Club

Independent Living
Center

Homer Cycling Club



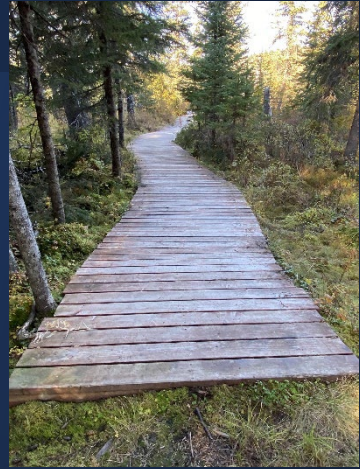


Boardwalks for Wet Trails

We considered step and run boardwalk since it is less expensive & popular for wet areas - but not appropriate for folks with balance issues.

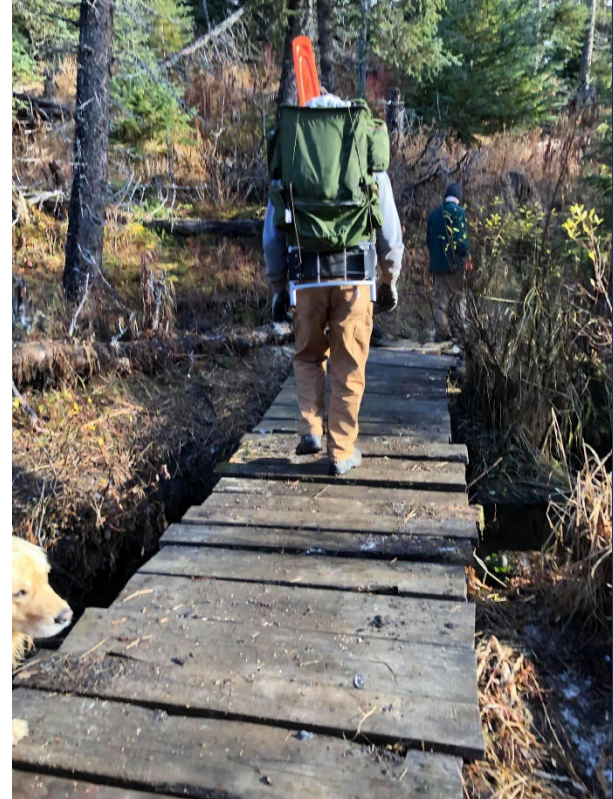
Any boardwalks we construct on a ski trail must be 8ft wide to accommodate grooming equipment. We are working with ski club to cost share on mutual trails that would otherwise only need to be 3ft wide for hikers.



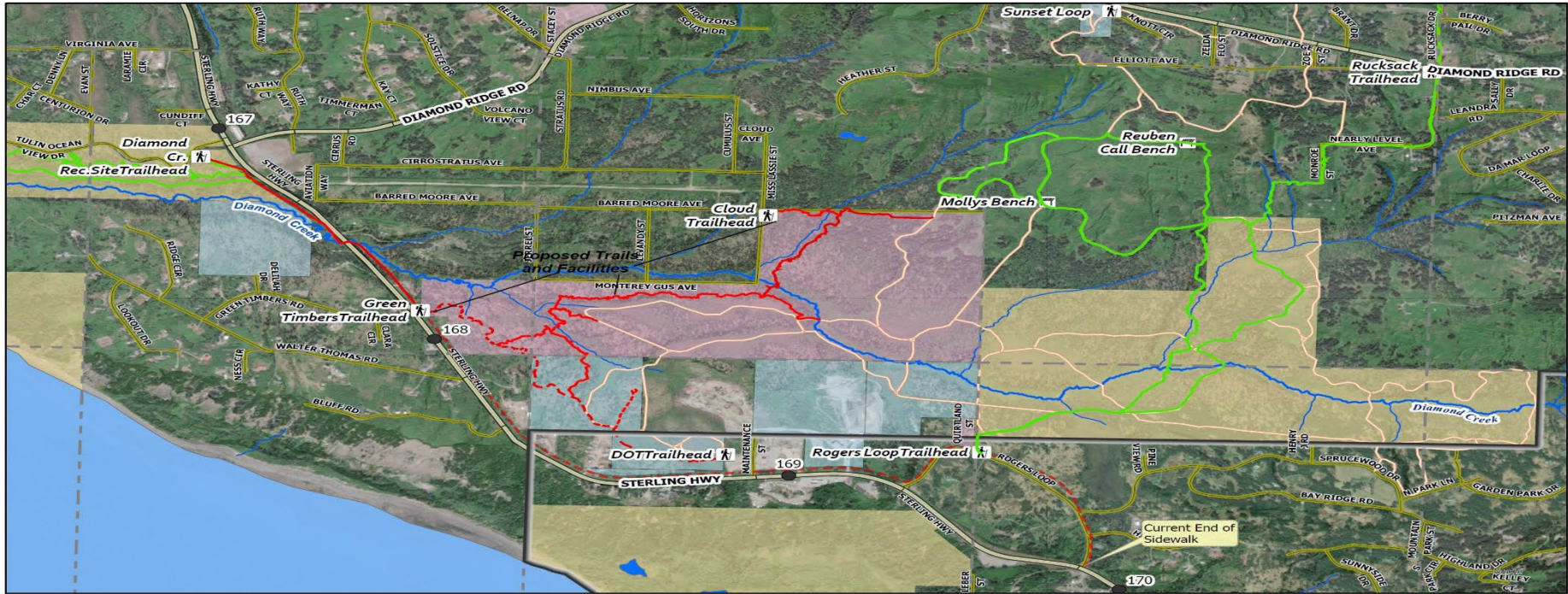


Vision

- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant – connect Rogers Loop to Diamond Creek SRS – 4.7 million dollars
 - Establish pedestrian connectivity between Alaska State Parks Diamond Creek State Recreation Site and City of Homer Green Timbers Trailhead; construct off road parking at the Rogers Loop Trailhead; this includes a multiplate tunnel under the highway for non motorized transportation
 - Construct summer use trails within the City of Homer’s Diamond Creek Recreation Area (DCRA) as outlined in the 2013 plan including all ages & abilities trail
 - Establish direct connectivity between the proposed Green Timbers Trailhead at MP 167.9 and the DOT Trailhead at MP 168.9 to the Rogers Loop Trailhead on Rogers Loop Road – detached pathway
 - Establish connectivity from the Roger Loop Trailhead to the existing sidewalk along the east side of the Sterling Highway at MP 169.9



Project Map

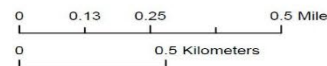


Data Sources: KPB (parcels, roads, LIDAR 2008)
 HNTA (HSA data trails)
 Author: Derek, State trails
 Photos: Google Earth, Aerial (KPB) roads
 Project: HSA Trails, State trails
 Eri: World (satellite) imagery
 HNTA Trails (HSA) State trails
 Project: Alaska State Planning Zone 4, NAD83
 Date: 02/28/23
 Map Author: C. Garwood, HNTA



Legend

Proposed All Abilities Trails	Streets	ADNR Owned Parcels
Proposed Connector Trails	Major Roads	KPB Owned Parcels
Highway Milepost	Hiking and Biking Trails	City of Homer Parcels
Winter (ski) Trails	Bench	City Homer Boundary
Bench	Trailhead	USGS Section Lines

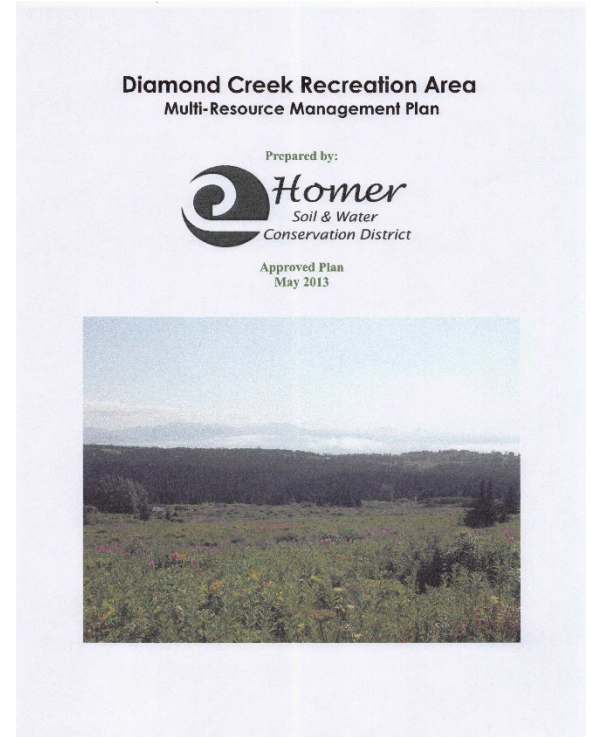


WEST HOMER RECREATION PLANNING



Diamond Creek Recreation Area Management Plan

- 275 acres
- Originally acquired by Kachemak Heritage Land Trust with a Forest Legacy Land grant and private donations
- City of Homer accepted title and designated it for public purpose as park land
- City adopted a comprehensive management plan in 2013



Diamond Creek Recreation Area Management Plan

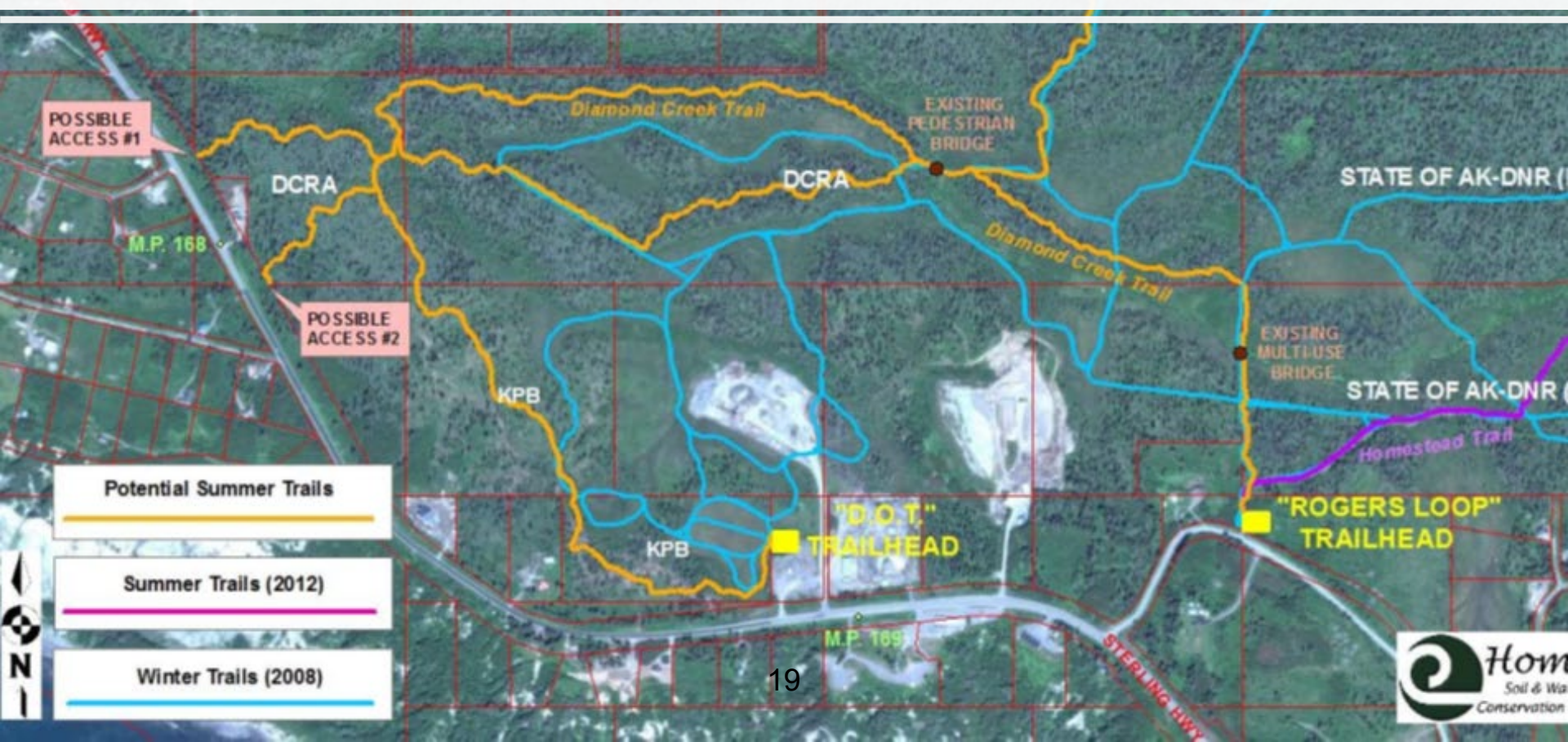
Objectives

- Conservation
- Recreational
- Education

Strategies

- Install signage & maps
- Rogers Loop trailhead parking
- Provide parking at western border (Green Timbers)
- Construct summer trails
- Work with DOT for non-motorized route across Sterling Hwy & extend recreational corridor to Diamond Creek State Recreation Site

DCRA Proposed Trails



What are we doing now?



- The project has given HTA a roadmap for how to develop trails in what we are calling the “Baycrest Recreation Area”
- Most of our projects are “mud to board” ; Will continue developing summer trails moving towards Diamond Creek Recreation Area
- 3 trail projects funded for this summer – extending boardwalk & reroute of ski trail to make it summer friendly
- Focused on getting KML files of Homer area trails on website



Homestead Mowing and Horse Team
This is a photo of a hay mower in the 1930s in Alaska. Although this photo was taken near Homer, Alaska, the mower in this photo is nearly identical to the one found at this spot. This mower is a type of mower used by homesteaders in the 1930s and 1940s in Homer. This is a hand-down hay mower commonly used by the farmers in southwestern Alaska at that time.

Ongoing Projects

- Throughout the Homer area, Identify potential easements & prioritize trails for maintenance
- Website & mapping
- Restoring historic Homestead trail (700 hikers/week) with interpretive panels
- Continue building boardwalks & bridges over wetlands and drainages
- Construct kiosks at trailheads with trail information, maps & educational information on wildlife, flora and fauna, and history

We have a very diverse Board; all experienced longtime Homer residents

Here is our surveyor and GIS specialist





Volunteers

- We have a small population base to pull volunteers from
- Notice age of volunteers in photos you have seen
- High School seniors must do 40 hour service project to graduate
- American Hiking Society Volunteer trail crew for summer 2024



Homer volunteer population base 18-65 years old is 2500 people

Anchorage is 183,000 people



: Back View :

Friend Raising Event



“Coming out” party
at Alices June 7th; not
a fund raiser



Large maps on walls



Get HTAs name out in
the community



Wind jacket designed
with HTA logo;
walking
advertisements &
used as door prize



Slide show



Advertise in the
paper, local radio etc

Questions?

homertrailsalliance.org



Stewarding a robust trail
network for a connected
community



HERC

May 2023 Updates

Comprehensive Plan

Chapter 6: Public Services & Facilities

Goal 1: Provide and improve city-operated facilities and services to meet the current needs of the community, anticipate growth, conserve energy, and keep pace with future demands.

Goal 1: Demolition of HERC 2

Progress

Test samples were taken May 1 and 2.

Next Steps

Test results are expected by mid-June. Staff will provide information to Council in the June/July time frame based on the results.



Goal 2: Business Plan

Progress

Working with existing user groups to quantify demand and which programs are expected to grow.

Next Steps

Continue collecting information to inform business plan creation over the next year.



Goal 3: Right Size a Replacement Building

Progress

Staff held a conversation with representatives from the largest Community Recreation programs. Participants spoke about space needs for their activity (basketball, pickle ball, volley ball, karate, etc.) and talked about the user trends. Are programs growing? Overall, the consensus was yes, more people would participate if space was available.

Next Steps

Staff and Council will have a work session in August. Council has set an upper limit on the building cost and asked for a range of less expensive alternatives. Additionally, staff has been asked to plan ahead for a building that only meets today's needs, but the needs 20 years in the future. Staff and Council can begin to determine if a straight replacement of the HERC gym and multipurpose room is enough, or if a double gym and a multipurpose room are the goal.

Information from the FY 24/25 budgets will be informative as to how much money the general fund can provide to pay increased costs for supporting a new/larger facility. It may be that a new bond measure needs to be structured like the police station, where a portion of the ballot measure includes a permanent sales tax to support the new facility. Or perhaps pursuing a new tax.



Goal 4: Budget - Construction and Operations and Maintenance

Progress

None.

Next Steps

The August work session will have an update on the estimated bond payoff for the police station, and rough numbers on building operations and maintenance costs. This will provide context as to when a new bond measure vote might be appropriate and necessary new revenue for operations.



**Homer Marine Trades Association
Regular Business Meeting
April 5, 2023
Homer Harbor Office**

MINUTES

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President, Aaron Fleenor at 6:10 p.m.

Officers/Directors Present: Aaron Fleenor, Kate Mitchell, Jen Hakala, Cinda Martin, Josh Hankin-Foley, Bruce Friend and Amy Woodruff, Communications Director. Claire Neaton, Eric Engebretsen, Mark Zieset and Adam Smude were absent. A quorum was established.

Guest Presentations:

- Michael Daniel of Anchor 907 and Brad Anderson of Homer Chamber of Commerce – HCOC is organizing a summer solstice event complete with music, food trucks and activities, to be held in part at the deep-water dock on 6/21. They would like to hold a deckhand skills competition during the event and were hoping that HMTA would consider organizing. They also talked about implementing a charity component to their annual fundraising such as continuing support for HMTA scholarships.
- Bryan Hawkins, Harbormaster – reported that the City has signed the contract to begin the harbor expansion study; the Corps of Engineers can do all or a portion of the study, but they have allowed the City to sub out the engineering piece to HRD. There have been some very positive meetings with the Colonel. A public meeting will happen about the 2nd week of May. He also reported that there are a few ordinances coming up on Monday including the P&H taking over the spit campgrounds, and a couple of lease renewals. Working on a grant to rebuild the float systems; grant will cover 80% of the cost but a revenue source will need to be established to create a fund to handle the other 20%. Ideas such as parking fees, possible bed tax have been batted around. He also requested that HMTA members show up to the Committee as a Whole council meetings to show general support for the P&H, no “agenda” needed, just who they are, business owned/operated and how many employees, etc. during public comment period. Meetings start at 5pm.

Approval of Agenda – Motion by Jen Hakala to approve the agenda as revised, 2nd and carried.

Approval of Minutes of March 1st, 2023, meeting – Motion by Kate Mitchell to approve the minutes as written, 2nd and carried.

Treasurer’s Report –Jen Hakala reviewed the current Statement of Financial Position and Trial Balance, copy attached; there are no outstanding bills. She and Amy are still working on trying to get Stripe and QB to reconcile.

Communications Director’ Report – Amy

- Website was down in March due to an expired cc for the domain name – now paid for the next 2 years

- Met with Troy Laky of AC/DC re: the upcoming Round Haul to create the flyer that has since been posted on Facebook; Troy has offered to allow other members to put up tents if they desired. Round Haul is on 4/29 11am-2pm at the old Wildberry building on Pioneer.
- Still working on an accurate membership list which will live on the website
- Mailchimp is now automatically syncing with QB which adds new members automatically
- She is able to make edits on the website now
- Two things that would help her; sending pictures or allowing her to access pictures on members' sites, suggestion to use Drop Box to send photos; and figuring out what the voice of HMTA sounds like (strictly professional and direct or professional with a bit of playfulness)

Committee Reports:

- Advertising – Kate reported that all print ads are set for the year; next up will be the Tide Books in the fall
- Website/Social Media – covered under Amy's report
- Radio – Mark – Alpha Media ad; Mark reported that there were 3 members who responded to the radio ad offer; Home Run Oil/KOA, Sea Tow, and AB Boat Repairs. There would be 50 60-second ads and selling 30 second ads would be very time consuming in this short amount of time. The cost is \$1,750 per month and we must purchase all 4 months (May – August), \$7,000 total. At this point, he feels that there is not enough interest to move forward for the expense. No further action taken.
- Workforce Development - Aaron
 - FOLs – follow up with Walter and/or Lindsey at FLEX – Josh reported that the class has been pulled from FLEX/Lindsey; there has been no further response from Walter
 - KPC courses – various Maritime Tech courses have been scheduled and Amy is putting flyers out on SM as they come up
 - Career Fair follow up – Cinda reported that there was a good student turn out and our HMTA panel was excellent, attended by about 8-10; Jen and Amber gave out several course flyers and scholarship applications.
- Scholarship – Cinda reported that she has received one scholarship from Garret Briscoe; deadline is April 15th; Amy will forward the application over to AVTEC as well.
- Membership – covered under Amy's report above

Old Business:

- Annual To-Do List – Mark/review/action items
- Round Haul – scheduled for April 29th at AC/DC; will need to start thinking about the next one
- PME 2023 – Jen reported that we have 1 10x10 booth space to sell; NOMAR/Northern Enterprises/Port & Harbor/HMTA are slotted for booth space so far

New Business:

- Port & Harbor letter of support for Port Infrastructure Program - \$60MM grant application to replace the floats in ½ the harbor requires letters of support. Motion by Kate to write a letter of support for the Port & Harbor, 2nd and carried. Amy will send the specifics and template.
- Address Kachemak Bay Conservation Society's request to attend an HMTA board meeting to discuss our position about the harbor expansion – discussion held regarding the most effective way to communicate with the Society. Motion by Bruce Friend to write them a letter to let them know we support the study for the harbor expansion and will participate in the process, 2nd and carried. Bruce will draft a letter for the board's review and send to Penelope.

Action Items (Amy):

- Notify members of City Council Committee of the Whole meeting dates/times as well as “hot topics”
- Send Scholarship Application to AVTEC
- Send specifics and template for letter of support for Port Infrastructure Program

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 3rd 6:00 at Homer Harbor Office

Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the board members, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cinda Martin
HMTA Secretary



Harbor Expansion Study Update

On March 29, 2023, the City and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) signed a Federal Cost Share Agreement to begin a three-year feasibility study of expanding Homer's harbor. Planning activities with the USACE will kick off with a three-day design charrette, May 17 through 19.

The USACE conducts design charrettes in the very early stage of a general investigation study to identify project requirements, gather functional information from customers and stakeholders, assess the project site, and allow for public engagement with the USACE design team. The full schedule of public events is below and online at www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/port/homer-harbor-expansion. Participation can be in-person or virtual. A link will be provided later at www.homerharborexansion.com.

The City is also working with HDR as an owner representative to assist the City in a successful coordination effort between USACE and the greater Homer community. HDR's planning activities with the City began on Friday, April 28 at a joint work session with the Homer City Council and Port & Harbor Advisory Commission where they began drafting a Charter Document that defines a shared vision, collective goals and objectives, and success factors for the City's role in the Homer Harbor Expansion.

Stay up to date on the Homer Harbor Expansion study at the website: www.homerharborexansion.com.

Mark Your Calendar!



May 17, 18 and 19



Islands & Oceans Visitor Center



www.homerharborexansion.com



Full schedule below

Homer Harbor Expansion Design Charrette

Public Work Session Schedule

Wednesday, May 17

12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

First Public Work Session *(Open to the public with comment at end of work session)*

- Introduction
- USACE Process
- General Navigation Feature vs. Local Services Facility
- Harbor Expansion History

Thursday, May 18

1:30 to 5 p.m.

Second Public Work Session *(Open to the public with full public engagement)*

- Developing potential measures and alternatives to be considered in scoping phase

Friday, May 19

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Third Public Work Session *(Open to the public with comment at end of work session)*

- Compare measures and alternatives that will be considered in scoping phase

2 to 3 p.m.

USACE Charette Briefing *(Open to the public with comment at end of work session)*

- Provide summary of work completed during charrette
- Provide USACE next steps in Feasibility Study



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Planning

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

Planning@ci.homer.ak.us

(p) 907-235-3106

(f) 907-235-3118

TO: Economic Development Advisory Commission
FROM: Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager
DATE: May 9, 2023
SUBJECT: Housing

Recommendation Action: No action at this time. This is a standing agenda item.

- Community Housing Conversation was held Saturday, March 25th.
- Report from the event should be out in May.



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Memorandum

TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION
FROM: JULIE ENGBRETSSEN, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
DATE: MAY 9, 2023
SUBJECT: EDC Budget Requests FY24 & FY25

Requested Action:

- *Review the attached email regarding budget requests for the City of Homer's Community Recreation program. Make a recommendation (if Council has not already adopted the budget).*

Commissioner Pitzman requested this as an agenda item.

NOTE:

- Council MAY pass the operating budget on Monday May 8th. Or they may wait until the 22nd.
- A Council member may bring the budget requests to Council, and Council may adopted them, again on the 8th.
- I will have an update at your meeting. If Council does not adopt the budget on the 8th, the EDC will have time as a Commission to make a recommendation on these requests.

Attachment

Leask Email 4/20/23



ACTION ITEM REPORT

EDC Mission Statement

To: Economic Development Advisory Commission
From: Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager
Meeting Date: 9 May 23

Summary Statement:

EDC Short 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.

Recap: The Commission has defined a vision statement (see next page). At the last meeting, the EDC looked at examples of mission statements and provided guidance to Commissioner Perez. The language below is his draft mission statement for Commission discussion.

From Commissioner Perez:

The Economic Development Commission (EDC) of the City of Homer serves as a volunteer advisory body providing an interface between citizens and city government. Our driving philosophy is to foster sustainable economic growth while preserving cultural and natural heritage, and promoting a high quality of life for residents and businesses in Homer and the surrounding area.

The EDC exists to serve the local community, and as informed citizens, we will provide a forum to engage in emerging community issues. The EDC will also facilitate community enhancement projects and provide actionable recommendations for the City of Homer. The EDC seeks to bring together broad perspectives and backgrounds from our volunteer citizens to ensure our priorities provide value to the City of Homer. We believe that by engaging in emerging issues and facilitating discussions around sustainable economic growth, we can help to shape the economic future of our community in a positive and impactful way.

Staff Recommendation: Discuss the draft mission statement.

Vision Statement: The Economic Development Advisory Commission provides a forum for civic and business engagement on behalf of the City of Homer with the goal of fostering sustainable growth of an economically diverse community while preserving its cultural and natural heritage to maintain a high quality of life.



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(f) 907-235-3118

TO: Economic Development Advisory Commission
FROM: Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager
DATE: May 9, 2023
SUBJECT: Revision to SWOT Analysis

Recommendation Action: Review draft language proposed by Commissioner Arevalo. (To be provided at the meeting)

The EDC SWOT includes the following language:

"Rethink Chamber marketing. Marketing the community away from aggressive tourism to other industries could give Homer time to manage the tourism we have, and grow in different directions."

The Commission agreed by consensus that perhaps this language should be modified, after the conversation with the Chamber of Commerce in February. Commissioner Arevalo agreed to think of an amendment and will provide it at the meeting.



ACTION ITEM REPORT

Election of EDC Officers – Vice Chair

To: Economic Development Advisory Commission
From: Renee Krause, MMC, Deputy City Clerk II
Meeting Date: 09 May 2023

Summary Statement:

Per Article IV, Sec. 1 of the EDC Bylaws: “A Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be elected from among the appointed commissioners at the regular April meeting of the Commission.”

Recommended process for Election of Vice Chair:

- 1) A commissioner will make a motion to determine the EDC’s method of voting for the elections. Voting is commonly done by a Show of Hands or a Voice Vote (yes/no).
- 2) Once the election method is decided, the Chair will open the floor for nominations.
- 3) Commissioners are free to call out nominations, they don’t need to be recognized by the Chair.
 - **These are not motions and do not require a second.**
 - It’s ok for a commissioner to nominate themselves.
 - If a commissioner calls out a nomination and that individual is fully against serving, it is acceptable for that nominated commissioner to speak up and say they would not be willing to accept the seat if elected. They have still been nominated though and should still go through the voting process; the rest of the commission at least now knows who of the nominees is/is not interested in serving.
- 4) Once all nominations are called out, the Chair will close the floor to nominations.
- 5) Chair will then call out each nominee’s name for voting. For each name called out, commissioners will vote using the selected method (Show of Hands/Voice Vote).
- 6) As soon as one of the nominees receives the majority of votes, the Chair will declare them elected. If only one person is nominated, the Chair simply declares the nominee elected.

Recommended process for Election of Chair:

- 1) It is preferred the gavel be handed over to the newly elected Vice Chair to conduct the vote.
- 2) Election is conducted in the same manner as it was for the Vice Chair (see steps 2-6 above).
- 3) The gavel/meeting will be turned over to the newly elected (or re-elected) Chair to conduct the remainder of the meeting.



ACTION ITEM REPORT

Review of EDC Bylaws

To: Economic Development Advisory Commission
From: Renee Krause, MMC, Deputy City Clerk II
Meeting Date: 09 May 2023

Summary Statement:

The Commission Bylaws were last amended and adopted in December of 2021. After review of the document it was noted that the following items should be updated to reflect current process or policy:

1. Article V, Line 64, Section 1. Deputy City Planner is specifically shown as Staff Liaison and it should reflect Economic Development Manager.
2. Article VI, Line 110, Section 6. Agenda Item should be amended to reflect CONSENT AGENDA

Recommended process:

Make a motion to amend the bylaws to reflect the updated title of the Staff Liaison to Economic Development Manager and format of the Meeting Agenda to reflect Consent Agenda in lieu on Approval of Minutes and to bring forward the draft revisions for second reading at the June meeting.

1 **CITY OF HOMER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION**
2 **BYLAWS**

3
4 **ARTICLE I - NAME AND AUTHORIZATION**

5
6 The Economic Development Advisory Commission was established October 25, 1993 with the adoption
7 of Ordinance 93-15(S)(A). The Commission was inactivated on January 24, 2000 and reactivated
8 February 27, 2006 by Resolution 06-20. The following bylaws were adopted on December 13, 2021 and
9 shall be in effect and govern the procedures of the Economic Development Advisory Commission.

10
11 **ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

12
13 The Economic Development Advisory Commission will act in an advisory capacity to the City Manager
14 and the City Council on the overall economic development planning for the City of Homer in accordance
15 with Homer City Code Chapter 2.76.040.

16
17 **ARTICLE III - MEMBERS**

18
19 Section 1. The Commission shall consist of seven members comprised of at least five (5) members that
20 reside inside city limits and shall be registered voters in the Kenai Peninsula Borough or the City of
21 Homer. Members shall be nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council to serve for three-
22 year terms to expire on April 1st of designated years.

23
24 Section 2. Notice of term expirations will be delivered to members by the City Clerk's Office. Members
25 wishing to continue services upon the completion of a three-year term must submit a reappointment
26 application to the City Clerk's Office, which is subject to review by the Mayor and confirmed by City
27 Council. There are no limits on the number of terms a member may serve.

28
29 Section 3. Members may not have alternates. If a position is vacated during a term, it shall be filled for
30 the unexpired term by an appointee selected by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council.

31
32 Section 4. A member's appointment is vacated under the following conditions:

- 33
- 34 • A member fails to qualify to take office within 30 days after their appointment;
 - 35 • A member resigns;
 - 36 • A member is physically or mentally unable to perform the duties of the office;
 - 37 • A member is convicted of a felony or of an offense involving a violation of their oath of office; or
 - 38 • A member has three consecutive unexcused absences, or misses half of all meetings within an
39 appointment year, whether excused or unexcused.

40 Section 5. The Mayor may appoint, subject to confirmation by the City Council, one City Council
41 member and one Homer area high school Student Representative to serve as consulting, non-voting
42 members. The Mayor, the City Manager, a representative of the Homer Marine Trades Association, and
43 the Director of the Homer Chamber of Commerce shall serve as non-voting, consulting members.

44
45 **ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS**

46
47 Section 1. A Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be elected from among the appointed
48 commissioners at the regular April meeting of the Commission.

49
50 Section 2. Officers shall serve a term of one year from the April meeting at which they are elected, and
51 until their successors are duly elected. Officers may be re-elected in subsequent years.
52

53 Section 3. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Commission, authorize calls for any
54 special meetings, execute all documents authorized by the Commission, serve as ex officio/voting
55 member of all committees, and generally perform all duties associated with that office.
56

57 Section 4. In the event of the absence, or disability of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall
58 assume and perform the duties of the Chair. If both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are absent,
59 and a quorum of four members are present, the senior member shall assume and perform the duties
60 and functions of the Chair.
61

62 **ARTICLE V – CITY STAFF ROLES**

63
64 Section 1. The Deputy City Planner shall serve as a staff liaison to the commission. The staff liaison shall
65 assist the Chairperson in setting meetings, preparing agendas, and other documentary material, and
66 coordinating the acquisition of needed materials and training. The staff liaison shall submit reports
67 and recommendations for those agenda items requiring decisions or recommendations by the
68 Commission. Other staff having experience, education, and professional training in the subject matter
69 may provide input into the reports and recommendations, or may provide supplemental information.
70 The information submitted may be oral, written or graphic, or some combination of all.
71

72 Section 2. The City Clerk shall designate a recording clerk to take minutes for the Commission and serve
73 as the Commission’s parliamentary advisory pursuant to AS 29.20.380(10) and HCC 2.12.010, and assist
74 the Chairperson with the conduct of the meeting.
75

76 **ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS**

77
78 Section 1. Regular meetings shall be open to the public and held on the second Tuesday of each month
79 at 6:00 p.m. in the designated location and shall be posted for public information as required by Homer
80 City Code and Alaska State Statutes.
81

82 Section 2. Special meetings and Worksessions may be called by the Staff Liaison, Chair, or a majority
83 of the Commission. Notice of such meetings shall be posted in the same manner as that for regular
84 meetings.
85

86 Section 3. A quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting shall consist of four members. For
87 purposes of determining the existence of a quorum, consulting members shall not be counted.
88 Worksessions do not require a quorum, however, no action may be taken at a worksession; items on
89 the agenda are for discussion only.
90

91 Section 4. Any member who is unable to attend a meeting, whether regular or special, shall contact the
92 Clerk in advance no later than two hours prior to the scheduled meeting time for excusal.
93

94 Section 5. Meeting agenda deadline is at 5:00 p.m. the Wednesday preceding the meeting. Allowances
95 will be made for holidays.
96

97 Section 6. The order of business for the regular meetings shall include, but not be limited to, the
 98 following items, which shall be covered in the sequence shown, as far as circumstances permit. Agenda
 99 shall be posted for public information as required by Homer City Code and Alaska State Statutes.

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------|--|-----------------------|
| 100 | | | |
| 101 | CITY LOGO | NOTICE OF MEETING | DEPT. CONTACT INFO |
| 102 | | REGULAR MEETING AGENDA | (City Clerk's Office) |
| 103 | | NAME OF BODY | |
| 104 | | DAY OF WEEK, DATE, AND TIME OF MEETING | |
| 105 | | PHYSICAL LOCATION OF MEETING & MEETING ROOM | |
| 106 | 1. | CALL TO ORDER | |
| 107 | 2. | AGENDA APPROVAL | |
| 108 | 3. | PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 minute time limit) | |
| 109 | 4. | RECONSIDERATION | |
| 110 | 5. | APPROVAL OF MINUTES | |
| 111 | 6. | VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS (Chair set time limit not to exceed 20 minutes. Public may not comment | |
| 112 | | on the visitor or the visitor's topic until audience comments. No action may be taken at this time.) | |
| 113 | 7. | STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS | |
| 114 | 8. | PUBLIC HEARING (3 minute time limit) | |
| 115 | 9. | PENDING BUSINESS | |
| 116 | 10. | NEW BUSINESS | |
| 117 | 11. | INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS (No action may be taken on these matters, for discussion only.) | |
| 118 | 12. | COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit) | |
| 119 | 13. | COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF | |
| 120 | 14. | COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER (If one is assigned) | |
| 121 | 15. | COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION (includes Comments of the Chair since they are part of the | |
| 122 | | commission.) | |
| 123 | 16. | ADJOURNMENT Next regular meeting is scheduled for _____. (Note any other worksessions, | |
| 124 | | special meetings, committee meetings etc.) All meetings scheduled to be held in the Homer City | |
| 125 | | Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska. (The meeting may | |
| 126 | | be scheduled for the Conference Room or virtually.) | |

127
 128 Section 7. Per Resolution of the City Council (Resolution 06-115(A)), Public Testimony shall normally
 129 be limited to three minutes per person. Exceptions may be provided for at the Chairperson's discretion
 130 or by a majority vote of the members in attendance.

131
 132 Section 8. Recorded minutes shall be made available by the City Clerk's Office to the Commission prior
 133 to the next meeting and a record of all voting will be included in the minutes of each meeting. Minutes
 134 shall be available to the public as required by Homer City Code and Alaska State Statutes.

135
 136 Section 9. Teleconference participation is allowed per the rules and limitations set forth in Homer City
 137 Code 2.58.060.

138 **ARTICLE VII – GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES**

139
 140
 141 Section 1. The Commission shall abide by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order insofar as it is
 142 consistent with the Commission's bylaws, other provisions of Homer City Code, or standing rules. In all
 143 other cases, bylaws, the code, or the standing rule shall prevail. This includes, but is not limited to, HCC

144 1.18 Conflicts of Interest, Partiality, and Code of Ethics; HCC 2.58 Boards and Commissions; HCC 2.76
145 Economic Development Advisory Commission; and the Open Meetings Act – AS 44.62.310-312.

146
147 Section 2. Each member, including the Chairperson, shall vote, and shall not abstain from voting,
148 unless such member claims a conflict of interest, or has an excused absence, in which event the
149 member shall be excused from voting. The member shall then state for the record the basis for the
150 abstention. Four affirmative votes are required to pass a motion. Voting will be by a roll call vote, the
151 order to be rotated; or by unanimous consent if no objection is expressed. Voting by proxy or absentee
152 is prohibited.

153
154 Section 3. Any rule or resolution of the Commission, whether contained in these Bylaws or otherwise,
155 may be suspended temporarily in connection with business at hand; and such suspension to be valid;
156 may be taken only at a meeting at which at least four of the members of the Commission shall be
157 present, and two-thirds of those present shall so approve.

158
159 Section 4. Training sessions developed or arranged by the City Clerk and approved by the City Manager
160 shall be mandatory unless a member's absence is excused by the Chairperson. The City Manager
161 and/or City Clerk, in their discretion and in consultation with the City Attorney as needed, may develop
162 model procedures to be used as a guide for the Commission.

163

164 **ARTICLE VIII - COMMITTEES**

165
166 Section 1. Committees of one or more members for such specific purposes as the business of the
167 Commission will only become active upon approval of Council. A memorandum and resolution will go
168 before Council outlining the reason, tasks assigned and termination date. Committees shall be
169 considered to be discharged upon completion of the purpose for which it was appointed, and after its
170 final report is made to and approved by the Commission.

171
172 Section 2. All committees shall make a progress report to the Commission at each of the Commission's
173 regular meetings.

174

175 **ARTICLE IX - BYLAW AMENDMENTS**

176
177 The Bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Commission by a majority plus one of the members,
178 provided that notice of said proposed amendment is given to each member in writing. The proposed
179 amendment shall be introduced at one meeting and action shall be taken at the next Commission
180 meeting. Amendments to bylaws shall be effective upon approval of the amendments by City Council
181 via resolution.

VOL. II - ISSUE VIII | MAY 2023

CITY OF HOMER

Monthly Newsletter from the Office of the City Manager



Greetings from City Hall

As the snow melts and the days grow longer, our community is buzzing with activity and excitement. The City is excited to bring you the latest news and updates from our vibrant community.



Kachemak Sponge Green Infrastructure Stormwater Management Project

At a recent City Council meeting, Coowe Walker, Reserve Manager for the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (KBNERR), announced some exciting news: the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) awarded a \$1.28 million Habitat Protection and Restoration grant in support of the City's innovative Kachemak Sponge Green Infrastructure Stormwater Management Project. Read the NOAA press release at www.noaa.gov/news-release/noaa-bil-investments-2023-alaska.

Kachemak Sponge is one of several green infrastructure projects planned by the City that utilizes natural wetlands to help mitigate problems associated with stormwater runoff. Currently, drainage ditches and culverts discharge stormwater directly into Kachemak Bay, which contributes to bluff erosion and introduces turbidity and nonpoint source pollutants into Kachemak Bay. The *Kachemak Sponge* project will convey this stormwater to retention/filtration structures first to remove sediment and contaminants, and then on to peatlands. Peatlands work naturally to absorb stormwater and slow discharge rates into Kachemak Bay. Peatland vegetation also has the ability to further remediate hazardous substances through long-term sequestration and elemental pollution removal.

The system is based on successful wetland treatment projects in Finland that have been proven to work wonders in cold climates. NOAA funds will acquire the peatlands necessary for this project. The City thanks KBNERR for their valued partnership in the project. For more information on this project, visit <https://bit.ly/3AKAKpl>.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- Library Events
- Community Corner
- Community Recreation
- Fire Department
- City Manager's Office
- City Clerk's Office
- May is Bike Month!
- Port & Harbor
- Public Safety Corner
- Meet the Staff
- Municipal Art Collection
- Stay Connected with City Council
- Join Our Team

Discover something new today and see the latest City project updates information! Learn about ways community members can get involved at City Hall and in the Homer community.

Follow us on Facebook

- City Hall: [@cityofhomerak](https://www.facebook.com/cityofhomerak)
- Parks & Recreation: [@homerparksandrec](https://www.facebook.com/homerparksandrec)
- Homer Public Library: [@homerpubliclibrary](https://www.facebook.com/homerpubliclibrary)
- Homer Police: [@homerpolice](https://www.facebook.com/homerpolice)
- Fire Department: [@HomerVolFireDept](https://www.facebook.com/HomerVolFireDept)

Subscribe to the Monthly Newsletter:

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/citymanager/monthly-email-newsletter

"Where the Land Ends and the Sea Begins"

LIBRARY EVENTS

Virtual Author Talks

Zoom in and listen to your favorite authors talk about their latest books. For a complete list of Upcoming Speakers, go to <https://libraryc.org/homerlibrary/upcoming>

May 3: *Raising Anti-Racist Children* by Britt Hawthorne, 9 a.m.

May 10: *Not Funny* by Jena Fiedman, 4 p.m.

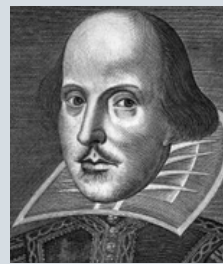
May 20: *Sadie* by Courtney Summers, 10 a.m.

Spring Book and Plant Sale

May 5-6

On Friday, May 5, join Friends of the Homer Library for a **members-only sale!** Browse through hundreds of books and dozens of plants the evening before the sale goes public. Want to become a member of the Friends of the Library and get first pick? Memberships start at \$15. You can join as a member at the door or [sign up today!](#)

On Saturday, May 6, all are welcome! The sale will continue all day, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Second Sunday Shakespeare

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 *Henry VIII* by William Shakespeare.

Find more information on the City's website: www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library/second-sunday-shakespeare-2

Lunch with a Council Member

May 9 - Shelly Erickson

Noon - 1 p.m., Library Meeting Room

Join the conversation with Council Member **Shelly Erickson**. Bring your questions and topics for discussion and enjoy a virtual lunch.

[Virtual Meeting Information](#)



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

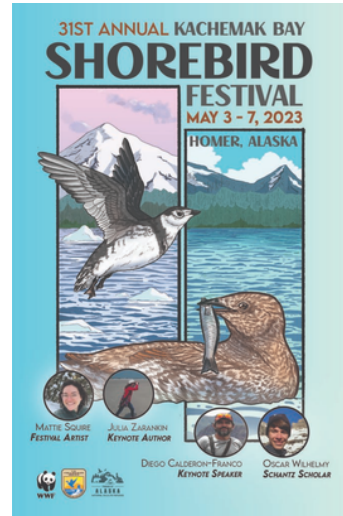
Community Corner

What's happening around the city of Homer

31st Annual Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival

May 3-7

The Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival is right around the corner! Bird watchers from all over the world flock to Homer to experience the annual migration of birds along the miles of shoreline and intertidal habitats found here. Homer is a prime location to catch a glimpse of the birds and take part in the educational programs led by the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, the Pratt Museum and Park and more.



Online registration is open. Go to www.kachemakshorebird.org for more information.

Sign up! Form a team!
Step Up for Your Health!



7th Annual Free Community Walking Challenge

SAVE THE DATE! ORGANIZE YOUR TEAM!
REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 10!

May 1st - 28th, 2023

WALK TO WIN: WEEKLY DRAWINGS FOR HOMER BUCKS!

End-of-challenge CASH PRIZE DRAWINGS – \$100 · \$200 · \$300
\$500, \$300 or \$200 to donate to your team's charity of choice!

Custom "2023 Homer Steps Up! Winners" T-shirts for your team!

HOMERSTEPSUP.COM



Community Recreation



30th Annual Safe and Healthy Kids Fair

The 30th Annual Safe and Healthy Kids Fair is happening on for Saturday, May 6 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the parking lot of the Homer High School. This is a free, family-friendly event for children of all ages to focus on safety, health, wellness, and fun! It offers more than 25 booths and stations with hands-on activities and demonstrations. All attendees are invited to enter their names into a drawing to win one of four brand-new bikes of various sizes for differing age ranges.

Kids are invited to bring their bikes and helmets for a free bike inspection and enjoy riding the course of the bike rodeo. Helmets are required and are available for purchase on-site at a discounted rate.

Other attractions include visits from Beary the Be Well Bear, the infamous teddy bear clinic, stilt walkers, BOB the bookmobile, loads of giveaways, free car seat checks, a children's circus performance, resources from youth-serving agencies, and more!

Food will be available for purchase, and all proceeds from food and helmet sales help support the operational expenses of the fair. The Safe and Healthy Kids Fair is organized by a committee representing local organizations whose missions include facilitating healthy outcomes and injury prevention for youth. The motto reflected at the annual fair is "**Be safe, have fun, do good, and pass it on!**"

For more information or to get involved, visit the Safe and Healthy Kids Fair Facebook page, email safeandhealthykidsfair@gmail.com.

Contact the Safe & Healthy Kids Fair Committee for more info: safeandhealthykidsfair@gmail.com
KPBSD posts flyers a community service. Such posting does not constitute an endorsement for or against the materials or viewpoints expressed in them.

Volleyball Tournament

City of Homer Community Recreation hosted an all-day Adult Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament on Sunday, April 2. A total of eight teams, including one from the Central Peninsula, played 28 games with a crowd of over a hundred fans cheering them on.

Congratulations to **TEAM PENINSULA** for winning the inaugural volleyball Tournament. **TEAM CAROLINE** took second place and **TEAM ANNA** placed third.

To see the entire Community Recreation program list, check out www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/com-rec.



Inlet Winds Band Performance

The City of Homer Community Recreation **Inlet Winds Band** held an amazing performance at the Mariner Theater on April 22. An estimated 250 people were in attendance. There are 38 band members including seven high school students who have been practicing once a week for two hours for the past 10 weeks to learn an array of some complex yet entertaining songs. The band was led by volunteer Band Directors Eric and Mary Simondsen. Stay tuned for future band and concert opportunities in the fall!



Fire Department



Residential Fuel Spill

In April, Homer Volunteer Fire Department responded to a call from Enstar Energy regarding a fuel smell in Crittenden and Hidden Way area. Fire Chief Mark Kirko tracked the scent to a property on Hidden Way and reported the spill to the City's Water and Sewer team, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Coast Guard. The spill was determined to be home heating fuel from a 300-gallon tank, with an estimated leakage of 75-150 gallons. HVFD and the City's Water and Sewer team responded with crews to place absorbent boom and pads at culverts and storm drains to help mitigate the spread of fuel toward the bay. DEC has taken over case management and HVFD is no longer involved.

To prevent future spills, the City encourages property owners to take a look at their heating oil fuel tanks to make sure they're in good shape. Even if you have converted to natural gas, you may still have a heating oil fuel tank, so be sure to check out old systems for safety and security!

Check out the [Steps to Close a Heating Oil Tank](#) for some advice.

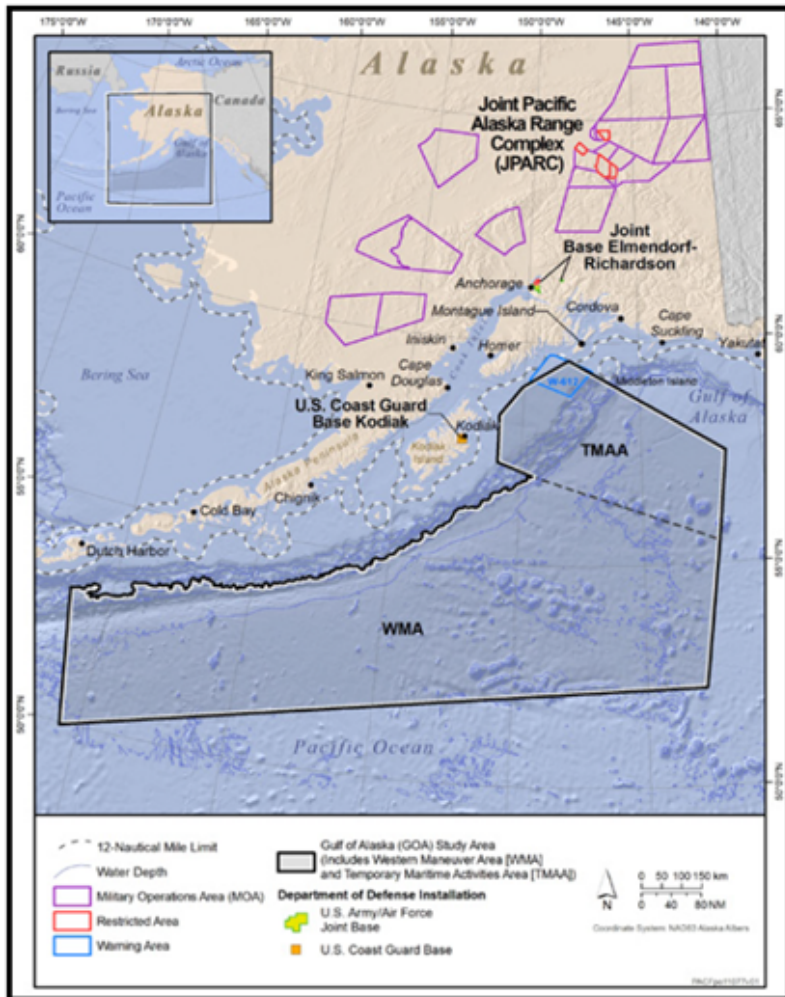
Steps to Close a Heating Oil Tank

- 1 Notify the Oil Supplier**
If you are converting to gas or electric heat or if you are replacing a tank, call your oil distributor and ask them to discontinue the oil service to your tank.
- 2 Remove Product**
Remove all petroleum product from the tank and line before pulling the tank. Your oil supplier may pump out the reusable oil and credit your account. The fuel supplier should have an explosion-proof or air-driven pump or a vacuum truck to remove the liquid in the tank.
- 3 Disconnect all Piping and Drain**
All piping should be disconnected, drained, and capped (if it cannot be removed). This includes the tank fill line.
- 4 Tank Cleaning**
Oil sludge or residue should be removed and disposed of properly.
- 5 Tank Removal**
Once the tank is cleaned, it may be removed from the property and disposed properly.

Northern Edge Exercise

In a virtual meeting on April 20, 2023, Mayor Castner and City staff met with representatives from the Navy to discuss the upcoming Northern Edge Exercise, which will start in early to mid-May. The Northern Edge Exercise is the military's largest joint training exercise in Alaska. Maritime training activities conducted during Northern Edge occur in the Gulf of Alaska within a designated Temporary Maritime Activities Area (TMAA), which is located south of Prince William Sound and east of Kodiak Island, and the Western Maneuver Area (WMA), which is located south of Kodiak Island.

This meeting was part of the coastal community outreach that the Navy is coordinating in anticipation of the exercises which take place every other year and typically last up to 21 days. During the meeting with City staff, John Moser, Environmental Planner for the Navy, discussed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Northern Edge and the mitigation measures in place. The prominent changes since the last exercise in 2021 include an enlarged training area where vessels and aircraft can operate called the Western Maneuver Area (WMA), and a new Continental Shelf and Slope Mitigation Area within the Temporary Maritime Activities Area (TMAA). While in the past a majority of activities occurred in the TMAA, the Navy now prohibits the use of explosives during training in the Continental Shelf and Slope Mitigation Area to protect marine species and biologically important habitat.



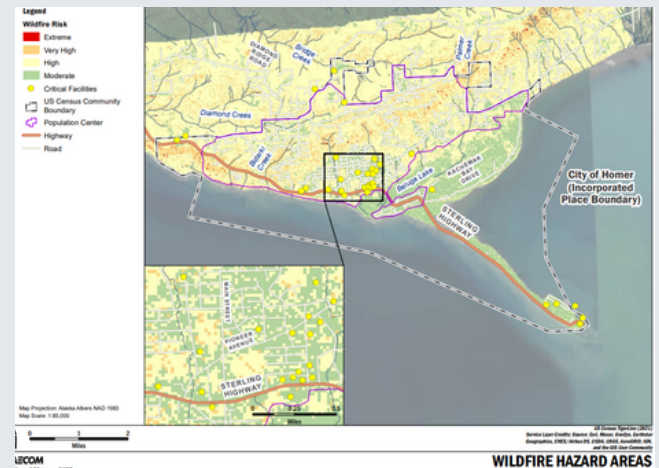
WILDFIRE

A wildfire—also known as a wildland fire—is a fire in an area of combustible vegetation occurring in rural areas. Wildfires can be caused by human activities (e.g., unattended burns, campfires, or off-road vehicles without spark-arresting mufflers); or by natural events (e.g., lightning, drought, or infestation). Wildfires can be classified as forest, urban, tundra, interface or intermix fires, and prescribed burns.

Most of the Homer area has moderate or high wildland fuel risk, with some areas of very high risk. The Homer Spit, tidal flats, and low-lying areas around Beluga Lake are at moderate risk; the areas of very high risk are primarily along the bluffs.

Creating and maintaining defensible space around your home is crucial. For more information on defensible space, review the [AK Firewise Pocket Guide](#).

If you would like to read more about wildfires and their potential hazard of them to Homer, please refer to Table 3-10 of the [Local Hazard Mitigation Plan](#).



Burn Bans & Permits

As we enter the dry spring season before the green-up, the risk of fire becomes greater. To ensure your safety and the safety of those around you, it is important to take the necessary precautions before burning. Make sure to check if there are any burn bans in effect and obtain any required permits before proceeding. Check out www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/fire/burn-permits for more information.

City Clerk's Office

Celebrating the 54th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week

April 29 – May 6, 2023, is the 54th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week. Initiated in 1969 by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks and endorsed by all of its members throughout the United States, Canada, and 15 other countries, the week is a time of celebration and reflection on the importance of the Clerk's office. Although it is one of the oldest positions in local government, few people realize the vital services Municipal and Deputy Clerks perform for their community. They are the local officials who administer democratic processes and ensure transparency to the public, which includes keeping the official records of the city, conducting local elections, and facilitating all legislative actions. They act as compliance officers for federal, state, and local statutes, provide parliamentary support to City Council and the commissions/boards, manage public inquiries and relationships, arrange for ceremonial and official functions, and may even serve as financial officers or chief administrative officers. For more information on the Homer City Clerk's Office including our Code of Ethics, staffing history, and the history of the Clerk profession, see the complete Clerk's Office Current and Historical Information Packet online at www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk.



Rachel and the Library Advisory Board. Red Asslin Martin, Marcia Kuszmaul, David Berry, Douglas Bailey, Kathy Carsow, Rachel Tussey, Kate Finn, Michael McKinney, and Bristol Johnson.

May is Bike Month in Homer!

With beautiful scenery and ample opportunities for outdoor recreation, it's no wonder biking is a popular mode of transportation in our community. But biking isn't just a fun way to get around – it's also an important part of our City's [Climate Action Plan](#). By choosing non-motorized transportation options like biking, we can reduce our carbon footprint and work towards a more sustainable future.

Throughout the month of May, Homer Drawdown and Homer Cycling Club will be hosting a variety of biking activities and events. Whether you're an experienced cyclist or just getting started, there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Check out the [Bike Month flyer](#) for more details. From a safety class to a film festival and bike rodeo, there are plenty of ways to get involved and show your support for biking in the community.

Community participation is key to achieving the community's climate goals, and that's why community members are encouraged to get involved in bike month activities. By coming together as a community to support non-motorized transportation options like biking, we can make a real difference in reducing our impact on the environment and building a more sustainable future for generations to come. **So grab your bike, join the fun, and let's make May 2023 a Bike Month to remember!**

HOMER DRAWDOWN and HOMER CYCLING CLUB presents BIKE MONTH MAY 2023
www.HomerDrawdown.info

BIKE / WALK TO WORK / SCHOOL WEEK : MAY 15 - 19

ENERGIZER BOOTH at WKFL PARK
coffee snacks bacon
Mon, May 15th, 7:30 - 9:30 am
smoothy bike
Fri, May 19th, 4:30 - 6:30 pm

SAFE AND HEALTHY KIDS FAIR
bike rodeo
Sat, May 6th, 11:00 - Noon
High School Parking Lot

KBBI COFFEE TABLE
listen and call in
Wed, May 10th, 9:00 - 10:00 am

FILMED BY BIKE
film festival
Thurs, May 18th, 6:00 pm
Homer Theater
\$10

BY BICYCLE: COMMUTING HOMER
Sat, May 20th, 10:00 - Noon
KPC campus
free safety class

PLAY BIKE BINGO!
Fill out a card and turn it in to the Friday energizer booth for a chance to win prizes!
www.HomerDrawdown.info



Harbor Expansion Study Update

On March 29, 2023, the City and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) signed a Federal Cost Share Agreement to begin a three-year feasibility study of expanding Homer's harbor. Planning activities with the USACE will kick off with a three-day design charrette, May 17 through 19.

The USACE conducts design charrettes in the very early stage of a general investigation study to identify project requirements, gather functional information from customers and stakeholders, assess the project site, and allow for public engagement with the USACE design team. The full schedule of public events is below and online at www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/port/homer-harbor-expansion. Participation can be in-person or virtual. A link will be provided later at www.homerharborexansion.com.

The City is also working with HDR as an owner representative to assist the City in a successful coordination effort between USACE and the greater Homer community. HDR's planning activities with the City began on Friday, April 28 at a joint work session with the Homer City Council and Port & Harbor Advisory Commission where they began drafting a Charter Document that defines a shared vision, collective goals and objectives, and success factors for the City's role in the Homer Harbor Expansion.

Stay up to date on the Homer Harbor Expansion study at the website: www.homerharborexansion.com.

Mark Your Calendar!

- May 17, 18 and 19
- Islands & Oceans Visitor Center
- www.homerharborexansion.com
- Full schedule below

Homer Harbor Expansion Design Charrette

Public Work Session Schedule

Wednesday, May 17

- 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. **First Public Work Session** *(Open to the public with comment at end of work session)*
- Introduction
 - USACE Process
 - General Navigation Feature vs. Local Services Facility
 - Harbor Expansion History

Thursday, May 18

- 1:30 to 5 p.m. **Second Public Work Session** *(Open to the public with full public engagement)*
- Developing potential measures and alternatives to be considered in scoping phase

Friday, May 19

- 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Third Public Work Session** *(Open to the public with comment at end of work session)*
- Compare measures and alternatives that will be considered in scoping phase

2 to 3 p.m.

- USACE Charette Briefing** *(Open to the public with comment at end of work session)*
- Provide summary of work completed during charrette
 - Provide USACE next steps in Feasibility Study

Port & Harbor



Float Rehabilitation Project Update

Harbor maintenance staff are working on refurbishing the transient floats on the end of floats K through Q. These floats were built in 1986 and are six years past their engineered life expectancy. Most floats in that area are still in remarkably good condition despite heavy use in Alaskan weather, but the T-Head floats are twisted and damaged from several factors including the age of the floats. Additional strain is caused by rafting multiple vessels on the end floats. High wakes caused by fast incoming vessels traveling to the Load and Launch Ramp add even greater force loads to the floats, more than they were engineered for. With assistance from Bellingham Marine, the City is rehabilitating these floats to relieve the wracking damage and restore a safe walking surface.



Fishing Lagoon Maintenance

The Fishing Lagoon is undergoing maintenance in order to keep the lagoon from filling in with sediment and gravel. Materials are collected in the narrow part of the lagoon, as shown in the photo. If not cleared out, the materials will flow into the lagoon and fill in the lobes, making the depth too shallow for the salmon fry pens.

A local contractor, Dibble Creek, will be walking a large excavator down the entrance of the lagoon to clean out all the materials that they can reach with a 60' boom. The materials will be loaded into trucks and moved offsite to the contractor's materials storage yard on the Spit. They will also clear out the materials that have accumulated in the entrance and clean behind the East groin. It is recommended that the East groin is kept cleared out enough so that the material is not allowed to migrate around and down the entrance into the lagoon.



The Fishing Lagoon does not have a fund to support it, so this time around, City Council approved to trade the dredged materials in exchange for the contractor's services. Dibble Creek is a local contractor with experience completing this type of work for the City. The proposed work is properly permitted and covered under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit currently in place and held by Public Works. This project will preserve the great fishing that the lagoon has to offer.



Parking Fee Structure Update

The City of Homer Port & Harbor department has announced an update to its parking fee structure. The update includes a change to one parking area and an increase in fees in some areas.

Starting Memorial Day, May 29, 2023, the last section of angled parking spaces on the west side of Homer Spit Road will be limited to 3-hour parking and remain free or at no charge. These spaces were previously designated as 7-day free parking.

Additionally, parking fees will increase from \$5 to \$10 per day in certain high-demand areas. These areas include the spaces at the top of Ramps 1 through 4. The fee increase is necessary to keep up with the rising cost of maintenance and operations and to ensure that the parking facilities continue to meet the needs of the community. All other Spit parking lots continue to offer free parking for up to seven consecutive 24-hour days. After seven days, vehicles must be removed from City property for at least 24 hours before returning, purchase a long-term parking pass, or will be subject to citation.

Future expansion of paid parking to most of the areas on the west side of the Spit is under consideration. The City of Homer is working with the State Department of Transportation on implementing paid parking in the public right-of-way. The potential expansion of paid parking is being explored as a way to manage parking demand and support the sustainability of Port & Harbor maintenance operations for high-quality transportation and public spaces.

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"We understand that these changes may be difficult for some of our customers, but we believe that they are necessary to provide a better parking experience for everyone," said Bryan Hawkins, Harbormaster and Port & Harbor Director. "By implementing paid parking in high-demand areas, we can reduce congestion and ensure that spaces are available for those who need them. And by increasing fees in certain areas, we can ensure that our parking facilities are well-maintained and continue to meet the needs of our community."

The City of Homer is committed to providing safe and affordable parking for all community members and visitors. For more information about the fee structure update or to provide feedback, please visit www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/port/port-homer-parking.

City of Homer Port & Harbor Facilities Vehicle Parking





In this section, we aim to keep readers informed about the latest developments in public safety in the community. Whether it's news about crime prevention, emergency preparedness, or updates on local law enforcement activities, we've got you covered. Our goal is to promote a safe and secure environment for all community members and visitors of Homer, and we believe that staying informed is a crucial part of achieving that. Read on to learn more about what's happening in public safety in Homer.

Construction Season Safety

As the 2023 construction season kicks off, it's important for all of us to be aware of the hazards and challenges that come with roadwork.

According to workzonesafety.org, in 2022, 857 people were killed in 774 fatal work zone crashes, with 117 of those fatalities being work zone workers. It is crucial for drivers to moderate their speed, stay focused, watch for construction signs, and pay attention to flaggers. At the same time, workers are encouraged to follow important safety guidelines that help prevent worker injury and death. By minimizing distractions in work zones, both drivers and workers can prevent tragedies from occurring.

To help you prepare for construction season, we encourage you to stay up-to-date on construction traffic impacts and delays by checking 511.alaska.gov.



In Homer, we value safety above all else. Let's all do our part to ensure that this construction season is a safe one for everyone involved.



SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES!

Working smoke alarms can cut the risk of death from home fires in half.

That's why we're rallying volunteers, fire departments and partners to *Sound the Alarm*.

Together, we're installing **FREE** smoke alarms in your community. Request a smoke alarm installation today!

Homer / Ninilchik / Anchor Point Communities

May 11-13, 2023

Thank You, Southcentral Territory Sponsors:
CHUGACH ALASKA & THE HOMER FOUNDATION

SoundTheAlarm.org/alaska
907-201-2047
bridget.vivoda@redcross.org



359801-04 03/23



Matt Steffy and Donna Aderhold brushing out the Lee Ave Trail.

Red Cross Home Fire Campaign

The Red Cross Home Fire Campaign could help save lives in local communities. From May 11 to 13, they will be providing free smoke alarm installations to homes that do not have them. The Red Cross Home Fire Campaign and is a great opportunity for those who may not have the means to purchase a smoke alarm themselves. To sign up for this free service, visit the Red Cross' website and fill out the form at www.redcross.org/local/alaska/about-us/our-work/home-fire-campaign.html. This is an excellent opportunity for the community to come together and ensure the safety of their homes and families.

Don't miss your chance to sign up for a free smoke alarm installation!

Welcome

ABOARD

Let's give a warm Homer welcome to the newest recruits! We are happy to have you as part of our team and wish you the best in your new ventures.

- **David Garcia**, Building Custodian
- **Michael de la Torre**, Public Safety Dispatcher

April 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.

Joe Young	Public Works	16 Years
Rick Pitta	Police	14 Years
Erica Hollis	Port	11 Years
Jean Hughes	Public Works	9 Years
Jaclyn Arndt	Fire	8 Years
Dave Berry	Library	4 Years
Ricky Borland	Port	4 Years
Aaron Yeaton	Public Works	2 Years
Evangelina Campuzano	Police	2 Years
Will Kern	Public Works	2 Years
Joe Kahles	Fire	1 Year

Departures & Transitions

The City thanks **Rachel Tussey** for her service to the City and wishes her well on her next adventure!

Rachel started her career with the City as a part-time administrative assistant in the Clerk's office. She also has served as an Administrative Secretary at Port and Harbor and finally as Deputy City Clerk in the Clerk's Office. Rachel also was the Sister City Coordinator with the City's Sister City Teshio, Japan. Rachel is an efficient clerk who had an eye for detail, strong technical writing skills, and helped get some modern touches to the workflows. She was an asset to the team and will be missed!



Meet the Staff



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

After 15 years, and upwards of 300 Planning Commission meetings with the City of Homer, **Rick Abboud** is moving on to a new position with York County, South Carolina which is part of the Charlotte metropolitan area. Rick joined the City in 2008 after serving as the planning director for Bethel, AK. He jumped straight into the big job of wrapping up the 2008 Homer Comprehensive Plan and shepherding it through the



Planning Commission, City Council, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly. During Rick's tenure with the City he has worked with staff, Planning Commission, and Council on projects that have touched every section of Title 21. He collaborated to make additions to code which include solutions relating to steep slope development, grading and filling, over slope development, wind energy, telecommunication towers, storm water, creation of the East End Mixed use District, allowances for accessory dwellings, marijuana businesses, flood hazard ordinances and maps, coastal setbacks, and the creation of the medical district. Rick has also been very active with MAPP, Rotary, the Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition, and served a stint as interim-City manager.

After working for Public Works for over 9 years, **Paul Raymond**, lead equipment operator, is retiring. To complement his enormous skill as an equipment operator, Paul is also a barbecue master. We wish him a happy retirement and his skill both on the job and at the grill will be deeply missed.



Mike Gilbert will be promoted to lead equipment operator after the retirement of Paul Raymond. Mike has worked at Public Works as an equipment operator for 10 years and the promotion to lead operator is well earned. We welcome the wealth of skill and experience that Mike brings to the table and wish him the best in his new position.

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 Director
Mike Illg, Community Recreation Manager
Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager
Bill Jirsa, Chief Technology Officer

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



Homer harbor, Ed Tussey



Three Cranes, artist unknown

STAY CONNECTED TO CITY COUNCIL

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May	
3	5:30 p.m. Planning Commission Work Session - Canceled 6:30 p.m. Planning Commission Regular Meeting
8	5 p.m. City Council Committee of the Whole 6 p.m. City Council Regular Meeting
9	6 p.m. Economic Development Advisory Commission
11	5 p.m. ADA Advisory Board Regular Meeting
16	5:30 p.m. Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting
17	5:30 p.m. Planning Commission Work Session 6:30 p.m. Planning Commission Regular Meeting Various USACE Homer Harbor Expansion Charrette (May 17-19)
18	5:30 p.m. Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission
22	5 p.m. City Council Committee of the Whole 6 p.m. City Council Regular Meeting
24	6 p.m. Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meeting

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
- Deputy City Clerk I, Full Time
- Firefighter/EMT-Basic (EMT-I) or Firefighter/EMT-Advanced (EMT II or III), Full-Time
- Parks Technician, Seasonal
- Utilities Laborer, Seasonal
- Harbor Assistant I, Seasonal
- Treatment Maintenance Technician I or II



City of Homer

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www.cityofhomer-ak.gov



City of Homer

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Office of the City Manager

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(p) 907-235-8121 x2222

(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE: April 19, 2023
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for April 24, 2023 Council Meeting

2022 Visioning Update

I have been providing roughly quarterly updates to the Council priorities set in the 2022 visioning work sessions at the Pratt Museum. Accompanying this report is a memo providing updates on all priority items from 2022 and some additional commentary on projects that carried over from 2020.

Coast Guard City Update

We have received word that the Commandant of the Coast Guard officially intends to approve our application to become a Coast Guard City. We are waiting for the end of the 30-day Congressional notification period to expire before we can become official. I expect that we should have exciting news to share at the second Council meeting in May.

Goodbye to Rick Abboud, City Planner

After 15 years, and upwards of 300 Planning Commission meetings with the City of Homer, Rick is moving on to a new position with York County, South Carolina which is part of the Charlotte metropolitan area. Rick joined the City in 2008 after serving as the planning director for Bethel, AK. He jumped straight into the big job of wrapping up the 2008 Homer Comprehensive Plan and shepherding it through the Planning Commission, City Council, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly. During Rick's tenure with the City he has worked with staff, Planning Commission, and Council on projects that have touched every section of Title 21. He collaborated to make additions to code which include solutions relating to steep slope development, grading and filling, over slope development, wind energy, telecommunication towers, storm water, creation of the East End Mixed use District, allowances for accessory dwellings, marijuana businesses, flood hazard ordinances and maps, coastal setbacks, and the creation of the medical district. Working with legal counsel, Rick has diligently defended numerous decisions of the Planning Commission over the years – including some that have been sustained in the Alaska Supreme Court and have been used as subject matter in an Alaska Chapter of the American Planning Association Conference session titled “how to do it right”. Rick has also been very active with MAPP, Rotary, the Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition, and served a stint as interim-City manager before my arrival in Homer. Being City Planner is a tough job, and Rick has done a good job. I applaud Rick for his efforts here in Homer and wish him the best in York County.

In preparation for Rick's departure, I have Special Projects Coordinator Ryan Foster on deck to serve as interim-City Planner. Ryan has previously served as the Planning Director for the City of Kenai and as Principal Planner for Los Alamos County, New Mexico.

State Legislature Check-Ins

After visits to Council by both Senator Stevens and Representative Vance, staff conducted follow up Zoom meetings arranged by our lobbyists at J&H Consulting. We largely talked about the Harbor Expansion study, the Municipal Harbor Grants Program, and each elected official gave us their analysis of the ongoing state budget process.



Residential Fuel Spill

On April 2, 2023 Homer Fire received a call from Enstar Energy who was reporting a smell of fuel in the area of Crittenden and Hidden Way. At about 11:45am Chief Kirko responded to the area and met with an Enstar employee who stated he had been receiving reports from residents in the neighborhood for the past few days of a potential gas leak. Enstar had inspected the homes and utilities in the area and found all systems to be secure and functioning properly. As the Chief investigated the area he detected the scent of diesel in the air, however there was no obvious visual sign of a spill. Chief Kirko was able to track the scent to storm drain and then followed it back to a property on Hidden way. At that time the spill was reported the City's Water & Sewer team, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and the Coast Guard. At approximately 12:20pm HVFD and the Water & Sewer team responded with crews to place absorbent boom and pads at culverts and storm drains to help mitigate the spread of fuel toward the bay. At approximately 1:00pm Coast Guard, MST2 John Fanelli arrived and conducted a survey and obtained witness statements. Through the statements and the investigation of the site it was determined that the fuel spilled was home heating fuel from a 300-gallon home heating tank. The total amount leaked is estimated at between 75-150 gallons. Chief Kirko met with Jade Gamble of DEC on site and briefed her on our mitigation activities. We also met with the son of the home owner to discuss the cleanup procedures and what the home owner responsibilities are when this happens. At this point, the Fire Department is no longer directly involved keeping this case open and DEC has taken over case management. Moving forward, we're going to try to take this event as an opportunity for public education regarding residential oil storage and spill

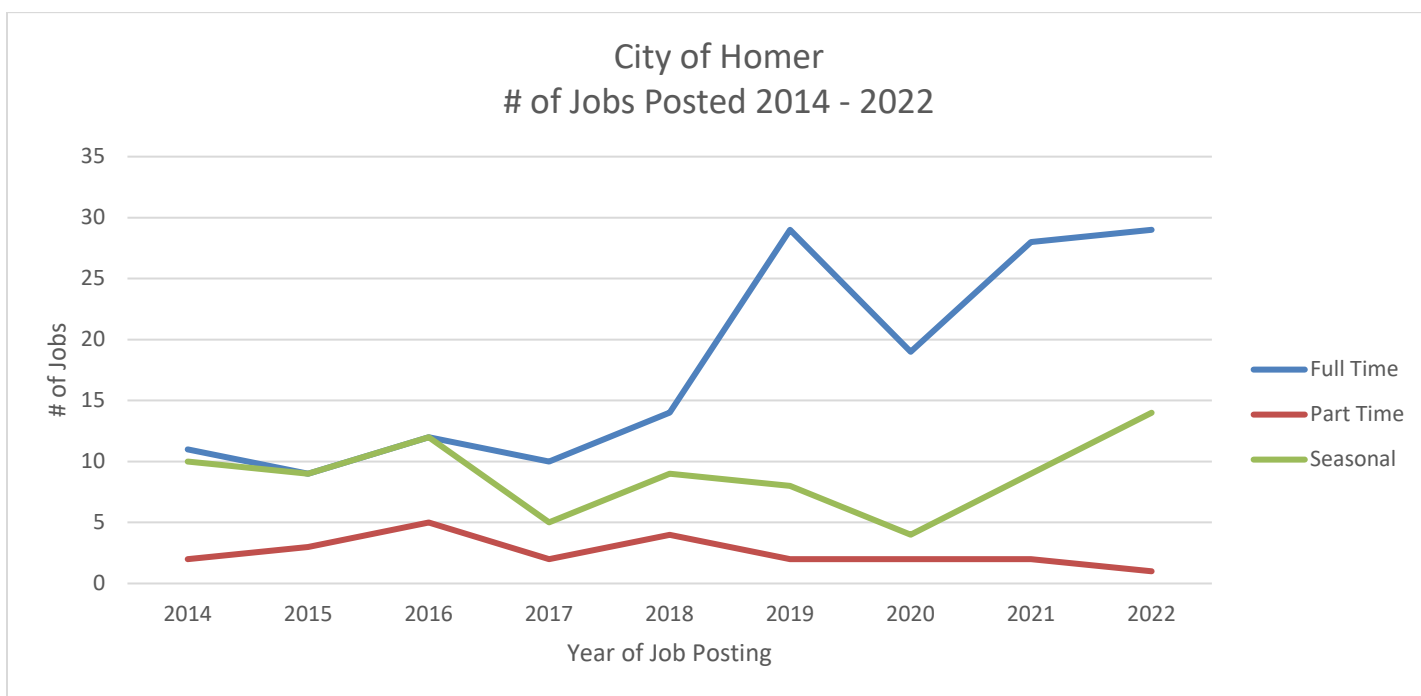
mitigation/response. Chief Kirko and Assistant to the City Manager Bella Vaz will be collaborating on that topic in the coming weeks.

Guiding Growth Conversation Series

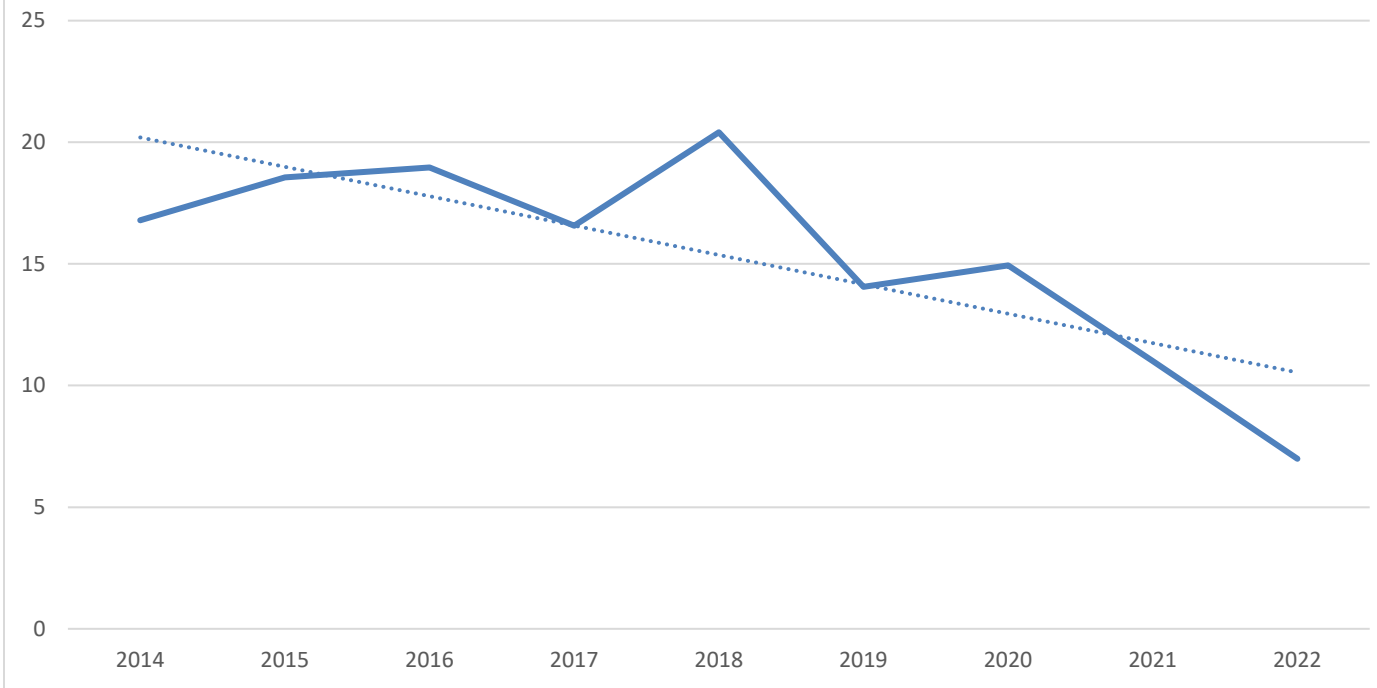
Guiding Growth is a conversation series developed by community members to explore growth opportunities and shared community values. Participating community members are unaffiliated and anyone is invited to help brainstorm, implement, and participate in the discussions. Through civic discourse, good conversation, and relevant resources the group hopes to help guide the vision of how the Homer community develops. The first discussion is on April 29, 4:00 pm at Christian Community Church. Mercedes Harness will present newspaper clippings about how Homer was growing forty years ago--and how many of our concerns and shared values have remained consistent. Tom Kizzia, who edited the Homer News in the mid-1970s, will provide deeper context. Community members will be invited to share their insights and ideas.

Job Applicant Data

I occasionally field questions from Council, other Cities, and local employers about how successful our recruiting efforts are at this time. The general perception is that the volume of job applicants has decreased and it has been more difficult to hire quality candidates. Wanting to see if reality backs that perception, I pulled some data from our online job application system and saw a declining volume of interest. I then turned it over to Special Projects Coordinator David Parker for a deeper dive. A couple trends have emerged. Since about 2019, we've been posting more job opportunities. We have also seen fewer applicants per listing starting in 2019. As one would anticipate, there are a large number of factors that play into the dynamics that drive interests in municipal positions – the types of jobs available, the pay ranges, the local housing market, how aggressively we market positions, etc. Despite lower numbers, we have had some very successful recruitments which landed talented and experienced new hires. At the same time, some positions have taken many months to fill with a qualified and interested person. If Council approves the proposed funding of a review of Personnel Regulations and Salary Schedules included in the Capital Budget, we will be able to dig deeper into potential internal barriers to recruitment and retention and develop solutions that will assist our ongoing modernization and improvement of human resources practices.



City of Homer Applicants/Job 2014 - 2022





City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

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(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
 FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
 DATE: April 17, 2023
 SUBJECT: 2022 Council Visioning Follow Up #4

Staff continues to work diligently to achieve 2022 Council visioning priorities. This is the fourth installment of what are intended to be roughly quarterly updates on project progress.

2022 Council Priorities

Fiscal Policy Improvements					
Comprehensive Plan Fast Forward		Zoning Code Modernization		Building Code Adoption and Implementation	
Expansion of Sidewalks and Trails			Water and Sewer Expansion		
Housing Challenges			Emergency Preparedness and Training		
Public Safety Conversations	Volunteer Action Plan	Coast Guard City Designation	Harbor Float Replacements	Recreation Priorities and Planning	Cybersecurity Improvements

- Fiscal Policy Improvements** – We have developed and introduced the FY24/25 Operating and Capital Budgets and the FY22 Audit is nearly complete. Administration is using the budget as a device to provide a lot of baseline information to Council on different funds and future needs of the City. I see this as the foundation for the fiscal planning objective. The next layer is inventorying and expanding our fiscal policies as they relate to the various funds, our desires for reserve amounts, what funds can be used for, etc. Matched with that is a continued improvement to reporting methods. As financial policy improvements underpin virtually everything we do here at the City, we’re trying to take a very comprehensive approach to this process.
- Comprehensive Plan Fast Forward** – This project is being re-imagined. Council approved Ordinance 23-11 which appropriated \$650,000 for the comprehensive plan and zoning code update. That item was subsequently line item vetoed to reduce the appropriation to \$250,000. This dramatically changes what we are capable of achieving in relation to this Council priority. Standby for what will likely be a summer work session to get Council buy-in for the path forward.

- **Zoning Code Modernization** – This item was split into two pieces, pre- and post-comprehensive plan. With the comprehensive plan project up for re-imaging, the pathway of the zoning code modernization is somewhat unclear. We have had successes with what were intended to be pre-comprehensive plan items which included the West Hill rezone (Ordinance 22-35) and the conditional use permit reform project (Ordinance 22-68(A)). Ordinance 22-68(A) has been challenged in Court and our legal team is addressing that complaint.
- **Building Code Adoption and Implementation** – We submitted an application in late December for the BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) Grant Program through FEMA as a possible source of funding to get our building program off the ground. The response to this application, not expected until June at the earliest, will have a large influence on how we proceed to the next steps. In the meantime, we're also working on permitting concepts for grading, dirt work, and burning which impact the same general stakeholders.
- **Housing Challenges** – The Special Projects Team had been planning a housing forum of some sorts when we became aware of some other entities within the community looking to do the same thing. We joined forces with South Peninsula Hospital Foundation, Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District, Homer Chamber of Commerce, Choosing Our Roots, and MAPP to host a community conversation facilitated by Denali Daniels. Upwards of 100 people came to the meeting and others completed associated surveys. I expect Council to receive a report from the event soon. More information available here: <https://ddaalaska.com/homer-housing-solutions/>
- **Water and Sewer Expansion** – Public Works has been putting significant effort into the general concept of expanding our utilities for the last two years. Expect more detailed updates in the future as we work to secure funding for significant expansion opportunities. We especially need to have future discussions regarding the financing of water and sewer expansions. We currently have access to frequent loan opportunities through ADEC. Special Projects has been looking at potential updates to the special assessment district process as well.
- **Expansion of Sidewalks and Trails** – The Main Street sidewalk has been completed and the Master Transportation Plan has made significant progress. In November, Council passed Ordinance 22-42(S-3) which creates new specifications for when new streets are required to provide for non-motorized transportation. The proposed FY24/25 Capital Budget has \$1.7M for the construction of a Ben Walters Sidewalk. We have also heard that our State Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant application for the Homer All Ages and Abilities Pedestrian Path (supported by Resolution 23-013) is a big hit with AKDOT and has a high likelihood of success.
- **Emergency Preparedness and Training** – The All Hazards Plan has been completed and accepted by Council. We've used that document to create a monthly feature on a different hazard within the City's newsletter. The tsunami brochure design project with UAF has been completed and printed copied distributed. There remains much work to do related to the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and future training opportunity development. I have staff actively looking for funding opportunities related emergency preparedness. Chief Kirko and I attended a Tsunami Operations Workshop in Kodiak in March 2023. We learned a lot of valuable information from the various state and federal agencies present. We're also hoping to leverage those connections into some in person training for staff in the not too distant future.
- **Public Safety Conversations** – The Volunteer Fire Department hosted an open house in October which brought the public inside the fire hall for a discussion about fire and EMS services here in

Homer. The Homer Police Department has had success engaging the public with women’s self-defense classes and a talk about social media that **Lt. Browning** has given multiple times here in town, once at the State legislature, and a number of other communities in Alaska.

- **Volunteer Action Plan** – Due to demands related to other projects, the Volunteer Action Plan has been on a bit of a hiatus. I’m looking at having it resume activity shortly with significant help from Economic Development and Community Recreation.
- **Coast Guard City Designation** – The Coast Guard Commandant has indicated her intent to approve our application to Congress. If no objections are filed during the 30-day notification period, our status as a Coast Guard City will become official. If all goes according to plan, this will happen at our second meeting in May.
- **Harbor Float Replacements** – Council passed Ordinance 22-19(A) which made \$56,540 available from the Port Reserves Fund for grant and engineering assistance related to a harbor float replacement project. At the second meeting in April, Council will have an opportunity to pass a resolution supporting the City’s submission of a Port Infrastructure Development Grant that would help fund float replacement.
- **Recreation Priorities and Planning** – While this is a bigger conversation than the HERC/Pioneer Gateway Redevelopment Project, much of the general recreation conversation is occurring in parallel to those work sessions/discussions. We did host a presentation by Community Recreation Manager Mike Illg on August 22 that covered the City’s recreational relationship with the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. Further discussions have been part of the FY24/25 operating budget discussion.
- **Cybersecurity Improvements** – In late 2022 we filled an open IT position created by Ordinance 22-20, and in early 2023 we brought on a new lead for IT which gave us a full three person IT team for the first time since the third position was created. The lead IT position’s job description was rewritten by the Library Director and I to function as a Chief Technical Officer (CTO). The new team, paired with the institutional knowledge and experience of Network Administrator Tomasz Sulczynski, has been making up a lot of ground on necessary updates and improvements. You’ll see in the FY24/25 proposed operating and capital budgets that are increased funds for cybersecurity operations and a number of systems upgrades funded as capital projects.

2020 Highlights

- HERC Demolition – demolition of the smaller HERC building hit a snag in permitting related to hazardous materials, specifically PCBs. Council approved a task order to do testing for PCBs, and the results will drive the next step in the process.
- Stormwater Management Plan and Implementation – we have a grant pending to support the portions of the Kachemak “sponge” stormwater plan. Ordinance 23-16(S) accepted a grant and appropriated funds to support the Beluga Slough stormwater treatment system.
- Climate Action Plan – the CAP was intended to be integrated into the Comprehensive Plan for which funding was largely vetoed; a new path forward needs to be developed
- Wayfinding – Plan was adopted by Council, next steps will involve testing designs and installing prototypes around town. FY24/25 Capital Budget includes \$50,000 for implementation.

- Procurement Policy – Has been rolled into 2022 goal of financial policy improvements; looking at finishing the project with a finance term contract holder
- Reserve Funding; Election Code; Council Operating Manual; Funding for Large Vessel Harbor Study – Largely complete

2020 Council Initiated Priorities

HERC Demolition/Community Recreation Center		Stormwater Management Plan and Implementation		
Climate Action Plan		Wayfinding/Streetscape		
Water and Sewer Policy	Reserve Funding (Water and Sewer)	Election Code	City Council Operating Manual	Procurement Policy
Funding for Large Vessel Harbor Study				



City of Homer

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Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE: May 4, 2023
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for May 8, 2023 Council Meeting

Homer to be Awarded Large Wastewater System of the Year!

The Alaska Water Waste Management Association (AWWMA) selected the City of Homer to be their large Wastewater System of the Year. The AWWMA, founded in 1960, advances the technology of Alaska's water and wastewater industry through outreach, training and grassroots activism supporting Alaska's water resources and public health. The award for large Wastewater system of the Year recognizes the performance of a waste water system serving 2,500 or more individuals. Members of the Public Works team will receive the award at the upcoming AWWMA conference held in Anchorage on May 10th.

Pioneer Avenue Banners

Local artist Lucas Elliot has been working with Corvus Design and the Economic Development Commission to design new Pioneer Avenue street banners. The final design is complete, and staff expects banners to be up by July 1st.





AML Meeting in August

The City of Homer is hosting this year's Alaska Municipal League summer conference. AML staff have already made one scouting trip to Homer, and will be making a second one in May to work with City staff on planning and logistics.

AMMA and AMLJIA Updates

In May I will be taking over as the president of the Alaska Municipal Management Association (AMMA).

On April 27th, I attended a meeting of the AMLJIA Board of Trustees. Market conditions are not favorable right now, but we'll see some protection from our existing three-year agreement. I am expecting that Homer will see a rate increase capped at approximately 10% over last year (which is what we budgeted for in my draft FY24/25 operating budget proposal).

Invasive Species Mitigation

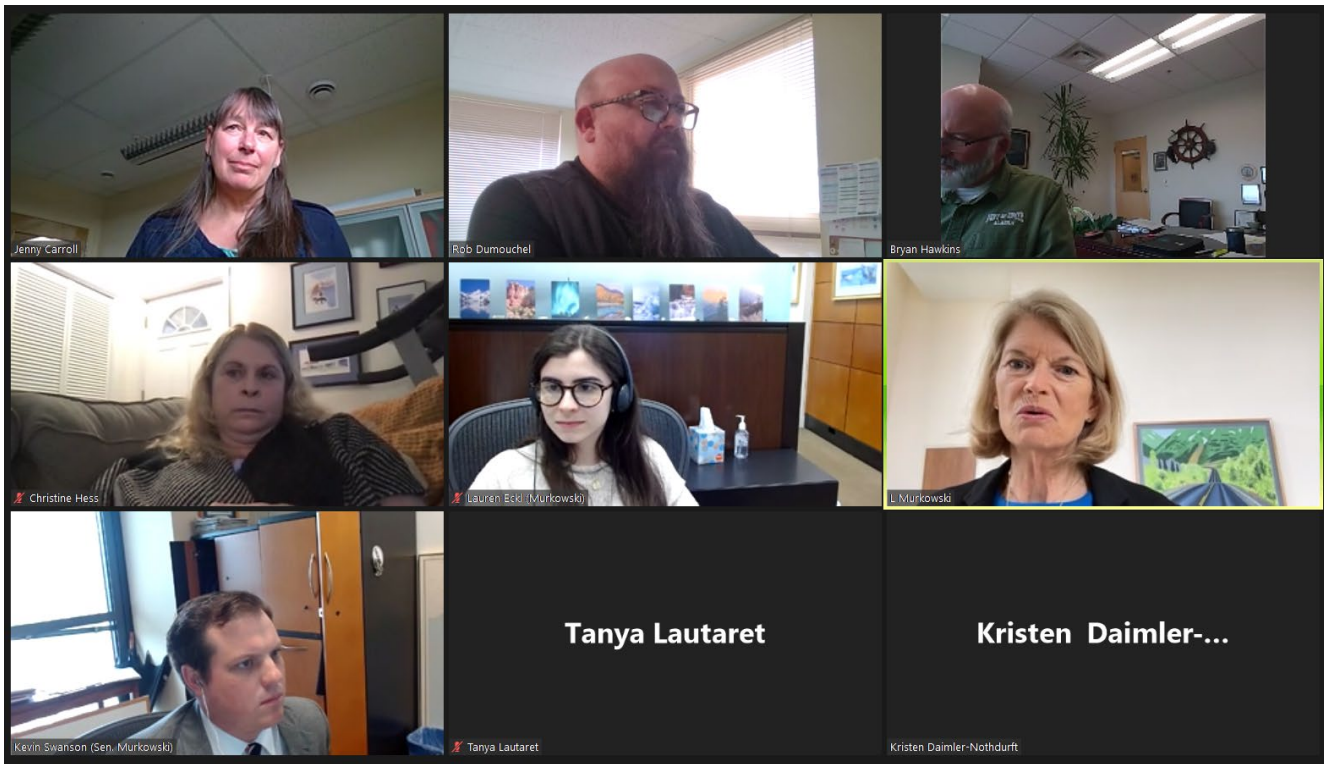
Update from Public Works Director Keiser:

The City is again partnering with the Homer Soil & Water Conservation District (HSWCD) to work with local gravel/sand vendors to get their pits recertified as "weed-free". This program is part of the City's Invasive Species Management Program. Trained HSWCD staff visit the pits, inspect them for the presence of invasive weeds, assist with mitigation, and help the pit owners understand how to keep their pits weed-free. To further promote best practices, City specifications require that gravel/sand used on public works projects be from certified weed-free sources. Three local pit owners are participating in the program.

On other fun and exciting news related to the City's partnership with the HSWCD – there will be a "chicken tractor" coming to town soon! The HSWCD received a grant to research whether a portable coop of hens is a viable means of controlling infestations of invasive weeds. The HSWCD will build and maintain the "chicken tractor" and Public Works will provide the control sites as well as some retired laying hens. We might even find out why the chicken crossed the road!

Check-In with Senator Murkowski's Office

Special Projects Coordinator Jenny Carroll, Port Director Hawkins, and I met with Senator Murkowski's office to discuss various Homer topics with a federal nexus. We covered a lot of ground with staff, and Senator Murkowski was able to join us later on in the meeting for a quick harbor expansion study update.



Harbor Matching Grant Program is Funded in Senate Budget Draft

The City of Homer does not have a project queued up this year for the State of Alaska's Harbor Matching Grant Program, however, we have been strong supporters of the program for many years. Mayor, Council, and staff have all lobbied for the program to be fully funded in this year's State budget at different points throughout the year. At this time, the program has found proposed funding from the Senate which is a great step forward. It still needs to make it to, and through, the Governor, but at least it's in a draft. There is a good chance Homer will be looking to use the program in the next cycle to support upcoming port projects.

Homer Represented at Alaska Trails Conference

In April, Parks & Trails Planner Matt Steffy traveled to the annual Alaska Trails Conference in Anchorage. He delivered a presentation on "Trails as Transportation: How to get things done together," and outlined the work being done in the City of Homer. This included showcasing the highly successful relationship with the Homer Drawdown organization, as well an overview of some internal discussions for future developments. The session was very well attended with admiration expressed from other communities who have been trying to accomplish similar goals. The primary focus was community collaboration and cohesiveness. There was also a presentation by Cameale Johnson from the Homer Trails Alliance, as well as a discussion on mapping from Seldovia's Bretwood Higman (Hig) who regularly participates in Homer area trails projects.

Economic Development, Parks, and Port Transitions

A number of transitions were put in motion for this summer season with various tasks moving between departments and divisions to attempt to build more sustainable and successful public-facing programs for parks, campgrounds, and public restrooms. To that end, Parks, Economic Development, and Public Works

staff have been meeting to coordinate summer projects such as Hornaday Park repairs, NOMAR wall re-painting, and other projects at various stages of completion. The Port is beginning to welcome its first campers, and long-time seasonal all-star Chad Felice has recently stepped in as the temporary Parks Maintenance Coordinator. If the position is approved in the budget, we will be recruiting for the full-time version of that position later this summer. Collaboration will continue as we figure out new ways to work together and with the community to take care of Homer's parks.

Harbor Monthly Check-In

In response to Resolution 23-37, staff has been working on developing the first report in response to that item. I am expecting it to show up in the supplemental packet on Monday.

Enclosures:

1. May Employee Anniversaries
2. Grant Updates
3. HERC Updates
4. Update from SBDC



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Memorandum

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: Andrea Browning
DATE: May 22, 2023
SUBJECT: May Employee Anniversaries

I would like to take the time to thank the following employees for the dedication, commitment and service they have provided the City and taxpayers of Homer over the years.

Mark Whaley	Port	18	Years
Pike Ainsworth	Port	15	Years
Mike Gilbert	Public Works	9	Years
Jackie McDonough	Library	9	Years
Sean McGroarty	Port	7	Years
Ralph Skorski	Public Works	5	Years
Taylor Crowder	Police	2	Years
Susan Jeffres	Library	2	Years
Sean Love	Public Works	2	Years
Tim Roberts	Public Works	1	Year
Devan Wilson	Police	1	Year



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Administration

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Memorandum

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Jenny Carroll, Special Projects and Communications Coordinator
THROUGH: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE: May 4, 2023
SUBJECT: Update on Federal and State grant applications

This is an informational memo to provide an update on Federal and State grant applications submitted or in process in support of City of Homer projects. New actions/information since the April 4, 2023 are highlighted in yellow on the attached chart.

Highlights include:

- Staff submitted four FY24 Congressionally Designated Spending (CDS) requests to Senator Murkowski and Representative Peltola. We learned that they have all been recommended to the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee, clearing the first hurdle in the selection process.

Senator Murkowski forwarded our top three requests:

1. Drinking Water Resiliency Project, a combination of the Raw Water Transmission Main (RWTM) project, the A-Frame Water Transmission Line and the 250,000 gallon A-Frame water tank.
2. Kachemak Drive Peatland Water Quality Improvement Project & Erosion Mitigation (part of the Slope Stability & Erosion Mitigation Program)
3. Beluga Slough Lift Station

Representative Peltola forwarded our fourth priority request:

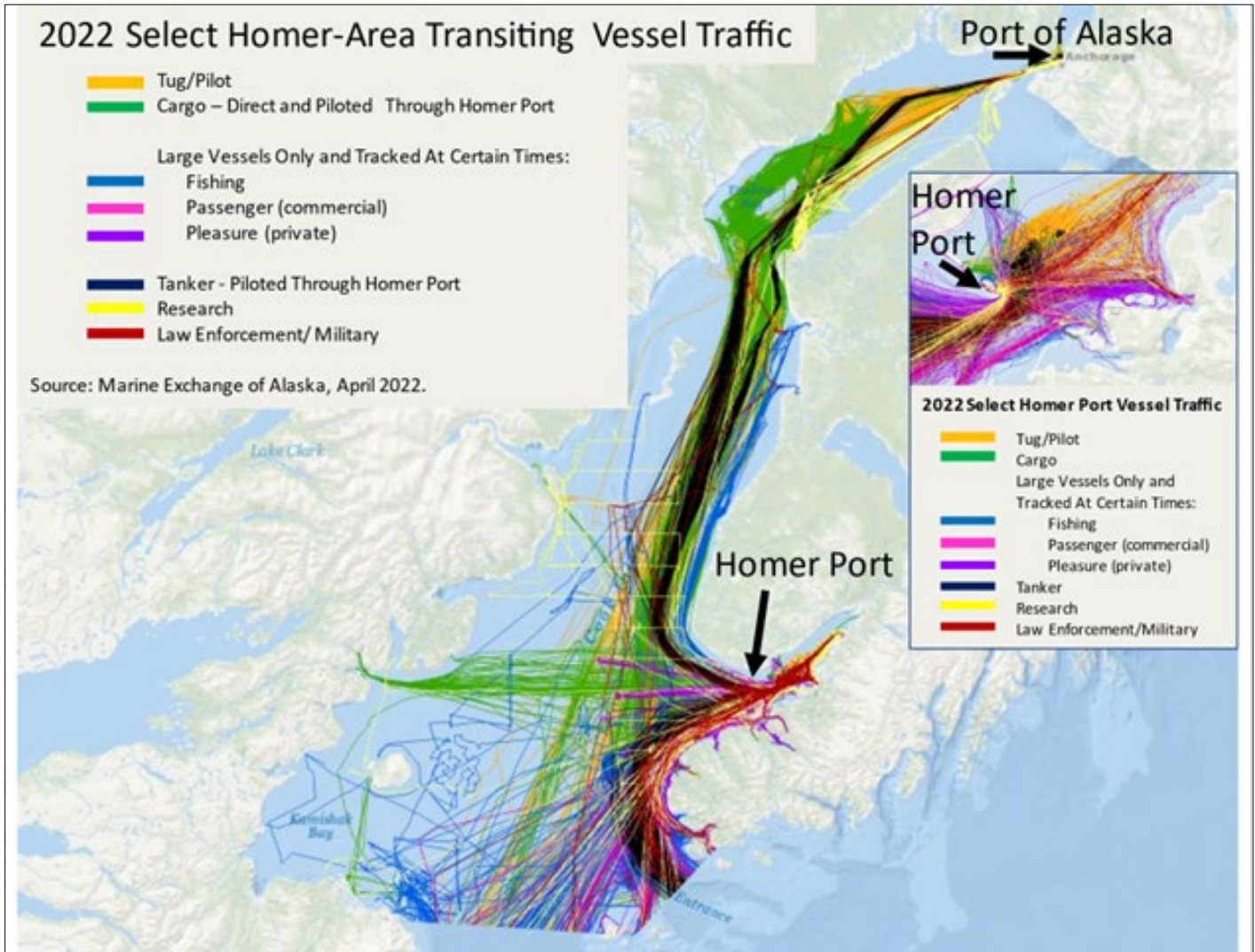
4. Homer Spit Coastal Erosion Mitigation

Two other hurdles to clear include approval by the subcommittee and Congress' Federal Budget deliberations.

The RWTM portion of the CDS Drinking Water Resiliency project is looking likely to be covered 100% by a FEMA Disaster Mitigation grant. My understanding is that the award request has been approved by FEMA and is now before the AK Congressional Delegation for approval. The RWTM project was included in the CDS Drinking Water Resiliency Project to show some potential funding momentum (\$2.18M) from another source.

- City staff collaborated very successfully with HDR to submit a solid grant application to the FY2023 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) at the end of April. Funds were requested to replace Float Systems 4 & 1 in the Homer Port & Harbor. We understand that the PIDP, which emphasizes supporting freight movement, attracts a large and competitive applicant pool.

The Marine Exchange of Alaska tracks data on select vessel movements. The diagram below shows vessel movements through and supported by the Homer Port and illustrates the Homer Port & Harbor high use and statewide connections.



- At the last City Council meeting, Coowe Walker, the Reserve Manager for the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (KBNERR), announced that NOAA awarded a \$1.28 million Habitat Protection and Restoration grant in support of the City's innovative Kachemak Sponge Green Infrastructure Stormwater Management Project. I wanted to share the link to a press release NOAA published about the Alaska projects that received funding: at www.noaa.gov/news-release/noaa-bil-investments2023-alaska.

FY23

Project Supported	TPC	Grant Fund	Grant Funds Req	Match/Local Cost	Status	Notes
Slope Stability-Erosion Mitigation Program						
Kachemak Drive Peatland Water Quality Improvement (Kahcemak Sponge)	\$4,388,791	NOAA Habitat Conservation KBNERSS led/City partner	\$ 1,188,275.00 (land acquisition)	\$ 418,000.00 (land acquisition)	Submitted Awarded 4/1/2023	Awaiting entering into sub-grant agreement with UAA. Grant is for Kachemak Drive peatlands acquisition
		Congressionally Designated Spending Request #1 of 4	\$ 1,890,000.00 (water works)	\$ 892,516.00 (water works)	Submitted 3/17/2023 4/20 Forwarded to Approp Subcommittee by Murkowski	To Sen Murkowski & Representative Peltola City costs eligible for funds from ADEC Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund & HART funds
		State of AK CAPSIS	\$ 2,744,994.00		Submitted 2/14/2023	State capital funding very unlikely in the State's FY24 budget
Beluga Slough Stormwater Treatment System	\$ 690,000.00	Alaska Clean Water Actions	\$ 153,307.00	\$ 107,182.00	Submitted 11/9/2022 Awarded 3/1/2023	Grant agreement Ord before City Council City costs in-kind + eligible for funds from ADEC Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund
		State of AK CAPSIS	\$ 502,604.00		Submitted 2/14/2023	State capital funding very unlikely in the State's FY24 budget
Transportation						
Transportation Planning	\$ 960,000.00	Safe Streets For All KPB Applic/City partner	\$ 960,000.00	\$ 23,000.00 (in-kind)	Award announced	Application approved Reso 22-063
Non-Motorized Trans Network (REACH Project)	\$ 1,500,000.00	Fed RAISE Planning Grant	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ -	Submitted 2/28/2023 Awaiting decision	HDR application support Reso 22-087 approved Project support Reso 23-012 approved Start date July '23/End date June '25 RAISE Constr Grant possible Feb '25
Homer All-Ages & Abilities Pedestrian Pathway	\$ 3,900,000.00	State of AK Transportation Alternatives (TAP)	\$ 3,432,000.00	\$ 468,000.00	Submitted 2/15/2023 Awaiting DOT cost estimate	HAPP sections in PW's 5-year road plan Project support Reso 23-011 approved Public Eval Board Review mid-May Award announce May '23; Perf period end date June '25
Main Street Rehab/Sidewalk South	\$ 4,200,000.00	State of AK Community Transportation Program (CTP)	\$ 3,696,000.00	\$ 504,000.00	Submitted 2/15/2023 Awaiting DOT cost estimate	Main St in 7-10 year horizon in PW Road Plan Project support Reso 23-011 approved Public Eval Board Review mid-May Award announce May '23; Perf period end date June '25 (\$500,000 set aside in HART for grant matching)
Homer Float Systems						
Float Systems 4 & 1 Replace	\$ 59,289,547.00	Fed Port Infrastructure Development Projects (PIDP)	\$47,135,190	\$ 12,154,357.00 (20.5% match)	Submitted 4/28/2023	HDR application support Ord 23-12 approved Project support Reso to Council 4/24/2023 Could apply for PIDP '24 if '23 unsuccessful Revenue bond or TIFIA loan for match
		Municipal Harbor Grant	\$ 5,000,000.00	\$ 5,000,000.00	Grant for construction only due in August 2023	If funded, leverages State match to lower City match
		Denali Commission Grant			Application not begun Due date 4/14/24	Can be used as non-Federal Match May not be competitive - \$1M max award Could apply in '24 for Design/Engineering
Building Code Development	\$ 587,500.00	State BRIC Sub-Grant (Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities)	\$ 470,000.00	\$ 117,500.00 (covered by State of Alaska)	Submitted 12/21/2022 Awaiting decision	Council Approved application Reso 22-086 As a sub-applic State covers local match
Parks & Recreation						
Multi-Use Community Center	\$ 350,000.00	State of AK CAPSIS	\$ 350,000.00 (planning)	-	Submitted 2/14/2023 Awaiting decision	State capital funding very unlikely in the State's FY24 budget
Bayview Park Renovations	\$ 139,230.00	State of AK Healthy & Equitable Community Round 2	\$ 74,919.00	\$ 52,314.00 Addl redistribution funds requested	Submitted 4/24/2023 Awaiting decision	Council Approved Resolution 23-031 \$12,000 donation from Kach Bay Rotary Possible Approp req from HART if no addn HEC funds
Utilities - Infrastructure Resilience						
Drinking Water Resiliency (A-Frame Water Transmission & 250,000 gallon water tank)	\$ 2,852,253.00	Congressionally Designated Spending Request #2 of 4	\$ 1,931,090.00	\$ 921,163.00	Submitted 3/17/2023 4/20 Forwarded to Approp Subcommittee by Murkowski	To Sen Murkowski & Representative Peltola City costs eligible for funds from ADEC Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund & HAWSP
A-Frame Water Transmission	\$ 804,029.00	State of AK CAPSIS	\$ 643,274.00	\$ 160,818.00	Submitted 3/14/2023	State capital funding very unlikely in the State's FY24 budget
Beluga Lift Station	\$ 2,937,353.00	Congressionally Designated Spending Request #3 of 4	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 937,353.00	Submitted 3/17/2023 4/20 Forwarded to Approp Subcommittee by Murkowski	To Sen Murkowski & Representative Peltola City costs eligible for funds from ADEC Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund & HAWSP
Spit Road Erosion Mitigation (USACE General Investigation)	\$ 3,000,000.00	Congressionally Designated Spending Request #4 of 4	\$ 1,500,000.00	-	Submitted 3/17/2023 4/20 Forwarded to Approp Subcommittee by Peltola	To Sen Murkowski & Representative Peltola Match funds potential from State PROTECT grant (unknown)
Raw Water Transmission Main		FEMA Disaster Mitigation	\$ 1,988,650.00	-	Submitted 1/32/2020	4/11/23: Responded to latest FEMA request for information 5/2/23: Award submitted to Congressional Deleg. for approval



HERC

May 2023 Updates

Comprehensive Plan

Chapter 6: Public Services & Facilities

Goal 1: Provide and improve city-operated facilities and services to meet the current needs of the community, anticipate growth, conserve energy, and keep pace with future demands.

Goal 1: Demolition of HERC 2

Progress

Test samples were taken May 1 and 2.

Next Steps

Test results are expected by mid-June. Staff will provide information to Council in the June/July time frame based on the results.



Goal 2: Business Plan

Progress

Working with existing user groups to quantify demand and which programs are expected to grow.

Next Steps

Continue collecting information to inform business plan creation over the next year.



Goal 3: Right Size a Replacement Building

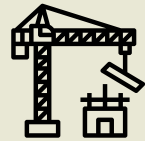
Progress

Staff held a conversation with representatives from the largest Community Recreation programs. Participants spoke about space needs for their activity (basketball, pickle ball, volley ball, karate, etc.) and talked about the user trends. Are programs growing? Overall, the consensus was yes, more people would participate if space was available.

Next Steps

Staff and Council will have a work session in August. Council has set an upper limit on the building cost and asked for a range of less expensive alternatives. Additionally, staff has been asked to plan ahead for a building that only meets today's needs, but the needs 20 years in the future. Staff and Council can begin to determine if a straight replacement of the HERC gym and multipurpose room is enough, or if a double gym and a multipurpose room are the goal.

Information from the FY 24/25 budgets will be informative as to how much money the general fund can provide to pay increased costs for supporting a new/larger facility. It may be that a new bond measure needs to be structured like the police station, where a portion of the ballot measure includes a permanent sales tax to support the new facility. Or perhaps pursuing a new tax.



Goal 4: Budget - Construction and Operations and Maintenance

Progress

None.

Next Steps

The August work session will have an update on the estimated bond payoff for the police station, and rough numbers on building operations and maintenance costs. This will provide context as to when a new bond measure vote might be appropriate and necessary new revenue for operations.





April 27, 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 January 1 to March 31, 2023. The Homer Business Advisor, Robert Green, had a strong start to the year, logging the most hours of advising in a quarter ever in Homer. In the decade prior to Robert Green's hire in June 2020, the Alaska SBDC logged an average of 84.7 hours per quarter with clients in Homer. Robert has averaged 154.3 hours per quarter since joining the SBDC, with a steady increase each year, indicating local demand has been growing. Despite the busiest quarter the SBDC has recorded in Homer, Robert maintained a 100% satisfaction rating on client surveys, a testament to the quality of advising he provides entrepreneurs in the Homer community. Here is a summary of deliverables to the Homer community during the quarter:

Client Hours: 238.5	Jobs Supported: 189
Total Clients: 55	Capital Infusion: \$25,000
New Businesses Started or Bought: 2	Client Surveys: 100% positive

This year, quarterly reports will feature lists of the top advising topics and top industries obtaining technical assistance from the Alaska SBDC in Homer. Assistance to start-ups and entrepreneurs seeking loans to grow their business were the top topics this quarter, while tour operators, gearing up for tourist season, and food services, from full-service restaurants to food trucks, were the top industries.

Topics

1. Start-up Assistance: 76.7 hrs (32%)
2. Financing/Capital: 44.6 hrs (19%)
3. Financial Planning: 37.5 hrs (16%)
4. Business Planning: 13.0 hrs (5%)
5. General Management: 11.4 hrs (5%)

Industries

1. Tour Operators: 55.3 hrs (23%)
2. Food Services: 31.6 hrs (13%)
3. Rentals: 23.2 hrs (10%)
4. Retailers: 20.7 hrs (9%)
5. Educational Services: 18.5 hrs (8%)

We would like to thank the City of Homer for their support of the Homer Business Advisor position. We greatly appreciate the knowledge, experience, and consistency Robert Green brings to our team. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Jon Bittner
F3E1FE8A6ADF4BD...

Jon Bittner
Executive Director
Alaska SBDC

**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. [Perez]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms Expire April 1st • Advisory Body Training Worksession
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"> • Annual Review of Commission's Bylaws • Election of EDC Officers
JUNE	Wednesday 6/7 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 6/13 6:00 p.m.	Monday 6/26 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Plan Review
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. [Pitzman]	<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. [Pitzman]	<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.