



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-8121 x2222

(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum 22-185

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE: October 20, 2022
SUBJECT: Regional Partnership with City of Seldovia and Seldovia Village Tribe

Over the last two years, the Seldovia City Manager and I have been working together to find ways to strengthen the relationships between our cities. As a federally recognized tribe and government that offers services in Homer and Seldovia, Seldovia Village Tribe has also been included in these discussions as the tribe's participation is vital to ensure our communities work together to represent and serve all citizens with as many opportunities as possible. There are a significant number of social, economic, and environmental linkages between Homer and Seldovia, and we all provide and receive valuable services from each other. The City of Seldovia and Seldovia Village Tribe have shared with me just how important Homer is to Seldovia in providing its residents with access to essential services and infrastructure that enhances the quality of life for the community. The joint resolution before Council is an opportunity to formally recognize our relationships, and encourage each governmental agency to continue to strengthen and expand those connections.

In recent years, we have supported each other through formal advocacy of the Alaska Marine Highway System and support of regional utility (electric and broadband) expansion projects. Homer and Seldovia regularly work together on public safety, harbor, and transportation issues. Seldovia Village Tribe offers health care in both communities, a service not provided by first class cities in Alaska, as well as transportation to and from Homer and Seldovia through the Seldovia Bay Ferry. We all also engage in a great deal of informal agency-to-agency support through information sharing and lobbying on regional priorities. After this November election, Homer and Seldovia will now be represented by the same state delegation as a result of redistricting. This will create opportunities for Homer and Seldovia to work together at the state level on regional priorities that support our communities. We've even shared surplus furniture with our neighbors, the former Homer dais found a new home in Seldovia where it is now used for their Council meetings. Additionally, formal partnerships like these may create opportunities for regional funding to support services in both communities. There are many exciting potentials to look forward to.

In September, I traveled to Seldovia to meet with Seldovia Village Tribe President/CEO Crystal Collier, Seldovia Mayor Jeremiah Campbell, and City Manager Rachel Friedlander to discuss the creation of a more formal partnership. One of the outcomes of that meeting in September is a joint resolution which is being reviewed by all three Councils. Seldovia Village Tribe approved the joint resolution on September 29th and both the City of Homer and the City of Seldovia have the joint resolution scheduled for Council meetings on October 24th.

I look forward to continuing to support and strengthen the relationship between our three entities.

Staff Recommendation: Approve the joint resolution with the City of Seldovia and Seldovia Village Tribe to establish a regional partnership