



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Clerk

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Memorandum 22-182

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND HOMER CITY COUNCIL

THRU: ROB DUMOUCHEL, CITY MANAGER

FROM: PARKS, ART, RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION

DATE: OCTOBER 10, 2022

SUBJECT: ORDINANCE 22-XX, AMENDING CHAPTER 20, ANIMALS SECTIONS 20.04.020 DEFINITIONS, 20.08.010 ANIMALS AT LARGE, 20.08.040 NUISANCE ANIMALS AND 20.32.020 FINE SCHEDULE TO REFINE THE DEFINITION OF "AT LARGE", CLARIFY AREAS WHERE ANIMALS ARE TO BE ON LEASH AT ALL TIMES AND AMEND RELATED FINES.

Background:

Over the years the Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission (PARC) has fielded complaints regarding unfavorable interactions between dogs, humans and wildlife in areas such as city owned campgrounds, beaches, parks, parking lots and sensitive or protected habitats such as Beluga Slough. These interactions have increased exponentially over the last few years and various city personnel and Commissioners have fielded numerous complaints and witnessed several incidents of dogs at large and not under the direct control of their owner.

The Commission has attempted to address the actions of owners who allowed their dogs to be at large by implementing non-punitive measures such as educational campaigns, providing free leashes and they have not worked.

The Commission has reviewed the proposed amendments to City Code addressing the issue regarding restraint and amending the fine schedule to hopefully bring the public more awareness and address the fact that voice command or control is not an effective measure to controlling animals. This lack of control has been acknowledged by Public Safety both city and state.

These proposed changes are supported by Homer Police Department.

Recommendation

Approve the proposed amendments to Homer City Code presented in the Ordinance 22-xx

Session 22-06, a Regular Meeting of the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Dave Lewis at 5:30 p.m. on August 18, 2022 from the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS FAIR, LOWNEY, HARRALD, ARCHIBALD, GALBRAITH, LEWIS

ABSENT: STUDENT COMMISSIONER FLORA AND COMMISSIONER ROEDL (EXCUSED)

STAFF: DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KEISER
SPECIAL PROJECTS & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR CARROLL
CITY PLANNER ABOUD

PENDING BUSINESS

B. Memorandum from Deputy City Clerk re: Amending City Code to Address Restraint of Animals in Specific Areas and Applicable Fees

Chair Lewis introduced the item and invited Councilmember Venuti to speak to the Commission.

Councilmember Venuti expressed her appreciation of the Commission on the work regarding leashes for dogs, receiving input from the Police Department and getting their support and was proud to sponsor the ordinance stating that she believed it to be well written and addressed the issues regarding dogs off leash in specific areas. Ms. Venuti noted that they have to get ahead of this issue and address the concerns and be proactive.

Chair Lewis questioned if it would be possible to address the responsibility of owner liable for what damage or injury that their pet does.

Councilmember Venuti stated that the question would be a question for the attorney. She confirmed with the Clerk that this draft would be submitted to the City Attorney for review.

LOWNEY/ARCHIBALD MOVED TO ACCEPT THE DRAFT ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE IN REGARDS TO RESTRAINT.

Discussion and comments were made regarding it was overdue.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Deputy City Clerk Krause explained that a motion to forward the draft ordinance to a Public Hearing was required as that was the next step in the process.

HARRALD/FAIR - MOVED TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED DRAFT ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS OF TITLE 20 ANIMALS AT THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 REGULAR MEETING.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

CITY OF HOMER
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
PARKS, ART, RECREATION & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

A public hearing on the following matter is scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. during the Regular Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission Meeting at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers and by Zoom webinar at zoom.us or Telephone Dial 1-669-900- 6833 or 1-253-215 8782; (Toll Free) 888-788-0099 or 877- 853-5247; use Meeting ID: 990 6701 0473 Passcode: 295088

An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending Homer City Code Title 20 Animals, Sections 20.04.020 Definitions, 20.08.010 Animals At Large, 20.08.040 Nuisance Animals and 20.32.020 Fine Schedule, To Refine the Definition of “At Large”, Clarify Areas Where Animals Are To Be On Leash At All Times and Amend Related Fines.

Additional information regarding this matter will be available by 5pm on the Friday before the meeting. This information will be posted to the City of Homer online calendar page for Thursday, October 20, 2022 at <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/calendar>. It will also be available in the Downstairs Lobby at Homer City Hall and at the Homer Public Library.

Written comments can be emailed to the City Clerk’s Office at the address below, mailed to Homer City Hall at the address above, or placed in the Homer City Hall drop box at any time. Written comments must be received by 3:00 pm on the day of the meeting.

If you have questions, contact the City Clerk’s Office. Phone: (907) 235-3130, email: clerk@ci.homer.ak.us or in-person downstairs at Homer City Hall.