



# MEMORANDUM

---

**Ordinance 23-49, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending Homer City Code Title 2, Chapters 2.32 Departments and Boards, 2.44 Department of Administration, 2.48 Public Library, and Enacting Chapters 2.46 Department of Information Technology and 2.57 Department of Community Development. City Manager.**

**Item Type:** Informational Memorandum  
**Prepared For:** Mayor Castner and Homer City Council  
**Thru:** Robert Dumouchel, City Manager  
**Date:** November 20, 2023  
**From:** Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission

---

## **Background Information:**

At the August 14, 2023 city council meeting, City Manager Dumouchel introduced *Ordinance 23-49* to the City Council that would modify city code to create three new departments: Department of Public Library, Department of Information Technology and a Department of Community Development.

The proposed creation of a Community Development Department would combine the Planning division, the Economic Development division, the Community Recreation division and a soon to be created Code Enforcement Division.

After much written and public testimony relating to the creation of a Community Development Department specifically addressing the concerns of the impacts of combining the Community Recreation division within this proposed new department, the City Council opted to postpone this ordinance until the January 8th City Council meeting to allow for additional review and consideration related to *Resolution 23-047(s)* Establishing Parks and Recreation as a Priority/10 Year Plan.

With the City Manager's approval, Parks, Arts, Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission was requested to review specifically the proposed Community Development Department proposal and provide advisement to the city council regarding this topic.

At the November 16, 2023 Parks, Arts, Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission regular meeting, the Commission unanimously supported creation of the Library and Information Technology departments but for the following reasons does not fully support including Community Recreation within the proposed Community Development department because:

1. The benefits are not clearly defined.

2. The organizational chart does not facilitate the elevation of Community Recreation's function, as it would no longer directly report to the City Manager.
3. There is no connection to the Planning, Building or Code Enforcement Divisions and limited connection to Economic Development Division under the Community Development Department.
4. Support the creation of a Parks and Recreation department to bring forward the importance and value of Community Recreation as expressed by the strong community support.

**Recommendation:** Amend and Adopt Ordinance creating Library, IT, Community Development Departments (without Community Recreation) and consider creating and passing ordinance to create a Parks and Recreation Department.