

1 CITY OF HOMER  
2 HOMER, ALASKA

3 Evensen / Hansen-Cavasos

4 RESOLUTION 20-008(S-3)(A)  
5

6 A RESOLUTION OF THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL DESIGNATING  
7 HOMER SPIT AMENDED LOT 31, KNOWN AS **ADJACENT TO**  
8 SEAFARER'S MEMORIAL, AS GREEN SPACE AND ADOPTING A LAND  
9 MANAGEMENT POLICY THAT PRESERVES LOT 31 FOR WILDLIFE  
10 AND AS A NATURAL AGENT FOR EROSION MITIGATION  
11

12 WHEREAS, **Adjacent land immediately West, North and South of** Seafarer's Memorial  
13 is a 2.52 acre lot located off of the Sterling Highway near the end of the Homer Spit with a legal  
14 description of Homer Spit Amended Lot 31; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, Historical use of the lot has been a memorial gazebo honoring those who  
17 were lost at sea, 45 parking places and open space **with dirt path trails to the beach**; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, Seafarer's Memorial **Lot 31** is zoned Open Space – Recreation **and is listed**  
20 **in the Homer Spit Comprehensive Plan as Conservation and Beach Access**; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, According to Homer City Code 21.32.010, the purposes of the Open Space -  
23 Recreation District are primarily to promote public recreational opportunities while protecting  
24 and preserving the natural and scenic resources of the area and public access to tidelands; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, Scenic views from the Spit are unobstructed at Seafarer's Memorial, where  
27 beach grasses positioned in the foreground offer uncommon and distinctive ocean views; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, Loss of natural grasslands on the Homer Spit has increased historically to  
30 present in spite of the importance of beach grasses for Kachemak Bay ecosystems, where they  
31 provide habitat, food for wildlife, and erosion control; **Alaska** Islands and Ocean Visitors Center  
32 designates beach grass seed as important food in the dead-of-winter for song sparrows and  
33 gray-crowned rosy-finches; and  
34

35 **WHEREAS, The Spit Comprehensive Plan states that one development goal is to**  
36 **“preserve and protect important wildlife and bird sanctuary areas” and that “preserving**  
37 **habitat is important to the environment and local economy” (4.4); the guiding document**  
38 **encourages the habitat for native species such as beach ryegrass “be maintain and**  
39 **enhanced” in order to mitigate ongoing marine erosion; and**  
40

41 WHEREAS, Seafarer's Memorial **Lot 31** contains some of the only undeveloped land left  
42 on the Homer Spit and should be preserved as a habitat for beach grasses and other natural  
43 vegetation, birds, and wildlife; and

44 WHEREAS, Supra-tidal beach berms at **near** Seafarer’s Memorial have been identified  
45 as critical environment for migratory and resident shorebirds, and provides wildlife habitat  
46 (e.g., for marine mammals) near the geographical center of Kachemak Bay, which is unique  
47 regionally; and

48  
49 WHEREAS, Through data collection and ongoing bird counts, this region of the Spit has  
50 been identified by Cornell University’s Ornithology Lab as an International Birding Hot Spot  
51 location; and

52  
53 WHEREAS, Wild bird migration, feeding, and nesting in and around Homer are  
54 important economic bases for the City; their presence attracts visitors nationally and  
55 internationally; their financial impact is broad and realized via nature or eco-tourism in general  
56 as well as special events (such as the annual Shorebird Festival); and

57  
58 ~~WHEREAS, The Greater beach of **near** Seafarer’s Memorial is a crucial foundation~~  
59 ~~geologically that provides *coastal sand supply*; its ample sand, pebble and gravel components~~  
60 ~~directly preserve the Homer Spit “system” as a whole and, through natural marine processes,~~  
61 ~~mitigate erosion along easternmost beaches of the Spit including the terminus.~~

62  
63 **WHEREAS, erosion is a critical concern along the Homer Spit, and current beaches,**  
64 **vegetation, and infrastructure will be considered and assessed as part of the General**  
65 **Investigation Study for Homer Spit Erosion Mitigation and subsequent Spit Erosion**  
66 **Maintenance and Management Plan the City is actively pursuing with the US Army Corps**  
67 **of Engineers; and**

68  
69 **WHEREAS, Resolution 96-27 designated a 100’ x 100’ foot area as the Seafarer’s**  
70 **Memorial Park.**

71  
72 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Homer City Council hereby designates  
73 Homer Spit Amended Lot 31 as green space, but requires no specific signage.

74  
75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that **a survey shall be completed to establish the current**  
76 **spatial extent of the current parking area on Lot 31 and** any part of the property that is not  
77 developed as of the passage of this resolution shall be maintained in perpetuity as green space  
78 and open to the public, free from buildings, parking, camping, hardscaping of any kind, and  
79 earthmoving of any kind ~~beyond regular parking space maintenance, which is spatially limited~~  
80 ~~to present 45 parking spaces.~~

81  
82 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any new trail development is limited to the public beach  
83 access dedicated through the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant # 02-00430 and  
84 defined as the northwestern twenty feet of Lot 31, Homer Spit Amended; being a strip of land

85 twenty feet wide, immediately adjacent and parallel to the northwest property line, and also  
86 being immediately adjacent to Lot 27; containing 3,595 square feet, more or less.

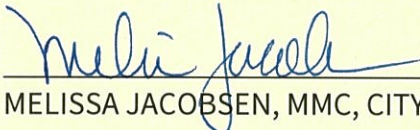
87  
88 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution excludes the Seafarer's Memorial**  
89 **as described in Resolution 96-27.**

90  
91 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 11 day of May, 2020.

92  
93 CITY OF HOMER

94  
95   
96  
97 KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

98 ATTEST:

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101   
102  
103 MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK



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106  
107  
108 Fiscal information: N/A