

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

Davis/Venuti

RESOLUTION 25-050(A)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA
DIRECTING **THE CITY STAFFMANAGER** TO COLLABORATE WITH
KBBI PUBLIC RADIO TO FACILITATE THE ANNUAL CONCERT ON
THE LAWN FUNDRAISER AT KAREN HORNADAY PARK,
ADDRESSING LOGISTICAL NEEDS AND MINIMIZING THE IMPACT
ON CITY OWNED BASEBALL FIELDS.

WHEREAS, The City of Homer is committed to serving the public interest, promoting
community welfare, supporting cultural and civic aspirations of its residents; and

WHEREAS, The City of Homer has limited flat, open space suitable for community
events, with a significant portion of such space dedicated to baseball fields, including those at
Karen Hornaday Park; and

WHEREAS, The City of Homer has maintained a longstanding, mutually beneficial
relationship with KBBI, its local National Public Radio (NPR) affiliate, which serves as a vital
source of news, education and cultural programming for the community; and

WHEREAS, KBBI's annual Concert on the Lawn, its largest fundraising event, has been
traditionally held at the upper baseball fields in Karen Hornaday Park for many of the past 15
years, drawing residents and visitors together to support public broadcasting; and

WHEREAS, Local NPR affiliates, including KBBI, face significant financial challenges due
to proposed federal budget cuts that threaten to eliminate funding for public broadcasting,
making local fundraising efforts critical to their sustainability; and

WHEREAS, The City of Homer recognizes the importance of unwavering community
support for KBBI during this challenging period to ensure the continuation of independent,
community based public broadcasting; and

WHEREAS, The 2024 Concert on the Lawn, held on the lower level baseball field at Karen
Hornaday Park encountered significant accessibility issues, reduced visibility from the vendor
area, and lower ticket sales as the event was visible and audible from other parts of the park,
highlighting the need for a more suitable location within the park; and

WHEREAS, KBBI has expressed its willingness to collaborate with the City to mitigate
and remediate any potential damage to the baseball fields resulting from the event
demonstrating its commitment to responsible stewardship of public resources; and

WHEREAS, While the South Peninsula Athletic and Recreation Center (SPARC) serves as a viable backup venue in the event of inclement weather, it is not a suitable primary location for the Concert on the Lawn during favorable summer conditions, as it lacks the open air ambiance and capacity of Karen Hornaday Park; and

WHEREAS, The City acknowledges that community events like the Concert on the Lawn enhance Homer's cultural vibrancy, support local businesses and fosters civic engagement, aligning with the City's mission to promote a thriving community; and

WHEREAS, Facilitating the Concert on the Lawn at Karen Hornaday Park reflects the City's commitment to balancing the use of public spaces for diverse community needs while preserving the integrity of recreational facilities; and

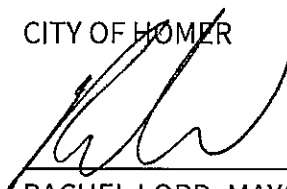
WHEREAS, Collaboration between City Staff Manager and KBBI can ensure that the event is organized in a manner that addresses logistical requirements, enhances accessibility, supports vendors and minimizes any adverse impacts on the baseball fields.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska hereby directs the City Staff Manager to work collaboratively with KBBI Public Radio to Facilitate the Annual Concert on the Lawn Fundraiser at Karen Hornaday Park, utilizing the most suitable baseball field to meet the logistical needs of event organizers and vendors while implementing measures to minimize and remediate any peripheral damage to the ball fields.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Staff Manager shall coordinate with KBBI to address accessibility concerns, optimize event visibility and ensure a positive experience for attendees, vendors and the broader community.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 12th day of May, 2025.

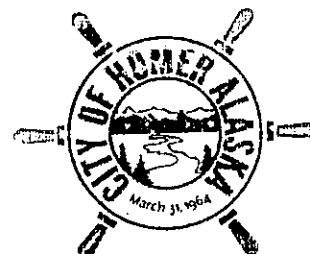
CITY OF HOMER


RACHEL LORD, MAYOR

ATTEST:


RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal Note:





MEMORANDUM

Resolution 25-050, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Directing City Staff to Collaborate with KBBI Public Radio to Facilitate the Annual Concert on the Lawn Fundraiser at Karen Hornaday Park, Addressing Logistical Needs and Minimizing the Impact on City Owned Baseball Fields. Davis/Venuti

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Lord and City Council
Date: May 12, 2025
From: Councilmember Davis
Through: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager

KBBI Public Radio, Homer's local National Public Radio (NPR) affiliate, has requested to once again be permitted to hold its annual Concert on the Lawn fundraiser in the outfield of one of the upper ball fields at Karen Hornaday Park. Historically, KBBI, like the Highland Games, has often utilized the upper western most field, but in 2024, the City asked KBBI to use the lower-level field instead. This change created significant challenges, including accessibility issues that the City could not help address due to concerns about liability, as well as reduced visibility for vendors and resulted in lower ticket sales, which impacted the event's success.

The Concert on the Lawn is KBBI's biggest fundraiser, and it's more vital than ever with proposed federal budget cuts threatening public broadcasting. This event not only supports KBBI's mission to provide news, education, and cultural programming, but also strengthens our community. City staff have shared thoughtful concerns about returning the event to the upper fields, including:

- The ball fields are not suitable for concerts or festival-type events due to the risk of damage, such as rutting observed after past events.
- Both the City of Homer and Homer Little League invest significant resources in maintaining the fields for their intended recreational use.
- A Recreational Use Agreement with Homer Little League prioritizes their access to the upper fields, limiting availability for other events.

These are important points, and I appreciate the care that goes into maintaining our fields for our kids and community. At the same time, I'm concerned that a decision to limit our city-owned ball fields to baseball-only activities could affect events even beyond the Concert on the Lawn, events that bring so much joy and connection to Homer. So much of our flat, open, city-owned land is dedicated to baseball fields, and these spaces are some of the best we have for large community gatherings.

KBBI is eager to work hand-in-hand with the City to address any potential damage to the fields. They're committed to being good stewards of our shared spaces. Given how much the Concert on the Lawn means to Homer—culturally, economically, and socially—and the limited options for suitable city-owned venues, I feel this deserves a broader conversation.

Resolution 25-050 encourages city staff to partner with KBBI to make this event possible, using the most appropriate part of an upper ball field while carefully addressing logistical needs and protecting the fields. This approach seeks to honor the needs of KBBI, Homer Little League, and the rest of our community.

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