

**NOTICE OF MEETING
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. AGENDA APPROVAL**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA** *(Three minute time limit)*
- 4. VISITORS** *(Visitors normally have 10 minutes for their presentation.)*
- 5. RECONSIDERATION**
- 6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA** *All items on the consent agenda are considered routine and non-controversial by the Parks & Recreation Commission and are approved in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a Parks & Recreation Commissioner or someone from the public, in which case the item will be moved to the regular agenda and considered in normal sequence.*
 - A. Minutes for the Regular Meeting on November 19, 2015 **Page 3**
- 7. STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORT**
 - A. Staff Report - Julie Engebretsen **Page 9**
 - B. Community Recreation Report - Mike Illg
 - C. Parks Management Report - Angie Otteson
- 8. PUBLIC HEARING**
- 9. PENDING BUSINESS**
 - A. Additional Trash Cans on the Spit Trail
- 10. NEW BUSINESS**
- 9. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**
 - A. Commission Annual Calendar 2016 **Page 17**
 - B. Commissioner Attendance at City Council Meetings 2016 **Page 18**
 - C. Beaches, Vehicles and Dogs: Pictures and Comments **Page 19**
 - D. Mat-Su Gazette Article: Money Grows on Trees and Trails **Page 32**
 - E. Reappointments to the Commission: Steffy and Archibald **Page 33**
 - F. Telluride Mountain Film Festival Flyer **Page 40**
- 10. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**
- 11. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER** (If one has been assigned)
- 12. COMMENTS OF STAFF MEMBERS**
- 13. COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**
- 14. COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR**
- 15. ADJOURNMENT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2015 at 5:30pm in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer Alaska**

Session 15-13 a Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order on November 19, 2015 at 5:33 pm by Acting Chair Deb Lowney at the Cowles Council Chambers City Hall located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS LOWNEY, ROEDL, ASHMUN, HART AND BRANN

ABSENT: JULIE ENGBRETSSEN, DEPUTY CITY PLANNER

STAFF: RENEE KRAUSE, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Commissioners Archibald and Steffy were not reappointed in time to be seated for this meeting. Commissioner Brann arrived at 5:38 p.m. Acting Chair Lowney turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Brann.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Acting Chair Lowney called for a motion to approve the agenda.

HART/ASHMUN– MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Robert Archibald, resident, commented on the HART funding that has not been expended and advocated for going before the Council to allocate the existing funds in an appropriate manner. He realizes that more and more residents are biking and walking and he believes that the commission should perform their due diligence to the fund.

VISITORS

RECONSIDERATION

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes for the regular meeting of October 15, 2015

Vice Chair Brann called for a motion to adopt the consent agenda.

LOWNEY/ASHMUN - MOVED TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Annual Park/Beach Walk Through – Commissioner Reports on Visited Parks or Beaches

Commissioner Hart reported her findings at the Bayview Park as follows:

- fencing missing slats
- gate is frozen closed
- drainage issues
- stumps

Commissioner Lowney reported that she visited Bayview and Karen Hornaday. She agreed with Commissioner Hart on her Bayview findings. She also attended a MAPP meeting which Julie Engebretsen also attended and explained that the group Best Beginnings who adopted the park, is not responsible for repairs to the park fencing.

Commissioner Lowney also supported submitting a recommendation of support to Council on providing the minimal funds required to perform the repairs, and establishing a work party to remove the stumps. She then reported on the Karen Hornaday Campground and the grant funding; trees and shrubbery needing to be trimmed; the trails going through the alders along the road into the park, she recommended thinning the alders at minimal and removing them totally is preferable.

Commissioner Roedl visited those same parks and reported on the improvements to Calhoun Trail/near Merlin Cordes residence and US Coast Guard housing and spoke about using the funds available to improve that trail to remove alders and smooth/level the trails.

Commissioner Ashmun visited those parks and added that Bayview has an aura of neglect. There is usually no one using the park other than a lone adult sitting in their car in the parking lot. She agreed with remedy regarding the hill along Calhoun Trail.

Vice Chair Brann reported viewing Bayview, which he did not see anything different from the last time, he also visited Jeffery Park and it looked presentable, Bishops Beach did not show any damage or vandalism at the facilities there.

LOWNEY/ROEDL – MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ALLOW INPUT FROM ROBERT ARCHIBALD ON THE BAYVIEW PARK.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Mr. Archibald reported on Bayview Park that the fencing is in dire need of repair but suggested getting some input from the public on what type of fencing would be the best and/or more appropriate for the park. He provided conditions at Ben Walters Park, the lower kiosk is in need of shoring or replacement. Mariner Park is in some dire need of refurbishment and work too.

Mr. Archibald also reported that Karen Hornaday, Public Works has done some recent pruning but believes that alder is too fast growing.

Vice Chair Brann commented on the hesitancy of the city to not build anymore trails because of taking on more facilities to maintain. He believes the city should lean more on the volunteers and then provided some information that the Mat Su Borough does with volunteers as an example.

Commissioner Ashmun spoke about the privacy screening at the campground and how visitors really appreciate that benefit. Then she cautioned removing the alders from the hillside regarding the hydrology of the area.

Vice Chair Brann believes that it would be beneficial to include in the Strategic Plan at the Feb meeting so they can devise a plan to address the needs of those trails and parks.

Commissioner Lowney would like contact the group that has adopted Bayview Park to attend the meeting in Feb and submit a proposal on the fencing. Vice Chair Brann also suggested addressing the chain link fencing along the back of the park.

B. Staff Report – Julie Engebretsen, Deputy City Planner

Vice Chair Brann would like an update in the purchase of the Roger Loop property. He then brought up the issue of the steel caps that were removed from the harbor and dumped in the additional parking area at Karen Hornaday Park. He has addressed the issue with Public Works and the Harbormaster and neither want the steel caps, he believes they could sell them and use those funds for improvements at the parks. Formal acknowledgement should be received from the Harbormaster and Public Works Director.

LOWNEY/ROEDL - MOVED TO REQUEST FROM PORT AND HARBOR AND PUBLIC WORKS THAT THE CAPS BE GIVEN TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION TO RAISE FUNDS

There was a brief discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Lowney commented on the issues at Bishops Beach and reported that Chief Robl has agreed to send an officer out to the area as soon as possible to take action. She emphasized that people call and report offenders. She commented on the doggie bags and getting these ordered before the end of the year. Then spoke about the trash cans and mentioned some programs regarding trash cans that are needed especially on the spit trail and in town. She advocated the benefits and service to the community.

Vice Chair Brann opined that they would probably get more buy in if the trash cans were smaller instead of those large barrels. Businesses did not want to take on the responsibility of emptying those barrels, they can get pretty heavy.

Commissioner Lowney commented on the Foraker article in the packet and that being a good idea.

C. Community Recreation Report – Mike Illg

Recreation Specialist Illg provided materials from the previous meeting on activities as a laydown. He was not in attendance at the meeting.

D. Parks Report – Angie Otteson

Ms. Otteson was not in attendance and did not provide a written report.

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Purchase of Doggie Bag Dispensers

Vice Chair Brann requested a motion to approve the purchase. Commissioner Lowney also noted that a logo could be imprinted and Ms. Engebretsen had requested suggestions.

LOWNEY/ASHMUN - MOVED TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF 4 LARGE DISPENSERS AND 250 INDIVIDUAL DISPENSERS.

Discussion on having a catch phrase imprinted on the dispensers was entertained by the commission. There were no suggestions or ideas forthcoming from the commission.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Vice Chair Brann requested volunteers to brainstorm locations to distribute the small dispensers.

Commissioners Lowney and Ashmun volunteered to pick locations. It was noted that replacement baggies should be considered. It was questioned whether the dispensers were refillable. It was noted that the Commissioners could distribute or educate dog owners and pass out the dispensers.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2016 Regular Meeting Schedule

The commissioners discussed the current issues facing the city presently and acknowledged that there were some important issues that may affect the commission and should be addressed sooner rather than later regarding budgetary matters. It is with this consideration that the Commission made the following amendment to the regular meeting schedule:

LOWNEY/ROEDL – MOVED TO ADD THE THIRD THURSDAY IN JANUARY TO THE 2016 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE.

There was a brief discussion on the value of having this meeting rather than waiting until February since the commission does not meet in December. It was noted that the commission could cancel the February meeting or another meeting later in the year if they find it is unnecessary in order to keep to the budget constraints.

VOTE. YES. BRANN, LOWNEY, ROEDL, HART, ASHMUN

Motion carried.

B. How can the HERC be Sustainable

Commissioner Lowney commented on the idea of making the HERC Sustainable. She would like to follow staff recommendation and have a citizen group organize a committee that includes citizens, commissioners, and Mike Illg to create a proposal that makes the HERC sustainable using past proposals as starting point. It was noted that Council would have to approve a committee so this was to be totally outside of city involvement. Commissioners could attend but no more than three could be involved. It was highly recommended to have this a citizen committee.

The Commission requested the following information:

- Specific reasons for limiting the occupancy of the building.
- Why were the activities limited to Community Recreation?

It was recommended that the citizen group work on a proposal to be submitted to the Commission at the January 21st meeting. Commissioner Hart, Lowney and Roedl volunteered to contact specific community residents to be involved. The group can submit a proposal on what as a community that they can do to maximize the use of the building, proposing to council on increasing the revenues that can make the program sustainable and using the building to pay for itself.

Question was raised regarding the vote on Dec 1st and if they should do it if it fails. It was noted that they could address that question later as no one had any ideas at this time since the HERC would be shuttered.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Commission Annual Calendar 2016
- B. Commissioner Attendance at City Council Meetings 2016

Commissioner Brann volunteered for February & April
Commissioner Ashmun volunteered for March
Commissioner Lowney volunteered for May

The Commission put Chair Steffy in for the January meetings since he was not in attendance at this time but would be reappointed next week.

C. Bishops Beach and Parking on the Berm

Vice Chair Brann commented and thanked Nina Faust for the pictures and felt it was a great example of participation from outside this commission.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Robert Archibald commented on putting the Police Department phone number in their cell phones, and that was a good idea regarding the HERC building.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Deputy City Clerk Krause commented that it was a good meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER *(If one is present)*

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Lowney stated it was a good meeting, commented on the struggle through the budget this year being exceptionally difficult.

Commissioner Ashmun spoke on the berm issue and people driving on that berm. She felt that the old policy is good enough and she expressed her frustration on the lack of enforcement and going more aggressively in signage such as at Mariner. She expressed that the signage was passive. On the positive side the police did go down there and speak to the people on the berm. Great meeting.

Commissioner Roedl commented on looking forward to see the HERC proposal goes forward and that they are here to advocate for parks and recreation and the rest of the problems that the city has are not their problems and they represent what the city resident wants regarding parks and rec.

Commissioner Hart commented on the signage at Bishops Beach and the lack thereof, but maybe barriers to prevent the cars from driving in those areas should be placed. She has lived where barriers were used and felt that the logs that were in the area should be moved to prevent vehicle traffic. She believed that barriers work and every law they implement will cause someone to break them.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Commissioner Brann enjoyed the radio show regarding the budget on KBBI and almost called in and then requested the Clerk to distribute the strategic plan to the new commissioners so they be familiar with the document for the meeting in February. He mentioned the idea presented by Mr. Illg that Community Recreation used to be a number 1 or 2 priority with the commission and wondered why it still was not on the list. He apologized again for his tardiness and looked forward to having Robert on this side of the table again.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Steffy adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m. The next **REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2016** at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk

Approved: _____



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

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To: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
From: Julie Engebretsen, Deputy City Planner
Date: January 12, 2016

Subject: January Staff Report

Cemetery

Recently, there has been some concern from neighboring property owners about the planned expansion of the Hickerson Memorial Cemetery. The City Manager is working to address the concerns. A neighborhood meeting for concerned residents has been scheduled for February 10th at 5:30 p.m.

Roger's Loop Land Purchase

The Commission requested an update on the land purchase. I have asked both Administration and Public Works and have received no information. I will keep asking.

Caps from the harbor at Hornaday Park

At the November meeting, the Commission passed a motion requesting Port and Harbor and Public Works release the caps to Parks and Rec to raise funds. The Commission asked for formal acknowledgement from the Harbormaster and Public Works Director. I need one thing clarified before I can make this request. City procurement policy usual determines which account money from surplus sales is deposited. Parks and Recreation is part of the General Fund, along with most other city departments. Does the Commission wish these funds to go to the Park and Recreation Reserves? (Quick reminder: that's the P&R savings account for capital projects, like replacing park equipment. It does not pay for staff.) With the Commissions response I can move forward on this task.

Doggie Bags

Thanks to Deb and Louise for distributing the dispensers and rolls of bags. See attached flier. About half of the purchased items are left. The Commission can discuss how to distribute on another agenda, or Deb and Louise can do the work. Unless the Commission has a deep interest, I suggest Deb and Louise work with staff, so the Commission can move on from dog waste!

Beach Policy Update

Look for a resolution and ordinance in the next Council meeting or two about vehicles on the beach. Administration has met with Islands and Ocean about interpretive signage at Bishop's beach. Conversations are ongoing.

WHISRN

One of the recommendations of the Commission that the Council supported was the inclusion of City lands into the Western hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. Staff is working with George Matz, Island and Oceans and the State on one nomination to include all three landowners. George is coordinating between the three entities.

Comprehensive Plan Update

Please see attached memo.

Website Update

In December, the City launched an update to the website. If you use it, you will notice some changes. Some bugs are still being worked out, so if you see a problem, email staff.

February meeting agenda items:

- Visitor on Bayview Park Improvements
- Strategic Plan
- HERC update

From: Jo Johnson
Sent: Monday, December 28, 2015 8:17 AM
To: Renee Krause
Subject: FW: for park and rec board meeting
Attachments: 12162015141005-0001.pdf

Renee,
Please include this with the P&R packet for February 19.
Jo

From: Chad Jones [<mailto:cj99603@icloud.com>]
Sent: Saturday, December 19, 2015 4:42 PM
To: Jo Johnson
Subject: for park and rec board meeting

Hello,
Please include this letter in the next possible park and rec commission meeting

A 700 plot cemetery expansion planned adjacent to Diamond View Estates near Belnap and Diamond Ridge in a residential neighborhood!

Hello, please read with care. If you spend only ten minutes reading this and any articles linked below I'm certain you will agree this is bad news and is hastily being planned. I'm asking for your support to protect our soil and drinking water. And if you do nothing at least you now know that a threat exists so near our homes.

The City of Homer owns the Hickerson Memorial cemetery up hill from us, and a 700 body expansion is in the works. The city has done no environmental impact statement or public meetings that include information about the threat that is posed by cemeteries. I'm very familiar with the three lots the City purchased for this project. Some of the area I consider wetlands, it is wet all year long and most of it drains right down Belnap Drive.

Cemeteries pose a threat to drinking water from embalmed bodies and a host of other hazardous chemicals leaching into the ground water. Alaska is very lax on properly containing this hazardous material by not requiring a vault, a body can be buried only 75 feet from your families drinking water well. State employees have admitted to me that this is a serious problem in Alaska. A body turns into an awful hazardous goo and leaks into the surrounding soils and is carried down by water moving. Please see the many article links from Gov't and non profit groups below.

The expansion will add 700 additional bodies to the existing 700 plots, for a **total body count of 1400, all on top of a hill, above 100s of homes**, potentially destroying our clean well waters. I have asked the City to stop and assess what is already happening, and ask how are they going to stop contamination from happening. To hire an environmental firm to study the threats and create a committee to recommend how to proceed, or if to proceed with adding plots.

Possible contaminants include poisonous chemicals, such as arsenic and mercury, which were used in past embalming and burial practices, formaldehyde from current embalming practices; varnishes, sealers, and preservatives used on wood coffins; and lead, zinc, copper, and steel from metal coffins and mercury from watch batteries.

Obviously the City has been looking for more cash cows to help with the deficit. But should it be hastily done to only potentially ruin our health? According to the central Kenai Peninsula funeral chapel there is a cremation rate of between 70 and 75 percent. [peninsula clarion] So this project only benefits roughly 25-30% of the population. And a shrinking population wants to be buried. During a budget deficit the City is spending \$200,000 on a cemetery expansion without even knowing the threats that exist or that could happen.

Attached to this email is a pdf of the project. I'm really hoping people will see this a bad thing in a residential area. And support stopping it until more study and information is obtained. I'm asking the Park and Rec board to support a request to the City of Homer to stop the project until the situation can be properly assessed.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions...

Chad Jones
907.299.7879

> very good article from Ireland

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/toxins-leaking-from-embalmed-bodies-in-graveyards-pose-threat-to-the-living-31211012.html>

>article from 1999

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/1999/01/dead-water>

Also reading the sustainability statement on the City web site it talks about creating the kind of community that will provide a healthy environment and quality of life for future generations as well as current residents. By allowing an expansion to happen and not knowing whether there is ground water contamination already is surely not sustainable or wise.

Many more articles:

- *Arsenic and Old Graves*
<https://eponline.com/articles/2006/09/01/arsenic-and-old-graves.aspx>
- *Til Death Do We Pollute, and Beyond: The Potential Pollution of Cemeteries and Crematoriums*
https://archive.org/stream/tilDeathDoWePolluteAndBeyondThePotentialPollutionOfCemeteriesAnd/TillDeathDoWePollute_djvu.txt
- *Mineral Contamination from Cemetery Soils*
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3315260/>
- *Cemeteries, Burials & The Water Environment*
<http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/cemeteryguidance.pdf>
- *Landscapes of the Dead: An Argument for Conservation Burial*
<http://ced.berkeley.edu/bpj/2012/09/landscapes-of-the-dead-an-argument-for-conservation-burial/>
- *Concerns: Embalming and Cemetery Pollution*
<http://villagememorial.blogspot.ca/2015/05/pollution-from-embalming-and-cemeteries.html>
- *Groundwater near cemeteries*
<http://www.wspgroup.com/en/WSP-UK/Who-we-are/Newsroom/features/Groundwater-near-cemeteries/>
- *Arsenic Contamination in Graveyards: How the Dead Are Hurting the Environment*
<http://www.utne.com/environment/arsenic-contamination-ze0z1306zpit.aspx>
- *Issues to Consider in Preparing for Disposition of Decedents*
<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/environmental-health/comm-sanitation/burial-and-cremation.html>
- *Natural burial*
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_burial

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Memorandum

TO: Homer Advisory Commissions and Library Advisory Board
THROUGH: Rick Abboud, AICP, City Planner
FROM: Julie Engebretsen, Deputy City Planner
DATE: January 13, 2016
SUBJECT: 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update

Starting soon, the Planning Department will be working on updating the City's Comprehensive Plan. The last major update of the Homer Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2010. Most of the work was done between fall 2006 and spring 2008, right about the peak of the local and national economy prior to the recession. Much of the plan infers that there are unlimited financial and personnel resources within the City and the community to expand services and regulation. This is clearly not the financial reality of the City and community today, or in the next 5-10 years. A new tax base could evolve and change the fiscal environment, but in the meantime, our Comprehensive Plan should be realistic and help guide us on what is most important and how to make the most of what we have.

Between adoption and 2015, many of the goals and implementation items have been addressed. It is time to update the plan to reflect the work that has been accomplished, add new work items, possibly prioritize items within the plan, and change the character of the plan to reflect the City's fiscal reality.

This work will begin in January 2016, with City Planner Rick Abboud communicating with department heads about their respective chapters of the plan. Next, the Commissions will review their portion of the plan, with the department head comments (Draft 1). Planning staff will likely make some formatting changes in the document in this timeframe. Having worked with this plan for a number of years, there are some changes that can be made to make it user friendly, such as the implementation tables. After the Commissions have reviewed the first draft, a second draft with Commission recommendations will be released and public meetings will be held. Changes to the draft will be made based on public comment, and a public hearing draft will be presented to the Commissions. Eventually the Planning Commission will hold a hearing, passing the document to the City Council, and then the Kenai Peninsula Borough for final adoption.

A project timeline is presented on the next page. Timing may change depending on workload and project progress.)

2016														2017			
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul- Aug	Sept- Nov	Dec	Jan- Feb	Mar	Apr- May	June- ?				
Department Comments	X																
Draft 1		X	X														
Initial Commission Review			X	X	X												
Draft 2						X	X										
Public Meetings								X									
Public Hearing Draft									X								
Commission Review									X	X							
Advisory Planning Commission Hearing											X						
City Council												X					
KPB review (3-4 months)													X				

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION ANNUAL CALENDAR
FOR THE 2016 MEETING SCHEDULE

<u>MEETING DATE</u>	<u>SCHEDULED EVENTS OR AGENDA ITEM</u>
FEBRUARY 18, 2016	STRATEGIC PLAN RE-WRITE
MARCH 18, 2016	LAND ALLOCATION PLAN REVIEW & RECOMMENDATIONS COMPLETE STRATEGIC PLAN RE-WRITE
APRIL 21, 2016	SPRING PARK &/ OR BEACH WALK THROUGH
MAY 19, 2016	
JUNE 16, 2016	INITIAL BUDGET REVIEW – WHAT DOES THE COMMISSION WANT FOR 2017? REVIEW CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN & RECOMMENDATIONS
AUGUST 18, 2016	BUDGET REVIEW & RECOMMENDATIONS STRATEGIC PLANNING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2016	FALL PARK WALK THROUGH AND BEACH WALK; ELECTIONS; SELECT KHP CLEAN UP DAY BUDGET DISCUSSION
OCTOBER 20, 2016	REVIEW AND APPROVE THE 2016 MEETING SCHEDULE
NOVEMBER 17, 2016	STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW & PLANNING
DECEMBER 2016	NO MEETING SCHEDULED HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

2016 HOMER CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION ATTENDANCE

It is the goal of the Commission to have a member speak regularly to the City Council at council meetings. There is a special place on the council's agenda specifically for this. After Council approves the consent agenda and any scheduled visitors it is then time for staff reports, commission reports and borough reports. That is when you would stand and be recognized by the Mayor to approach and give a brief report on what the Commission is currently addressing, projects, events, etc. **A commissioner is scheduled to speak and has a choice at which council meeting they will attend. It is only required to attend one meeting during the month that you are assigned.** However, if your schedule permits please feel free to attend both meetings. Remember you cannot be heard if you do not speak.

The following Meeting Dates for City Council for 2016 is as follows:

January 11,25 2016	<u>Commissioner Steffy</u>	<u></u>
February 8,22 2016	<u>Commissioner Brann</u>	<u></u>
March 14,28 2016	<u>Commissioner Ashmun</u>	<u></u>
April 11,25 2016	<u>Commissioner Brann</u>	<u></u>
May 9, 23 2016	<u>Commissioner Lowney</u>	<u></u>
June 13, 27 2016	<u></u>	<u></u>
July 25 2016	<u></u>	<u></u>
August 8, 22 2016	<u></u>	<u></u>
September 12,26 2016	<u></u>	<u></u>
October 10, 24 2016	<u></u>	<u></u>
November 28 2016	<u></u>	<u></u>
December 12, 2016	<u></u>	<u></u>

Please review and if you will be unable to make the meeting you are tentatively scheduled for please discuss.

PLEASE NOTE: When additional commissioners are appointed the proposed schedule above will reflect those added commissioners.

From: Renee Krause
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2015 8:23 AM
To: Mary (Beth) E. Wythe; Gus Van Dyke; Catriona Reynolds; Donna Aderhold; David Lewis; Bryan Zak; Heath Smith; Mark Robl; Deb Lowney; Robert Archibald; Dave Brann (homerbrann@gmail.com); peter.roedl@gmail.com; Louise Ashmun (leashmun@gmail.com); dixhart@yahoo.com; 'aknina51@gmail.com'
Cc: Julie Engebretsen
Subject: Beaches - Vehicles and Dogs
Importance: High

Forwarded as requested from Matt Steffy to Mayor Wythe and Council members, Mark Robl, Chief of Police and Parks & Recreation Commissioners:

I would like to thank Deb Lowney and Nina Faust among others for recently documenting through pictures many things that have been publicly testified as "not actually occurring".
For my contribution: I have no pictures, but was at Bishop Beach recently to witness a gentleman with his Samoyed on a leash get mobbed by 5 unruly dogs in the parking lot who were not on their leashes. The exchange was not pleasant. The dogs jumped up on him and nipped at his dog's ears and tail. He was visibly angered and distressed (as was his dog) and he called out for assistance from the nearby dog owners who simply clapped their hands a few times and kept talking. In the end he aggressively dragged his dog by its leash out of range while hurling epithets over his shoulders as the other owners held fast to their conversation and waved him off. This all happened in the parking lot; an area the P&R commission has requested be a leash-enforced zone. To an extent reasonably possible, we need to manage these lands in a non-exclusionary manner. I know many have testified that their dogs are perfectly trained, and others say they have never seen an altercation. I go to Bishops twice a week and do not directly recreate there; I sit and observe. I enjoy watching the mountains and the waves as much as I enjoy the families flying kites and running their dogs (on the beach, dogs should run free on the outer beach, away from the slough and it's protective status.)

I believe these first-hand accounts, and pictures, can help educate the public as the council explores any potential regulations on certain beaches.

I do not wish to bring pet issues to the frontline, simply to keep them in the conversation as a regulatory issue that the Council has been asked to address.

Your time spent on consideration is appreciated. There's no such thing as pleasing everyone, but we can still seek to maximize the overall good of our general users
And that will be a compromise by necessity, if not by nature.

Matt Steffy
Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission Chair
Natural resource Specialist
Local Recreation Enthusiast

Sincerely,

Renee Krause
Deputy City Clerk I
City of Homer
491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603
Ph. 907-235-8121 ext 2224
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rkrause@ci.homer.ak.us

*All Correspondence sent from this email address can possibly be available for public inspection.
Please note some correspondence is confidential in nature and if you have received this in error please contact the sender as soon as possible so we can correct the contact information we have on file.*

“The Secret of Change is to Focus All of Your Energy Not on Fighting the Old, But Building the New” -
Socrates

From: Robert Archibald <robert.e.archibald@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2015 12:15 PM
To: Renee Krause
Subject: Re: Beaches - Vehicles and Dogs

Thank you Matt for this information.

It is beyond belief that people can be so inconsiderate to let their dogs behave in such a manner.

I will not be at the next commission meeting as I have a Prince William Sound RCAC Board Meeting but I hope to call in.

I feel that the Council needs to address the recommendations put forth from the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Commission. The City Council needs to address these issues now that the budget issue has been somewhat decided.

I hope the Commission can review the recommendations and reiterate those to the City Council. It is time for the City Council to act on some of the reasons people like Homer and that is NOT being attacked by loose dogs at a public beach.

Regards

Robert Archibald
P,R & B Commissioner











From: Debra Lowney <dlowney@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2015 6:59 AM
To: Renee Krause
Subject: Fwd: More damage to Bishops Beach Berms

Renee, could you forward this to all city council members and P&R commissioners?

Deb

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nina Faust <fausbail@horizonsatellite.com>
Date: December 10, 2015 at 9:47:44 PM AKST
To: Deb Lowney <dlowney@acsalaska.net>, Robert Archibald
<Robert.E.Archibald@gmail.com>
Subject: More damage to Bishops Beach Berms

December 10, 2015. The damage at the end of the Bishops Beach berm closest to the slough continues. Now folks are illegally cutting the big logs that stabilize the berm and driving up the end nearest the slough and back toward the parking area along the center of the berm. I certainly hope the City Council takes some action soon, as berms and their stabilizing vegetation can easily be damaged by vehicles.

Nina Faust

Please send copies to the City Council Members and Parks and Recreation Commission. Thanks.



IMG_6333



IMG_6334



IMG_6336



IMG_6357

MONEY GROWS ON TREES AND TRAILS

Ansley Fray, Shyanne Massie, and
Evie Prys - WASILLA HIGH

More than 140 million Americans make outdoor recreation, including trail sports, a priority in their daily lives while putting \$646 billion of their hard-earned dollars toward outdoor fun. This influx of spending directly results in highly sought-after jobs for 6.1 million Americans. While the number of trails are increasing throughout the Mat-Su, these economic advantages are no different for the Mat-Su Borough.

Charity MacDonald, owner and appraiser for Summit Appraisal, said, "Proximity to and availability of trails contribute positively to the market value and demand of homes in the area."

A study from the National Association of Homebuilders supports MacDonald's opinion. It found that trails are the second most important community amenity that potential homeowners cite when choosing a new community. They even ranked higher than public parks. Trails and Greenways were cited by 57 percent of prospective buyers in a 2004 survey by the association. Additionally, the study found that "trail availability" outranked 16 other options including security, ball fields, golf courses, parks, and access to shopping or business centers.

Furthermore, USDA Forest



The Government Peak Recreation Area overlooks the Mat-Su Borough in September. The borough is investing in creating new and sustainable trails throughout the Valley with the hopes of generating income as well as quality of life.

Service Southern Research Station has confirmed that trails are an economic boom. They report that in southwestern Virginia, the 34-mile Virginia Creeper Trail generated approximately \$2.5 million annually from locals, as well as from visitors. Additionally, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Office of Greenways & Trails estimates

an economic benefit of \$2.2 million annually from the 16-mile St. Marks Trail.

Ed Strabel for Mat-Su Ski Club said the trails attract more than just the locals. "You would be surprised where some of the people that come up here are from. Europeans you see up here quite often. They are all just fascinated with the beauty of Alaska."

Mat-Su is investing heavily in trails. If 34 miles of Virginia trails can produce that much cash, the borough is banking that the sought out beauty of Palmer, AK can do as much.

Ansley Fray, Shyanne Massie, and Evie Prys are sophomores at Wasilla High.



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the Mayor

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

mayor@ci.homer.ak.us

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

Memorandum 15-182

TO: HOMER CITY COUNCIL
FROM: MARY E. WYTHE, MAYOR
DATE: NOVEMBER 16, 2015
SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILMEMBER CATRIONA REYNOLDS TO THE CANNABIS ADVISORY COMMISSION AND REAPPOINTMENT OF ROBERT ARCHIBALD AND MATT STEFFY TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION.

Councilmember Catriona Reynolds is appointed to the Cannabis Advisory Commission to fill the council seat vacated by Beauregard Burgess. Ms. Reynold's term will expire with office.

Robert Archibald and Matt Steffy are reappointed to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission for three-year terms, to expire October 31, 2018.

RECOMMENDATION:

Confirm the appointment of Councilmember Catriona Reynolds to the Cannabis Advisory Commission and reappointment of Robert Archibald and Matt Steffy to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission.

Fiscal Note: N/A



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(f) 907-235-3143

November 24, 2015

Matt Steffy
PO Box 609
Anchor Point, AK 99556

Dear Matt,

Congratulations! Council confirmed/approved your re- appointment to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission during their Regular Meeting of November 23, 2015, via Memorandum 15-182.

Your 2015 Public Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement is currently on file with the City Clerk's Office.

Thank you for your willingness to continue serving the City of Homer on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. There certainly are exciting times ahead.

Your term will expire October 31, 2018.

Cordially,

Mary E. Wythe, Mayor

Enc: Memorandum 15-182
Certificate of Appointment

Cc: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

City of Homer

Homer, Alaska

Mayor's Certificate of Appointment

Greetings

Be It Known That

Matt Steffy

Has been reappointed to

serve as

"Commissioner"

on the

"Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission"

This appointment is made because of your dedication to the cause of good government, your contributions to your community and your willingness to serve your fellow man.



*In Witness whereof I hereunto set my hand
this 24th day of November, 2015.*

Mary E Wythe
MARY E. WYTHE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jo Johnson
JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

Jo Johnson

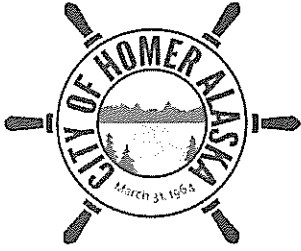
From: Matt Steffy <matt@homerswcd.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 3:14 PM
To: Jo Johnson
Subject: Reappointment

Jo,

I would like to officially request reappointment to the Parks & Recreation Commission for another term. I understand that, due to Council schedule, I will not yet be officially on the commission during our next meeting. My apologies for this oversight and I look forward to continuing to serve the city.

Matt Steffy

Natural Resource Specialist
Homer Soil & Water Conservation District
4014 Lake Street, Suite 201A
Homer, AK 99603
Office (907) 235-8177 x117
matt@homerswcd.org
www.homerswcd.org
www.kenaiweeds.org



City of Homer

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Office of the Mayor

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Homer, Alaska 99603

mayor@ci.homer.ak.us

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

November 24, 2015

Robert Archibald
PO Box 2460
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Robert,

Congratulations! Council confirmed/approved your re- appointment to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission during their Regular Meeting of November 23, 2015, via Memorandum 15-182.

Your 2015 Public Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement is currently on file with the City Clerk's Office.

Thank you for your willingness to continue serving the City of Homer on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. There certainly are exciting times ahead.

Your term will expire October 31, 2018.

Cordially,

Mary E. Wythe, Mayor

Enc: Memorandum 15-182
Certificate of Appointment

Cc: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

City of Homer

Homer, Alaska

Mayor's Certificate of Appointment

Greetings

Be It Known That

Robert Archibald

Has been reappointed to

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"Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission"

This appointment is made because of your dedication to the cause of good government, your contributions to your community and your willingness to serve your fellow man.



*In Witness whereof I hereunto set my hand
this 24th day of November, 2015.*

Mary E. Wythe
MARY E. WYTHE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jo Johnson
JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

Jo Johnson

From: Robert Archibald <robert.e.archibald@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 11:01 AM
To: Jo Johnson
Subject: Reappointment to Parks and Rec

Good Morning Jo,
Please accept this as a formal request to be reappointed to the Homer Park and Recreation Commission.

Regards,
Robert Archibald
P.O. Box 2460
Homer, Alaska 99603
907 299-0852

CITY OF HOMER COMMUNITY RECREATION PRESENTS:

TELLURIDE MOUNTAIN FILM IN HOMER, AK

THURSDAY, JAN 14 7PM SHOW #1

SATURDAY, JAN 16 7PM SHOW #2

\$10/TICKET/SHOW

MARINER THEATRE

ADVENTURE
INSPIRATION
CREATIVITY
LIFE

TIX AT HOMER BOOKSTORE & REC OFFICE

40

FILM PLAYLIST @ WWW.CITYOFHOMER-AK.GOV/RECREATION

