

41640 Gladys Ct.
Homer, AK 99603

November 5, 2014

Homer Parks and Recreation Commission
City of Homer
Homer, AK 99603

Commission Members:

In an attempt to be as brief as possible, I will reference Nina Faust's letter which clearly states the problems at Bishop's Beach and George Matz's information concerning the importance of the area, especially Beluga Slough, as bird and wildlife habitat.

I believe that you should form a committee of interested folks to look closely at this issue. A committee could look at many ways to solve these problems and could involve people with diverse ideas and possible solutions; a committee would have the best chance of finding a workable plan for Bishop's Beach. They could also work on education aspects of a solution and signage.

However, if there is not going to be adequate enforcement of existing and/or future ordinances, then I believe the City needs to close the beach to vehicle use. (Possibly with a permit system for coal collection.)

Above all, the City needs to protect the people who use the beach and protect the important habitat and wetlands buffer (storm berm). We all want to help because we all hope this area can again be what it was.

Sincerely,

Lani Raymond

Renee Krause

From: Jo Johnson
Sent: Wednesday, November 05, 2014 4:50 PM
To: Renee Krause
Subject: FW: Parks and Rec meeting on Bishop Beach problems

FYI

Jo Johnson

From: Bunnell Arts [<mailto:info@bunnellarts.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 05, 2014 4:45 PM
To: Jo Johnson
Subject: Fwd: Parks and Rec meeting on Bishop Beach problems

Forwarded!

Regarding Bishop's Beach for Pks and Rec special meeting. From Mary and Bill Ostwald thanks!

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mary O <mho2610@gmail.com>
Date: November 5, 2014 4:01:00 PM AKST
To: info@bunnellarts.org
Subject: Parks and Rec meeting on Bishop Beach problems

Please forward this email, Bill and Mary Ostwald are outside at this time. They would like to inform the committee about their concerns regarding reckless driving, drug activity, and the destruction of the critical habitat and storm burms on Bishop Beach. We have lived on Bunnell for a period of time and have noticed it has become very problematic as police statistics have shown. These problems need to be addressed before someone is severely injured or killed. Several solutions will be discussed, but we feel that the one solution that makes the most sense is to shut down the beach to all Vehicle traffic. Thank you for your support and consideration of this extremely important problem for Old Town.

Carol Harding
PO box 2154
Homer, AK 99603

November 5, 2014

City of Homer
Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
491 E. Pioneer Ave
Homer, Alaska

Dear Commission Members:

As you know, there has been considerable controversy regarding inappropriate use of public areas at Bishop's Beach, particularly the area to the east of the parking lot, which, according to signs, is a no vehicle area. This has been a long standing problem that should have been resolved in 2000 when the regulation was supposedly put into place. In 2000 I was appointed by the City Council to the Beach Policy Task Force, along with city council members Mike Yourkowski and Pat Cue, and five other members of the community representing various businesses and organizations in town. I represented the Kachemak Bay Conservation society.

We met as a group for over three months, developing a plan that best represented the wishes and concerns of all its participants. Since one of the participants owned the local ATV Store, he lobbied heavily to allow motorized vehicles on all the beaches. As a compromise, we agreed that area to the left of Bishop Beach access would be set aside as a pedestrian area, free from motorized vehicles. Signs were installed, but apparently no one ever paid any attention, and the regulation was never enforced.

Fast forward 15 years, the situation at Bishop's beach is now completely out of control. The beach has become a dirty, smelly, noisy, and hazardous place. The area is no longer a wild, natural place, that should enhance the quality of life for the community, but rather a beach that is crisscrossed with tire tracks, **polluted** with dog poop, litter, and exhaust fumes, **hazardous** with young kids speeding on the beach and with kids often using the beach to sell and do drugs as evidenced by the proliferation of syringes, and **noisy** with the sound of loud trucks (often without mufflers) and ATVs and other motorize vehicles. These motorized vehicles not only dangerous, but also **destructive** to the berms and to our precious bird habitat. To illustrate how much the beach has gotten out of hand, a few years ago I was on the beach at a minus tide when I saw a truck unload a small beach buggy racing car that proceeded to zip up and down the beach at high speeds, with engine roaring and exhaust stinking up the beach. Really, the beach used as a race track?

Please help make Bishops Beach become a clean, safe, wild place once again by recommending enforcement of the regulation of not allowing vehicle traffic to the east of the Bishops Beach parking lot

Sincerely,

Carol Harding

Renee Krause

From: Jo Johnson
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2014 2:03 PM
To: Renee Krause
Subject: FW: Bishop's Beach

Jo Johnson

From: michael Bavers [<mailto:mbavers@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2014 1:58 PM
To: Jo Johnson
Subject: Bishop's Beach

I would like to go on record as supporting a ban on any vehicular use of the east side of the beach.

A few times this past winter I went to park in the parking lot to sit and enjoy the view only to have my view interrupted by the rear ends of several cars and trucks which were parked in front of me on the beach. The lot was nearly empty and there was no logical reason for them to be there.

I know that this small town doesn't like to have too many rules and regulations telling people what to do, but when the rights and quiet enjoyment of others are infringed upon we must have rules and regulations, or we have chaos and unrest. And rules must be enforced.

Michael Bavers
po box 15115
fritz creek
299-0163

