

**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)*
 - A. Public Comments Received regarding Beach Policy Review, Bishops Beach and Similar Areas in Homer **Page 3**
- 4. VISITORS** *(Visitors normally have 10 minutes for their presentation.)*
 - A. George Matz, Kachemak Bay Birders **Page 5**
 - B. Dr. Dot Sherwood, Homer Veterinary Clinic
- 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 Special Meeting on February 5, 2015 **Page 11**
- 5. STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORT**
 - A. Staff Report re Recap of the February 19, 2015 Meeting **Page 19**
- 6. PUBLIC HEARING**
- 7. PENDING BUSINESS**
- 8. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Recommendation to Support a New Picnic Pavilion on the Spit **Page 21**
 - B. Discussion on Hosting a Trails Symposium **Page 27**
 - C. Birds, Dogs and the Beach - A Discussion **Page 29**
 - D. Next Meeting Deliverables and Discussion Topics **Page 31**
- 9. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**
 - A. Woodard Creek Watershed Plan **Page 33**
- 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 THERE WILL BE A REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2015. THE NEXT SPECIAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2015 at 5:30pm in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer Alaska**

**THOMAS & LORI ZITZMANN
579 HIDDEN WAY
HOMER, AK 99603**

February 9, 2015

City of Homer
Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Commission Members:

I appreciated the opportunity to be able to comment during your last scheduled meeting on 02.05.2015.

The topic of public use regarding Bishops Beach is very important to both my wife and I. Not only as residents and property owners adjacent to the beach, but also as longtime residents and user of this wonderful community asset.

In addition to my public comments last week, I want my comments summarized in a letter for purposes of public record for those community members who were not able to attend the Commission meeting.

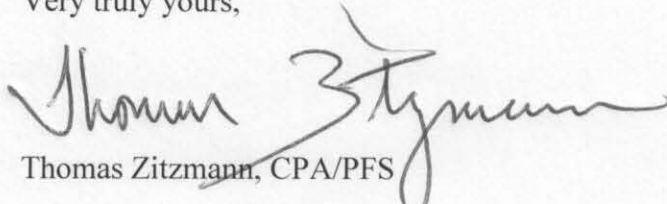
In order to minimize public disturbances in the unique "mixing zone" of both public and private property, I would like to see the Commission address the following:

- 1) Conduct a community education program whereby community members and beach users are educated as to where private property and the public use space begins and ends. Accurate signage would be a great first step. I have forwarded to Ms. Julie Engebretsen, Deputy City Planner, examples of such signage.
- 2) Prevent removal and burning of drift wood. If this regulation is on the books, please enforce it. If not, please enact it.
- 3) Place "fire rings" in various locations, including below the Bishop Beach pavilion and other City lots, i.e. at the base of Crittenden. Restrict camp fires to the fire rings.
- 4) Prevent camping in the Park. If camping is permitted, then restrooms are necessary. Unfortunately, campers use property owner's private property for human waste disposal.

- 5) Place trash receptacles in any location fire rings are located.
- 6) Establish a quiet time for after-hours use i.e., between the hours of 10:00PM to 8:00AM.
- 7) In general, vehicle use on the beach is not a problem. Reckless driving on the beach is. It is disruptive and dangerous to other beach users and wildlife. Reckless driving should be ticketed.

I thank you all for spending your valuable time on such an important issue. With some careful planning and perhaps new regulation the public will be able to enjoy this beautiful treasure in a safe and healthy manner.

Very truly yours,



Thomas Zitzmann, CPA/PFS



<http://kachemakbaybirders.org/>

Feb. 12, 2015

Dear Commissioners of the Homer Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission:

The Kachemak Bay Birders appreciates the recognition that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission is giving to ongoing user problems at Bishops' Beach and Beluga Slough. These problems impact the quality of these sites as well as the enjoyment and safety of the many area residents and visitors that use Bishops Beach and Beluga Slough. We agree with the methodical approach you have used to better understand these problems as well as possible solutions. We also appreciate the support you have received from the City of Homer Planning Department in working to resolve these issues.

As you know from information we previously provided, the Bishops Beach and Beluga Slough area has good bird habitat which attracts numerous species of birds (133 according to eBird), and abundant numbers of birds at times (e.g. migration). Given this and easy public access to the area, these birds attract many birders. In fact, the area is considered a "hotspot" by eBird.

While the problems that are occurring range from dogs to drugs, we will address only those problems related to birds, bird habitat, and birding opportunity. Actions we support are:

1. **PARK DESIGNATION.** We understand that city owned parcels of Bishops Beach tidelands (Beach Area 7) are not officially designated as "park." We recommend that these parcels, as well as the city owned portions of Beluga Slough be officially designated as park. The main purpose of this is to have existing city code for parks clearly apply. Also, park designation would be consistent with how the Alaska Maritime NWR manages the parcels that it owns nearby in Beluga Slough.
2. **VEHICLE BARRIERS.** Our observations demonstrate that the berm east of the Bishops Beach parking lot and the adjoining intertidal area provides good habitat for many species of foraging and resting birds, as well as a few species that nest there. These birds are easily disturbed by off road vehicles. A Physical barrier is needed to prevent vehicles from going east of the parking lot. The policy enacted over a decade ago was based more on seeking cooperation than enforcement. The emphasis was on signage. It is now recognized that this hasn't worked satisfactorily. While we still need better signs, the most effective and least costly enforcement is to physically block vehicle passage. The Commission has mentioned that the placement of boulders around the parking areas at Green Timbers and Louis's Lagoon has worked. Closely placed boulders would also block vehicle traffic east of the Bishop's Beach parking lot. This needs to be enacted.

3. VEHICLE USE AT OTHER INTERTIDAL AREAS. At a previous meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission discussed not allowing vehicles in the intertidal area for beach areas 4, 6, and 7. This is essentially from the Bishops Beach parking lot east along the west side of the Spit to the end. We support this. The current approach to allowing vehicle use on some parts of the Homer Spit is confusing and not easy to enforce. It would also allow vehicles to continue to use the beach west of the Bishop's Beach parking lot which doesn't disturb birds.
4. OFF-LEASH DOGS. We have often observed loose dogs chasing birds that are foraging or roosting in the intertidal areas. This can be really stressful for birds, particularly if they have just arrived after migrating hundreds and even thousands of miles. We strongly recommend that loose dogs not be allowed in bird sensitive areas such as the area east of the Bishops Beach parking lot, Belugas Slough, Mariner Park Lagoon, Mud Bay, Green Timbers, and Louie's Lagoon. We agree that there needs to be large beach areas where dogs can be off leash. Our recommendation would still allow off-leash dogs on several miles of beach west of the Bishop's Beach parking lot and the beach on the west side of the Homer Spit.

WHSRN Designation.

Another recommendation Kachemak Bay Birders would like to make is to have the City of Homer and the Alaska Maritime NWR designate its properties in the Bishop's Beach and Beluga Slough area as an extension to the WHSRN (Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network) designation that already exists for Kachemak Bay (<http://www.whsrn.org/site-profile/kachemak-bay>). Rather than try and describe WHSRN, I have attached their description from their website (see http://www.whsrn.org/sites/default/files/file/WHSRN_general_fact_sheet_12_06-11.pdf). As you already know, this has been done before. In April 1994, the City of Homer nominated Mud Bay and Mariner Park Lagoon as WHSRN sites, which was approved. I can provide you with copies of the documents if so requested.

We think a WHSRN designation for Bishop's Beach and Beluga Slough would not only be consistent with past commitments by the City of Homer, but enhance visiting opportunity by both residents and visitors as well as offer even better educational opportunities for our schools. Educational materials, trails, and kiosks that tie in the Bishop's Beach/Beluga Slough area could provide an excellent opportunity to observe and enjoy our estuarine habitat. It would provide another example of why Homer is special.

The nomination process for a WHSRN designation is fairly simple. The basic requirement is that the nomination needs to come from the landowner (<http://www.whsrn.org/nomination-process>). It should be noted that a WHSRN designation is essentially just a recognition and has no regulatory authority associated with it. The cost of having this designation should be nil and not require any more than what the City already spends to administer and maintain this recreation area.

Although the actual nomination needs to be made by the City Council, a logical starting point is to have the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission make the recommendation to the City Council. Including this recommendation in the Commission's report to the City Council would be the appropriate vehicle. Kachemak Bay Birders would be pleased to take on the responsibility of drafting the nomination (which was previously done by George West). In fact, we have already contacted WHSRN and they have

assured us that it would be acceptable to consider Bishop's Beach/Beluga Slough as an extension to the existing Kachemak Bay site rather than a new site. This simplifies the criteria.

We look forward to continue working the Parks and Recreation Commission in carrying out the actions we mention above to improve the Bishop's Beach area. We also hope you accept our request and recommend to the City Council that Bishop's Beach/Beluga Slough be added to the Kachemak Bay WHSRN site.

Sincerely,

George Matz



WHSRN: An international strategy for saving SHOREBIRDS and their habitats.

Shorebirds are among nature's most ambitious and amazing long-distance migrants. But their numbers are dropping rapidly, with some species projected to go extinct within our lifetime. Protecting these birds is a high international conservation priority—and one that requires proactive, coordinated efforts within and between the countries these birds fly through during their vast pole-to-pole migrations.

What is WHSRN, and why was it created?



By the mid-1980s, scientists throughout the Americas were documenting serious population declines in shorebirds. Shorebirds' seasonal migrations are perfectly

timed to occur just as their food resources become available at very specific locations across the hemisphere during a very short window of time.

Understanding this, in 1984 the science community developed the framework for a site-specific, hemisphere-scale shorebird conservation strategy—the **Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN)**.

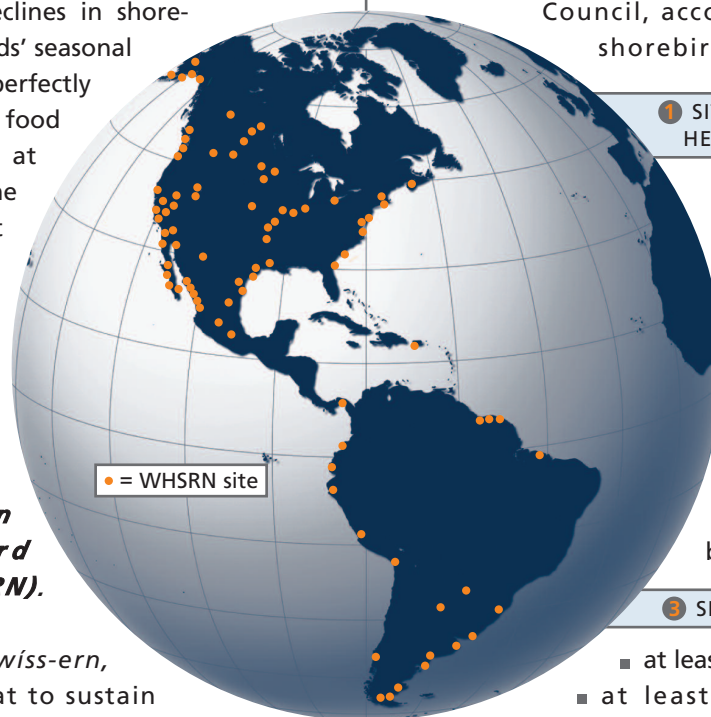
This strategy, pronounced *wiss-ern*, follows the simple idea that to sustain healthy populations of shorebirds, we must maintain the ecological integrity of key sites—those specific locations—that provide the habitats and nourishment they need for survival.

How extensive is WHSRN, to date?

There are currently 87 sites in 13 countries, from Alaska in the northernmost United States to Tierra del Fuego in southernmost South America. More than 32 million acres (almost 13 million hectares) of shorebird habitat have been designated and are being conserved by WHSRN partners.

How does it work?

A partner or landowner nominates an area for one of three categories of designation by the WHSRN Hemispheric Council, according to its importance for shorebirds:



1 SITES/LANDSCAPES OF HEMISPHERIC IMPORTANCE:

- at least 500,000 shorebirds annually, or
- at least 30% of a species' biogeographic population

2 SITES OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE:

- at least 100,000 shorebirds annually, or
- at least 10% of a species' biogeographic population

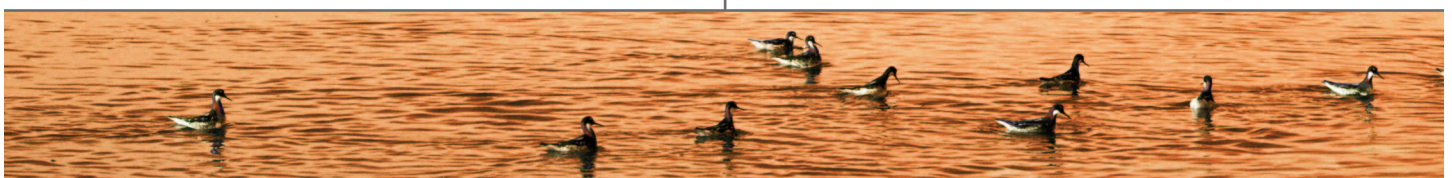
3 SITES OF REGIONAL IMPORTANCE:

- at least 20,000 shorebirds annually, or
- at least 1% of a species' biogeographic population

Additionally, to qualify for a WHSRN designation, the site's landowner(s) must agree to:

1. make shorebird conservation a priority;
2. protect and manage shorebird habitat; and
3. keep WHSRN informed of any changes at the site.

Many site partners choose to display the certificate of designation, post WHSRN signage, host a dedication ceremony, and/or develop educational material and programs to raise local awareness about the site's importance.



Who can participate in WHSRN?

Site landowners and stewards include government agencies, non-profit organizations, indigenous peoples, academic centers, businesses, and any other individual or entity committed to advancing WHSRN's mission.

Who administers WHSRN?



Administrative and technical support is provided by Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences (Manomet) in Massachusetts, USA, through its WHSRN Executive Office. Manomet has a long and respected history of initiating collaborative, science-based conservation. For three decades, its senior scientists have been pioneers and steady leaders in deepening our understanding of shorebirds' needs and in guiding conservation actions.

A Red Knot may fly the same distance as the Earth to the Moon before its 13th birthday—provided it overcomes natural and human-imposed threats to its survival each year.



©Art Morris, Birds as Art

The Strength of Partnerships

From the Arctic tundra to the tip of Tierra del Fuego, WHSRN sites are more than just dots on a map. Each makes up the overall constellation of willing partners across the hemisphere committed to doing their part to help sustain healthy shorebird populations.

An effort of WHSRN's magnitude cannot be accomplished solely by the talent of any one group. WHSRN's leadership finds win-win intersections with the goals and agendas of other local, national, and international entities and individuals, from all sectors of society. In business terms, by conducting highly leveraged activities like helping other groups incorporate shorebird-conservation needs into their work or practices, WHSRN achieves a very large return on investment.

The Power of Science

The combination of biological and environmental factors at play in the annual lifecycle of a shorebird is very complex; in turn, so is the work of scientists in determining if or how a natural or human-induced impact to any one factor may be causing or contributing to a population's decline. This we do know: nine shorebird species have rates of decline so sharp that their total population sizes will be half what they are today in just 10 to 20 years (Bart et al, 2007). If not reversed in time, they will become extinct.

Science informs and empowers our actions within WHSRN. As research continues to refine our understanding of shorebirds, we are simultaneously adjusting the scientific questions asked and the conservation actions taken.

The Importance of Your Support

As a site partner, researcher, donor, business owner, educator, birdwatcher, landowner, or resource manager, your support for WHSRN—in whatever shape it may take—helps to advance our shorebird conservation goals. If you have questions, or want ideas on how you can best contribute, visit www.whsrn.org or contact us at:

WHSRN Executive Office
P.O. Box 1770
Manomet, MA 02345
(508) 224-6521

©Tim Bowman, USFWS



The Bar-tailed Godwit breeds in Alaska and "winters" some 7,150 miles away in New Zealand—and gets there by flying non-stop for up to 9 days.



Session 15-02 a Special Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order on February 5, 2015 at 5:38 pm by Chair Matt Steffy at the Cowles Council Chambers City Hall located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS LILLIBRIDGE, ARCHIBALD, STEFFY, MACCAMPBELL, BRANN, AND ROEDL

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER LOWNEY (EXCUSED)

STAFF: JULIE ENGBRETSSEN, DEPUTY CITY PLANNER
RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Steffy requested a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

MACCAMPBELL/BRANN - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Chair Steffy invited the public to comment and requested them to please sign in they will have 3 minutes.

Scott Adams, city resident, commented on use of the beach as a pedestrian, dog walker and vehicle use on the beach to collect coal, and driving towards Anchor Point; he then related an incident regarding parking in front of existing signage blocks them and vehicles went to the left, he approached those offenders, explained they were in the wrong area and if they kept it up they would lose the use of the whole beach, they moved. He related his experience regarding issues to deter vehicles to the left and commented that it didn't use to be that way; he doesn't want to lose the privilege of driving onto the beach to conduct a need such as collecting coal.

Jack Wiles, city resident, commended the commission for looking into these issues and to help with that they developed four position papers that they hope will be helpful to the commission during their deliberations.

VISITORS

There were no visitors scheduled for this meeting.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items for reconsideration.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes for the special meeting of January 22, 2015

Chair Steffy requested any comments, questions or corrections regarding the items on the consent agenda. Hearing none he requested a motion for adoption of the consent agenda.

BRANN/LILLIBRIDGE - MOVED TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Staff Report re: Recap of the January 22, 2015 Meeting

Ms. Engebretsen stated that she will not address the Legal Access and Land Ownership Issues since that is covered later on the agenda. She has provided a recap of items discussed or questioned at the last meeting. Ms. Engebretsen further explained that it may be early, but the commission will need to make motions on these issues to provide a direction that they will be going for the public. They need to start putting items on paper.

Chair Steffy confirmed that the items in the memorandum were on the flip chart. Ms. Engebretsen briefly explained the items.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no items scheduled for this meeting.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Review and Discussion on Existing Regulations for the City of Homer

1. Chapter 5.20 Fire Prevention
2. Chapter 1.16 General Penalties

Chair Steffy read the item into the record. He requested any initial comments or questions from the commissioners.

Ms. Engebretsen provided input received from Chief Painter on fires. Warming fires and cooking fires are allowed. Taking driftwood from the beach or using coal for fires is not allowed. She noted that having fires and parties beyond the area of Bishop's Beach is inaccessible.

Commissioner MacCampbell still questioned if an offense is bailable. Ms. Engebretsen also questioned how many tickets are issued for fires on the beach.

Commissioner Brann commented that establishing metal fire rings at public access areas would be worth trying. He further added that using the tops of pilings that have been placed/left at Karen Hornaday Park would be perfect. They are heavy and could not easily be removed or floated away. Placement can be at the base of each access such as Crittenden and Bishops Beach. He realizes that three will not be enough; more like 15 would be needed. He pointed out the lots that were city owned.

Commissioner MacCampbell commented on placement of fire rings on beaches and the additional maintenance and retention of those rings. He would also like to see something on burning of beach logs.

Commissioner Archibald added that the materials proposed for the fire pits weigh approximately 600 pounds.

Chair Steffy commented on the recommendations for placement of fire pits and questioned the penalties in general would be \$300 per offense. Ms. Engebretsen stated that this could be clarified by Chief Robl. He asked for additional comments from the commission.

- What is the authority of the City on private property in regards to fire?
- What is the city policy in a high fire season? Are they closed down?

Commissioner MacCampbell responded that during a high risk season all fires are banned even on beaches. The Fire Marshall issues the ban according to the input from various organizations.

- Could city personnel issue citations for offenses within the parks and beaches such as illegal fires?
Chair Steffy responded that there is a liability factor to the city and a requirement to change the job description of the parks personnel.
- Trespass is a management tool that could be used
- Agreement with private property owners regarding enforcement and jurisdiction of rules/laws
Ms. Engebretsen stated that this was discussed before and can be asked again - What can be done to make the Police Department's work easier
- Remove "Voice Control" and Change to On Leash, Establish "Off Leash" Area
- Recommend the area to the East No Dogs or On Leash only, enforce cleaning up after your dogs

Ms. Engebretsen will take and draft a more formal recommendation regarding dog use areas for the March meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Legal Access and Land Ownership

Chair Steffy read the title into the record.

Ms. Engebretsen stated that she wanted it to be perfectly clear that this is a very complicated issue. Most get resolved in court but that is not the direction the city wants to go.

Ms. Engebretsen read a portion of the letter from Mr. Roger Imhoff into the record regarding a plat note on a property in regards to the public may have some rights to access area of the property and that they did not investigate but it may be there. She then referenced the memorandum from the city attorney that basically stated the city theoretically owns from mean high tide out. Ms. Engebretsen then brought up the issue if Historical Use, could the beach be considered an RS 2477 Right of Way. This means have they been using it since 1976 for transportation and over time there may be some historical rights there. It may involve a court case if the city wants to do that. The City has closed other areas where there was historical use and there were no lawsuits. That is in essence saying they were okay with the closing of the beach to vehicles and certain uses.

Ms. Engebretsen fielded questions from the commission regarding closure of certain areas and waiting to see if they were challenged by a user group.

Chair Steffy stepped to the map and pointed out the city owned lots and noted that most of the vehicular traffic is crossing private property so how could they regulate the traffic to the west. The area to the east is different though. Ms. Engebretsen stated that the area to the east is owned by Fish & Wildlife and collectively would be accepted to be closed to vehicles due to the habitat issues.

Discussion continued on the historical use of the beach, the old railroad line, and closing of the park would not affect the historical use access to the beach. The access is not a legal access according to documents.

Some additional comments from the commission were made on the following:

- Placement of markers for Mean High Tide
- Visuals for the High Tide and Low Tide
- Unclear on the Use of RS 2477
- More Palatable to the Public for Closure to the Left
- Define the Area of Bishop's Beach for discussion purposes
 - Keep to the Zones as Outlined in the Beach Policy
 - Area 7 is Bishops Beach park to the Slough
 - Area 6 is Beluga Slough to Mariner and is managed separately
- Clarification on what are the issues on private property the commission hoping to resolve
 - Trespass
 - Vehicles
 - Fires

Ms. Engebretsen stated that the commission should consider the following when looking at private property:

- the right of access through a property
- permitted uses for fires
- trespass and how to address this issue

Discussion focused on the right of the city to close vehicular access to the beach to alleviate the issues to habitat to the east and offer respite to the property owners to the west from trespass.

Commissioner Lillibridge still advocated for putting in a gate and prohibiting all vehicular traffic from the beach. Since those people will not listen and follow the rules then they need to cut off the use for all.

Response from the audience was not favorable for this solution since this action punishes those residents and users that do follow the rules.

Chair Steffy also noted that there are two options one close the area to the east and restrict vehicular traffic to the west and closing it off period. He believed that the first one will be accepted much easier from the public. He acknowledged that shutting it down period seems to be the easiest but they really need to be careful in what they actually do.

Commissioner MacCampbell warned caution and was not too sure that they could shut it down and cited the additional property owners down the beach towards Anchor Point, but further advocated that they need to start somewhere. Enforcement and education will change behaviors.

Additional discussion continued on the public will access the beach one way or another; marking the private and city property lines; break down the closing of the beach to vehicular traffic into three areas.

The pending motion from January 22, 2015 meeting was brought to the table.

ARCHIBALD/LILLIBRIDGE - MOVED TO ELIMINATE VEHICULAR TRAFFIC EAST OF BISHOP'S BEACH INCLUDING ALL OF AREA FOUR AS SHOWN IN THE BEACH POLICY.

STEFFY/MACCAMPBELL - MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO READ MOVED TO RECOMMEND VEHICULAR RESTRICTIONS FOR BISHOP'S BEACH TO RESTRICTIONS IN ZONE 7, RESTRICTIONS IN ZONES 7 & 6 OR RESTRICTIONS IN ZONES 7, 6 & 4 AND THESE THREE OPTIONS WILL BE OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. (AMEND) YES. LILLIBRIDGE, BRANN, ROEDL, ARCHIBALD, STEFFY, MACCAMPBELL

Motion carried.

Chair Steffy noted that the commission will still entertain comments on this motion from the Public.

Commissioner MacCampbell asked if they could entertain discussion on how the recommendation would be implemented whether natural berm and signage.

Chair Steffy agreed that there would be a preference for a natural barrier and signage. Commissioner MacCampbell agreed that large boulders or large drift logs chained together will really put home that they do not want traffic past this point. Commissioner Brann responded that there will also be natural barriers and whatever the end recommendation is will be easily defined. Commissioner Roedl preferred actual barriers placed at Zone 7 in order to protect the slough. Additional discussion ensued on strong signage that states the new rules for those visitors that come down specifically to participate in those activities that will not be allowed.

Commissioner Brann would like to hear further comment from the public regarding subsistence fisheries and a permitting system if access is restricted. He mentioned that Fish & Game may have that information on the fisheries.

Chair Steffy asked if there were any additional questions or concerns.

Commissioner Brann asked if Marianne Aplin with Fish & Game would be providing a point of view on Beluga Slough, being that they are a major Landowner, regarding vehicular access.

Ms. Engebretsen responded that she is scheduled for the meetings in March to speak on dogs, habitat and wildlife but as they progress and make recommendations she is sure that they will be offering comments in response. She also noted that there was a representative present from Fish & Wildlife. Chair Steffy invited him to come forward and introduce himself for the record. Mr. Mark Webber, Deputy Manager, of the Maritime refuge based out of Islands and Ocean Visitor Center. He is in attendance since Ms. Aplin was unable to attend this evening. Commissioner MacCampbell asked if Ms. Aplin could provide any opportunity of funding sources for signage when she speaks to the commission. Mr. Webber responded that the signage previously mentioned should not be a problem but there would need to be discussion regarding barriers. Commissioner Archibald inquired if Fish & Wildlife will have a statement on the vehicular traffic on the vegetation and berms in regards to the slough. Mr. Webber felt confident that they will comment on issues protecting the habitat.

Chair Steffy explained that they would appreciate a formal request from the Refuge in regards to working cooperatively on these issues regarding the beaches. He thanked Mark for being their impromptu visitor.

Chair Steffy left the options to revisit this issue at a later meeting if needed.

B. Next Meeting Deliverables and Discussion Topics

Chair Steffy read the title into the record. Deputy City Clerk Krause explained that she has found this item very helpful to staff in providing the information for the next meeting. Chair Steffy noted that the next meeting is February 19th and Chief Robl is the scheduled visitor. Ms. Engebretsen restated the questions so far and asked for anything additional the commission would like to have answered or clarified:

- Animal Control - Do they get called regarding dogs on the beach?
- How many people have been cited on the beach? Recent?
- Proprietary or Concurrent Enforcement - Mr. Webber was able to respond that it was Proprietary
- Do 4 wheelers have to be licensed and/or registered?
- More Speed Limit Rules, Enforcement
- Under Chapter 19 cutting the trees on the beach
- Are Fines Bailable?
- Enforcement regarding Trespass Issues - What can be done to make it easier for enforcement?
- Personal Use Fisheries Information - Ms. Engebretsen will try to locate information on this
- Do Holiday Weekends require additional enforcement efforts?
- What is his authority and opinion enforcement on the beach regarding ATV's, reckless driving
- Opinion on Officers or Beach Patrol
- Chief Robl opinion on how well he will or is able to enforce existing rules and anything new that will be proposed.
- Speak about the Beach Patrol/Parking Patrol and what is was and what it could be
- Input on the Park Host Program
 - Support for the idea but need to have a program and training in place not just a retired couple placed in the park having a "good ole time"
- Additional comments or response on jurisdiction of reports of incidents conducted on private property
- Possible repercussions from implementing new restrictions to other areas

Chair Steffy asked if Chief Robl could provide his perspective in general and historical aspect regarding the issues that they are trying to address. He further noted that there are probably questions that they are not thinking about right now.

Commissioner Lowney has requested that a discussion on hosting a Trail Symposium for the next meeting be on the agenda.

Commission Attendance at Council Meetings

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

There were no informational materials.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Tom Zitzman, city resident, not sure how this issue of Bishop's Beach got on the Commission's plate but he appreciated their efforts and actually listening and paying attention. He believed that there were very thoughtful and helpful responses from the city. He added the location of where he lives and it is really tricky knowing who is responsible and how policy needs to be established not only for the city but for the property owners. The city has allowed access to their property through this easement which is creating problems for their property and he is sure that the Commissioners were not speaking about his intellect, but he just had Seabright Surveying conduct a survey and they were thoughtful enough to provide a picture of mean high tide in relation to his property and so he now has a document that outlines his property. He has no issues with people driving the beach coaling but the partying, drug use and the burning of driftwood, every night until 2 or 3:00 a.m. which wafts up into his house and aggravates his asthma. Some quick solutions is public education with signage on public and private property, enforce the no burning of driftwood, establishing fire rings would provide some control of use of the beach. He provided a brief experience to Camino Island and all the driftwood and the very specific language on the signage. What can you do to prevent burning on private property he is not sure what more can be done but he hates to have to call the police for this problem and he knows that there are more ugly problems that they deal with and his neighbors are afraid to complain due to possible reprisal. He really thanks the commission for the thoughtful dialogue that was conducted tonight. In a short time the problem will be back. Thank you, you guys are doing a great job.

Mr. Bill Ostwald, city resident, commented that he has a pretty good view on the problems and some the things are pretty tough to watch. He has been here in 1980 and you used to be able to pull dinner from the tidepools and now the halibut fishery is taking a bend and what he is trying to say is we are the stewards of the land and the water and if they don't take some steps in either direction and put in some restrictions we are going to lose everything. Quite frankly it needs to stop. There is a saying that "That's the way Alaskans Do it" but he would like to say that as Alaskans we know how to preserve our environment. This may cause a few people to bend their nose but we need to make some changes.

Scott Adams, he commented on a sign showing pedestrians and an arrow but a parked vehicle you can't see the sign, it does not work, you guys are beating a dead horse. You need to make traffic go to the right. He collects coal and follows the rules. He wants his children and grandchildren experience the same experiences he has had the opportunity. Alaska is the last frontier and things are changing, but this is a resource. You guys want fire rings then they should be used in all areas on down the spit. Collecting coal is something that has been done for years and hopes that they can continue doing it.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Ms. Engebretsen pointed out that they have not gone through the Beach Policy and decided what has worked; change does happen and it has been positive change and the community has the capacity to continue.

Ms. Krause had no comments.

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

There were no council members present.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner MacCampbell thanked the input from Jack Wiles and that group and the thoughtful public comments. He appreciates the staff efforts and extra work. He then recited a personal experience from growing up and he suggested that they should establish a off road, mud bogging area where these activities are encouraged.

Commissioner Archibald was sorry to see the public leave but he does not want to see this turn into a destination 4 wheel side by side terrorize zone.

Commissioner Brann thanked Julie for providing the map and he would appreciate having it at all future meetings, he thanked Peter for pointing out the calendar and staff as always for doing such a good job.

Commissioner Roedl appreciated hearing all the public input and attending the meetings. He appreciates the points of view even if they conflict.

Commissioner Lillibridge appreciated the public comment and that she is here to serve them and she still remembers someone saying that they are afraid to go to the beach with their young child and agrees that they should find them their own area to use. She told the story of putting up the Atlantic Wall (circa WWII) and that they just need to find a solution to these problems.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Steffy thanked staff for the all that they do and the extra meetings and additional workload. He believes that the differing opinions and comments is good for discussion and that everyone has a vested interest whether a public servant or property owner and people are paying attention. The more public input the better the decisions will be for the community.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Steffy adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m. The next **REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015** at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I

Approved: _____



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Planning
491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

Planning@ci.homer.ak.us
(p) 907-235-3106
(f) 907-235-3118

To: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
From: Julie Engebretsen, Deputy City Planner
Date: Feb 12, 2015
Subject: Recap of February 2nd Meeting

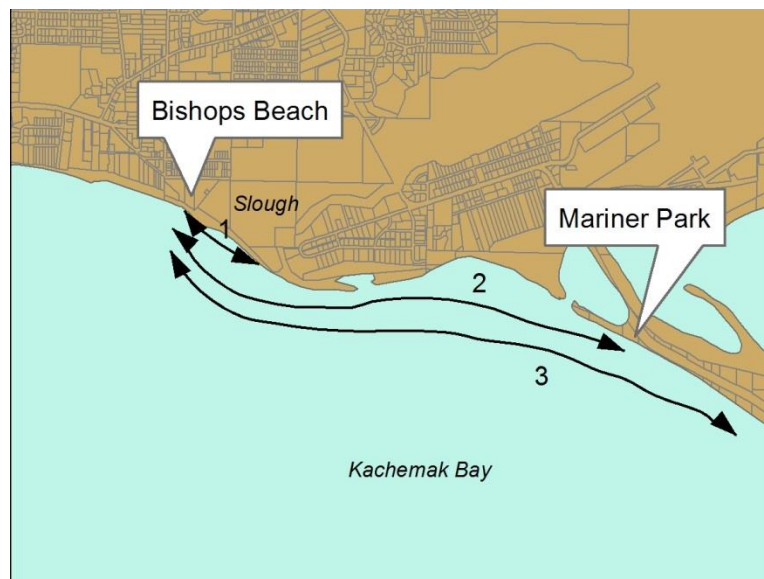
I'd like to spend a little time at each meeting reviewing the ideas for the previous meeting, and keeping a rolling list of recommendations

Motions made:

~ **Install fire pits** at these three locations: Bishop's Beach Park, City parcel near the end of Main Street/Ohlson Lane, and at the End of Crittenden.

~ **Consider 3 options for closing the beach to vehicles:**

1. No vehicles east from Bishop's Beach to the slough
2. No vehicles between Bishop's Beach and Mariner Park.
3. No vehicles east of Bishop's Beach, all the way to the end of the Spit.



Other Solutions:

- Increase dog waste education
- Trash cans at Main/Ohlson and Crittenden. (Make it easier to toss trash and doggie baggies)
- Educate locals on beach rules. Community outreach: primary user groups, schools
- Education on beach resources (why we have the rules and how they protect what we have)
- Delineate private property at Bishop's Beach Access
- Place rocks to prevent or mark where vehicles shouldn't go, east at Bishop's Beach



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Clerk

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

Memorandum

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK
DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2015
SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO SUPPORT A NEW PICNIC PAVILION ON THE SPIT

Commissioner Archibald has requested this item on the agenda to get a recommendation of support from the commission to City Council.

Commissioner Archibald can provide the details.

Recommendation:

Make a Motion in Support of the New Picnic Pavilion on the Spit







City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Clerk

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

Memorandum

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK
DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2015
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION ON HOSTING A TRAILS SYMPOSIUM

Commissioner Lowney requested this item on the agenda for discussion and recommendation to host a Trails Symposium in Homer.

Commissioner Archibald has indicated that he can speak on this topic if Commissioner Lowney is unavailable.

This concept is different than what was discussed briefly at the November 20, 2014 meeting to replace Parks Day. The idea discussed at that time was a Parks & Recreation related Conference for Homer Area related businesses and organizations in place of Parks Day.

Recommendation:

Informational in Nature. No Action Required.



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Planning

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

Planning@ci.homer.ak.us

(p) 907-235-3106

(f) 907-235-3118

To: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
From: Julie Engebretsen, Deputy City Planner
Date: February 12, 2015

Subject: Beach Policy

At this meeting, George Matz will be speaking about birds. Dr. Dot Sherwood, Homer veterinarian, may also be speaking but that has not been confirmed as of the date of this staff report.

Staff has an idea to address dog waste: Provide dog waste dispensers and spare bags. The City could order 100-200 of these, to distribute at events like Strut Your Mutt, in local businesses such as the vet clinic, Homer Hounds, and at public locations like the Animal Shelter, and campground office. Dog waste is a problem at the beach but also in our local parks. If Homer is going to be successful changing this behavior, we need a widespread solution beyond just one park. Signage has a cost, and is only so effective. Perhaps by providing a bunch of these containers and bags, people would change their behavior. We could pick a design where the refill bags are cheap, and could eventually be stocked and sold by local businesses. Ideally in the long run people would buy both the dispenser and bags at local businesses, but to start, the city could provide doggie waste containers and bags. Additionally, I think the City should have waste dispensers at each park and at some public buildings, and trails. And perhaps we can partner with other organizations such as Islands and Ocean to provide the same.





City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Clerk

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

Memorandum

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I
DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2015
SUBJECT: NEXT MEETING AND DELIVERABLES

Currently we have Monday, March 2, 2015 reserved for the next special commission meeting.

On the tentative schedule agenda is Visitor Chief Robl and or Chief Painter.

It is also best to outline the deliverable needed for the next meeting in order to assist staff facilitate their work schedule.

The questions submitted at the Special Meeting on February 5, 2015 will be addressed. Please list items here you would like additional information on and request or submit to staff at the meeting.

Recommendation: Informational Purposes only. No Action required.

FEBRUARY 26, 2015

WOODARD CREEK WATERSHED PLAN PRESENTATION & OPEN HOUSE

6:30pm to 8:30pm
Islands and Ocean Visitor Center
(Refreshments Provided!)

Learn about the Woodward Creek Watershed planning
process just getting started

—
Talk about your vision for the Woodward Creek Watershed

—
Let us know how you use the Woodward Creek Watershed and
what you think are the issues and opportunities

—
Volunteer to help

Sponsored by the Woodward Creek Coalition whose (draft) mission
is to bring together diverse groups, property owners, and citizens to
promote the health and safety of the Woodward Creek Watershed
as a community asset.

Woodward Creek

