



## City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

## Planning

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# Memorandum Supplemental Packet

TO: HOMER PLANNING COMMISSION  
FROM: TRAVIS BROWN, PLANNING TECHNICIAN  
DATE: October 20, 2021  
SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL PACKET

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### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- A. Staff Report 21-64, Remand from the Board of Adjustment of Conditional Use Permit 20-15 at 106 W. Bunnell Ave.

Email Comment from Asia Freeman, dated Oct. 19, 2021 **p. 2**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Staff Report 21-63, Motion to Dismiss and Motion for Leave to Supplement Points on Appeal of CUP 20-15 Submitted by Frank Griswold

Appellant's Reply to the City of Homer's Response to Motion for Reconsideration, Leave to Supplement Points on Appeal, and Proposed Revised Order, dated Oct. 19, 2021 **p. 4**

Email Comment from Frank Griswold to Homer Board of Adjustment, dated Oct. 20, 2021 **p. 13**

Email Comment from Frank Griswold to City Clerk, Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, dated Oct. 20, 2021 **p. 18**

**From:** [Asia Freeman](#)  
**To:** [Department Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Comments for Planning Commission on CUP 20-15 for a building at 106 West Bunnell  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 1:06:48 PM

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Dear members of the Planning Commission,

I am writing to you today to suggest that pursuant to the public hearing on October 20, you deny a request for a conditional use permit that would allow expansion of a portion of the building at 106 West Bunnell, Wild Honey, adjacent to Bunnell Street Arts Center.

It has been a real privilege and responsibility for nearly thirty years to steward the historic Inlet Trading Post Building at 106 West Bunnell. This stately, former general mercantile store served the young town of Homer from the late thirties to the late eighties. It is home to Bunnell Street Arts Center, Old Town Bed and Breakfast (upstairs), The Fringe (downstairs) and Wild Honey (next door). About ten years ago, to incentivize long-term occupancy, I created a condominium in the building, dividing it into two units. Unit 1 is the larger portion, which houses the arts center, the Fringe and Old Town Bed and Breakfast. Unit 2 is currently owned by Melody Livingston. She created a thriving business there, Wild Honey Bistro.

Raised in Homer and passionate about the history and culture of this community, it is deeply important to me that we respect the lines and appearance of our historic buildings. The Inlet Trading Post, constructed in 1937, is the second oldest large commercial building still standing in Homer. It is the anchor of Old Town revitalization and a historic landmark. It is extremely rare for old wood buildings in Alaska to endure time, and the risk of fire and earthquakes. Moreover, the Inlet Trading Post has endured time with with increasing dignity over the years. I have invested a great deal of time and funds to preserve the original lines and health of this building. I deeply believe that this building should be preserved in all of its exterior roof lines, footprint and character.

Melody Livingston would like to tear down the original construction and consolidate her business under one roof, adding a second floor “prep kitchen” above. The footprint of the “prep kitchen is almost equal to the main kitchen below. I have watched the business grow and thrive, and because it functions within the limitations of multiple spaces that are not connected by interior halls or doors to the main kitchen it has always been a challenge to operate a restaurant there. You have a main room with a kitchen, separated from a dining room by an exterior deck and two doors. I can certainly appreciate why the current owner would like to renovate her space to create more connectivity and efficiency. In fact, I have discussed renovations of the space with three architects and four builders over the last thirty years. I am certain this can be done within the original footprint by rebuilding a more efficient interior design while maintaining the exterior lines of this precious landmark. There is plenty of poorly used storage space under the shed behind Wild Honey which could be made into a prep kitchen, meanwhile all of the interior front space including Wild Honey’s porch could be incorporated into interior seating.

Ultimately, expansion of Wild Honey will result in greater demands on the very limited parking and utility services of this old building. I do not think we can bear it. Just last year I

had to pay \$18,500 for 85% of the cost of reconstruction of a broken sewer line servicing both Units 1 and 2. Wild Honey's water/sewer meter reading demonstrated a toll of 28.5% yet she refused to pay any more. Wild Honey is thriving. Melody has been away from Alaska since May and her staff has asserted to me several times they are thriving. The other businesses here are all working at capacity. I think we are strained to support the current utilities and comfortable adjacency as is. I think its wonderful that the owner of Wild Honey has created a very successful restaurant within the historic footprint and rooflines of the original machine shop and while renovation may be justified, expansion is not.

Sincerely,

Asia Freeman  
Inlet Trading Post LLC  
106 West Bunnell, Suite A  
Homer, Ak 99603  
907.299.1482

ON REMAND BEFORE THE HOMER PLANNING COMMISSION

FRANK GRISWOLD,

Appellant,

v.

HOMER PLANNING COMMISSION,  
MELODY LIVINGSTON DBA  
WILD HONEY BISTRO, MATT EARLY,

Appellees.

\_\_\_\_\_/ RE: CUP 20-15

**APPELLANT'S REPLY TO CITY OF HOMER'S RESPONSE TO MOTION FOR  
RECONSIDERATION, LEAVE TO SUPPLEMENT POINTS ON APPEAL, AND  
PROPOSED REVISED ORDER**

On March 9, 2021, the Homer Board of Adjustment remanded this matter to the Commission under HCC 21.93.510(a) and (c) to address and decide three issues for which the Commission's findings of fact were deemed to be inadequate. HCC 21.93.560(c) states: "The lower administrative body shall promptly act on the case upon remand in accordance with the decision of the Board of Adjustment or hearing officer. A case on remand has priority on the agenda of the lower administrative body, except cases remanded under HCC 21.93.510(a) are not entitled to priority. The applicant or owner of the property in question may waive the priority given by this subsection." The issues remanded under HCC 21.93.510(a) are not entitled to priority on the

Appellant's Reply to City of Homer's Response to Motion for  
Reconsideration etc./Page 1

Commission's agenda but they must nonetheless be promptly acted upon by the Commission. However, they clearly were not promptly acted on by the Commission. Because the applicants and/or property owners never waived priority, the issues remanded under HCC 21.93.510(c) **were** entitled to priority on the Commission's agenda but now, more than 7 months following the Board's remand, the Commission has still not considered or acted on the Board's Decision and Order. Instead, City Planner Rick Abboud, who claims to be a party to this appeal, has colluded with Melody Livingston and initiated multiple ex parte communications with the Commission to secure the dismissal of this appeal while she "regroups" before resubmitting her CUP application within a year or two.<sup>1</sup>

A claim is moot if it has lost its character as a present, live controversy. *Kleven v. Yukon-Koyukuk School Dist.*, 853 P.2d 518, 523 (Alaska 1993) (citing *United States v. Geophysical Corp.*, 732 F.2d 693, 698 (9th Cir. 1984)). An action is not moot if respondent has "a concrete interest, however small, in the outcome." *Knox v. Serv. Emps. Int'l Union Local 1000*, 567 U.S. 298, 307-08 (9th Cir. 2012). The *Knox* court further stated: "The

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<sup>1</sup> While it is not illegal for a party to communicate with another party, it is illegal for a party to engage in ex parte communication(s) with the Commission. HCC 21.93.710(a).

voluntary cessation of challenged conduct does not render a case moot because the conduct could be resumed as soon as the case is dismissed" (citing *City of Mesquite v. Aladdin's Castle, Inc.*, 455 U.S. 283). In 1995, the Alaska Supreme Court held as follows in *Kodiak Seafood Processors v. State*, 900 P.2d 1191:

"No scallop harvesting presently takes place in closed Alaska waters. Therefore, KSPA's claims seeking declaratory and injunctive relief are technically moot. Nevertheless, we may choose to address certain issues if they fall under the public interest exception to the mootness doctrine. The public interest exception requires the consideration of three main factors: (1) whether the disputed issues are capable of repetition, (2) whether the mootness doctrine, if applied, may cause review of the issues to be repeatedly circumvented, and (3) whether the issues presented are so important to the public interest as to justify overriding the mootness doctrine. *Peloza v. Freas*, 871 P.2d 687, 688 (Alaska 1994); *Brandon*, 865 P.2d at 92 n. 6. None of these factors is dispositive; each is an aspect of the question of whether the public interest dictates that a court review a moot issue. *Hayes*, 693 P.2d at 834. Ultimately, the determination of whether to review a moot question is left to the discretion of the court. *Id.*; *Brandon*, 865 P.2d at 92. n. 6.

Because the Permit has been revoked, the question of the Commissioner's authority to issue the Permit is also technically moot. Nonetheless, the issue presents a live controversy. KSPA argues that by allowing a private fisher to sell fish obtained during a research trip, the Commissioner exceeded his authority by allowing "commercial fishing" in closed waters. ADF&G argues that it has the authority to finance an exploratory fishing operation by allowing a private contractor to sell the catch. This issue falls within the public interest exception to the mootness doctrine. First, the issue is capable of repetition. The State has not disavowed this type of financial arrangement for future test-fisheries. Second, because research fishing may be of limited duration, it is likely that, as in this case, an individual permit would expire before the issue could be litigated. Third, the scope of the Commissioner's power is an

issue of public interest. Having determined that the commercial fishing issue satisfies the requirements of the public interest exception, and that the procurement issue does not, we turn to the merits of the trial court's decision."

Unlike the fishing permit at issue in the Kodiak Seafoods case, CUP 20-15 was not revoked, it was voluntarily and temporarily withdrawn by Ms. Livingston who indicated her intent to resubmit it, presumably under a different CUP designation (which is irrelevant) in a year or two. Accordingly, Ms. Livingston still has a huge interest in the outcome of this appeal. Because live controversies remain, this appeal is not moot, technically or otherwise. Even if this matter were technically moot, the public interest exception to the mootness doctrine would apply for the following reasons: 1. the disputed issues are capable of repetition; 2. if this appeal were to be dismissed as moot, review of the issues on appeal would be repeatedly circumvented; and 3. the issues presented in this appeal, including threshold constitutional issues, are so important to the public interest as to justify overriding the mootness doctrine.

The City of Homer's October 14, 2021 response to Appellate's Motion for Reconsideration falsely states as follows at page 4: "There is no authority or procedure in the Homer City

Code to hear a motion for reconsideration of a final written decision and Griswold has not cited to any such authority." The very first sentence of the Motion for Reconsideration states: **"Pursuant to HCC 21.93.310,** Appellant Frank Griswold hereby seeks reconsideration of the Commission's Order Granting Motion to Dismiss which was dated August 5, 2021 and distributed on August 6, 2021." HCC 21.93.310 states: "If no specific procedure is prescribed by the code, the Planning Commission may proceed in an administrative appeal in any lawful manner not inconsistent with this title, statutes, and the Constitution." The city's Motion to Dismiss Appeal, on the other hand, cites to no authority or provision of Homer City Code. No provision of HCC gives the Commission the authority to summarily dismiss an appeal on remand from the Board of Adjustment or consider new evidence not authorized within the Board's remand instructions. The city attorneys admit that the Commission did not have express authority in the code to dismiss the appeal but claim that it had "implied" authority to do so under HCC 21.93.310. However, HCC 21.93.310 does not apply because the Commission's dismissal of the appeal was contingent on its receipt of ex parte communications between Mr. Abboud and Ms. Livingston and



unauthorized consideration of that new evidence, both of which are unlawful and inconsistent with HCC Chapter 21.

At page 4 of the city's response it states: "HCC 21.93 clearly states that zoning appeal decisions are final and BOA decisions are appealable to the Superior Court" (citing HCC 21.93.110 in footnote 16). BOA final decisions are irrebuttably appealable to the superior court but the BOA has not issued a final decision and Planning Commission decisions are not appealable to the superior court. HCC 21.93 applies solely to Board of Adjustment proceedings and decisions, not to Planning Commission proceedings and decisions. In their Notice of Appeal Rights at page 5 of their proposed Revised Revised Order Granting Motion to Dismiss, the city attorneys deliberately and deceptively manipulate HCC 21.91.130 in order to give it a different meaning than intended. HCC 21.91.130(a) states: "An appeal from a final decision of the **Board of Adjustment** or a hearing officer may be taken directly to the Superior Court by a party who actively and substantively participated in the proceedings before the Board of Adjustment or hearing officer or by the City Manager or City Planner or any governmental official, agency, or unit." No provision of HCC allows anyone to appeal a final decision of the Planning Commission directly

to the superior court. HCC 21.93.550(a) provides that the Board of Adjustment may affirm or reverse the decision of the lower administrative body in whole or in part and that a decision affirming, reversing, or modifying the decision appealed from shall be in a form that finally disposes of the case on appeal, except where the case is remanded for further proceedings. Thus, only final decisions can be appealed to the superior court. Because the Commission's order dismissing the appeal was not a decision on the merits, it did not constitute a final decision. Even if the Commission's August 5, 2021 Order did constitute a final decision, it cannot be appealed to the superior court; it can only be appealed to the Board of Adjustment in accordance with HCC 21.93.500. Just because a zoning decision is "final" (meaning that it disposes of all issues) does not mean that it cannot be reconsidered. If this were the case, the Board of Adjustment would not have directed the Commission to take up the subject Motion for Reconsideration following the City Clerk's erroneous ruling that motions for reconsideration of agency final decisions cannot be taken up. Alaska Appellate Rule 602(a)(2) clearly indicates that administrative agencies have the discretion to reconsider their final decisions.

The Commission does not have the authority to rule on Appellant's Motion for Leave to Supplement Points on Appeal. As its header clearly indicates, that motion was submitted to the Board of Adjustment, not to the Commission. No formal appeal or points on appeal were submitted to the Commission so there are no points on appeal to supplement except for those submitted on appeal to the Board of Adjustment which now has the sole authority to grant the leave requested.

The August 4, 2021 Planning Commission minutes reveal that the Commission moved to dismiss this appeal due to the "lack of credentials on the part of the Planning Commission in addressing issues like this since they do not know the law" and because "it will be better to have these types of actions go before a hearing officer." These are not valid justifications for dismissing this appeal. Lacking credentials and being ignorant of the law does not justify granting all motions made by the city attorneys on behalf of the appellees and ignoring all motions made by the appellant. The Commission had the authority to be represented by erudite, impartial, independent legal counsel but voted not to exercise that option, choosing instead to blindly rubber-stamp the Motion to Dismiss and ensuing [Proposed] Order prepared by the highly partisan city attorneys.

Now these partisan attorneys are proposing that the Commission deny Appellant's Motion for Reconsideration but nonetheless revise its "final decision" to incorporate points raised in that Motion for Reconsideration. No provision of HCC allows the Commission to revise an order or final decision without first considering a motion for reconsideration. An ethical, impartial Commission, regardless of its lack of credentials and/or ignorance of the law, would grant Appellant's Motion for Reconsideration and, to the best of its ability, consider all of the issues raised therein while disregarding the illegal ex parte communications from Melody Livingston pertaining to her strategic temporary withdrawal of the application for CUP 20-15. The Commission does not require special credentials or knowledge of the law to comply with the straight-forward remand instructions of the Board of Adjustment.

Commissioner Franco Venuti declared a disqualifying financial conflict of interest with regard to the application for CUP 20-15 therefore should not have participated in the August 4, 2021 remand proceedings and should not participate in the current proceedings.

DATED: October 19, 2021  
By: s/Frank Griswold/  
Frank Griswold

Appellant's Reply to City of Homer's Response to Motion for Reconsideration etc./Page 9

## Travis Brown

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**From:** Frank Griswold <fsgriz@alaska.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021 1:26 PM  
**To:** Department Planning  
**Cc:** Melissa Jacobsen  
**Subject:** Memorandum 21-153 (Please Provide to Commission for Tonight's Meeting)

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**From: To:**  
**Cc: Subject: Date:**

Frank Griswold  
Melissa Jacobsen  
Renee Krause  
Memorandum 21-153  
Monday, September 20, 2021 11:06:37 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Homer Board of Adjustment, Re: Appeal of CUP 20-15

Memorandum 21-153 states: "The Planning Commission approved a Motion to Dismiss submitted by Attorney Holmquist on behalf of the City based on the finding that the applicant withdrew her conditional use permit application which voids Conditional Use Permit 20-15 and moots all pending issues in this appeal." Mr. Holmquist's Motion to Dismiss is notably void of any provision of Homer City Code that authorizes it because HCC includes no specific provision authorizing the filing of a motion to dismiss an administrative appeal, on remand or otherwise. The former version of HCC 21.93.310 stated: "If no specific procedure is prescribed by the code, the Planning Commission may proceed in an administrative appeal in any lawful manner not inconsistent with this title, statutes, and the Constitution" but Mr. Holmquist's Motion to Dismiss was manifestly inconsistent with HCC Title 21 and therefore not authorized by HCC 21.93.310. Mr. Holmquist's Motion to Dismiss Appeal was out of order because the Commission had no authority to consider any matter not specifically remanded to it by the Board of Adjustment, consider new evidence, or receive or act on illegal ex parte communications from City Planner Rick Abboud (a party to the appeal) regarding property owner Melody Livingston's temporary and strategic withdrawal of her application for CUP 20-15 to "regroup." Nonetheless, the City Clerk's Office forwarded it to the Planning Commission which eagerly rubber-stamped Mr. Holmquist's Motion to Dismiss Appeal. Arbitrarily allowing Mr. Holmquist to submit his Motion to Dismiss Appeal but then refusing to "take up" my ensuing Motion for Reconsideration to the Commission and Motion to Supplement Points on Appeal to the Board of Adjustment, both legitimately filed pursuant to HCC 21.93.310 and

HCC 21.93.570 respectively, violates the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the US Constitution and violates my due process rights.

On July 29, 2021, the Homer City Attorneys responded in relevant part as follows to my Motion to Continue the August 4, 2021 Commission Proceeding Regarding the City's Motion to Dismiss Appeal: "Out of an abundance of caution and to avoid a dispute on this issue, the City suggests that the Commission continue the hearing to provide public notice to neighboring property owners. Also, in light of numerous

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pleadings Mr. Griswold has filed related to the City's Motion to Dismiss Appeal, the Commission should consider setting a special hearing to solely address this matter." But no special hearing was scheduled and neighboring property owners were not notified. Following the Commission's decision, the Clerk's Office should have promptly submitted my timely filed Motion for Reconsideration to the Commission and my timely filed Motion to Supplement Points on Appeal to the Board of Adjustment. The Board and Commission could then have decided whether to consider, grant, or deny my motions. The parties were excluded from the discussions between Ms. Jacobsen and Mr. Brandt-Erichsen who was hired to advise the Board of Adjustment, not to unilaterally render decisions on the Board's behalf or provide biased procedural advice to the City Clerk. Neither Mr. Brandt-Erichsen, the Clerk's Office, nor the City Council has the authority to make adjudicatory decisions on behalf of the Commission or Board.

At paragraph four of her memorandum, Ms. Jacobsen states: "final decisions were issued regarding both matters" and at paragraph five she states: "an appeal from a final decision [deliberately omitting "of a hearing officer"] may be taken directly to the Superior Court by a party who actively and substantively participated in the proceedings before the hearing officer." She neglects to point out that the Board of Adjustment never issued a final decision regarding CUP 20-15 and that only final decisions of the Board of Adjustment or a hearing officer can be appealed directly to the superior court and that no hearing officer was involved, and that the Planning Commission's "final decision" was not a response to the Board of Adjustment's remand order but merely the granting of a motion to dismiss the appeal, and that even if the Commission's August 5, 2021 Order Granting Motion to Dismiss Appeal did constitute a final decision, it cannot be appealed directly to the superior court. The version of HCC 21.91.130(a) recently enacted via Ordinance 21-44(S) states: "An appeal from a final decision of a hearing officer may be taken directly to the Superior Court by a party who actively and substantively participated in the proceedings before the hearing officer or by the City Manager or City Planner or any governmental official, agency, or unit." The version of HCC 21.91.130(a) (misquoted in Ordinance 21-44(S)) in effect when I filed my appeal states as follows: "An appeal from a final decision of the Board of Adjustment or a hearing officer may be taken directly to the Superior Court by a party who actively and substantially participated in the proceedings before the Board of Adjustment or the hearing officer or by the City Manager or City Planner or any governmental official, agency, or unit." The City Council should not rely on

any paraphrased rendition of HCC that is manipulated and spun to give it a meaning other than what was actually intended. Just because the City Clerk and/or Planning Commission claim the Commission's remand determination constitutes a final decision does not make it so. The Commission issued its first, and arguably only, Final Decision on October 22, 2020 and that decision was appropriately appealed to the Board of Adjustment. The Notice of Appeal Rights attached to the Planning Commission's August 5,

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2021 Order Granting Motion to Dismiss Appeal deceptively states that "Pursuant to Homer City Code, Chapter 21.91.130, any party who actively and substantively participated in the proceedings before the Homer Board of Adjustment may appeal this [Planning Commission] decision to the Superior Court." In light of the fact that the Board of Adjustment and the Planning Commission are no longer involved in adjudicating zoning appeals, the code provisions that previously applied to Board and Commission appeal proceedings govern appeals still pending before them. In any event, neither version of HCC 21.91.130 provides that decisions of the Planning Commission may be appealed directly to the Superior Court or that a party who actively participated in proceedings before the Board of Adjustment can appeal an ensuing remand determination of the Planning Commission directly to the superior court. The Planning Commission never addressed the matters remanded to it by the Board of Adjustment on March 9, 2021 and should be sanctioned for not promptly responding to the Board's (non-final) Decision and Order, illegally accepting and considering new evidence, and engaging in ex parte communications. The Planning Commission's August 5, 2021 order/decision can only be directly appealed to the Board of Adjustment in accordance with HCC 21.93.500-550. After the Board of Adjustment issues a final decision, the Planning Commission's ultra vires dismissal of the appeal and other erroneous determinations can be appealed directly to the superior court.

At paragraph six of her memorandum, Ms. Jacobsen states: "Homer City Code provides no provisions for an appellant to submit motions to bring a matter back before the Board of Adjustment after a final decision has been issued. I have advised Mr. Griswold as such, but he disagrees." I disagreed because Ms. Jacobsen is patently wrong. HCC 21.93.310 and HCC 21.93.570 authorize an appellant to submit post-decision motions to the Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment. Alaska Rules of Appellate Procedure 602(a)(2) states: "An appeal may be taken to the superior court from an administrative agency within 30 days from the date the decision appealed from is mailed or otherwise distributed to the appellant. If a request for agency reconsideration is timely filed before the agency, the notice of appeal must be filed within 30 days after the date the agency's reconsideration decision is mailed or otherwise distributed to the appellant, or after the date the request for reconsideration is deemed denied under agency regulations whichever is earlier. The 30-day period for taking an appeal does not begin to run until the agency has issued a decision that clearly states that it is a final decision and that the claimant has thirty days to appeal. An appeal that is taken from a final decision that does not include such a statement is not a premature appeal." This appellate rule clearly contemplates motions for reconsideration of final agency decisions so it would clearly not be

out of order or inject procedural error into the proceedings if the Board or Commission addressed a motion for reconsideration.

No provision of HCC authorizes the City Clerk to reject a party's timely filed motion for reconsideration of an adjudicatory body's final decision so the City

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Clerk's unilateral rejection of a party's timely filed motion for reconsideration would inject procedural error into the proceedings and be grounds for remand or reversal. In the past, it has routinely been the practice of the Clerk's Office to promptly forward such motions to the appropriate adjudicatory body. On June 19, 2014, the Homer Board of Adjustment issued its Order Regarding Motion for Reconsideration of Board of Adjustment Decision regarding CUP 13-13 and on December 4, 2014, the Homer Board of Adjustment issued its Order Regarding Motion for Reconsideration Re: Standing to Appeal CUP 14-05. Neither of these orders was subsequently ruled to be procedurally flawed or otherwise out of order by the appellate courts.

Re: Appeal of Zoning Permit 1020-782

The City Clerk's duties are ministerial, not adjudicatory. Ms. Jacobsen had no sua sponte authority to reject my Motion for Reconsideration or initiate the addition of a Notice of Appeal Rights to the Board of Adjustment's initial Final Decision. Even as amended, final decision #2 still violates HCC 21.93.110(a) which requires that a final decision state "the names and number [of Board members] voting in favor of the decision, and the names and number voting in opposition to the decision." If the Board of Adjustment grants my Motion for Reconsideration it can legitimately amend its August 26, 2021 Final Decision to correct deficiencies and/or erroneous findings. The fact that final decision #2 was issued on September 7, 2021 soundly debunks the specious argument that a matter cannot be brought back before the Board after a final decision has been issued. Whether the Board and/or Commission have legal authority to convene to "take up" the subject motions is a question of law and it is not generally the role of the City Council or Mayor to dispense legal advice to the City Clerk. The Council could authorize funding to allow the Clerk's Office to seek impartial legal advice from an erudite attorney. Because City Attorneys Max Holmquist and Michael Gatti represent parties to the pending appeals they would not be impartial sources. It is inappropriate for Ms. Jacobsen to ask the Council to provide her with direction on process for noticing parties, noticing the public, opportunities for responses or briefing, and/or when to schedule the special meeting while simultaneously recommending to the Council that it make, and presumably pass, a motion that the Board of Adjustment declines to take up the motions for reconsideration. (FYI, I only filed one motion for reconsideration to the Board of Adjustment and it pertained to ZP 1020-782. I filed another motion to the Board to supplement my points on appeal re: CUP 20-15. My other motion for reconsideration pertained to the Planning Commission's order granting the city's motion to dismiss the appeal of CUP 20-15). One seeking direction from the Council is self-admittedly unqualified to recommend what that direction should be. Accordingly, no weight should be given to Ms. Jacobsen's baseless, self-serving recommendation. Memorandum 21-



153 should have been sent to the Board of Adjustment, not the City Council. The Council would be out of

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order making a motion that the Board of Adjustment declines to take up the subject motions because, unless and until it formally convenes as a Board of Adjustment, the Council and Mayor have no legal authority to rule on behalf of the Board of Adjustment, especially when proper notice has not been given to parties and neighboring property owners. Furthermore, Robert's Rules discourages making negative motions. Alternatively, Ms. Jacobsen could forgo seeking further direction and simply allow due process to run its course by forwarding the subject motions to the designated adjudicatory bodies to let them exercise their discretion to issue procedural notices and decide whether those motions should be reviewed, considered, granted, or denied.

*Audi alteram partem,*

Frank Griswold

## Travis Brown

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**From:** Melissa Jacobsen  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021 3:03 PM  
**To:** Travis Brown  
**Subject:** FW: September 20, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes

[Please provide to the planning commission](#)

**From:** Frank Griswold <fsgriz@alaska.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021 1:14 PM  
**To:** Melissa Jacobsen <MJacobsen@ci.homer.ak.us>  
**Cc:** Renee Krause <RKrause@ci.homer.ak.us>  
**Subject:** September 20, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes

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Ms. Jacobsen,

Footnote 1 at page 3 of the September 20, 2021 BOA minutes erroneously states as follows:

"The Motion for Reconsideration and Motion for Leave to Supplement Points on Appeal regarding CUP 20-15 were the only matters scheduled and addressed at this meeting. The reference to a Motion to reconsider regarding Zoning Permit 1020-782 was mistakenly added to a proposed motion provided by the Clerk in the working agenda provided to the Board. Zoning Permit 1020-782 is a separate matter that was not addressed at this hearing."

At the September 20, 2021 BOA meeting I addressed my Motion for Reconsideration re: Zoning Permit 1020-782 and after considering this matter in executive session the Board of Adjustment passed a motion to not take it up. Please correct the September 20, 2021 minutes accordingly and provide a copy of the email I sent to the BOA to the Commission for its consideration at tonight's meeting.

Frank