

**1. CALL TO ORDER, 6:00 P.M.**

Session 23-05, a Regular Meeting of the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Casey Siekaniec at 6:03 p.m. on May 24, 2023 in the City Hall Cowles Council Chamber located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS MATTHEWS, PITZMAN, SIEKANIEC, SHAVELSON, FRIEND, ZEISET

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER VELSKO (excused)

CONSULTING: PORT DIRECTOR HAWKINS, MAYOR CASTNER

STAFF: PORT ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR WOODRUFF  
DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

**2. AGENDA APPROVAL**

Vice Chair Siekaniec read the supplemental items into the record: VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS Item 6.A. Kachemak Bay Estuarine Research Reserve Presentation Living Laboratories for Science, Education and Protection NEW BUSINESS item 10.D. Draft Homer Harbor Expansion Project Charter INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS item 11.A. Port Operations Report and Statistics for May 2023 plus Commission Annual 2023 Calendar, City Manager's Report for May 22, 2023 City Council Meeting and the May 2023 City Newsletter and requested a motion and second.

ZEISET/PITZMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 minute time limit)**

**4. RECONSIDERATION**

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Shavelson called for a point of order. He questioned the lack of minutes noting that the Commission did meet on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Deputy City Clerk Krause explained that due to the Clerk's Office being short staffed the minutes of the April 26, 2023 regular meeting were not completed and will be provided for approval at the June meeting. She further noted that at times, while rare, minutes will not be completed by the next meeting date and the Clerk's Office appreciates the Commission's patience.

**6. VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**

6. A. Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (KBNERR), Dr. Lauren Sutton, Research Coordinator

Dr. Sutton provided a short presentation on who KBNERR is, what is their role and what work is performed. She provided information on the following:

- biological assessments performed
- benefits of working with KBNERR
- KBNERR Mission
- Educational value provided to the Community
- Long term monitoring provided
  - o Invasive/harmful Species
- Weather, Water Quality
- phytoplankton, and invasive species
- Reports provided for the Harbor Expansion Project
  - o Studies conducted in 2007-2008
  - o Potential Impacts
  - o Use of ecosystem approach to evaluate harbor and beyond
- Incorporate New 2021 Research into previous Harbor Expansion Project research provided

Dr. Sutton advocated the valuable asset of their research and that it should be considered as the Harbor Expansion project goes forward.

Dr. Sutton facilitated questions and responses on the following:

- any studies conducted within the existing harbor regarding the clams and crabs
- the type of long term ongoing monitoring would be clam and crab monitoring as well as fish seining on the west side of the spit
- historic el Niño is expected
  - o so monitoring sites are established in Seidovia
  - o this is considered a more marine influence
  - o water quality and fish seining
- In 2007 they did not perform seining on the other side of the spit which was probably a financial reason but it is unknown
- Meeting with local scientists and the Army Corp of Engineers for existing information
  - o There was concern expressed on the lack of information known by the Army Corp but KBNERR is reviewing it as the beginning of the information that will be obtained by the Army Corp of Engineers
  - o They were very open on gleaning information that was available
- Isostatic Rebound Monitoring

Chair Matthews assume meeting duties from Vice Chair Siekaniec and thanked Dr. Sutton for her time and presentation.

**7. STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

7.A. Port Finance/Budget Report – YTD Report for May 2023

Chair Matthews introduced the items and opened the floor to questions from the Commission.

Port Administrative Supervisor Woodruff and Port Director Hawkins facilitated questions and responses to the following:

- usage trends for the wood and steel grids
  - maintenance needs
- What is included in the commercial ramp wharfage
  - Barge Ramp
  - Beach landings if cargo is loaded /unloaded
- lightering fees be included in revenues under an existing code
- Whether small or larger vessels a secured or regulated facility must be setup
  - Passengers are screened coming off the ship by private contractor
    - Ships Identification
  - use of a Floating dock has not been considered
- Considered use of a floating Ramp similar to what is employed by Whittier
- Outfall line revenue
  - Charges compared to Fish Grinder

7.B. Port & Harbor Staff Report – May 2023

Chair Matthews introduced the item and deferred to Ms. Woodruff.

Ms. Woodruff deferred to Port Director Hawkins.

Port Director Hawkins provided a summary report and facilitated questions and responses on the following:

- Improvements were done to the Boathouse Pavilion parking lot
- Parking Fees and kiosks are ready and operational
- Mariner Park Campground has been re-delineated so that a visitor knows the campground areas from the day use areas.
  - Several Complaints were received by the Mayor regarding the smaller public day use area versus the campground
  - There is some question on enforcement on parking in the campground areas when there are other campsites available
  - Parking Enforcement is making regular rounds and talking to people, communication is the first step in the enforcement process
  - Public is still gathering coal at this time, especially in the area of the elbow.
- Replacement of soft line connections and stainless steel flanges on the water system to the floats
- Global Salvage just finished putting in 110,000 pounds of anodes to all pilings
- Sewage is a separate charge

Ms. Woodruff explained some options of providing tools for the Commission to improve the flow of information on what Council and advisory bodies are working on. She looks forward to hearing what the Commissioners would like to see, hear or do.

Chair Matthews explained her reason for including this agenda item for discussion as items were coming up on Council meetings that were not being attended by a member of this Commission, expressing that it was quite cumbersome to listen to the meeting audio, knowing what may be of high or immediate importance to one commissioner is not to all commissioners; questioning if that was the job of the Staff Liaison or the Consulting members to outline those concerns in their reports to this Commission. She mentioned resolutions that were pertinent to their activities that will be talked about during their strategic plan review. Ms. Matthews believed that it was relevant for the Commission to be aware of what Council or the EDC is working on and relevant to what this Commission may want to comment on through memorandum. She further explained that she sat down with Ms. Woodruff and questioned if that was something they included in their strategic plan, is the newsletter and the City Manager's report enough. Do we add in the additional Council meetings attendance or review of audio and bring back a summary report for the Commission if there was anything relevant to this Commission. She requested input from the Commission.

Discussion ensued with comments from the Commission on the following:

- Commissioners could volunteer to listen or attend meetings and report back to the Commission
- Reading Council minutes
  - o Writing the minutes can take time and may not be available until the Wednesday before the next Council meeting or in some cases not until the following Council meeting.
- Mayor can be a source of information on relevant Council discussion or actions
  - o Council will steer items towards the Commission if it is imperative that they know about it
- Working with the Parks and Recreation Commission on Long Term Planning since this Commission now has parks and recreation concerns on the Spit.
  - o Reference made to Councilmember Lord's questions on Long Term Planning for Parks and Recreation.
- City Manager's Report and minutes even dated would be adequate information for the Commission.
- More detail direction from the Commission on items that would be relevant to this commission.
  - o Staff would have some advantage with knowledge of proposed items that were coming before Council
- Attendance at City Council meetings and Parks and Recreation meetings by Commissioner Friend
- Dockside Market idea for future consideration
  - o Can review similar actions by other communities
- Council approved Ordinances 23-26 Creating a Port Match Reserves Fund and Ordinance 23-27 Redirecting Reserve Funds to the Port Match Reserves Fund
- Resolution regarding Work in Kind was adopted this was the resolution that was referred to the Commission and returned back to Council
- Status update on the Comprehensive Plan
  - o Mayor Castner commented that Council is in support of funding for an update, Spit portion would be carefully analyzed, he is advocating for the Commission input on the content, believed that the old regime was very quiet and reasons for his recommendation that this Commission did not support that effort. The Capital Budget will be passed at the June 12<sup>th</sup> council meeting. He provided additional recommendations on the Commission's support and actions on the proposed actions on a new Comp Plan.
    - Funding issues and expenditures out of budget
    - Not specific guidelines
    - Public feelings on where Homer wants to be

- Make the argument on the importance of the Spit Comp Plan
  - o Should be leading the way and be a priority
  - o This can be informally be mentioned since there is no actionable item at this time on the Comp Plan
- New Employee to be hired to manage the leases and will be working closely with Ryan Foster who has extensive experience in land management
- Reports on the Harbor Expansion Project will be included as a monthly topic

7.C. Homer Marine Trades Association (HMTA) Report

Commissioner Zeiset reported that the Marine Trades Association was represented at the the end of year picnic at the High School but he was not present and there was no formal report available this month.

**8. PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

**9. PENDING BUSINESS**

Chair Matthews requested a motion to suspend the rules to address New Business Item 10. D. Draft Homer Harbor Expansion Charter to allow Mr. Ronny McPherson with HDR to speak in consideration of his time.

ZEISET/SIEKANIC MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADDRESS NEW BUSINESS ITEM 10. D. DRAFT HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION CHARTER PRIOR TO PENDING BUSINESS ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

9. A. Port & Harbor Advisory Commission 2022-2023 Strategic Plan

Chair Matthews introduced the item and deferred to Ms. Woodruff.

Port Administrative Supervisor Woodruff reported that this item was postponed from the April meeting with the idea that a worksession would be scheduled but due to time constraints on staff schedules that was unable to happen, so she proposed three different dates which at the time she and the Clerk's were available however she was now unavailable on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Commission reviewed and discussed individual availability.

SIEKANIEC/ZEISET MOVED TO SCHEDULE A WORKSESSION ON TUESDAY JUNE 6, 2023 AT 5:30 P.M.

Commissioner Shavelson noted that he has a work commitment and will be unable to attend but will review and submit any recommendations to the Chair.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

9. B. Annual Review of PHC Policies/Bylaws

Chair Matthews introduced the item and noted that this will be the second meeting on the proposed amendments to the bylaws as required and requested any additional amendments of thoughts on the changes. Hearing none she requested a motion and second to adopt.

Deputy City Clerk Krause provided clarification on the process to amend bylaws.

Mayor Castner requested an amendment to the agenda format to have Comments of the Mayor added.

ZEISET/PITZMAN MOVE TO INCLUDE THE MAYOR IN THE COMMENT SECTION AT THE END OF THE MEETINGS.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

ZEISET/SIEKANIEC MOVE TO ADOPT THE PORT AND HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION BYLAWS WITH THE AMENDMENT JUST MADE TO THE BYLAWS FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING AND FORWARD TO CITY COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

10. A. Business Plan

Chair Matthews introduced the item and reported that she was hoping that a draft would be available for this meeting for the Commission to review but it did not make the agenda and suggested that they request staff to draft a memorandum to the City Manager to request an update on the business plan and timeline. She further noted that this was before the Commission back in October or November and it is being done in house but they have yet to see what the content and timeline are included.

Commissioner Shavelson requested clarification that the memorandum would include some of the things that the Commission would like to see the business plan contain.

Mayor Castner provided some input on how the Business Plan would outline the aspirations outlined in the Comprehensive Plan. He added that many of the aspirations outlined in the Comprehensive Plan are never achievable because they do not make economic sense. These two things have to go together at some point in order to do it, especially the things that require projects in order to achieve what you are looking for; it is important to him in a business approach, to have achievable results and not so much as desired outcomes in a more philosophical realm. He continued by stating he believed that it was really important to lay out the resources that are available since as a city those are very finite. When used quickly there are not many options as no one wants to increase a MIL rate for additional property taxes and the sales tax is pretty tapped out. He did not want to give anybody an excuse to start taxing the Port and Harbor again or the Water and Sewer Fund because that was just a right pocket/left pocket sort of deal and does not create new wealth. Mayor Castner continued by stating he has been promoting business plans for 5 years and has yet to see one and that was a problem.

Commissioner Pitzman agreed with the Mayor and believed sending a memorandum would be appropriate.

Commissioner Siekaniec stated that the business plan for the harbor expansion was premature, especially since they do not know what it's going to look like and believed that a business plan for the existing harbor, addressing deferred maintenance, assumption of a grant or bond or options on how to tackle current harbor situations would be feasible and not that challenging in his opinion.

Chair Matthews clarified that the idea of the business plan came up for the existing harbor enterprise to address current needs, outline assets, revenue, and expenditures during the harbor expansion discussion.

Commissioner Shavelson commented that he appreciated what the Mayor stated that the Comp Plan was aspirational and it will remain so unless funded right. So, tying the business plan to that, using a sliver of the Comp Plan discussion and look at the next 5, 10 or even 15 years on the Homer Spit. That he believed was a more digestible chunk than looking at the whole city and the money that was required to perform a whole comp plan around that, but did not know if that would pass City Council.

Chair Matthews added that without a business plan she is not sure that the fees they are charging will provide and support all the future expenditures for upgrades to the facilities and believed it was the cart before the horse. It is unknown going forward if the leases, tariff or parking do not provide enough revenue where do they start pulling from outside of taxes and property taxes or asking the city for more money. They need to have the information on where prices can be increased or offset the costs and help oversee the expansion items within our own harbor before growing the harbor. Ms. Matthews noted that they heard that question a lot at the Charrette, How are you going to pay for the expansion? She believed a business plan on the existing harbor would explain that.

Ms. Woodruff explained that Special Projects Coordinator Parker is working on that document with assistance from the Harbor staff. She explained that the document is mostly complete but Mr. Parker is still working on the financial information that goes with the document. She supported the Commission making a motion and forwarding a memorandum to the City Manager expressing what content the Commission would like to see included in the document.

Further discussion on the content of the memorandum, defining the content of the motion, following the process, purpose of the request, and the benefit of how a business plan will benefit the Commission and public interest ensued.

Chair Matthews requested a motion and second.

SIEKANIC/FRIEND MOVED THE PORT & HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION DESIRES A MEMORANDUM BE SUBMITTED TO THE CITY MANAGER REQUESTING AN UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE BUSINESS PLAN/FACILITIES REPORT ON THE EXISTING PORT AND HARBOR OPERATIONS.

Further discussion on the memorandum would be drafted by Ms. Woodruff.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

#### 10. B. Fleet Management Plan Discussion

Chair Matthews introduced the item and reviewed her memorandum in the packet. She noted that a Fleet Management Plan has been mentioned by Public Works and requested at the Council level and she felt that it would be prudent being that the Harbor is an enterprise that a Fleet Management Plan be developed for the Harbor.

Ms. Woodruff noted the information she provided on pages 33-34 in the packet which reflects the Harbor rolling stock but more or less the expected life of the equipment and estimated replacement costs. She noted that there is no energy efficiency piece and they are currently putting aside \$30,000 per year for replacement. Discussion has been conducted on increasing the amount set aside for replacement due to the higher costs for replacement equipment. That would come in at the next budget cycle.

Chair Matthews appreciated the information and would like to move this to the fall meeting agenda so the Commission can have a discussion and work with staff. Further comments and points made on the following:

- seeking grants for energy or fuel efficient vehicles to replace those needing replacement
- putting this topic on ma fall meeting agenda
- including it as an item on their Strategic Plan
- formatting existing information into a digestible plan for Council
- reviewing current amounts of money designated on a annual basis for replacement of rolling stock
- replacement schedule for equipment will also keep account of when funding should be requested from Council so it is not a surprise expense
- Additional expenses with the campground, parking, etc.

Chair Matthews requested a motion and second.

SIEKANIEC/PITZMAN MOVED TO HAVE THIS ITEM ON A FALL AGENDA.

There was no additional discussion.



VOTE: NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Ms. Woodruff requested a determination when “fall” would be.

Commissioners agreed that September or October when the agenda is not so busy.

10. C. 2023 Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Meeting Schedule

Chair Matthews introduced the topic and deferred to Ms. Woodruff.

Ms. Woodruff explained that the Commission amended their meeting times in their bylaws but if they want the change to take effect next month then they need to make another motion to amend the 2023 meeting schedule to reflect the new meeting time of 5:30 p.m.

Chair Matthews requested a motion and second.

PITZMAN/SHAVELSON - MOVED TO AMEND THE COMMISSION MEETING START TIME FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2023 TO 5:30 P.M.

There was no additional discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

10. D. Draft Homer Harbor Expansion Charter

Chair Matthews introduced the item and deferred to Mr. McPherson.

Ronny McPherson provided a summary of the document on page 17 of the Supplemental Packet and requested the Commission to provide amendments or additions to the document that they would like to see contained therein.

Commissioners, Staff and Consulting Members offered the following:

- Under Goals and Objectives
  - o 8th Bullet point, amend first secondary bullet “Performs necessary harbor **and port** functions”
- There is no Educational Component or the outlet for increased educational opportunities
  - o Review Success Factors – Bullet points 1 – 5 address educational and transparency concerns
- Recommended amending the title to reflect Homer **Port and** Harbor Expansion
  - o Currently the project is already branded as Homer Harbor Expansion Project

- Lot of work to re-brand the project locally up through the Federal levels
- Harbor is an all-encompassing term
  - Ports are within Harbors
  - term is within the maritime dictionary
- Recommended Mission Statement should be rewritten
  - It is too clunky and does not read well
  - “Environmental integrity” is just tacked onto the end; it was pervasive throughout the document and did not reflect what the Commission heard from the community.
- Should provide equal weight for environmental issues under Success Factors and Goals and Objectives
  - There is one bullet point under Goals & Objectives regarding maintaining environmental integrity and quality of life
  - having an improved port and harbor will give the City the ability to be more environmentally responsible in the activities, particularly with the drydock, shipyard, grid for example – better engineered and properly constructed facilities just allows persons to be a more responsible steward.
    - Suggested under Goals and Objectives, bullet point number two, be amended to read “Improve Safety, Efficiency and Environmental Responsibility within the Harbor.”
- Suggested that the next to last bullet point under Goals and Objectives regarding flexibility could be amended to add, “with blue economy and concept” at the end of the existing line and performing an internet search on NOAA and blue economy will provide additional information.

Mr. McPherson provided the following in response:

- Under Success Factors there are bullet points that address environmental factors
- Can reduce the Mission Statement to one or two sentences but this is the result adopted by City Council from the Joint Worksession after in-depth discussion and wordsmithing on all sides
- The Port & Harbor Mission Statement is relevant and contains a lot of important, critical information and by incorporating the one statement would be inclusive of the content.
- During the Charrette a lot of the wants and desires expressed and the city just does not have the land or funds to perform

Mayor Castner expressed his opinion on inclusion of the word “port” in the document, stating that would be why you have a charter and if you do not collect money through port services then this is not going to succeed.

Chair Matthews requested that they can change the seagull for another bird that was more favored.

Ms. Woodruff suggested the rock sandpiper due to they stay year round and that is the goal to provide year round employment and use of the harbor.

Port Director Hawkins recommended inclusion of the statement regarding Support of the Coast Guard’s Mission.

Mayor Castner added that the Coast Guard has an uplands mission which supports marine design and inspection, noting that he spoke with the Admiral today regarding the Coast Guard mission as they have a profound effect on the ability to build boats in Homer and get the plans approved without going to Washington, D.C.

Chair Matthews noted that placement of Coast Guard information could be inserted as a secondary bullet point under the eighth primary bullet point regarding balanced harbor design under the Goals and Objectives section.

Port Director Hawkins and Mayor Castner supported that addition of the Coast Guard.

PITZMAN/SIEKANIEC MOVED TO SUPPORT THE CHARTER DOCUMENT AS AMENDED AND FORWARD TO CITY COUNCIL.

There was further comments regarding editing the document before being submitted to Council; that there were many changes to the content, this was the result and it was a goal to keep the document to one page; concerns expressed on providing more balance with the environmental issues throughout the document; acknowledging that would reflect environmental concerns region wide as well as reflect two councilmembers concerns; food security.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION.UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

10. E. Draft Homer Harbor Expansion Communications Plan

Chair Matthews introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Port Administrative Supervisor Woodruff.

Ms. Woodruff reported that she was expecting the draft Communications Plan from HDR but it was not completed and requested a motion to postpone to the June meeting.

SIEKANIEC/ZEISET MOVED TO POSTPONE TO THE JUNE AGENDA.

Chair Matthews confirmed that the item would still come before this commission before going before City Council.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**11. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

- 11.A. Port Operations Report
- May 2023 Port Operations Report
- May 2023 Statistics

- 11.B. Resolution 23-036(S)(A), Directing the Port & Harbor Advisory Commission for Research and Reporting during the process of the Harbor Expansion General Investigation Study and Float Replacement Projects.
- 11.C. Resolution 23-037, Outlining the Expectations of the City Council for Community and Stakeholder Engagement within the Harbor Expansion General Investigation Feasibility Study.

Ms. Woodruff briefly noted the Resolutions that were passed regarding the Harbor Expansion project.

Chair Matthews noted that Commissioner Friend was scheduled to report to City Council at the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**12. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)**

**13. COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**

Port Administrative Supervisor Woodruff expressed her appreciation for the Commissioners attending the meeting tonight and the public meetings on the Harbor project. She noted that it was great public engagement opportunity and that there will be two more meetings so just keep remembering things to say. Ms. Woodruff noted that the next meeting of that scale will be in September, skipping over summer entirely. There will be some alternatives for community conversations. She expressed her appreciation for the efforts and energy that is being brought by the Commission and this study.

Port Director Hawkins commented on the upcoming Memorial Day Weekend, noting that everything is in place parking enforcement and Harbor officers are fully staffed. There is one fish cleaning table short at Ramp 6 but the others are in place. Completing the rebuild of the fish carcass trailers and the engineer completed the Fish Grinder Building Replacement Project designs and they are narrowing in on a plan so should have something in July. Lots of irons in the fire.

Deputy City Clerk Krause expressed that it has been awhile and she was looking forward to working with the Commission again. She noted that the Clerk's Office is still short staffed and appreciate the Commission's patience with the misaligned pages in the packet and typically the minutes are completed for approval at the next meeting but occasionally the work schedules are such that there is not enough time. Ms. Krause reported being out of state attending a conference and training in Minneapolis so the City Clerk was manning everything plus meetings on her own. She assured them that once they are fully staffed things should settle back down. We have a new Clerk starting in June.

Mayor Castner commented on the Admiral contacting the City congratulating Homer on becoming a Coast Guard City. Homer is the 30<sup>th</sup> city designated as such in the United States and the sixth city in Alaska. It is a fairly big deal with the Coast Guard when a city goes through all the hoops that is needed to go through. Many cities apply and are turned away. It was a very pleasant conversation with the Admiral. He reported taking the liberty to lobby a little bit for the Harbor Expansion project and the Admiral said that they would probably increase their fleet if this goes through. Mayor Castner continued stating that it does not just apply to the fleet as there is a real need for marine inspectors in South Central Alaska, Bay Welding is turning out documented vessels and those vessels require complete plans and be reviewed by a naval architect and the Coast Guard. They can't get

to all of them so they are sent to Washington D.C. which takes even more time which slows down the process. He thanked all the Commissioners who attended the Charrette as it was really important, there were enough City Council members and members of this Commission present that the process went really well and the Army Corps of Engineers noticed that too. Mayor Castner announced the upcoming Mayors Meeting on May 31<sup>st</sup>, KTUU was in town last weekend and he was able to provide some suggested areas to film, he believed it would be aired at 10:00 p.m. tonight. They were going to feature Bay Welding, Salmon Sisters, and a peony farm to name a few things. Mayor Castner then commented on the idea of a Saturday Market Theme for the Spit.

#### **14. COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Zeiset expressed his appreciation for a great meeting.

Commissioner Siekaniec stated he would like to see on the next meeting agenda would be a report or update on the float replacement project.

Commissioner Pitzman reported that he attended the Charrettes or at least a portion of them and it reminded him of a North Pacific Fisheries Council meeting. It takes up a lot of time in the middle of the week but it felt productive and there was the whole gamut of Homer perspectives. The meetings varied a little, dependent on the focus, but were really productive and he needed to review his notes. Mr. Pitzman continued stating that at this time of the year he usually goes fishing, only fish for about a month but operate a fishing business all year round, that he is the sort of boots on deck guy, part of this occurs in the summer, in July primarily, so he will miss the next two meetings. He informed the Commission that he has installed a Starlink antenna on his gill netter so he may be able to Zoom in but he is not sure, need to test it out so may not be totally gone this time.

Commissioner Friend questioned how soon they could start this Saturday market, and stated that it was a great meeting.

Chair Matthews responded that it is premature right now, it is a topic that would be best for the fall possibly, it is a long range goal at this point, not something immediate.

Ms. Woodruff commented that it could be incorporated into their strategic plan.

Commissioner Shavelson noted in reference to the dockside market, Homer has a vibrant Farmer's Market, and Alaska Food Hub so there is a lot of great experience here on the ground to work with. He commented on the application of zinc and that he has never seen zinc that large. Really happy to see the fuel dock open and it plans to be open all summer. Mr. Shavelson then commented on the rental boats and jet skis and the lack of knowledge by those operators is really scary. He then commented on the idea of a park and ride and having people park at the base of the Spit, at the hockey rink or something and they could just ride bikes from those points. He has already seen the parking filling up at the end of the spit now and it's not even Memorial Day.

Chair Matthews commented that she did not have anything to say at the end of a meeting, which is a first as she usually has something to talk about. She expressed her appreciation for a good meeting and glad to see the Mayor back at the table, or in the saddle again whichever applies and in better health and thanked the Clerk for keeping her in order tonight.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission Chair Matthews adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. A Worksession will be conducted on Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

*Renee Krause*

RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

Approved: *June 28, 2023*