



AGENDA

Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meeting

Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 5:30 PM

City Hall Cowles Council Chambers In-Person & Via Zoom Webinar

Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Zoom Webinar ID: 954 2610 1220 Password: 556404

<https://cityofhomer.zoom.us>
Dial: 346-248-7799 or 669-900-6833;
(Toll Free) 888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247

1. **CALL TO ORDER, 5:00 P.M.**
2. **AGENDA APPROVAL**
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA** (3 minute time limit)
4. **RECONSIDERATION**
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - 5.A. Unapproved April 26, 2023 PHC Minutes Page 3
 - 5.B. Unapproved May 24, 2023 PHC Minutes Page 11
6. **VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**
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8. **PUBLIC HEARING(S)**
9. **PENDING BUSINESS**
 - 9.A. Draft Harbor Expansion Communications Plan
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10. **NEW BUSINESS**
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11. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

11.A. Port Operations Report Page 34
June 2023 Port Operations Report
May 2023 Statistics

11.B. June City Newsletter Page 37

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11.D. Quarterly Homer Harbor Expansion Report

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

13. COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

14. COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR

15. COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

16. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is **Wednesday, July 26, 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.

The Port and Harbor Advisory Commission held a Worksession on April 24, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. to 4:52 p.m. to review and discuss Draft FY24/FY25 Operating Budget & Draft Capital Budget. Discussion was facilitated by Port Director Hawkins and Port Administrative Supervisor Woodruff.

1. CALL TO ORDER, 5:00 P.M.

Session 23-04, a Regular Meeting of the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Crisi Matthews at 5:00 p.m. on April 26, 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, VELSKO, ZEISET

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER FRIEND (excused)

CONSULTING: PORT DIRECTOR HAWKINS, MAYOR CASTNER

STAFF: PORT ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR WOODRUFF
CITY CLERK JACOBSEN

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Matthews noted Council approved the referral of Resolution 23-046 approving a task order for HDR to perform work-in-kind services for the Harbor Expansion project and requested the agenda be amended to include a presentation from Ronny McPherson from HDR regarding the resolution. There was no objection from the Commission.

ZEISET/SHAVELSON 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

5.A. Unapproved March 22, 2023 PHC Minutes

SHAVELSON/ SIEKANIEC MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 22, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.

Commissioner Shavelson asked for clarification about what's recorded in the minutes. City Clerk Jacobsen explained that the minutes are a record of the actions that are taken at the meeting with a summary of discussion on the matter.

There was brief discussion regarding a comment by Commissioner Shavelson and it was clarified where to find reference to his statement regarding electrification on the Homer Spit.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

6. VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

Ronny McPherson, HDR – Homer Harbor Expansion Work-in-Kind Amendment Presentation

Mr. McPherson presented to the Commission regarding the Homer Harbor Expansion Work-in-Kind Amendment that's outlined in Resolution 23-046. He provided an overview of HDR's role in the project, explained what's included in the feasibility study and what work-in-kind means related to the project, and provided an overview of that the amendment entails. He responded to questions from Commissioners.

7. STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

There was brief discussion of the parking budget and an increase in parking revenue not reflected to show the increase in parking fees. Port Administrative Supervisor Woodruff explained what was actual from the past budget and the budgeted number was set before the FY22 actual. She anticipates the estimates for the following two year budget cycle will be higher based on the actual in FY22.

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

Port Director Hawkins addressed the information provided in the April Staff Report regarding meeting with AKDOT about plans to expand the fee parking lots at Ramp 3 and 4 and dealing with storm water runoff. He reviewed the recap from the contractor, HDL, that's included in the written report. He recommends working with HDL to come up with a budget and timeline so we can get the permitting in place. He realized early on we don't want to do this as a "one-off", we what to address all the parking lots along the Spit Road that have right-of-way issues with the State to have all of our permits in place going forward.

In response to questions, Port Director Hawkins was unable to confirm DOT's definition of multi-modal and noted areas in the parking lots they're able to work on that are outside of the right-of-way. There was brief discussion about prior discussion of adding additional 1-hour spaces in paid parking areas, and it was confirmed the only parking changes this year is the change from \$5 to \$10 in the paid parking areas, and the diagonal parking that was 7 day long term parking has been turned into three hour parking. He reviewed how notice is being provided of these changes and signage plans.

Chair Matthews shared about other places she's been where parking areas are color coded by type, like long term has a blue dot, three hour has a red dot, and paid parking green. That would make it easy for people coming onto the spit to find what they're looking for. For this season it would be smart to have an A frame at the first turn off with an arrow directing to long term parking.

Port Administrative Supervisor Woodruff reviewed the remaining information in the April Staff Report including project updates, flowchart for the Harbor Expansion Study, harbor special project status updates, the upcoming visit from the USS Momson, agenda packet timeline for future packets, and articles provided in the supplemental packet regarding the National Defense Authorization Act funding for Alaska and off shore wind farms.

In response to questions Port Administrative Supervisor Woodruff explained the Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant fund request.

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

Commissioner Zeiset reported there will be a round haul for AC/DC Electric Supply.

8. PUBLIC HEARING(S)

9. PENDING BUSINESS

10. NEW BUSINESS

There was consensus of the Commission to take up item 10.C. at the beginning of new business.

- 10.A. Resolution 23-046, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Authorizing a Task Order in the amount of \$379,661 to HDR for the Homer Port Expansion Study's In-Kind Engineering Support Services and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager/Port Director. Pending referral from the City Council.
Agenda Item Report PHC 23-022

Mayor Castner explained he requested this be referred to the Commission because he wanted the Commission to have the opportunity to see it before it was adopted by Council. He referenced and reviewed the sections of the document where the amendments start and the comported task order later in the document. The comported section includes a lot of things HDR had agreed to do alongside with the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the amendment is the new work. He shared concerns he had with the original task order regarding cost estimates and quantifications, and with the comported section because a lot of their interface is through staff. He thinks a lot of the problem they've been having is that a lot of the process has been to staff centric, when there's a place for elected and appointed members to be taking part. This was something put together in a way that may be administratively efficient, but to him its lacking in any kind of savviness as far as how we're going to get this done. Mr. McPherson has alleviated a lot of that concern related to the money part, but he still has concern about lines of communication.

In response to questions Mr. McPherson explained the amendment is unique in that HDR is performing part of the feasibility study. The original contract is essentially for the owner's representative and being an extension of the staff, or liaison, supporting the City through the USACE process. USACE has invited the City to perform parts of the feasibility as work -in-kind and that's what this task order is accomplishing. He believes that because of the relationship and the reputation HDR has, USACE is offering preliminary engineering design to

the City. Otherwise USACE would perform the work in house with the local district if they have capacity, or they'll farm it out to the Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDIC) in Vicksburg, Mississippi to perform the preliminary engineering on the harbor design. Whatever is included in the scope of work has to be something USACE would have done, the communication piece falls under the general owner's representative piece. It's clear to HDR that having good communications and workflows between Commissions, Council, and staff is very critical. He explained exceedance related to task 11.2 #1, is not the same as glacial rebound but figuring storm surge and extreme water levels that could occur for any sort of design type of situation. Glacial rebound would be included in the relative sea-level rise portion of the study. Point was raised that the City is perusing some erosion support from USACE too. Mr. McPherson said where ever they can be of assistance so work isn't be repeated or could be leveraged to get addition funds makes a lot of sense to them.

No action was requested from Council regarding this matter and Commissioner Shavelson thanked the Mayor for the opportunity to receive this information.

10.A. Annual Review of Strategic Plan & Goals
Agenda Item Report PHC 23-020

Port Administrative Supervisor Woodruff reviewed the information provided in the packet.

ZEISET/SHAVELSON MOVED TO POSTPONE TO THE NEXT MEETING.

There was discussion of scheduling a work session between meetings and that staff would reach out with potential dates; and potential outcomes of the work session.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

10.B. Draft FY24/FY25 Operating Budget & Draft Capital Budget
Agenda Item Report PHC 23-021

Port Administrative Supervisor Woodruff reviewed the budget information in the packet.

Port Director Hawkins reviewed the port projects requested that weren't approved by the City Manager. Regarding the security cameras he explained he and the City Manager decided it could be put off at this point because staff learned during the process there were ways to save costs by working with local contractors to bring electric into the sites and install the larger diameter poles that HEA would install at a savings. We believe we should be able to find grant money to purchase cameras.

Regarding the wood grid replacement, it was expressed the Commission feels its level one importance. Port Director Hawkins shared his thoughts that it will be very hard to get permits to build a new grid. He's seen presentations by DEC at a Port and Harbor Conference where they take exception to grids, they addressed the need to capture and treat the water that comes off the grid. The City Manager didn't fund the \$25,000 for engineering to give a cost estimate to replace it. We can request it again, but replacing the facility will be very

expensive and he doesn't think it will ever pay for itself. He supports the engineering and then there will be a hard decision to make.

There were comments from Commissioners that there are other commercial options to pull a vessel and work on it, but nothing like a grid for efficiency and cost savings. If there's a point in time it's determined it has to be put out of service, it will need to be communicated clearly as the people who use it, rely on it and would have to find alternatives. It's important that the Commission continue this conversation in the future, this is something that's important to people, but obviously doesn't make economic sense for the harbor, and maybe it makes sense to raise the price to make it more feasible. Restricting uses to quick repairs and no painting for the wood grid could help with the environmental impacts.

SHAVELSON/SIEKANIEC MOVED TO REQUEST THAT CITY COUNCIL RECONSIDER THE CAPITAL BUDGET ITEM FOR THE WOOD GRID REPLACEMENT ENGINEERING.

There was brief discussion about messaging to Council.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

SHAVELSON/ZEISET MOVED A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PORT AND HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION TO HOMER CITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT THE DRAFT CAPITAL BUDGET FOR FY25/25 WITH THE AMENDMENT TO RECONSIDER THE FUNDING FOR THE ENGINEERING STUDY FOR THE WOOD GRID REPLACEMENT.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

SHAVELSON/ SIEKANIEC MOVED THAT THE PORT AND HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION THAT THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL ADOPT THE DRAFTY FY24/25 PORT AND HARBOR OPERATING BUDGET.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

10.D. Annual Review of PHC Policies/Bylaws
Agenda Item Report PHC 23-023

City Clerk Jacobsen responded to a question about amending the language regarding the number of members on a Committee. She explained the current language in the bylaws regarding a one member committee could

be removed and leave it as committee without defining a number, because as the make-up of the committee will be determined by Council when the committee is developed.

There was concurrence to make that change along with amending the meeting time to 5:30 year round as they've discussed previously.

SIEKANIEC/PITZMAN MOVED TO AMEND THE BYLAWS BY REMOVING THE REFERENCE TO THE PORT DIRECTOR AS THE ASSIGNED STAFF LIAISON, CHANGING THE OFFICIAL REGULAR MEETING TIME TO 5:30 P.M., AND ADD NOVEMBER TO THE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE; AND HOLD A SECOND READING AT THE MAY MEETING, AND MODIFY ARTICLE 8 ON COMMITTEES TO STRIKE OF ONE OR MORE MEMBERS.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

10.E. City of Homer Base Lease Review
Agenda Item Report PHC 23-024

City Clerk Jacobsen referenced her memo in the supplemental packet recommending scheduling this in October. The Commission has a heavy workload now, their schedule doesn't have a topic scheduled for October, and there are no pending leases or lease renewals anticipated for the remainder of the year.

Commissioner Shavelson agreed and noted the real property assets on the spit are valuable to the City and there's a public trust obligation to manage those assets. There isn't much wiggle room once they're locked in to a long term lease.

SHAVELSON/ZEISET MOVED TO SCHEDULE THE CITY OF HOMER BASE LEASE REVIEW BY THE COMMISSION TO THE COMMISSION 2023 CALENDAR FOR THE OCTOBER 25, 2023 REGULAR MEETING.

Commissioner Zeiset shared history of the changes in the lease process since he's been on the Commission, explaining there was a Lease Committee at the time. As a lessee, it's concerning to him how they're handled and he appreciates the opportunity to review the lease and the Commission versus the City's role related to leases on those leases. With the Harbor Expansion it will be important to have a game plan or layout for the spit.

Chair Matthews shared regarding discussion with Council Member Erickson and former Council Member Smith who were part of the Council who removed the Lease Committee, that maybe there is benefit to having it if applied differently.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

11. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- 11.A. Port Operations Report
March 2023 Port Operations Report
March 2023 Statistics
- 11.B. 2010 Preliminary Biological Assessment of the Proposed Homer Harbor Expansion Project
Final Report from Kachemak Bay Research Reserve
- 11.C. PHC Meeting & City Council Report Calendar

Commissioner Siekaniec volunteered to report at the July 24th Council meeting. Commissioner Velsko agreed to report August 28th.

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

Brad Faulkner, 29 year lease holder on the spit, congratulated the Commission on a good meeting, he thanked the Mayor, staff, and Commission for work on the port expansion. He commented that Mike Yourkowski is building his 8th building on his City lease property without a building permit and its two feet from two other wooden buildings. He read from the base lease in the packet regarding information requirements that have to be met prior to commencing work on a leased property. The people building it aren't licensed, bonded, or insured, there is no plan and there are no firewalls. He spoke to City Planner Abboud who said he had called him. He questions who issues a cease and desist order until they get their act together to build a safe building that has Fire Marshall approval.

13. COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

City Clerk Jacobsen proposed dates for a work session for strategic planning and said she'll email the Commissioners for confirmation. She'll assist with gathering information regarding Lease processes from prior years for reference.

Mayor Castner commented regarding leases, this is a critical time if there's going to be a transition between the old harbor and new harbor configuration and recalled a time the City lost a lease with a fish plant during a transition. There will need to be policy on what compensation will be if this happens. He acknowledged the Chair's observation that lease renewals are an opportunity to renegotiate leases, it's a matter of transparency. He explained it's his goal as Mayor to keep the decision making matrix at the dais, we've had bad luck where a couple of Council Member do something ad hoc and bring it back to Council expecting it's going to pass. He feels it's appropriate to gather information and consult with one or two other Commission members, but keep the discussion and decision making at the dais.

Port Director Hawkins recommended the Commission look at the report from KBNERR on the bottom survey and back ground information that will be submitted to the Corps. He said there is a crew working on the float rebuild for K-Q floats, and summarized work to date.

Port Administrative Supervisor Woodruff commented regarding her deadline schedule in the packet and shared her agreement with the Mayor about decisions happening at the dais. She summarized agenda topics for the next meeting.

14. COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Zeiset thanked everyone for a good meeting, they have a lot to go through and there's constant learning. He thanked staff for their work.

Commissioner Velsko said it was a good meeting.

Commissioner Siekaniec had no comment.

Commissioner Pitzman appreciates all the work that goes into preparing materials for their meetings. He acknowledge the public comments and said it's not just the lease process that has changed over the years, but also the environment has changed and is still changing, and we're looking at another decade of pretty radical change on the spit. He shared some history about the process with his lease.

Commissioner Shavelson thanked staff for all their work. The leasing stuff is complicated and implicates the land allocation plan, zoning, spit comprehensive plan, and he advocates they imbed it in their strategic plan. Regarding the upcoming meeting Friday once the mission, goals, and values are enunciated they don't get changed once they're embedded and things get built around them, that's why he's been an advocate for accelerating the Spit Comprehensive Plan revision. It doesn't look like it will happen before the expansion project, maybe it will happen in tandem, but if it doesn't he thinks it still has to be recognized that this has to be an open public process. At their next meeting he'd like to discuss what a communication schedule looks like for the expansion project.

Chair Matthews thanked former Deputy City Clerk Tussey for her work with the Commission, she will be missed. She thanked Mayor Castner for coming to the meetings and for his guidance and mentorship. She thinks they could be utilizing Facebook in pushing communications. She'll include a memo for their next meeting regarding a plan for their strategic planning work session.

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission Chair Matthews adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 6:00 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.

Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____

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 26th.

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 Seldovia
 - 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 12th 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 9th.

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
 - o 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 12th 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 30th 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 31st,

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, MMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

Approved:_____

FUND 400 - PORT & HARBOR ENTERPRISE FUND		6/19/2023			
REVENUE DETAIL BY LINE ITEM, SORTED BY TYPE		96.7% of FY elapsed			
A/C Num.	Revenue Categories & Descriptions	FY22	FY23 YTD ACTUAL		FY23
		7/1/21 - 6/30/22			7/1/22 - 6/30/23
		ACTUAL	\$	%	BUDGET
0602	PIONEER DOCK				
4631	USCG Leases	35,067	35,639	96.8%	36,808
4637	Seafood Wharfage-PD	-	-	0.0%	-
4638	PD Fuel Wharfage	207,277	179,307	77.1%	232,477
4639	Pioneer Dock - Wharfage	-	-	0.0%	-
4641	PD Water Sales	11,338	8,640	90.3%	9,569
4642	PD Docking	41,079	36,697	70.2%	52,285
	Operating Revenue - Pioneer Dock	294,761	260,283	78.6%	331,140
0603	FISH DOCK				
4620	Ice Sales	272,257	198,969	74.6%	266,797
4621	Cold Storage	27,398	22,319	126.1%	17,705
4622	Crane Rental	193,965	161,317	81.6%	197,594
4623	Card Access Fees	5,780	15,420	176.3%	8,748
4637	Seafood Wharfage	17,200	19,761	117.7%	16,795
4700	Other Wharfage Fish Dock	6,694	9,945	101.0%	9,843
	Operating Revenue - Fish Dock	523,294	427,731	82.7%	517,482
4206	Fish Tax	66,865	116,236	212.3%	54,760
0604	DEEP WATER DOCK				
4633	Stevedoring	8,882	46,169	327.9%	14,080
4637	Seafood Wharfage	-	-	0.0%	558
4640	Deep Water Dock Wharfage	-	152,709	409.2%	37,314
4643	Deep Water Dock Docking	116,132	115,388	115.4%	100,000
4668	Dwd Water Sales	32,419	41,355	165.4%	25,000
4672	Port Security Revenues	-	-	0.0%	-
	Operating Revenue - DW Dock	157,434	355,620	201.0%	176,953
0605	OUTFALL LINE				
4704	Outfall Line	4,626	4,800	100.0%	4,800
0606	FISH GRINDER				
4706	Fish Grinder	7,018	6,635	83.0%	7,998
0615	LOAD AND LAUNCH RAMP				
4653	L & L Ramp Revenue	132,446	80,805	63.8%	126,663
	Operating Revenue - L & L Ramp	132,446	80,805	63.8%	126,663
	Total Revenues	5,448,227	5,385,095	103%	5,251,279
	Net Surplus (Deficit)	319,285	1,701,376		0



Memorandum

To: Port and Harbor Advisory Commission
From: Amy Woodruff, Port Administrative Supervisor
Date: 19 June 2023
Subject: June Staff Report

Harbor Expansion Update

Bryan met in person with HDR and the USACE team on Wednesday, June 7th in Anchorage to discuss modeling criteria and screen the alternatives that came from the charrette. Some topics included sediment transport, wave height in the harbor, harbor entrance condition, and the US Coast Guard criteria for a harbor to accommodate USCG vessels. HDR will present to council at the Monday 6/26 meeting for a quarterly report, we encourage you to listen in or attend. There is also a written update included in the June 8th City Manager's report, included in your packet as an informational item.

Homer City Council Activities

Commissioners agreed at the last meeting that they'd like to collectively sign up to attend all Council meetings each year. Below are the dates that do not currently have commissioners assigned to attend. Please note that in order to have complete coverage, if we cancel a commission meeting, the commissioner assigned to report to Council should still attend the designated City Council meeting to be able to report back to Commission.

September 11

September 25

October 23

December 11*

December 18*

* The City Council traditionally cancels the last regular meeting in December and holds the first regular meeting and one to two Special Meetings as needed

Float Replacement Update

Casey requested information about the float replacement plan, a memo will be available at our next meeting.

Capital Budget update

Council will consider the capital budget at their 6/26 meeting, we may have updates for you by the time we meet on 6/28.

China Poot Dipnet Fishery Safety

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary is partnering with us to do safety patrols to warn fishermen about the China Poot Rip. This includes sharing flyers with information as well as actually patrolling the mouth to China Poot in response vessels to be available for any distressed boaters.

Attachments

A- Project Status Update form



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Port and Harbor

4311 Freight Dock Road
Homer, AK 99603

port@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-3160

(f) 907-235-3152

Port & Harbor Special Project Status Updates June 2023

(FY 24/25 Capital Projects will be added once the Capital budget is passed)

Fish Grinder Building Replacement	Design in progress Seeking Project Funding	City is considering design options & addressing drainage. We have requested grant funding from ADFG. No grant update expected until July.
Parking Lot Improvements	Project on Hold	PW has made improvements to existing lots; no further progress expected until Fall.
Second Fish Carcass Trailer Rebuild	Project Complete	Trailer is back in service.
Electrical Pedestal Replacement EE Float	Project Funded	Not scheduled at this time.
Harbor Office ADA Entry Door Improvements	Project Funded	Not scheduled at this time.
Float End Replacement, K-Q	Project in Progress	Work began April 18 th ; 3/6 refurbished to date.
Cathodic Protection	Project Complete	Project complete, surveyed and approved.

Status Categories:

Seeking design funding Design funded Design in progress Design complete	Seeking project funding Project Funded Project in Progress Project Complete
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City of Homer

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Office of the City Manager

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(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

TO: Port & Harbor Commission
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE: June 15, 2023
SUBJECT: Re: PHC Request for Status Update on Staff Review of Harbor Facilities, etc.

I received the request from the Port & Harbor Commission for a status update on a report underway at a staff level. This memo serves as my update to the Commission.

Across the last few months, I have had a part-time special projects coordinator working with the Harbor Administration team to review and consolidate data related to the Harbor Enterprises business operations. My expectation when I assigned the work was to develop a document that could be used as a baseline resource for port and harbor facilities and operations. I expect it will be very useful as we navigate the Army Corps General Investigation and beyond. Relatively complete drafts are being circulated at this time between myself and other team members to review, correct, and ask additional questions. I don't have a specific date upon which I expect this report to be completed, it's one of many concurrent projects being shared between City Hall and the Harbor, but I anticipate a public draft will be available before the end of summer.

PORT AND HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION
Draft 2023-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN

Annually, the PHC prioritizes a list of ongoing, near-term, medium and long-term goals to aid the commission in charting a general course for the year and keeping on-task.

Ongoing Goals	1. Provide timely, relevant comment to the City Council on Port and Harbor issues.
	2. Identify ways that the commission can collaborate with staff to provide value
	3. Promote and support the investigation of the Harbor Expansion
	4. Improve Communication with Council, Commissions, and the Community at large a. Task (Commission): Meet at least annually with Council in a work session b. Task (All): Send informational items to other commissions as needed c. Task (Staff): Ensure informational items are publicly available on City website and social media
Near Term Goals By April 2023	5. Have a Preliminary Business Plan for the Port & Harbor (November) a. Task (All): Review draft plan and develop steps forward
	6. Conduct a post-season recap of summer activities (October) a. Task (Staff): Evaluate the success of the campgrounds program and other new activities
	7. Continue identifying underutilized assets and additional sources of revenue. (December) a. Task (Staff): Review tariff and develop suggested edits for consideration by commission b. Task (Commission): Hold September work session on Harbor Tariff
	8. Promote workforce development and housing for seasonal workers. (Unspecified) a. Task (Commission):
	9. Update the Harbor Fleet Management plan. (September) a. Task (Staff): Collect information about anticipated vehicle purchases, fuel type preferences, useful life, and cost for all Port & Harbor rolling stock b. Task (Commission): Review updated Fleet Management Plan
Mid Term Goals 1 - 3 Years (2024 – 2026)	10. Support Port Director to conduct a Replacement Reserve Study for the Small Boat Harbor. a. Task (Commission): provide feedback on the timeline and priorities for float replacement
	11.
	12. Develop a Homer Spit Uplands Improvement Plan including a paid parking plan

	a. Task (Commission): Host a public worksession to collect thoughts and opinions on spit parking
	13. Explore a vessel traffic study for the Spit to address congestion issues in the transient areas of the harbor. a. Task (Commission): Define problems and potential solutions
	14. Provide support on the City Comprehensive Plan rewrite. a. Task (All): Extend invitation to spit stakeholders to ensure their perspective is represented.
Long Term Goals 5 Years or More (2028+)	15. Work with Federal and State agencies to develop long-term erosion control measures for the Spit.
	16. Develop a plan to replace the Tidal Grids a. Task (Commission): Define parameters for financial plan for the Grids
	17. Seek funding to construct the Large Vessel Haul-out and Repair Facility. a. Task (All): Ensure that discussion of Homer Harbor Expansion includes the importance of this facility and does not affect the proposed site

OVERALL PHC DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The purpose of the PHC is to act in an advisory capacity to the City Manager and the City Council on the problems and development of the City's Port and Harbor facilities. Consideration may include the physical facilities, possible future development, and recommendations on land use within the port and harbor areas. Duties and responsibilities are outlined in the PHC's Bylaws and under Homer City Code 2.64.040.

Links to online info:

- Homer City Code 2.64: www.codepublishing.com/AK/Homer
- Homer Port and Harbor Website: www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/port
- Port of Homer Terminal Tariff No. 1: www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/port/port-homer-terminal-tariff-no-1
- City of Homer Adopted Budget: www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/finance/budgets
- City Comprehensive Plans: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/planning/long-range-planning>

SDUTIES OF COMMISSION/STAFF

Staff Liaison

- Assisting the Chair in setting meetings, preparing agendas, and other documentary material, and coordinating the acquisition of needed materials and training.
- Drafting/submitting reports, memos, and recommendations for those agenda items requiring decisions or recommendations by the Commission to City Council or the City Manager.
- Provide information about the budget.
- Inform the Commission of City Council actions and discussion of harbor-related issues.

Commissioners

- Attend City Council meetings as assigned.
- Attend work sessions and training opportunities.
- Come prepared to make a motion for action at meetings, or ask staff before the meeting for more information.

- Request information from the Staff Liaison or Presiding Clerk.
- Understand their role as an advisory body to City Council; for any change to happen regarding City policies or code usually a council member has to support a PHC's idea and be willing to sponsor a resolution or ordinance to change established City policies or rules.
- How the commission (as a whole) can communicate:
 - Work with the City Manager through the Staff Liaison to keep City Council informed on developing initiatives.
 - Send memos to Council periodically so they have a written report of what's going on; these are written by staff and likely will be part of the City Manager Report or under the PHC Report.
 - Have a Commissioner speak at a Council Meeting under Reports; the PHC is scheduled to give a report at the next City Council meeting following the PHC's regular monthly meeting. It is best to rotate members so Council gets to see and hear from each of you over time. Pay attention to feedback from Council; the Commission may need to change direction, or come up with more support for the topic.

Clerks

- Helps with packet preparation and dissemination
- Records meetings and prepares meeting minutes
- Ensures meetings are properly advertised
- Helps members understand and comply with City policies and procedures governing advisory bodies
- Helps the Commission learn to better communicate with City Council (Memorandums vs Resolutions and Ordinances)



ACTION ITEM REPORT

Cancelling July 26, 2023 Commission Meeting

To: Port and Harbor Advisory Commission
From: Amy Woodruff, Port Administrative Supervisor
Meeting Date: June 28, 2023

Summary Statement:

Commissioners have previously discussed cancelling the July meeting because of limited availability in the Summer months. There are currently no visitors or business items scheduled for July, and no work session that month.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to cancel the July 26, 2023 meeting of the Port & Harbor Advisory Commission.

Port & Harbor Monthly Statistical & Performance Report

For the Month of: **May 2023**

<u>Moorage Sales</u>		<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Stall Wait List</u>		
Daily Transient		252	282	No. on list at Month's End	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Monthly Transient		222	195	20' Stall	10	0
Semi-Annual Transient		16	25	24' Stall	59	59
Annual Transient		9	5	32' Stall	189	194
Annual Reserved		4	2	32'A Stall	14	13
				40' Stall	69	70
				50' Stall	34	31
				60' Stall	5	4
				75' Stall	6	3
				Total:	386	374
<u>Grid Usage</u>		<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Docking & Beach/Barge Use</u>		
1 Unit = 1 Grid Tide Use				1 Unit = 1 or 1/2 Day Use	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Wood Grid		21	20	Deep Water Dock		17
Steel Grid		5	8	Pioneer Dock		12
				Beach Landings	6	3
				Barge Ramp	244	271
<u>Services & Incidents</u>		<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Marine Repair Facility</u>		
Vessels Towed		0	1	Vessels Hauled-Out	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Vessels Moved		31	42	Year to Date Total	0	0
Vessels Pumped		0	1	Vessels using facility uplands	3	3
Vessels Sunk		0	0		3	2
Vessel Accidents		1	1	<u>Wharfage (in short tons)</u>		
Vessel Impounds		0	0	In Tons, Converted from Lb./Gal.	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Equipment Impounds			0	Seafood	202	362.6
Vehicle Impounds			2	Cargo/Other	554	74
Property Damage		0	1	Fuel		31,026
Pollution Incident		1	6			
Fires Reported/Assists		0	0			
EMT Assists		0	1			
Police Assists		2	1			
Public Assists		18	12			
Thefts Reported		0	0			
<u>Parking Passes</u>		<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Ice Sales</u>		
Long-term Pass		42	41	For the Month of May	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Monthly Long-term Pass		12	7	Year to Date Total	201	216
Seasonal Pass		21	9		463	415
<u>Crane Hours</u>		<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Difference between</u>		
		197.4	223.7	<u>2022 YTD and 2023 YTD:</u>	<u>48 tons more</u>	



JUNE 2023 PORT OPERATIONS REPORT

1. Administration

Staff met with:

- USACE team members; HDR staff; City Staff; and engaged public stakeholders- Homer design charrette kick off for the USACE General Investigation Study- Homer Harbor Expansion
- Helen Gales, UPSafety and port staff (video conference)- Re software status calls and standing up of new parking software programs.
- Aurah landau, HDR & Jenny Carroll, Special Projects- Re suggestions for supporting future BCA projects
- Rob Dumouchel, City Manager and City Dept. Heads- Re weekly Dept. head staff meeting and planning
- Luke Rubalcava, RESPEC – Re engineered conceptual plans for replacement of community fish grinder building
- RAVN airlines staff and City/Port staff- Re airport terminal parking meeting – summer planning
- Amy Burnett, HDR and Jenny Carroll, Special Projects- Re weekly comms check in
- Elena Spraker, staff for Sen. Dan Sullivan; Jull Schaefer, staff for Gov. Dunleavy; and Tanya Lautaret, staff for Sen. Lisa Murkowski- Re general meeting for City of Homer updates on current and future projects
- Curtis Lee and team members, USACE and KC Kent, HDR owner representative support staff(Anchorage)- Re Alternative Measures Screening meeting
- Aaron Glidden, Port maintenance supervisor; Jan Keiser, Public Works Director; Owen Meyers, Public Works; Luke Rubalcava, RESPEC; Zech Bennett, Alaska industrial services - Re Pioneer Dock Repair Project
- Michael Gatti, JDOLaw- Re vessel Champion

2. Operations

The months of May and June have brought peak demand on the port & harbor facility with all sectors of our customer base mobilizing for the summer season. Transient moorage areas supporting the commercial fleet required daily consolidation of like-class vessel rafts in order to meet moorage demand. Harbor operations staff focused efforts on hotberth moorage assignments, assigning vessels to unoccupied reserved stalls in an effort to mitigate congestion in the transient areas. Parking enforcement placed

emphasis in monitoring short-term parking, harbor ramp access loading zones, and overflow lots. Camping is also in full swing for the Summer.

The following vessels conducted landing at the Deep Water Dock and Pioneer Docks: Tiglax, Ann T Cheramie , Tustumena, Camai, Kate Frances, the cruise ship Star Breeze, Millennium Star, Tempo Sea, Marahute, Reliance and Endeavor.

3. Ice Plant

The Fish Dock has been congested as Tenders, Fishermen and Research vessels loaded gear and provisions. Set Netters, Seiners and Drift boats are off and running. In addition to normal duties, Ice Plant personnel have.

- Condenser maintenance (and cleaning the condenser pump screen multiple times)
- Weekly removal of hard ice buildup from rake and evaporators to maintain efficient operation.
- Replaced winch on crane 5.
- Monthly crane inspection.
- Replaced the anti-siphon check-valves on the wintertime waterlines as per FDA requirements
- Daily dock clean up.
- Installed bird deterrent equipment on ice plant infrastructure, ongoing and working.

4. Port Maintenance

Port Maintenance has been busy with the following:

- Rehabilitating the ends of Q and N floats
- Installing fish cleaning stations at Ramp 6
- Repairing the water lines on M float and re-establishing water service
- Repairing the water lines for system 4 and re-establishing water service
- Assisting Operations with parking and camping barriers and delineators
- Electrical troubleshooting and repair

CITY OF HOMER NEWSLETTER

VOL. II - ISSUE IX | JUNE 2023



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

WHAT'S INSIDE?

SUMMER BEGINNINGS

Embrace the spirit of summer on a journey through our coastal town in this month's newsletter. Discover library events, explore upcoming events in the Community Corner, and celebrate Homer being designated as a Coast Guard City. Learn more about the recent Homer Harbor Design Charrette, plan to attend the *Tuyanitun : Tuggeht* reception and dedication, and more!

HOMER IS OFFICIALLY A COAST GUARD CITY!

On May 22, 2023, the City of Homer became the sixth official Coast Guard City in Alaska, recognized by the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Congress. The proclamation was accepted by the Homer City Council at a regular meeting.

Read more about the Coast Guard City Designation on **Page 4**.



- Library Events
- Community Corner
- Community Recreation
- Coast Guard City Designation
- Housing Report Available
- Homer Harbor Design Charrette
- *Tuyanitun : Tuggeht* Dedication
- Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Police Department
- Public Works Department
- Economic Development
- Fire Department
- Public Safety Corner
- Meet the Staff
- Municipal Art Collection
- Stay Connected with City Council
- Join Our Team

Discover something new today and see the latest City project updates information! Learn about ways community members can get involved at City Hall and in the Homer community.

Follow us on Social Media

- City Hall: [@cityofhomerak](#)
- Parks & Recreation: [@homerparksandrec](#)
- Homer Public Library: [@homerpubliclibrary](#)
- Homer Police: [@homerpolice](#)
- Fire Department: [@HomerVolFireDept](#)

Subscribe to the Monthly Newsletter:

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/citymanager/monthly-email-newsletter

"Where the Land Ends and the Sea Begins"

LIBRARY EVENTS

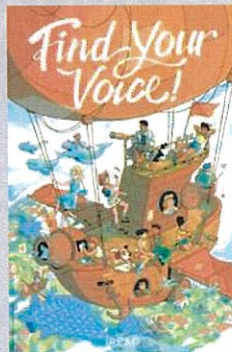
VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS

Zoom in and listen to your favorite authors talk about their latest books. For a complete list of Upcoming Speakers, go to <https://library.org/homerlibrary/upcoming>

- June 7** *The Fun Habit* by Mike Rucker 12 - 1 p.m.
June 15 *An American in Provence* by Jamie Beck 10 - 11 a.m.
June 28 *The Blood Colony* by Tananarive Due 4 - 5 p.m.

FIND YOUR VOICE! SUMMER@HPL KICK-OFF!

Summer@HPL launches with crafts, games, and a story time. Join us inside and outside the library! Register for the reading challenge and learn more about all the fun coming up at the library for kids 0-18 at the library this summer!



Saturday, June 3
 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 Story time at 11:30 a.m.



PERFORMING A BOOK WITH PIER ONE THEATRE!

Join staff from the Pier One Theatre bring a book to life! Find your inner actor and collaborate to put on a short performance!

Monday, June 12
 4 - 5:30 p.m.

LIBRARY EVENTS CONTINUED

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| June 8 | Young Readers Group | 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. |
| June 13 | Teens and Tweens Get Crafty! | 4:30 - 6 p.m. |
| June 14 | Leap into Science | 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. |
| June 17 | Tell a Story in Cartoon Form | 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. |
| June 19-20 | Midsummer Magic | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. |
| June 22 | Teens Produce a 'Zine (Day 1 of 3) | 4 - 5:30 p.m. |
| June 23 | Family Karaoke | 4 - 6 p.m. |
| June 26 | Teens and Tweens book club | 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. |
| June 27 | Storytime at Bishop's Beach pavilion | 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. |
| June 28 | Leap into Science | 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. |
| June 29 | Teens Produce a 'Zine (Day 2 of 3) | 4 - 5:30 p.m. |

Check out the complete line-up of library programs



Homer Public Library
 500 Hazel Street - 907-235-3180
circ@ci.homer.ak.us
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library



COMMUNITY CORNER

HOMER HALIBUT FESTIVAL
 June 1 - 30
www.homeralaska.org/events/annual-events

JUNETEENTH X HOMER PRIDE COMMUNITY WALK
 Saturday, June 17 | WKFL Park
www.homerakpride.com

SUMMER SOLSTICE FESTIVAL
 Wednesday, June 21 | Port of Homer
 Deep Water Dock
www.homeralaska.org/events/annual-events

HIGHLAND GAMES
 Saturday, July 1 | Karen Hornaday Park
www.kachemakbaysscottishclub.org

Community Recreation

Summer Activities



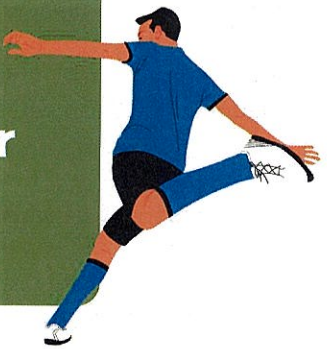
Kids Zumba



Adult and Youth
Pick-Up Basketball
&
Youth Basketball
Summer Camp



Drop-In Volleyball



Ultimate Frisbee
&
Pick-Up Soccer

Find more information on the City's Communication Recreation website
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/com-rec/current-programs-events

HOMER IS SIXTH CITY IN ALASKA TO BE DESIGNATED AS A COAST GUARD CITY

continued from the cover page... Mayor Ken Castner expressed his excitement about the designation, emphasizing the strong partnership between Homer and the Coast Guard. He highlighted the Coast Guard's role in ensuring safety, protecting waters, and upholding maritime security. The community celebrated this recognition and expressed gratitude to the Coast Guard for their service and dedication.

To achieve the Coast Guard City designation, Homer demonstrated its ability to organize civic celebrations and support Coast Guard morale and welfare initiatives. The City Council, with the backing of the community, set the goal to become a Coast Guard City in 2022. Homer is the 31st city in the nation to receive this honor.

Homer serves as the home port for USCGC *Aspen*, USCGC *Naushon*, and the USCG Marine Safety Detachment. The Coast Guard provides essential services related to maritime safety, security, and environmental protection. They conduct search and rescue operations, enforce maritime laws, and maintain navigation aids. The Coast Guard City designation recognizes the longstanding positive relationship between Homer and the Coast Guard since 1969 when Coast Guard crew members and their families became part of the community. The designation aims to improve the living and service conditions for Coast Guard families in Homer.

Learn more on the City's website: www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/citymanager/homer-proud-coast-guard-city.

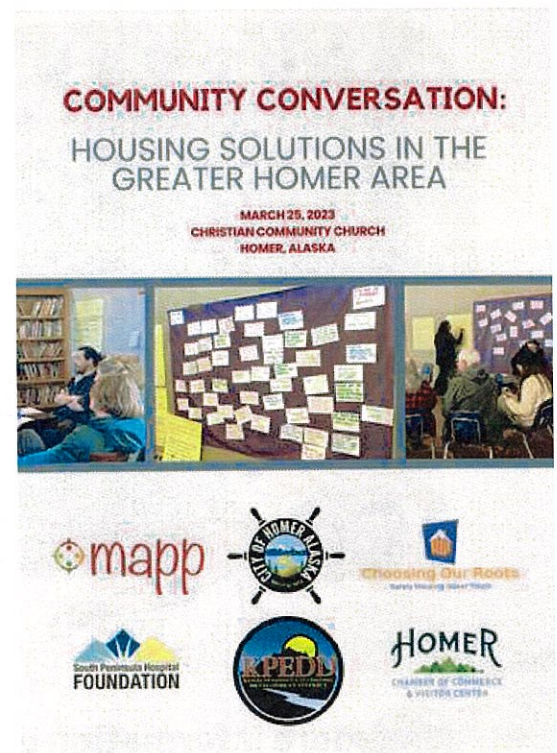


HOUSING REPORT AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY

The organizers of the *Community Conversation: Homer Area Housing Needs* have released a report analyzing the outcomes of the event held on March 25. The report highlights key findings of the event and presents a survey summary to better understand the community's perspective on the housing crisis, as well as provides insights and recommendations and encourages community participation.

At the event, over 100 attendees discussed housing challenges and opportunities. The report is available on the City of Homer's website: www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/economicdevelopment/housing

The report will be presented at the City Council meeting on June 12. Community members are invited to read it and join the discussion. For more information, visit the City's website or contact Ryan Foster, Special Projects Coordinator, at rfoster@ci.homer.ak.us or 907-299-8529.



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL DESIGN CHARRETTE FOR THE HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION STUDY

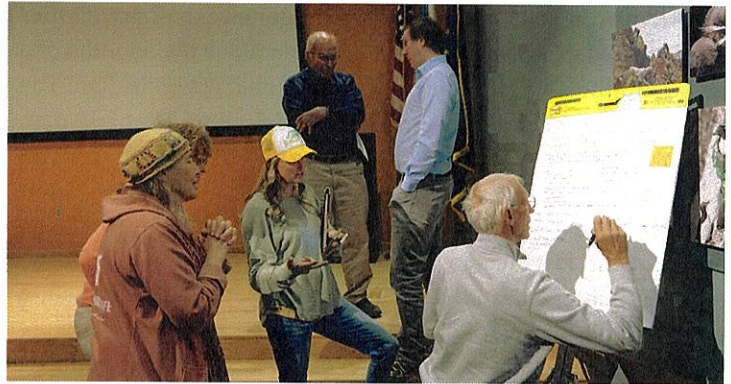
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) recently finished the first phase of the Homer Harbor Expansion feasibility study. This involved a three-day design charrette from May 17 to May 19. The charrette brought together the USACE's 13-member project delivery team, the public, stakeholders, and City of Homer representatives. The objectives of the charrette were to identify problems, gather data, reach consensus on study objectives, and create design alternatives.

The USACE project development team consists of experts in various fields including engineering, environmental resources, economics, real estate, planning, archaeology, cultural resources, and regulatory compliance.

The first day focused on establishing a shared understanding of the study process and milestones. The USACE presented an overview of previous studies and approached the charrette with an open mind. They engaged stakeholders to ensure the design selected for further analysis aligns with community input and meets technical, environmental, and regulatory standards.

The second day involved a harbor site visit and meetings with vessel owners to understand user concerns. Additionally, a public work session was held to discuss measures and develop design alternatives based on identified project objectives.

The third day included a review of design alternatives and collaborative feedback sessions. Participants rated the designs individually. The USACE discussed the next steps, which include screening and evaluating the alternatives based on criteria such as effectiveness, efficiency, and implementability. The study will also adhere to the National Environmental Policy Act's environmental review process.



The City extends gratitude to the meeting venue hosts, community members, stakeholders, and the USACE for their engagement in advancing the study for the benefit of the Homer community.

For more detailed information and to see the USACE Design Charrette presentations, visit the City's website: www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/port/homer-harbor-expansion.



COMMUNITY CORNER

Youth-only king salmon fisheries to open in Homer on June 3

Fishing Extravaganza! Head to the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon on Saturday, June 3 to enjoy all-day fishing in the "youth-only sport fishing area" across from the entrance. Ages 16 and up can fish elsewhere in the lagoon. Additional information about regulations and opportunities can be found at adfg.alaska.gov.

SCULPTURE DEDICATION AND RECEPTION AT BISHOP'S BEACH PARK

The City of Homer, in collaboration with the Bunnell Street Arts Center and the Ninilchik Tribal Council, is pleased to announce the addition of a new sculpture to the City of Homer Municipal Public Art Collection. The dedication ceremony will take place on Wednesday, June 21 at 5:30 p.m. at the Bishop's Beach Park and Pavilion.

The sculpture, titled "*Tuyanitun : Tuggeht*" (pronounced too-yan-eee-toon : to-get), was installed in October of 2022 and is a significant addition to the public art landscape. Designed by Argent Kvasnikoff, a member of the Ninilchik Village Tribe and a talented artist, the sculpture aims to honor the Indigenous stewardship of the lands, both in the past and for the future.

The name "*Tuyanitun*" references an ancient Dena'ina wayfinding system, while "*Tuggeht*" represents the Dena'ina name for the location, also known as Bishop's Beach, a place beloved by all, and evokes boreal spruce, rock cairns, and beach glass.

This noteworthy public art project has garnered support from various organizations and individuals. Funding contributions have been provided by the Alaska Community Foundation Social Justice Fund, Alaska State Council on the Arts, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, National Endowment for the Arts, National Performance Network, Rasmuson Foundation, The Ninilchik Village Tribe, as well as individual donors.

For more information please visit the [Bunnell Street Gallery website](https://www.bunnellarts.org) or contact info@bunnellarts.org.



Wednesday, June 21
Refreshments at 5:30 p.m.
Dedication at 6 p.m.



Bishop's Beach Park
and Pavilion



— HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN —

LOCAL MITIGATION GOALS

Mitigation goals play a crucial role in shaping disaster management strategies by outlining an agency's objectives in hazard and loss prevention. These long-range policy-oriented statements reflect the community-wide vision and guide the development of effective mitigation plans. The City of Homer utilized the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) priorities for the 2022 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program for the recently adopted Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). These priorities serve as the foundation for defining three key goals in Homer's LHMP. This series will delve into the significance of mitigation goals and explore the specific objectives outlined by FEMA for building resilient communities.

1. Enhance climate protection and adaptation efforts.
2. Create a healthy and safe community.
3. Protect critical facilities and infrastructure against hazards.



Enhance climate protection and adaptation efforts

In the face of an increasingly changing climate, enhancing climate protection and adaptation efforts has become a paramount goal for mitigating hazards. The City of Homer recognizes the importance of incorporating climate resilience into its mitigation plan to minimize the impacts of natural disasters. This goal entails developing strategies that address the vulnerabilities associated with climate change, such as rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and changing precipitation patterns.

Mitigation measures can include promoting sustainable land use practices, implementing green infrastructure initiatives, and adopting resilient building codes and standards. By integrating climate protection and adaptation efforts into the LHMP, the community can build resilience and reduce the potential for future losses caused by climate-related hazards.



Police Department

A HEARTWARMING BIRTHDAY SURPRISE

When a mother called, asking if her son could visit us in Homer for his 17th birthday, the Police team sprang into action. They organized a surprise party that he will never forget. From a behind-the-scenes tour of the department to sitting in a patrol car and speaking on the radio, every moment was filled with joy. This heartwarming encounter reminds us of the power of compassion and community. Together, we can create extraordinary moments and inspire hope.



Public Works Department

E BUNNELL AVENUE/CHARLES WAY WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

The City's contractor, Southcentral Construction, has started a project to improve sewer and water infrastructure on E Bunnell Avenue, Charles Way, and Allen Way. The goal is to connect properties in Old Town that currently don't have access to City water and sewer services. The project is part of a Special Assessment District initiated by property owners, with the City paying an additional fee to extend services to Bishop's Beach Park. The impact of these improvements goes beyond sanitation and water access, as they lay the groundwork for future enhancements, such as a possible restroom located at Bishop's Beach Park.



Preserving the historical and environmental significance of Old Town is a priority for the City. By extending sanitary sewer services, they aim to prioritize the well-being and convenience of community members, enhance the experience for visitors, and safeguard the environment in this cherished part of the city.

Construction is expected to finish by mid-July, and a traffic control plan will be implemented by Southcentral Construction. Drivers are encouraged to follow the posted signs and directions from the flaggers to ensure smooth and safe traffic flow throughout the project area.

For more information, visit the City's website at <https://bit.ly/3Mv4dZY>.

HOMER AWARDED LARGE WASTEWATER SYSTEM OF THE YEAR!

The City of Homer is proud to have been awarded the "Large Wastewater System of the Year" by the Alaska Chapter of the American Water Works Management Association (AWWMA). This recognition is given to wastewater systems serving over 2,500 individuals or processing an average of 250,000 gallons per day. The City's Public Works team received the honor at the AWWMA conference in Anchorage on May 10.

The award celebrates Homer's commitment to excellence and its dedication to providing outstanding wastewater services to its residents. It acknowledges the City's efforts in protecting the environment, ensuring public health, and promoting sustainable development. The recognition also highlights the collaborative spirit and teamwork involved in managing such a large-scale wastewater system.

This accolade serves as a reminder of Homer's unwavering dedication to excellence and sustainable practices. The City remains committed to maintaining an exceptional wastewater system and seeking innovative solutions for continuous improvement.

Congratulations to the Wastewater Treatment team for their well-deserved recognition as the Large Wastewater System of the Year. Their achievements inspire us and demonstrate the positive impact of dedication and excellence in serving our community and preserving the environment.



TODD COOK: LARGE SYSTEM MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Also at the AWWMA annual conference, Todd Cook, Homer's Water/Sewer Superintendent, received the Large System Manager of the Year Award. This award is in "recognition of excellence in performance as a manager of a large water and/or wastewater system in Alaska. "Large" refers to any system serving 2,500 or more customers, which means Todd was chosen from managers representing Anchorage, Wasilla, Juneau, and other, much larger cities. Todd has served the citizens of Homer for almost 14 years. He has been instrumental in introducing upgrades to the City's water and wastewater operations and maintenance protocols that have improved water quality for Homer customers and Kachemak Bay. Prior to coming to Homer, Todd worked for the water/sewer utilities of Cordova and Sitka. He plays the Native American flute, bass guitar, and drums. His eight children include multiple wrestling champions who have represented Homer at State and national wrestling tournaments over a period of over ten years.



Todd Cook, Water Sewer Superintendent, received the Large Waste Water System Manager of the Year Award

VOLUNTEERISM FOR PARKS PROJECTS

Over 300 volunteers joined forces for the "Serve the City" initiative in Homer on May 21. This community event witnessed an outpouring of support as volunteers dedicated over 1,300 hours to various projects throughout the city, with a particular focus on enhancing parks and facilities.

The event, organized by five community churches, built upon the existing Adopt-a-Park relationship the Church on the Rock had with Karen Hornaday Park. What started as a spring clean-up quickly spread as other church groups were inspired to contribute. This collaborative effort united the community churches, leading to an even more significant impact.

The volunteers tackled an impressive range of projects. At Karen Hornaday Park, their efforts included brush clearing, picnic table and fire ring maintenance, playground painting, safety hazard removal, bleacher reconstruction, restroom cleanup, and the installation of a brand new 9-hole disc golf course. Jack Gist Park saw volunteers spreading gravel, improving the fields, and carrying out other enhancements. In various locations around town, they rebuilt structures, picked up trash, delivered firewood, and provided free oil changes.

The organizers meticulously planned every aspect of the day, working closely with the City's Parks Planner, Matt Steffy. Safety measures were put in place, including the provision of personal protective equipment and the coordination of tasks based on volunteers' skill sets. The collaboration extended beyond the event, as organizations such as the Homer Little League, Homer Softball Association, HHS Softball Team, and Disc Golf user group were involved in the planning and participated alongside other volunteers.

The success of the Serve the City initiative in Homer reflects a nationwide model that has inspired similar events across the country. To promote and coordinate the event locally, the organizers established a dedicated website, www.servethecityhomer.com.

The impact of this collaborative effort is truly remarkable, and the City of Homer extends its heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers. Their contributions have not gone unnoticed and are deeply appreciated throughout the community. Serve the City stands as a powerful testament to the strength of community engagement and the profound effect of volunteerism.

For more information, or to learn how to get involved, contact Matt Steffy, Parks & Trails Planner, at msteffy@ci.homer.ak.us or 907-435-3178.



Photos by Christopher Kincaid

Fire Department

LADDER TRAINING EXERCISES

On May 30, the Homer Fire Department and Kachemak Emergency Services (KESA), the City's trusted partner in emergency response, participated in a comprehensive training session focused on rescuing victims from upper-level windows. The firefighters were also trained in self-rescue techniques from higher floors.

Entering a building on the ground level to search for victims above the fire floor can present unexpected challenges. In rapidly spreading fire conditions, original entry points can become blocked, necessitating an alternative means of escape. This training equips firefighters with the skills to self-extricate from upper floors without relying on ladders.

The training session included valuable ladder truck operations for the Homer firefighters. This was a crucial step in preparing them for the imminent arrival of a ladder truck that the Homer Fire Department will soon be receiving.

These training exercises are instrumental in enhancing the capabilities and preparedness of our dedicated firefighters. By continuously honing their skills and expanding their knowledge, they ensure the safety and well-being of our community in emergency situations.



PUBLIC SAFETY CORNER



In this section, we aim to keep readers informed about the latest developments in public safety in the community. Whether it's news about crime prevention, emergency preparedness, or updates on local law enforcement activities, we've got you covered. Our goal is to promote a safe and secure environment for all community members and visitors of Homer, and we believe that staying informed is a crucial part of achieving that. Read on to learn more about what's happening in public safety in Homer.

HVFD'S WILDFIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR SUMMER

As summer approaches in Homer, the risk of wildfires rises. The Homer Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) is dedicated to promoting wildfire safety. Follow these essential tips from the HVFD to protect your home and community from wildfires.

- **Create Defensible Space:** Clear flammable debris and maintain a 30-foot cleared space around your home. Seek HVFD's recommendations for your property's location.
- **Maintain Vegetation:** Trim tree branches at least 10 feet from structures. Keep grasses and shrubs well-watered and pruned. Remove dead or dying plants that can fuel fires.
- **Safeguard Your Home:** Install spark arresters on chimneys and stovepipes. Keep roofs and gutters clear. Use fire-resistant materials and consider fire-resistant screens for windows.

- **Prepare an Emergency Kit:** Create a kit with first aid supplies, non-perishable food, water, flashlights, batteries, and important documents. Keep it easily accessible for quick evacuation.
- **Stay Informed and Vigilant:** Stay updated on fire conditions and HVFD advisories. Report any smoke or fire sightings promptly.

Every individual plays a vital role in fire prevention and response. Staying well-informed, preparing in advance, and giving top priority to wildfire safety is key. This season tends to bring more wildfire activity, making it even more important to prioritize safety. By working together, let us strive to foster a safer and more resilient community this summer.

Welcome to the team

The City is delighted to extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome to Brenden and Taylor. We are thrilled to have them join the team!

- **Brenden Fuson**, Ice Plant Operator I
- **Taylor Wilkinson**, Port Admin Assistant

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

We would like to recognize City staff members with anniversaries this month. Thank you for the dedication, commitment, and service you've provided the City and taxpayers of Homer over the years. You all are an integral part of what makes the City of Homer a great place to work and the community.

Mark Whaley	Port	18 Years
Pike Ainsworth	Port	15 Years
Mike Gilbert	Public Works	9 Years
Jackie McDonough	Library	9 Years
Sean McGrorty	Port	7 Years
Ralph Skorski	Public Works	5 Years
Taylor Crowder	Police	2 Years
Susan Jeffres	Library	2 Years
Sean Love	Public Works	2 Years
Tim Roberts	Public Works	1 Year
Devan Wilson	Police	1 Year

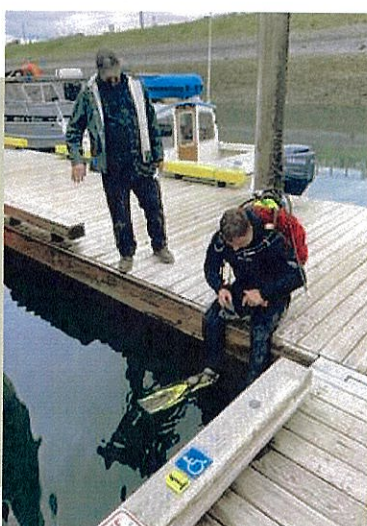
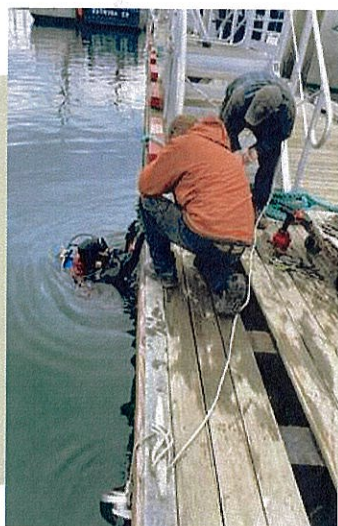
PLANNING DEPARTMENT UPDATE



After the departure of long-time City Planner Rick Abboud in May, the Planning Department has entered a period of transition. Courtney Dodge, who previously held the part-time role of Assistant Planner, has now assumed the full-time position of Associate Planner. Courtney brings valuable expertise from her background in nonprofit work and environmental regulations. Having resided in Homer for the past seven years, she possesses a deep understanding of the local context.

In the interim, Ryan Foster, the Special Projects Coordinator, has taken on the role of Acting City Planner until a permanent replacement is found. Ryan boasts a 15-year career as a city planner, having worked in Virginia, New Mexico, and most recently as the Planning Director for the City of Kenai. With their combined efforts, Ryan and Courtney are dedicated to streamlining the processing of development applications during this peak period.

During the construction season, the Planning Department's primary objective is to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of its comprehensive services in a timely and thorough manner. Despite the challenges posed by the short duration of the construction season, Ryan and Courtney are committed to maintaining high-quality support for ongoing development projects.



The Port Maintenance crew (Pike Ainsworth and Kurt Read) working with a diver (Matt North) to repair the potable water system. The City turns on the potable water to the Harbor every May. This year there were several leaks and the crew identified hoses that needed to be replaced.



Photos of the HVFD/KESA joint training exercise described on [page 10](#).

CITY OF HOMER ROSTER

Mayor - Ken Castner (2024)

City Council

Donna Aderhold (2024)
Jason Davis (2025)
Shelley Erickson (2024)
Storm P. Hansen-Cavasos (2025)
Rachel Lord (2023)
Caroline Venuti (2023)

City Staff Leadership

Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk/Deputy Director of Administration
Ryan Foster, Acting City Planner
Mark Robl, Chief of Police
Bill Jirsa, Chief Technology Officer
Mike Illg, Community Recreation Manager
Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager
Elizabeth Walton, Finance Director
Mark Kirko, Fire Chief
Dave Berry, Library Director
Andrea Browning, Personnel Director
Bryan Hawkins, Port Director/Harbormaster
Jan Keiser, Public Works Director/City Engineer

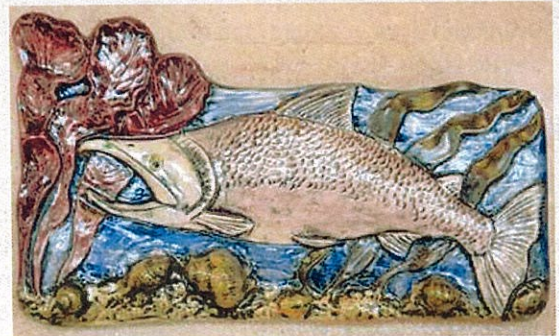
Commissions and Boards

ADA Advisory Board
Economic Development Advisory Commission
Library Advisory Board
Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission
Planning Commission
Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION

Learn more about the municipal art collection at:

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/
prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection)



Salmon and Kelp by Lynn Marie Naden, 2006
Homer Public Library



Sea Stars by Lynn Marie Naden, 2006
Homer Public Library

STAY CONNECTED TO CITY COUNCIL

Go to cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/stay-connected-city-council to find instructions on how to listen, provide testimony, and participate in the meetings via Zoom.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

June

7	5:30 p.m.	Planning Commission Work Session
	6:30 p.m.	Planning Commission Regular Meeting
8	5 p.m.	ADA Advisory Board Regular Meeting
12	5 p.m.	City Council Committee of the Whole
	6 p.m.	City Council Regular Meeting
13	6 p.m.	Economic Development Advisory Commission Meeting
15	5:30 p.m.	Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission
21	5:30 p.m.	Planning Commission Work Session
	6:30 p.m.	Planning Commission Regular Meeting
26	5 p.m.	City Council Committee of the Whole
	6 p.m.	City Council Regular Meeting
28	6 p.m.	Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meeting

JOIN OUR TEAM

The City of Homer has current Job Openings.
Sign up for Job Alerts or Apply Online at:
cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs

Current Job Listings:

- [Library Technician, Part-Time](#)
- [Parks Technician, Seasonal](#)
- [Treatment Maintenance Technician I or II, Full-Time](#)



ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The City of Homer Newsletter is published monthly. For questions or comments, please contact Bella Vaz at

bvaz@ci.homer.ak.us.

City of Homer

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(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Melissa Jacobsen, Acting City Manager
DATE: June 8, 2023
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for June 12, 2023 Council Meeting

Kenai Peninsula Regional Assistants Visit Homer

On Tuesday, June 7 Jill Shaefer, the Director of Governor Mike Dunleavy's Kenai Peninsula Regional Office, Elaina Spraker, the Kenai Peninsula/Kodiak Regional Director for U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan, and Tanya Lautaret, the Regional Special Assistant for Senator Lisa Murkowski paid a visit to Homer. Mayor Castner, Acting City Manager Jacobsen and Special Projects Coordinator Carroll welcomed them at City Hall and answered questions related to the USACE Homer Harbor Expansion study and the recent Design Charrette. The rest of their itinerary took them to locations in Homer where they learned about some of the City's Federal and State priority capital projects, including:

1. The Homer Spit to discuss Spit Road Erosion Mitigation;
2. Homer Port and Harbor for a meeting with Port Director Hawkins, Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Chair Matthews, and to see conditions and talk to large vessel owners and Port & Harbor Commissioners Pitzman and Velsko on System 5 in the Harbor;
3. Homer Airport, where the State will be initiating a project to improve safety of the runways, aprons and lighting systems;
4. Beluga Wetlands Overlook to meet with Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve staff Syverine Bentz, Ben Peters and Lauren Sutton to discuss groundwater research supporting Bridge Creek Reservoir watershed, conservation land acquisition through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and providing support information on Homer Harbor water quality and science to inform the Homer Harbor Expansion study; and
5. Kachemak Drive road condition and the need for a pedestrian pathway



East Bunnell Ave/Charles Way Water and Sewer Infrastructure Improvements Underway

Southcentral Construction began construction on a sewer and water infrastructure improvement project on East Bunnell Avenue, Charles Way, and Allen Way on May 23. The primary purpose of this project is to connect properties in Old Town to water and sewer system services and extend services to Bishop's Beach Park. These improvements are part of a Special Assessment District initiated by property owners in partnership with the City. Construction is expected to be completed by mid-July and during the construction phase, Southcentral Construction will implement a traffic control plan. Drivers are urged to comply with the posted signs and directions provided by the flaggers to ensure a smooth and safe flow of traffic throughout the project area.



East Bunnell Ave/Charles Way improvement area

Homer Serve the City Day

On May 21st, 2023, our community embarked on one of the largest coordinated volunteer efforts in Homer in recent time, Serve the City Day. Five area churches, and a large number of additional volunteers took on over 30 projects with 300+ volunteers providing 1,300 volunteer hours, trucks, equipment, tools, and wise cracks. An enormous amount of work was accomplished at Karen Hornaday Park, Jack Gist Park, the Library, Woodside Park, Fishing lagoon ramp, Fishing Hole Campground, and Spit clean-up, as well as many private residences and Little Fireweed. Parks Planner Matt Steffy worked closely with Serve the City organizers to outline City projects, acquire materials, assign leads, and oversee projects.

Projects at Karen Hornaday Park included: Park-wide trash pick-up, painting the playground, removing playground hazards, pulling weeds, rebuilding and painting bleachers, extensive brush removal in the Upper Park, redistribution of picnic tables and fire rings, and the construction of a temporary 9-hole Disc Golf Course.

These kinds of volunteer efforts bring our community together and instill a strong stewardship for all ages when in caring for our shared public spaces. *(Photo Credit Matt Steffy)*



Tuyanitun Tuggeht Dedication June 21st

In September 2020 Council adopted Resolution 20-079 accepting a donation from Bunnell Street Art Center of a sculpture entitled Tuyanitum by artist Argent Kvasnikoff to be placed at Bishop's Beach Park. The sculpture is composed of graduated naturalistic shapes to mimic the ch'wala (boreal spruce) and the tinitun qatnigi (stone trail markers) used to mark trails between settlements, campsites, and important spiritual places, along with their respective place names. Argent Kvasnikoff is a local artist, a member of the Lower Peninsula's Ninilchik Tribe and has ancestry that includes indigenous Dena'ina lineage of the peninsula and Kachemak Bay. The sculpture dedication is on June 21st starting at 5:30 at the Bishop's Beach Park and Pavilion.



Things I never thought I'd hear at work

"OH MY GOSH! THERE'S A BABY POSSUM AT MY WINDOW!" On a quiet Friday morning, those words rang out as the little fellow in the photo was walking along the window sill downstairs outside the Clerk's office. Clerk's office staff was directed to contact Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) who quickly responded and captured the possum in a live trap. Reports from ADF&G are that three young possums, called joeys, have been caught and indications are that at least one, and maybe more are still at large. Anyone who sees a possum should contact ADF&G immediately at 907-235-8191 during business hours, outside of business hours contact Homer Police at 907-235-3150.

(Photo Credit Renee Krause)

Attachments:

June Employee Anniversaries

Homer Harbor Expansion Study Monthly Written Update

City Council Work Session Schedule

Tuyanitun : Tuggeht Sculpture Dedication Invitation



City of Homer

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Memorandum

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: Andrea Browning
DATE: June 12, 2023
SUBJECT: June Employee Anniversaries

I would like to take the time to thank the following employees for the dedication, commitment and service they have provided the City and taxpayers of Homer over the years.

Melissa Jacobsen	Clerks	19	Years
Mike Illg	Admin	17	Years
Rachel Tussey	Clerks	12	Years
Mike Szocinski	Public Works	11	Years
Jessica Poling	Police	6	Years
Bethany Christman	Public Works	4	Years
Russell Anderson	Public Works	4	Years
James Tingley	Public Works	3	Years
Winifred Shigley	Police	3	Years



City of Homer

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Administration

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Memorandum

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Jenny Carroll, Special Projects and Communications Coordinator
THROUGH: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager and Bryan Hawkins, Port & Harbor Director
DATE: June 6, 2023
SUBJECT: Homer Harbor Expansion Study Monthly Written Update

Purpose: This memorandum provides the second Homer Harbor Expansion Study written update to Homer City Council per Resolution 23-037.

Study Activities Update

Currently the USACE is in the first phase of the General Investigation study: Scoping. Two objectives for this phase have been completed: conducting the design charrette (described below) and developing an initial array of conceptual design alternatives based on public input from the charrette for consideration.



The next USACE steps include screening the designs to narrow the array for further consideration and modeling. The goal is to get an initial array of potential designs presented by June 30, 2023 and complete the evaluation of those selected alternative design solutions to arrive at a tentatively selected plan (TSP) by the end of the first year of the study.

Alternatives Screening: The USACE Project Development Team will meet on 6/7/2023 to screen the alternatives from the Design Charrette (listed below with the number of votes the design attracted from charrette participants in parentheses) plus any other designs the USACE may have created.

- 0 – No Action (2)
- 1 – L-shaped w/ breakwater (6)
- 2 – L-shaped w/ extended uplands and sheetpile dock face (15)
- 3 – T-shaped basin (15)
- 4 – Large clamshell basin (8)
- 5 – Combined breakwater and floating breakwater (7)
- 6 – Modify ramp 8 with piers (2)
- 7 – Remove material inside spit, inside harbor modification (2)
- 8 – Diamond Creek (1)
- 9 – Alternative harbor location, east (3)
- 10 – Seldovia (0)
- 11– Entrance relocation (4)
- 12– Detached breakwater (10)
- 13- Tranquil environment (Breakwater) (8)

During screening, the USACE will go through the process of looking at each alternative and qualitatively rank them based on six categories (see below) to evaluate which alternatives drop off and do not warrant additional consideration.

Ronald McPherson and Bryan Hawkins will be present for the screening. Staff has requested that City Council and/or the Port & Harbor get an opportunity to weigh in on any alternative that are dropped during the screening process in the event either body feels there needs to be additional USACE consideration.

The criteria USACE uses to screen alternatives is the following:

Criteria	Definition	Metric
Completeness	Will the plan work? Is it implementable, does it depend on outside action?	H/M/L
Effectiveness	Does the alternative measurably meet the planning objectives? An effective plan contributes significantly to planning objectives, and it will solve problems and achieve opportunities. A plan that fails to address the more important planning objectives is not effective. An effective plan does not violate any immutable constraints.	H/M/L
Efficiency	How cost-effective is the alternative at solving the problem and achieving the objectives? An efficient plan meets a given level of objectives in the least costly fashion	H/M/L

	or that maximizes contributions to objectives for a given level of resources expended is an efficient plan.	
Acceptability	The extent to which the alternative is feasible from a technical, financial, and legal perspectives. An acceptable plan is one that can be implemented legally, regardless of its popularity.	Y/N
Implementability	How feasible is it from a technical, financial, and legal perspective	Y/N
Satisfaction	The extent to which the plan is welcome from a political or preferential perspective.	H/M/L

Modeling: On 6/7/2023, the USACE Project Development Team will also meet with representatives from HDR to coordinate the modeling component, which will be done by HDR as part of the work-in-kind agreement. Coastal models developed will be used as tools to formulate potential alternatives to address the problems, take advantage of the opportunities, evaluate potential effects of alternatives, and support decision-making. Modeling will be done on some, but not all alternatives presented above.

Charrette Synopsis

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) recently concluded the first scoping milestone, a three-day, in-person design charrette May 17 through May 19, 2023. The charrette included a site visit to the harbor and brought the USACE's 13-member project delivery team together with the public, stakeholders and City of Homer representatives to:

- Identify problems to be solved by a harbor design, confirm data and obtain new data
- Reach consensus on the study's problems, opportunities, objectives and constraints
- Create an array of conceptual design alternatives to meet objectives
- Discuss proposed alternatives and the criteria and metrics by which alternative design plans are evaluated, compared, and selected for further development by the USACE.

Day 1: The opening day of the charrette focused on establishing a shared understanding of the purpose, stages and milestones of the USACE's three-year General Investigation study process.

The USACE provided an overview of the Cost-Sharing requirements for construction of the breakwater, basin and navigation channel. The Non-Federal Sponsor provides 10% of construction costs of the portion of the project with channel depths up to 20 feet and 25% for portions where channel depth is in excess of 20 feet.

The USACE also gave an overview of previous Homer Harbor expansion feasibility studies, noting that while the current GI study will benefit from those studies and from the wealth of knowledge about Kachemak Bay, the USACE had no preconceived notions about solutions. They began the charrette with a blank slate

and engaged stakeholders so that the designs respond to community needs and input as well as necessary technical, environmental, and regulatory standards.

After lunch, the USACE engaged the public in a comprehensive discussion about existing harbor conditions and compiled lists of problems and opportunities to be addressed by a design, as well as the constraints on and objectives for the designs.

The first day ended with the USACE meeting with environmental stakeholders at Cook Inletkeeper.



Day 2: Brainstorming and Collaboration

On the second day, the USACE made a harbor site visit and met with large vessel owner stakeholders to further understand harbor concerns from a user perspective and solicit ideal solutions. In the afternoon, they held a second charrette public work session where the public reviewed and discussed important features and objectives to be considered in the harbor design and then set to work developing conceptual design alternatives to meet identified project objectives, one of which was a no-build option.

Day 3: Refining the Design Alternatives and Next Steps

On the final day, charrette participants reconvened to review 13 design alternatives collected from public input. Each design was presented to the group in a collaborative, creative-thinking environment for feedback on the design's constraints and benefits and additional measures to be considered. Participants then had the opportunity to individually rate the designs by preference.

The USACE discussed the Corps' next steps during the wrap up on the third and final day, which was described earlier in this memo. A robust environmental review process is mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). A NEPA document will be developed concurrently during the study to provide the analysis of each considered alternatives' impacts to the current environmental baseline during the study.



This synopsis, and the USACE May 17-19, 2023 Design Charrette PowerPoint Presentation is posted on the City's website <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/port/homer-harbor-expansion>. Staff is working to provide the recorded audio of the presentations as well. A story about the Design Charrette also ran in the Homer News <https://www.homernews.com/news/army-corps-hosts-workshops-on-harbor-expansion/>.

Project Delivery Team Meetings

City staff attended four USACE project meetings in the past month. While the meetings typically occur once per week, one more was added for final coordination of logistics for the Design Charrette.

The May 11 and May 12th meetings covered logistics and technical needs for the Design Charrette, including supply lists, testing the online participation link, confirming lunch orders, etc.

The May 24 meeting shared the list of alternative designs developed to date and the USACE evaluation criteria matrix.

The May 31 meeting confirmed the date USACE would conduct the alternatives screening and work with HDR on developing modeling.

Interactive Project Website

The Homer Harbor Expansion website www.homerharborexansion.com is live, but still under construction by HDR's communications team. At a 6/2/2023 meeting with HDR, City staff reviewed the expanded website draft and provided feedback. We hope the full website will be launched within a week or two. Even though the full features have not been launched, the HHE website's *Contact Us* feature (info@homerharborexansion.com) is the formalized mechanism for City Council and Commissioners to provide significant questions to the project development team. In the meantime, utilize www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/port/homer-harbor-expansion to access study information.

WORK SESSION

AGENDA CALENDAR 2023

Council Meeting Dates	4:00 p.m. Worksession Topic
<i>Monday, May 8</i>	
<i>Tuesday, May 22</i>	<i>Coast Guard ws 2 5 COW @ 4</i>
<i>Monday, June 12</i>	2023 City of Homer Salary and Benefits Survey
<i>Monday, June 26</i>	
<i>Monday, July 24</i>	
<i>Monday, August 14</i>	HERC – Economic Development Manager & Recreation Manager
<i>Monday, August 28</i>	2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan & FY25 Legislative Priorities - Special Projects & Communications Coordinator
<i>Monday, September 11</i>	HERC Construction Budget – Economic Development Manager & Recreation Manager
<i>Monday, September 25</i>	
<i>Monday, October 9</i>	
<i>Monday, October 23</i>	
<i>Monday, November 27</i>	<i>Recreation</i>
<i>Monday, December 11</i>	
<i>Monday, December 18 If needed</i>	

Tuyanitun : Tuggeht Sculpture Dedication and Reception at Bishop's Beach Park

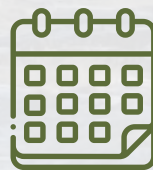
The City of Homer, in collaboration with the Bunnell Street Arts Center and the Ninilchik Traditional Council, is pleased to announce the addition of a new sculpture to the City of Homer Municipal Public Art Collection. The dedication ceremony will take place on Wednesday, June 21 at 5:30 p.m. at the Bishop's Beach Park and Pavilion.

The sculpture, titled "*Tuyanitun : Tuggeht*" (pronounced too-yan-eee-toon : to-get), was installed in October of 2022 and is a significant addition to the public art landscape. Designed by Argent Kvasnikoff, a member of the Ninilchik Village Tribe and a talented artist, the sculpture aims to honor the Indigenous stewardship of the lands, both in the past and for the future.

The name "*Tuyanitun*" references an ancient Dena'ina wayfinding system, while "*Tuggeht*" represents the Dena'ina name for the location, also known as Bishop's Beach, a place beloved by all, and evokes boreal spruce, rock cairns, and beach glass.

This noteworthy public art project has garnered support from various organizations and individuals. Funding contributions have been provided by the Alaska Community Foundation Social Justice Fund, Alaska State Council on the Arts, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, National Endowment for the Arts, National Performance Network, Rasmuson Foundation, the Ninilchik Village Tribe, as well as individual donors.

For more information please visit the [Bunnell Street Gallery website](https://www.bunnellarts.org) or contact info@bunnellarts.org.



Wednesday, June 21
Refreshments at 5:30 p.m.
Dedication at 6 p.m.



Bishop's Beach Park
and Pavilion