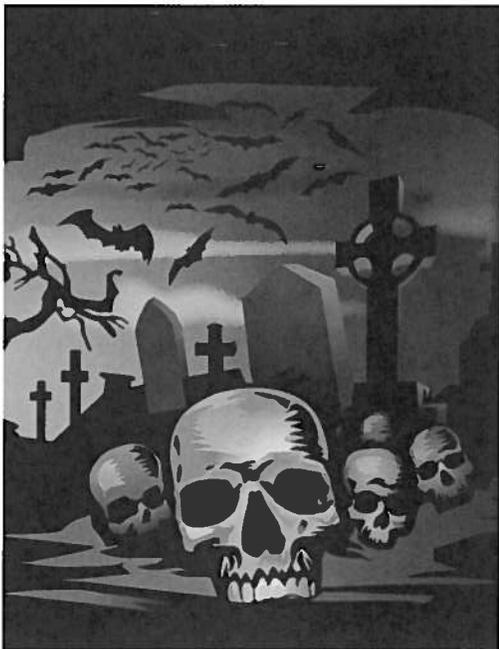




Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission



Thursday
October 20, 2011
Regular Meeting 5:30 p.m.



City Hall Cowles Council Chambers
491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603



**NOTICE OF MEETING
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. AGENDA APPROVAL**
- 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
(Minutes are approved during Regular Meetings Only)
 - A. Minutes for September 15, 2011 Regular Meeting Page 5
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA** *(Three minute time limit)*
- 5. VISITORS** *(Visitors normally have 10 minutes for their presentation.)*
 - A. Miranda Weiss, Homer Playground Project Page 17
- 6. STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS**
 - A. Spit Parks and Recreation Committee Page 19
 1. Synopsis on the August 26, 2011 Meeting
 2. Next Meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.
 3. All Surveys received on Mariner Park
 - B. Karen Hornaday Park Committee and HoPP Report
 1. October 27, 2011 Meeting has been rescheduled to November 9, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.
 - C. Kachemak Drive Path Committee Report – Ingrid Harrald Page 41
 1. October 6, 2011 Meeting Minutes
 2. Draft Property Owner Notices
 3. Memorandum and Attachments on Recommendations from Planning Commission
 4. HEA Response
 - D. Parks & Campgrounds Report – Angie Otteson
 - E. Community Schools & Recreation Report – Mike Illg
 - F. Staff Report – Renee Krause Page 71
- 7. PUBLIC HEARING**
- 8. PENDING BUSINESS**
 - A. Transient Camping Along Trails in City Limits – Discussion and What can be Done?
 1. Homeless Encampments Guide No. 56 by Sharon Chamard from the Center for Problem Oriented Policing Website, www.popcenter.org
 2. Homer City Code 19.08 Page 73
 - B. Budget 2012 – Discussion on Advocating for Appropriations for Parks and Recreational Events, Needs and Programs for 2012
 1. Memorandum dated September 27, 2011 to City Council and Mayor Hornaday through City Manager Wrede Re: 2012 Budget Requests and Narrative Page 111
 - C. Karen Hornaday Park Funding Postponed from the September 15, 2011 Regular Meeting under Committee Reports – Funds donated from Little League and Others being held by Kachemak Bay Conservation Society.
- 9. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Discussion and Recommendation to City Council on Extending the 35 MPH Speed Limit on the Homer Spit Road Past the Entrance to Mariner Park and Placement of Additional Port-o-Pottie During Summer Season. Page 123
 - B. Discussion and Recommendation to Submit Application for the Soil and Water Conservation Grant Page 125
 - C. Review and Updating the Strategic Plan for 2011-12 Page 127

10. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Resolution 11-086 Awarding Contract for Drainage Improvements at Karen Hornaday Park to Johnson & Sons of Anchor Point, Alaska Page 131
- B. NRPA Member Benefit Information Submitted by Mike Illg Regarding Prior Discussion on Performing a Needs Assessment. Page 133
- C. Memorandum dated September 23, 2011 Re: Recommendation and Support to Include Construction of a New Track at the Homer High School. Page 147
- D. Email and News Release on Kachemak Bay Water Trail Page 149

11. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

12. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER *(If one has been assigned)*

13. COMMENTS OF STAFF MEMBERS

14. COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

15. COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

16. ADJOURNMENT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS NOVEMBER 17, 2011 at 5:30pm in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer Alaska

Session 11-07, a Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Bumpo Bremicker at 5:35 p.m. on September 15, 2011 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS CUMMING, BRANN, HARRALD, AND BREMICKER

TELEPHONIC: COMMISSIONER ARCHIBALD

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER LILLIBRIDGE (EXCUSED)

STAFF: PARKS MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR ANGIE OTTESON
RECREATION SPECIALIST MIKE ILLG
DEPUTY CITY CLERK I RENEE KRAUSE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

BRANN/ARCHIBALD – MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

Commissioner Cumming would like to amend the agenda to move the Kachemak Drive Path Committee Report to Pending Item A. along with Transient Camping item. Chair Bremicker asked to amend the Agenda to move Item E. Under Staff Reports to Item A. to allow Mike Illg to return to work. There were no further amendments or changes.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (*Minutes are approved during Regular Meetings.*)

A. Meeting Minutes for the August 18, 2011 Regular Meeting

BRANN/CUMMING -MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

A brief discussion on any grammatical error in the minutes could be submitted separately to the Clerk.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no comments from the public present.

VISITORS

A. Lance Williamson, Save Our Track Committee (Mr. Williamson was unable to attend Mr. Steyer appeared in his place.)

Chair Bremicker confirmed with the Clerk that visitors scheduled have ten minutes unless the Commission agrees to suspend the rules and allow longer.

Mr. Bill Steyer, a city resident and Homer High School Track coach spoke to the commissioners on the horrendous conditions of the high school track and was requesting the Commission to express support for repairs and replacement of the track. Mr. Steyer opened his appeal recognizing that the City of Homer has no responsibility regarding the conditions of the track. He also informed the commissioners that a Save Our Track Committee was formed and has had a few meetings. The committee was informed by Borough and State officials that it would be extremely beneficial to have the support from community, the city and any other organization that could benefit from the construction of a new track. Specifically if the City would include this project on the Capital Improvement Plan as one of the top most priorities. Mr. Steyer stated that the track is 25 years old and has never been maintained. He noted the disparity in the high school tracks on the peninsula. He observed that Nikiski High School has a new rubberized track; even Skyview High School has a rubberized track, even though about ten years old, due to regular maintenance. The most important issue is that without a new track the principal has threatened to discontinue the track and field program if no funding is received this year. He has already stopped any events being hosted by the high school due to the poor conditions. This means that 25 students must travel to participate in any events. The P.E. classes use that track also in their normal curriculum and the Principal has stated he will not allow any students on the field to train. Mr. Steyer noted that not having a track has an impact on the community by losing revenue. Since they cannot host track and field events students, parents and visitors do not come to Homer where they can visit shops, restaurants and lodging. The loss of the track also affects local residents as they use the facilities for other events such as Relay for Life and as just a safe place for their children to ride bikes or jog/run themselves. Some officials have commented that a track is a luxury and not a necessity. Mr. Steyer disagreed with that statement.

Chair Bremicker asked what the last repairs were to the track as seen in the pictures provided by Mr. Steyer. Mr. Steyer stated that was when the creek flooded and was the last work maintenance or otherwise done on the facilities.

Commissioner Brann stated he would support sending a recommendation of support to council on getting this done.

INGRID/CUMMING - MOVED TO SEND A RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL TO INCLUDE THE REFURBISHMENT OR RECONSTRUCTION OF THE HOMER HIGH SCHOOL TRACK FACILITIES AS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY ON THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

There was a brief discussion on the reason for appealing to the Commission since this was addressed by City Council in a Resolution not that long ago

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items scheduled for reconsideration.

STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Spit Parks and Recreation Committee – Commissioner Archibald
1. Surveys on Mariner Park

Commissioner Archibald noted that at the last meeting the committee decided to create a survey and distribute during the Labor Day Weekend on Mariner Park. It has also been available on the website. So far they are getting a fair response from the public and will be able to determine next month what the overall perspective is on Mariner Park.

He stated that the top issue so far has been animal excrement and he would recommend looking into a possible solution. They are still looking at the road realignment and getting the installation of a vaulted toilet as priority items.

Chair Bremicker commented that he is looking forward to seeing recommendations from the committee on the Spit.

Commissioner Archibald reported that the committee also discussed the parks and recreation maintenance having to maintain and supply the restrooms on the spit located at the ramps. The committee felt that this cost should be reimbursed to the parks and recreation since the usage is port and harbor related.

Commissioner Cumming requested additional toilet and speed limit adjustment on the next agenda.

There was no further discussion.

B. Karen Hornaday Park Committee – Commissioner Archibald
1. Synopsis of August 23, 2011 Meeting

Commissioner Cumming reported that at the last meeting the committee discussed if should the City perform work on the drainage issues with "Lake Hornaday under the maintenance account. Phil Needham, a committee member and with the Little League reported that there are two drainage issues that affect the ball fields. One was the swale along the north side of the fields and the Lake Hornaday area, which does affect the ball fields from seepage. Mr. Needham cited as an example that the accumulated water leaches down the hillside.

Ms. Krause recited the area in the Resolution that was before Council on September 12, 2011. This resolution did address some drainage issues affecting the fields.

Mr. Needham reported that they have been dealing with this issue for a long time and he suggested that if addressing the issues with the Lake Hornaday area can be prepared to be fixed immediately after the season next year would allow it a few months for the grass seed to sprout, etc.

Commissioner Cumming reported that the Committee discussed supporting attendance at the HoPP presentation at Islands & Oceans Visitor center and the party at the Park this weekend. She reported that Jack Wiles recommended not suing any of the monies until a pre-engineering report was received. She related that they also spoke about the road re-alignment and parking.

Commissioner Harrald requested if the Memorandum to the City Council regarding the work that was to be done August 1st then was pushed back to October 1st and now it is November 1st. Commissioner Harrald reported that at the meeting Mr. Meyer attended he stated he would get this work done. She would appreciate that he would communicate when he will get this work done. She felt that as a commission they planned this really well and nothing is being done.

Chair Bremicker inquired if they should invite Mr. Meyer to attend the next commission meeting to give a status report. Commissioner Archibald reported that he has spoken with Mr. Meyer and that he was

willing to give Mr. Meyer additional time to see if he does get something done. He does believe it is on his agenda. The Commissioners agreed that Mr. Meyer be invited to address the commission on preliminary engineering and drainage issues for the park.

Chair Bremicker was reading in the recreation booklet distributed by Mr. Illg regarding the ambitions of the HoPP group. He was concerned that the Commission gave the group \$5,000 to replace the existing playground and he was unaware of how ambitious this group was, he does support playground improvements and he does not want to see this as a priority for this park and overlooking the master plan. He believes that the Commission needs to keep a close eye on the intentions and work being proposed and done. He did not want to have all the attention on the playground but on the park as a whole.

Commissioner Harrald stated that this was the first time that she has heard that \$200,000.00 amount. Commissioner Brann reported that it is the overall intention to keep all existing elements of the playground that are viable. He believes that the HoPP group is keeping the Master Plan in mind while creating the new playground. Commissioner Brann stated that he believed this group has already raised a large sum of money and that they are being respectful of the original intent of the master plan.

There was a brief discussion on the work of the HoPP group and concerns about straying from the master plan. Commissioner Cumming related her conversations and impression of the designer hired by the group. She related some ideas that were to be included in the design.

Chair Bremicker expressed the desire to have a representative or two from HoPP to report on the status of the group.

Phil Needham reported on the needs assessment for the Little League. Ms. Krause asked if the monies designated for Little League by the commissioners were going to be handled by the Homer Foundation. Mr. Needham explained that since they were a non-profit the money was going to be given directly to Little League was his understanding.

Mr. Needham noted that the following needs were assessed and approximate costs:

Rebuild infields/outfields	\$7,500.00
Dugouts – Realign, Floor, T111 Siding	\$6,000.00
New gates	\$2,500.00
New fence for junior field/back field/dug out	\$4,000.00
Snack Shack – doors/floor/locks	\$3,000.00 - \$4,000.00
Bathroom and Pavilion Roofs	\$2,500.00 ***

(The Committee agreed to have this listed but is not a responsibility of the Little League)

The Little League has decided to use the \$10,000 for rebuilding the infields. Mr. Needham reported the intent of the Little League and what their plans were to try to accomplish the needed repairs and replacement of facilities that are used by approximately 200 local kids. They are hoping to have everything completed. He related that Anchorage teams actually fight to come to Homer to play in tournaments in Homer. He reported that if the City does the work they are required to pay the higher Davis Bacon wages and if the Little League does the hiring they can get it done much cheaper.

Mr. Needham also reported that if they could get a couple of Port-a-Potties in the summer time to accommodate the younger players.

Chair Bremicker requested clarification on the total \$25,500 included the \$10,000 or in addition to? Mr. Needham being a contractor just threw some numbers together and stated that the amount included the initial \$10,000.00 and could possibly be done under the \$25,500.00 amount.

Commissioners commented on the efforts and work done at Karen Hornaday Park by the various groups and organizations. Commissioner Cumming gave a detailed explanation on the history and efforts by the Friends of Woodard Creek; the effect of the fill that was dumped on the one parking area; the requirement to attend to the priorities as already outlined for the park; the monies as promised by various groups and persons for the betterment of the park. She further elaborated on the hundreds of hours also put into the plan for the park. She was afraid that the funds would be nickel and dimed away.

Chair Bremicker questioned the monies promised by the Little League and if it may be "in kind" services.

There was \$9,000.00 being held by the Kachemak Bay Conservation Society according to Commissioner Cumming which encompassed the funds "promised" by Little League.

There was more discussion on the use of funds currently available for work on Karen Hornaday Park. Chair Bremicker asked if this discussion could be postponed until the October meeting.

There was no further discussion.

C. Kachemak Drive Path Committee – Commissioner Harrald
1. Synopsis of the September 8, 2011 Meeting (Laydown)

Commissioner Harrald did not attend the last committee meeting she reported the response on the Resolution presented at the meeting on Monday by the members of City Council. She personally spoke to many members to get their reasoning for not approving the resolution was due to the wording included "Action".

Chair Bremicker reported that he spoke with Julie Engebretsen in Planning since City Council remanded this resolution to the Planning Commission. He opined that they gave the Council too many options and that the Commission should present to Council one plan for approval. He was told that once a project has been approved by the State it still takes 5-9 years to complete. He opined that HART funds should be used to complete the trail, they have a revenue source, and he believes that the community is agreeable that this trail is a priority. Ms. Engebretsen stated that a bond was not needed that the City could even get a loan. He believed that a single plan design option etc., real clear specifics that council can vote on. Commissioner Harrald agreed but the one red flag she heard was the council being very protective over the HART funds and something about using those funds to extend Waddell Avenue. She stated that they will have to be really clear on the funding options.

Chair Bremicker explained that the HART Funds covered Roads and Trails. There was specific percentage for roads and separate percentage for trails. The Reber Trail was built with HART funds. Chair Bremicker stated that if they decide to use the funds for 10 years to pay off the trail along Kachemak Drive, well with Council approval. Commissioner Cumming noted a report by Lynn Burt regarding a review of the HART funds that could be done annually.

Ms. Krause outlined the steps that will need to be taken regarding the Resolution that was presented to Council on September 12, 2011 for the proposed path/trail along Kachemak Drive.

Ms. Krause called a point of order since the discussion really should be continued in committee not commission and was more appropriate for the committee to have this discussion regarding the proposed resolution.

Ms. Krause will extend an invitation/request to Ms. Mauras, Finance Director to attend the October 6, 2011 committee meeting to explain how the HART funds are used, etc. Ms. Krause will include a copy of the HART in the next committee packet.

Commissioner Harrald reported that comments received from cyclists feel that everyone's solution to safety is to get them off the road and the reality is they belong on the road and it should be addressed in a safe manner.

Commissioner Brann stated that two recommendations from the committee that will be presented at the next commission meeting. One recommendation was to install Share the Road signage and the Radar Feedback Speed signage. This will aid in increasing awareness and following the speed limit.

There was no further discussion.

D. Parks & Campgrounds Report – Angie Otteson

Ms. Otteson was unable to attend this meeting as planned. She related that she did not have anything of dire necessity to speak about that could not wait until the October meeting.

There was no further discussion.

E. Community Schools & Recreation Report – Mike Illg

Mike Illg reported that he recently attended the Alaska Recreation and Parks Conference in Seward, Alaska. This encompasses all facets of recreation from maintenance to citizen volunteers. It offers a great opportunity to network with others, however it does show him how far behind in recreation that Homer is. He strongly supported and recommended the commissioners attend a conference. They offer scholarships and you can also volunteer to help at the conference. Mr. Illg reported that the conferences for the next three years will be 2012 Anchorage; 2013 Juneau; 2014 Unalaska; 2015 Fairbanks and he has suggested Homer for 2016. He noted that there is a lot of positive ideas and interaction. He will be attending the quarterly meeting with the School Board on using their facilities with the City Manager. He will keep them updated. They have some new activities to offer table tennis, Zumba dance class, herbalist classes, and youth running program and possible running club soon. He has a strong solid support of the camp host program and believes it will help protect against vandalism. In response to a question from Chair Bremicker he informed the commissioners that the conference is normally held in September normally after moose season.

Commissioner Cumming inquired if there was any idea on the time frame a campground host would be needed at the park. Mr. Illg did not consider a time frame in the prospect of having a camp host he was just expressing his support of the concept and figures the commissioners can flesh out the idea under the pending business item.

In response to a question about drainage Mr. Illg responded that Commissioner Cumming would have to check with Mr. Meyer or Angie Otteson.

Chair Bremicker stated that Commissioner Harrald's inquiry was out of order regarding the award of a contract on drainage.

Mr. Illg stated that the benefits attending the conference for the commissioners would be very good. In response to a final question on the status of the HERC building and he stated there is currently no update on the status of the building. He would really love to have the building for the community recreation program. He will keep them informed. Mr. Illg left the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

There was no discussion.

F. Staff Report – Renee Krause

Ms. Krause inquired if there were any questions. She described the progress with the work being done on the City Hall Renovations. The Budget is on her Staff Report and under the section for Parks and Campgrounds.

The information included in the packet was for 2011 budget. Ms. Krause explained that it can be discussed at this meeting. Commissioner Brann expressed the fear of missing important deadlines. She confirmed that Council will receive the first draft of the Budget proposed for 2012 at the September 26, 2011 Council Meeting. She further added that the information so far has been status quo from 2011. Ms. Krause recommended that the commissioners discuss asking for a small budget to use for Park day or completing a small project or whatever they decide. The Chair agreed with asking for a small amount to hold Park Day.

Ms. Krause explained that Park Day was the only function that the commission has; she stated it does not hurt to ask. She directed they discuss this further under pending business.

There was a brief discussion on the benefits of requesting a budget of \$1000.00 under Pending Business.

Ms. Krause explained that waiting until the October commission meeting would be too late possibly to request funding. A request for \$35,000.00 for a vault toilet and reinstating personnel was to be submitted by Ms. Otteson.

Further discussion on what meetings of city council will have the budget on the agenda. Ms. Krause further reiterated that it could be discussed under pending business.

There was no further discussion.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

No public hearings were scheduled.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Transient Camping Along Trails in City Limits

Commissioner Brann recounted some of the issues that have been recently reported with campers along the trail from Safeway to the Library and throughout the Land Trust Area and now with the Mud Bay Trail he has noticed debris and since there is now a trail there is more garbage, human waste and he noted that the City does have an ordinance and he believes it should be enforced. He doesn't believe they are doing their jobs if they turn their heads and ignore the problem.

Chair Bremicker commented on the how the successful people always recount how they came to Homer with \$10.00 in their pocket and camped on the Spit and then made a success of themselves. People are doing the same thing and now we have to shuffle them off somewhere because they are homeless. He does agree that there are problems and potential hazards with fires, trash/waste removal. He would prefer to establish an area on the Spit and clean up one area than run the risks and dangers of letting them camp in the woods. People are just going to relocate to another area if they are run off. He believes that you should offer an alternative free camping.

Commissioner Harrald noted that there are encampments in the "Town Center" area. The camping is just a nuisance that is dealt with and there is a larger problem that needs to be addressed and she was not sure that this commission should deal with it. There are health concerns, safety concerns, etc. with the homeless camps.

Commissioner Brann reiterated that he did not have an answer to the end solution but he felt that having the campers removed from along the trails. His attention will be devoted to clearing up the garbage from the Mud Bay trail that has accumulated since it was cleared this past summer.

Chair Bremicker stated that if you do not offer free camping on the spit or preferred areas they will relocate to the woods. He further added that someone with an RV does not need free camping. He related when the City implemented the rule of having a manufactured tent and the need to earn a dollar from every square inch.

Commissioner Harrald suggested creating a citizen patrol; neighborhood hike program, where they hike the trails twice a week and when they come upon campers offer them a free coupon to camp on the Spit. Commissioner Cumming expressed sentiment that this was not a previous concern or priority for this commission and that it is more of a social issue than a community issue. She believes that the Commission should focus on their priorities. She recommended installing signage naming the trail and this would not be a problem. She doesn't believe that the Commission should address this problem.

Chair Bremicker believed it was the commission's concern and that they should forward a recommendation to City Council setting aside a particular parcel on the Spit and if they can survive out there all winter great. He wanted to address people camping along city owned trails.

Commissioner Harrald inquired if staff could do some research and see how things are handled in other cities like Juneau. Ms. Krause referred

HARRALD/BRANN -MOVED TO DIRECT STAFF TO PERFORM FURTHER RESEARCH ON ADDRESSING THE ISSUES OF HOMELESS CAMPERS ON CITY OWNED PROPERTY AND DETERMINE IF ADEQUATE MEASURES ARE ALREADY IN PLACE TO ADDRESS THESE PROBLEMS AND FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL.

Ms. Krause explained that she will provide additional information on how other similar municipalities handle illegal camping along trails within the city limits. She will also provide examples of successful solutions. The Commissioners can review this information at the next meeting and forward a recommendation to council. She can also include appropriate places that could be used to offer free camping.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion.

B. Campground Host for Karen Hornaday Park – Discussion and Recommendations on Implementing a Plan for Campground Hosts.

Commissioner Harrald stated that this item was requested to be on the agenda but she has only heard positive reviews of the suggestion so she is in favor of having campground hosts.

Discussion included what the purpose and responsibilities of a campground host would be; the length of time a host would be committed to; that a host would not only be required to protect the campers and park but offering a resource of information to campers and park visitors. There was a recommendation of the location to designate for a campground host and that they have a host as long as the gate is open.

HARRALD/BREMICKER - MOVED TO DIRECT STAFF TO RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS AND PRESENT SAMPLE PLANS ON ESTABLISHING A CAMPGROUND HOST PROGRAM FOR THE COMMISSION TO REVIEW DURING THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion.

- C. Budget 2012 – Discussion on Advocating for Appropriations for Parks and Recreational Events,
Needs and Programs for 2012
1. Shared Costs for Spit Restroom Maintenance
 2. 2011 Budget information

Commissioner Archibald had to leave the meeting at 8:15 p.m. He commented that he is fully supportive of a campground host at Karen Hornaday Park.

Commissioner Cumming inquired if the commission was interested in applying for the Soil and Water Conservation Grant which required being included in the 2012 budget. She responded to a query from Chair Bremicker that the grant is used for recreational purposes and is federally funded coming through a state agency, any work must be ADA compliant.

There was additional discussion on whether the matching funds require being included in the budget cycle. It was not known at this time if the grant would be available for 2012 but if the call goes out then the Commissioners should entertain a discussion. It was questioned whether the matching funds would have to be included in this budget cycle.

Commissioner Brann reminded Chair Bremicker about submitting a Budget Request for Park Day. Commissioner Harrald noted that they did leave monies from the Legislative Grant for Karen Hornaday Park but then those grant funds would have to be used for that park only.

Staff will look into the requirements and report back. Ms. Krause noted that there is currently a lot of focus on Karen Hornaday Park and that there are a number of other city parks and trails that deserve the Commissions attention.

It was agreed to bring this back on the October agenda.

The commissioners then reviewed the shared costs for the restrooms on the Spit. It was commented that all the costs including electric, water and sewer is taken out of parks and recreation funds. It was questioned whether the commissioners need to address this since it is being handled by the Harbor and Public Works and they did not need to jump into the battle. This explains why the expenses are so high for the parks maintenance.

There was a discussion on these expenses being the reasons for the inability to properly maintain the park facilities. They will discuss this on the October agenda.

BRANN/HARRALD -MOVED TO DIRECT STAFF TO SUBMIT A BUDGET REQUEST TO THE CITY MANAGER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000.00 FOR THE ANNUAL PARK DAY AND OTHER EVENTS.

There was a brief discussion regarding the lack of a budget this year, and in 2010 they did not have the membership on the commission, prevented them from being able to hold the annual event. This event not only recognizes the parks but also gets some sprucing up and minor maintenance completed as well. It was noted that in years past they were given \$1500 out of the parks maintenance fund and they are only requesting \$1000.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointment of a New Member to the Karen Hornaday Park Committee

Chair Bremicker appointed Marti McCleary to the Karen Hornaday Park Committee. Ms. McCleary will replace Jack Wiles and Commissioner Cumming who have submitted their resignations citing additional prior commitments.

There was no further discussion.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Memorandum to Mayor Hornaday, City Council dated September 7, 2011 Re: Preliminary Engineering at Karen Hornaday Hillside Park
- B. Letter received from the Friends of Woodard Creek dated September 6, 2011 Re: Preliminary Engineering for Karen Hornaday Park
- C. Recommendation to Mayor Hornaday and City Council on Establishing the First Portion of the Trail Along Kachemak Drive.
- D. Annual Calendar
- E. Strategic Plan

Staff will check on time limits that may apply to the monies received. Ms. Krause will also check with the Kachemak Bay Conservation Society on the requirements to access the funds being held for the park.

Commissioner Harrald inquired if she totally missed the last park visit. She was inquiring if they should reschedule she was okay if they did not do it. She also stated that they should volunteer to attend a city council meeting and that they should start doing that again.

Chair Bremicker volunteered to attend the December 12, 2011 City Council meeting. Commissioner Brann will attend the November 28, 2011 City Council meeting. Commissioner Harrald will attend the October council meeting. Commissioner Cumming will attend the January 23, 2012 City Council meeting.

The Strategic Plan can be reviewed and discussed at the October meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Ms. Lindianne Sarno commented on her arrival to Homer on a bicycle; she stated she was not commenting on the social issues and that she was by no means a homeless person; she was simply commenting on the fate of persons who arrive here with the initiative and energy to make it this far north from the Lower 48 to work and that they should be treated with respect and dignity because they are here to work. She supports offering a free place for camping and that in the long run if provided in a hospitable and dignified manner it would create abundance for this town. That due to the pending economic climate they may see more persons arriving from the Lower 48.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL MEMBER *(if one is assigned)*

None.

COMMENTS OF STAFF MEMBERS

Ms. Krause commented on the meeting tonight in comparison to the meeting that was held last month. She apologized for not getting the memorandums to Council and has promised that no matter how hard the meeting or long she will address the minutes as soon as possible.

There was no further discussion.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Brann reported that the Rotary has agreed to adopt Ben Walters Park in accordance with the Adopt a Park program. He would also like to encourage local persons to Adopt a Park or Trail and that maybe they can get more participation by Advertising the Adopt A Park or trail Program. He also added that he would like to plan an ice skating party in November.

Commissioner Harrald agreed and stated they could do a Coffee Table discussion at the radio station and she will look in to that; she commented on the issue of homeless versus nomadic and Homer does have homeless people it is not a negative thing to recognize the social problem. There are people who choose to be nomadic but there is a difference.

Commissioner Cumming commented on a gentleman who works for her and who is homeless. She further noted that being on two committees was too much for her and she gets so upset and explosive that she doesn't know what happens in a meeting until she goes home and reflects on the meeting and feels good about what they have done.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

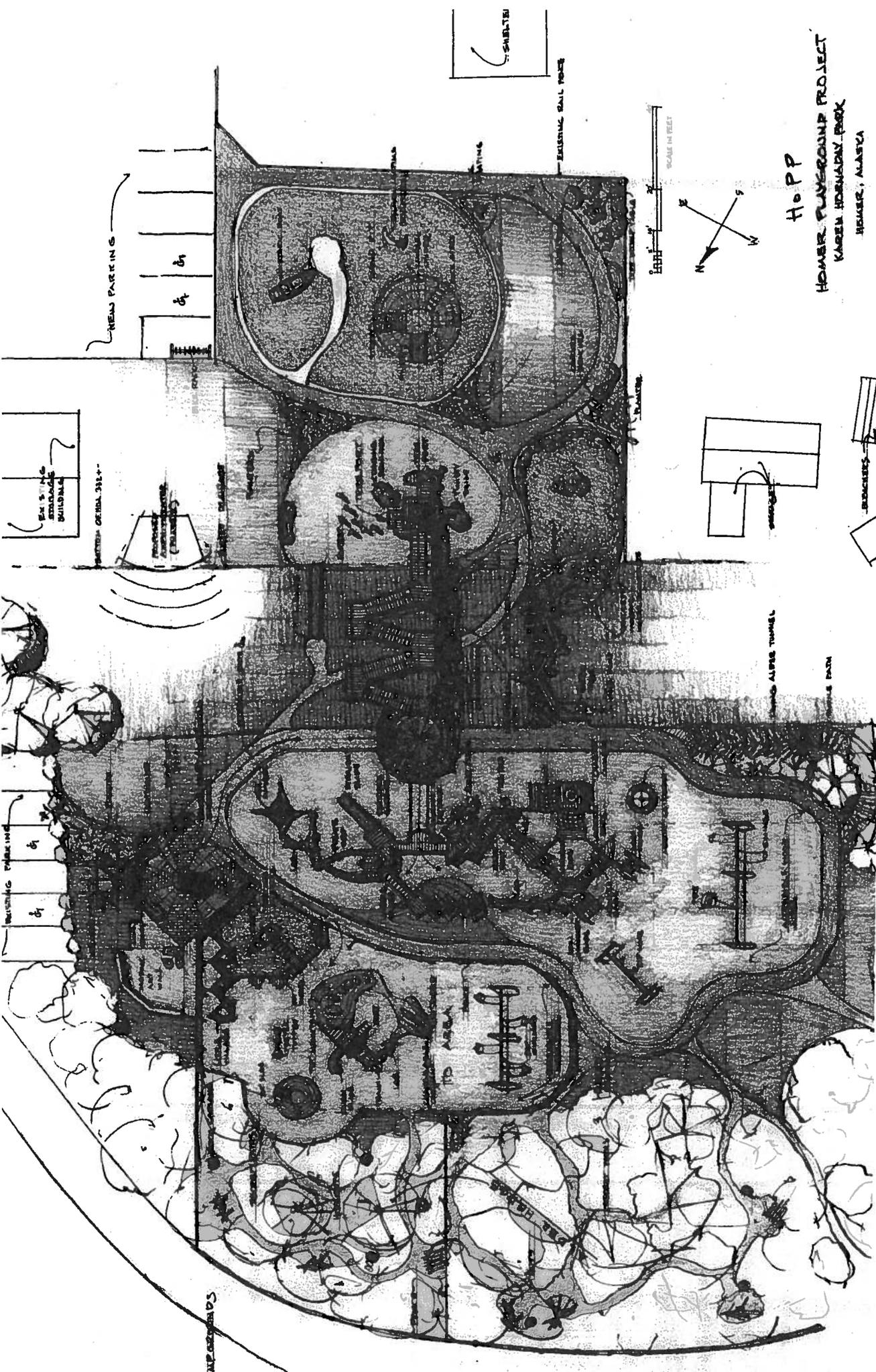
Chair Bremicker commented that it was a pretty good meeting, there a number of issues they need to discuss. This commission is advisory and that means they need to talk. Sometimes it takes longer than 8:00 to talk about issues. He reiterated that it was a good meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission Chair Bremicker adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m. The next regular meeting is **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20** at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

Approved: _____



HOPP
 HOMER PLAYGROUND PROJECT
 KAREN HODNADAY PARK
 HOMER, ALASKA

Spit Parks & Recreation Committee
Minutes August 26, 2011

Meeting called to order 1:10 P.M.

Members present: Robert Archibald and Tricia Lillibridge
Staff: Angie Otteson, Parks Maintenance Coordinator

Agenda Approval:

Agenda was approved by consensus of the committee.

Approval of the Minutes:

There were no minutes included for approval

Public Comments upon Matters Already on the Agenda:

There was no public present.

Reconsideration:

There were no items for reconsideration.

Visitors:

There were no Visitors scheduled.

Staff & Council /Committee Reports/Commission Reports:

Ms. Otteson reported briefly that she has requested a vault toilet for Mariner Park to be included in the 2012 Budget. The cost of a vault toilet is \$35,000. She opined that it could probably be done cheaper but this was the top dollar amount.

She stated that in order to possibly change the location of the entrance to Mariner Park would require a recommendation from this Committee submitted to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. The Commission would have to submit a recommendation to City Council. She thought that it may be accomplished this using dredge spoils to build the recommended extension of the bike trail along the road. There may be some issue with concerns of wetlands and getting permission from Department of Transportation since it was a state road and this would be in the right of way. Piling could be driven to assist in expanding along the side of the road. Ms. Otteson stated that in October the pilings in the Pavilion will be replaced with logs provided by Commissioner Dave Brann. She confirmed that the request was submitted as a general fund request. Further discussion and comments were made on the type of toilets and the area they would be located; the port-a-potties that are used during the summer season.

ARCHIBALD/LILLIBRIDGE – MOVED TO SUBMIT A RECOMMENDATION TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION TO SUPPORT FUNDING, PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF VAULTED TOILETS FOR MARINER PARK.

This would be a structure similar in design and content as the facilities at Bishops Beach.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Lillibridge stated that only 4% of the entire Spit is dedicated to parks and recreation. She stated that they initially decided that Mariner Park should be the first focus of this committee. She elaborated that they should look into possible grant funding for improvements. There are no fees charged to community group functions such as the Burning Basket. Staff was requested to see if the revenue collected could be determined and reported at the next meeting.

Chair Lillibridge suggested brain storming some ideas on getting improvements at the park. A brief discussion on organizing the area between the campers and day use occurred. Chair Lillibridge inquired if

everyone was interested in created a survey and go out Labor Day weekend and distribute to the visitors at the park.

The committee discussed and agreed on questions to include in a survey for the park.

Staff agreed to present information from this meeting and surveys received on behalf of the committee since they would be out of town.

There was a brief discussion on maintenance being done by public works parks personnel for restroom at the ramps on the spit. Staff indicated that there is currently a discussion being entertained with the Harbor on taking over the responsibility again.

Chair Lillibridge was strongly concerned with expressing support for the Harbor to take care of the maintenance thus relieving the additional expense being deducted from the general budget. It was agreed that expressing support from the committee to the commission would be appropriate.

ARCHIBALD/LILLIBRIDGE - MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION SUPPORT HAVING THE MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP FOR THE HOMER HARBOR RESTROOMS LOCATED AT RAMPS 2, 4, 6, 5, 7 AND THE LOAD AND LAUNCH RAMP PERMANENTLY BY THE PORT AND HARBOR STARTING FY 2012.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Pending Business:

A. Developing a Strategic Plan – Discussion and Purpose

Chair Lillibridge would like to schedule a Meet the Trucks event at Mariner Park to encourage promotion of Mariner Park. She felt that this event could be held in the spring before the tourists arrive for the season. She opined that she is looking at this being a start to fundraising for the work that is needed at the park. She stated they would then have two parks at each end of time that has been upgraded.

Mr. Archibald agreed that it would be a good idea and if the Fire Department could give an exhibition with the fire hoses, etc.

Chair Lillibridge suggested the third weekend in April. Ms. Otteson recommended the third weekend or before Memorial Day weekend. Ms. Otteson recommended sending a recommendation to the commission for support.

Mr. Archibald suggested getting the Volunteer Fire Association Members to provide the food.

Ms. Otteson left the meeting at 1:51 p.m.

B. Meeting Schedule – Discussion on frequency, possible dates and time.

A brief discussion on when the committee could meet next. There was no discussion recorded as members did not use the microphones for a period of two minutes.

Chair Lillibridge summarized the discussion as the first Thursday in November as the next meeting date if available. This was agreed by consensus of the committee.

C. Discussion on Spit Parks and Recreational Areas

The committee discussed a prior issue that was raised at the last meeting regarding the ownership of the land that Mariner Park occupies. The committee is requesting assistance from the City Clerk's staff to provide that information.

There was no further discussion.

New Business:

There were no new business items on the agenda.

Informational Materials:

There were no informational items.

Comments from the Audience:

There were no comments from the audience.

Comments from the Committee:

There were no comments of the committee.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m. The next meeting is November 3, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall.

Homer Spit Parks and Recreation Committee
A Committee of the
Homer Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 30, 2011
TO: PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
RE: SUPPORT FOR BUDGET REQUEST FOR MARINER PARK

The Spit Parks and Recreation Committee passed the following recommendation at their regular meeting on August 26, 2011 to be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission for further action. Following is an excerpt of those minutes:

ARCHIBALD/LILLIBRIDGE - MOVED TO SUBMIT A RECOMMENDATION TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION TO SUPPORT FUNDING, PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF VAULTED TOILETS FOR MARINER PARK.

The Spit Parks and Recreation Committee discussed with Parks Maintenance Coordinator Angie Otteson on any outstanding needs of the Parks and Recreation Department outside of reinstatement of the temporary summer personnel in the FY2012 Budget.

Seasonal use of port-a-potties at this park detracts from the potential revenues that could be used to perform additional much needed improvements to the park as a whole. It would also alleviate most if not all of the public complaints received on the condition and cleanliness or those port-a-potties.

It was determined that the increasing use and popularity of Mariner Park at the base of the Homer Spit would benefit from the installation of permanent restroom facilities. While having flush toilets would be the overall preferred facility, the cost of construction and overall maintenance, and the high potential for vandalism warrants the construction and installation of vaulted toilet facilities similar to those installed at Bishops' Beach. The estimated cost to construct and install a vault toilet is \$35,000.00 maximum.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

RECOMMENDATION

Forward a recommendation requesting City Council include \$35,000 in the Public Works Budget Allocation to construct vaulted toilet facilities at Mariner Park.

Homer Spit Parks and Recreation Committee
A Committee of the
Homer Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 30, 2011
TO: PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
RE: UPKEEP AND MAINTENANCE ON RESTROOMS ON THE SPIT

The Spit Parks and Recreation Committee passed the following recommendation at their regular meeting on August 26, 2011 to be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission for further action. Following is the excerpt from those minutes:

Staff Reports

There was a brief discussion on maintenance being done by public works parks personnel for restroom at the ramps on the spit. Staff indicated that there is currently a discussion being entertained with the Harbor on taking over the responsibility again.

Chair Lillibridge was strongly concerned with expressing support for the Harbor to take care of the maintenance thus relieving the additional expenses being deducted from the general budget. It was agreed that expressing support from the committee to the commission would be appropriate.

ARCHIBALD/LILLIBRIDGE - MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION SUPPORT HAVING THE MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP FOR THE HOMER HARBOR RESTROOMS LOCATED AT RAMPS 2, 4, 6, 5, 7 AND THE LOAD AND LAUNCH RAMP PERMANENTLY BY THE PORT AND HARBOR STARTING FY 2012.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

RECOMMENDATION

Homer Spit Parks and Recreation Committee
A Committee of the
Homer Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

MEMORANDUM

Forward recommendation to City Council to turn maintenance and upkeep requirements of the restroom facilities located at Ramp 2,4,6,5, and 7 plus the Load and Launch Ramp.

City of Homer, Alaska
Mariner Park
Surveyors Tricia Lillibridge and Robert Archibald, Commissioners
City of Homer Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission



The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission has formed a committee to address the campgrounds, parks and recreational opportunities on the Homer Spit to determine what amenities are available, needed and possible improvements that could be recommended.

If you could take a few moments to answer a few questions regarding the Mariner Park recreational area and campground this will be a big help in developing the recommendations that will eventually be forwarded to City of Homer City Council.

- 1. HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT MARINER PARK? OFTEN FIRST VISIT 2 OR MORE TIMES A YEAR
- 2. HOW MANY ARE IN YOUR PARTY THIS VISIT? 1-2 3-6 MORE THAN 6
- # OF ADULTS 2 # OF CHILDREN _____
- 3. DO YOU BRING PETS WHEN YOU VISIT THIS PARK? YES NO
- 4. IF SO, DO YOU USE ANIMAL EXCREMENT BAGS OR WOULD YOU USE THEM IF PROVIDED? YES MAYBE NO
- 5. IF YOU VISIT OFTEN WHAT TIME OF DAY A.M. OR P.M.? A.M. P.M.
- 6. HOW LONG HAS YOUR VISIT BEEN THIS TIME AROUND? HOURS 1-3 DAYS MORE THAN 3 DAYS
- 7. DO YOU CAMP AT THIS PARK OR JUST DAY USE? DAY USE CAMPING
- 8. DO YOU MAKE A FIRE WHEN YOU VISIT THIS PARK? YES SOMETIMES NEVER
- 9. DO YOU USE THE PICNIC TABLES, WATER, OR RESTROOM FACILITIES WHEN YOU VISIT THIS PARK?
 PICNIC TABLES WATER RESTROOM FACILITIES NONE

10. WHAT DO YOU THINK THE CITY SHOULD DO TO IMPROVE THIS PARK? Nothing

11. DO YOU THINK THAT THERE ARE ANY EXISTING SAFETY ISSUES WITH THIS PARK? YES NO

12. IF YES PLEASE LIST _____

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR SURVEY. IF YOU PREFER TO PRINT A COPY AND DROP OFF OR MAIL PLEASE SEND TO
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, CITY OF HOMER
ATTN. RENEE KRAUSE
491 E. PIONEER AVENUE
HOMER, ALASKA 99603

OFFICE USE ONLY

Submit by Email

Print Form

DATE & INTIALS _____

City of Homer, Alaska
Mariner Park
Surveyors Tricia Lillibridge and Robert Archibald, Commissioners
City of Homer Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission



The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission has formed a committee to address the campgrounds, parks and recreational opportunities on the Homer Spit to determine what amenities are available, needed and possible improvements that could be recommended.

If you could take a few moments to answer a few questions regarding the Mariner Park recreational area and campground this will be a big help in developing the recommendations that will eventually be forwarded to City of Homer City Council.

- 1. HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT MARINER PARK? OFTEN FIRST VISIT 2 OR MORE TIMES A YEAR
- 2. HOW MANY ARE IN YOUR PARTY THIS VISIT? 1-2 3-6 MORE THAN 6
 # OF ADULTS 2 # OF CHILDREN _____
- 3. DO YOU BRING PETS WHEN YOU VISIT THIS PARK? YES NO
- 4. IF SO, DO YOU USE ANIMAL EXCREMENT BAGS OR WOULD YOU USE THEM IF PROVIDED? YES MAYBE NO
- 5. IF YOU VISIT OFTEN WHAT TIME OF DAY A.M. OR P.M.? A.M. P.M.
- 6. HOW LONG HAS YOUR VISIT BEEN THIS TIME AROUND? HOURS 1-3 DAYS MORE THAN 3 DAYS
- 7. DO YOU CAMP AT THIS PARK OR JUST DAY USE? DAY USE CAMPING
- 8. DO YOU MAKE A FIRE WHEN YOU VISIT THIS PARK? YES SOMETIMES NEVER
- 9. DO YOU USE THE PICNIC TABLES, WATER, OR RESTROOM FACILITIES WHEN YOU VISIT THIS PARK?
 PICNIC TABLES WATER RESTROOM FACILITIES NONE

10. WHAT DO YOU THINK THE CITY SHOULD DO TO IMPROVE THIS PARK?

11. DO YOU THINK THAT THERE ARE ANY EXISTING SAFETY ISSUES WITH THIS PARK? YES NO

12. IF YES PLEASE LIST

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR SURVEY. IF YOU PREFER TO PRINT A COPY AND DROP OFF OR MAIL PLEASE SEND TO CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, CITY OF HOMER
ATTN. RENEE KRAUSE
491 E. PIONEER AVENUE
HOMER, ALASKA 99603

OFFICE USE ONLY
DATE & INITIALS

Submit by Email

Print Form


```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<form1>
  <RadioButtonList>1</RadioButtonList>
  <RadioButtonList>2</RadioButtonList>
  <RadioButtonList>2</RadioButtonList>
  <RadioButtonList>1</RadioButtonList>
  <RadioButtonList>1</RadioButtonList>
  <RadioButtonList>2</RadioButtonList>
  <RadioButtonList>3</RadioButtonList>
  <TextField1>year-round restroom facilities</TextField1>
  <TextField2>clear delineation of parking areas</TextField2>
  <TextField3/>
  <TextField4/>
  <TextField5>unwillingness of some vehicle operators to keep off the beach with their cars, trucks,
    ATVs when children are playing on the beach</TextField5>
  <RadioButtonList>1</RadioButtonList>
  <TextField6/>
  <TextField7/>
  <TextField8/>
  <RadioButtonList>1</RadioButtonList>
  <RadioButtonList>2</RadioButtonList>
</form1>
```


City of Homer, Alaska
Mariner Park
Surveyors Tricia Lillibridge and Robert Archibald, Commissioners
City of Homer Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission



The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission has formed a committee to address the campgrounds, parks and recreational opportunities on the Homer Spit to determine what amenities are available, needed and possible improvements that could be recommended.

If you could take a few moments to answer a few questions regarding the Mariner Park recreational area and campground this will be a big help in developing the recommendations that will eventually be forwarded to City of Homer City Council.

HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT MARINER PARK? OFTEN FIRST VISIT 2 OR MORE TIMES A YEAR

HOW MANY ARE IN YOUR PARTY THIS VISIT? 1-2 3-6 MORE THAN 6

OF ADULTS 2 # OF CHILDREN 2

DO YOU BRING PETS WHEN YOU VISIT THIS PARK? YES NO

IF SO, DO YOU USE ANIMAL EXCREMENT BAGS OR WOULD YOU USE THEM IF PROVIDED? YES MAYBE NO

IF YOU VISIT OFTEN WHAT TIME OF DAY A.M. OR P.M.? A.M. P.M.

HOW LONG HAS YOUR VISIT BEEN THIS TIME AROUND? HOURS 1-3 DAYS MORE THAN 3 DAYS

DO YOU CAMP AT THIS PARK OR JUST DAY USE? DAY USE CAMPING

DO YOU MAKE A FIRE WHEN YOU VISIT THIS PARK? YES SOMETIMES NEVER

DO YOU USE THE PICNIC TABLES, WATER, OR RESTROOM FACILITIES WHEN YOU VISIT THIS PARK?

PICNIC TABLES WATER RESTROOM FACILITIES NONE

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE CITY SHOULD DO TO IMPROVE THIS PARK?

More frequent cleaning and dog poop scoop bags.

DO YOU THINK THAT THERE ARE ANY EXISTING SAFETY ISSUES WITH THIS PARK? YES NO

IF YES PLEASE LIST *Leash laws not enforced at all.*

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR SURVEY. IF YOU PREFER TO PRINT A COPY AND DROP OFF OR MAIL PLEASE SEND TO
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, CITY OF HOMER
ATTN. RENEE KRAUSE
191 E. PIONEER AVENUE
HOMER, ALASKA 99603

OFFICE USE ONLY

DATE & INITIALS -33-

City of Homer, Alaska
Mariner Park

Surveyors Tricia Lillibridge and Robert Archibald, Commissioners
City of Homer Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission



The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission has formed a committee to address the campgrounds, parks and recreational opportunities on the Homer Spit to determine what amenities are available, needed and possible improvements that could be recommended.

If you could take a few moments to answer a few questions regarding the Mariner Park recreational area and campground this will be a big help in developing the recommendations that will eventually be forwarded to City of Homer City Council.

1. HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT MARINER PARK? OFTEN FIRST VISIT 2 OR MORE TIMES A YEAR

2. HOW MANY ARE IN YOUR PARTY THIS VISIT? 1-2 3-6 MORE THAN 6

OF ADULTS 4-5 # OF CHILDREN 1-2

3. DO YOU BRING PETS WHEN YOU VISIT THIS PARK? YES NO *if provided and above tide line*

4. IF SO, DO YOU USE ANIMAL EXCREMENT BAGS OR WOULD YOU USE THEM IF PROVIDED? YES MAYBE NO

5. IF YOU VISIT OFTEN WHAT TIME OF DAY A.M. OR P.M.? A.M. P.M.

6. HOW LONG HAS YOUR VISIT BEEN THIS TIME AROUND? HOURS 1-3 DAYS MORE THAN 3 DAYS

7. DO YOU CAMP AT THIS PARK OR JUST DAY USE? DAY USE CAMPING

8. DO YOU MAKE A FIRE WHEN YOU VISIT THIS PARK? YES SOMETIMES NEVER

9. DO YOU USE THE PICNIC TABLES, WATER, OR RESTROOM FACILITIES WHEN YOU VISIT THIS PARK?

PICNIC TABLES WATER RESTROOM FACILITIES NONE

what picnic tables what water

10. WHAT DO YOU THINK THE CITY SHOULD DO TO IMPROVE THIS PARK? Move the Gazebo away from

the entrance, move art houses away from entrance all should

be located down towards Slough. A defined Red. Crossing from

bike path to Mariner Park with lights on road + flashing light sign

would be so cool to have a bridge from parking lot over Slough to access to

11. DO YOU THINK THAT THERE ARE ANY EXISTING SAFETY ISSUES WITH THIS PARK? YES NO *beach @ high tide.*

12. IF YES PLEASE LIST Gazebo in bad place. Line parking area with big

builders to define beach from parking, would keep people from

driving on beach too. !

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR SURVEY. IF YOU PREFER TO PRINT A COPY AND DROP OFF OR MAIL PLEASE SEND TO CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, CITY OF HOMER
ATTN. RENEE KRAUSE
491 E. PIONEER AVENUE
HOMER, ALASKA 99603

OFFICE USE ONLY

DATE & INITIALS

[Empty box for date and initials]



City of Homer, Alaska
 Mariner Park
 Surveyors Tricia Lillibridge and Robert Archibald, Commissioners
 City of Homer Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission



The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission has formed a committee to address the campgrounds, parks and recreational opportunities on the Homer Spit to determine what amenities are available, needed and possible improvements that could be recommended.

If you could take a few moments to answer a few questions regarding the Mariner Park recreational area and campground this will be a big help in developing the recommendations that will eventually be forwarded to City of Homer City Council.

HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT MARINER PARK? OFTEN FIRST VISIT 2 OR MORE TIMES A YEAR

HOW MANY ARE IN YOUR PARTY THIS VISIT? 1-2 3-6 MORE THAN 6

OF ADULTS

2

OF CHILDREN

DO YOU BRING PETS WHEN YOU VISIT THIS PARK? YES NO

IF SO, DO YOU USE ANIMAL EXCREMENT BAGS OR WOULD YOU USE THEM IF PROVIDED? YES MAYBE NO

provide them please

IF YOU VISIT OFTEN WHAT TIME OF DAY A.M. OR P.M.? A.M. P.M.

HOW LONG HAS YOUR VISIT BEEN THIS TIME AROUND? HOURS 1-3 DAYS MORE THAN 3 DAYS

DO YOU CAMP AT THIS PARK OR JUST DAY USE? DAY USE CAMPING

DO YOU MAKE A FIRE WHEN YOU VISIT THIS PARK? YES SOMETIMES NEVER

DO YOU USE THE PICNIC TABLES, WATER, OR RESTROOM FACILITIES WHEN YOU VISIT THIS PARK?

PICNIC TABLES WATER RESTROOM FACILITIES NONE

*drinking
There is water
at the park??*

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE CITY SHOULD DO TO IMPROVE THIS PARK? Grade it, fill potholes.

Add more picnic tables, trim around Gazebo

put table by Gazebo, Add plastic wind shield to

windy side, make walk way to bike path, provide fire

DO YOU THINK THAT THERE ARE ANY EXISTING SAFETY ISSUES WITH THIS PARK? YES NO *wood*

IF YES PLEASE LIST walkway, crosswalk would add to safety

clean up dog poop around Gazebo

Thank you for putting the out houses up early in season and leaving them as late as possible.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR SURVEY. IF YOU PREFER TO PRINT A COPY AND DROP OFF OR MAIL PLEASE SEND TO CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, CITY OF HOMER
 ATTN. RENEE KRAUSE
 491 E. PIONEER AVENUE
 HOMER, ALASKA 99603

over

OFFICE USE ONLY

DATE & INITIALS _____ -37-

Submit by Email

Print Form

I park here when using the bike trail because there is an outhouse.

I also walk on the beach here going in both directions. I prefer this to Bishops because there are fewer dogs.

Enjoy this park during Shoreland.

It is the closest place to park on the spit and ~~it~~ should be a welcoming area to invite visitors to use the rest of the public locations on the spit - You could put signs in the gazette that explain day use and overnight parks on the spit & indicate which areas are commercial camp grounds.

City of Homer, Alaska
 Mariner Park
 Surveyors Tricia Lillibridge and Robert Archibald, Commissioners
 City of Homer Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission



The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission has formed a committee to address the campgrounds, parks and recreational opportunities on the Homer Spit to determine what amenities are available, needed and possible improvements that could be recommended.

If you could take a few moments to answer a few questions regarding the Mariner Park recreational area and campground this will be a big help in developing the recommendations that will eventually be forwarded to City of Homer City Council.

HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT MARINER PARK? OFTEN FIRST VISIT 2 OR MORE TIMES A YEAR

HOW MANY ARE IN YOUR PARTY THIS VISIT? 1-2 3-6 MORE THAN 6

OF ADULTS 2 # OF CHILDREN _____

DO YOU BRING PETS WHEN YOU VISIT THIS PARK? YES NO

IF SO, DO YOU USE ANIMAL EXCREMENT BAGS OR WOULD YOU USE THEM IF PROVIDED? YES MAYBE NO

IF YOU VISIT OFTEN WHAT TIME OF DAY A.M. OR P.M.? A.M. P.M.

HOW LONG HAS YOUR VISIT BEEN THIS TIME AROUND? HOURS 1-3 DAYS MORE THAN 3 DAYS

DO YOU CAMP AT THIS PARK OR JUST DAY USE? DAY USE CAMPING

DO YOU MAKE A FIRE WHEN YOU VISIT THIS PARK? YES SOMETIMES NEVER

DO YOU USE THE PICNIC TABLES, WATER, OR RESTROOM FACILITIES WHEN YOU VISIT THIS PARK?

PICNIC TABLES WATER RESTROOM FACILITIES NONE

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE CITY SHOULD DO TO IMPROVE THIS PARK? Change entrance for safer

access, provide crosswalk + flashing yellow light to access spit road.

More signage to prevent motorized use of the slough area.

Gravel + grade parking area to prevent potholes + large puddles.

Ballnet perimeter for rangers on grassy areas

DO YOU THINK THAT THERE ARE ANY EXISTING SAFETY ISSUES WITH THIS PARK? YES NO

IF YES PLEASE LIST Highway crossing, entrance

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR SURVEY. IF YOU PREFER TO PRINT A COPY AND DROP OFF OR MAIL PLEASE SEND TO
 CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, CITY OF HOMER
 ATTN. RENEE KRAUSE
 491 E. PIONEER AVENUE
 HOMER, ALASKA 99603

OFFICE USE ONLY

Submit by Email

Print Form

DATE & INITIALS _____ -39-

Minutes for Kachemak Drive Path Committee, Thursday, October 6, 2011

Bumppo Bremicker, chair, Beth Cummings, Dave Clemens, Lynn Burt, Dave Brann, Lindianne Sarno recording

Bumppo called the meeting to order, 5:30 p.m..

Motion to approve agenda by Dave Brann, seconded by Lynn Burt.

Agenda approved.

Beth Cummings moved to approve minutes, seconded by Dave Brann.

Minutes from last meeting approved.

No public comments.

Visitor: Regina Mauras, Finance Director, City of Homer. Regarding HART policy, spoke with Walt Wrede, for better clarification. Walt reiterated that any trails built need to be adjacent to city roads, city property. State road wouldn't be considered. Suggests that path committee come up with exactly what you want, run it through the attorney's office and see if it meets the policy. This is what we intend, is it within what City intended? Funds are available for non-motorized trails. \$110,000/year available for trails. Actually: \$226,222 at end of 2010. \$305,000 will be available at end of 2012. Trail does not have to be along the road, then it's considered diverse, and can be within meaning of HART. Sidewalk has to be along city road, trail not necessarily along city road.

ADA compliance necessary. Dave Clemens suggests we get full wording of Resolution 7-82 because this is referenced by ADA requirement.

Once you get full approval resolution, then ask council if we can access these funds for this trail. Get an Ordinance for however many dollars you think it will be. Can request loan from city from City funds. Look through project section of budget, funds can come from different sources. HART, general fund.

Bumppo: say it costs \$1,000,000, that would be ten years of HART funds, could city access loan using HART funds to pay it off? Regina: there are precedents.

Dave Brann: Once city approves use of those funds, how do you access just the amount you need. Regina: Look at project, e.g. \$5,000. Ask for whole amount. Once it's been approved you have three year window to complete project. Spend it as you use it.

Dave Brann: If this committee were in charge of building this trail. Go to SBS to get materials, they bill city? Regina: Through contractor, we would get bill from contractor, with costs of labor and materials. If you were building, it would go through the city.

Regina: Will get copy of Resolution. (Delivers copies of Resolution 7-82)

Beth: Over water utility easement, one segment or phase from East End road, second segment from base of Spit going as far as Artic Tern Road, third section in between there. Three phases. Regina: Put that in a resolution to get blessing of council. Ordinance would be once we have a dollar amount.

Pending Business:

Dave Brann: Met with HEA and got response: no problem with use of HEA right of way for bike path. Beth questions Dave on water sewer line plan, some electric lines seem to be underground. Discussion: Dave says wouldn't want us to raise with so much fill that maintenance would be difficult under lines.

Dave Clemens: In Anchorage, trails run over easements. Dig up if needed, then patch again. Beth: get letter from Anchorage? Dave Clemens will get a letter from Anchorage. Gas, water, sewer, electric, easements are the best way to go for bike paths.

Dave Brann: Right of ways are reserved for utilities. Bumppo: State right of way? Dave: It varies, 30 to 50 feet. When road was rebuilt, state didn't have money to have consistent right of way. Beth: State claims land along Kachemak Drive that goes across ditches to be able to cut willow. Prescriptive right of way. Dave: advantage not having path on DOT right of way.

Discussion of possible funds source. HART program. Page 15 of packet: Bumppo: we meet most of these criteria. Need to discuss property owner participation.

Beth: Reiber Trail is not wheelchair accessible. ADA applies?

Bumppo: could be done at Kachemak Drive.

Dave Clemens: Re staying off DOT: city council may try to push this off on state, keep in mind. Bumppo: City has been saying for ten years let state build it. I don't see this ever being number one on CIP list. Maybe we can get some partial funding from the State. Dave Brann: State DOT resists building bike trails. This will cost way less than most people imagine. Much can be done by volunteers. I'm concerned about permission from landowners. Once we decide where line on map is, potential costs known, we can possibly look for other sources. But start with HART funds. Bumppo: Use ten years of HART funds: \$1.3 million available. Matching funds from state. Grants. If you have pool of money to start, it attracts other money. City Council is concerned about money. Come up with solid plan.

Beth: I talked to four council members. One said, go for it. Second person said, you need to simplify, direct and be more specific in purposes. Two other people said, I don't want any unforeseen commitments financially for the city. (But I didn't mention HART funds.) We don't even know if there are trails that have higher priorities. Trail between Senior Citizens and Pioneer possible.

Bumppo: I testified at City Council and brought up HART funds. I made it clear that the HART trail funds are a separate fund and have to be used for trails. This won't take any money from road building funds. I made that clear.

Beth: Regarding Reiber Trail. It was not related to roads. It connected a road and another road. Purely connecting two roads and paid for by HART trail funds.

Lynn: Reiber Trail: Is it through private property? Dave Brann: Within piece of property that was donated to city by a homesteader.

Bumppo: At some point we should make recommendation to city. If offroad trail is our intention, we should move to do that and get this buttoned down.

Dave: Any other encumbrances on HART funds? Bumppo: none that I know of. Regina said this is what's left after encumbrances, at end of 2012.

C. Discussion and Recommendations on Defining Purpose and Goals of this Committee

Beth: Mission statement should stick to one path paralleling Kachemak Drive for safety of non-motorized traffic. Dave Clemens: We have five or six different notions. Beth: would like to get back to having a separated path, separated from K Drive, emphasizing safety of bicyclists and pedestrians. Include reference to need for smooth flow of traffic. Would like to give one choice to go to Parks and Rec and City Council.

Bumppo: change available funding, contingent on "available HART trail funds" and give specific numbers. On page 25, new resolution: path paralleling K Drive.

Dave C: goal of this committee: trail separated from road generally, or will this committee also obtain easements? Is goal to get blessing or is it to get specifics?

Bumppo: Blessing of City Council has been accomplished. Our goal is to make this happen. The more specifics, the better their reaction will be.

Dave: Line it out, this is what we want to do. We should plan out the trail that we want, that makes sense, is workable, is a good trail. Then look at funding. Design a good piece of infrastructure, then go for it.

Bumppo: I agree. Put in clear funding sources. In resolution: this is our plan, here is how to pay for it.

Beth: Would like to provide exact wording for new resolution. Old resolution on page 25. Concept and construction of a non motorized pathway to increase safety for motorized and non motorized users along Kachemak Drive located within city limits. And to encourage the smooth flow of traffic for both commercial and noncommercial users along Kachemak Drive.

Line 7, "these safety and traffic flow concerns, construct separated non-motorized path"
Line 15 leave out "and"

Take out line 16 through 20.

Put in a whereas: before line 22, be it resolved City of Homer Alaska supports concept and construction of a separated non-motorized pathway along Kachemak Drive.

Add: WHEREAS lanes are mainly only 12 feet wide with little shoulder space between road and ditch and mainly prescriptive right of ways,

WHEREAS, this project is dependent on funding, HART funds are available for this project.

Line 29, be it further resolved that the city of Homer, etc ... as well as supports action to encourage smooth flow of commercial and non-commercial traffic,

Line 31 omit

Keep line 32, a separated path paralleling Kachemak Drive utility easements

Bumppo: discussion?

Dave Brann: smooth traffic flow for commercial vehicles. I don't think we have to worry about traffic on road. Separated path is our job, creating smooth traffic flow is not in our purview.

Bumppo: Wider reasons for this path, it doesn't hurt to have them in there.

Dave Clemens: This is a significant change. We're concentrating on a path. This is good. Moving forward. A gravel based trail will not remove all cyclists from the road. Cyclists will say, "gravel path? I'm on the road." Would still like to see wider shoulders and signs on the road because bikers will be on the road. Relieving traffic flow: there will be bikers on the road.

Bumppo: Lindianne looked on internet about surfacing trails. City has amount charged to homeowners. Paving costs half as much as gravel base. Asking Kevin: cost of paving and subsurface?

Kevin Walker, retired state highway engineer. I worked in Nome and Kotzebue where it cost hundreds of dollars a yard to get materials. I know state had a program to pave everything black because maintenance coat is lower. Once it's paved, don't have to grade. Have to tear up once it falls apart. City charges less for paving than for gravel?

Bumppo: page 16, number 6 seems to say gravel costs more than paving.

Kevin: passed two people riding on east end road tonight. Several types of bicyclists. Several kinds of roads. Can ride a bike 30 mph on compacted highly crushed gravel. Pavement great as long as it's maintained. Gravel starts at 30/foot and then the paving goes on it. Crushed high quality gravel surface. Base is expensive.

Dave C: City council meeting, idea of bikes off the road? Bikes have a legal right to road. Bikes won't disappear. Public needs to know it's OK for bikes to ride on Kachemak Drive. Get bikes off the road is wrong message to send. It's not the law.

Beth: whereas all of the north side of K drive is commercial and routinely used by commercial sized vehicles, add that whereas to resolution. Do you feel there should be mutual courtesy for bicyclists to ride down middle of lane? Saw two bicyclists with dog on rope with dog wandering all over. If

Dave C: I'm in middle of lane, don't pass me. It's not safe. Trucks go slowly, I couldn't pass truck. If cars stack up behind me I pull over and let them pass. I try not to slow cars for more than 12 seconds on West Hill Road.

Lynn: Everybody is responsible for safety of all. Good citizen.

B: I wait until it's safe to pass cyclists on K Drive.

B: Comment: Not all commercial on North side of Kachemak Drive; it's zoned rural residential where I live. Want to continue this? Hammer out resolution now?

Lynn: great to hear what Beth had to say. Would be good if we had Ingrid here. Vote to wait on that.

Dave B: wait. We need to be able to answer city councils questions. We don't have the line drawn. Will it all be on water and sewer line easements? We talked about work party concentrating maps and where we want the trail to go, so we have clear picture

Bumppo: Table this discussion. We're starting to get it. We need to get more specific. Thank you, Kevin, for your input.

Kevin: Plans, specifications and estimate. Take care of easements. Huge job. I'd be happy to work with you guys and try to put the line on the map. From here to here, this kind of construction, each section of trail has typical section. Might have three or fifteen types of sections. We need a sketch, a readable document, assume can go across airport leasing, cross south to north side at some place, I volunteer to help get it started. Pencil and paper sketch will result.

B: Work session, you'd be valuable.

K Can work with Dave or whoever, here's where we have to go through trees, make it so when we come to work session we're not starting from scratch.

Bumppo: schedule this: we're now on new business. Leave time for preliminary work.

Dave C: Have connectivity plan all the way from spit to East End,

Kevin: From Artic Tern Road to East End Road it's all laid out. Good to go.

Beth: 35 property owners from Artic Tern to water sewer line. Have started calling. Listened to him for half an hour on Eminent domain. Anne Whelan wildly enthusiastic. No one else was happy. Planning commission voted to put it on the STIP list. Dave: STIP list does not mean right of way. State Transportation Improvement Plan.

Dave: Getting back to worksession, plan work session, get it on paper first. Until we draw lines on paper here, then we are spinning our wheels.

Kevin: I will download data from boro, doing each 100 feet on paper. Need project plans from sewer. Will be a stack of paperwork. Will line out the entire path.

B: Our next scheduled meeting is: Monday November 7th. Kevin will attend. 5:30 in here. That will be the worksession. Two items: Resolution and the segmented plan.

Parks and Rec Commission meets on 20th of October.

Beth: wants to talk about Mud Bay Trail. Simplest part of whole trail, from base of spit to Artic Tern Lane. Five segments. Want to mention segment B. No shoulder. Have faith in Dave Brann being able to do this: Enormous quantities of fill. Two terraced trails, one for eastbound and one for westbound. Only difficult part in whole trail.

Bumppo: Table this discussion til next time.

Comments of committee:

Dave C: good that we can get refocused. Move forward! I'll be leaving committee due to time constraints.

Dave B: envision committee as ongoing, changes in members. Some kind of trail from one end to the other. I like the idea of stuff on the roadway, won't happen in short term until road is rebuilt. We can make real progress if we look at maps and landowners. Put the line on the ground. Drafting letter to landowners. Many do support the trail. Find out who doesn't support the trail. Options range from do nothing to donating easement. Selling easement. Making conservation easement. Tax incentives. Find out their individual concerns. If can't cross, go around. Slow, frustrating but we're getting there.

Lynn: B: I agree, trail will happen. Thanks for Mud Bay trail. Beth and I marked high tide with new stakes. 23.1 tide is second highest this year. Dave has mowed and its wonderful.

Beth: I e-mailed thank you to you Dave. Glad Dave brought up possibility of perk for people who agree. Checking with land trust to see if they have ideas. Nature conservancy. Will call them. See if they have an idea that didn't occur to us. We're ready to be more specific.

Bumppo: Lindianne and I drafted a letter to landowners. Not that many owners. Maybe 100. Get together with Dave Brann and compare notes.

Beth: Can I keep calling people?

Bumppo: That's fine.

Keep plugging away.

Thank you all.

Bumppo adjourns about 8:30 p.m.

Kachemak Drive Path Committee
491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska

October 6, 2011

To: Property Owners Along Kachemak Drive

The Kachemak Drive Path Committee is working to build a pedestrian and bicycle path along Kachemak Drive. The City of Homer plans to build the bike and pedestrian path along the utility (water and sewer) easement or under HEA power lines. Both forms of easement cross private property such as yours. Therefore the City of Homer would need your permission to build the portion of the path where the easement crosses your land.

Alaskan state law provides that where established trails cross private land, property owners are not liable for any injuries that occur on their lands on those trails.

Do you give permission for the Kachemak Drive bicycle/pedestrian path to cross your property?

Yes.

No. I have further concerns. Concerns: _____

Signed,

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Draft-Letter to Kachemak Drive Landowners:

October 6, 2011

Dear Kachemak Drive Landowner,

As you may be aware, the Homer Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission via the Kachemak Drive Path Committee is exploring options for a pedestrian / bike path along Kachemak Drive.

The goal is to increase the safety by eliminating or reducing hazards for the pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists that use Kachemak Drive. After months of exploring ideas and options, public meetings, a survey and lots of interesting discussions the Path Committee has decided that a separated bike / pedestrian path along Kachemak Drive is the best option to pursue.

In order to address critical safety issues and to create a much desired path, the committee wants to work with landowners such yourself to come up with the best solution possible.

The committee envisions a 6-8 foot compacted gravel path along the east side of Kachemak Drive from the end of the spit trail to approximately the Bay Club (exact route to be determined) and then on the west side from the Airport Managers office to East End Road (again, the exact route to be determined). With landowners permission the trail could utilize existing HEA utility easements, existing water and sewer easements, platted but not utilized utility / road right of ways. A 6-8 foot path would require a 10'-12' easement depending on terrain.

Listed below are some landowner options related to a pedestrian / bike path along Kachemak Drive:

1. Do nothing, maintain the status quo
2. Allow use of existing easements for the path
3. Sell a path easement to a holding entity
4. Donate a path easement as a Conservation Easement
5. Ask for a tax exemption for a Public Use Easement (not in place yet)
6. Actively support development of the path for year round use.
7. Brainstorm other options to help create the path

The envisioned path would be built at no direct cost to the landowner, no land would be used without the landowners permission. There is no desire or plan to "take" anyone's land. The trail would be built to city trail design standards. The trail would consist of road fabric, a small amount of base material (where necessary) with a compacted gravel cap. Much of the trail could be built by

volunteers, thus keeping overall costs down. The trail could be built by a contractor but would add significantly to the cost.

Members of the committee would like to meet with you at your convenience to discuss options, ideas, concerns related to a possible trail easement on your Kachemak Drive property. We would prefer to have two committee members meet with you and whomever else you would like to include. Committee member's schedules vary so a meeting may include any two of the following:

- Bumppo Bremecker
- Ingrid Harrald
- Lynn Burton
- Beth Cummings
- Dave Clemens
- Dave Brann
- Joe Litchfield

A member of the committee will follow up with a phone call approximately one week after you receive this letter. The phone call would be to determine your preferred meeting date, time and place. If you choose not to meet with committee members we would be disappointed but would respect your choice while continuing to seek solutions for a path along Kachemak Drive.

Sincerely,
Kachemak Drive Path Committee

NEW BUSINESS

A. Staff Report PL 11-100, Kachemak Drive Bike Path

City Planner Abboud reviewed the recommendations in the staff report.

The Commission discussed the project and acknowledged there has been Commission support of this concept.

MINSCH/BOS MOVED THAT THE ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION SUPPORTS THE CONCEPT OF A NON MOTORIZED ACCESS ALONG KACHEMAK DRIVE.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

MINSCH/BOS MOVED THAT A LARGE PART OF THIS PROJECT IS A PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS ISSUE THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED CAREFULLY FROM THE ONSET. THE UTILITY EASEMENTS ARE PRIVATE PROPERTY.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

BOS/HIGHLAND MOVED THAT THE ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMEND THE CITY ADD THE KACHEMAK DRIVE PATH IMPROVEMENTS TO THE STIP NEEDS LIST AS AN AVENUE FOR STATE FUNDING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

There was discussion that this needs to be a grass roots public effort as the people who had to give up easements through eminent domain are not going give anything to the City.

MINSCH/HIGHLAND MOVED THAT THE COMMISSION APPRECIATES THE EFFORTS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION AND ENCOURAGES THEM TO CONTINUE WITH THIS GRASS ROOTS EFFORT.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. City Manager's Report dated September 9, 2011

Chair Minsch commented that the EDC will be talking about the sign code amendments at their September 27th meeting and she plans to attend.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Members of the audience may address the Commission on any subject. (3 minute time limit)

There were no audience comments.

COMMENTS OF STAFF

City Planner Abboud commented that he will work on the sign ordinance and wonders if they should do anymore extra notice for another public hearing. The City Manager included information about it in his report to Council. Chair Minsch said she would work with the City Planner on preparing a one or two page information item for distribution.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Highland commented that she likes the idea of attempting to put a point of view in the newspaper explaining what they are doing and they tried to get ideas out there that are relevant and correct. She is interested in hearing ideas of business owners and is concerned that they feel the Commission is anti business. Perhaps a point of view article could also explain that the Commission is made up of volunteers and we are looking for solutions.

Commissioners Erickson, Sonneborn, and Venuti had no comment.

Commissioner Bos commented that he is enjoying the Planning Commission over the last few weeks more than he has over the last three years. The last meeting wasn't pleasant, but other than that it is becoming more enjoyable.

Commissioner Dolma said he is really enjoying working with this quick thinking, deep thinking, nimble minded group.

Chair Minsch concurred that this is a fun group and everyone is working hard. She is pleased and proud.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: _____

Office of the City Clerk

Jo Johnson, CMC, City Clerk

Melissa Jacobsen, CMC, Deputy City Clerk II
Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I



491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603-7624
(907) 235-3130

(907) 235-8121
Extension: 2227
Extension: 2224

Fax: (907) 235-3143
Email: clerk@ci.homer.ak.us

MEMORANDUM

TO: KACHEMAK DRIVE PATH COMMITTEE
FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I
DATE: September 27, 2011
RE: RECOMMENDATIONS AND DISCUSSION FROM THE HOMER ADVISORY
PLANNING COMMISSION ON RESOLUTION 11-090

Background

At the September 12, 2011 City Council meeting Council decided to remand the Resolution 11-090 regarding the proposed pathways along Kachemak Drive for review by the Planning Commission.

The Planning commission reviewed and discussed the Resolution at the regular meeting on September 21, 2011 under New Business.

Following pages are the excerpt from those minutes containing the recommendations the Planning Commission will have forwarded to City Council. I have also included the staff report that was included in the packet for that meeting with Staff recommendations.

Recommendation

Informational Only. No action required at this time.



City of Homer Planning & Zoning

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603-7645

Telephone (907) 235-8121
Fax (907) 235-3118
E-mail Planning@ci.homer.ak.us
Web Site www.ci.homer.ak.us

STAFF REPORT PL 11-100

TO: Homer Advisory Planning Commission
THROUGH: Rick Abboud, City Planner
FROM: Julie Engebretsen, Planning Technician
MEETING: September 21, 2011
SUBJECT: Resolution 11-90, Kachemak Drive Path

Requested Action: Make a recommendation to the Homer City Council on Resolution 11-90.

Introduction

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, through the Kachemak Drive Path Committee, has been reviewing the idea of having some sort of path or trail along Kachemak Drive. The path would serve pedestrians and cyclists. These improvements are on the city's Capital Improvement List, as well as adopted in the City's Comprehensive Plan. The idea of pedestrian and bicycle improvements along this road are not new, but very little progress has been made toward construction of any improvements. The improvements could be along the shoulder of the road, or a separated path adjacent to the road. Issues include funding, wetlands, and lack of easements or right of way for public access. Kachemak Drive is a state right of way, which means the City would expect the state to design and pay for the improvements. The P&R Commission would like the City to explore the idea of the City taking on the project, so that it can move forward.

The Kachemak Drive Path committee began meeting last fall, with members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, public, local cycling group and land owners. After many meetings, the committee forwarded a resolution to the full Commission, which then made a recommendation to Council. At the September 12th Council meeting, the resolution was presented.

Council chose to send the resolution to the HAPC for a recommendation. The City Council had concerns that passing this resolution would mean the City would take on the project, at City expense. There also were concerns about easements, and commercial traffic, pedestrians and cyclists sharing the road.

Staff spoke with Parks & Recreation Chair Bumpo Bremicker about the resolution and Council's reaction. Staff and Mr. Bremicker both felt it would be appropriate for the resolution to go back to the P&R Commission for more clarification. The HAPC has already supported the concept of a path through the Non-Motorized Transportation and Trail Plan. (Typically the Commission does not get involved in specific design or funding discussions, but certainly can comment if desired). The P&R Commission and the committee have done a lot of work on this issue and could amend the resolution with more specific information on what they are asking the Council to commit to.

STAFF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. HAPC forward the resolution with Council's comments to the Parks and Recreation Commission, for further work.
2. HAPC recommend the City add the Kachemak Drive path improvements to the STIP needs list (State Transportation Improvement Program). This is one avenue for state funding.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution 11-90
2. Unapproved Council minutes of September 12, 2011

Renee Krause

From: brann@alaska.net
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2011 12:22 PM
To: Renee Krause
Subject: HEA Easements
Attachments: 2011HEA Furlong.docx

RKrause@ci.homer.ak.us

Hi Renee,

We' re still in Oregon until Oct. 4, will be home on the 5th but am still doing some email stuff. Please find attached a letter from Claudia Furlong, HEA. I have also included it in the body of this email.

Would you forward it on to Kachemak Drive Path Committee members and to the Advisory Commission? One more step out of the way.

I am working on a draft letter to eventually send to landowners along Kachemak Drive that may be affected by the proposed path. I will run it by you then the Committee, Walt or whoever before sending it out.

Did we establish a work session to work just on the path location and construction methods? I know there was discussion about it but don't know if we set a date and time.

Thanks, Dave

Good Morning, Dave:

It was a pleasure meeting with you to review the proposed Bike Patch along Kachemak Drive.

After an internal review, we have determined that bike paths are not a prohibited use of Homer Electric's rights-of-way and, as such, would not be appropriate for the cooperative to take a position or formulate policy on easements which do not impact the delivery of electrical service to its members. Utility easements and power line rights-of-ways are not granted to HEA for public use; they are retained as private property. The private landowner is the only entity with the authority to grant an easement.

If, during your efforts to secure Bike Path Easements, a landowner asks about HEA 's right of way, we will be very willing to respond.

Claudia

Claudia Furlong, R/W-NAC
Land Management Officer
Homer Electric Association, Inc.
280 Airport Way
Kenai, AK 99611
(907) 283-2350 office
(907) 398-6107 cell
(907) 335-6219 fax
cfurlong@homerelectric.com

Office of the City Clerk

Jo Johnson, CMC, City Clerk

Melissa Jacobsen, CMC, Deputy City Clerk II
Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I



491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603-7624
(907) 235-3130

(907) 235-8121
Extension: 2227
Extension: 2224

Fax: (907) 235-3143
Email: clerk@ci.homer.ak.us

STAFF REPORT

TO: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
FROM: Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I
DATE: October 14, 2011

-
1. **Budget 2012.** I have included the pages for the proposed budget for 2012 to offer a visual on the line item amounts proposed for community recreation and for parks and recreation. This is the budget that was presented to City Council. So unless the commission appears at each of the next meetings and testifies at the appropriate areas during the agenda this will not be added to the budget. Finance was able to also forward a copy of the costs involved in the maintenance of the Spit Restrooms was moved to the harbor's budget. If the commissioners have any questions on how the budget process works Regina Mauras, Finance Director has offered to attend a meeting to give an explanation on the process and budget and answer any questions from the commission. These documents are included under pending business.
 2. **Committee/Commission Meetings.** So far the news is that the council chambers will be available for most of November. The contractor is proposing to complete what interior work they now have in progress before starting any new areas. So stay tuned for updates via email as this is always subject to change. Just a reminder that the Commission does not have a regular meeting scheduled for December. I recommend that the commission review the strategic plan carefully to adjust the time frame on existing projects or goals listed and determine which projects can be completed after the holidays and those that should be wrapped up by the November meeting.
 3. **Kachemak Drive Path Committee.** The resolution that Council referred to Planning and Zoning has not officially been remanded back to the Parks and Recreation Commission. I have not made any adjustments to the Resolution as recommended at the last meeting of the Committee due to work load.

4. **Strategic Plan Update.** I have put this on the agenda under new business since it has been 2 years since it was done. I have included an how to guideline to explain the reason and uses of a Strategic Plan. I believe that if this Commission devotes some time to the development of a Strategic Plan the benefits would last for a substantial amount of time. Currently there is a lot of enthusiasm for Parks and Recreation and I would like to advocate that this continues so in that direction I believe having stated goals, purpose and direction would enhance the support of the community and the local government for the goals of this commission.

Office of the City Clerk

Jo Johnson, CMC, City Clerk

Melissa Jacobsen, CMC, Deputy City Clerk II
Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I



491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603-7624
(907) 235-3130

(907) 235-8121
Extension: 2227
Extension: 2224

Fax: (907) 235-3143
Email: clerk@ci.homer.ak.us

MEMORANDUM

TO: PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I
DATE: OCTOBER 13, 2011
RE: TRANSIENT CAMPING ALONG TRAILS ON CITY OWNED LAND

BACKGROUND

During the September 15, 2011 Regular Meeting the Commission directed Staff to perform further research on addressing the issue of homeless or transient campers on City owned property.

The following guide was located on the website popcenter.org and outlines recommendations. Please note that this is for information purposes to assist the Commission in determining what further recommendations it would like to propose to City Council if any.

I have also included the Homer City Code that addresses camping on city property, Chapter 19.08, Campgrounds.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Review and discuss the recommendations and suggestions as proposed in the Guide No. 56, Homeless Encampments and direct Staff to draft a recommendation to City Council for review and approval of the Commission at the November meeting.
2. Direct Staff to Send a Memorandum to the Homer Police Chief Robl through City Manager Wrede to Enforce Homer City Code, 19.08.030 and 19.08.070 as applicable to the areas noted for transient campers and the associated problems.
3. Review and discuss the information provided and make a motion to take no further action on this as a commission.

Drupal.behaviors.print = function(context) {window.print();}>

Published on *City of Homer Alaska Official Website* (<http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov>)

Sections

19.08.010 Purpose.

19.08.020 Definitions.

19.08.030 Parking or camping prohibited--Enforcement.

19.08.040 Parking or camping fees authorized.

19.08.050 Payment of fees--Display of permit--Clean up deposits.

19.08.060 Maximum duration of camping.

19.08.070 Certain acts prohibited.

19.08.080 Storage of garbage, refuse and other wastes.

19.08.090 Unattended camps.

19.08.100 Unauthorized structures.

19.08.110 Disposition of revenues.

19.08.120 Violation--Penalty.

19.08.010 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to protect, preserve, and control all campgrounds, campsites, and camping on all lands owned or controlled by the City. (Ord. 81-1(5)(part), 1981; prior code 5-700.1).

19.08.020 Definitions. For the purposes of this chapter, the words set out in this section shall have the following meanings:

a. "Campground" means an area owned, controlled, developed and/or maintained by the City, which contains one or more improved campsites or contains adequate area for one or more unimproved campsites.

b. "Camping" means:

1. The erection of, or occupancy of any tent, regardless of whether said tent is of commercial manufacture or has been constructed in whole or part by any person;
2. The placing or leaving of any items normally found at a campsite within campsite such as cookstoves, lanterns, etc., if sleeping bags and/or other forms of bedding are also left at the location;
3. Parking of any camper unit in any area owned or controlled by the City, which has been designated a camping area by official signs, in excess of twenty-four hours, shall constitute camping, regardless of any physical change in campsite within camping area;

208

(Homer 03/10)

4. The presence of any person sleeping in any motor vehicles or camper units between the hours of midnight and six a.m., shall constitute prima facie evidence of camping;

5. Sleeping on the ground, with or without any shelter, sleeping pad, etc., between the hours of midnight and six a.m., on any land owned or controlled by the City, shall constitute camping; 6. Preparation or consumption of meals in, or in affiliation with and in proximity to, any camper unit at any time following midnight of the day said camper unit was parked in any campground, shall constitute prima facie evidence of camping.

c. "Campsite" means all improved and unimproved campsites located on lands owned or controlled by the City.

d. "Camping Season" means that period of time from April 1 through October 30.

e. "Designated camping area" means any area of land owned or controlled by the City, which has been marked by official signs as open to camping or campers.

f. "Immediately mobile" means that the camper unit may be moved from its campsite by either:

1. Starting its propulsion engine and driving said unit away, or;

2. By attaching a towing vehicle to the trailer hitch of said camper unit and pulling it away; provided, that in both subdivisions 1 and 2 of this subsection, the removal must be feasible without any preliminary actions to prepare the vehicle for removal, such as, but not limited to, installation of wheels, or removal of support structure or platforms, etc.

g. "Improved campsite" means any space designated for individual or family camping and normally containing a table, fireplace and parking space, and shall include the surrounding area which is, or has been, used for camp living and social functions by the camper.

h. "Other wastes" means garbage, refuse, offal, oil, grease, tar, dyestuffs, acids, chemicals, industrial or seafood processing wastes; and any other substance which may cause, or tend to cause, pollution of the lands or waters within the City.

i. "Parking" means the placing or leaving of any motor vehicle or trailer on any land within the City, if the propulsion engine of said vehicle is off.

j. "Permanent structure" or "shelter" means any collection, assemblage, construction, or assortment of materials or devices; whether of natural or synthetic nature, which has served or is reasonably capable of serving as protection from any of the elements; or as an item constructed to enhance the habitability of a campsite, such as, but not limited to, structures functioning as, or which are reasonably capable of functioning as furniture items. Any camper unit rendered less than immediately mobile by the removal of wheels or placement on supports or platforms shall also be a permanent structure. Commercially

manufactured tents and the flysheet supplied for the tent by the manufacturer or constructed in whole or in part from canvas, nylon or other tenting material, shall not be classified as permanent structures or shelters unless they have been placed on a platform or material other than the soil at the site of erection.

k. "Self-contained camper unit" means all vehicles and trailers which contain sleeping facilities for one or more persons. Sleeping facilities shall also include any structure or area of any vehicle or trailer which circumstances indicate are actually being used for sleeping and need not consist of actual beds or bunks. Self-contained camper units are also referred to as "camper units" in this section. Self-contained camper units may be referred to as "campers" on signs for designated camping areas.

l. "Temporary structure" or "shelter" means all tents of standard commercial manufacture with the flysheet provided by the manufacturer or constructed in whole or in part from canvas, nylon or other tenting material, and all commercially manufactured self-contained camper units, so long as said camper units are maintained in such a condition that they are immediately mobile. Any camper unit not maintained in an immediately mobile condition shall be deemed a permanent structure.

m. "Unimproved campsite" means that area of land surrounding any temporary structure on any City-owned or City-controlled property open to camping, other than improved campsites, and the structure itself; said area shall be that area which is being, or has been used for camp living and social functions. (Ord. 99-18(A) 1, 1999; Ord. 81-1(5) (part), 1981).

19.08.030 Parking or camping prohibited-Enforcement. a. No person shall park any motor vehicle or camper or otherwise camp on any City-owned or City-controlled property where any official sign prohibits parking or camping.

b. Camping, as defined in Section 19.08.020b of this chapter is prohibited in areas other than those so designated by the City, except where campers camping on private property have written permission to do so from the property owner.

c. Persons who refuse to remove themselves and their personal property from unregulated camping areas upon request by an authorized representative of the City shall be removed, together with their personal property, from the areas using such force as may be necessary under the circumstances.

d. Camping in a closed campground is prohibited. Except in the winter the Spit camping area is designated as the parking area immediately northwest of the Mariner Memorial[j] and on the same side of the Spit Road. Except when a campground is opened under a directive entered pursuant to this subsection, all city campgrounds shall be closed outside the camping season. The City Manager may, for cause, enter a written directive that one or more city campgrounds will be opened or closed up to thirty days before and thirty days after the camping season, or for any other period of time specified in the directive. As used in this subsection, "cause" includes, but is not limited to, emergencies, tourist caravans, and other tourist demand outside the camping season.(Ord. 99-18(A) 2, 1999; Ord. 82-10 1, 1982: Ord. 81-1(5) (part), 1981: prior code 5-700.2).

19.08.040 Parking or camping fees authorized. The City Manager or his designee is authorized, with the approval of the City Council, to establish parking and camping fees for lands owned or controlled by the City. (Ord. 81-1(5) (part), 1981: prior code 5-700.3).

19.08.050 Payment of fees-Display of permit-Cleanup deposits. It is unlawful to camp in a designated camping area on lands owned or controlled by the City without having first paid the appropriate fee to the authorized agent for the City and having obtained the requisite permit. Evidence of payment of the camping fees shall be immediately produced upon the request of the fee agent or any peace officer. Permits issued pursuant to this section shall be displayed at all times while camping, in accordance with the instructions provided therewith. No permit shall be issued unless the applicant provides all information requested by the authorized representative of the City. A deposit to insure cleaning of campsites at the termination of use may also be required prior to issuance of a permit. (Ord. 81-1(5) (part), 1981: prior code 5-700.4).

19.08.060 Maximum duration of camping. a. No person shall camp on City-owned or City-controlled property in excess of fourteen calendar days, regardless of any changes in campsite or campgrounds. Persons who have utilized their fourteen-day camping period may not return to camp in any City-owned or City-controlled camping area for fourteen additional days following the last day of their fourteen-day camping period. The fourteen days of authorized camping need not be consecutive.

b. An exception may be granted to the fourteen-day limitation if there are sufficient vacant campsites, as determined by an authorized City official. All persons shall move their campsite at the end of each fourteen-day period. (Ord. 81-1 (5) (part), 1981: prior code 5-700.5).

19.08.070 Certain acts prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to:

a. Dispose of or deposit human body wastes or any other waste on City-owned or City-controlled land other than in authorized or designated receptacles;

b. Make or cause to be made any unnecessary or unusual noise which annoys, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health or safety of the public, or any individual member of the public on City-owned or City-controlled land;

c. Erect, occupy, or otherwise utilize any temporary or permanent structure or shelter on City-owned or City-controlled lands.

1. Exception. Unless otherwise prohibited, tents of standard commercial manufacture or constructed in whole or in part from canvas, nylon or other tenting material may be erected and occupied in designated camping areas. Structures so exempted may not be modified, extended, or sheltered by the addition of any material not a commercially manufactured component of said tent or other than a recognized tenting material.

2. Exception. Unless otherwise prohibited, self-contained camper units may be parked and occupied in designated camping areas so long as they remain immediately mobile;

d. Park, leave, maintain, or utilize any vehicle, camper unit, or camp in violation of any provision of any section of this chapter. All vehicles, camper units, or other camps in violation shall be subject to impoundment by any peace officer. All costs of impoundment and storage of any property so impounded shall be paid before said property shall be released. Property so impounded shall additionally be subject to a twenty dollar impound fee, which shall be paid before said property is released. All permanent structures shall be impounded pursuant to Section 19.08.100;

e. Deface, destroy, alter, remove, or otherwise disfigure any equipment, sign, utility services, or other facility owned or provided by the City at any City-owned campground or campsite, or parking area adjacent thereto;

f. Allow any dog owned, harbored, or controlled by himself to be at large in any City-owned or City-controlled campground. All fecal wastes of any dog discharged or deposited on any lands within a City-owned or City-controlled campground shall be immediately removed by the person owning, harboring, or controlling said animal and shall be deposited in trash receptacles or otherwise stored in containers pursuant to Section 19.08.080;

g. Leave any campsite in a disorderly or unsightly condition upon termination of use. (Ord. 81-1 (5) (part), 1981: prior code 5-700.6).

19.08.080 Storage of garbage, refuse and other wastes. All garbage refuse, and other waste created or

compiled in the course of activities while camping, shall be stored in opaque containers which shall be tightly closed to contain odors and to exclude insects, rodents, and vermin. Plastic garbage sacks are acceptable containers for compliance with this section. (Ord. 81-1(5) (part), 1981: prior code 5-700.7).

19.08.090 Unattended camps. A campsite shall be occupied on the first night after equipment, vehicles, or tents have been set up. Equipment left unattended for a period of seventy-two hours at any campsite on City-owned or City-controlled property may be impounded unless prior permission for a longer storage period has been obtained from an authorized City representative. An impound fee of twenty dollars and all costs of impoundment and storage shall be paid before said property may be released. (Ord. 81-1(5) (part), 1981: prior code 5-700.8).

19.08.100 Unauthorized structures. Any structure erected, maintained, occupied, or utilized on City-owned or City controlled land without written permission from the City Manager or otherwise permitted under this chapter shall be unlawful and shall be subject to impoundment or disposal by any peace officer. If said structure is impounded pursuant to this section, all costs of impoundment and storage shall be paid in addition to the impound fee of twenty dollars before said structure may be released. All costs of recovery shall be borne by the person claiming said structure. (Ord. 81-1(5) (part), 1981: prior code 5-700.9).

19.08.110 Disposition of revenues . All revenue from fees paid for parking or camping shall be deposited in the general fund or disposed of in accordance with the terms of the contract with the concessionaire for parking and/or camping on City-owned or City-controlled campgrounds. (Ord. 81-1 (5) (part), 1981: prior code 5-700.10).

19.08.120 Violation-Penalty. All violations of this chapter are punishable under the general penalty provision of the Homer City Code, Section 1.16.010. (Ord. 81-1(5) (part), 1981: prior code 5-700.11).

[1] [1] For statutory provisions authorizing cities to provide and regulate recreational facilities, see A.S. 29.48.030(15). Prior Ordinance history: Ordinances 70-5 and 73-13.

[i] Mariner Memorial is a reference to the Seafarer's Memorial

Source URL (retrieved on 2011-10-13 19:15): <http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/chapter-1908-campgrounds>



[Center for Problem Oriented Policing](#)

[Home](#)

[Conference](#)

[Full site](#)



To print this guide, click on your web browser's "Print" icon, or go to the menubar and select "File..Print"

Homeless Encampments

Guide No. 56 (2010)

by [Sharon Chamard](#)

The Problem of Homeless Encampments

What This Guide Does and Does Not Cover

This guide addresses homeless encampments, also known as transient camps. It begins by describing the problem and reviewing factors that contribute to it. It then identifies a series of questions to help you analyze your local problem. Finally, it reviews responses to the problem and what is known about them from evaluative research and police practice.

Homeless encampments are only one aspect of the larger set of problems related to homelessness, street life, and public disorder. This guide does not cover all aspects of homelessness, only those that pertain to the small proportion of homeless people who live in encampments. Throughout this guide, the term "transient" is often used to refer to this small group. Further, it addresses only the particular harms created by homeless encampments, not the issues commonly associated with homeless people. These related problems, each of which requires separate analysis, include:

- chronic public intoxication,
- panhandling,
- loitering,
- trespassing,
- shoplifting,
- drug dealing,
- mental illness, and
- disorder at day laborer sites.

A discussion of the broad economic and social conditions that give rise to homelessness and to homeless encampments is beyond the scope of this guide.

The Philosophical Debate on Chronic Homelessness

Dealing with homeless people living in encampments can be fraught with moral danger. Few people would argue that

the police should do what they can to reduce burglary or car theft. Yet there are many strong and organized advocates of the chronically homeless. Some believe chronic homelessness is a lifestyle choice and, as such, should be protected by law. Others claim it is a consequence of socio-economic factors, such as high unemployment and the lack of affordable housing, or that the chronically homeless are victims of abusive childhoods, addiction, or mental illness. In any event, they oppose criminalizing what they perceive to be a status beyond a homeless person's control. Still others object to the "criminalization of homelessness" because it violates fundamental constitutional rights, in particular those codified in the First, Fourth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments.

On the other hand, problems associated with transients and their encampments can often lead business owners and residents to demand the police use traditional, and perhaps somewhat punitive, law enforcement methods to solve them.

It is important to be aware of the fundamental differences in people's beliefs about chronic homelessness (put simply, the homeless are victims who need society's help to recover versus the behaviors of homeless people drain public resources and damage the community) because how the problem is defined determines what is considered to be an "effective strategy." †

† See Harcourt (2005) for a fascinating discussion of the conflicts between owners of single room occupancy (SRO) hotels and real estate developers in Los Angeles' skid row.

General Description of the Problem

What are homeless encampments?

The term "homeless" refers to someone who is usually poor and frequently on the move from one temporary dwelling situation to another. Many slang words are used to describe such a person: transient, squatter, hobo, bum, vagrant, and vagabond. Homeless encampments take a variety of forms: tent cities; groups living under freeway overpasses; and groups sleeping in parks, in skid rows (urban areas with concentrations of poverty and dilapidated buildings), in subway tunnels, on sidewalks, etc. One person setting up shelter in such a location does not constitute an encampment. Studies show homeless encampments vary in size. Some, particularly those in the woods, can be fairly small with only a few campers. Those under freeway overpasses and in urban vacant lots and parks may be larger, with some reportedly having 100 or more people. Shelters in homeless encampments range from lean-tos made of cardboard, to tents, to more elaborate structures—in one case including French doors, a skylight, and a picture window.¹ Obviously, the more established the encampment, the better constructed the "housing" is likely to be.



Some encampments, particularly those in the woods, such as the one shown above, can be fairly small with only a few campers. (Photo credit: Myrtle

Beach Police Department)

Who lives in homeless encampments?

To understand who lives in homeless encampments,^{††} it is useful to begin with the entire population of homeless people and whittle it down.

^{††} The behavior in question is known as "sleeping rough" in the United Kingdom.

It is important to realize that although people living in homeless encampments are homeless, most homeless people do not live in homeless encampments. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) classifies homeless people in two broad categories: sheltered and unsheltered. A "sheltered" homeless person lives in an emergency shelter or transitional housing. This includes domestic violence shelters; residential programs for homeless or runaway youth; or a hotel, motel or apartment paid for with a voucher provided by a governmental or private agency because the person is homeless. An unsheltered homeless person lives in "a place not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings, or on the street."² About 44 percent of homeless people are unsheltered.³ Unsheltered homeless are usually single men, who, unlike homeless families, are less likely to live in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or permanent supportive housing.⁴

Another categorization of homelessness is whether the status is temporary (due to an eviction, prolonged unemployment, job layoff, or domestic violence) or chronic. The federal definition of chronically homeless is an "unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years" (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2008b:15). About 18 percent of the total homeless population (unsheltered and sheltered in emergency shelter) is considered chronically homeless, and, of those, two-thirds are unsheltered. In other words, an estimated 12 percent of the United States' homeless population, or close to 83,000 people, is unsheltered and chronically homeless.⁵

This relatively small group of homeless people may end up in homeless encampments because they have exhausted all resources available to them or their conditions (e.g., drug use, alcoholism, criminal record) hinder them from using them (shelters, for example). Others may have chosen the lifestyle because it frees them from competing in a consumerist society, or because it is better than previous living arrangements.^{6†††} However, most residents of homeless encampments say they would prefer to live in a more conventional way with their own room and a job.⁷

^{†††} For a reasoned and practical discussion of the causes of homelessness and policies for solving the problem, see Jencks (1994).

Compared with the general population, people in homeless encampments are more likely to be male, older, and a minority.⁸ A significant number of transients living in encampments are addicted to drugs or alcohol, and a sizable portion are also mentally ill ("dually diagnosed").⁹

Panhandling is one way homeless encampment dwellers make money, but more work at odd short-term jobs, such as street vending and day labor. Collecting cans or bottles is also common. Relatively few receive public benefits. A very small number engage in prostitution.¹⁰ The relationship between crime and transients is discussed later in this guide.

Harms Caused by Homeless Encampments

Problems associated with homeless encampments fall into three categories: impact on the homeless population, impact on the environment, and impact on the larger community.

Impact on the homeless population

Unhealthy encampment conditions. Conditions in homeless encampments can be dangerous to health. Garbage attracts rodents and other vermin. Food cannot be stored, and dishes cannot be washed properly, facilitating the spread of food-borne diseases. Depending on a camp's location, some residents might use portable toilets or public facilities, but most are likely to use an outdoor location. Poor hygiene contributes to dental and skin problems.¹¹ Other environmental hazards, such as batteries and fuels, are used for heating and cooking.¹²

Most people who live in homeless encampments lack health insurance, but they frequently have chronic physical and mental health conditions that require ongoing medical attention.¹³ Barriers to seeking routine medical care lead many to the emergency room for non-emergency care. There is some indication that tuberculosis and sexually-transmitted diseases are of special concern.¹⁴ Many transients living in encampments report addiction to drugs or alcohol.¹⁵

Victimization of the chronically homeless. Not much is known about victimization among this population because they are not included in large-scale household-based surveys, such as the National Crime Victimization Survey. Official data, such as the National Incident-Based Reporting System and the Uniform Crime Reports, typically do not include victims' housing status. Further, specific information on victimization of chronically homeless people who live in homeless encampments is based on case studies of particular jurisdictions or is anecdotal.¹⁶

However, smaller studies paint a troubling picture. The chronically homeless report high rates of child and sexual abuse that occurred before they became homeless. Further, once homeless, the population continues to be victimized at a rate about twice that of the general population. Chronically homeless people are also more likely than the general population to be victims of crime against the person than property crime. These patterns are particularly true for chronically homeless women; one British study found that 95 percent of chronically homeless women had been victimized compared with 75 percent of men.¹⁷

Chronically homeless people are victimized by the public and by their peers.¹⁸ Violence against the homeless committed by non-homeless offenders appears to be increasing even while violent crimes are generally decreasing.¹⁹ Many of these incidents are beatings. Over the nine-year period from 1999 to 2007 in the United States, 217 homeless people were killed by those who were not homeless.²⁰

Despite the notion that homeless encampments are safe havens for those living an otherwise rough or unconventional life, these camps can be venues for serious violent crime. In November 2008, five people in a Long Beach, California, encampment were shot to death²¹, and one man was fatally stabbed at a homeless camp in Tucson, Arizona.²² A homeless encampment in a wooded area off a freeway in Orlando, Florida, was the site of three homicides in the 10 months between October 2006 and August 2007.²³ In Sacramento, California, in September 2008, two men were murdered within hours of each other in a "well-established homeless camp" near some light-rail tracks.²⁴ Other research found that the incidence of victimization by strangers was lower for the homeless population (16 percent)²⁵ than for the general population (which ranges from 28 percent to 89 percent depending on the type of violent crime).²⁶

Impact on the environment

In addition to concerns about the hazardous materials mentioned above, which potentially harm both the transients and the surrounding environment, inadequate human waste disposal at large encampments along rivers can pose a hazard to the water supply of nearby communities.²⁷ Another hazard linked to homeless encampments is fire. Residents of homeless encampments turn to wood stoves and camp fires for heat and cooking. If left unattended (typically by intoxicated transients), these fires can become out of control and burn down camp structures and injure people. Larger fires can spread to more populated areas and damage buildings and infrastructure. More significantly for the environment, these fires may kill animals and vegetation and destroy their habitats. Although most wildfires are started by people, there are no data on how many of those are started specifically by transients.

Wilderness areas are further damaged through abusive camping practices, such as cutting down trees and leaving garbage on site.

Impact on the larger community

Criminal activity by the chronically homeless. Numerous studies have pointed to a strong relationship between homelessness and criminality. Yet contrary to popular opinion, the typical chronically homeless person is not a hardened violent felon, but someone with a disproportionately high arrest rate for crimes such as public intoxication, petty theft, and trespassing.²⁸ The longer someone is unsheltered and chronically homeless, the more involved he or she becomes in criminal behavior, largely due to the increased use of "non-institutionalized survival strategies," such as panhandling, street peddling, and theft.²⁹ Chronically homeless people who are mentally ill are arrested more than those who are not mentally ill.³⁰

Many researchers have argued that the high rates of arrest and low-level offending by the chronically homeless are results of the "criminalization of homelessness." Laws against lying down or sleeping in public, public excretion and urination, public intoxication, and the like, make it difficult for the street homeless to carry out routine behaviors in public places.³¹ Some police observers report that being homeless subjects people to more strict enforcement for activities that are dealt with more leniently if the person can show proof of address.³²

Even if transients are not hard-core violent offenders, evidence from police case studies shows areas adjacent to transient encampments have higher levels of petty and serious crime unrelated to "routine behaviors," such as drug dealing and usage, disturbance, theft, prowling, burglary, panhandling, fighting, vandalism, armed robbery, rape, and aggravated assault.³³ Stolen property, weapons, and wanted felons have been found in homeless encampments.³⁴

Threats to business viability. Urban homeless encampments have a more immediate impact on the nearby community because of proximity. Many chronically homeless behaviors, such as sleeping on the streets, panhandling, public excretion or urination, and public intoxication, are threatening or undesirable. In some urban settings, police rate transients and their behaviors as a bigger problem than drugs, car burglaries, public fighting, cruising, or noise.³⁵ Entertainment districts are particularly vulnerable to transient behavior because of the availability of people with disposable income, park benches, unattended public restrooms, and lax enforcement of laws governing street behavior. The presence of transients creates an environment of lawlessness. During the day, transients sitting in front of businesses can scare away customers.³⁶

Illegitimate use of public space. Regular citizens may not use public parks and other facilities because they fear the spaces are controlled by transients. Often the homeless are victimized at night, prompting them to sleep only during daylight hours in parks and other public places. Thus, the park may be laden with individuals sleeping on benches or in picnic shelters during the park's busiest hours. This condition only exacerbates the conflict with legitimate park users.

Further, due to the homeless taking over and sometimes vandalizing park barbecues, sinks, and faucets designed for regular park visitors to use, officials may remove these amenities thereby penalizing everyone.³⁷ In Madison, Wisconsin, a group of 30-40 men (not all of whom were homeless) took over a lakeside park shelter, moving in furniture and other personal belongings. They drank there during the day and slept there at night. Nearby residents reported car break-ins, firewood thefts, and attempted burglaries. Legitimate park users reported aggressive panhandling. Use of this park by permit-holders was considerably lower compared with other area parks.³⁸

Cost to society. Because so many chronically homeless people have medical problems and substance abuse issues and frequently come in contact with the police and social service providers, they can be very costly to taxpayers. For example, a study following 15 chronically homeless people in San Diego found that they cumulatively received more than \$3 million worth of public services in just 18 months. Despite benefiting from \$200,000 in taxpayer-provided services during this time, each was still homeless. Just as a small number of criminals commit most of the crime and a few addresses in a city account for most of the calls for service, studies have found that about 10 percent of all homeless people consume about half of the resources.³⁹ In Madison, Wisconsin, for example, a study of "chronic nuisance" people in the downtown area found that two-thirds were homeless; however, only five percent of the downtown homeless population was defined by the police as being part of the "chronic nuisance" population.⁴⁰

Factors Contributing to Homeless Encampments

Understanding the factors that contribute to your problem will help you frame your own local analysis questions, determine good effectiveness measures, recognize key intervention points, and select appropriate responses.

Encampments are usually located close to goods and services that transients need: food, alcohol, employment (or crime) opportunities, and shelter (in case of inclement weather). Services geared toward this population obviously contribute to a concentration of transients in certain areas. Although soup kitchens attract the chronically homeless, food pantries are less popular with transients because they often lack facilities to cook the items pantries distribute. Social service providers and day labor sites attract some transients.[†] Liquor stores and drug markets attract others.⁴¹ Homes and businesses are targets for theft or burglary, but also for short-term work for those so inclined.

[†] See Problem-Specific [Guide No. 44, Disorder at Day Laborer Sites](#).

Because many transients do not have their own vehicles, encampments, even in wooded areas, are likely to be located by pedestrian access points (such as trails), or close to public transportation facilities and railroad tracks.

Transients look for overgrown brush to help hide their encampment from public view, providing privacy and the opportunity to establish the camp before it is discovered and dealt with by the authorities.

People in homeless encampments benefit from food and clothing provided by church groups, missions, and social services agencies, but such charity is not always combined with efforts to facilitate transition from the streets.⁴² In some respects, this enables encampment residents to stay where they are.

Understanding Your Local Problem

The information provided above is only a generalized description of homeless encampments. You must combine the

basic facts with a more specific understanding of your local problem. Analyzing the local problem carefully will help you design a more effective response strategy.

Stakeholders

In addition to criminal justice agencies, the following groups have an interest in the homeless encampments problem and should be considered for the contribution they might make in gathering information about the problem and responding to it:

- **Social services agencies.** Government agencies and non-government organizations that serve homeless populations are obviously interested in improving living conditions for their clients, but they also are interested in reducing the level of resources consumed by relatively few chronically needy clients. They also have data that police may not have and expertise and resources to improve responses.
- **Religious and charitable organizations serving the transient population.** As with social services agencies, these groups are interested in improving transients' lives. Their mission, however, may focus on meeting transients' daily needs (food, clothing, and emergency shelter) and preclude involvement in strategies that will ultimately reduce the need to carry out this missionary work. These organizations can sometimes provide monetary support for programs, and their staff and congregations can be valuable sources of volunteers. Religious organizations also can help shape the moral content of public policy discussions about how to respond to transient encampments.
- **People living in homeless encampments.** Transients themselves clearly have a strong interest in this problem. Although they may not prefer life in encampments, they still regard these places as their homes and expect that others will respect their privacy and personal belongings. Transients can be a valuable source of information about who lives in the encampments and the activities of other transients.
- **Residents living close to homeless encampments.** These people suffer disproportionately from crimes committed by transients. Their interest may not extend beyond pushing the problem out of their immediate area. Nearby residents can provide information about individual transients and the nature of crime and disorder associated with transients in particular camps.
- **Businesses.** Businesses are frequent targets of transients' crimes and the social and physical disorder accompanying them. Because businesses' viability can be adversely affected by transients in the area, business owners are motivated to support practical solutions. They can provide resources for programs once they discover they can effectively reduce the problems that impact their businesses.
- **Community as a whole.** Efforts to address homeless encampments and homelessness in general are often met with hostility from the public, perhaps because they resent public resources being spent on people seen as unproductive members of society, or because they think providing services will encourage more transients to move into the area. Many members of the community would rather push the problem out of their area than deal with it in a meaningful way. Depending on your response, citizens can provide volunteer or financial support.
- **Media.** How your local media cover homeless encampments can influence the community's perception of the issue. Stories about transients and interviews with representatives of homeless advocacy organizations can be quite compelling; however, if this is the only side of the issue the public hears, you may have trouble galvanizing support for problem-solving. Involving the media in early planning efforts can work to your advantage, especially if they can convey your message that solving this social problem will likely take much longer than expected and involve some false starts and failures.
- **Politicians.** Elected officials have an interest in being responsive to citizens' calls for tougher enforcement of

- laws concerning transients' public behavior. At the same time, they can direct funding toward projects they think will address the issue. Involve them at the early planning stages to ensure their cooperation later when fiscal resources may be needed.
- **City officials.** People who run the local government's daily operations want to increase efficiency and would be receptive to strategies to reduce the demand for public resources from a small number of transients. If an encampment needs to be removed, city officials can provide personnel such as zoning and land use enforcement officers and parks and recreation staff. Human or social services offices can recommend nonprofit organizations to help identify the problem and create a successful strategy. Also, these local government offices may be involved in advocating for and coordinating the receipt of HUD (Community Development Block Grants, Emergency Shelter Grants and HOME Investment Trust funds) and state resources for addressing homelessness issues.
- **County officials.** County officials are concerned with ensuring a coordinated regional approach to homelessness issues. Counties also control state "pass through" resources. Although it may be tempting to move the problem from your jurisdictional boundaries, it is more responsible to create a strategy that does not impact neighboring communities.
- **Police leadership.** Given the controversy that typically surrounds interventions involving the chronically homeless, it is important to keep the chief and command staff advised of the details of the project and even to include them in planning. They may have insights to offer about the political realities in your jurisdiction and can provide a buffer between you and concerned advocates, media, and politicians.

Asking the Right Questions

The following are some critical questions you should ask in analyzing your particular problem of homeless encampments, even if the answers are not always readily available. Your answers to these and other questions will help you choose the most appropriate set of responses.

Transients

- How many people live in homeless encampments in your jurisdiction?
- What is known about them? Where did they live before the encampment? What are their gender, age, race or ethnicity, and employment histories? How many of them have chronic health issues, substance abuse problems, and/or mental illness?
- What is known about the criminal victimization of transients living in encampments?
- What is known about the criminal behavior of transients living in encampments?
- How long have these individuals been living in encampments?
- Why do transients report living in encampments instead of other types of shelters?
- Do the transients know about and use community social services, such as soup kitchens, drop-in centers, shelters, job training, and substance abuse treatment?

Counting Transients

To find the number of "unsheltered homeless people" aggregated to your county or state level, look at the data compiled annually for HUD as part of the application for *Continuum of Care* grants. 2005-2008 Population/Subpopulation reports, available at <http://www.hudhre.info/index.cfm?do=viewHomelessRpts>, include

the number of unsheltered homeless people in your area. This report does not give the exact number of people living in homeless encampments in municipalities. However, if this is your type of jurisdiction, it is still a good starting point to get a sense of the problem and the percentage of homeless people who are unsheltered in your area. This web site also lists HUD *Continuum of Care* grant recipients – organizations you should contact for data on chronic homelessness in your community.

There are three primary methods for counting unsheltered homeless people. Your community's characteristics determine which is most appropriate. The first, called the "public places" method, is a direct count of people in a non-shelter location; e.g., walking through a homeless encampment and taking a head count. This works if you know where all the encampments are and can reliably count everyone residing there. The second method is to augment the counts in non-shelter locations with an interview component, helping to ensure the people counted were not counted twice and actually are homeless. Conducting interviews is recommended if you also want to get information about this population as part of your project's scanning phase. You could learn what services the subjects use and what it would take for them to leave the chronically homeless lifestyle. The third method involves counting users of soup kitchens and other social services for the homeless. One advantage of this strategy is that it allows you to reach people who may not be living in known, public areas. *A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People* (available at http://www.hudhre.info/documents/counting_unsheltered.pdf) discusses the pros and cons of each method and is an invaluable resource.⁴³

For an example of a questionnaire used to count homeless people, look at the Texas Homeless Network's point-in-time survey (http://www.thn.org/info/static/files/2009_THN_PIT_Homeless_survey.pdf) and training guide for volunteers (http://www.thn.org/info/static/files/2009_THN_Instructions_for_Homeless_Count-Survey.pdf). Most states conduct annual surveys to measure the size of their homeless population; here is an example of the questionnaire used in Colorado (http://www.colorado.gov/cich/documents/Final_Statewide_Homeless_Survey.pdf).

Time and location patterns

- Are there seasonal patterns to homeless encampments? Are there more people in such places in the summer or the winter?
- Where are the encampments located? (You might use aerial surveillance and on-board infra-red, or night-vision goggles to identify camps and ingress/egress points.)
- How accessible or remote are the encampments? How visible are they from a distance?
- Who owns or has jurisdiction in the encampment areas for policing, landscaping, maintenance, etc.? Are the encampment sites publicly or privately owned?
- Why are the encampments located where they are? Are they close to food and water sources or transportation? Are they concealed? Do they provide shelter from weather?

Encampments

- How elaborate are the encampments? Are there shelters, cooking facilities, bathing facilities, potable and non-potable water sources, and security features?
- Are there health and safety concerns, such as unsafe fire situations and poor waste management?
- What is the allowable land use (according to municipal code) of the area where the encampment is located?
- Who else uses the area around the encampment? Do transients and "legitimate" users conflict over the user of

- this area?

Public attitudes

- What are your community's standards regarding street behavior? In entertainment districts, do people prefer things to be orderly or more exciting to attract people?
- How many citizen complaints do you receive about homeless encampments? What, precisely, is the nature of those complaints?

Demand on police resources

- How many crimes are committed against people living in homeless encampments? What is the nature of these crimes? How serious are they?
- How many calls for service concerning encampment areas does your agency receive?
- How many calls for service concerning nuisance problems involving transients does your agency receive? How many of these calls are from businesses and residents close to encampments?
- How many incidents involving disputes over public space does your agency handle?
- How much time and money does your agency spend dealing with problems associated with homeless encampments?

Current responses to the problem

- How has the homeless encampment problem in your jurisdiction been handled in the past? How is it handled now? Is the current response adequate and appropriate?
- What laws currently regulate homeless encampments? Are these laws adequate and/or constitutional?
- What is being done now in your community to address chronic homelessness? Does your community have a long-range plan to end chronic homelessness?†
- How many contacts with chronically homeless people do members of your department make? What are the outcomes of these contacts?
- Does your department have any formal policies with shelters and social services agencies regarding referrals and transportation of chronically homeless people?
- What efforts have been made by social services providers to discourage transients from living in encampments? Have such efforts been successful?

† Many communities have created and adopted "Ten-Year Plans" as part of a federal government initiative to eliminate chronic homelessness. More information about ten-year plans (and a list of the more than 200 communities that have one in place) is on the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness web site: www.usich.gov.

Measuring Your Effectiveness

Measurement allows you to determine to what degree your efforts have succeeded, and suggests how you might modify your responses if they are not producing the intended results. You should take measures of your problem *before* you implement responses to determine the seriousness of your problem, and *after* you implement them to determine the effectiveness of your responses. Take all measures in both the target area and the surrounding area. (For more detailed

guidance on measuring effectiveness, see the companion guide to this series, *Assessing Responses to Problems: An Introductory Guide for Police Problem-Solvers*.)

Following are potentially useful effectiveness measures of responses to homeless encampments:

- Reduced numbers of encampments and transients living in them
- Less crime in areas around the encampments
- Fewer or less serious crimes committed against transients living in encampments
- Fewer calls for police service to the encampment area
- Fewer calls for police service for nuisance problems caused by transients
- Fewer calls for police service by businesses and residents concerning transients
- Fewer citizen complaints about transient behavior and encampments
- Fewer health and safety hazards associated with encampments
- Reduced number of conflicts between transients and others over use of public space
- Lower costs of police response dealing with homeless encampments
- Increased use of social services by transients
- Improved communication between the police and social services providers

Responses to the Problem of Homeless Encampments

Analyzing your local problem should give you a better understanding of the factors contributing to it. Once you have analyzed your local problem and established a baseline for measuring effectiveness, consider possible responses to address the problem.

The following responses, drawn from a variety of research studies and police reports, provide a foundation of ideas for addressing your problem. Several of these strategies may apply to your community's problem. It is critical that you tailor responses to local circumstances and that you can justify each response based on reliable analysis. In most cases, an effective strategy involves implementing several different responses. Law enforcement responses alone are seldom effective in reducing or solving the problem. Do not limit yourself to considering only what the police can do; give careful thought to others in your community who share responsibility for the problem and can help police better respond to it. The responsibility of responding, in some cases, may need to shift toward those who can implement more effective responses. (For more detailed information on shifting and sharing responsibility, see Response Guide No. 3, *Shifting and Sharing Responsibility for Public Safety Problems*).

General Principles for an Effective Strategy

1. Enlisting community support to address the problem. Because of the intense public debate in many cities about how to deal with homelessness, it is a very good idea to involve homeless advocacy groups early in your planning process. Otherwise, you risk being derailed later by legal challenges. Other stakeholders, particularly those who may be making demands for police action, such as residents, business owners, politicians, and city officials should be involved in negotiating what is acceptable in public spaces.† Dismantling homeless encampments or altering their environmental features to discourage living there can easily be perceived as cruel by some if they don't understand how the overall effort will improve the lives of both transients and the larger community. Notwithstanding your efforts, it is

unlikely that all will agree with the goal of eradicating homeless encampments.

† In Clearwater, a Neighborhood Advisory Committee was set up to monitor, advise, and provide volunteer services at a shelter established by the police department. Eventually the community dropped its resistance to the new shelter and became actively involved with it (Clearwater (Florida) Police Department, 2001).

2. Educating the community about homelessness. Community members often don't understand the factors that give rise to homelessness and the constitutional limits on police trying to manage problems associated with chronically homeless people on the streets. Better-informed citizens may be more receptive to fundraising efforts for programs and services for the homeless and may be less resistant to the placement of facilities for homeless people in their neighborhoods.

3. Educating police officers about homelessness. Negative interactions between police officers and homeless people can be avoided through educational efforts to change police culture and attitudes toward homelessness. Inviting homeless advocacy groups to help design and offer the curriculum can be very useful in building positive inter-agency relationships.††

†† The Fort Lauderdale Police Department's two-hour departmentwide course "Homelessness 101" was developed by the Broward Coalition for Homeless (Fort Lauderdale (Florida) Police Department, 2002).

4. Helping with your community's long-range homelessness plan. Police involvement in planning community-wide strategies to end homelessness is beneficial. Other people involved in planning need to hear what resources your department can bring to the table as well as any limits on your involvement.

Specific Responses to Homeless Encampments

Providing alternatives to homeless encampments

5. Promoting the "Housing First" model. This strategy for housing chronically homeless people puts them into their own permanent housing units first instead of first treating the underlying problems to make them "housing ready." The housing is seen mainly as a place to live. Treatment comes later.

An evaluation of this strategy in San Francisco found that the number of people living on the streets dropped by 41 percent in three years. More than 1,000 units of "permanent supportive housing" were established, and, of those who moved into such units, 95 percent remained housed.⁴⁴ In New York City, placing chronically homeless people with severe mental illnesses into supportive housing led to significantly fewer visits to emergency rooms, psychiatric wards, shelters, and jail. About 95 percent of the cost of providing the supportive housing was made up for by reductions in public service expenditures.⁴⁵ Other studies found that this approach results in more stable housing outcomes for participants (in terms of the percentage of participants still in housing after certain time frames) compared with standard care that begins with encouraging abstinence from alcohol and leads eventually to long-term housing.⁴⁶

This strategy seems promising for those living in homeless encampments. Surveys of these populations find that a large majority (about 75 percent) list their most preferred shelter option as a place of their own, followed by encampments. Very few prefer government-run camps, and hardly any of the people surveyed wanted to live in a mission or shelter.⁴⁷

6. Lobbying for more resources for mental health and substance abuse. Given the strong relationship

between residency in homeless encampments and dual diagnoses of addiction and mental illness, effective strategies to get people out of encampment life include long-term integrated treatment (i.e., treatment for both substance abuse and mental illness in the same program) and comprehensive case management.⁴⁸ Many communities have groups actively working to increase state and local government funding of these services.

7. Regulating structured camping facilities. This involves setting up an area where transients can encamp in relative safety, without the fear of violating laws and ordinances, and receive services as long as they follow facility rules. In Phoenix, Arizona, authorities established a campus for the unsheltered homeless that centralized their social services demands, including food, shelter, medical care, and employment services.⁴⁹ Such facilities are likely to garner negative reactions from nearby residents and business owners who fear an influx of petty criminals and a drop in property values and quality of life. Involving them early in the planning process, as Clearwater, Florida, police did when they built a homeless shelter, can help reduce these NIMBY ("not in my backyard") responses.

Tent cities, if they are not properly run, can be problematic.^{†††} Typical restrictions specified in municipal codes for jurisdictions that permit tent cities include:

- requiring a meeting with the community before establishing the encampment
- limiting the encampment's existence to a few months
- limiting the number of encampments that can operate in the jurisdiction at any one time
- limiting the number of times a location can be used for an encampment in a particular time period
- requiring a certain number of toilet and shower facilities
- restricting the use of heating and cooking devices
- specifying a minimum distance for the encampment from sensitive areas, such as schools, churches, playgrounds, and day care centers
- specifying a minimum distance from public transportation
- specifying the provision of social services to help homeless people out of their situations
- setting codes of conduct for residents

^{†††} See www.mrsc.org/Subjects/Housing/TentCity/TentCity.aspx for a comprehensive list of ordinances governing tent cities.

Changing the physical environment

8. Clear-cutting overgrown brush.[†] Transients like encampments to be surrounded by overgrown vegetation, but this can make the camps difficult for police to enter safely, especially at night. Before clearing brush, first determine who owns the land. Multi-agency cooperation may be necessary on land owned by the park service, municipal parks and recreation departments, or transportation and highway departments. You may also need to consult a landscape architect about what kinds of plants should replace what is removed. If a lot of brush needs to be cleared, consider asking neighborhood residents to help out.

[†] In San Diego, clearing brush along the side of an interstate resulted in a 100 percent reduction in calls-for-service, crime, out-of-service time for law enforcement, citations, arrests, and community complaints (San Diego (California) Police Department, 2003). In Anchorage, Alaska, a few homeless people lived in a small wooded strip between a residential area and a high-traffic roadway. After the low-lying brush was mysteriously cut back one weekend, the encampments disappeared.

Clearing brush can be effective short term. However, unless there are other changes to the area that make it unattractive to transients, the encampment is likely to reappear when the brush grows back. It is also possible the encampment will move to another location. If the encampment is close to neighboring jurisdictions, it can be worthwhile to work with agencies in these jurisdictions to anticipate and prevent this displacement.

9. Deploying water sprinklers. If the chronically homeless have set up camps in relatively small urban parks, setting water sprinklers to go off at various times can make sitting or lying on the grass less comfortable. Sprinklers on buildings can also be used to prevent people from sleeping on sidewalks.

10. Encouraging private property owners to secure vacant lots and buildings. Fencing and other barriers can make spaces less desirable for encampments because of the increased effort needed to reach the camp. On the other hand, making it harder to get to the encampment means it is less likely to be detected by police on routine patrol, which may actually serve to make the site more attractive.

11. Removing or altering street furniture. Dismantling park benches and the like, or installing spikes and other devices to discourage sitting or lying on flat, raised surfaces, can make places less attractive for idle transients. But this will affect the street homeless and the legitimate user of public space equally, as each will be denied a place to sit and rest. Better approaches involve encouraging property owners to modify surfaces in fairly benign ways or construct them so they do not promote long-term sitting. Examples include central armrests on benches, slanted surfaces at the bases of walls, prickly vegetation in planter boxes, and narrow or pointed treatments on tops of fences and ledges. However, some observers of public spaces argue that the way to lessen the impact of loitering homeless people is to construct even more desirable sitting environments to attract more legitimate users, thus decreasing the ratio of homeless to legitimate users.⁵⁰

Restricting access to goods and services that promote encampments

12. Restricting public feeding of transients. Health codes in many communities prohibit feeding people in public without appropriate permits and measures to ensure food safety. Zoning codes often specify what activities are allowable when providing services to homeless people. Religious groups have argued these prohibitions violate the freedom of religious expression under the First Amendment, the Equal Protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993.⁵¹

Responding to Public Feedings in Anchorage, Alaska

Instead of first enforcing health or zoning codes, it can be more productive to first engage stakeholders in discussions. For example, community leaders in Anchorage, Alaska, raised concerns about the negative impact on its commercial center of large groups of chronically homeless people showing up throughout the day and late at night for feedings from the back of a van. A short-term working group was formed to address the issue. The main stakeholders were the community members, the state office of Faith-Based Initiatives, the municipal department of health and human services, and leaders in the faith community. After several meetings and hearing the neighborhood's concerns, the faith leaders communicated to their congregations that this activity was unwelcome at that location. Congregants were encouraged to move to the grounds of a nearby soup kitchen that did not serve an evening meal. The majority of the food-givers relocated. One person refused to comply, arguing that she was doing "God's work" and would not be stopped. The police contacted the property owner where the feedings occurred and secured a letter asking the police to enforce trespassing laws against the woman. This, coupled with the threat of citations for health code violations, finally

brought an end to public feedings at that location.

13. Diverting donations from the public. Well-intentioned people who leave donations of food and clothing at encampment sites may not realize that their actions may do more to enable transients than help them out of their chronically homeless lifestyle. Public education can encourage citizens to direct their charitable energies toward programs and services that reduce the need for homeless encampments rather than supporting them.

Reducing negative impacts of "routine activities" of the chronically homeless

14. Installing more public toilets. If your community has a problem with homeless people excreting and urinating in public, it may be because there is no place else for them to go. Seattle put in more public toilets, automated stand-alone units with doors that open after 10 minutes, seats that retract for cleaning, and a system to hose down the floors. However, some community members thought the toilets were havens for drug dealers and prostitutes. There were also some mechanical failures.⁵² Because some members of the public might object to the high price of automated toilets, it may be better to start with portable toilets.^{††} In Fresno, California, and Grand Rapids, Michigan, several portable toilets were recently installed next to homeless encampments, although not without opposition from those who argued that this would legitimize the encampments. Health and sanitation concerns were deemed more important. Another approach to dealing with citizens' concerns about the cost of public toilets is to contract with companies that can provide public toilets in addition to other street "furniture" (such as litter receptacles, bus shelters, newsstands, and benches). Revenue is generated by placing advertising on the street furniture and charging people a small fee to use the toilets (which have cleaning systems and automatic doors to prevent long stays). These arrangements can make money for local government—New York City expects to bring in \$1 billion over 20 years.⁵³

^{††} An architect in Winnipeg, Manitoba, troubled by the strong smell of urine in doorways by his business, teamed up with the local Business Improvement Zone (BIZ) to install two portable toilets. Police and BIZ employees checked the toilets regularly to ensure they were not being used for criminal activity. Despite a reported reduction in urine odors, the city ordered their removal and declined to issue a permit (CBC News, 2008).

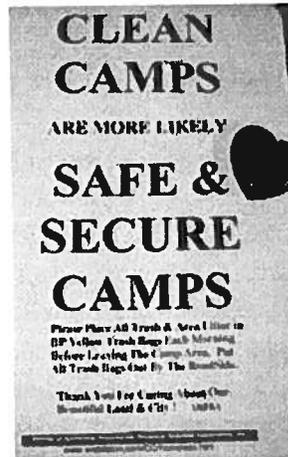
15. Opening a day resource center. These are "one-stop shops" where the chronically homeless can access services, use bathing facilities, and receive health care, food, etc.⁵⁴ People who reside in urban encampments are likely to benefit, and, at the very least, will be off the streets and out of public view for much of the day. Encampment dwellers who work during the day do not need the "drop-in" component of a day resource center, but could more efficiently access services. Opponents think this will just bring in more people, so providers of these facilities should strongly consider connecting the receipt of services to some sort of programming to transition people from homelessness.⁵⁵

In Fontana, California, the police worked with local churches and other service providers to create TEN-4 (Transient Enrichment Network for Fontana), a processing center that provides a hot shower, clean clothes, food, and assistance finding housing, employment, or placement in a long-term substance abuse treatment program. The facility is in a strip mall in an area of the city with a long-standing homelessness problem. If someone brought to the TEN-4 facility did not enter the program, he or she was given a ride away from the area. This helped alleviate business owners' concerns that the area around the center would be overrun by homeless people who were "dropped off" there. Also, homeless people who did not enter the program were not given any food or clothing, and were not allowed to use any restroom or shower facilities. These measures satisfied the business owners, who soon became strong supporters of TEN-4.⁵⁶

16. Working with land use enforcement officers. Most jurisdictions have land use codes that can prohibit homeless encampments on private property. They include restrictions or specifications on the type of ancillary dwelling

units permitted on property and regulations against camping. Squatting in buildings is generally prohibited through codes setting safety standards for occupancy of structures.

17. Cleaning up camp sites. Removal of trash and debris from homeless encampments can improve the unsanitary conditions there. However, without taking steps to permanently remove the inhabitants, this response is unlikely to result in long-term change to the encampment.



This notice is placed at encampments after they have been cleaned by volunteers. (Photo credit: Anchorage Responsible Beverage Retailers Association (ARBRA))

18. Shutting down homeless encampments. This response takes cleaning up camp sites much further and includes strategies to permanently remove the transients and discourage their return. The procedure for shutting down homeless encampments is multi-staged. Most successful plans include these elements, generally in this order:⁵⁷

- Visit the encampment to determine 1) how many people live there and if they have any special needs; 2) if there are any environmental hazards that need to be handled by trained personnel; and 3) the proper deployment of police officers and others to adequately carry out the plan.
- Determine which law enforcement agencies have jurisdiction in the encampment area. If there is more than one, as is often the case in wilderness areas where state or federal agencies may have jurisdiction, establish a Memorandum-of-Understanding (MOU) that specifies which agency will be responsible for law enforcement, safety, and environmental protection, and who will do what while the response is being implemented.
- Find out who owns the property in question. The laws pertaining to legality of encampments vary depending on whether the land is privately or publicly owned.
- Become familiar with your jurisdiction's laws regarding removal of personal property and people from transient encampments.
- Meet with representatives from homeless advocacy groups to advise them of your plan and why you are doing it. Data collected during the scanning phase of your project will be useful here. Consider inviting these groups to come along on your subsequent contacts with transients at the encampment.
- Arrange alternate shelter for all the transients *before* you begin to remove them from the encampment. This is an important step to avoid legal challenges on the basis of the unconstitutionality of punishing someone for carrying out a "physiological need"—sleeping.
- Provide all transients with a written notice advising them 1) they are violating the law by camping in the park, under the freeway overpass, etc; 2) they are subject to further law enforcement if they remain in the area; 3) of

- the location of the alternate shelter arranged specifically for them; and 4) by which date they must vacate the area.
- After the date of vacation passes, return to the encampment and issue citations to those still there. Tell them the date by which they must vacate and that they will be subject to arrest and seizure of property if they do not leave by then.
- After the second notice passes, arrest any remaining transients and store their belongings. Ask other agencies or government departments to assist you in removing this property. Be careful about potential constitutional violations regarding searches of property.
- Establish another MOU detailing who will be responsible for ensuring the encampment is not rebuilt. Consider having each agency contribute some resources for regular patrols of the affected areas, and ensure you have the capacity to immediately clean up an area if it begins to reestablish itself.
- Cut back any excessive foliage that hides the encampment area.
- Post signage in the former encampment indicating that camping is not permitted in the area.



Example of signage posted in a former encampment. (Photo credit: Anchorage Responsible Beverage Retailers Association (ARBRA))

19. Retrieving shopping carts. Some transients store their personal belongings in shopping carts, making it relatively easy for them to move from place to place. Often what is transported in the carts is not food or other grocery items but debris, soiled clothing, or animals. If a cart is returned to the store, its use by shoppers may constitute a health hazard.

Stores in areas populated by transients may be especially vulnerable to cart theft because many of their customers are pedestrians and cannot transport their goods home without a shopping cart. Further, these stores may lack the resources to install security devices on the carts or to allocate staff and a vehicle to patrol the neighborhood to pick up stray carts. Some cities, such as Phoenix, Arizona, allocate government funding to hire shopping cart pickup vendors to work in areas particularly afflicted by discarded carts.⁵⁸ Other cities have ordinances that require stores to contract with vendors whose business is retrieving abandoned shopping carts,⁵⁹ or to develop a plan to contain their carts on their property. This ordinance is widespread in California, where state law places numerous restrictions on the capacity of local governments to quickly retrieve abandoned shopping carts.^{†††}

††† See http://file.burbankca.gov/cityclerk/agendas/ag_council/2007/ag032007_Minutes.html for a good discussion about the legal implications of different methods of controlling abandoned shopping carts.

Improving police interactions with transients

20. Developing a departmental policy. About a quarter of sheriffs' offices and local police departments have written policies for contacts with homeless people.⁶⁰ A policy should include procedures for casual contacts and arrests, as well as details about how give notice to illegal campers and deal with the property of homeless people.[†] The use of appropriate record-keeping tools (to support efforts to assess the effectiveness of your intervention) could also be mandated by policy.

[†] For examples of policies, see the Fort Lauderdale (Florida) Police Department (<http://ci.ftlaud.fl.us/POLICE/homeless4.html>) and the Cincinnati (Ohio) Police Department (www.cincinnati-oh.gov/police/downloads/police_pdf7158.pdf).

21. Creating a specialized unit. Police departments in many cities, such as Santa Monica and San Diego, California, Pinellas Park and Fort Lauderdale, Florida, New York City, and Albuquerque, New Mexico, have established units to deal specifically with homeless people. There are different types of these units. In one variation, police accompany outreach workers on patrols through areas frequented by homeless people. Contacted homeless people are referred or transported to services. In Fort Lauderdale, police officers on the Homeless Outreach Team learned that wearing a uniform and driving a marked patrol car actually made it easier to contact homeless people. Being approached by someone in plain clothes and an unmarked car made the homeless fearful.⁶¹ Another variation is based less on patrol and more on crisis intervention. An example is the Homeless Outreach Team in San Diego, where in addition to homeless outreach efforts, police officers partner with mental health clinicians in a Psychiatric Emergency Response Team.⁶² A third variation is exemplified by the Homeless Liaison Program (HLP) in Santa Monica. There, a specially trained unit of about six police officers reaches out to transients and refers them to services. The HLP Team established contacts with short-term and long-term housing providers, job placement services, and treatment programs for mental illness and substance abuse disorders.⁶³

Responses with Limited Effectiveness

22. Enforcing "sidewalk behavior" ordinances. "Sidewalk behavior" ordinances prohibit behaviors on public sidewalks. Examples of these prohibited behaviors include lying or sitting on the sidewalk, or on any object placed on the sidewalk; impeding or obstructing the passage of pedestrians by getting in their way or putting obstacles on the sidewalk; leaving belongings unattended on sidewalks; and soliciting.⁶⁴ There have been successful class-action legal challenges^{††} to arrests of homeless people for sleeping in public places and carrying out other "life-sustaining functions."⁶⁵ The courts' decision rules have generally been:

^{††} See, for example, *Pottinger v. City of Miami*, *Johnson v. City of Dallas*, and *Jones v. City of Los Angeles*.

- 1) Are the plaintiffs involuntarily homeless? If your community does not have enough shelter beds to house all the homeless people, a court is likely to rule, based on precedent, that homelessness is not a choice and thus involuntary.
- 2) Do the plaintiffs have access to non-public spaces to carry out the punished activities? If your community lacks bathing and toilet facilities for the homeless, enforcement of laws prohibiting these activities could run into legal challenges.
- 3) Are the activities for which the plaintiff is being punished involuntary? Courts have tended to rule that sleeping and excretion are involuntary.

Beyond the legal impediments to enforcing these ordinances, it is likely that some offenders might welcome being arrested for these sorts of activities. It gives them a chance to be off the street for a short period of time in a place where they can eat, get warm, and clean up. Before long, they will back in the same area doing the very things for which they were arrested.⁶⁶

23. Enforcing ordinances against panhandling. Only a small percentage of chronically homeless people are panhandlers.^{†67} Therefore, cracking down on panhandlers is not likely to have a significant impact on transient encampments. Furthermore, the legal impediments to successful enforcement of anti-begging laws are great.^{††}

† American ethnographic studies and small-scale surveys of people living on the street or in transient encampments show that about 20–30 percent engage in panhandling. This percentage was considerably higher in a Scottish study however (Fitzpatrick and Kennedy, 2000).

†† See [Problem-Specific Guide No. 13, Panhandling](#) for more information.

24. Doing "bum" sweeps. One common strategy is the "bum sweep," where police temporarily concentrate resources in a troubled area and arrest a lot of homeless people for minor offenses or on outstanding warrants. Sweeps can clean up an area very quickly, but they are not generally effective for a number of reasons. First, they can create an adversarial relationship between this group and the police, and, second, they can encourage unproductive interaction with homeless advocates.⁶⁸ Finally, there is no evidence that sweeps have any long-term effect. As an isolated response, crackdowns against the street homeless are not advised. However, there is evidence from studies of crackdowns on serious crime (mostly drug markets) that they can be effective if done in conjunction with other strategies.^{†††69}

††† See [Response Guide No. 1, The Benefits and Consequences of Police Crackdowns](#) for more information.

25. Creating safe zones. These areas, wherein homeless people can live without fear of arrest for carrying out the routine behaviors of daily life, typically combine temporary shelter with services such as medical care, meals, and employment assistance. Homeless encampment residents prefer these to shelters.⁷⁰ In practice though, safe zones are not effective. Their location in industrial parts of cities makes community opposition unlikely, but also isolates inhabitants from the services and employment opportunities that might help them transition out of chronic homelessness. It is also possible that this isolation might actually increase the divide between safe zone residents and "housed" people.⁷¹ The city of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, was compelled by court order to establish a safe zone—four tents in a downtown parking lot. It had feedings, showers, and restrooms, and ended up attracting new homeless people to the city. The safe zone became rife with crime. Overall, the effort proved not to be cost-effective.⁷²

26. Increasing the capacity of local shelters. It is not always true that people reside in transient encampments due to lack of shelter space. Campers resist going to shelters for a variety of reasons. Some shelters cost too much, prohibit alcohol use, couple shelter with religious outreach, or refuse admittance to those with certain types of criminal histories (sex offenders in particular). Those who are denied entry once are not likely to try again. Relaxing these rules might make shelters more palatable to this group of chronically homeless people. On the other hand, allowing anyone into shelters would lead others to avoid them for personal safety reasons. Finding a balance can be difficult.⁷³

In two studies of homeless encampment residents, only 25–41 percent said they would go willingly to shelters. If forced to leave their encampment, a larger percentage said they would just find a more secluded place to live, and others said they would continue to stay at their encampment, even if it meant risking arrest.⁷⁴

Summary of Responses to Homeless Encampments

The table below summarizes the responses to homeless encampments, the mechanisms by which they are intended to work, the conditions under which they ought to work best, and some factors you should consider before implementing a particular response. It is critical that you tailor responses to local circumstances, and that you can justify each response based on reliable analysis. In most cases, an effective strategy will involve implementing several different responses. Law enforcement responses alone are seldom effective in reducing or solving the problem.

Response No.	Response	How It Works	Works Best If...	Considerations
General Principles for an Effective Strategy				
1	Enlisting community support to address the problem	Involving stakeholders early on increases likelihood of support for responses and reduces risk of lawsuits	...there is consensus about how to define the problem and the possible solutions	Some advocacy groups are unreceptive to other views and may attempt to derail your efforts
2	Educating the community about homelessness	Makes people's expectations of what police can do more realistic; reduces "NIMBY" response	...there is a tradition of civic engagement in the community	Some citizens may resist learning about the causes of and effective responses to chronic homelessness if these ideas are contrary to their moral values
3	Educating police officers about homelessness	Improves interaction between police officers and homeless people	...the training leads to changes in attitudes and beliefs about the chronically homeless	Some officers resent "sensitivity" training
4	Helping with your community's long-range homelessness plan	Ensures that police interests are included in the plan	...stakeholders involved in the plan are receptive to input from police	Some stakeholders are hostile to the police and do not view them as allies
Providing Alternatives to Homeless Encampments				
5	Promoting the "Housing First" model	Puts hard-to-place chronically homeless people into housing immediately	...the infrastructure exists in your community	Finding locations for these housing facilities can be difficult in some communities
6	Lobbying for more resources for mental health and substance abuse treatment	Increases treatment options for those who need them	...this treatment is provided in conjunction with housing	Citizens resent paying taxes to help people with substance abuse problems and mental illness
7	Regulating structured camping facilities	Creates an area for transients to camp safely	...a suitable location can be found that meets community needs	The facility may be located on undesirable land far from services transients need
Changing the Physical Environment				

8	Clear-cutting of overgrown brush	Removes privacy for transients and barriers to encampment detection; assists natural surveillance	...vegetation is not allowed to grow back to previous levels	Clearing only small areas at a time may displace transients to nearby spots to set up new encampments
9	Deploying water sprinklers	Makes the encampment area wet and the ground less desirable to sit or lie on	...sprinklers are set to go off at random times to increase unpredictability	Legitimate users of the space, such as picnickers and sunbathers, may be annoyed
10	Encouraging private property owners to secure vacant lots and buildings	Access to potential sites for transient encampments is blocked	...measures used to secure the space are checked regularly to ensure they have not been compromised	If encampments are established in areas with limited access, it will be harder for the police to find them
11	Removing or altering street furniture	Reduces the number of places to comfortably sit or lie down in public	...alterations will not cause physical injury	Legitimate users may object to the loss of streetscape amenities
Restricting Access to Goods and Services that Promote Encampments				
12	Restricting public feeding of transients	Prevents gathering of transients	...the health department provides support	Food providers may view restrictions as harsh and uncaring
13	Diverting donations from the public	Reduces funds available to support encampment lifestyle	...there is a mechanism to permanently block drop-off sites near encampments	Some people will think the response is harsh and uncaring
Reducing Negative Impacts of "Routine Activities" of the Chronically Homeless				
14	Installing more public toilets	Facilitates compliance with community standards on personal hygiene	...low-cost models are used at the beginning	Toilets can become havens for criminals
15	Opening a day resource center	Puts transients in direct contact with service providers in one location	...use of facility amenities is tied in with program participation	Nearby residents and businesses may work to block location of the facility in their neighborhood
16	Working with land use enforcement officers	Sets rules about what activities and uses are permitted; encourages place management by property owner	...transients are encamped on private property	Fining property owners may not directly affect the transients encamped on the property
17	Cleaning up camp sites	Denies benefits of encampment by removing personal property and amenities	...done in conjunction with legal measures to remove transients	This may not work if measures are not taken to prevent the reestablishment of the encampment
18	Shutting down homeless encampments	Long-term denial of benefits for transients by removing their personal property	...there is extensive planning before the intervention and multi-agency cooperation for implementation and follow-up	Displacement of transients to other encampments is likely unless they are provided with more desirable shelter alternatives
19	Retrieving shopping carts	Removes facilitator of transient lifestyle	...there is an ordinance in place making stores	Local grocery stores may lack resources to prevent theft of carts or

			responsible for retrieval or containment of carts	collect them regularly
Improving Police Interactions With Transients				
20	Developing a departmental policy	Sets standards for contacts with homeless people	...the policies and procedures support the departmental mission and values of the department and the community	Homeless advocates may scrutinize the policy and its implementation
21	Creating a specialized unit	Ensures rapid identification of homeless people in need of help	...police work together with social service providers to access services for homeless	Homeless advocates may view police involvement unfavorably
Responses With Limited Effectiveness				
22	Enforcing "sidewalk behavior" ordinances	Restores orderliness to public spaces and discourages unwanted behaviors	...ordinances can be written so they do not violate constitutional protections	In addition to potential legal challenges, these ordinances can reinforce undesired activity by rewarding the offender with a warm bed and food
23	Enforcing ordinances against panhandling	Increases the effort required by panhandlers to make money	...there is a large overlap between panhandlers and transients in your community; ordinances do not violate constitutionally protected freedoms	Most people who live in transient encampments are not panhandlers
24	Doing "bum" sweeps	Temporarily removes transients from public spaces	...if done in conjunction with other strategies	In addition to creating an adversarial relationship with the homeless and their advocates, there is no evidence that it works
25	Creating safe zones	Isolates transients in an area where their behaviors will disturb fewer people	...services to transition out of chronic homelessness are accessible in the safe zone	Industrial zone locations cut off transients from needed services; increased services may attract new homeless people to the area
26	Increasing the capacity of local shelters	Provides alternatives to encampment living	...there is an actual demand for shelter services among the transient population	Transients find shelters less desirable than encampments, and some transients would be denied entry to shelters

Endnotes

- [1] Nicol (2001).
- [2] U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2008a).
- [3] U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2008b).

[4] U. S. Conference of Mayors (2008).

[5] U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2008b).

[6] Amster (2003); Cousineau (1993).

[7] Cousineau (1993).

[8] Cousineau (1993); Erlenbusch, Marr, and White (2001).

[9] Cousineau (1993); Tempe, Arizona, Homeless Task Force (2000); San Diego (California) Police Department (1999); Swope (2005); Lawson, S. (2002); Aubry, Klodawsky, Hay, and Birnie (2003).

[10] Cousineau (1993); Erlenbusch, Marr, and White (2001), Tempe, Arizona, Homeless Task Force (2000).

[11] Cousineau (1993).

[12] Newport Beach (California) Police Department (2000); Reno (Nevada) Police Department (1998).

[13] Tempe, Arizona, Homeless Task Force (2000); Harcourt (2005).

[14] Allen, Lehman, Green, Lindegren, Onorato, and Forrester (1994); National Coalition for the Homeless (2008b); Zenger (2002).

[15] Cousineau (1993); Tempe, Arizona, Homeless Task Force (2000); Harcourt (2005).

[16] Constable (2008).

[17] Ballintyne (1999).

[18] Newburn and Rock (2005).

[19] National Coalition for the Homeless (2008a).

[20] National Coalition for the Homeless (2008a).

[21] Sahagun and Bloomekatz (2008).

[22] Huichochea (2008).

[23] Pacheco (2007).

[24] Minugh (2008).

[25] Mallory (2002).

[26] Bureau of Justice Statistics (2008).

[27] Reno (Nevada) Police Department (1998); San Diego (California) Police Department (1995).

[28] Fischer (1998); Snow, Baker, and Anderson (1989).

[29] Snow, Baker, and Anderson (1989).

[30] Snow, Baker, and Anderson (1989).

[31] Snow, Baker, and Anderson (1989); Foscarinis (1996); Foscarinis, Cunningham-Bowers, and Brown (1999), Simon (1995).

[32] Snow, Baker, and Anderson (1989).

[33] Newport Beach (California) Police Department (2000); San Diego (California) Police Department (1995, 1999, 2003); San Diego (California) Police Department, Northern Division (2001); Reno (Nevada) Police Department (1998); Fontana (California) Police Department (1998).

[34] Newport Beach (California) Police Department (2000).

[35] Berkley and Thayer (2000).

[36] Berkley and Thayer (2000).

[37] Newport Beach (California) Police Department (2000); Reno (Nevada) Police Department (1998).

[38] Balles (2008); Siemers (2008).

[39] Swope (2005).

[40] Balles (2008).

[41] Dallas (Texas) Police Department, Northwest Operations Division (1999).

[42] Cousineau (1993); Fontana (California) Police Department (1998); Erlenbusch, Marr, and White (2001); Constable (2008).

[43] U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2008a).

[44] Swope (2005).

[45] Culhane, Metraux, and Hadley (2002).

[46] Alliance to End Homelessness in Ottawa (2006); De Jong (2007).

[47] Cousineau (1993); Erlenbusch, Marr, and White (2001).

[48] McMurray-Avila, Gelberg, and Breakey (1999); Drake, Osher, and Wallach (1991); Drake, Mercer-McFadden, Mueser, McHugo, and Bond (1998); Drake, Mueser, Brunette, and McHugo (2004).

[49] Amster (2003).

[50] Whyte (1980).

[51] National Coalition for the Homeless and National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (2006).

[52] Shen (2007).

[53] Hu (2005); Roberts (2008).

[54] Tempe, Arizona, Homeless Task Force (2000).

[55] Berkley and Thayer (2000).

[56] Fontana (California) Police Department (1998).

[57] Newport Beach (California) Police Department (2000); Reno (Nevada) Police Department (1998)

[58] Moravcik (2005).

[59] City of Concord (California) (2009).

[60] Bureau of Justice Statistics (2006a, 2006b).

[61] Fort Lauderdale (Florida) Police Department (2002),

[62] San Diego (California) Police Department (1999).

[63] Groves (2009); City of Santa Monica (California) (2008); Melekian (1990).

[64] Leckerman (2001).

[65] Leckerman (2001); Foscarinis (1996); National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (2003).

[66] San Diego (California) Police Department (1995).

[67] Ellickson (1996); Cousineau (1993).

[68] Fort Lauderdale (Florida) Police Department (2002),

[69] Scott (2004).

[70] Cousineau (1993); Erlenbusch, Marr, and White (2001).

[71] Foscarinis (1996).

[72] Fort Lauderdale (Florida) Police Department (2002).

[73] Jencks (1994); Cousineau (1993); Erlenbusch, Marr, and White (2001).

[74] Cousineau (1993); Erlenbusch, Marr, and White (2001).

References

Abt Associates Inc. (2008). *A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development.

Allen, D., J. Lehman, T. Green, M. Lindegren, I. Onorato, and W. Forrester (1994). "HIV Infection Among Homeless Adults and Runaway Youth, United States, 1989-1992." *AIDS* 8(11):1593-1598.

Alliance to End Homelessness in Ottawa (2006). *Experiencing Homelessness: Second Report Card on Homelessness in Ottawa (Jan-Dec 2005)*. Ottawa, O.N.T.: The Alliance.

Amster, R. (2003). "Patterns of Exclusion: Sanitizing Space, Criminalizing Homelessness." *Social Justice* 30(1):195-221.

Aubry, T., F. Klodawsky, E. Hay, and S. Birnie (2003). *Panel Study on Persons Who Are Homeless in Ottawa: Phase 1 Results: Final Report*. Ottawa, O.N.T.: Centre for Research on Community Services, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ottawa.

Balles, J. (2008). "Executive Summary of Chronic Nuisance Behavior Project," Inter-departmental memo, Madison Police Department, November 11.

- Ballintyne, S. (1999). *Unsafe Streets: Street Homeless and Crime*. London: Institute for Public Policy Research.
- Berkley, B., and J. Thayer (2000). "Policing Entertainment Districts." *Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies and Management* 23 (4): 466-491.
- Carter, D., and A. Sapp (1993). "Police Response to Street People." *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin* 62(3):5-11.
- CBC News (2008). *Winnipeg Orders Removal of Toilets Installed for Homeless*. September 11. Accessed Jan 3, 2009 at <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/manitoba/story/2008/09/11/portajohns.html>.
- Concord (California) (2009). *Shopping Cart Pickup*. Accessed on March 23, 2009 at <http://www.ci.concord.ca.us/living/shoppingcarts.htm>
- Constable, E. (2008). "The Criminal Victimization of the Homeless: The National Problem and its Presence in Green Bay." Unpublished manuscript. Madison, W.I.: University of Wisconsin.
- Cousineau, M. (1993). *A Profile of Urban Encampments in Central Los Angeles*. Los Angeles: Los Angeles Coalition to End Homelessness.
- Culhane, D., S. Metraux, and T. Hadley (2002). "Public Service Reductions Associated with Placement of Homeless Persons with Severe Mental Illness in Supportive Housing." *Housing Policy Debate* 13(1):107-163.
- Dallas (Texas) Police Department, Northwest Operations Division (1999). "Stemmons Corridor Service Delivery Project." Submission for the Herman Goldstein Award for Excellence in Problem-Oriented Policing. [ Full Text]
- De Jong, I. (2007). "What 'Housing First' Means to People Housed Under Toronto's Streets to Homes Program: Preliminary Findings of 2007 Post-Occupancy Research." Toronto, O.N.T.: City of Toronto, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration Division.
- Drake, R., C. Mercer-McFadden, K. Mueser, G. McHugo, and G. Bond (1998). "Review of Integrated Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment for Patients With Dual Disorders." *Schizophrenia Bulletin* 24(4):589-608.
- Drake, R., F. Osher, and M. Wallach (1991). "Homelessness and Dual Diagnosis," *American Psychologist* 46(11):1149-1158.
- Drake, R., K. Mueser, M. Brunette, and G. McHugo (2004). "A Review of Treatments for People with Severe Mental Illnesses and Co-occurring Substance Use Disorders." *Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal* 27(4):360-374.
- Ellickson, R. (1996). "Controlling Chronic Misconduct in City Spaces: Of Panhandlers, Skid Rows, and Public Space Zoning." *Yale Law Journal* 105(5):1165-1248
- Erlenbusch, B., M. Marr, and P. White (2001). *Life on Industrial Avenue: A Profile of an Urban Encampment In Downtown Los Angeles With Ten Policy Recommendations*. Los Angeles: Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger & Homelessness.

Fischer, P. (1988). "Criminal Activity Among the Homeless: A Study of Arrests in Baltimore." *Hospital and Community Psychiatry* 39(1):46-51.

Fitzpatrick, S., and C. Kennedy (2000). *Getting By: The Links Between Begging and Rough Sleeping in Glasgow and Edinburgh*. Report to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Glasgow: Department of Urban Studies, University of Glasgow.

Fontana (California) Police Department (1998). "Transient Enrichment Network (TEN-4) for Fontana." Submission for the Herman Goldstein Award for Excellence in Problem-Oriented Policing. [ Full Text]

Fort Lauderdale (Florida) Police Department (2002). "Police Response to Homelessness: The Fort Lauderdale Model." Submission for the Herman Goldstein Award for Excellence in Problem-Oriented Policing. [ Full Text]

Foscarinis, M. (1996). "Downward Spiral: Homelessness and Its Criminalization." *Yale Law & Policy Review* 14(1):1-63.

Foscarinis, M., K. Cunningham-Bowers and K. Brown (1999). "Out of Sight – Out of Mind?: The Continuing Trend Toward the Criminalization of Homelessness." *Georgetown Journal of Poverty Law & Policy* 6(2):145-164.

Groves, M. (2009). "Santa Monica Sees Some Progress in its Battle to Get the Homeless Off the Streets." *Los Angeles Times*, February 26. Accessed March 23, 2009 at <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-santamonica-homeless26-2009feb26,0,6521551.story>

Harcourt, B. (2005). "Policing L.A.'s Skid Row: Crime and Real Estate Redevelopment in Downtown Los Angeles (An Experiment in Real Time)." *University of Chicago Legal Forum* (2005):325-403.

Hu, W. (2005). "Deal is Reached to Put Toilets on City Streets." *New York Times*, September 22. Accessed March 22, 2009 at <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/09/22/nyregion/22furniture.html>.

Huichochea, A. (2008). "Man fatally stabbed at homeless camp." *Arizona Daily Star*, Nov. 13. Accessed Jan 2, 2009.

Jencks, C. (1994). *The Homeless*. Cambridge, M.A.: Harvard University Press.

Lawson, S. (2002). *Response to Homelessness Strategy 2002 – 06*. Brisbane: Brisbane City Council, Social Policy Branch, Community and Economic Development.

Leckerman, J. (2001). "City of Brotherly Love?: Using the Fourteenth Amendment to Strike Down an Anti-Homeless Ordinance in Philadelphia." *University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law* 3(1): 540-572.

Mallory, P. (2002). *Crimes Committed Against Homeless Persons: Special Report to the Legislature on Senate Resolution 18*. San Francisco: California Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics Center.

McMurray-Avila, M., L. Gelberg, and W. Breakey (1999). "Balancing Act: Clinical Practices That Respond to the Needs of Homeless People." In Fosburg, F.B. and Dennis, D.L. (eds) *Practical Lessons: The 1998 National Symposium on*

Homelessness Research. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Melekian, B. (1990). "Police and the Homeless." *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin* 59(11):1-7.

Moravcik, M. (2005). "City OKs Funding for Shopping Cart Pickup." *The Arizona Republic*, June 11. Accessed March 23, 2009 at http://www.nowpublic.com/city_oks_funding_for_shopping_cart_pickup

National Coalition for the Homeless (2008a). *Hate, Violence and Death on Main Street USA: A Report on Hate Crimes and Violence Against People Experiencing Homelessness, 2007*. Washington, D.C.: The Coalition.

National Coalition for the Homeless (2008b). *HIV/AIDS and Homelessness*. NCH Fact Sheet #9. Washington, D.C.: The Coalition.

National Coalition for the Homeless and National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (2006). *A Dream Denied: The Criminalization of Homelessness in U.S. Cities*. Washington, D.C.: National Coalition for the Homeless and National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty.

National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (2003). *Punishing Poverty: The Criminalization of Homelessness, Litigation, and Recommendations for Solutions*. Washington, D.C.: The Law Center.

Newburn, T., and P. Rock (2005). *Living in Fear: Violence and Victimization in the Lives of Single Homeless People*. London: Crisis UK.

Newport Beach (California) Police Department (2000). "Talbert Regional Park." Submission for the Herman Goldstein Award for Excellence in Problem-Oriented Policing. [ Full Text]

Nicol, J. (2001). "Life in 'Tent City'." *Maclean's* 114(3):14-15.

Pacheco, W. (2007). "Homeless camp is site of 3rd killing." *Orlando Sentinel*. Aug. 23. Accessed Jan 2, 2009 at <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/crime/orl-db-homicide-stephenking,0,1080095.story>

Roberts, R. (2008). "Coming Soon: A Public Toilet, Fully Sterilized, for \$1." *National Post*, June 9. Accessed March 22, 2009 at <http://network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs/toronto/archive/2008/06/09/coming-soon-a-public-toilet-fully-sterilized-for-1.aspx>

Sahagun, L., and A. Bloomekatz (2008). "One of the five shot at camp in Long Beach wasn't homeless, family says." *LA Times*, Nov. 4. Accessed Jan 2, 2009 at <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-homeless4-2008nov04,0,5585535.story>

San Diego (California) Police Department (1995). "Otay River Valley: Cleaning Up Crime and Disorder in a River Valley." Submission for the Herman Goldstein Award for Excellence in Problem-Oriented Policing. [ Full Text]

San Diego (California) Police Department (1999). "Homeless Outreach Team (H.O.T. Team)." Submission for the

Herman Goldstein Award for Excellence in Problem-Oriented Policing. [Full Text]

San Diego (California) Police Department (2003). "Transient Project – Interstate 805 Corridor." Submission for the Herman Goldstein Award for Excellence in Problem-Oriented Policing. [Full Text]

San Diego (California) Police Department, Northern Division (2001). "Transient Problems at the Clairemont Square Mall in San Diego, California." Submission for the Herman Goldstein Award for Excellence in Problem-Oriented Policing. [Full Text]

Santa Monica (California) (2008). *Homeless Liaison Program (HLP)*. Accessed March 23, 2009.

Scott, M. (2002). *Panhandling*. Problem-Oriented Guides for Police Series; Guide No. 13. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. [Full Text]

Scott, M. (2004). *The Benefits and Consequences of Police Crackdowns*. Response Guides for Police Series; Guide No. 1. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. [Full Text]

Shen, L. (2007). "Were High-Tech Toilets Worth \$6.6 Million?" *The Seattle Times*. September 4. Accessed Jan 3, 2009 at http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2003867372_toilets04m.html.

Siemers, S. (2008). "Brittingham Park." Unpublished manuscript. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin.

Simon, H. (1995). "The Criminalization of Homelessness in Santa Ana, California: A Case Study." *Clearinghouse Review* 29(8-9):725-729.

Snow, D., S. Baker and L. Anderson. "Criminality and Homeless Men: An Empirical Assessment." *Social Problems* 36(5) (1989): 532-549.

Swope, C. (2005). "A Roof to Start With." *Governing* 19(3):38-42.

Tempe, Arizona, Homeless Task Force (2000). *Volume 1: Homeless Task Force Report*. Tempe, A.Z.: Tempe Community Council.

U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics (2006a). *Local Police Departments, 2003*, Table 48. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice. [Full Text]

U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics (2006b). *Sheriffs' Offices, 2003*, Table 48. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice. [Full Text]

U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics (2008). *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2006: Statistical Tables*, Table 27. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice. [Full Text]

U. S. Conference of Mayors (2008). *Hunger and Homelessness Survey: A Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America's Cities, a 25-City Survey*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Conference of Mayors.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2008a). *A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People*. (2nd ed.) Washington, D.C.: Office of Community Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. [ Full Text]

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2008b). *The Third Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress*. Washington, D.C.: Office of Community Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. [ Full Text]

Washoe County Sheriff's Office (Washoe, NV, US) (1998). "Truckee River Area Project." Submission for the Herman Goldstein Award for Excellence in Problem-Oriented Policing. [ Full Text]

Whyte, W. H. (1980). *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*. New York, NY: Project for Public Spaces.

Zerger, S. (2002). *A Preliminary Review of Literature: Chronic Medical Illness and Homeless Individuals*. Nashville, TN: National Health Care for the Homeless Council.

Related POP Projects

Important!

The quality and focus of these submissions vary considerably. With the exception of those submissions selected as winners or finalists, these documents are unedited and are reproduced in the condition in which they were submitted. They may nevertheless contain useful information or may report innovative projects.

ACT TEAM: Agencies Concerned Together for Transients, the Environment, and Abating Misdeeds, Irwindale Police Department (CA, US), 2004

Clearwater Homeless Intervention Project, Clearwater Police Department (FL, US), 2001

Homeless Outreach Team [Goldstein Award Winner], Colorado Springs Police Department, 2010

Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), San Diego Police Department, 1999

Otay River Valley [Goldstein Award Finalist], San Diego Police Department, 1995

Police Response to Homelessness, Fort Lauderdale Police Department, 2002

Stemmons Corridor Service Delivery Project, Dallas Police Department, 1999

Talbert Regional Park, Newport Beach Police Department (CA, US), 2000

The Transient Enrichment Network (TEN-4) [Goldstein Award Finalist], Fontana Police Department (CA, US), 1998

Transient Problems at the Clairemont Square Mall, San Diego Police Department, 2001

Transient Project Interstate 805 Corridor, San Diego Police Department, 2003

Truckee River Project, Washoe County Sheriff's Office (NV, US), 1998

COPS

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603-7624

(907) 235-8121



MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR HORNADAY AND CITY COUNCIL
THROUGH: WALT WREDE, CITY MANAGER
FROM: PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
RE: 2012 BUDGET REQUESTS AND NARRATIVE
DATE: September 27, 2011

BACKGROUND

At the regular meeting the commission spent considerable time discussing the 2012 budgetary needs for park maintenance and the commission. A request and narrative has been included. The following is an excerpt of the discussion held during the Regular Meeting of September 15, 2011 under Staff Reports and Pending Business:

F. Staff Report – Renee Krause

Ms. Krause inquired if there were any questions. She described the progress with the work being done on the City Hall Renovations. The Budget is on her Staff Report and under the section for Parks and Campgrounds.

The information included in the packet was for 2011 budget. Ms. Krause explained that it can be discussed at this meeting. Commissioner Brann expressed the fear of missing important deadlines.

She confirmed that Council will receive the first draft of the Budget proposed for 2012 at the September 26, 2011 Council Meeting. She further added that the information so far has been status quo from 2011.

Ms. Krause recommended that the commissioners discuss asking for a small budget to use for Park day or completing a small project or whatever they decide. The Chair agreed with asking for a small amount to hold Park Day.

Ms. Krause explained that Park Day was the only function that the commission has; she stated it does not hurt to ask. She directed they discuss this further under pending business.

There was a brief discussion on the benefits of requesting a budget of \$1000.00 under Pending Business.

Ms. Krause explained that waiting until the October commission meeting would be too late possibly to request funding. A request for \$35,000.00 for a vault toilet and reinstating personnel was to be submitted by Ms. Otteson.

Further discussion on what meetings of city council will have the budget on the agenda. Ms. Krause further reiterated that it could be discussed under pending business.

There was no further discussion.

C. Budget 2012 – Discussion on Advocating for Appropriations for Parks and Recreational Events, Needs and Programs for 2012

- 1. Shared Costs for Spit Restroom Maintenance*
- 2. 2011 Budget information*

Commissioner Cumming inquired if the commission was interested in applying for the Soil and Water Conservation Grant which required being included in the 2012 budget. She responded to a query from Chair Bremicker that the grant is used for recreational purposes and is federally funded coming through a state agency, any work must be ADA

compliant.

There was additional discussion on whether the matching funds require being included in the budget cycle. It was not known at this time if the grant would be available for 2012 but if the call goes out then the Commissioners should entertain a discussion. It was questioned whether the matching funds would have to be included in this budget cycle. Commissioner Brann reminded Chair Bremicker about submitting a Budget Request for Park Day. Commissioner Harrald noted that they did leave monies from the Legislative Grant for Karen Hornaday Park but then those grant funds would have to be used for that park only.

Staff will look into the requirements and report back. Ms. Krause noted that there is currently a lot of focus on Karen Hornaday Park and that there are a number of other city parks and trails that deserve the Commissions attention.

It was agreed to bring this back on the October agenda.

The commissioners then reviewed the shared costs for the restrooms on the Spit. It was commented that all the costs including electric, water and sewer is taken out of parks and recreation funds. It was questioned whether the commissioners need to address this since it is being handled by the Harbor and Public Works and they did not need to jump into the battle. This explains why the expenses are so high for the parks maintenance.

There was a discussion on these expenses being the reasons for the inability to properly maintain the park facilities. They will discuss this on the October agenda.

BRANN/HARRALD -MOVED TO DIRECT STAFF TO SUBMIT A BUDGET REQUEST TO THE CITY MANAGER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000.00 FOR THE ANNUAL PARK DAY AND OTHER EVENTS.

There was a brief discussion regarding the lack of a budget this year, and in 2010 they did not have the membership on the commission, prevented them from being able to hold the annual event. This event not only recognizes the parks but also gets some sprucing up and minor maintenance completed as well.

It was noted that in years past they were given \$1500 out of the parks maintenance fund and they are only requesting \$1000.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Budget Request for 2012.

CITY OF HOMER
DEPARTMENT BUDGET REQUEST
YEAR 2012

Requesting Department PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY COMMISSION Date 9/27/2011

Level of Need: Urgent Essential Necessary Desirable

Request for Additional Personnel:
Position Title NA
Salary Range & Step _____
Full-time
Part-time Hours Per Year _____

Request Other Than Personnel:
Description TO PROVIDE SUPPLIES AND FOOD
FOR THE ANNUAL PARK DAY

Fund Name: GENERAL

(FINANCE DEPT WILL COMPLETE)	
5101 Permanent Employees	_____
5102 Fringe Benefits	_____
5103 P/T Employees	_____
5104 Fringe Benefits P/T	_____
5105 Overtime	_____
Total Personnel Cost	_____

Account Name: _____

Account # 100-175

Estimated Cost: \$1,000

The Park Day event was held annually and paid for out of the park maintenance fund. Supplies such as charcoal, hot dogs, buns, condiments, snacks such as apples, carrots plus water were provided to celebrate the City parks and trails. Volunteers provided much needed help in cleaning up one of the local parks. Due to the lack of members on the Commission in 2010 and a budget for 2011 this well attended annual event was not held.

Requestor's Name: PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Department Head Approval: _____

City Manager Recommendation: _____ Date _____

Approved _____

Denied _____

Comments _____

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Budget Narrative 2012

MARKETING

Advertising, \$300

Newspaper/Flyers.

Advertise the Events in a local newspaper and purchase colored paper for staff to produce flyers for posting at local establishments and distribute to the city information kiosks.

SUPPLIES/EVENTS

Summer Park Day Event

Winter Community Ice Skate Event

Supplies and Food, \$700

The commission would use this amount to augment donations from local vendors to provide hot dogs, buns, condiments, healthy snacks such as carrots, apples, celery and bottled water, hot chocolate, coffee and to purchase charcoal.

**CITY OF HOMER
2012 OPERATING BUDGET**

**FUND 100
175 - PARKS/RECREATION/CEMETARY**

	FY2008 Actual	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 Budget	FY 2012 Proposed Budget	Difference Between 2011 Adopted & 2012 Proposed Budget	
Salaries and Benefits							
5101 Regular Employees	\$ 104,238	\$ 82,881	\$ 96,298	\$ 90,462	\$ 84,686	(5,776)	-6.38%
5102 Fringe Benefits	66,336	59,300	68,998	61,910	57,543	(4,367)	-7.05%
5103 P/T Employees	76,436	77,537	75,909	57,091	68,655	11,564	20.26%
5104 Fringe Benefits P/T	13,378	11,729	13,659	7,707	9,268	1,561	20.26%
5105 Overtime	1,548	2,682	362	1,520	1,520	-	0.00%
5107 P/T Overtime	2,325	835	1,224	-	-	-	0.00%
Total Salaries and Benefits	264,261	234,963	256,450	218,690	221,672	2,982	1.36%
Maintenance and Operations							
5202 Operating Supplies	11,541	9,325	14,173	11,700	11,700	-	0.00%
5203 Fuel/Lube	25,289	16,328	16,542	22,821	22,821	-	0.00%
5208 Equipment Maintenance	529	303	376	1,000	1,000	-	0.00%
* 5209 Building & Grounds Maintenance	26,034	19,132	18,861	19,000	19,000	-	0.00%
5210 Professional & Special Services	28,740	29,263	33,353	34,200	34,200	-	0.00%
5214 Rents & Leases Expense	-	-	-	2,500	2,500	-	0.00%
5215 Communications	1,497	170	7	800	800	-	0.00%
5217 Electricity	9,073	8,968	7,921	11,325	11,325	-	0.00%
5218 Water	12,282	17,666	14,321	14,028	14,028	-	0.00%
5219 Sewer	12,749	17,543	12,784	11,000	11,000	-	0.00%
5220 Refuse/Disposal	25,659	1,489	809	25,000	25,000	-	0.00%
5227 Advertising	219	92	162	400	400	-	0.00%
5231 Tools/Equipment	350	1,719	1,203	3,350	3,350	-	0.00%
5235 Memberships/Dues	250	55	40	250	250	-	0.00%
5236 Transportation	1,559	926	-	-	-	-	0.00%
5237 Subsistence	223	330	-	-	-	-	0.00%
5251 Pioneer Beautification	924	1,040	553	618	618	-	0.00%
5252 Credit Card Expense	-	-	-	80	80	-	0.00%
5601 Uniform/Clothing Allowance	198	216	-	300	300	-	0.00%
5603 Employee Training	548	154	(275)	900	900	-	0.00%
5604 Public Education	327	-	-	500	500	-	0.00%
Total Maintenance and Operations	157,989	124,720	120,830	159,772	159,772	-	0.00%
Capital Outlay, Transfers and Reserves							
5990 Transfer to	30,000	12,000	-	-	20,000	20,000	0.00%
Total Capital Outlay, Transfers & Reser	30,000	12,000	-	-	20,000	20,000	0.00%
Total	\$ 452,251	\$ 371,683	\$ 377,280	\$ 378,462	\$ 401,445	22,982	6.07%
Staffing History	5.60	4.60	4.67	3.87	4.12		

LINE - ITEM EXPLANATIONS:

Revenues anticipated to be generated by Parks, Recreation & Cemetery are:
 Split Camping Fees - \$142,000, City Campground Fees - \$18,000, Cemetery Plots - \$1,800.
 5103 - Reinstate P/T position that was cut in 2011.
 5101 - 5106 - In 2010, part of the Community Schools Coordinator has been budgeted (12%) in Parks and Recreation's Budget. During summer months this position will help with the coordination of and scheduling therein various parks activities.
 Reallocation of Public Works Staff.

Account Number Explanations: See "Appendix" Tab.

Dept	Reserve	2012 Beg Bal Transfers In		2012 End	
				Expenditure:	Bal
385	Depreciation Reserve	70,835	20,000	-	90,835

**CITY OF HOMER
2012 OPERATING BUDGET**

CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC WORKS INCLUDES:

Administration, General Maintenance, Gravel Roads, Paved Roads, Snow Removal, Parks & Rec, Motor Pool, Eng-Inspection & Janitorial

(COST CENTERS: 170 - 178)

	FY2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Difference Between	
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Proposed Budget	2011 Adopted & 2012	Proposed Budget
<u>Salaries and Benefits</u>							
5101 Regular Employees	\$ 649,405	\$ 668,457	\$ 680,692	\$ 698,566	\$ 676,144	(22,422)	-3.21%
5102 Fringe Benefits	547,677	567,407	528,992	434,048	474,573	40,525	9.34%
5103 P/T Employees	92,128	87,769	99,126	70,727	82,291	11,564	16.35%
5104 Fringe Benefits P/T	15,944	13,551	16,929	13,134	14,695	1,561	11.89%
5105 Overtime	41,668	51,898	52,083	21,874	21,874	-	0.00%
5107 P/T Overtime	3,239	1,248	2,103	-	-	-	0.00%
Total Salaries and Benefits	1,350,059	1,390,329	1,379,924	1,238,349	1,269,577	31,228	2.52%
<u>Maintenance and Operations</u>							
5201 Office Supplies	3,044	4,308	2,896	3,080	3,080	-	0.00%
5202 Operating Supplies	78,982	148,673	107,828	138,750	138,750	-	0.00%
5203 Fuel/Lube	136,053	116,001	110,718	127,481	127,481	-	0.00%
5204 Chemicals	75,918	75,000	65,190	72,000	79,000	7,000	9.72%
5207 Veh/Boat Maintenance	136,437	131,110	127,492	120,000	120,000	-	0.00%
5208 Equipment Maintenance	5,773	5,290	2,402	9,000	9,000	-	0.00%
*5209 Building & Grounds Maint.	39,593	31,918	25,437	29,000	29,000	-	0.00%
5210 Professional & Special Services	51,099	125,504	57,327	74,450	76,650	2,200	2.96%
5213 Survey/Appraisal	-	-	-	3,000	3,000	-	0.00%
5214 Rent & Leases	18,276	15,069	18,753	22,500	22,500	-	0.00%
5215 Communications	25,371	20,951	22,464	21,300	21,300	-	0.00%
5216 Postage/Freight	1,511	1,125	715	1,100	1,100	-	0.00%
5217 Electricity	44,396	49,589	40,301	50,231	50,231	-	0.00%
5218 Water	14,935	21,006	17,668	16,728	16,728	-	0.00%
5219 Sewer	16,283	21,794	16,403	13,800	13,800	-	0.00%
5220 Refuse/Disposal	27,291	2,650	1,687	26,200	26,200	-	0.00%
5221 Property Insurance	2,561	2,411	1,801	1,510	1,509	(1)	-0.05%
5222 Auto Insurance	12,351	12,585	11,390	11,140	11,439	299	2.69%
5223 Liability Insurance	32,619	33,737	29,805	21,615	28,309	6,694	30.97%
5227 Advertising	1,532	1,063	858	1,500	1,500	-	0.00%
5231 Tools & Equipment	17,872	13,373	10,808	17,550	23,850	6,300	35.90%
5233 Computer/Related Items	1,020	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
5235 Memberships/Dues	250	721	426	850	850	-	0.00%
5236 Transportation	3,907	3,389	1,905	2,000	2,000	-	0.00%
5237 Subsistence	223	488	372	500	500	-	0.00%
5238 Printing/Binding	1,123	-	-	800	800	-	0.00%
*5251 Pioneer Beautification	924	1,040	553	618	618	-	0.00%
5252 Credit Card Expenses	-	-	7	80	80	-	0.00%
5282 City Hall Maintenance	3,558	3,607	1,852	3,000	3,000	-	0.00%
5283 Library Maintenance	14,133	8,533	5,174	10,000	12,500	2,500	25.00%
5284 Police Dept Maintenance	3,310	3,888	2,258	5,000	5,000	-	0.00%
5285 Fire Dept Maintenance	682	668	1,139	2,700	2,700	-	0.00%
5286 Old School Maintenance	9,410	8,518	4,312	8,500	8,500	-	0.00%
5287 Animal Shelter	8,725	1,202	1,430	3,000	3,000	-	0.00%
5292 City Hall Motor Pool Maintenance	-	-	38	500	500	-	0.00%
5293 Police Dept Motor Pool Maintenance	22,618	15,497	7,157	20,000	20,000	-	0.00%
5294 Fire Dept Motor Pool Maintenance	9,385	17,262	16,911	15,000	15,000	-	0.00%
5601 Clothing/Uniforms	4,798	5,097	5,346	4,900	4,900	-	0.00%
5602 Safety Equipment	6,509	6,870	3,926	6,750	7,850	1,100	16.30%
5603 Employee Training	6,171	3,894	4,543	8,150	8,150	-	0.00%
5604 Public Education	327	-	-	500	500	-	0.00%
Total Maintenance and Operations	838,964	913,832	729,293	874,783	900,875	26,092	2.98%
<u>Debt Payment</u>							
5607 Debt Payment	12,103	12,850	6,703	-	-	-	0.00%
5608 Debt Payment Interest	1,587	840	143	143	-	(143)	-100.00%
Total Debt Payment	13,690	13,690	6,846	143	0	(143)	-100.00%
<u>Capital Outlay, Transfers and Reserves</u>							
5990 Transfers to Reserves	171,541	68,616	-	-	122,140	122,140	0.00%
Total Capital Outlay, Transfers and Reser	171,541	68,616	0	0	122,140	\$ 122,140	0.00%
Total	\$ 2,374,255	\$ 2,386,467	\$ 2,116,063	\$ 2,113,275	\$ 2,292,593	\$ 179,318	8.49%
Staffing History	18.48	16.95	14.55	14.55	14.55		

**CITY OF HOMER
2012 OPERATING BUDGET**

FUND 100

115 - COMMUNITY RECREATION

		FY2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Difference Between	
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Proposed	2011 Adopted & 2012	Proposed Budget
						Budget		
<u>Salaries and Benefits</u>								
5101	Regular Employees	\$ 51,390	\$ 53,771	\$ 50,384	\$ 51,199	\$ 52,652	1,453	2.84%
5102	Fringe Benefits	31,787	34,374	34,111	29,991	30,445	454	1.51%
5103	P/T Employees	2,854	2,276	2,843	4,000	4,000	-	0.00%
5104	Fringe Benefits P/T	245	192	234	184	184	-	0.00%
<u>Total Salaries and Benefits</u>		86,276	90,614	87,572	85,374	87,281	1,907	2.23%
<u>Maintenance and Operations</u>								
5201	Office Supplies	121	-	95	500	500	-	0.00%
5202	Operating Supplies	1,650	1,440	1,587	2,500	2,500	-	0.00%
5208	Equipment	453	193	100	500	500	-	0.00%
5210	Professional & Special Services	10,430	4,875	15,439	15,500	14,500	(1,000)	-6.45%
5215	Communications	2,434	1,734	1,849	1,950	1,950	-	0.00%
5216	Postage/Freight	1,927	364	684	50	50	-	0.00%
5223	Liability Insurance	1,473	1,529	1,199	940	1,029	89	9.52%
5227	Advertising	522	-	136	950	950	-	0.00%
5235	Memberships/Dues	175	183	180	185	185	-	0.00%
5236	Transportation	1,081	283	100	250	250	-	0.00%
5237	Subsistence	187	189	-	250	250	-	0.00%
5238	Printing/Binding	2,060	1,560	1,650	1,800	1,800	-	0.00%
5603	Employee Training	1,988	2,000	-	250	250	-	0.00%
5614	Car Allowance	-	-	-	-	300	300	0.00%
<u>Total Maintenance and Operations</u>		24,501	14,350	23,018	25,625	25,014	(611)	-2.38%
Total		\$ 110,777	\$ 104,964	\$ 110,591	\$ 110,999	\$ 112,295	1,296	1.17%
Staffing History		1.00	1.00	0.88	0.88	0.88		

LINE - ITEM EXPLANATIONS:

5101 - 5104 - Part of the Community Schools Coordinator Position was moved to Parks & Recreation (.12), where this position will assist in coordinating summer events. Received \$7,500 grant to assist with salary.
 5103 - To increase P/T Wages for the collection of fees at events.
 5210 - Basketball Referees', background checks, Film Festival and KPBSD user fees of \$6,000 which is covered by a \$6,000 grant.

Account Number Explanations: See "Appendix" Tab.

Office of the City Clerk

Jo Johnson, CMC, City Clerk

Melissa Jacobsen, CMC, Deputy City Clerk II
Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I



491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603-7624
(907) 235-3130

(907) 235-8121
Extension: 2227
Extension: 2224

Fax: (907) 235-3143
Email: clerk@ci.homer.ak.us

MEMORANDUM

TO: PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I
DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2011
RE: DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO CONTINUE THE 35 MPH SPEED
LIMIT ON THE HOMER SPIT ROAD

BACKGROUND

During the past several meetings it has been discussed about seeing the speed limit reduced on the Homer Spit Road until after the entrance to Mariner Park to alleviate some of the danger in crossing the Homer Spit Road to access the Spit Trail and the park itself.

It was recommended to keep the speed limit at 35 miles per hour year round. This would be minimal in cost with just relocating a speed limit sign and increasing safety.

Entertain discussion on the benefits and costs related to extending the 35 mph speed limit to south of the entrance to the park.

RECOMMENDATION

Make a motion to recommend staff research and bring back information to the January meeting on changing the speed limit for the area from the Base of the Spit to the entrance of Mariner Park.

Office of the City Clerk

Jo Johnson, CMC, City Clerk

Melissa Jacobsen, CMC, Deputy City Clerk II
Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I



491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603-7624
(907) 235-3130

(907) 235-8121
Extension: 2227
Extension: 2224

Fax: (907) 235-3143
Email: clerk@ci.homer.ak.us

MEMORANDUM

TO: PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
FROM: RENE E KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I
DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2011
RE: DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO APPLY FOR THE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION GRANT

BACKGROUND

During the Regular meeting on September 15, 2011 Commissioner Cumming requested a discussion and recommendation to apply for the grant offered by the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District to be on this agenda for further discussion and approval by the commission.

RECOMMENDATION

Make a motion to recommend staff send a memorandum to the City Manager and Special Projects Coordinator to apply for a grant if it is made available for 2012.

Office of the City Clerk

Jo Johnson, CMC, City Clerk

Melissa Jacobsen, CMC, Deputy City Clerk II
Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I



491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603-7624
(907) 235-3130

(907) 235-8121
Extension: 2227
Extension: 2224

Fax: (907) 235-3143
Email: clerk@ci.homer.ak.us

MEMORANDUM

TO: PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I
DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2011
RE: STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE 2011-2012

BACKGROUND

A good strategic plan should provide a clear explanation of how one or more strategic goals are to be achieved by the commission. It typically outlines long-term goals and details the specific strategies and programmatic goals that are to be pursued. Areas of risk are analyzed and specific strategies for overcoming those risks are adopted. The strategic planning process is iterative and maps a clear path between a present condition and a vision for the future. Revisiting the Strategic Plan to review accomplishments against documented objectives, establishes a feedback loop that can then influence future planning and decision making.

The plans take shape through an iterative process of facilitated group discussions, research, drafting, and review. The suggested section headings include a number of questions that a facilitator can utilize to guide the creation of appropriate content for the plan. Not all questions may be appropriate for this commission, but the topic areas covered are all important when considering whether to establish or expand infrastructure. You should define what portion you intend to address by creating this strategic plan (e.g. statewide coordination, standards implementation, data production, common applications development, etc.)

The questions incorporated into the template all pertain (in one form or another) to broad strategic concerns, though some are quite specific. The broader strategic concerns are:

- Who are we?
- Where are we?
- Where do we want to go (or not go) and why?
- How do we get there?
- How do we know when we get there?

The Strategic Plan template is broken down into the following sections:

- Executive Summary
- Strategic Planning Methodology
- Current Situation
- Target End-State
- Requirements
- Implementation Program
- Appendices

In completing this strategic planning process, the commission will have a consistent framework for articulating its purpose, values, roles, objectives, strengths, and weaknesses. This effort is intended to provide a roadmap to the future where the needs of the commission and the community are better served. For each section, a list of questions is provided to facilitate the planning process and yield content for the plan itself through the answers and discussion. As previously mentioned, not all of the questions need to be answered, as the situation may vary. A Strategic Planning Process Map has been developed as a separate flow chart and check list for facilitating the planning process. The purpose of this approach is to establish a consistent framework for strategic planning.

RECOMMENDATION

Make a motion to have the Strategic Plan on the agenda under Pending Business for the next few meetings and set a goal for completion by early 2012.

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
STRATEGIC PLAN 2009

MISSION STATEMENT

The Commission is established to act in an advisory capacity to the City Manager and the City Council on the problems and development of parks and recreation facilities and public beaches within the City.

STRATEGIC GOALS OF THE COMMISSION – What is the focus for the commission?

3-5 Year Period

- Advocate for retaining open and green space
- Keep on top of future land disposals with attention to park and recreation needs
- Keep existing green space and public open space
- Preserve areas of natural beauty and access
- Preserve beach access – no vacations of public access

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMISSION – Must have achievable results, an action statement.

1-2 Year Period

- construct a bike path along Kachemak Drive
- Develop park in Town Center and plan for pathways and trails
- Document current and historical trails, create a pamphlet to show hiking trails, beaches, recreational access points, parks, campgrounds and basic rules and etiquette
- Resolve damage to the Poopdeck Trail signs
- Continue work on Karen Hornaday park drainage, the parking lot, and master plan implementation
- Increase the city budget for parks and recreations
- Mariner Park driveway access and pedestrian access from the Homer Spit Road and bike path crossing of Homer Spit Road.
- Create an overall sign design for the City and Town Center. Work with Public Works.

ACTIONS OF THE COMMISSION –Who will do what, when and how?

- Have a committee go to City Council with recommendations, action plan and time frame.
- Every time there is a memo from the Commission to City Council a Commissioner should go to the meeting and speak about it.
- A commissioner should attend every council meeting to speak with council and keep them informed about what they are working on.
- One member of the Commission attend meetings of other user groups – skiing, co-host, etc. Create better working relationship and communication with user groups.

SHARED ACTIONS STAFF/COMMISSION

- Focus and monitor the HNMTP implementation
- Research and create best use plans for all parks, with WKFL being the next park.

47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61



ATTEST:

Jo Johnson

JO JOHNSON, CMC, CITY CLERK

CITY OF HOMER

James C. Hornaday

JAMES C. HORNADAY, MAYOR

Fiscal Note: Acct. No. 151-776 State Legislative Grant - Karen Hornaday Park Improvements
(Phase I)

Renee Krause

From: Mike Illg
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2011 12:32 PM
To: Renee Krause
Subject: FW: Introducing New NRPA Member Benefit – Customizable Public Opinion Tools

Hi Renee,

I would like to forward this information to the P&R commission. There has been discussion regarding a needs assessment or a comprehensive community wide survey for parks and recreation in Homer.

Thanks,

Mike

From: NRPA [mailto:customerservice@nrpa.org]
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2011 11:54 AM
To: Mike Illg
Subject: Introducing New NRPA Member Benefit – Customizable Public Opinion Tools



National Recreation and Park Association

Your Agency Can Get Powerful Data About Your Population

Does your agency need help with addressing the evolving and broadening needs of its constituents? NRPA's new partner is here to help solve this issue!



**NATIONAL
RESEARCH
CENTER INC.**

NRPA is excited to introduce a new partnership with **National Research Center, Inc. (NRC)**. This new partnership will allow you as a NRPA member to administer customizable mailed surveys and research to evaluate their programs, facilities, and services.

In addition to research consultation, NRC will offer NRPA members two strategic public opinion tools to help park and recreation agencies develop programs and empower their community:

- *Park and Recreation Community Survey (PARCS)*
- *Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA)*

NRC is a leading research and evaluation firm focusing on the information

requirements of local governments and others in the public sector, including non-profit agencies, health care providers and foundations.

Don't Wait! —Take Advantage of This New Member Benefit



National Recreation
and Park Association

22377 Belmont Ridge Rd., Ashburn, VA 20148
800.626.NRPA (6772) © 2011 NRPA, All Rights Reserved



If you would prefer not to receive emails from us, go [here](#).

Please send any comments about this email to customerservice@nrpa.org



NRPA's mission is to advance parks, recreation, and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people.

NRPA

National Research Center

NRPA is excited to introduce a new partnership with the National Research Center (NRC) that will enable NRPA members to administer the Parks and Recreation Community Survey (PARCS) and the Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA).

The Park and Recreation Community Survey can help your agencies put its resources in the right programs by answering important questions about facilities, program quality, and who are your most active populations.

The Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults is a strategic planning and evaluation tool to help develop programs and empower communities by developing projections of your populations future needs and communicating the needs of your older adult community.

These customizable mailed surveys will provide you with data to evaluate your programs, facilities, and policies and improve your service and communication to your populations. Your results are comparable with results from other communities, so you can see how you measure up to your neighboring communities.

NRC also provides customer service and research consultation to help you get the best results.

For more information visit www.n-r-c.com.

© 2011 NRPA. All Rights Reserved.

NRPA's mission is to advance parks, recreation, and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people.

Membership

Membership

Thank you for your interest in the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)!

Whether you are a concerned citizen in a small community, a park and recreation professional, or an industry supplier, membership in NRPA ensures access to full benefits and services designed with your specific experience and needs in mind.

From education to networking, advocacy to grant programs, and so much more, NRPA provides you with the essential tools, resources, and solutions so that you can better support your local community! **Join or Renew Your Membership Today!**

Your Member Benefits

Select your membership type:

Professional
Educator

Young Professional
Industry Supplier

Citizen
Retired

Student

Member Benefits

Advocacy

Become a part of the movement with NRPA's advocacy resources and **Advocacy Action Center**. Stay informed on the issues facing Parks and Recreation with our quarterly Advocacy Insider newsletter.

Community

Join NRPA's community through our online networking tool, **NRPA Connect**, and join a **Network** to interact with members of a similar interest. Stay up-to-date on what NRPA is doing with the monthly Express newsletter.

Knowledge

Stay informed on field trends through **Parks & Recreation Magazine** and our other publications and research. Benchmark your agency and share resources with our operating ratio and GIS tool, **PRORAGIS**, and NRPA's **Knowledge Center**.

Recognition

Apply or nominate a colleague, agency, or company for their excellent work in advancing the field of parks and recreation. Students and young professionals can apply for scholarships to assist them with attending our annual conferences.

Professional Development

Advance your career with educational opportunities and professional development with a member discount to NRPA's conferences, school, certifications, online learning center, and access to the Career Center. Take advantage of NRPA's volunteer and leadership opportunities.

And More!

Receive member discounts on endorsed business solutions programs, such as background checks, insurance, and mobile technology, and information on NRPA supported grants.

See a full list of benefits.

For additional information on your member benefits please **contact us**.

Join or Renew Your Membership Today!

© 2011 NRPA. All Rights Reserved.

NRPA's mission is to advance parks, recreation, and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people.

Grants & Partners

Become an NRPA Partner

Parks and Recreation Build and Connect Communities Nationwide

Across 105,000 parks, whether rural communities, suburban neighborhoods, or urban centers, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) represents all park and recreation agencies in America, touching the lives of more than 300 million people. Founded in 1965, NRPA serves as the sole voice for local parks is committed to enhancing the quality of life for all people through diverse national partnerships and quality programs.

Our Goals

Overseeing the largest assemblage of public lands nationally, parks build community - they are the largest employer of part-time workers, second largest feeder of children, and oversee the largest assemblage of public lands nationally. Through generous support from our partners and donors, NRPA ensures that all Americans benefit from open space, social services, and deeper community unity. NRPA focuses our efforts in three areas:

Health & Livability

Chronic Disease Prevention
Accessibility and Inclusion
Healthy Nutrition and Physical Activity

Environmental Conservation

Increased Energy Efficiency
Connect Children to Nature
Integration of Economics and Conservation

Youth Development & Play

Healthy Play Habits
Social and Intellectual Development
Development of Leadership Skills

How We Reach Our Goals

Our strategy is to work nationally, community by community, to support and augment programs and initiatives. Leveraging our reach and empowering park and recreation professionals and the public, NRPA makes a difference every day.

Interested in learning more about partnering with NRPA? Contact [Shelley O'Brien](#) at 703.858.2156.

© 2011 NRPA. All Rights Reserved.

NRPA's mission is to advance parks, recreation, and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people.

Grants & Partners

Fundraising Resources

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) periodically has competitive grants available for park and recreation agencies. These opportunities are listed and are updated frequently.

Current Grant Opportunities



Community Tennis Development Workshop Scholarships -Apply Today!

The United States Tennis Association (USTA) is now accepting scholarship applications to attend the 2012 Community Tennis Development Workshop (CTDW) to be held in New Orleans, January 13-15th. Scholarships are open to all parks professionals and scholarship winners will receive complimentary registration, airfare, and lodging. This is a great opportunity to learn how to expand your tennis programming and make a difference in your community.

Apply by October 6, 2011, for a CTDW Scholarship!

Apply Today!

Fundraising Resources from NRPA

NRPA provides online learning resources, including an online class for fundraising. To access this class, please go to www.nrpaonlinelearning.org, login (free) and then look up fundraising.

Fundraising Strategies

This course teaches fundamental best practices and principles of effective and strategic fundraising for park and recreation agencies. The focus is on the process of successful solicitation from private sources of funds, particularly foundations and corporations, and is appropriate for professionals tasked with revenue development and creative partnerships.

CEUs: 0.2 Member: \$40 Non-Member: \$50

Independent Fundraising Resources

When looking for funding and grants, there are many resources for free and for fee on the Internet. Below are just a few suggestions on where to start your research.

Foundation Center

The Foundation Center provides both training and research information on corporate and foundation grant programs. Some services are free, but most are for a training fee or fee for database use. The Center also has offices in Atlanta, Cleveland, New York, San Francisco and Washington DC. The foundation database houses a collection of data of over 74,000 foundations, corporate giving programs, and grant-making public charities. The grants database is a collection of more than

250,000 grants.

Guidestar

An excellent source of IRS 990 forms for both private and corporate foundations and other non-profit organizations.

Chronicle of Philanthropy

The Chronicle is a newspaper for non-profit news publishing fundraising trends, resources, and recent grants.

Non-profit Times

Non-profit management newspaper.

Hoovers

Hoovers profiles more than 12 million U.S. companies. It is a great source for employee contact information.

Fortune Magazine

A resource for identifying companies by state and industry.

Leadership Directories

Google, Yahoo Finance, and other general search engines.

Newspapers and magazines like the Wall Street Journal, Newsweek, New York Times.

Interested in learning more about NRPA fundraising resources? Contact **Shelley O'Brien** at 703.858.2156.

© 2011 NRPA. All Rights Reserved.

NRPA's mission is to advance parks, recreation, and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people.

Grants & Partners

Partnership Opportunities

Leave Your Mark in Local Communities through Parks

For almost fifty years NRPA has partnered with forward thinking corporate and philanthropic leaders to support positive change in local communities across the country through parks and recreation. By partnering with NRPA, you'll be associated with a well-respected non-profit organization that has expansive reach into every community across America, touching 300 million people annually. At NRPA we are committed to providing a strong return on investment to our partners.

Here are the many opportunities to help ensure that parks and recreation continue to deliver vibrant, robust, and community-based value:

Corporate Opportunities

NRPA works with its corporate partners to meet both organizations' goals while simultaneously telling a powerful story of business that makes a difference. Whether your company is seeking a profitable cause marketing relationship, an innovative programmatic opportunity, national social responsibility signature programs, or employee engagement, NRPA has the resources and expertise to showcase corporate strategies, creating activities and outcomes, whose implementation is direct.

- Cause Marketing
- Corporate Social Responsibility Programs
- Corporate Gifts
- Employee volunteer programs
- Workplace Giving

Foundation and Organization Grants

NRPA seeks grants from foundations to support ongoing and new programmatic initiatives. We are at the forefront of policy and behavior change strategies to drive progressive and dynamic economic and social best practices that ensure implementation of state-of-the-art programs.

Donate Now

- [Online](#)
- [Pledge](#)
- [Planned Giving](#)
- [Stock Gifts](#)

We welcome partners who share our mission to enhance the quality of life for all Americans. Please contact our office at [Partnerships & Business Development](#) or 1-800-626-NRPA (6772).

© 2011 NRPA. All Rights Reserved.

NRPA's mission is to advance parks, recreation, and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people.

Grants & Partners

Environmental Conservation

NRPA enables and encourages park and recreation agencies to take action to protect and enhance the environment for current and future generations. This multi-faceted support includes:

Empowering communities to protect natural environments and natural habitats.

Developing sustainable conservation solutions that emphasize the integration of economic and environmental goals.
Advocating for environmental issues, both nationally and locally.
Promoting environmental stewardship ethics for communities.

NRPA's activities have long included environmental and conservation stewardship programs that include:

Grow Your Park, which provides funding and resources that not only support the creation and expansion of edible gardens and nutrition programs in urban park and recreation agencies, but also engenders a life-long appreciation for conservation. NRPA is developing a comprehensive Park Locator, based on a GIS platform, which will allow the public to identify treasured park assets and key programs.

NRPA's National Environmental Stewardship Ethic was created as a fundamental component of parks and public recreation lands, which are carbon reducing landscapes that help clean our air and waters, recharge aquifers, reduce stormwater runoff, and provide vital contact with nature for our mental and physical health.

NRPA is guided in these efforts by the expertise of two committees. The Environmental Conservation Advisory Panel or ECAP includes some of the nation's top environmental experts from parks, academia, business, and nonprofits to assist in shaping NRPA environmental programming. The NRPA Conservation Task Force is comprised of park and recreation professionals who are leading the association in developing additional initiatives to that will benefit the environment and our communities.

Environmental Survey

In July 2010, NRPA conducted a survey of members to determine their current engagement in sustainable practices. The 208 participants answered questions on their current and intended practices in the following areas - environmental planning practices; community leadership on environmental issues; energy use and conservation; community engagement; natural resource conservation; water use efficiency and quality.

[Click here](#) to view the results of the 2010 Environmental Survey of Members.

© 2011 NRPA. All Rights Reserved.

Office of the City Clerk

Jo Johnson, CMC, City Clerk

Melissa Jacobsen, CMC, Deputy City Clerk II
Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I



491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603-7624
(907) 235-3130

(907) 235-8121
Extension: 2227
Extension: 2224

Fax: (907) 235-3143
Email: clerk@ci.homer.ak.us

MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR HORNADAY AND CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: WALT WREDE, CITY MANAGER

FROM: PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

DATE: SEPTEMBER 23, 2011

RE: RECOMMENDATION AND SUPPORT TO INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TRACK AT THE HOMER HIGH SCHOOL

BACKGROUND

At the September 15, 2011 Regular Meeting the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission heard from Mr. Bill Steyer, Coach at Homer High School and a city resident. He was seeking support from the Commission to be included on the City of Homer Capital Improvement Plan. Below is an excerpt of those minutes.

VISITORS

A. *Lance Williamson, Save Our Track Committee*

Chair Bremicker confirmed with the Clerk that visitors scheduled have ten minutes unless the Commission agrees to suspend the rules and allow longer.

Mr. Bill Steyer, a city resident and Homer High School Track Coach spoke to the commissioners on the horrendous conditions of the high school track and was requesting the Commission to express support for repairs and replacement of the track. Mr. Steyer opened his appeal recognizing that the City of Homer has no responsibility regarding the conditions of the track. He also informed the commissioners that a Save Our Track Committee was formed and has had a few meetings. The committee was informed by Borough and State officials that it would be extremely beneficial to have the support from community, the city and any other organization that could benefit from the construction of a new track. Specifically if the City would include this project on the Capital Improvement Plan as one of the top most priorities.

Mr. Steyer stated that the track is 25 years old and has never been maintained. He noted the disparity in the high school tracks on the peninsula. He observed that Nikiski High School has a new rubberized track; even Skyview High School has a rubberized track, even though about ten years old, due to regular maintenance. The most important issue is that without a new track the principal has threatened to discontinue the track and field program if no funding is received this year. He has already stopped any events being hosted by the high school due to the poor conditions. This means that 25 students must travel to participate in any events. The P.E. classes use that track also in their normal curriculum and the Principal has stated he will not allow any students on the field to train. Mr. Steyer noted that not

having a track has an impact on the community by losing revenue. Since they cannot host track and field events students, parents and visitors do not come to Homer where they can visit shops, restaurants and lodging. The loss of the track also affects local residents as they use the facilities for other events such as Relay for Life and as just a safe place for their children to ride bikes or jog/run themselves.

Some officials have commented that a track is a luxury and not a necessity. Mr. Steyer disagreed with that statement.

Chair Bremicker asked what the last repairs were to the track as seen in the pictures provided by Mr. Steyer. Mr. Steyer stated that was when the creek flooded and was the last work maintenance or otherwise done on the facilities.

Commissioner Brann stated he would support sending a recommendation of support to council on getting this done.

INGRID/CUMMING - MOVED TO SEND A RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL TO INCLUDE THE REFURBISHMENT OR RECONSTRUCTION OF THE HOMER HIGH SCHOOL TRACK FACILITIES AS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY ON THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

There was a brief discussion on the reason for appealing to the Commission since this was addressed by City Council in a Resolution not that long ago.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

RECOMMENDATION

To include the refurbishment or reconstruction of the track at the Homer High School by listing as a top project on the Capital Improvement Plan.

Renee Krause

From: brann@alaska.net
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2011 3:26 PM
To: seaboats@xyz.net; homerkev@gmail.com; Renee Krause; rebumppo@hotmail.com; bob@inletkeeper.org; wilesmichaud@msn.com; robert.e.archibald@gmail.com; eric.clarke@alaska.gov; msberger@horizonsatellite.com; monte@homerakalaska.org; mako@xyz.net

seaboats@xyz.net, homerkev@gmail.com, RKrause@ci.homer.ak.us, rebumppo@hotmail.com, bob@inletkeeper.org, wilesmichaud@msn.com, robert.e.archibald@gmail.com, eric.clarke@alaska.gov, msberger@horizonsatellite.com, monte@homerakalaska.org, mako@xyz.net

Hi Kachemak Bay Water Trail partners and interested associates,

Please find attached an announcement from the National Park Service accepting the Kachemak Bay Water Trail as a project to receive their technical help for two years. Thank you for your letters of support and interest. As you can see from the attachment the Kachemak Bay Water Trail was one of four projects to be accepted statewide-exciting!

I will be in touch once we get back from Oregon. I do not have Roger MacCampbell's email, so if someone can pass this information on to him, that would be great.

Dave

Lisa Holzapfel, Program Manager
NPS-Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
240 West 5th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501
lisa_holzapfel@nps.gov
907-644-3586 phone
907-644-3807 fax
www.nps.gov/rtca
Check Out Our e-Newsletter for Tips and Inspiring Successes

Lisa
Holzapfel/AKSO/N
PS To
Dave and Molly and Brann, Eddie
09/19/2011 05:17 Kessler, AJ Conley, Carin
PM Farley/SITK/NPS
cc
carlsons@arctic.net,
brooks.ludwig@alaska.gov,
jusdi.mcdonald@alaska.gov, Bruce
Rogers/WRST/NPS@NPS, John
Quinley/AKSO/NPS@NPS
Subject
RTCA helps partners give their
communities something to "Last a
Lifetime"

The National Park Service-Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program is pleased to announce it will be providing technical assistance on four new projects in Fiscal Year 2012 (October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012).

RTCA received 18 applications requesting technical assistance on projects around the state. The projects were ranked using national criteria and Alaska RTCA staff time was allocated to the highest ranking projects to meet the needs of the partners.

This year, RTCA is only able to support the top four project requests. We want to wish the remaining project applicants all the best in their community efforts to promote outdoor recreation or natural resource conservation work around the state. We hope everyone will consider applying to RTCA for technical assistance in the future.

Congratulations to following FY12 RTCA Projects Partners:

- The Kachemak Bay Water Trail (Homer)
- The Palmer Pump Park (Palmer)
- The Pullen Creek StreamWalk (Skagway)
- Sitka NHP River View and Forest Walk Trails (Sitka)

RTCA Alaska also is able to provide limited consultation assistance on three projects:

- Cooper Landing Walkable Communities Trails
- Chena State Recreation Area Angel Rocks Rockwork Training
- Sevenmile Lake ATV Trail
- Wrangell St. Elias NP&P ATV Trail Community Workshops

(See attached file: FY12 Project Announcement FINAL PDF.pdf)

Heather and I are in Seattle the rest of this week. And I am in Kodiak Sept 26-28. We will contact you either the last week of September, or the first week of October to begin initial discussions to begin to determine how RTCA can best help you with your projects.

We look forward to working with all of you this next fiscal year.

Congratulations!

Lisa Holzapfel, Program Manager
NPS-Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
240 West 5th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501
lisa_holzapfel@nps.gov
907-644-3586 phone
907-644-3807 fax

www.go.nps.gov/alaska/rtca

Check Out Our e-Newsletter for Tips and Inspiring Successes

OCT 13 2011 PM03:53

News Release:

Kachemak Bay Water Trails Association meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2011

Pratt Museum

7:00-9:00 p.m.

A meeting to provide information about the proposed Kachemak Bay Water Trail. Lisa Holzappel, the National Park Service Alaska Program Manager will lead participants in creating a vision and mission statement for the project and discussing / brainstorming ways for people to get involved.

**Contact Dave Brann
brann@alaska.net**



RTCA helps partners give their communities something to “Last a Lifetime”

October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012

The National Park Service--Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, also known as **RTCA**, announces its new outdoor recreation and conservation projects in the Alaska Region for the upcoming fiscal year. Communities can grow from a seed of an idea. RTCA will help communities take their **Ideas** and turn them **into Action!**

RTCA looks forward to working with the following communities on these exciting new projects.

Kachemak Bay Water Trail (Homer, Alaska)

- Develop a water trail from Homer, to the head of Kachemak Bay, south to Seldovia.
- This 125 mile water trail will identify and market access points, landing sites, and associated facilities to enhance the public's recreational and educational experiences along the marine ecosystem.
- Initial Partners: Homer Chamber of Commerce, Homer Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, Kachemak Bay Conservation Society, Seldovia Ferry, Cook Inlet Keepers, Homer Wooden Boat Society, Alaska State Parks.

Palmer Pump Park (Palmer, Alaska)

- Build a bike pump park to give kids (and adults!) a safe and fun way to learn bike and safety skills, improve physical activity levels and develop the confidence to get out and enjoy local mountain biking trails.
- The pump park will fulfill multiple goals of the city's community and economic development plan and the current recreation plan.
- Initial Partners: Ptarmigan P'trails, Blue Mountain Wellness Center, Backcountry Bikes, Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers

Skagway Pullen Creek StreamWalk (Skagway, Alaska)

- Create the Pullen Creek StreamWalk, a contiguous walking path with interpretive signs that ties together the historical and natural history points between Pullen Pond and the City Museum via the Pullen Creek corridor.
- This half-mile trail will help restore and protect riparian and fish habitat by properly guiding pedestrian traffic near the stream and teaching Skagway residents and visitors about salmon habitat and the local watershed.
- Initial Partners: Taiya Inlet Watershed Council, the Municipality of Skagway, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office in Juneau, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park.

Sitka NHP River View & Forest Walk Trails (Sitka, Alaska)

- Develop sustainable trails to create the River View and Forest Walk Trails on the northwest side of Sitka National Historical Park.
- The trails respond to the community's desire for more "in town" recreation opportunities.
- Initial Partners: Sitka National Historical Park, the City and Borough of Sitka, the U.S. Forest Service, the Alaska Raptor Center.



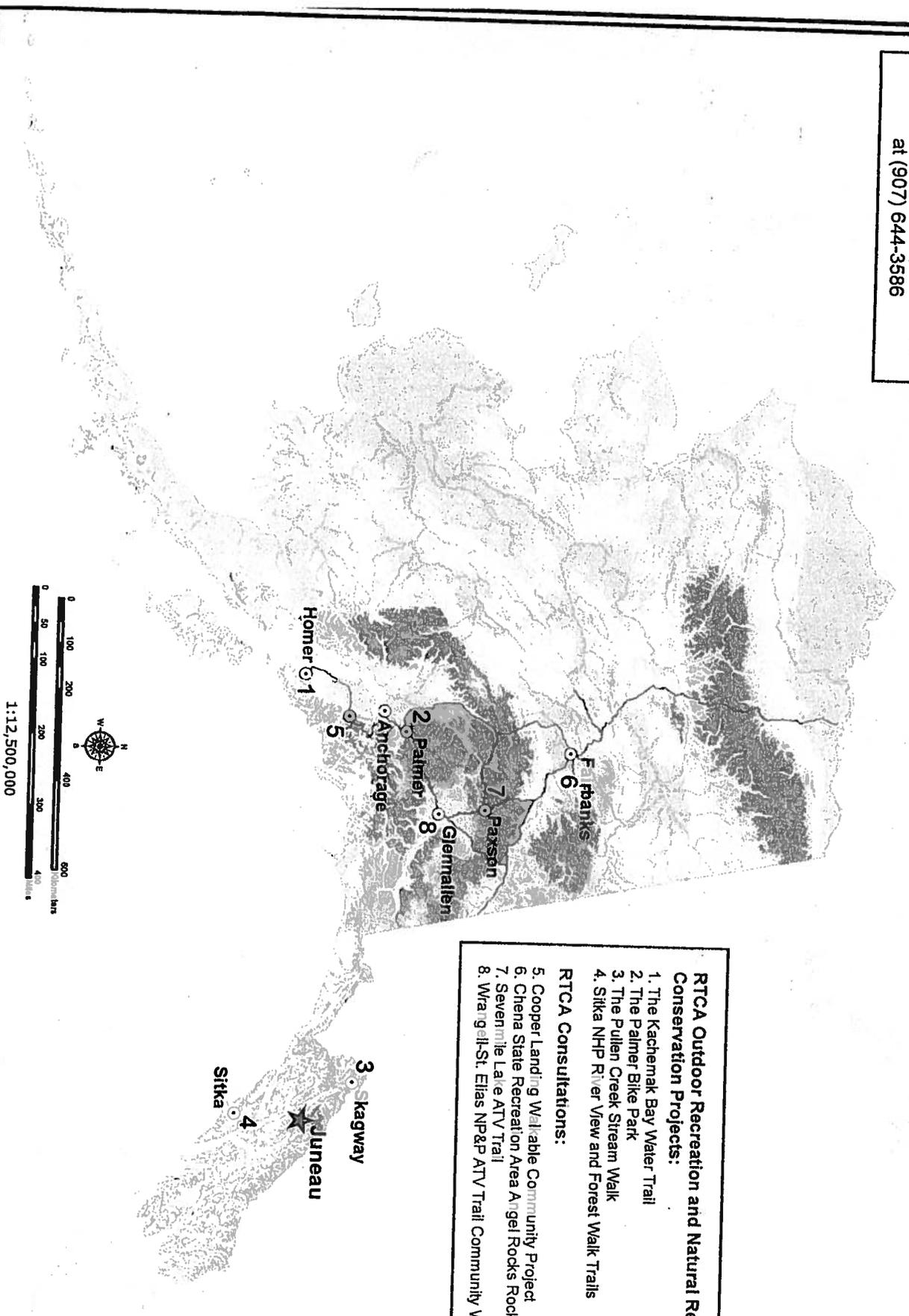
For more information see:
<http://go.nps.gov/alaska/rtca>

Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance Program NPS RTCA Alaska Projects, FY2012

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

For more information on these and other projects, please phone RTCA at (907) 644-3586

- RTCA Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resource Conservation Projects:**
1. The Kachemak Bay Water Trail
 2. The Palmer Bike Park
 3. The Pullen Creek Stream Walk
 4. Sitka NHP River View and Forest Walk Trails
- RTCA Consultations:**
5. Cooper Landing Walkable Community Project
 6. Chena State Recreation Area Angel Rocks Rockwork Training
 7. Sevenmile Lake ATV Trail
 8. Waigel-St. Elias NP&P ATV Trail Community Workshops



1:12,500,000

