



City of Homer

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Memorandum

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

DATE: FEBRUARY

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL PACKET

1. Informational Materials

City Manager Report on "Strategic Doing" from the February 9, 2015 City Council Meeting

Page 3

2. Public Comment Received

Tom Zitzman Letter regarding Recommendations from the February 5, 2015 Special Meeting
and Pictures from Visit to the Iverson Spit Preserve

Page 7

Robert Moss Letter regarding Coal Collection from the Beach

Page 13

Recommendation: Informational Purposes only. No Action required.

To: Mayor and Council
From: Marvin L Yoder
Date: February 4, 2015
Subject: Strategic doing

Staff met together to review the recommended items in the Strategic Doing Report.

1. Economic Vitality

Support staging areas for large development projects. *Ongoing, Allow for short and long-term leases at '30 acres' by Deep Water Dock. Pg. 8-6*

- To encourage utilization of the vacant land, the Ports and Harbors Dept. regularly announces the availability of land for lease.
- The Ports and Harbors Commission is considering a contract with Northern Economics to review harbor rates. This could be expanded to include tariffs for the fish dock, ice sales and leases.
- The Harbor master met with representatives from BP, Conoco Phillips and some consultants to make them aware of the resources the Homer port has available now as well as those that may be available in the near future

Support commercial fishing and fish processing. *Ongoing, For example, recently installed new power pedestals at System 5. Spit zoning has been updated and better accommodates these uses. Lease policy has been updated. Pg. 8-6*

Plans and activities now underway or under consideration include:

- Construct a sheet pile dock to relieve pressure on the fish dock
- Expand the small boat harbor
- Emphasize fish processing
- Consider incentives to increase ice sales

Partner with and support the efforts of other organizations, such as the Chamber of Commerce, to plan for economic development. *Increased collaboration with Chamber (designated seats for City on Chamber board and Chamber on EDC).Pg.8-3*

The Coast Guard has extended their lease and will be constructing a new facility. We will maintain a working relationship with the local personnel. Homer may provide support for an expanded role of the Coast Guard to provide safety in the Arctic Ocean.

The City may be able to assist in finding solutions to the housing needs of the Coast Guard personnel.

The city staff is involved in numerous Chamber of Commerce activities.

The Port and Harbor Commission are tasked with facilitating the review of needed harbor improvements.

2. Parking and Trails

Allow for shared parking and in-lieu fees for downtown businesses. *Partially complete: parking code has been updated and shared parking is easier to do. No work on in-lieu fee parking. Pg. 5-11*

City Ordinance has been changed and this objective seems to be completed.

Construct strategically located parking lots in or near downtown. *Designated RV parking areas at HERC and Chamber.Pg. 5-11*

The city owns property that could be developed for parking. However, it was determined that there is currently a minimal need for additional parking spaces.

Develop bike/pedestrian friendly roadway design standards. *Pg. 5-10*

Public works will be reviewing roadway standards from other Municipalities to determine if those standards would be appropriate for Homer. A need was expressed for upgrading the standards for new roads:

- Roadway with ditching (narrow lanes)
- Roadway with ditching and a trail (wider lanes)
- Roadway with sidewalk, curb & gutter
- Roadway with sidewalk, curb & gutter and wide enough for a bike lane

Implement the policy recommendations of the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, e.g. an acceptance policy for trail easements.

Ongoing. Trails design manual in place. New trails have been built (Spit trail, for example).Pg. 5-13

These policy recommendations are mostly complete. Planning will continue to implement the recommendations.

Build the recommended trail connections in the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. Ongoing. Pg. 5-14

The following trails are funded for construction in 2015:

- Shellford
- Danview
- West Home Elementary Trail
- Roger Loop (Trail head acquisition)

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

FEB 17 2015



February 9, 2015

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

Dear Commission Members:

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

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

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

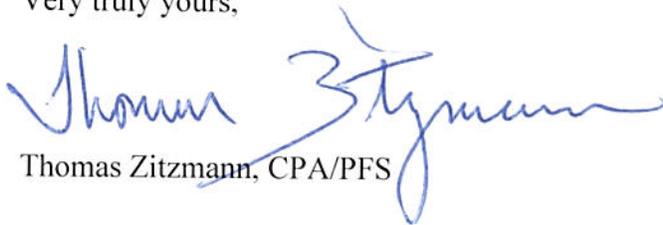
In order to minimize public disturbances in the unique "mixing zone" of both public and private property, I would like to see the Commission address the following:

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

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

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

Very truly yours,



Thomas Zitzmann, CPA/PFS

Island County Parks
Iverson Spit Preserve
Day Use Only - Park closed at dusk.

PLEASE

1. Minimize noise. Respect neighbors.
2. Respect Private Property to the south.
3. No atv's, motorcycles or horses.
4. Leash dogs and pack out waste.
5. Take your trash with you. Pack it in/Pack it out.
6. Stay on designated trails.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES ICC 9.40/9.56/6.08
VIOLATORS SUBJECT TO \$125 FINE

1. Dog off leash
2. Discharge of firearms
3. Beach Fires
4. Dumping of Garbage
5. Discharge of Fireworks
6. Camping

DISCHARGE OF WEAPONS PROHIBITED



This includes but is not limited to the tidelands to the north of your position

I.C.C 9.40.320

Island
Iverson
Day Use Only

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PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES VIOLATORS SUBJECT

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ATTENTION

PLEASE respect private property to the south. Stay to the north of this parking lot.



Dog
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I.C.C 9.40.

ATTENTION

PLEASE respect private property
to the south. Stay to the north
of this parking lot.



February 16, 2015

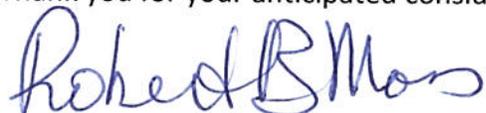
Bishops Beach Public Access Testimony

My name is Robert Moss and I was born in Seldovia and have lived in Homer for 65 years. I am and have been a commercial fisherman my entire life and have a Bachelor's degree in Fish and Wildlife management. Beach access to the areas considered for vehicular closure is of great concern to me and goodly number of other full time Homer residents who use these beaches for the purpose of harvesting coal. My self and others, use this fuel as the primary source for heating our homes, and have done so for decades. My father and several others held the coal contract for heating the public schools for a number of years. That same coal came from the beaches being considered for closure. Realizing that unlimited beach access is causing numerous safety problems and berm degradation, I urge you to make provisions for the customary and traditional vehicle use to access coal deposited by winter storms on the beach between Mariner Park and the Bishops beach access. In the defense of allowing access for this purpose, I submit the following reasons. Using the areas in question extensively for many years during the time frame of October through March, it is obvious that the highest vehicular usage occurs on the Bishops beach access area, from there to partway to Beluga Slough. The primary reason is that, during the colder months the beach upper area can be driven on by two wheel drive vehicles as it is frozen. Conversely during the months of October thru February or March the Mariner Park beach accessed through Mariner Park is used very little by vehicles. Those that are using it, do so almost exclusively seeking coal. There is a natural barrier to access the beach to the west of Mariner Park, which is the flow draining out of the slough to the west of the spit road. Other than those searching for coal there is little beach vehicle activity as four-wheel drive is necessary. In reality, the berms are virtually never driven on, primarily because that is not where the coal is going to be found. In addition, the berm between Mariner Park and Beluga Slough is not conducive to driving on because it is steeper and has a defined border. The coal, in this area, differing from the vein coal found west of Bishops Beach, is found on that area of the beach between where the beach grade flattens out down lower, and the upper reaches of the tide. The environmental impact to the beach driving in this area is minimal. In this area of the beach, the gravel and sand substrate is in constant motion from wave and current action and harbors few organisms. The coal that is found on the beach is not mined from intertidal veins. In this area the coal veins are offshore and not accessible. Coal available is naturally broken off and has been carried up to the middle and upper beach by tide and waves. In regards to the amount of usage of the beach by those seeking coal, all of us that utilize this historical resource know that there are very few days that the coal is deposited. It takes a combination of the correct tide size, the correct wind velocity, the correct wind direction, and the correct length of wind duration to create the ideal conditions. For example, so far this year in the fall of 2014, and up to now in 2015, there has been 2 days (only two) where any volume of coal has been deposited and those were the only productive days. Those were the only two days I was on the beach to gather coal. This is indicative of winter beach vehicle activity in that area.

In conclusion, I respectfully submit that it seems entirely reasonable to allow seasonal cold weather access to that area between Mariner Park and Beluga Slough, and perhaps all the way

to the Bishops Beach access road. By allowing customary and historical usage during the coldest months, impact and usage will be drastically cut down by virtue of the temperature, along with the fact that fewer out of town visitors are present. In addition, environmental impact will be at a minimum due to frozen conditions and low usage in conjunction with the area in question. With thousands and thousands of miles of coastline in Alaska that are not accessible or over utilized, it is reasonable to allow limited use during that period of the year with the lowest impact. History and tradition make Homer unique, and the place we all love to live, and raise our families, I pray there is room for all of us.

Thank you for your anticipated consideration in this matter.



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2014-2015 Winter Coal Supply

