

**NOTICE OF MEETING
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. AGENDA APPROVAL**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA** *(Three minute time limit)*
 - A. Public Comments Received regarding Beach Policy Review, Bishops Beach and Similar Areas in Homer **Page 3**
- 4. VISITORS** *(Visitors normally have 10 minutes for their presentation.)*
- 5. RECONSIDERATION**
 - A. Memorandum from Deputy City Clerk re: Request to Reconsider A Motion on the Subject of Vehicles in Area 7 **Page 25**
- 6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA** *All items on the consent agenda are considered routine and non-controversial by the Parks & Recreation Commission and are approved in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a Parks & Recreation Commissioner or someone from the public, in which case the item will be moved to the regular agenda and considered in normal sequence.*
 - A. Minutes for the Regular Meeting on April 16, 2015 **Page 27**
- 5. STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORT**
 - A. Recommendation Recap - Julie Engebretsen
 - B. Parks & Recreation Trails Symposium Report **Page 37**
 - C. Spring Beach/Park Walk Through Report

(Request a Motion to Suspend the Rules to Address Pending Business Item B.)
- 6. PUBLIC HEARING** *(there are no items scheduled)*
- 7. PENDING BUSINESS**
 - A. Request to Reconsider a Motion on the Subject of Vehciles in Area 7 **Page 53**
 - B. Recommendations to the Beach Policy **Page 55**
 1. Beach Policy Review 2015 - City Website
 2. Map Related to Recommendations for Dogs On and Off Leash Areas
 3. Map Related to Recommendations for Motorized Vehicles
 - C. Comments or Recommendations to City Council on the P.A.R.C. Needs Assessment **Page 63**
- 8. NEW BUSINESS**
- 9. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**
 - A. Commission Annual Calendar 2015 **Page 65**
 - B. Commissioner Attendance at City Council Meetings 2015 **Page 67**
 - C. Memorandum form Public Works Director Re Condition of Spit Camp Fee Building **Page 69**
 - D. New ATV Rules in Wasilla - ADN Article April 28, 2015 **Page 71**
 - E. Informational Research Conducted by Commissioner Lowney **Page 71**
- 10. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**
- 11. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER** (If one has been assigned)
- 12. COMMENTS OF STAFF MEMBERS**
- 13. COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**
- 14. COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR**
- 15. ADJOURNMENT THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2015 at 5:30pm in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer Alaska**

From: Louise Ashmun <leashmun@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2015 6:29 PM
To: Renee Krause
Subject: Please forward to Park & Recreation Advisory Commissioners

Renee, Please forward this email to the Park & Recreation Advisory Commission members.

Thank you,
Louise Ashmun

April 17th

I am not a quick thinker--If I were, I would have said the following things at the end of last night's meeting:

Area 8 is an important access to coal gathers as the bluff erosion continues to expose a coal seam and the bluff erosion brings that coal to the beach. Many of the coal gathers have testified that they collect west of area 8 using 4-wheel drive vehicles. Coal gathers will be really upset if they cannot have vehicle access through area 8 to get to the coal on the beach. They **also** collect "inter-tidal coal" at the east end of area 7, but only if they do not have a 4-wheel drive vehicle. If

the P&R Com. is accommodating coal gathers, it has to reconsider the year-round vehicle restriction in area 8.

The chief of police, when he testified a month or so back, did say that he thought a "permit system" for coal gathers would be workable through the police dispatch system (list of vehicles and owners permitted to be on the beach would be "on file" with dispatch). Last night, the P&R Com. intimated that the police were not in favor of any permit system.

If area 8 is totally closed to vehicles, and area 7 is open in the winter--the berm will be driven even if the drivers have to go "out and around" some boulders to get to it. Driving in wet gravel or soft sand is not as easy as driving on the "berm road."

The P&R Com. and others who spoke all praised the great presentation made by the Homer HS students. They especially liked the idea that we need to think 30 years into the future. Yet, their voting reflected a lack of protection for the very area the students asked them to protect! How is that showing them that their input was valued?

Area 7 is ~1500 ft. of beach--1500 ft that abuts the I & O boardwalk trails in the slough--1500 ft that has been identified as pedestrian preferred--1500 ft that is most accessed from the parking area--1500 ft that protects a highly valued piece of habitat within our city limits. Is it really too much to ask that this important stretch of beach be restricted to vehicle traffic?

I am extremely disappointed. I feel that our efforts to find appropriate well-reasoned compromise positions and our time to articulate (both in writing and in person) those rationales and positions have been a waste.

Louise Ashmun

Louise Ashmun
457 Mountain View Dr.
Homer, AK 99603
[907 299 6360](tel:9072996360)
leashmun@gmail.com

From: Robert Archibald <robert.e.archibald@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 9:24 PM
To: Renee Krause
Subject: Fwd: beach safety issues

Begin forwarded message:

Hi Renee,
Could you please add this to P & R Packet.
Cheers,
Robert

From: sharon whytal <swhytal@alaska.net>
Date: April 23, 2015 9:17:11 PM AKDT
To: Robert Archibald <robert.e.archibald@gmail.com>
Cc: Asia Freeman <asia@bunnellarts.org>
Subject: beach safety issues

Robert,
Will you please share this?
Dear Parks and Rec Commission,
Thank you for tackling this difficult community issue that seems to have become so contentious. I know this is a big responsibility to make recommendations now to the Council. Clearly all residents feel an affinity to this central location in town with its remarkable beauty and multi-purpose usefulness. Balancing the needs of all is a large task and as Jack Wiles pointed out at last week's Commission meeting, it will be hard to please all.
As a long time user and enjoyer of the beaches up and down the north side of the bay, I am sad to say that over this past winter I have stopped approaching my walks, runs and after-work walks at Bishop's Beach. It no longer feels safe to me walking there with all the vehicle traffic, and I agree that there needs to be enforcement if and when vehicles are continued access. I can give this up and I have found other places to walk, but it does sadden me as the end of a heart-center of Homer that I have dearly loved. I agree that coal gatherers should be permitted vehicle access, and I understand that disabled residents need a place to drive for close enjoyment; I hope you will also recommend having a portion of the beach pedestrian-only, year-round. I agree that a policy was well thought out before and is best left in place, with clear signage and enforcement; I don't think seasonal changes will work.
I understand and support multiple uses, but I don't think all uses are compatible at the same location and frankly, what I truly wish is that the City could buy another parcel of the many for sale between town and West Hill Road, for an access point further west; this would allow a beach with safe, quiet walking access only, or with permitted coal-gathering vehicle access which really would be a rare interruption for those who enjoy beach access for quiet, safe walking and children's play. If Homer really values its beautiful beach as a center point, this is the time to consider more public land on the shoreline. California has had moratoriums on

building on its shoreline; it seems like Homer should be looking at a more longterm vision for the role of our beach as a public resource.

Respectfully,
Sharon Whytal

P.O. Box 2994
Homer AK 9960e

Homer Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
Homer Alaska 99603

Dear Commissioners:

I am asking for the Commission to reconsider its vote regarding a seasonal vehicular opening for Zone 7, the eastern part of Bishop's Beach. I would urge you to instead pass a year-round closure to vehicles on this part of Bishop's Beach, thereby following on the work of the first Beach Policy recommendation to provide for a pedestrian zone year round in the popular area.

Zone 8 can remain open year-round to accommodate people who want to drive west for coal, a picnic, or a ride to Anchor Point. Partnering with private land owners in Zone 8 to address the trespass issue is the best way to resolve this problem. Barriers can be designed to stop traffic from driving on private land.

A beach patrol as we once had can address many of the other problems in Zone 8, such as trespass, littering, illegal fires, driving in tide pools, habitat destruction, drug deals, and reckless driving, if reasonable and enforceable ordinances are passed. We cannot go back to voluntary compliance as the more than 10 year experiment was a complete failure.

There are many reasons why reconsideration of the seasonal closure needs to be looked at again.

1. A seasonal opening misses the whole purpose of protecting the resources in Zone 7. Bird habitat has been destroyed on the berms that are part of USFWS lands. This is also an

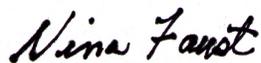
important part of a walkable system that begins at the Islands and Ocean Visitor Center, a system used for nature walks, school outings, and quiet recreation. A seasonal opening, particularly with Zone 8 being proposed to be closed, would become a beach sacrifice zone and would void the purpose of making an area for pedestrians. Walkers don't just use the area between the berms--they use all of Zone 7! But the bottom line is protecting the resources and letting them restore to a natural vegetated state that will host more of a variety of birds and marine mammals.

2. Seasonal use will not protect the berm. If there is not a constant vigilance by a beach patrol, the berm will likely be overrun by vehicles during an open season, thus defeating complete restoration. The outer berm has been completely trashed by cars and litter with the unrestricted use that is occurring. I have submitted numerous photos to document the damage that vehicles are doing to the berms.
3. If all the cars use this area, there will be an even greater public safety issue with vehicles mixing with walkers, kids, families and those who are looking for a quiet beach experience.
4. Zone 7 is not just an ordinary area. It includes a complex estuary, wetlands system that has been nominated to be added to the other areas around our beaches that are already part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN). This is a big draw for visitors and as such we need to demonstrate our commitment to protecting these areas and working with the USFWS, non-profit environmental educational, groups, schools, tour groups, and others who will be telling visitors about this accessible natural resource.

5. When all the ideas are sorted out, recommendations passed, the followup for success has to include good barriers, new and easy-to-understand signage, and enforcement ordinances. These three things are critical so the public will understand where and what uses can occur.

I hope that the Commission will realize the importance of the habitat and the need for complete restoration and long-term protection. The phase for figuring out signage, barriers, and developing innovative uses for Zone 7 to become a Restoration Laboratory for citizen science would be a great community project for the many groups that will likely lead beach walks, guided nature tours, and restoration study labs. Please help restore this area by closing it year-round to vehicles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nina Faust". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nina Faust

From: Jack Wiles <wilesmichaud@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2015 8:14 AM
To: Julie Engebretsen; Renee Krause
Cc: Jack Wiles; Louise Ashmun; Lani Raymond; Rika Mouw; Nina Faust; Carol G. Harding; George Matz; Michelle Michaud
Subject: Reconsideration of Beach Policy
Attachments: Beach.Rules.docx

April 27, 2015

Julie & Renee,
Good Monday morning - please place this email and the attachment in the Park Commission packet.

Thanks.

Signed

Jack Wiles
Louise Ashmun
Lani Raymond
Rika Mouw
Nina Faust
Carol Harding
George Matz
Michelle Michaud

April 27, 2015

Dear Honorable Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission,

A. We petition you to reconsider your option of a seasonal opening for motorized vehicles on the east side of Bishop's Beach and request that you adopt the option of a year-round closure for motorized vehicles on the east side of Bishop's Beach.

B. We request that you review the existing habitat destruction and trespass that is occurring in Beach Zone 1 and the biological significance of that zone and determine the need for a year-round closure of motorized vehicles in beach zone 1.

C. We understand the need to establish policy before adopting implementing ordinances but believe the Parks Commission would be remiss to not address changes needed in city code for more effective enforcement. Attached is a revised document of some code changes we have proposed earlier. The provisions for penalties are not addressed. Certainly obtaining

voluntary compliance is desirable but penalties are needed for endangering behaviors that occur.

Factors to Reconsider:

- The Park Commission in establishing the process of updating the 2007 Beach Policy was responding to overwhelming public concern about increased traffic, illegal activity, uncontrolled fires, and destruction and disturbance of habitat and wildlife.

The priority has always been to protect the resource first and maintain a safe and enjoyable beach experience while attempting to accommodate many traditional uses. We believe a reasonable consensus is to provide a balance by allowing vehicles on city owned tidelands to the west of Bishop's Beach and establish a vehicle-free area on the east side to allow for re-establishment of the tideland berms, protect wildlife, and provide a pedestrian friendly beach experience.

- Return to the original findings of the Beach Policy Task Force - the area east of Bishops Beach is closed to motorize vehicles and the area west of Bishops Beach is open to motorize vehicles. It's simple, easy to remember, enforceable, balanced, equitable, and consistent. It is also a decent compromise for both the pedestrians and those desiring motorized access to the beach. Safety and the quality of the visitor experience should be stressed. Closing the east side of the beach would provide a SAFE area for families, birders, and beach walkers to enjoy the natural environment free of exhaust fumes, engine noise, traffic, congestion, trash, blaring radios, reckless driving, and destruction of the berms.
- Vehicle use during the period from October to April will result in continued compaction and alteration of the beach berm and encroach upon US Fish & Wildlife Service lands defeating any efforts to restore the berm habitat and fails to recognize their mandate to protect habitat and wildlife. We have provided a good deal of documentary and photographic evidence of indiscriminate vehicle use and existing beach berm destruction during this winter season alone.
- The Parks Commission should not confuse seasonal closures with seasonal use by birds. While that may have some merit with birds, since their presence is mostly seasonal, although Homer enjoys many wintering birds and their numbers are increasing with environmental changes, a seasonal opening to vehicles should not apply to habitat. Habitat is there all the time. In fact, exposing the berms to vehicle traffic in the

winter may be more destructive than summer since winter is a time of more severe storms and potential for blowouts from berms that have been disturbed.

- The recommendation to recognize the importance of the Beluga Slough and tideland area as a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) site recognizes the City's commitment to manage the tidelands/berms/slough/wetlands/estuary for their habitat values and restore and maintain that habitat. Opening the area to motorized vehicles defeats the habitat protection goals.
- It is highly unlikely that the City will have a Beach Host, Beach Patrol, or Beach Monitors during the winter months and City Police do not want to be placed in the position of enforcing vehicle traffic or permits on the east side and may not desire, due to the enforcement difficulty, to enter into a cooperative agreement with the USFWS to protect the berm habitat on USFWS land.
- The City owns tidelands to the west of Bishop's Beach and can allow vehicle use to continue on those tidelands. Private landowners have voiced their concern over illegal beach activity more so than persons driving or parking on the beach, the City should explore options to work with landowners on a Community Policing program, and consider purchasing additional tideland easements or property from willing sellers.
- Closing beach zone 8 to motorized vehicles while opening zone 7 to vehicles will further exasperate the pressures, conflicts, habitat destruction, and quality of the beach experience in zone 7. Ideally both zone 7 and 8 should be closed to vehicles but a reasonable compromise is to continue to allow motorized vehicle usage in zone 8 where persons desiring to drive on the beach can wander for miles. Closing the east side affects only 1,500 lineal feet of beach - a modest compromise.
- Better signage and placement of signage is certainly needed but reliance on voluntary compliance to just signs has not been effective and there is no reason to believe that destruction of the beach berms on the east side will not continue and that behavioral influences of reckless driving will not endanger beach users using the east side as a refuge from vehicles.

- Any beach use policy adopted by the City must be backed by effective ordinances. Currently no ordinances are in place to implement many of the beach policy options. An ordinance to be effective in changing behavior must have effective, consistent, and assertive enforcement with penalties. Any measures to protect the berms, tide pools, mud flats, estuary, wetlands, and other highly productive habitats must be backed up by ordinances for enforcement with penalties.
- Spatial barriers, such as boulders or a gate, will provide a low-cost enforcement alternative to the long-term cost, difficulty, and unreliability of police enforcement.
- The primary coal seams are along the west-side bluffs. Any coal washing up on the east side of Bishop's Beach can easily be gathered by walking the beach with a five gallon bucket.
- Windsurfers and paddle boarders can easily access the Bay from the west side.
- The east side of Bishop's Beach comprises about 1,500 lineal feet of a small but important refuge for people to not encounter vehicles and recognizes the importance of that area for its habitat and wildlife. The west side of Bishop's Beach offers miles of beach for vehicles to roam.
- Closing the east side of Bishop's Beach allows the City to monitor the long-term benefits of habitat restoration, engage with beach users on their beach experience, work with the shorebird monitoring project, and develop a partnership with the US Fish & Wildlife Service on visitor signage, develop an interpretive loop trail, establish a 'learning laboratory' to develop techniques and evaluate beach berm restoration, and establish Homer as a wildlife appreciation community.

- A beach area that has not received a good deal of attention is Beach Area 1. The beach berms, beach and mud flats within Area 1 are significant; to the spring, summer and fall migrant shorebirds, wintering rock sandpipers and waterfowl, and as an important feeding area for the iconic image of Homer - the Lesser Sandhill Crane. A 2008 Kachemak Crane Watch sandhill crane tracking and habitat study showed satellite banded cranes using Beach Area 1, and a follow-up three year monitoring study with local reports from cooperating observers identify this beach zone as an intertidal feeding area used by large numbers of cranes -- an important local high protein food resource for cranes.
- Beach Area 1 is an important gathering area for cranes and a much needed crane refuge and feeding area - a limited habitat, that if disturbed or lost will effect the population. Limiting summer and fall disturbance to the mud flats that cranes rely on should be considered when protecting the beach resources of Area 1.
- To respect private property and protect the fragile beach berms and mudflat, vehicle access to Beach Area 1 should be closed year-round. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission investigate the desirability and need for access to Beach Area 1; eliminating the impact of recreational vehicles to shorebirds, waterfowl, and cranes utilizing Beach Area 1 should be part of your habitat protection goals.
- Private property owners along Beach Area 1 should be notified and allowed to testify about the impacts to their property and observed impacts to the mud flats.

Managing City of Homer Beach Areas

Proposed Amendments to City Code: underlined words are additions.

19.16.010 General.

It is the intent of this chapter to preserve and protect certain beach areas of the Homer Spit, Beluga Slough and Bishop's Beach from the uncontrolled and ever increasing use of such areas by persons driving wheeled, motorized vehicles thereon. [Code 1967 § 12-600.1].

19.16.020 Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, "beach area" shall include the tidal influenced zone and the zone of sand, gravel and other unconsolidated materials that extends landward from the low water line to the place where there is a marked change in material or physiographic form.

"Berm" means a natural, linear mound or series of mounds of sand or gravel, or both, and may include vegetation, driftwood and accumulated woody debris, generally paralleling the water at or landward of the line of ordinary high tide. An emerging or secondary berm shall be considered a 'berm' when it is a beach feature comprising an emerging habitat with the development of vegetative material and/or the collection of stabilizing material which if left undisturbed a berm would become established creating a viable habitat.

"Storm berm" means a berm formed by the upper reach of storm wave surges or the highest tides. Storm berms generally include an accumulation of seaweed, driftwood, and other waterborne materials. A beach may have more than one storm berm. [Ord. 02-14(A) § 2, 2002. Code 1967 § 12-600.2].

19.16.030 Use of vehicles prohibited.

a. No person shall operate a recreational vehicle, motorcycle, motor bike, or motor scooter within or upon that beach area as defined in HCC 19.16.020 located from a line bisecting the Homer Spit at the centerline of the mouth of the Fishing' Hole to the tip of the Spit.

b. For the purpose of this section, recreational vehicle is defined as a self-propelled vehicle having wheels, tracks or rollers that may be operated on land areas located off the public roads. Use of vehicles engaged in an authorized or permitted use or authorized commercial activity, as opposed to recreational, is exempted from this prohibition. Authorization may be by City of Homer permit or lease or as designated by signage or other means of communication and enforcement established by the City of Homer.

c. No person shall operate any motorized vehicle upon a storm berm or berm. No motorized vehicle may operate or park on any beach within the City limits of Homer except in designated areas as may be signed.

d. No person shall operate any motorized vehicle year-round upon the following beach or tidal areas, or mudflats, estuary, wetland, tide pool, berm, storm berm, or as depicted and described on the City of Homer aerial photo and made part of the official 'City of Homer Beach Policy Map' and as may be signed and/or delineated by physical barriers on the beach by the City of Homer:

Beach Area 1 : From airport access road to Miller's Landing.

Beach Area 2 : Mud Bay; area east of the Spit Road and Kachemak Drive and south to Louie's Lagoon; the east boundary ending at the Airport Beach Access as defined by signage and/or physical barriers.

Beach Area 3 : Louie's Lagoon; area north to Mud Bay and south to the City of Homer Campground at the Nick Dudiak Fishing Hole.

Beach Area 5 : Mariner Park Lagoon; area including the berm and storm berm and tidal pools and that area including all of Mariner Lagoon south of Mariner Park and west of the Homer Spit Road.

Beach Area 7 : Bishop's Beach and Beluga Slough; area east of Bishop's Beach entrance to the west end of the seawall. Area includes Beluga Slough outlet, tidal ponds, and wetlands.

Beach Areas 4, 6, and 8 : May be opened seasonally for motorized vehicles under conditions established by the City and as signed.

e. The official "Beach Policy Map of the City of Homer" is enacted by reference and declared to be part of this chapter in its exact form as it exists on the date that the ordinance codified in this chapter is adopted or as amended by the City Council. [Ord. 02-14(A) § 2, 2002; Ord. 01-39, 2001; Ord. 78-16 § 1, 1978. Code 1967 § 12-600.4].

19.16.040 Violation – Penalty.

The violation of any provision contained in this chapter shall be punished as follows:

- a. First offense: \$25.00 fine;
- b. Second offense: \$250.00 fine;
- c. Third and subsequent offenses: \$499.00 fine. [Ord. 02-14(A) § 1, 2002. Code 1967 § 12-600.6].

Establish a Recreational Use Code of City of Homer Beaches

19.30.00 Recreational Use of City of Homer Beaches.

A. The City of Homer may exercise its authority to manage recreational use of city-owned beach and tidal lands or other beach areas under permit, lease, easement, or other agreements or contracts.

(a) Authority to protect and maintain beach areas, easements, and rights of access in a manner that will contribute to the general welfare of the public and protect the natural and cultural resources; and

(b) Authority to adopt regulations and management provisions as it deems necessary for the use and administration of beach areas.

(c) Authority to enter into a written agreement with a federal or state entity or borough, or private landowner to cooperatively exercise jurisdiction and authority over the beach and tidal areas for the purposes of enforcing applicable city code or borough code or state or federal laws and regulations.

B. General Beach Rules shall be incorporated within this section to apply to beaches within the City of Homer or otherwise as signed and posted at the beach or specified as follows:

(a) Overnight camping is prohibited on any City of Homer beach, berm or tidal area unless designated by sign. Camping includes occupying a shelter or an open-air use for any duration, to include, but not limited to, overnight sleeping in tents, driftwood shelters, sleeping bags, recreational vehicles, trailers or automobiles.

(b) An enforcement officer may require a person to vacate the beach for trespass, excessive noise, minors in possession, activity beyond a curfew, camping, or a violation of a city sign, ordinance or state law. An enforcement officer may exclude a person under city ordinance.

(c) A person shall observe and abide by all instructions, warnings, restrictions, and prohibitions on posted signs and comply with notices from authorized City of Homer employees or representatives of the City of Homer.

C. Fires on the Beach

(a) Fire on the beach shall be in a designated located or receptacle, attended at all times, and subject to the following provisions:

i. A fire on the beach in a designated location/receptable or a fire on the beach that may be allowed by permit must follow the posted signage and permit conditions and must adhere to any additional measures required by the City of Homer by signage or permit;

ii. A fire site shall not be located within a berm and must be on the sand or rocky beach, and downwind of any shoreline vegetation.

iii. any person(s) establishing a fire are responsible for any fire suppression costs and damages and assume personal liability;

iv. Fires may not be covered with sand and left to smolder but must be extinguished completely with water and broken apart before its users leave the area.

v. No person may use a flammable liquid other than charcoal lighting fluid to start or accelerate a fire. No person shall cause, build, maintain, or accelerate a fire on the beach with gasoline, diesel, fuel oil, motor oil, propane, or other petroleum based product, other than charcoal lighting fluid.

vi. Fire material shall not contain driftwood, or dune accumulated wood debris or beach log accumulations; and shall not contain hazardous materials, toxic materials, plastics, rubber tires or other rubber products, coal, glass, aerosols, gun powder or explosives, treated wood or any other materials as designated by the City of Homer. Pallets or wood containing nails may only be used if the wood is untreated and all nails are raked and removed from the beach for proper disposal.

vii. The City of Homer may temporarily restrict or prohibit fires in otherwise allowed situations due to high fire hazard conditions, or public safety, and all persons shall observe such restrictions.

D. Domestic Animals on the Beach

(a) Dogs and other domestic animals on the beach shall be subject to the following provisions;

i. Unless otherwise designated, all dogs must be on-leash when occupying a beach, tidal area, berm, or other allowed beach use area within the City of Homer. The City of Homer may establish and sign a fenced or unfenced dog off-leash area for selected City-owned beaches or other city property in order to provide options for persons to socialize, play, exercise, train, and interact with their dog while the dog is off-leash but under voice control.

ii. A handler is responsible for the behavior of their domestic animal and shall either confine their domestic animal or keep it under physical control or on a leash not more than six feet long at all times except in a designated dog off leash area.

iii. In a designated dog off leash area, a handler shall carry a leash, keep their domestic animal under control at all times such that it is within the unobstructed sight of the handler, remains responsive to voice commands, or other methods of control. A handler must promptly leash or contain animals prior to entering or exiting an off leash area and at the request or order of an enforcement officer.

iv. A handler shall prevent their dog from harassing or intimidating people, wildlife, and other domestic animals.

v. In order to protect sensitive habitats and wildlife, the following Beach Areas as designated in the City of Homer Official Beach Policy Map, shall be closed at all hours, year-round, to the use, passage, training, or occupancy of a dog or other domestic animal at large or with its handler:

Area 2 : Mud Bay and its land spit – area east of the Spit Road to the Airport Road Beach Access, as signed.

Area 3 : Louie’s Lagoon – area south from the Lagoon tidal inlet to Mud Bay.

Area 5 : Mariner’s Park Lagoon – lagoon/wetland area west of the Spit Road.

Area 7 : Beluga Slough - wetlands, tidal slough and estuary.

E. Enforcement of Domestic Animals on the Beach.

a) An enforcement officer may take any measure deemed necessary (including the removal of the animal from City property) to protect resources or to prevent interference by the animal with the safety, comfort, or well-being of any person.

b) An enforcement officer may seize any domestic animal running at large on the beach in the City of Homer and release it to an animal pound or animal control officer or shelter.

F. Duties Of Domestic Animal Owners.

a) The owner of a dog is responsible for the behavior of their dog regardless of whether the owner or another member of the owner’s household or a household visitor permitted the animal to engage in the behavior that is the subject of the violation.

b) An owner with knowledge of a dog with a transmittable disease or a dog in heat is required to quarantine or remove the dog from a public beach area.

G. Animal Waste.

a) It is the duty of any person in physical possession or control of a dog or domestic animal on the beach to immediately and properly remove excrement or other solid waste deposited by the dog or domestic animal.

Definitions:

Dangerous Dog:

A dog that menaces, chases, or displays threatening or aggressive behavior to another dog or which threatens or endangers the safety of any person or injures a person;

A dog with evidence of a transmittable disease.

Dog Owner/Handler:

The person a dog is registered to or cared for and includes any member of the owner’s household or a person that is handling the owner’s dog with or without permission.

Enforcement Officer:

A person, agency, entity, or representative of the City of Homer authorized and trained by the City of Homer to enforce provisions of ordinances regulating animals.

Animal “At Large”:

ANIMAL AT LARGE. Any domestic animal, that is not physically or electronically restrained on the owner's or keeper's premises including motorized vehicles in a manner that physically prevents the animal from leaving the premises or reaching any public areas; or, is not physically restrained when on public property, or any public area, by a leash, not to exceed eight feet in length, or other physical control device and under the physical control of a capable person. A dog may be permitted to be off leash in a designated off leash area established by the City of Homer if the dog is under effective voice control and is not a dangerous animal or has been excluded.

H. Vehicles on the Beach

(a) A person operating a motorized recreational vehicle on the beach or tidal area where allowed shall;

i. Observe all posted signs, including signs that prohibit the operation of motorized vehicles or devices;

ii. Have a valid driver's license and operate a motor vehicle that is registered to operate on public highways and roads. All provisions of motor vehicle laws of the State of Alaska are applicable and enforceable. A person may use an ATV or OHV provided that a person under 16 years of age is equipped with a helmet.

iii. Restrict speed and manner of operation to reasonable and prudent practice, considering the terrain, prevailing conditions, equipment, personal capabilities, personal safety and the safety and protection of all other beach area users, natural resources, and wildlife.

iv. Not disturb or harass wildlife or other natural resources, or block access, use, or the safe and uninterrupted passage of others on the beach.

v. The City of Homer may have a motorized vehicle or device towed at the owner's expense if left unattended for more than eight hours or one tidal change or towed immediately when it poses harm to the beach environment or creates a hazard to humans or wildlife, or is a nuisance or may become a navigational hazard if washed out to sea. An enforcement officer may authorize the removal of a vehicle upon refusal of an operator to obey an enforcement officer, or due to impairment of the operator or operating with a revoked driver's license.

vi. The use of a power-driven mobility device by an individual with mobility disabilities is not considered a motorized recreational vehicle and does not include an ATV, OHV, golf cart, or type of automobile. Use of such a device shall meet the criteria under the Americans with Disabilities Act.



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Clerk

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

Memorandum

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK
DATE: APRIL 28, 2015
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF A MOTION ON THE SUBJECT OF
VEHICLES IN AREA 7

Commissioner Archibald submitted a timely request for reconsideration on the following motion:

MOVED TO MAKE THE AREA DESCRIBED AS BISHOP'S BEACH ACCESS TO BELUGA SLOUGH MOUTH IN AREA 7 AS SEASONAL ACCESS OCTOBER 1 TO MARCH 31 WITH PLACEMENT OF ROCKS TO BLOCK ACCESS TO THE BERM AREA.

Commissioner Archibald was a party of the prevailing side.

A motion to reconsider must be made and seconded.

It is not debatable.

A roll call vote will be entered.

A two thirds majority vote in favor is needed for reconsideration of this item.

It will then be addressed under Pending Business and is fully debatable.

RECOMMENDATION:

Move to Reconsider the Motion as Requested

Session 15-07 a Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order on April 16, 2015 at 5:32 pm by Chair Matt Steffy at the Cowles Council Chambers City Hall located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS LOWNEY, STEFFY, ARCHIBALD, BRANN, AND LILLIBRIDGE

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS MACCAMPBELL AND ROEDL (EXCUSED)

STAFF: JULIE ENGBRETSSEN, DEPUTY CITY PLANNER
MIKE ILLG, COMMUNITY RECREATION COORDINATOR
RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Chair Steffy noted that Commissioner MacCampbell may be calling in; the Clerk confirmed that the phone was open and ready if there were able to do so.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Steffy requested a motion to approve the agenda.

BRANN/LILLIBRIDGE - MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Chair Steffy invited the public to comment and requested them to please sign in they will have 3 minutes.

There were no comments from the audience present.

VISITORS

A. Bishop's Beach by Homer Area Students

Taylor Davis, Alicia Steiner, Paloma Ramires, Nolan Bunting, Landon Bunting, Jay Davis, Homer High School and Parker Lowney, West Homer Elementary, 6th Grade

Students provided a PowerPoint presentation to the commission regarding the issues at Bishop's Beach and provided some insightful solutions to remedy the problems.

Nolan Bunting, speaking on behalf of the Youth Birders provided a report on the number of vehicles they observed parked on the berm today and the birds and animals that are seen in the slough and beach area. Remarks from the F.B.I regarding:

- Preservation of the Area
 - the uniqueness of Bishop's Beach and Beluga Slough
 - being able to bring their families to the beach to enjoy it as they did
 - How special it is to be known to provide habitat for rare species known the world over

The commissioners inquired or requested clarification about the following:

- Name of the group

Mr. Bunting responded that they are still fleshing out names but there are two that stand out: Fledgling Bird Investigators or Youth Birding Group

- What did the group envision as solutions to the problems regarding vehicles?

Ms. Ramires responded that they provided some options but are not really driving yet and are not sure what would be best for the beach.

Mr. Bunting speaking for the Birding group supported the proposed gate with a permit to allow coal collecting or scientific purposes but no recreational use.

Ms. Davis also stated larger signage for easier visibility would be beneficial.

- What they thought about allowing seasonal or no vehicles?

Mr. Bunting stated that it depends on the students you asked, but explained that young people are very adaptable to rules since they live their life with many restrictions currently, referring to school, etc. He supported the idea of a Beach patrol.

- What was the young person's opinion regarding placement of a gate and/or restricting the area to the left or right to vehicles?

Mr. Bunting believes that overall would be preferred, stating that the overall area was important to the migration patterns and as a habitat.

Taylor Davis responded that students on average did not favor restrictions for vehicles but may be willing to a compromise when an explanation is provided for the reason for the restrictions.

Commissioner Brann advised the students to research the Critical Habitat requirements to develop and use in their approach to protect the habitat.

Commissioner Lowney commented and questioned on the drug problems and the use of motion activated cameras and commented that this is the one issue that the commission has not addressed. She asked if they have thoughts on this subject.

- Ms. Davis responded that there are students that would be interested in seeing some youth programs developed about addressing the issues surrounding drug use and talk about healthy behaviors and making sure it doesn't happen in town or on the beaches.

- Ms. Ramires noted that the problem of drugs in the community is a hard one to solve due to the adaptability and believes that they best solution was the motion activated cameras due to the difficulties surrounding the issue of illegal drugs.

Commissioner Lillibridge thanked the kids for the presentation and speaking out on the issues regarding the birds and beach she also suggested that they try to create an assembly for the student body regarding the issues and those affecting the beaches and wildlife.

The students commented on the difficulties that the students have in getting clearance from the School District to garner interest in having an assembly regarding this leading to shorebird. There was a brief discussion regarding the policy against advertising any event or group that is not school related and approved by the school district over the loudspeaker and FOL can be arranged with individual teachers on a single subject.

Chair Steffy thanked the group.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items for reconsideration.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes for the regular meeting of March 19, 2015

Chair Steffy requested any comments, questions or corrections regarding the items on the consent agenda. Hearing none he requested a motion for adoption of the consent agenda.

ARCHIBALD/LOWNEY - MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

Chair Steffy thanked the Clerk for the very well written minutes of the meeting and keeping track of the actions and discussions of the commission.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Staff Report Julie Engebretsen, Deputy City Planner

Ms. Engebretsen reported or pointed out the following:

- Katie Koester would like to come to a meeting in May
- Recommended a joint worksession with Council in June on how to move forward and this will allow a Councilmember to support forwarding an ordinance regarding Beach patrol or any of the other budget related items before budget.
- The new map depicting leash and off leash areas

She inquired if there were any questions on the process for the beach policy. There were none offered.

B. Parks & Recreation Trails Symposium Status Update - Deb Lowney/Mike Illg

Commissioner Lowney reported the following:

- Advertised in both local papers, and the radio stations were free, KBBI announcements every day,
- 15 groups signed up and several individuals expressed interest also
Everybody is excited to come to the table to speak about their group's pet project.
- 11:00 a.m. is the scheduled time to meet and set up on Saturday
- purchased office supplies for each table from funds provided

Chair Steffy will start the event, be the mediator or commentator. Chair Steffy provided a brief description of the structure of the event for the commission.

Commissioner Lowney provided a description of the set up for the meeting regarding the tables and audience seating. She confirmed that there will be a microphone for the speaker.

Chair Steffy fielded a question from the audience regarding the time to come and set up.

C. Community Recreation Report - Mike Illg

Mr. Illg reported on the Safe Kids Fair and the collaborative efforts of multiple city departments, complemented Commissioner Lowney's efforts in organizing the Homer on Move Symposium and provided an update on the planning and organization of the Parks and Recreation Conference scheduled for October. Mr. Illg noted that they will be visiting the Neverland Conference Facility on Kachemak Drive.

There were no comments or questions from the commission.

D. Parks Report - Angie Otteson

Ms. Otteson was not present at this meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no items scheduled for this meeting.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Map Depicting the Existing Areas and Proposed Areas

1. Recommendations to Define a Pedestrian Only Area
2. Recommendations Regarding Motorized and Non-Motorized Traffic Areas
3. Recommendation to Establish a Limited Permitting System
4. Recommendation to Designate a New Area
 - a. Boundaries
 - b. Allowable Activities

Page 27

Chair Steffy introduced the item and opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Brann supported seasonal closure with or without permit system for coaling or surfing in Area 7; he would also support expansion of the parking area down on the beach to allow an area for those with mobility issues. Staff recommended putting that into a motion. Chair Steffy inquired if he wanted to make that motion.

BRANN/LOWNEY - MOVED TO MAKE THE AREA AS DESCRIBED AS BISHOPS BEACH ACCESS TO BELUGA SLOUGH MOUTH IN AREA 7 AS SEASONAL ACCESS OCTOBER 1 TO MARCH 31 WITH PLACEMENT OF ROCKS TO BLOCK ACCESS TO THE BERM AREA.

There was concern regarding the area between the berms in front of the slough, recognition of the designated critical habitat area as defined and the delineation of private property, USFW and the city and that there was a very fine line to allow vehicles; Chair Steffy commented on the very limited resources of the USFW and felt that it may be best to leave to state. There was question regarding response from the state regarding the critical habitat. Points in discussion included protecting the berms and fully removing vehicles from the beach. The commission requested staff input on establishing policy in areas that are technically not under jurisdiction of the city, staff recommended keeping it simple. Discussion included the point that this motion removes this area as pedestrian only recommendation but there are other areas that are pedestrian only but this will provides consideration to two other groups that use that beach area on a seasonal basis. Further support was expressed on support for a permit system rather than just seasonal access by permit.

Chair Steffy asked if there was an amendment allowing seasonal use via permit system. He further commented on setting the parameters of a permit system. He supported seasonal closure and the boulders as a first step and that there are permitted uses for the area. He further noted that the commission can revisit the policy if there are still problems out there. No commissioner offered that amendment.

VOTE. YES. LILLIBRIDGE, BRANN, ARCHIBALD, STEFFY
VOTE. NO. LOWNEY

Motion carried.

Commissioner Lillibridge advocated for prohibiting vehicles on the beach in the immediate area in front of the parking lot. There was a brief discussion on bringing a line of boulders down on the right to the end of private property and they already moved to place a line of boulders to the left which would take care of vehicles parking to the left.

LOWNEY/LILLIBRIDGE - MOVED THAT VEHICLES ARE ALLOWED BY PERMIT USE ONLY IN AREA 8A AND AREA 8B

Commissioner Lowney stated that she is making this motion based on the complaints from the residents and users of the beach. The commission stated all the reasons why they need to restrict and create controls now regarding the uses of the beach. Chair Steffy supported creating the separate recommendations on the different areas for Council to make the final decisions.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Steffy asked if there were any additional concerns regarding motorized vehicles on the beach.

Commissioner Lowney requested clarification on vehicles accesses in the areas of 1 and 2 and if that has been previously addressed. Staff confirmed that vehicles are prohibited in Area 2 and Area 1 vehicles are allowed. Commissioner Lowney wanted to investigate and make sure that vehicles are not accessing those areas and recommendations to make a parking area from airport access rd. There were recommendations on defining the parking area in Area 2.

Commissioner Archibald requested clarification on vehicles in Area 7. Chair Steffy responded that vehicles will be allowed in Area 7 in the winter only.

Staff requested clarification on Area 6 and Area 4 regarding vehicles. Chair Steffy stated that he only remembers motions regarding dogs in Area 6 and 4. Staff repeated the original recommendations to
Closure in Area 7
Closure in Area 7 & 6
Closure in Areas 7, 6 & 4

ARCHIBALD/LOWNEY - MOVED TO CLOSE AREAS 6 TO MOTORIZED VEHICLES SEASONALLY DURING THE PERIOD MARCH 31 TO OCTOBER 1.

There was a brief discussion on the need for signage, creating differing restrictions in areas creates misunderstanding for the public. Commissioner Archibald wanted to make it simple for Council and believed that the public does not need to have vehicles on the beach.

ARCHIBALD/LOWNEY - MOVED TO CLOSE AREA 6 TO MOTORIZED VEHICLES ANNUALLY ACCESS BY PERMIT ONLY.

Chair Steffy noted that if they have too much variation then they may be causing confusion to the general public and that they should revisit the other areas to make it more cohesive when traversing from area to area. Commissioner Archibald responded that he wanted to make things simple and that they have allowed vehicles in Area 7 and it is not needed in any other area. He intends to make the same motion for Area 4. Commissioner Archibald believed that they should make a strong statement and hopes that the City Council will support their recommendations. The commissioners voiced their concern with the confusion that may be caused having separate rules for different areas. Commissioner Archibald agreed to amend his motion as follows:

ARCHIBALD/LOWNEY - MOVED TO CLOSE AREA 6 SEASONALLY, APRIL 1-OCTOBER 31, TO MOTORIZED VEHICLES - ALLOWED BY PERMIT ONLY.

There was a brief discussion on the dates of summer season.

VOTE. YES. STEFFY, BRANN, LILLIBRIDGE
VOTE. NO. LOWNEY, ARCHIBALD

Motion failed.

Commissioner Lillibridge asked for immediate reconsideration.

Commissioner Archibald wanted to make it the same as every other area. Commissioner Lowney wanted consistency throughout the areas and would support a closure and vehicles by permit only seasonally. Chair Steffy clarified that they recommended a seasonal closure only in Area 7 and they were on the track now to close other areas seasonally.

ARCHIBALD/STEFFY - MOVED TO CLOSE AREA 6 SEASONALLY, VEHICLES ALLOWED BY PERMIT ONLY DURING THE APRIL 1-OCTOBER 31 TIME PERIOD.

There was brief discussion on clarification.

VOTE. YES. ARCHIBALD, BRANN, STEFFY, LILLIBRIDGE
VOTE. NO. LOWNEY.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Lillibridge requested a quick review of areas and vehicles that has been passed. Chair Steffy responded with all the previous recommendations.

Chair Steffy asked if there were additional motions on motorized vehicles on the beach

ARCHIBALD/BRANN - MOVED TO CLOSE AREA 4 TO MOTORIZED VEHICLES SEASONALLY NO PERMITTED ACCESS DURING CLOSURES.

Brief discussion on the area being closed during the summer season to vehicles no permits allowed and open during the winter to motorized vehicles. The boundary ends opposite of the fishing lagoon and this recommendation is directed at ATV and UTV type motorized vehicles.

VOTE. YES. LILLIBRIDGE, BRANN, ARCHIBALD, STEFFY
VOTE. NO. LOWNEY.

Motion carried.

Chair Steffy once again asked for motions on motorized non-motorized traffic areas.

Commissioner Archibald inquired about creating a parking area on the beach within the confines of Bishop's Beach Park. Staff recommended having a separate discussion on this idea because if Council does not approve closing the beach then there might be some issues created.

STEFFY/BRANN - MOVED TO ESTABLISH A LIMITED PERMITTING SYSTEM AND LET COUNCIL DETERMINE THE PERMITTED USES.

The commission entertained a lengthy discussion and the pros and cons of establishing a permitting system, how to implement it effectively, and what activities should be permitted. They also debated what would be supported by Chief Robl and City Council and how detailed it should be or leave that to the Council. There were several comments regarding withdrawing the reference to permits on all recommendations since the intent of the commission is to curb the vehicles on the beach for purely recreational purposes. After a lengthy discussion the motion was pulled from the floor. Chair Steffy remarked that it is understood that all restrictions do not apply to landowners and their guests. If there are vehicles on the beach it will be up to the Police Department how it will be enforced. This will also put a burden on the property owners to report to the Police when they see offenders down there. A reminder that what caused problems last year and a suggestion that the private property owners need to get together and agree on how they want to manage these problems was suggested by Commissioner Brann.

There was a brief conversation on inviting the property owners to a discussion and needing definitive motions for the property owners to respond to at the next meeting, May 4th. Staff will mail invites to property owners to comment on the recommendations made and a Public Hearing will be conducted at the May 21st meeting.

Comment was made on having a permit required in any areas. It was noted that private property owners have access no matter what, historical access, they can close it and it will present the potential for litigation for the city.

Reiteration for clarification was made for Mariner Park regarding dogs on leash or off leash.

Staff requested a clear motion prohibiting vehicles from the Areas 8A and 8B since they rescinded the permit system in any area. A previous motion included the vehicles allowed by permit only.

LOWNEY/LILLIBRIDGE - MOVED TO PROHIBIT VEHICLES IN AREAS AREA 8A AND 8B WITH THE EXCEPTION OF LANDOWNERS.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Archibald expressed concerns on the issue regarding the area of Mariner Park regarding the berm and dogs on leash. Staff explained that there is actually fire rings in that berm area and if there are issues, Angie Otteson, Parks Maintenance has the authority to address those issues.

There was no further discussion.

B. Placement of a Barrier at Bishop's Beach Access

A motion postponed from the February 19, 2015 regular meeting to place a barrier to prohibit vehicles from turning immediately right upon the beach to deter crossing private property and extend said barrier to the medium high tide line.

Chair Steffy read the title into the record. He noted that there was no definitive action he believed should be recommended by the commission without input from the landowners since in essence the city is giving access to the public onto private property. It was noted that if the no vehicles are allowed in Areas 8A and 8B this would be a moot point. It was further noted that the process and discussion with the property owners will be conducted in the public forum in response to a suggestion to hold a discussion with the property owners in executive session. Staff commented that they could have the landowners at the May 4th meeting and then with proper advertising they can also discuss it at the Public Hearing during the May 21st meeting. It was also recommended for the commission to be prepared for public comment from parties outside of city limits.

Commissioner Brann requested that they review the updated policy in 3 years instead of 5 so that they can make any additional changes needed then. He stated that in a 3 year time period they should realize whether the recommendations and or changes were working or not.

BRANN/LOWNEY - MOVED TO REVIEW THE BEACH POLICY AS UPDATED IN THREE YEARS.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Trespass - A discussion.

Chair Steffy read the title into the record.

Commissioner Brann felt that this topic was relevant due to comments at a previous meeting and thought that they should at least have the current regulations for review on the topic. He read the requirements for Alaska into the record.

There was no discussion.

B. Scheduling the Spring Park Walk Through

The Commission briefly discussed and determined that since the focus has been on the beaches that they visit the following:

- Bishops Beach
- Mariner Park
- Mud Bay
- Airport Access

It was agreed by consensus to meet on Saturday, May 2, 2015 at Bishop's Beach at noon, and then go to Mariner Park then Mud Bay/Airport Access.

C. Draft Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment

1. Telephone Survey Results

Staff provided a highlight of the process and reported that this will be on the April 27th Council agenda during the Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. There will be a 10 minute presentation during the regular meeting of Council under Visitors.

Staff stated that the committee will be meeting a few more times regarding this document and asked if the Commission would like to submit a recommendation they could but it is not necessary; they can submit their comments to her via email but staff did not feel that it was necessary for the Commission as a body to submit a recommendation. There were groups that were prepared to use this information now.

Staff further explained that this is not a plan that would be adopted by Council but more of a report on what the City currently has and what they need to do or steps to take to get where the residents wanted to be.

Chair Steffy felt that the commission could review this after the Beach Policy maybe at the June regular meeting and in the mean-time could familiarize themselves with the document.

Commissioner Lillibridge felt that the commission should review and consider the top 5 recommendations from the consultant.

Staff additionally recommended that the commissioners attend the meeting on the April 27, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. Commission Annual Calendar 2015

B. Commissioner Attendance at City Council Meetings 2015

Chair Steffy reviewed the attendance at Council meetings and volunteered for the May 11th, Commissioner Archibald volunteered for May 26th meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Tom Zitzman, city resident, stated he has been gone for a while, this was a thoughtful and productive meeting, great participation from the Clerk's Office and the Planner; he stated that they have done a phenomenal job. He knows that they are putting a lot on themselves, appreciated the wonderful presentation from the students, they were articulate and insightful and that they keyed in on the issues right away. Mr. Zitzman related an incident that happened to his dog cutting its paw on broken glass on the beach. He understands process being a financial planner and CPA, but he was concerned with the process, the commissioners do the heavy lifting and then it goes to Council with no guarantee on what happens in that venue. He knows that there may be budget constraints and it takes time to order signs but it is frustrating. He wanted to share some of his emotions with the commissioners in that when he arrived home he found in the large spruce growing at the toe of the bluff a pair of eagles have built their nest, he was overcome with joy, and the eagles sitting in tree and then overcome with dread that in two weeks those eagles are going to become inundated with behavior that may very well thwart their efforts. He thanked them for their work and commended the hard work that they have done and are doing here.

Ginny Espenshade thanked the commissioners for their welcome to the students and by staff and the interactive dialogue with the different student groups; when she first shared the initial closures, she encouraged the commission to educate why they recommend the closures, she supported the continued discussion and education on the issues. Ms. Espenshade commented when she first heard about placement of cameras she cringed but the students that is part of their everyday life. She also updated the commissioners on some of the photos used in the slideshow. She also noted that there would be a public presentation on the issue of substance abuse at the college on Tuesday.

Bill Ostwald, thanked the commission and a lot of people will be understanding but if they remain consistent in everything that will be huge and the trespassing on private property and he believes that there is a difference when the property is improved or not, he believed there is a difference, but he is not sure you would have to dig into that issue more.

Louise Ashmun thanked Commissioner Lowney for not voting on several motions; she is disappointed that vehicles may be allowed on the berm. She will not belabor that point, but acknowledged that their role was very difficult. She was here when the gentlemen spoke about the drug issues and that is what the commissioners should focus on, if everyone knows about the issues regarding drugs the law enforcement should be there to enforce the laws, she believes that this not the responsibility of the commissioners when developing the Beach Policy.

Ms. Ashmun felt that was asking too much from the Commission. They should definitely work with the different entities and she wanted them to be very open and let them know that they cannot cope with those issues within this beach policy. Ms. Ashmun related an incident during an outing to collect marine debris on the beach past Crittenden, someone was target shooting against the wall and she had a difficult time getting her dog from the area since they are afraid of guns. There were tons of broken bottles in one location and so she believes that there are significant issues with what is brought onto the beach and the activities going on down there.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Ms. Engebretsen commented on the community now having the availability of treatment for substance abuse from Ninilchik south to Homer. She thanked the commissioners for the motions and clarifications on the recommendations they have made. She will be mailing notices to the property owners and try to plan to have the website updated with all the information by the end of next week.

Ms. Krause commented had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER *(If one is present)*

There were no council members present.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Lowney appreciated the comments and compliments of the audience and bearing through the process with them; in reference to the drug issues she can understand the comments regarding this but considers the issues with drugs the same as previous issues the commission faced up at Karen Hornaday park, she felt strongly that if the commission can help address those problems then they need to do so to assist other agencies in dealing with the problems down on the beach. Commissioner Lowney related her experience with the glass on the beach and finding cans with little holes in them which is very scary and very close to town. She expressed the concern with the amount of trash that is hauled in by vehicles. Commissioner Lowney hoped that they were making it easier for staff because she was very confused when she read the paper herself. She would like to have the status update on the LWCF grant

Commissioner Archibald thanked everyone for hanging in there and apologized for his part in confusing everybody. He further thanked Julie and Renee for their efforts and hard work.

Commissioner Brann also thanked the audience and staff efforts. He really appreciated the young people being here and there comments about 30 years down the line. He has been thinking 50 years down the line the last month or so but 30 years is good; one of the things in the thought process the last couple of weeks, he just started listing all the user groups he could think of and he came up with 100 groups that use that beach and area, all thinking about their use, their space, their time...he felt it was pretty amazing and a lot of those people are not thinking 50 years down the road, they are thinking about their use right now. If you think about it there are 100 of your neighbors down there on that beach using it how they want and they are thinking they want their issue dealt with, but there are a whole lot of people who may or may not agree with you and we have to take everybody's comments and work with them and look 30-50 years down the road.

Commissioner Lillibridge commented that her high point of the meeting was the kid's presentation. She was impressed with their presentation, their thoughts and that they all participated. She hopes that they are able to get something together at school to bring a young voice to their efforts at what they are trying to do here. Commissioner Lillibridge stated she was appalled at the tone that was expressed

at the previous meetings and through letters that it was “my right”, “my beach”, and “my needs” and the last time she checked this was a community.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Steffy echoed the amazing appreciation to everybody and the thoughtfulness. He hopes to continue to see the public participation. He put in a plug for the Invasive Species training at Islands and Ocean with free lunch provided next Friday, April 24th

ADJOURNMENT

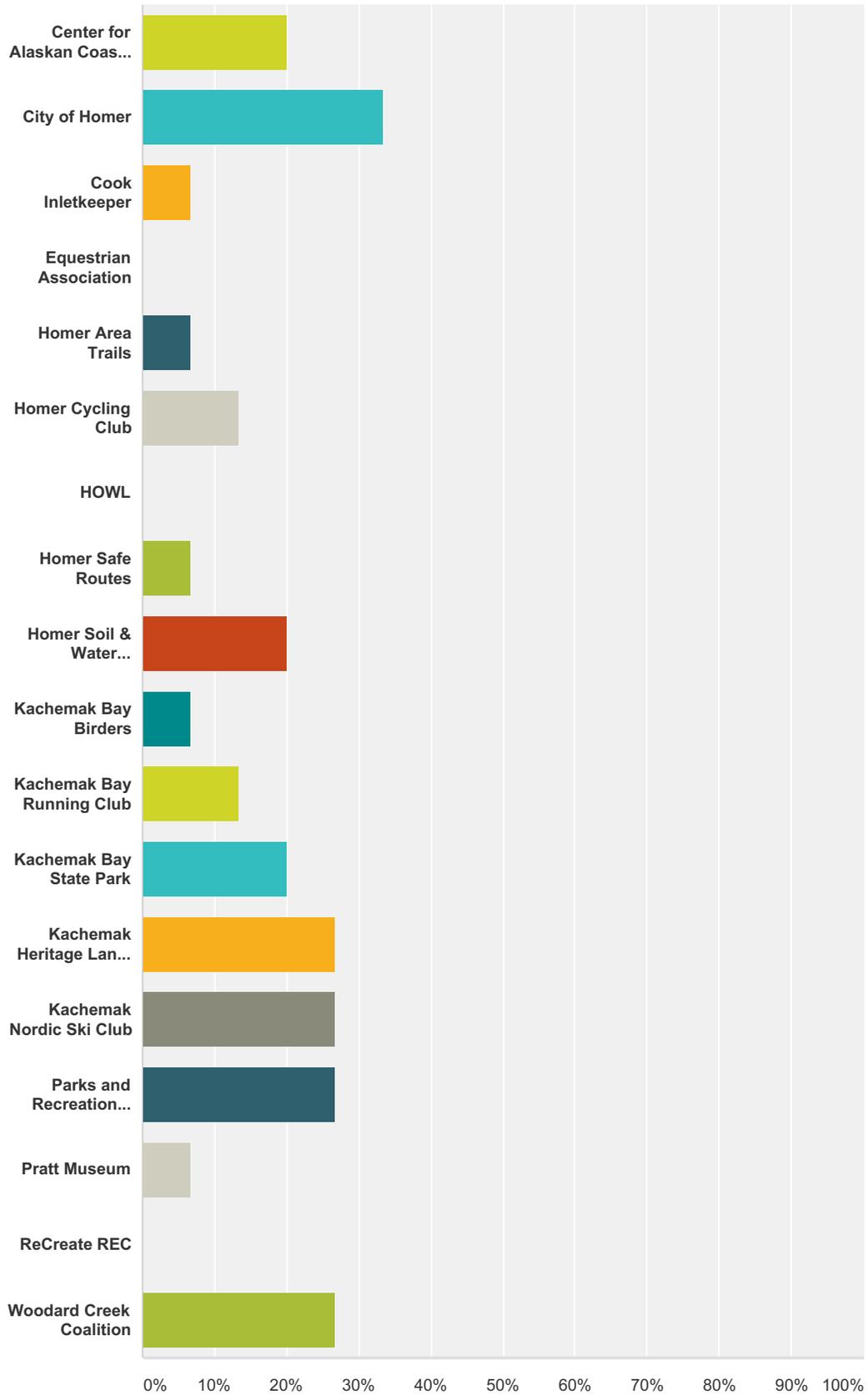
There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Steffy adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m. The next **SPECIAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MODNAY, MAY 4, 2015** at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I

Approved: _____

Q1 What group(s) do you represent? Select all that apply.

Answered: 15 Skipped: 4



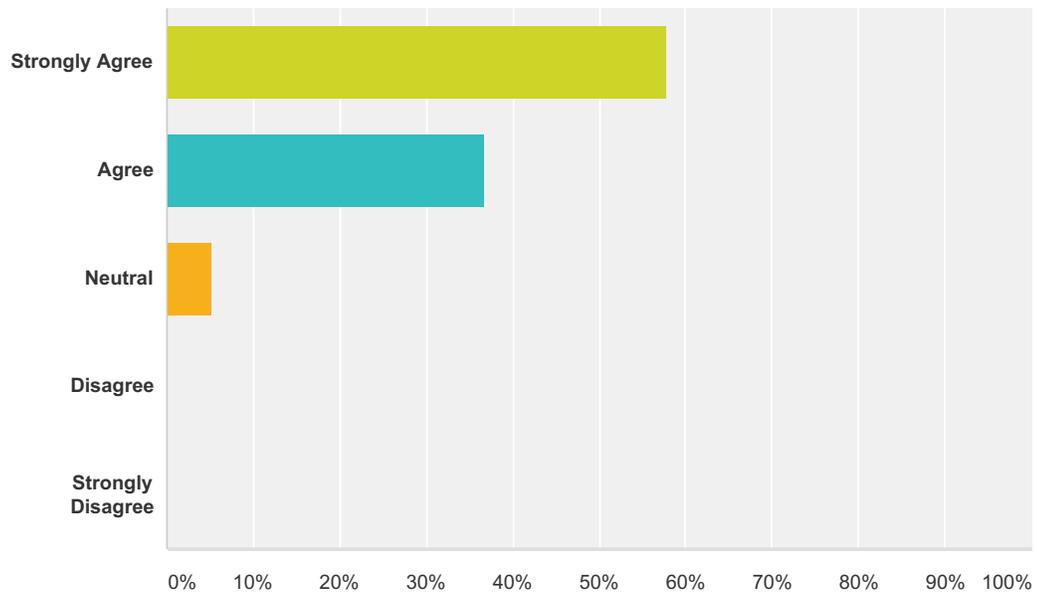
Answer Choices	Responses
Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies	20.00% 3

City of Homer	33.33%	5
Cook Inletkeeper	6.67%	1
Equestrian Association	0.00%	0
Homer Area Trails	6.67%	1
Homer Cycling Club	13.33%	2
HOWL	0.00%	0
Homer Safe Routes	6.67%	1
Homer Soil & Water Conservation District	20.00%	3
Kachemak Bay Birders	6.67%	1
Kachemak Bay Running Club	13.33%	2
Kachemak Bay State Park	20.00%	3
Kachemak Heritage Land Trust	26.67%	4
Kachemak Nordic Ski Club	26.67%	4
Parks and Recreation Commission	26.67%	4
Pratt Museum	6.67%	1
ReCreate REC	0.00%	0
Woodard Creek Coalition	26.67%	4
Total Respondents: 15		

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	none. Homer resident interested in expanding hiking opportunities on this side of the bay	4/23/2015 10:53 AM
2	MAPP	4/22/2015 9:57 PM
3	myself	4/22/2015 4:43 PM
4	Bunnell Street Arts Center	4/22/2015 2:34 PM
5	mainly a Homer citizen	4/22/2015 2:24 PM
6	self (resident of the "core" of Homer)	4/22/2015 12:57 PM
7	Ex Parks n Rec; interested individual	4/22/2015 12:18 PM
8	Alaska State Parks	4/21/2015 4:38 PM
9	Rotary, adopt a park	4/21/2015 3:32 PM
10	Kachemak Bay Water Trail	4/21/2015 12:18 PM

Q2 Participating in the Homer...On the Move Symposium was a good use of time.

Answered: 19 Skipped: 0

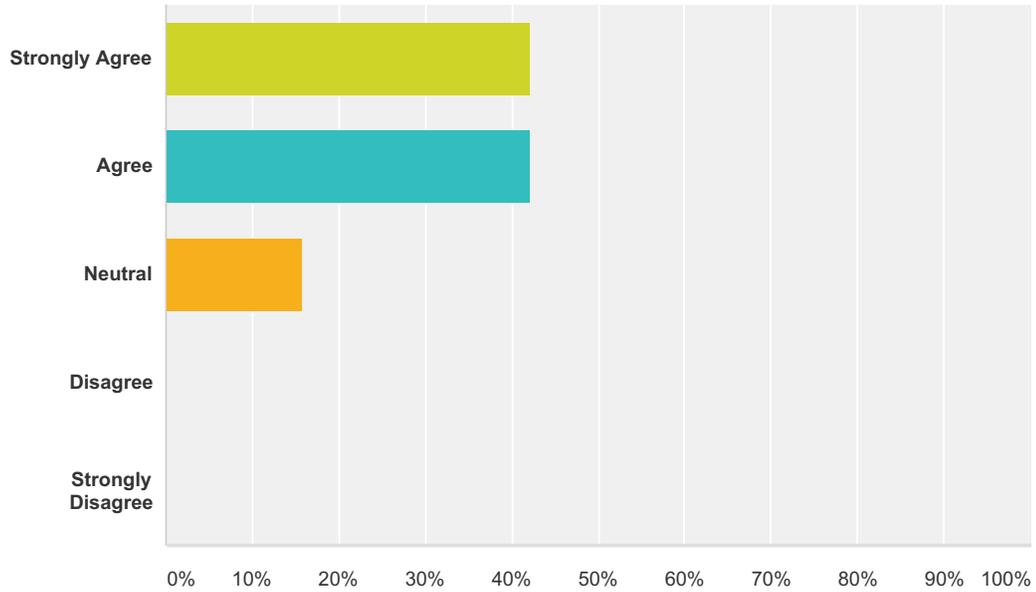


Answer Choices	Responses
Strongly Agree	57.89% 11
Agree	36.84% 7
Neutral	5.26% 1
Disagree	0.00% 0
Strongly Disagree	0.00% 0
Total Respondents: 19	

#	Comments?	Date
1	would like to explore work groups and ways of moving past info-sharing to action. this was a fabulous first gathering and i hope for the parks and rec commission a good use of their resources	4/22/2015 2:34 PM
2	Do it again	4/21/2015 3:32 PM
3	Good mix of Homer Organizations	4/21/2015 12:18 PM

Q3 Participating in the Symposium enabled me to learn valuable information and make new contacts.

Answered: 19 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Strongly Agree	42.11% 8
Agree	42.11% 8
Neutral	15.79% 3
Disagree	0.00% 0
Strongly Disagree	0.00% 0
Total Respondents: 19	

#	Comments?	Date
1	As a new resident I got to connect with most of the important organizations and people concerned with this issue.	4/24/2015 2:30 PM

Q4 What was the most useful part of the Symposium?

Answered: 16 Skipped: 3

#	Responses	Date
1	Networking with different organizations and hearing what different groups are doing and how they overlap services which can be better coordinated	4/27/2015 7:16 PM
2	I'm new to Homer and very interested in enhancing non-motorized transportation options as well as outdoor recreation activities.	4/24/2015 2:30 PM
3	Hearing about other related projects.	4/24/2015 10:32 AM
4	The opportunity to share with the community about our efforts.	4/23/2015 1:18 PM
5	Learning about tracts of land the city owns (by Diamond Creek, by the reservoir, etc) that could be developed for trails; talking to Roger from State Parks about the Cottonwood section of KBSP; talking to KHLT, and hearing about the HAT plan for the Kachemak Drive trail.	4/23/2015 10:53 AM
6	Getting the updates from all groups & weaving the needs & ideas for opportunities together. Networking!	4/22/2015 9:57 PM
7	Seeing how many people are trail-passionate. Forming a 'sector'. Ironing out trail use differences (bike-horse-foot etc. Learning about complementary efforts. Talking to people who have just been names for a while. Loved the City presence and the incredible trail history in Homer.	4/22/2015 2:34 PM
8	Face time with other programs.	4/22/2015 2:32 PM
9	meeting people and connecting the dots of "who's doing what"	4/22/2015 12:57 PM
10	Variety of participants. Friendly open format. Information tables.	4/22/2015 12:18 PM
11	The breaks when folks were able to mingle, ask questions, and make connections with the groups they were interested in and provide input.	4/22/2015 11:36 AM
12	Having everyone in one room and be able to wrap my head around all the many efforts and projects underway related to trails...wow! The symposium promoted synergy among groups.	4/22/2015 11:15 AM
13	Identifying common themes regarding groups' success and struggles	4/22/2015 10:43 AM
14	getting word out	4/21/2015 4:38 PM
15	Networking, getting the bigger picture	4/21/2015 3:32 PM
16	listen to common problems	4/21/2015 12:18 PM

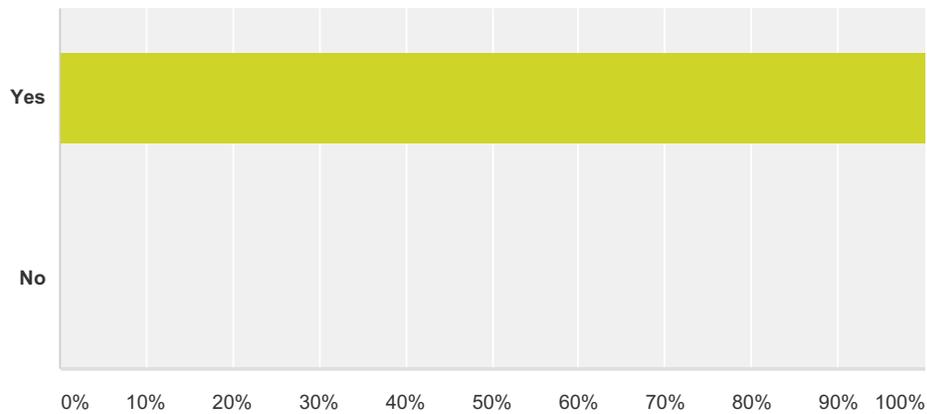
Q5 In what ways could the Symposium have been more effective or useful to you?

Answered: 17 Skipped: 2

#	Responses	Date
1	It was a great venue to begin the discussion of how to coordinate trail building efforts	4/27/2015 7:16 PM
2	I would have liked a more time to peruse the tables, chat with table sponsors and participants, and discuss common interests among the presenters. The 10 min breaks were too short.	4/24/2015 2:30 PM
3	I would shorten the speaker parts to reach more people. Maybe 5 minutes slots?	4/24/2015 10:32 AM
4	I appears that most organizations are in need of more funding/volunteers to carry out goals. The symposium is a really good idea, but the effectiveness of these ideas may hinge on the above challenges.	4/23/2015 1:18 PM
5	A more specific focus. Some of the presentations were a little generic, just information about that group, rather than how that group could help with one mutual trails topic. My own wish is for a symposium in which the land-owning groups (city, state, KHLT, etc) identify all the areas that have potential for new trails and then have the other groups discuss pros and cons then vote on which should be priorities. I think you could generate a lot more community support for new trails rather than, for example, a symposium about maintenance of existing trails.	4/23/2015 10:53 AM
6	Eager to get to formal, coordinated network stage... would have been great to ask each group to specifically name their group's top priorities (most did anyway) and provide an opportunity to discuss ideas on concrete steps forward?	4/22/2015 9:57 PM
7	Next time we will be ready to have a goal that we strategize on completing together	4/22/2015 4:43 PM
8	We must include motorized trail users next time - snomads, ice-racers, 4wheelers. They are a big constituency. We also didn't have a huge public turnout, though who did come was quality. But i liked what it became. Perhaps we could have had work groups to look at projects in more depth. that will come. We will learn so much by having done what we did!	4/22/2015 2:34 PM
9	Tangible list of community priorities.	4/22/2015 2:32 PM
10	I could not attend most of the symposium; I wish I had the time to hear everyone's presentation.	4/22/2015 2:24 PM
11	based on outcome of this symposium, develop area of focus related to trails and safe non-motorized transport within the city	4/22/2015 12:57 PM
12	I would have liked to see agreement on priority issues to seek funding. BUT you are heading that way I see. Not an easy task.	4/22/2015 12:18 PM
13	Less time spent listening to speakers with more time for the public to be able to mingle with the participants. It seems that most of the participants are fairly familiar with the other groups	4/22/2015 11:36 AM
14	Needed more mixing time to talk with people	4/22/2015 8:25 AM
15	Break out sessions, Trail standards: trail construction, skills, tools Easements and R.O.W. legal issues amenities, Putting teams together from various groups to actually work	4/21/2015 4:38 PM
16	Creating a list of trail projects needing help, the low hanging fruit	4/21/2015 3:32 PM
17	Shorter presentation time if possible. Tough to do as there was great info. but day was long	4/21/2015 12:18 PM

Q6 Should we have a Trails networking and sharing symposium again?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 0



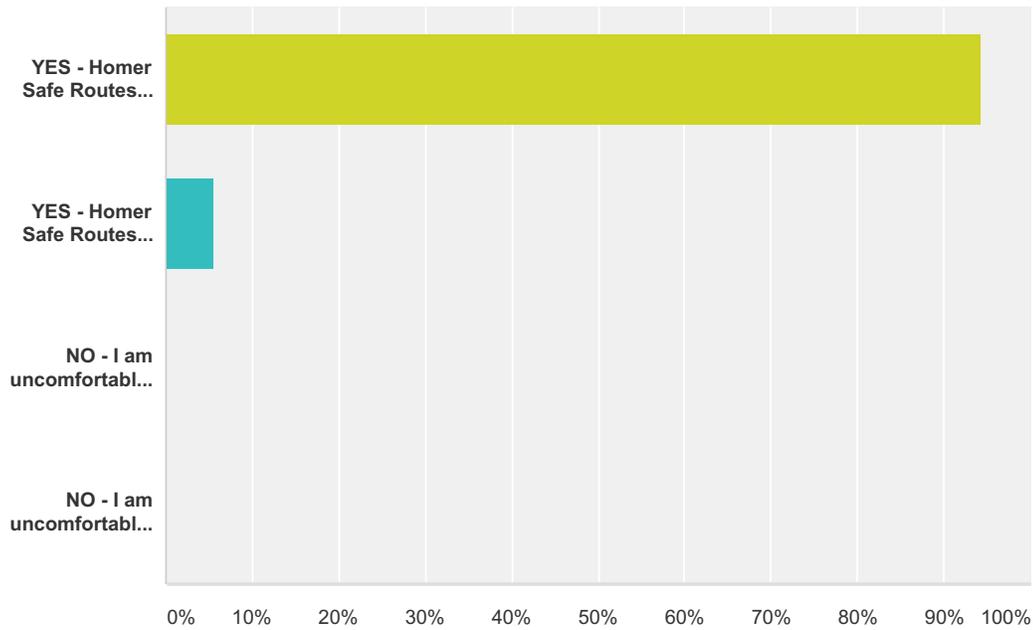
Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	100.00% 19
No	0.00% 0
Total	19

#	If so, HOW & WHEN?	Date
1	We need to make a priority list/needs assessment, and figure out how to involve the various organizations	4/27/2015 7:16 PM
2	In a year. I think a workshop style symposium (at least for part of the time) where participants and leadership could address common trail issues (e.g., connectivity, maintenance, separation of bikes, walkers, and runners)	4/24/2015 2:30 PM
3	Once a year	4/24/2015 10:32 AM
4	Fall or Winter, not Spring/Summer	4/23/2015 1:18 PM
5	soon	4/23/2015 10:53 AM
6	Something - for the group to determine what mode & frequency works best for participants. Great to consider how to better engage public.	4/22/2015 9:57 PM
7	In conjunction with Statewide Recreation Conference. See #5	4/22/2015 4:43 PM
8	April and / or October are great check in times.	4/22/2015 2:34 PM
9	next with a recreation component	4/22/2015 2:32 PM
10	Perhaps just a peridoci short evening meeting to keep people apprised of needs and progress... or even a group trail hike/discussion?	4/22/2015 2:24 PM
11	fall meeting related to focused "trail" topic	4/22/2015 12:57 PM
12	Similar format, maybe shorter time frame, again with most of the time spent having the public mingle. Either spring or fall; ideas for trails might be fresher in the fall after folks have been out all summer.	4/22/2015 11:36 AM
13	In the fall	4/22/2015 11:15 AM
14	annual	4/22/2015 10:43 AM
15	6 months/fall, but a short 2 hr format like MAPP quarterly meeting	4/22/2015 8:25 AM

16	Fall, mid October.	4/21/2015 3:32 PM
17	Annually	4/21/2015 12:18 PM

Q7 Homer Safe Routes is willing to take on a 'backbone' role for this network of trail enthusiasts. Are you comfortable with Homer Safe Routes providing this 'backbone' support?

Answered: 18 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
YES - Homer Safe Routes would be a great trails network backbone. Please add me to the Homer Safe Routes mailing list!	94.44% 17
YES - Homer Safe Routes would be a great trails network backbone. However, do not add me to the Homer Safe Routes mailing list.	5.56% 1
NO - I am uncomfortable with Homer Safe Routes as our trails network backbone. I would still like to be added to the Homer Safe Routes mailing list.	0.00% 0
NO - I am uncomfortable with Homer Safe Routes as our trails network backbone. I would not like to be added to the Homer Safe Routes mailing list.	0.00% 0
Total	18

#	My email address is:	Date
1	davelyn@gci.net	4/27/2015 7:16 PM
2	leashmun@gmail.com	4/24/2015 2:30 PM
3	homercyclingclub@gmail.com	4/23/2015 1:18 PM
4	sbottum@gmail.com	4/23/2015 10:53 AM
5	mappofskp@gmail.com	4/22/2015 9:57 PM
6	seabrightz@yahoo.com	4/22/2015 4:43 PM
7	homersaferoutes@gmail.com	4/22/2015 2:34 PM

8	millg@ci.homer.ak.us	4/22/2015 2:32 PM
9	mcdonough@alaska.net	4/22/2015 2:24 PM
10	penguino.ak@gmail.com	4/22/2015 12:57 PM
11	dickerson@xyz.net	4/22/2015 12:18 PM
12	saundrahudson24@gmail.com	4/22/2015 11:15 AM
13	parallaxicity@gmail.com	4/22/2015 10:43 AM
14	robert.e.archibald@gmail.com	4/21/2015 12:18 PM

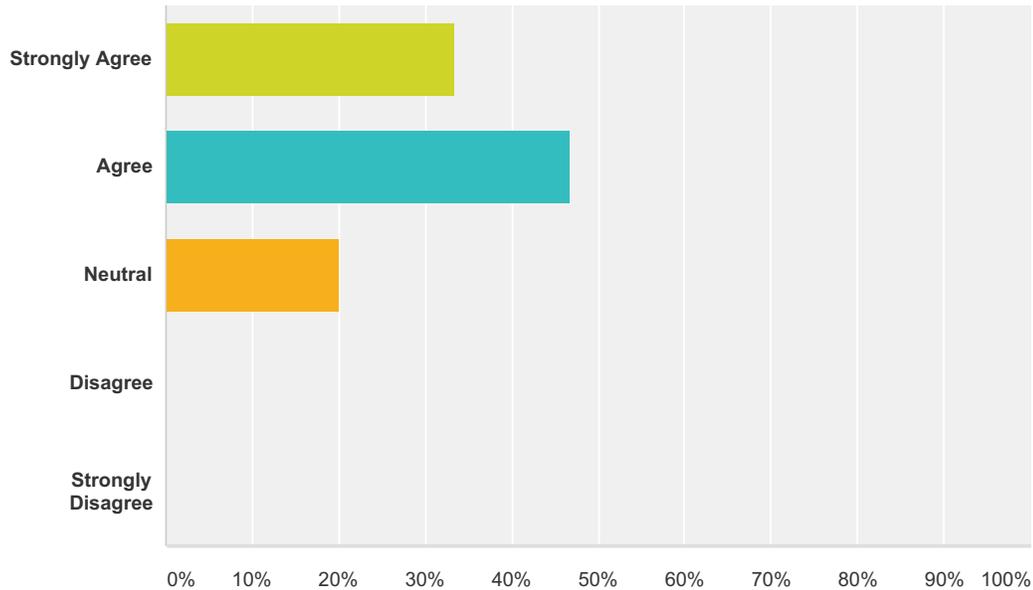
Q8 Please name your group(s) and list their top 2-3 trail priorities.

Answered: 17 Skipped: 2

#	Responses	Date
1	Homer Area Trails: Whomp trail, North/South corridor between Bishop's Beach and Main St. and/or Bartlett	4/27/2015 7:16 PM
2	Connectivity--ability to get lots of places (commercial and scenic) without using a car. Maintenance--non-motorized routes that remain walkable/bikable in most seasons.	4/24/2015 2:30 PM
3	Linking the Pratt and HCOA properties with a path along Woodard Creek including a safe crossing on Pioneer.	4/24/2015 10:32 AM
4	Permission from the state to develop single-track at Diamond Creek. Permission for cyclists to ride in the State Park	4/23/2015 1:18 PM
5	No group; personal hiking. 1. Identifying and developing new trails 2. Expanding existing trails 3. Converting ski trails to year-round hiking trails	4/23/2015 10:53 AM
6	To support the priorities of this group [through communication / outreach support, data support, strategic planning support, needs-based!]	4/22/2015 9:57 PM
7	Homer Safe Routes - bah as if i have just 2-3... actually i have a clear idea of how to prioritize according to the NMTTP and address town in zones moving from west to east. 1. WHoMP trail system and WHE/KH zone traffic calming and ped/bike improvements. 2. Calhoun Corridor to Bishop Beach trail and traffic improvements 3. Pioneer Ave streetscaping and traffic improvements 3. HHS trail and traffic networks	4/22/2015 2:34 PM
8	personally: a path on kachemak drive, a looping trail to connect skyline with downtown	4/22/2015 2:32 PM
9	As an individual, I would like to see a trail connecting the center of town with Skyline and a trail along Kachemak Drive. In addition to trail development, I would like to see the enforcement of crosswalks on the Sterling and Pioneer and the construction of sidewalks on Main Street.	4/22/2015 2:24 PM
10	self (resident of central Homer): 1. improve cross walks in town, 2. develop "core" town trail connections via existing ROWs, 3. improve safety of existing walking and biking corridors	4/22/2015 12:57 PM
11	n/a	4/22/2015 12:18 PM
12	City of Homer- general 1. Safe, preferably off road, connection of existing City trails. 2. Connector to top of the bluff. 3. Trail along Mariner Park slough from Lighthouse Village to Mariner Park.	4/22/2015 11:36 AM
13	Will put on the agenda for our next meeting and email Deb.	4/22/2015 11:15 AM
14	P&R Commission -Connectivity plan -Mitigating user conflicts HSWCD -School Yard Habitats -Connecting Schools WCC -Trail at Hornaday along creek -Connecting creek properties with trails	4/22/2015 10:43 AM
15	City of Homer - (Julie E) Our trail priorities I guess are what is approved in the budget. There is room for more community input and involvement in this process.	4/22/2015 8:25 AM
16	Nordic ski club Lower Baycrest Water trail. Chugachik Island State Parks. Eve line Rec. Site Homer AreaTrails. Kachemak drive Parks and rec. Karen Hornaday Park, Fairview	4/21/2015 3:32 PM
17	P & R Commission - Right of Ways and Funding for Trails Water Trail - Maintaining the energy, improve campgrounds and develop campsites at a reasonable distance for enjoyment. Woodard Creek Coalition - Recrute Volunteers, Maintain the energy, Make progress	4/21/2015 12:18 PM

Q9 After listening to the other voices in the Parks and Trails Symposium, the group(s) I am associated with would be willing to integrate our individual priorities with 2-3 priorities for the entire group.

Answered: 15 Skipped: 4



Answer Choices	Responses
Strongly Agree	33.33% 5
Agree	46.67% 7
Neutral	20.00% 3
Disagree	0.00% 0
Strongly Disagree	0.00% 0
Total	15

#	We believe the following represent top group priorities for the Homer Safe Routes Coalition:	Date
1	I am not the leadership in my group(s)--this would need to come from the group.	4/24/2015 2:30 PM
2	not applicable	4/23/2015 10:53 AM
3	picking a city zone to focus on each yr for HART funds, then moving outwards in time	4/22/2015 9:57 PM
4	Sidewalk from Seniors Center to Pioneer Ave.	4/22/2015 4:43 PM
5	a backbone newsletter, WHoMP, establishing networks to search out easements, accesses and connections between trail systems	4/22/2015 2:34 PM
6	Connectivity	4/22/2015 10:43 AM
7	West homer to Karen Hornaday park	4/21/2015 3:32 PM

8	Funding	4/21/2015 12:18 PM
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Q10 Any other comments, questions or observations?

Answered: 14 Skipped: 5

#	Responses	Date
1	Great idea. Hope to see more people at the next one.	4/24/2015 10:32 AM
2	While our organization would certainly be in support of the top goals of the coalition, we cannot guarantee the volunteer work associated with integration beyond our internal goals, though the possibility exists.	4/23/2015 1:18 PM
3	The backbone group should be a 501(c)3 and a ideally a Pick Click Give option. Residents would like to be able to earmark money directly to support this umbrella network of trail projects rather than to Homer Safe Routes' general fund. Thanks for all your hard work.	4/23/2015 10:53 AM
4	Thank you for pulling together this group and coordinating a fantastic 1st symposium!	4/22/2015 9:57 PM
5	Pulling together will be worth the effort	4/22/2015 4:43 PM
6	So glad to have such a great group of people so fired up about our beautiful community	4/22/2015 2:34 PM
7	Invite & involve local school, borough and city elected officials to attend. Youth participation would be good as well.	4/22/2015 2:32 PM
8	A good start at building a critical mass!	4/22/2015 2:24 PM
9	Thank you for hosting. I suggest that future symposia include the planning commission to the extent possible because they will be key moving plans forward.	4/22/2015 12:57 PM
10	It is powerful what individual groups are already achieving and work being done. A pity more interested citizens weren't there to be informed. Would I & O be a better venue?	4/22/2015 12:18 PM
11	Thanks for organizing...symposium was energizing!	4/22/2015 11:15 AM
12	Thank you to everyone who put this together!	4/22/2015 10:43 AM
13	about #9. Some of the things the city can support, others are outside of what we have historically done. Integrating priorities will take buy in by the city manager, council, and public works director. Doable!	4/22/2015 8:25 AM
14	It was a fun day. Great idea to pull everything together with this survey.	4/21/2015 12:18 PM



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Clerk

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

Memorandum

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK
DATE: APRIL 28, 2015
SUBJECT: RECONSIDERATION OF A MOTION ON THE SUBJECT OF VEHICLES IN AREA 7

Commissioner Archibald submitted a timely request for reconsideration on the following motion:

MOVED TO MAKE THE AREA DESCRIBED AS BISHOP'S BEACH ACCESS TO BELUGA SLOUGH MOUTH IN AREA 7 AS SEASONAL ACCESS OCTOBER 1 TO MARCH 31 WITH PLACEMENT OF ROCKS TO BLOCK ACCESS TO THE BERM AREA.

Commissioner Archibald was a party of the prevailing side. He can state his reasons for requesting reconsideration. The commission can fully debate the motion again. Each commissioner can speak on the existing motion two times then a vote will be called by the Chair.

This motion can be amended.

RECOMMENDATION:
Informational in Nature. No Action Required.



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

(p) 907-235-8121

(f) 907-235-3140

You're invited!

Join the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
to talk about the Beach Policy and proposed changes, particularly in Old Town.

The Commission has spent the last few months learning about the existing rules and policies, listening to public comment, and thinking about the future of Homer's beaches.

What: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Special Meeting

When: Monday May 4th, 5:30 PM, City Hall Cowles Council Chambers

Why: Talk about the Beach Policy, and hear what the Old Town neighborhood thinks about the proposals

For more information: Visit the City Parks and Recreation website for maps and more details.

<http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/recreation> Look for the "Beach Policy Review 2015."

What happens next? The Commission will hold a hearing on May 21st. They can either keep working on the policy, based on public comments, or send their recommendations to the City Council. The Council will make the final decision on any changes to the existing rules.

Questions? Contact Julie Engebretsen in the Planning Department at 435-3119.

Comments? To comment to the Commission, email rkrause@ci.homer.ak.us or fax 907-235-3143, by 4 pm the day of the meeting.

Proposed changes include items such as:

- Closing some areas of the beach to all vehicles year round, except for land owners and their guests
- Seasonal closures for vehicles during the summer (April 1st – September 30th)
- Creating on and off leash areas for dogs
- Installing fire pits in three locations on city lands
- Improved signage
- Increased enforcement
- More education and supplies to pick up dog waste

Visit the City Website to see the latest proposals

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

[Home](#) > Printer-friendly



Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, 2015 Review of Beach Policy

The Commission will hold a series of meetings between January and May, 2015 on the beach policy. Each meeting will have specific topics, and the Commission will make recommendations as they work through each topic. See the tentative meeting schedule below for dates and topics. All meetings start at 5:30 pm, in City Hall Council Chambers.

Your comments are welcome at any time in this process! You can submit comments in writing: fax, email or mail, or speak at the meetings. Testimony at the meeting is limited to 3 minute per person.

After the Commission finishes, the Beach Policy will go to the City Council. It is the Council that will approve the final plan.

Why make changes now?

In the fall of 2014, the Commission began hearing from property owners and residents in Old Town that there are more problems between vehicles and pedestrians on the beach, and more 'bad behavior.' (drinking, drugs, partying on private property, trespass, etc). The Commission began holding meetings to explore these issues, and also became more aware of the bird habitat along the grassy berm area of the beach at Beluga Slough.

Proposed changes to date: (4/24/15)

- **Install fire pits** at these three locations: Bishop's Beach Park, City parcel near the end of Main Street/Ohlson Lane, and at the end of Crittenden, and make trash cans available.
- **Hire** two seasonal beach patrol employees
- Draft an ordinance to **define and ban reckless driving** as it would be applies to all of City of Homer beaches
- **Improve signage** at Bishop's Beach.
- Create areas where **dogs must be on leashes**. See map [here](#)
- **Close some portions of the beach to vehicles** at all times, and **allow winter use** in some locations. (Land owners and their guests are exempt). See map [here](#)
- Add Bishop's Beach and Beluga Slough to the existing Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. (WHSRN)

Other Solutions:

- Increase dog waste education
- Install dog waste dispensers at public buildings, trails and parks and encourage other agencies and businesses to do the same.
- Purchase 500 dog waste dispensers to give away; encourage local businesses to stock baggies

supplies and dispensers.

- Educate locals on beach rules. Community outreach: primary user groups, schools
- Education on beach resources (why we have the rules and how they protect what we have)
- Delineate private property at Bishop's Beach Access
- Place rocks to prevent or mark where vehicles shouldn't go, east at Bishop's Beach
- Consider a park host. (Would need to be willing to testify in Court)

Questions? Contact Julie Engebretsen in the Planning Department at 435-3119.

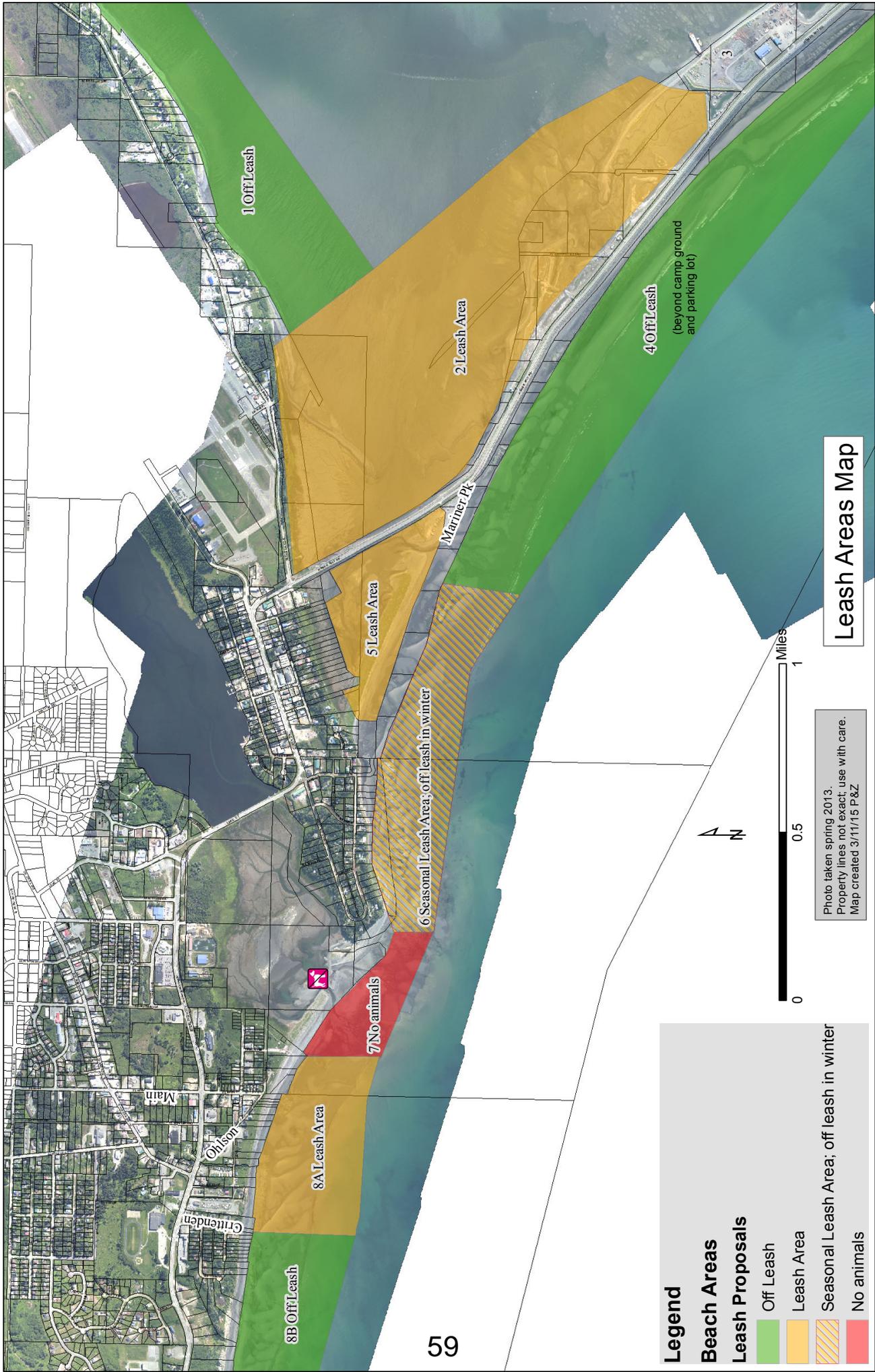
Comments? To comment to the Commission, email rkrause@ci.homer.ak.us or fax 907-235-3143, by 4 pm the day of the meeting.

For more information or general inquires, give Julie a call.

Meeting Table

Meeting Date	Topics	Invited Speakers	Supporting Documents
January 22nd	Review of existing management strategies, current beach policy, Title 19, and Park rules.	Angie Otteson, Parks Maintenance	 Dog On Leash and Off Leash Beach Areas  Beach Closure to Vehicles
February 5th	Legal access on the beach, and land ownership	Julie Engebretsen with input from City of Homer attorneys	Map
February 19th	Birds, habitat and dogs (yes dog poop), Fire Department issues with fires on the beach.	George Matz, possible other TBD	Web Links Beach Policy Homer City Code Title 19, PARKS, CAMPGROUNDS AND PUBLIC PLACES
March 2nd	Enforcement by Homer Police Department	Police Chief Mark Robl	
March 19th	Space holder for other topics or speakers, or any rescheduled meetings (Habitat + other topics)	Marianne Aplin, USFW Dr. Sherwood, Homer Veterinary Clinic	
April 2nd	Continued discussion	High school students	
April 16th		High school students	
May 4th	Meeting with Old Town area residents		
May 21	Public Hearing		

Source URL (retrieved on 2015-04-28 14:19): <http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/recreation/beach-policy-review-2015>



Leash Areas Map

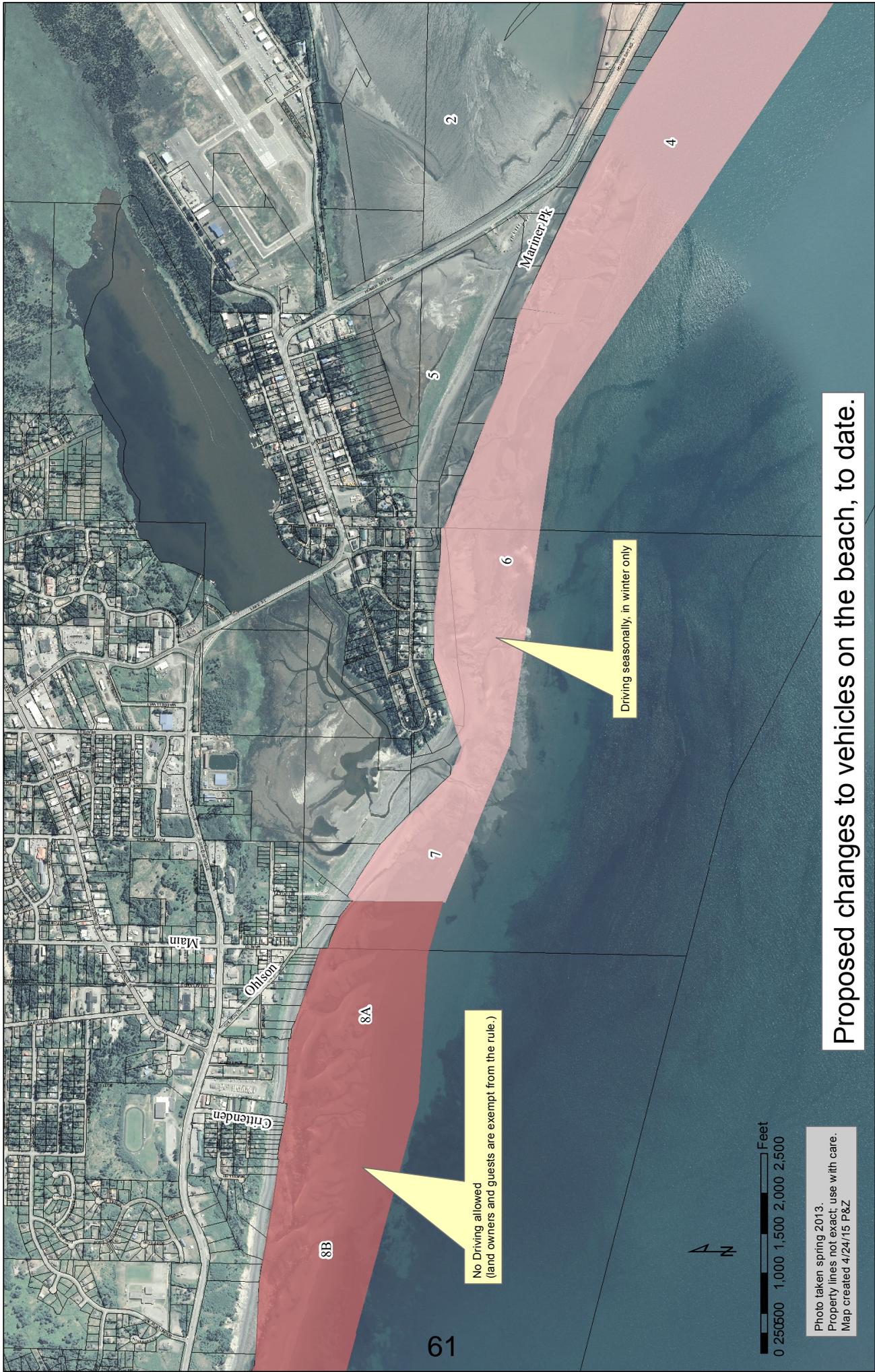
Photo taken spring 2013
 Property lines not exact; use with care.
 Map created 3/11/15 P&Z

Legend

Beach Areas

Leash Proposals

- Off Leash
- Leash Area
- Seasonal Leash Area; off leash in winter
- No animals



Proposed changes to vehicles on the beach, to date.

Driving seasonally, in winter only

No Driving allowed
(land owners and guests are exempt from the rule.)

0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 2,500 Feet

Photo taken spring 2013.
Property lines not exact; use with care.
Map created 4/24/15 P&Z



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(f) 907-235-3143

Memorandum

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK
DATE: APRIL 28, 2015
SUBJECT: COMMENTS OR RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL ON THE PARKS, ART,
RECREATION AND CULTURE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The P.A.R.C. Needs Assessment was provided to the Commission in the April 16, 2015 regular meeting packet there was a brief discussion on submitting a recommendation to council regarding this document although not required.

Staff previously explained that this document was not a plan but more of an informational survey of the community regarding what it wanted.

This P.A.R.C. Needs Assessment was presented to Council at the meeting scheduled on April 27, 2015 during the Committee of the Whole and the regular meeting.

Staff wanted to provide one more opportunity to submit any commentary or recommendations to Council regarding the content of the Needs Assessment.

This will still be an item on the June agenda unless postponed until a later meeting date after July.

RECOMMENDATION:

No Action required. informational in Nature.

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION ANNUAL CALENDAR
FOR THE 2015 MEETING SCHEDULE

<u>MEETING DATE</u>	<u>SCHEDULED EVENTS OR AGENDA ITEM</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> MARCH 19, 2015	LAND ALLOCATION PLAN REVIEW & RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL UPDATE ON PARK & RECREATION SYMPOSIUM – HOMER...ON THE MOVE	
<input type="checkbox"/> APRIL 16, 2015	SELECT SPRING PARK &/ OR BEACH WALK THROUGH FINAL REPORT ON PARK & RECREATION SYMPOSIUM – HOMER...ON THE MOVE	
MAY 4, 2015 SPECIAL	TENTATIVE PUBLIC HEARING ON DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS TO UPDATE BEACH POLICY	
<input type="checkbox"/> MAY 21, 2015	WORKSESSION SPRING PARK AND/OR BEACHES WALK THROUGH FINAL REVIEW, PUBLIC HEARING AND RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BEACH POLICY	
<input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 18, 2015	INITIAL BUDGET REVIEW – WHAT DOES THE COMMISSION WANT FOR 2016? THANK YOU ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR REVIEW CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> JULY 16, 2015	NO MEETING SCHEDULED	
<input type="checkbox"/> AUGUST 20, 2015	BUDGET REVIEW & RECOMMENDATIONS STRATEGIC PLANNING	
<input type="checkbox"/> SEPTEMBER 17, 2015	FALL PARK WALK THROUGH AND BEACH WALK; ELECTIONS; SELECT KHP CLEAN UP DAY BUDGET DISCUSSION	
<input type="checkbox"/> OCTOBER 15, 2015	KAREN HORNADAY PARK CLEAN-UP REVIEW AND APPROVE THE 2016 MEETING SCHEDULE THANK YOU ADVERTISEMENT FOR 2 ND HALF OF THE YEAR	
<input type="checkbox"/> NOVEMBER 19, 2015	STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW & PLANNING	
DECEMBER 2015	NO MEETING SCHEDULED	HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION ANNUAL CALENDAR
FOR THE 2015 MEETING SCHEDULE



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Public Works

3575 Heath Street
Homer, AK 99603

publicworks@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907- 235-3170

(f) 907-235-3145

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mary K. Koester, City Manager
FROM: Carey Meyer, Public Works Director
DATE: April 22, 2015
SUBJECT: **Spit Camp Fee Collection Building**

Again this winter, the Parks Department's campground fee collection building was damaged by storms. Again, significant erosion completely undermined the structure. In addition the piling supporting the building no longer provides adequate support. See attached photo.

Public Work is considering several options (currently Option 3 preferred):

- 1) **Repair** – Public Works could add support to the piling and place dredge spoils under and around the structure. This is what Public Works has been doing every year to return the facility to a safe condition. Cost - \$1,000 in pile support repair materials; 100 CY of dredge spoils imported (\$8,000) including City labor and equipment. *Total Cost = \$9,000.*

Advantages: Small capital expense.

Disadvantage: We will have to do it again next year.

- 2) **Move Building to New Site Across the Road** – Building could be moved to the Pier 1 theater site (away from further erosion impacts). Cost – Mobilize Crane, lift onto trailer, move across street, set on new foundation (\$12,000 for move, \$6,000 for foundation). Extend power and telephone; maybe water and sewer (\$20,000). *Total Cost = \$38,000.*

Advantages: Continues use of facility without yearly erosion repair.

Disadvantage: Significant cost

- 3) **Surplus the Building, Purchase/Build Movable Trailer** – Sell the building and have it removed from the site. Purchase/build a small fee collection trailer for use at Mariner Park (in conformance with the Mariner Park Flood Plain permanent structure elevation restrictions). Cost - Sell building (+\$5,000); Obtain trailer w/ generator (\$15,000). *Total Cost = \$10,000.*

Advantages: fee collection bldg could be located at Mariner Park. One time expense.

Disadvantage: No permanent structure, Change in fee collection location.



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[Home](#) > Better than a ban? Wasilla OKs new ATV rules

Zaz Hollander ^[1]

April 28, 2015

WASILLA -- All-terrain vehicles are still welcome within Wasilla city limits -- provided riders park them by 10 p.m., avoid danger or destruction, and carry a valid driver's license.

That's a paradigm shift in this still-growing city of about 9,000 where people on snowmachines and four-wheelers were once accustomed to free rein but now trigger complaints about riders speeding, churning up fresh grass or spitting up bike path gravel.

The new ATV regulations, approved by the Wasilla City Council Monday night in a 5-1 vote, represent the city's way of avoiding a total ban.

Dozens of agitated riders came out for public hearings last year after the council floated the idea of prohibiting ATVs altogether. The owner of an ATV rental business near downtown Wasilla said he gathered thousands of signatures opposing a ban, though it wasn't clear how many came from city residents.

None of those people attended Monday night's meeting, which drew a small crowd only because the city's proposed budget was on the agenda.

The new regulations are based on recommendations of a six-member task force that met four times between January and March after the council put off a decision on a ban. But officials say they still expect to bar ATVs some day, given the city's increasingly crowded streets and shifting demographics.

"I don't think anybody is going to argue that at some point, it probably will be banned," Mayor Bert Cottle said Monday night.

Wasilla's new ATV regulations came in the form of changes to an existing ordinance that already requires things like helmets and a 5 or 10 mph speed limit and restricts riding on sidewalks and streets. Along with requiring adults to show a valid driver's license, the changes include: limiting operating hours to between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m.; requiring riders aged 16 and younger to have a parent, guardian or other custodian within 100 feet, or "at a reasonable safe distance"; requiring registration and insurance; and no driving in a "careless, reckless, or negligent manner" that endangers people or destroys property.

The price for violating the rules if caught -- the task force found that youthful offenders was "more prone to evade the police" -- is impoundment.

Wasilla and its surroundings are growing, particularly in the form of multi-family housing that tends to draw young children or seniors, said council member Stu Graham.

"With that increasing density, I think we need to have a little more emphasis on safety," Graham said during the meeting.

The lone "no" vote was Clark Buswell, who favored the city's existing ordinance over the revisions approved Monday, which he said would give the impression the city supports ATV use throughout the city.

“Anything we do at this point is just going to open it up and the chief’s gonna be busy for two months trying to get people back on this plan,” Buswell said.

Only one member of the public even testified Monday night: Eugene Haberman, a self-styled government watchdog who monitors local meetings for potential parliamentary violations. Haberman faulted the process here, saying the public wasn’t really involved given sparse attendance at the task force meetings and sole hearing Monday night.

Cottle said the process was legitimate but the public wasn’t all that interested in participating despite all the attention when a ban was in the works. He struggled to find six members for the task force, the mayor said. All but one own a four-wheeler or side-by-side.

Cottle said he and Wasilla police chief Gene Belden plan to release statistics on ATV activity in the city after six, nine and 12 months.

Council member Brandon Wall said he’d like to see the ATV ordinance brought back for changes to the fine schedule.

Source URL: <http://www.adn.com/article/20150428/better-ban-wasilla-oks-new-atv-rules>

Links:

[1] <http://www.adn.com/author/zaz-hollander>

Deb Lowney

From: "Debra Lowney" <dlowney@acsalaska.net>
Date: Sunday, April 26, 2015 7:06 PM
To: "Renee Krause" <RKrause@ci.homer.ak.us>
Cc: "Deb Lowney" <dlowney@acsalaska.net>
Subject: Valuing our community beaches

Renee,

Can we have this information included in our P&R packet?

Thanks, deb

Valuing our community beaches

We have received a wide variety of feedback and input regarding our Homer beaches and how best to manage them.

One of the most powerful presentations was provided to us by a group of local student aged 12-18. Their overwhelming recommendation is to manage for sustainability and for future generations.

I have been struggling with anecdotal information verses research based information to help in our decision making process.

The following are extractions that I have pulled from various research articles regarding beach management. All of these extracts are direct quotes from the articles or research journals that I believe lend some value to our discussions.

Deb

National Geographic, Land on the Edge - Loving Our Coasts To Death

- Everyday 1,500 new homes rise along US coastlines.
- More than half the nations population now lives in coastal counties.
- In 2003 coastal watersheds generated over 6 trillion dollars, more than half the national economy. They are among our most valuable assets.
- Pew Oceans Commission & US Commission on Ocean Policy both issued reports that found the coasts are being battered by an array of pollution and population pressures.
- Secretary of Energy, Adm. James D. Watkins - "Our failure to properly manage the human activities that affect the nations oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes is compromising their ecological integrity....threatening human health, and putting our future at risk."
- Jane Lubchenco from Oregon State, stated "If we want safe beaches, abundant wildlife, stable fisheries, healthy seafood, and vibrant coastal communities, we're going to need a new ocean ethic."

Sea friends.com

- We like our beaches but people are not aware that their daily actions destroy the very thing that they like.

WWF.org

- 80% of all tourism takes place in coastal areas with beaches.

Coastalwiki.org

- Beaches are important areas for tourism. However, the increasing population and standard of living push many areas to their sustainable limits, both from tourism and environmental point of view. In beach tourism, there are clear feedback mechanisms, nice beaches attract people, and too many people and tourists on the beach is a decrease to attractiveness. Tourism, is a major source of income for many coastal communities and have major effects on coastal environments unless the scale and types of activities are controlled.
- Setting maximum tourist #'s is a proper managerial measure.
- Shorebird colonies are increasingly popular with tourists.

LakeHuron.CA - the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation

- is there really a problem with driving a vehicle on a beach?
- At first glance - barren & lifeless but strand lines (lines of debris from tides and waves) contain considerable organic matter. Vehicles compact sand, damage plants, disturb wildlife.
- Vehicles compact sand at depth, but loosen the surface of beach making it more susceptible to wind and wave activity.
- Vehicle passage extends to depth of 20cm.
- Vehicles compress sand and creatures that are important food sources for seabirds which has important ecological implications.
- the benefits of protecting our shoreline extends beyond environmental impact. These beaches are important to our community both economically and socially.
- Restoring the balance between how people use the beaches and what our natural ecosystems need to provide the benefits they provide us.

Vehicle Impacts on the Biota of Sandy Beaches and Coastal Dunes, Science for Conservation, Gary Stephenson

- Adverse effects - destruction of dunes and vegetation, preventing dune formation, disturbance of wildlife, transportation of invasive species, erosion, litter, and increased exploitation of marine animals.
- Conclusions of study:
- Vehicles on coastal dunes - highly destructive - should be banned all together.
- Vehicles on intertidal zone needs further research - should be restricted to low tide.

Effects of 4-Wheel Drive Vehicles on Beach Sediment Transportation

- Physical impacts of ORV to sandy beaches. This study measured the number and the depth of tire ruts, thus the displacement of sand by vehicles.
- Emphasizes the need to develop multifaceted management strategies for ORV use on beaches that balance ecological requirements with sociocultural and economic demands.

NPS.gov

- Studies on the effect of beach traffic on erosion and forefront vegetation have shown that traffic can effectively lower dune elevation, alter profile shape, and impair growth of back-beach vegetation.

School of Geoscience - Effects of 4-Wheel Drive Vehicles on Beaches

- 4wheel drive vehicles directly physically alter beaches by affecting the beach surface with tire tracks. The distribution of these tire tracks is principally in the swash zone and the fore dune. This zone is the source of sand for the creation, replenishment, and growth of coastal dunes. Coastal dune systems play a substantial role in protecting and nourishing the beach and the areas behind it during and after erosion events.

Discussion Paper - Off Road Vehicles on Beaches - 2012

- recognize the need to transition from unplanned, unmanaged and unsustainable ORV use to planned, managed and sustainable use.
- Environmental Impacts
- Inappropriate or incompatible use causing conflict
- Increasing levels of usage brings increased enforcement costs, issues of insurance, liability, and risk management.
- *There is no evidence to suggest that vehicles on beaches are benign. All literature reviewed suggests that vehicles have an impact on natural beach systems. Most articles, journals and websites focus on minimizing the adverse impacts rather than disputing the effects of vehicle use on beaches. (Coastal Consultants - 2007)*

Sent from my iPad

