

CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA

Evensen / Hansen-Cavasos

RESOLUTION 20-008(S)

A RESOLUTION OF THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL DESIGNATING
HOMER SPIT AMENDED LOT 31, KNOWN AS SEAFARER'S
MEMORIAL, AS GREEN SPACE AND ADOPTING A LAND
MANAGEMENT POLICY THAT PRESERVES LOT 31 FOR WILDLIFE
AND AS A NATURAL AGENT FOR EROSION MITIGATION

WHEREAS, Seafarer's Memorial is a 2.52 acre lot located off of the Sterling Highway near
the end of the Homer Spit with a legal description of Homer Spit Amended Lot 31; and

WHEREAS, Historical use of the lot has been a memorial gazebo honoring those who
were lost at sea, 45 parking places and open space; and

WHEREAS, Seafarer's Memorial is zoned Open Space – Recreation **and is listed in the
Homer Spit Comprehensive Plan as Conservation and Beach Access;** and

WHEREAS, According to Homer City Code 21.32.010, the purposes of the Open Space -
Recreation District are primarily to promote public recreational opportunities while protecting
and preserving the natural and scenic resources of the area and public access to tidelands; and

WHEREAS, Scenic views from the Spit are unobstructed at Seafarers Memorial, where
beach grasses positioned in foreground offer uncommon and distinctive ocean views; and

WHEREAS, Loss of natural grasslands on the Homer Spit has increased historically to
present in spite of the importance of beach grasses for Kachemak Bay ecosystems, where they
provide habitat, food for wildlife, and erosion control; Islands and Oceans Visitors Center
designates beach grass seed as important food in the dead-of-winter for song sparrows and
gray-crowned rosy-finches; and

**WHEREAS, The Spit Comprehensive Plan states that one development goal is to
“preserve and protect important wildlife and bird sanctuary areas” and that “preserving
habitat is important to the environment and local economy: (4.4); the guiding document
encourages the habitat for native species such as beach ryegrass “be maintained and
enhanced” in order to mitigate ongoing marine erosion; and**

WHEREAS, Seafarer's Memorial contains some of the only undeveloped land left on the
Homer Spit and should be preserved as a habitat for beach grasses and other natural
vegetation, birds, and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Supra-tidal beach berms at Seafarer's Memorial have been identified as critical environment for migratory and resident shorebirds, and provides wildlife habitat (e.g., for marine mammals) near the geographical center of Kachemak Bay, which is unique regionally; and

WHEREAS, Through data collection and ongoing bird counts, this region of the Spit has been identified by Cornell University's Ornithology Lab as an International Birding Hot Spot location; and

WHEREAS, Wild bird migration, feeding, and nesting in and around Homer are important economic bases for the City; their presence attracts visitors nationally and internationally; their financial impact is broad and realized via nature or eco-tourism in general as well as special events (such as the annual Shorebird Festival); and

WHEREAS, The Greater beach of Seafarer's Memorial is a crucial foundation geologically that provides *coastal sand supply*; its ample sand, pebble and gravel components directly preserve the Homer Spit "system" as a whole and, through natural marine processes, mitigate erosion along easternmost beaches of the Spit including the terminus.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Homer City Council hereby designates Homer Spit Amended Lot 31 as green space, but requires no specific signage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any part of the property that is not developed as of the passage of this resolution shall be maintained in perpetuity as green space and open to the public, free from buildings, parking, camping, hardscaping of any kind, earthmoving of any kind beyond regular parking space maintenance strictly limited spatially to present 45 parking spaces.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any new trail development is limited to the public beach access dedicated in through the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant # 02-00430 and defined as the northwestern twenty feet of Lot 31, Homer Spit Amended; being a strip of land twenty feet wide, immediately adjacent and parallel to the northwest property line, and also being immediately adjacent to Lot 27; containing 3,595 square feet, more or less.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 13th day of January, 2020.

CITY OF HOMER

KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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87 MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK
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90 Fiscal information: N/A

