

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:

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

Councilmember Venuti shared her support for the substitute and appreciated the comments about speaking up for the animals in the bay, we need to consider the marine life.

Mayor Castner shared he received comments saying don't substitute your voice for my voice. He thinks the substitution of voice came from the top, there was one person who substituted their voice for everyone else in the State and that's what brought us to the table. However when you gather the voice of the City, you have to ensure that it's meaningful and appropriate. He doesn't know if anyone cares about the voice of the City in this regard. He agrees that if this turns sideways that the City continue to have a seat at the table like they have through past processes for the park and critical habitat plan.

VOTE: YES: LORD, ADERHOLD, EVENSEN, VENUTI
NO: SMITH

Motion carried.

- b. Resolution 20-008, 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. 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. Evensen/Hansen-Cavasos.

EVENSEN/VENUTI MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 20-008 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

EVENSEN/VENUTI MOVED TO SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION 20-008(S) FOR 20-008.

Councilmember Evensen noted the bold and underlined changes in the substitute resolution.

VOTE (substation): NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Councilmember Evensen said this came up from public feedback during the Planning Commissions review of a CUP for parking at the Seafarer's Memorial. Community members have pointed out there are few places on the spit that are open spaces and the importance of maintaining the habitat it offers. There's a healthy lobe of sand and not interfering with that portion will benefit the spit, particularly the eastern most beaches and the end of the spit, through natural processes.

Councilmember Aderhold shared her appreciation for this and acknowledged it's a big decision. She doesn't feel one meeting allows for adequate discussion and it overlaps with

responsibilities with Port and Harbor Commission and Planning Commission at a minimum. She'd like guidance from those Commissions and more opportunity for public input.

Councilmember Smith agreed and added they just funded a parking study for the spit. It will be important to know what those findings are before making any final decisions as there may be minimal ability to do some improvements in that area.

LORD/EVENSEN MOVED TO POSTPONE THIS RESOLUTION TO OUR SECOND MEETING IN APRIL AND REFER IT TO PLANNING AND PORT AND HARBOR COMMISSIONS FOR THEIR REVIEW PRIOR TO THAT.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

- c. Resolution 20-009, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Approving an Automatic Aid Agreement and Operational Plan between Anchor Point Fire and Emergency Medical Service Area and the City of Homer Volunteer Fire Department for Fire Response Services and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Appropriate Documents. Smith.

VENUTI/EVENSEN MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 20-009 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Councilmembers Smith and Lord summarized the discussion from their worksession this is in relation to improving the response time with our fire apparatus in helping surrounding areas, as well as Anchor Point assisting in response to City emergencies.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- d. Resolution 20-004, A Resolution of the Homer City Council Approving an Economic Development and Tourism Marketing Agreement between the City of Homer and the Homer Chamber of Commerce. City Manager.

ADERHOLD/LORD MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 20-004 BY READING OF TITLE ONLY.

Councilmember Aderhold noted they discussed this resolution at Committee of the Whole and the request by the Chamber for additional funding relate to the shack on the spit. The Chamber would like to change it from the Derby Shack to more of a spit visitor center location. They didn't come to agreement on whether to increase the funds or how the fund might be used. City Manager Koester suggested if the intent is to discuss a budget amendment, and they are okay with the marketing agreement, they approve the resolution as is, and then direct her to