

Homer Spit Public Meeting Notes: Large Chart Summary

Commercial Development:

Make more land private

Lower profile development—height restrictions

No more development—keep it natural!

Overslope development? City pier?

More eco-tour type business

First class fishing port

Let's get cruise ships in!

Recycle food waste from existing restaurants to be used for pig slop, etc and other animals. A compost area for collection of fish trash for pick up by local farmers.

Environment:

Trash—need more dumpsters

Unique bird habitat

Venue for sea mammal and bird watching

Bird conflicts with airport

Improve access and presentation of existing parks and open places.

Consider migratory bird habitat—especially Mud Bay, Mariner Park, Louie's Lagoon.... These areas are ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL to their migration.

Keep it as NATURAL as possible. Minimal additional intrusion of buildings, crap, scrap. Opportunity for additional greenbelt.

A clean-up crew of volunteers, college/high school groups or people on welfare or probation to clean up trash on our lovely Homer Spit. A recycling station would be nice too. Ooh... how about a clean-up contest with prizes?

"The environment" means many things, but too often evokes "preservation" or hands-off sentiments. Nothing is further from the truth in respect to our west side beaches. They are a CRITICAL environmental amenity that, left to natural forces, will disappear in 5-10 years. Solution: move Spit Road Revetment off the road shoulder by 100-200 feet and infill over time.

Be environmentally sensitive, but not to the point that there is no economic basis available.

Invasive plant species—clean up the Spit before it looks like Peterson Beach across K-Bay. Total dandelion mess and other species.

Future land use:

More community and neighborhood gardens

And an outdoor covered pavilion for music and civic gatherings. Connect to the chamber offices to oversee it, so cost is low.

[with arrows along the map towards the road on the west side of the harbor] Breech winter 2009???

Protect beaches by moving revetment off-shore 150'. Same cost, no environmental impact.

Zoning unique to Spit (treat it differently)

Not residential—More public access/use or commercial

Protect Mud Bay Area and Mariner's lagoon for shorebird microratum [?].

Stop the building of condos that block the view

Community recycling station

Any commercially zoned property that becomes wetlands or conservation needs to have equal amount of lands rezoned to commercial! Critical for economic life!

NO MORE BUSINESSES!

Harbor:

Relocate launch ramp near harbor entrance

Or in new expansion

Moving commercial vessels to the east would allow potential support services for larger vessels. Plus that would allow retail/tourist businesses to develop more coherently around the recreational marina. Plus fees could... (?)

New harbor office with room to rent for meetings/socials

Expand the harbor in small stages and wind turbines, too!

East side: make sure there is enough commercial to allow industry-permanent and transit.

Tourism should be next to harbor or on the other side.

Great cleaning tables/1 hr parking

Dredge de-watering must be managed better—destroys beaches. Use area that is NOT susceptible to wave action.

Give strong consideration to preservation of beaches on west side. They're gone at high tide in 5-10 years. What IF a breakwater protected the west beaches AND created a harbor?

Industry:

Mix industry with tourism

Alaska Maritime museum

"Deadliest Catch" connection

Storage of fishing gear

Viewing area for fish dock

Balance industry and art and tourism

What about a combo dry storage/maintenance building for boat storage? (Especially now that we have more affluent retirees in the community)

Encourage/expand fisheries, boat maintenance support, INDUSTRIES BESIDES TOURISM!!

Use fish waste to make local fertilizer

More competition in the harbor and docks

Community recycling station close to port and road access

What's happening in the world of water de-salination? That would be a great industry—renewable, sustainable, and marine-based.

Clean industry only... no more pollution!!!

Parking:

Multi-level parking garage

Sticker system--revenues pay for shuttle

Underutilized parking—use hockey rink

Disperse Parking Demands

What have other towns done?

Old plans for filling area at base of Spit

Be different—increases revenue potential

Consider dual-level parking garage with shuttle to other areas.

Spit food deliveries, employee parking, evacuation plane and practice, auto damage, shuttle service

Critical to enhance pedestrian and bike safe access

Parking for business owners needed, not more stores or shops

Employee parking for Spit businesses needs to be centralized or off the spit.

Please consider the people who live across the bay and pay city taxes with few services, keep parking free for them. Also, don't remove ALL trash bins at end of summer season

Long term parking (across the bay folks) with good drainage so tires are frozen in

Weekend parking away from retail shops

[with arrows pointing to map regarding the proposed new harbor] Frankly overkill. A classic example of “build it big!” If it's deep and requires no dredging then the submerged stone/breakwater grows by a factor of 20---at a HUGE cost! No saving at all. Solution: SLOWLY, over time, as demand builds, expand existing harbor up Spit (west) using dredge material to fill. Fishing lagoon will eventually move in 20-50 years [with arrows pointing to existing harbor, west side], but all improvement can be recycled.

Transportation:

Fish Dock road conflicts

Busses/double parking pullout

Multi-modal transportation center

RV/semi trailer turnaround and parking

Inexperienced RV drivers

Set times for deliveries

Better grading

Temporary speed bumps

How do we make a shuttle work?

Boardwalk all around the boat harbor [added comment] yes!

Better bike trail maintenance in winter

Better pedestrian flow near shops (i.e. makos [?] and boardwalk) Cars always having to slam on brakes there.

Bike trail along harbor edge

Curb cuts into designated parking areas

Would like to see more public benches and picnic tables along trail around the small boat harbor

More bike trails all over Spit

The Homer Spit trail is the most used recreational amenity in Homer

Shuttle bus with shelter, bike trail

See= global warming task force plan

A shuttle bus between Spit and town...maybe going up east end or Anchor Pt, too. Bike trails end of Spit

Shuttle on the Spit ONLY. End of Spit, no farther than English Bay property

Something cute, though... like SF trolley car?

Redirect pedestrian traffic away from the Spit Road around the harbor by re-orienting the small kiosk shop away from the road and toward "through-ways" to the harbor boardwalk (proposed for 2010?) and also toward the harbor. If the kiosk shops don't face the Spit Road—the pedestrian traffic will move toward the harbor and make walking safer.

Miscellaneous:

Storage areas fencing

Art venue

Homer is an art center in many ways. Ask Public Arts committee for specific input. And (esp. Spit/Local Artist) galleries. Creative ideas like having art stations along the bike trail... maybe erasable signs for people to draw on?

How about a viewing tower that people could walk up to look over the top of the Land's End codos and see the pretty view? (Homer Eye-ful Tower?)

Short term parking for loading/unloading boats in harbor is important. Keep it! (1 hr is fine)

Make a safe(r) pedestrian/bike crossing near the base of the Spit. It is currently DANGEROUS!!

Bike trails that are contiguous to the end of the Spit. And well marked so riders all see it and don't ride on road—i.e. at base of Spit have sign on west side of road to let walkers bikers know to cross. Have safe bike crossing at BASE!

It's ironic that we are meeting at Land's End and the TALL buildings blocking the view.... Access and benches would be nice if people could look across the bay... is it doable?

Preserve/enhance public access to beach

Winter bird watching

Tourism: AK folks, AK visitors, Locals

Need kayak launch

Lockers: kayaking, camping

Winter RV dumping (winter storm watch—extend RV season)

Need variety in public spaces: Picnics, grilling, etc. for locals and visitors

Locals use fishing hole, marina, launch

Need seating areas, amenities

The fish cleaning tables and clean bathrooms are great! Also children's play area (boat with ship wheel) is good and could be improved or others "installed".

Let's try to NOT make everything punitive or nickel and dime people who visit (or live here?!)