

Homer Spit Public Meeting Notes—Brainstorming

What are the pressing issues facing the Homer Spit?

- Littering! Solution: hire crews or have a clean-up contest w/prizes. Volunteers are nice.
- More diversified eco-tour companies.
- A shuttle bus (possibly run through a non-profit).
- A better accessible info kiosk for local events.
- A marine biology study area run by our local university and other related groups.

- Tourist appeal/no more condos!
- Growth—positive/planned
- Erosion
- Safety—pedestrian, users, traffic
- Natural disaster response
- Future expansion harbor
- Parking—need more
- Keeping Spit our “special jewel”

- Municipal revenues are shrinking.
- Who “plans” ways to pay for the things we want?
- Homer has never been very good identifying (let alone promoting) things that help pay for the things we want.
- The Spit is a great potential generator of revenue, but this requires “growth” in fees or real estate.

- Cleanliness
- Walkability
- Safety
- Cuteness/charming
- Facilities/infrastructure
- Erosion
- Parking
- Harbor space
- Park usability

Would be nice:

- Extend bike trail
- Restrooms—more open all year
- Busses

- Better litter control
- Safety

Needs to happen:

- Safeguard existing bird habitat—Louie’s Lagoon, Mud Bay, Mariner Park, etc.
- Pedestrian traffic vs vehicles
- Walkability
- Stripe all of road in front of boardwalk shops for crosswalk
- Invasive plant species on the spit. In addition to dandelions there are other invasive plants we should control before our beaches look like Peterson Beach across KBay.
- The spit is really Alaska’s Jewel and should be a place for everyone.
- Open space for recreation is key—look at all the new kite surfers.
- Better pedestrian areas, pocket parks, public art
- Designated “planned” retail area
- Increase visibility commercial fishing activities
- More benches to sit and marvel, more trash receptacles, interpretive signage, it needs to look wild and nice. A challenge.

What do you value most about the Spit?

- Use for recreational opportunities—trail
- View, view, view!
- Charm to residents and visitors
- Recreation (spit trail, restaurants, shopping)
- Access to the bay
- “sense of place”
- Rock art, maritime influence, kitch/hippie feel. Would hate to lose that.
- Beaches to run and play on
- We have a working harbor and lots of diversity—that is cool.
- The memories of when it was a lovely little bit of land jutting into our beautiful bay... oh so many years ago... alas! Oh yeah, most of the small restaurants are good and gratefully we can get a cup of K-Bay Java. Fishing ain’t bad either for locals and visitors as well as hiking. P.S. Please no littering!

- The beauty of the whole scene. Boats, birds, a place to go walking.
- VERY IMPORTANT migratory bird habitat.
- Access to boating and the ferry/
- This is our greatest treasure, let's don't mess it up!

How are the community and the Spit changing? How should we respond to these changes?

- I'd like to say for the better... however, minor crime is rampant (i.e. tent thieves, fishing gear rip-offs and vehicle hit-and-runs.
 - Solution: volunteers to patrol camping and fishing/boating areas. Compensate volunteers by meals, free camping, and maybe fishing trips.
- More development
 - More tourism
 - More boats in the harbor
 - Tension between spread-out and random development and planned development.

What kind of development on the Spit do we want there to be 5, 10, and 20 years into the future?

- 5—Spit trail completion & restrooms cleaned up
 - 10—more organized development, cute storefronts
 - 20—planned development, retail zones, great walkability, outdoor art, great harbor!
- Add an outdoor pavilion (covered stage and seating) for 100 people for music and civic gatherings.
 - Connect the chamber office to manage and schedule so cost is low—perhaps covered by member fees, etc.
- Well, with global warming going on... maybe a huge dike to surround the Spit w/boat locks....Yikes! I'm just kidding. Actually in 5 yrs a more eco-friendly Spit.
 - 10 yrs a bay-wide shuttle run on renewable energy sources.
 - 20 yrs my ashes floating out with the tides if I may. Oh yeah... a global marine biology center thru our local university ASAP!
- No more big development.
 - No more condos.
 - Have bus service.
 - Let's keep it a place we can love and a place others want to visit.

- The future home of the Alaska Maritime Museum and associated activities, i.e.
 - Cyclorama on Spit
 - Sailing event
 - Boat building shop
 - Music, theater, etc.

- Overslope development—access—city build pier? Standards for pier and deck.

- Spit plan should mesh w/Homer Comp Plan
- Pit is part of Homer—make it a place for locals also (that they would enjoy in season)
- Tidal power plant
- A park and marine wildlife viewing area

- Need connection between Spit, Pioneer (BD & Old Town)—trails and a shuttle or trolley run by renewable energy (could be a showcase)---Not just tourist—public transport.
- EIS (for a new development?)
- Move parking downtown.