

9/23/24

City of Cordova Planning and Zoning Commission
P.O. Box 1210
Cordova, AK 9957

Re: Cordova Covered Spaces requests approval for Breakwater Park location

Dear Planning and Zoning Commission Members,

Thank you for your efforts and time serving on Planning and Zoning Commission, your work is greatly appreciated.

City finances are tight and we are not requesting dollars from Planning and Zoning and City of Cordova. We are requesting approval of a site where a much-needed covered space can be built in the future. Please approve the Breakwater Park site so the search for grants can continue for site development and progress toward building a covered space at the Breakwater Park location.

The Cordova Covered Spaces Project is a volunteer community project to build covered structures in Cordova. Covered spaces will improve the quality of life and everyone can use the spaces to get out of the rain, for classes, celebrations, picnics, meetings, and recreation.

The project has received great support from community members and others in the form of donations, volunteer effort and fundraising efforts. The City of Cordova Staff has also helped as the project has progressed. We are continuing fundraising efforts; but to complete grant applications we need the Planning Commissions support for the Breakwater Park location.

The area is already used as a park and has the Breakwater Trail access, the memorial site, wildlife watching area and is a regularly used spot where many people spend time enjoying the view, a covered space would enhance the area and offer recreational opportunities in wet weather.

Developing a pocket park and greenspace at the Breakwater location with some kind of covered space has long been planned and appears in the old City of Cordova Comprehensive plan completed in 2013. The links to the plans are here, they are all found on the City of Cordova website. See "South Fill Commercial Area Action Plans" beginning on page 8 of the 2013 plan. <https://www.cityofcordova.net/city-planning-and-land-use/>

In the "Cordova Comprehensive Plan Executive Summary in 2019" <https://www.cityofcordova.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2019-Cordova-Comprehensive-Plan-Executive-Summary.pdf> the Breakwater Trail image is shown on the front page of the plan. Quality of life and outdoor recreation are shown to be highly valued by the community. On page 8 of this summary item number one is listed as "1. Expand and improve Cordova's indoor and outdoor recreation" on page 11.

In the "Cordova Comprehensive Plan" <https://www.cityofcordova.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2019-Cordova-Comprehensive-Plan.pdf.pdf> page 46 Strategy #1 lists "Quality of life strategies and actions" Strategy #1: Expand and improve Cordova's indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities. With the following NOTE: these strategies also have the potential

to help make Cordova a more desirable tourism destination and contribute to economic development.

The Harbor Commission approved the Breakwater Park location during last summer 2024. The Cordova Covered Spaces project is also in the draft plan of the Cordova Trails Committee, and the Parks and Recreation Plan and City Council approved a resolution of support for the project in 2023.

Numerous local organizations support the project and many letters of support from community organizations have been written in support of the project, for more information about community support please visit the website listed below.

Again we understand that City finances are tight and we are not requesting dollars from Planning and Zoning and the City of Cordova. We are requesting approval of the site that is already in the comprehensive plans and where a much-needed covered space can built in the future. Please approve the Breakwater Park site so the search for grants can continue and volunteer efforts can help actually help create something tangible and put some of the costly planning efforts the City has been doing over the years to good use.

More information about the Covered Spaces project can be found at <https://cordovacoveredspaces.org/> or feel free to contact either of us for more information.

Sincerely,

Natasha Casciano

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