



## City of Valdez MEMO

**To:** City Council Members

City Clerk Sheri Pierce

City Attorney Jake Staser

**From:** Mark Detter, City Manager

**Date:** August 31, 2021

**Re:** Mayor's Task Force Groups & Boards & Commissions

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The Mayor's Task Force groups have accomplished a considerable amount of work and have added value to our community. I believe the goals of these groups is to achieve certain tasks within a set time frame. In that spirit, I would like to suggest that the following Task Forces finalize recommendations from their group in the following manner.

**-Mayor's Beautification Task Force-**The Task Force should be transition into an appointed commission with a specific mission, possibly advising staff on code enforcement issues and site planning. The awarding of grants for Beautification purposes could be another responsibility of this commission on a yearly basis.

**-Mayor's Flood Task Force-** Once the proper permits have been issued by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources for the Lowe River Flood Mitigation Plan the Task Force should recommend capital improvements related to the Lowe River to the City Council for their consideration. The Capital Projects department took bids on a flood maintenance project on the Lowe River, but a larger project involving further City expenditure is on the horizon once a permit has been issued by DNR (\$10-\$15 million Dike Project) with a potential annual gravel extraction program (Est. \$1-3 million / year). Further, the need for regular meetings of this group may decrease. However, during 2021 I would like to see some future goals set for this group. A few potential goals are:

- 1) Creating support for the City Council and staff on communicating to State officials the need for the issuance of the permit per AS 38.05.872

- 2) Identifying funding mechanisms for a larger flood project.

**Mayor's Hospital Expansion Task Force-** A committee of task force members, City staff, and hospital staff are currently developing an RFP for an update of the hospital master plan. Once the architectural firm is selected by the hospital expansion task force and the Providence Valdez Health Advisory Board, the Task Force will have completed their duty and the Providence Valdez health advisory board should make recommendations to the City Council on the implementation of the master plan.

Further consideration needs to be given to appointment of Boards and Commissions. Council is specifically empowered to appoint Boards or Commissions. **Section 3.7 Powers of the Council to Appoint Citizen Boards.** The council may establish by ordinance, boards or commissions as in its judgements are required and may grant to them such powers and duties as are consistent with the provisions of this Charter.

The creation of Task Forces is not specifically authorized in the Charter. Several Board and Commissions have been established by Ordinance and are in City Code, including

**Planning and Zoning Commission-**7 members.

**Parks and Recreation Commission-**7 members.

**Economic Diversification Commission-**7 members.

**Ports and Harbor Commission-**7 members.

**Library Board-**7 members.

**Permanent Fund Committee-**Selected by Council-Three Council Members appointed plus City Manager and 3 citizens.

**Museum Board-**Selected by Council.

The Mayor is to appoint members to these Commissions and Boards with Council approval.