



"Village with a Past, City with a Future"

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Brian Gabriel and Kenai City Council
FROM: Jamie Heinz, City Clerk
DATE: May 8, 2018
SUBJECT: Dipnet Vendors

At their meeting on 12/06/2017, Council asked Administration to address mobile vendors during the dipnet fishery. While the City has always allowed vendors to operate in the parking areas during the fishery, treating them the same as any other vehicle parking in the area, we decided the dipnet vendors could be addressed by providing consistency to the dipnet fishery users while at the same time providing an opportunity for local businesses to expand their business.

Feedback from the industry showed that most vendors felt the venue could be better, wanted to see some sort of exclusivity, easier access, a specific vendor area, and suggested on-site electric and potable/grey water dumping and refill site nearby. While the electricity and dumping/refilling site will need to be accomplished in future years, we felt that we could accomplish some of the suggestions in the near term and, combined with more consistency the fishery users could depend on, the venue would improve for them.

To accomplish our goal and requests from the industry, we'll be developing a simple application for the vendors to complete and will encourage local businesses to apply. The applications will ask for brief information about what the vendor offers, days and hours they will operate, where they are based out of, and their facilities, which will then be ranked. Additional points will be given to applicants that currently operate in the City of Kenai. We have outlined what we feel to be the safest area, facing the beach, where two food vendors, one specialty coffee vendor, and one ice vendor will be situated and the highest ranking applications of each type will be the vendors chosen to operate. The outlined area has enough space for the vendor's 'facility' and at least one support vehicle; we will be giving the vendors vendor specific parking passes to come and go as they need.

With this plan, we've provided an opportunity for local businesses to expand their business, exclusivity, easier access, and a specific vendor area. By also selecting vendors that will commit to operating for the most amount of time, we hope that over time, the fishery users see this consistency and will utilize these vendors instead of bringing loaded coolers from their hometowns.



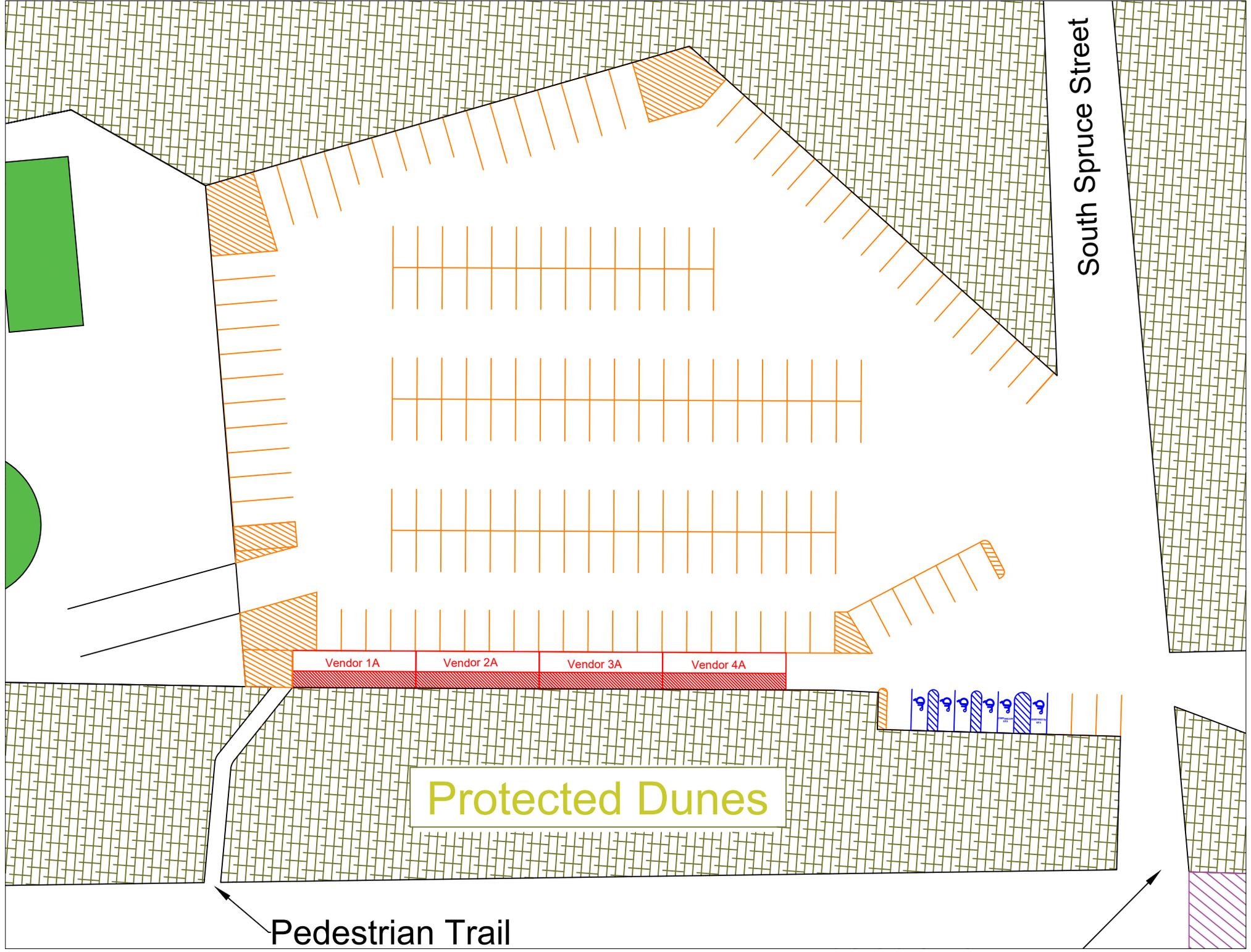
In the case that we did not have enough of the specific vendors apply, we would allow another vendor to come in by the day. For instance, if we did not have a specialty coffee vendor apply to operate the entire time, we would allow a specialty coffee vendor to operate on a day by day basis or, if we only had one food vendor apply, we would allow another food vendor to operate on a day by day basis but we would never allow a third food vendor operate in a specialty coffee vendor slot or visa versa.

We are doing this as a pilot project for this season and once we have more insight in how well it works we will make changes to the code as necessary.

As requested, we took the plan to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Harbor Commission; both commissions felt the plan was well thought out.

If there are any questions, I am happy to answer them.





South Spruce Street

Protected Dunes

Pedestrian Trail

Vendor 1A

Vendor 2A

Vendor 3A

Vendor 4A

