

3/9/2022

Re: HB 304

Dear Alaska Senators and Representatives,

This letter is in support of the Eagle River Lions Park and HB 304. One of the practices of a legislative body is to develop and pass effective social policies aimed at building better communities for citizens to live, work and play. As such, I urge each of you to support HB 304 and assure that the 40 acre Lions Park in Eagle River remains in the control of the Eagle River Lions. Healthy communities are built upon the positive social trust experienced by its members as they interact with each other through the course of their daily lives. During the past 58 years, the Eagle River Lions Club has utilized their programs, services and this Park to build and maintain strong social trust with the members of the Eagle River Community, as well as members of numerous other Alaskan communities.

Since its inception, the Eagle River Lions Club has supported seniors, youth, and adults living in Eagle River who need assistance at some point in their lives. These supports include meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas, Christmas gifts for children, fundraising for local groups, as well as community Easter egg hunts and ice fishing derbies. Another aspect of this support has been the Eagle River Lions Park through which the community gained opportunities for general recreation, tennis, baseball/softball, and football. The Knik Little League, Pop Warner Football Association, Ducks Unlimited, local not-for profits and local schools are just a few of the groups utilizing the Park, fields and buildings. Additionally, local families utilize the Park for picnics, weddings and celebrations of life. Each year a wonderful celebration of American Independence occurs on the 3rd of July which is open to the entire community and surrounding neighbors with 10,000 people utilizing the Park.

Since 1964, the Eagle River Lions have supported their community through the effective and productive management of the Park. Passage of HB 304 will allow them to continue their efforts in assuring that Eagle River remains a great community to live, work and recreate in. In sending this letter to you I represent myself as a citizen, as well as a long term Eagle River Lions member and as the Executive Emeritus for Hope Community Resources.

Sincerely,

Roy T. Scheller, Ph.D.
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