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Jayme Jones
Legislative Aide
Office of Representative Merrick, District 14
jayme.jones@akleg.gov

March 6, 2022

RE: HB 304 – Eagle River Lions Park

Dear Ms. Jones,

The Eagle River Lions Park (Park) is a great asset to the community of Eagle River. As a member of the Lions Organization, I have seen first-hand the many benefits the Park provides. For example, using the Park the Lions raise money for the community like; fund raising for people in need, fireworks for Holiday celebrations, Easter Egg hunts, the list is long and impressive.

Without the Lions unwavering commitment to keep the Park in tip top condition, FREE OF CHARGE TO THE STATE, the Park would not be as good as it is today. It takes a lot of work and money to manage and maintain the Park. Mowing, painting baseball & football field's lines, fertilizing, snow plowing, etc., etc.

The Lions are actively working to repair the tennis courts. The Lions have worked hard to raise money through soliciting construction companies and the like to repair the courts. Without the Lions efforts the tennis courts would remain in a state of dis-repair.

I urge the State to transfer the Park property and stewardship to the Lions Organization so these many benefits continue for the community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Post

Steve Post
Lions Member and resident of Eagle River
907-227-5897

Jayme Jones

From: Gary Carolyn Washburn <gandcw@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 12:37 PM
To: Jayme Jones
Subject: Eagle River Lions Park

I have been a resident of Eagle River/Chugiak since 1990 (minus a couple temporary duty assignments in Oklahoma) and raised a family here. The Park which is managed by the Eagle River Lions is an extraordinary thing which every community would benefit from having. Besides providing a green space in the midst of suburban sprawl, it provides all our youth a place for recreation - which is a far better activity than loitering or playing electronic games. Baseball, softball, football, tennis...all available, free of charge. Nearly every evening in the summer it is packed with kids and parents attending some sporting event.

The thought that we could lose this park because the state would not renew the lease is horrifying. Yes the land is now very valuable - it could be subdivided and developed and the state would make lots of money - but at what expense? It is the heart of our community...please allow it to remain.

Gary Washburn
21237 Mckinley View Ave
Chugiak, AK 99567
405-249-8422



Lions Clubs International

Karen Burns
7138 Waterfall Drive, Eagle River, AK 99577

March 8, 2022

RE: HB 304

Dear Alaska Senators and Representatives:

This letter is in support of the Eagle River Lions Park and HB304. The Eagle River Lions Park has been a staple in our community since 1964. It is the largest community center in our area. This is a 40-acre park the community depends on for it use for recreation, tennis, baseball/softball (Knik Little League) and football (Pop Warner). It is rented out for wedding, celebrations of lives, the local schools, or Ducks Unlimited. Since 1964 the Eagle River Lions have managed this park for this community and need to remain in the capacity.

In house it is utilized by the Sleeping Lady Mountain Lions for meetings two times a month, fundraisers for community events such as scholarships for local high school students, fundraisers for community members in need of assistance, Tree of Giving for hundreds of children, Easter for 400 kids, and 3rd of July where 10,000 utilize the park. The Lions of District 49A and Multiple District utilize the building for their meetings for people from Alaska and Canada.

Local Boy Scouts of America are housed in the building and hold their meetings in the clubhouse. They assist many events held at the park.

As a leader in this community since 1987, I see this 40-acre park is paramount to this community and its need to remain in the control of the Eagle River Lions.

Sincerely,

Karen Burns

Multiple District 49
Past Council Chair

To whom it may concern:

I am submitting this letter in support of the Eagle River Lions Club in their effort to maintain control of the Eagle River Lions Park in its entirety.

While I have only been a member of the Lions for a relatively short time, I have already seen how proud the Lions are of this park and its facilities. The functions the club sponsors at the Lions Park make an enormous contribution to the Eagle River community, especially to the youth of Eagle River and its surrounding areas.

Many years of operating the Park under the Lions club control have resulted in a growing bond with the Eagle River community, to the mutual benefit of the community populace and the Lions Club members.

I strongly urge the decision making entity to continue to keep control of the Park in the Lions' hands for now as well as the foreseeable future.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Lion Jeff Wright



Eagle River Lions Club

*P. O. Box 771046
Eagle River, Alaska 99577*



3/9/22

HB 304 Support

Dear Senators And Representatives,

As President of Eagle River Lions Club it has been my honor and pleasure to oversee the operation and upkeep of Eagle River Lions Park over the past year. The park itself is the only facility of it's kind in the whole Eagle River/Chugiak area and it's importance to the community is incredible and cannot be emphasized enough! When you see the different youth sports organizations that hold sporting events and practices for the youth of our community in our park and when you see all of the people who enjoy it for recreational activities both in winter and summer it's hard to imagine our community without this park. From our tennis courts which when the refurbishment is completed will host both tennis and pickle ball tournaments and play to our football fields that the Pop Warner teams use and our baseball fields that boys baseball and girls softball teams utilize to our basketball courts that in the summer are constantly in use to our horseshoe pits that people often enjoy, the options for activities in the park are so great! We also have plans for creating a new dog park this summer for people to bring their dogs and walk them in a safe environment. We also plan on completely renovating our playground and adding new playground equipment for the children of the community.

HB 304 would allow our Lions Club to continue to maintain and promote these activities for our community members and keep the park open for everyone to enjoy. Please pass this important legislation and allow us to keep doing this important work for another 60 years and beyond!! Thank you!!

Sincerely,

Richard "Tiny" Fagg, President
Eagle River Lions Club

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.
2850 E. Wildomar Drive
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

From: [Jody Huffines](#)
To: [Jayme Jones](#)
Subject: Lions Park Eagle River
Date: Monday, March 14, 2022 3:20:17 PM

Hi

I'm writing this letter you as a member of the Eagle River community and why we should keep Lions Park in Eagle River! This park has been in the community so so many years and does so much for the community of Eagle River. To name a few

Youth Sports for all ages

4th of July celebration

Bear Paw Festival

Every time there is a devastation in Eagle River to anywhere in the communities far away the Lions and Sleeping Ladies help with food and clothing donations, for example the Willow fire a few years ago, collected donations not just for the people that lost their home but also for the firefighters that help put out the fire. Also, the big apt fire in Eagle River last year that displaced about 30 plus people who lost everything. Mary Meacham with the Lady Lions did a clothing/food donation drive to help this people in their time of need.

The Lions out pours so much for the community!!

Thank
Jody Huffines

From: [waffleck](#)
To: [Jayme Jones](#)
Subject: Eagle River Lions Park Transfer
Date: Sunday, March 13, 2022 6:22:24 PM

Dear Alaska Legislature,

As Vice President of the Eagle River Lions Club I am honored to submit the following evidence of why the Eagle River Lions Park should be transferred to our organization for perpetuity.

Our club has continued to lead the way in community service and club participation. This year our members have been very active with all of our projects as well as attending our club meetings in large numbers.

After all of the issues with Covid we have had. This year we've been able to safely bring back all of our annual community activities as well as adding some new ones.

We began the year with our annual Easter Egg Extravaganza. Thousands of families come out to join us in celebration of Christ as well as allowing the children in different age groups to hunt for eggs. Some of the eggs have prizes, some are just for fun. It's a huge hit!

Our 3rd of July Fireworks Extravaganza was a huge success, attended by thousands of our neighbors providing them with entertainment, food vendors, live music and a great fireworks show.

Mid July we hosted and cooked for the annual Hope Community Resources Picnic which brought together hundreds of their special needs clients and the people that assist them for a really fun day.

Later in July an apartment complex in Eagle River caught fire displacing all 12 families, our club coordinated the collection of enough clothing, furniture, household goods and food to fill most of our clubhouse. These donations were distributed to the families and the remaining items were turned in to our partner Value Village for a cash donation that was also used to assist these families. We were also successful in finding housing for all of these families. In total 40 people donated 1578 hours of volunteer time.

In September our club along with the Sleeping Lady Mountain Lions Club hosted a 5k with the proceeds going to pediatric cancer research.

In October we catered a Ducks Unlimited Banquet for about 110 people done by 13 Lions which raised approximately \$3000 for our programs.

In November we concluded a raffle for two snowmachines with covers, helmets and a trailer which were all donated by one of our members and the \$10,000 in proceeds was donated to the troopers K9 program. That month we also hosted a gun show that was well attended by the community.

On Thanksgiving day we provided free to-go turkey dinners to anyone in the community that came by serving over 150 meals.

We held a brewfest that month that served 350 people and had 13 Lions who provided 165 volunteer hours to make this happen. We were able to donate the proceeds, over \$11,000, to our local Boys and Girls Club.

In December we held another raffle of which the proceeds went to purchasing gift cards from our local grocery store so that needy families in our community could purchase a nice Christmas dinner or other necessities. \$3800 was donated towards this project.

We hosted a Christmas luncheon at the Palmer Pioneer Home for over 100 seniors done by four Lions as well as a few younger Lion volunteers. We spent over \$600 for the food and numerous Lions donated altogether over 50 dozen Christmas cookies for this event.

On Christmas Day we provided a free to-go Christmas dinner feeding over 100 meals provided by 8 Lions working 62 hours with all of the food donated by the community.

On New Years Eve we allowed a local church to use our park for a free community fireworks show. That was very well attended as it is every year.

Our club continues to exceed the needs of our community. We allowed, for years, two Boy Scout Troops to use our building.

The Knik Little League and girls softball league use our baseball fields.

Pop Warner uses our football fields.

We support the Eagle River Lions Sno-cross. The club sets up and runs snowmachine races for youth riders on small snowmachines!

Our club has made significant donations to the American Cancer Society, Camp Abilities among other deserving charitable groups.

I hope that you will see the worth and strength of our club. WE as dedicated Eagle River Lions are in the BEST position to manage our property, as we have since we organized in 1962.

Sincerely,

William R. Affleck, Eagle River Lions Vice President