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