

HB

142



GREATER WASILLA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

DRAWER 1300
WASILLA, ALASKA 99687
(907) 376-2121

FEB 14 1983

February 3, 1983

State Representative Larson
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear State Representative Larson:

The Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce would like to extend our support in establishing a permanent headquarters for the Iditarod Association in the Wasilla area.

This annual event has always created great enthusiasm and involvement not only for the entire State of Alaska, but the many tourists that come each year.

The establishment of a permanent headquarters facility would provide an attractive, functional addition to our community for the benefit of the growing tourism that provides financial support in our valley.

Your help and support of this proposal would also be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rob Robinson" followed by a flourish.

Rob Robinson
President

rr/hh

IDITAROD REVISED BUDGET

- HB 141 - An Act making a special appropriation to the Department of Commerce & Economic Development for payment as a grant for the Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc., for construction of a permanent Iditarod sled dog race headquarters; and providing for an effective date. - \$422,800

Land (26,000)

The Iditarod Trail Commission are optimistic that the land will be donated

Tables, benches, landscaping, artwork, etc. (7,800)

It is expected that many of these will be either donated or worked on by volunteers

Revised appropriation - \$389,000

- HB 142 - An Act making a special appropriation to the Department of Commerce & Economic Development for payments as a grant for the Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc., for expenses of conducting the 1984 Iditarod sled dog race; and providing for an effective date. - \$113,050

Eliminate need of Maule M-6 (48,000)

Revised appropriation \$ 65,050

IDITAROD TRAIL COMMITTEE, INC.

POUCH X

WASILLA, AK. 99687

GRANT PROPOSAL



IDITAROD TRAIL COMMITTEE, INC

January 19, 1983

Ronald L. Larson
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Ak. 99811

Dear Mr. Larson:

Iditarod '83 will start our second decade of the longest sled dog race in the world. And, quite frankly, we are proud of our contribution to promoting Alaska and long distance sled dog racing. Our emphasis has always been on strict rules regarding treatment of dogs on the trail and sportsmanship among the mushers. ITC has always wanted to reflect the most positive image possible on both the Iditarod and the State of Alaska.

This race we are expecting a record breaking number of mushers to sign up. In addition to the teams, we have hundreds of volunteers working hundreds of hours seeing to the details of the race from Anchorage to Nome. Our volunteers give of their time and many put expensive equipment, such as HAM radios and airplanes, on the line for us. People from every walk of life, lawyers, veterinarians, pilots, trappers, engineers clerks, subsistence dwellers, all join together in a special camaraderie.

Our news media coverage is international. The race has been filmed and reported by the British, Spaniards, Canadians, Germans, and we are working with STV in Japan on the possibility of filming Iditarod '83. CBS and ABC have covered the race. The thirty minute ABC 20/20 show last spring on the race and Susan Butcher has prompted inquiries from all over the lower 48.

The January issue of GEO Magazine has an article on Iditarod. National Geographic will follow with a story in their March issue. And once again, CBS has international rights to live coverage of Iditarod '83.

Iditarod Sled Dog Race has become a year 'round business. Although we have tremendous sponsors for the race, we must turn to the State again and hope you merit our contributions to tourism and State exposure worthy of support of our two proposals.

The first proposal deals with the race itself. These requests are ones we feel will enhance the quality, safety, and organization of the Iditarod.

Our second proposal is for a much needed permanent headquarters. This building would include our offices, a sales outlet, and a museum.

old on shaft

IDITAROD '84

MEDICAL CARE AND DRUG TESTING PROGRAM FOR DOGS

Our veterinarians try to be at every checkpoint to check and administer any needed care to the dogs. The vets have the final say on a dog continuing in the Race. They also have medical supplies available to treat minor irritations and injuries. And, as our rules state, any dog that expires on the trail must have an autopsy.

Because of the rich purse and intense competition among mushers, ITC makes it a priority to keep drugs from being used on a dog. The vets have a right to randomly check dogs during the race for drugs. Then all dogs are checked at the end of the race. These samples are sent to Cornell University in New York for analysis.

For medical supplies, autopsies, drug testing supplies, sample shipping cost, and analysis.

Cost.....\$9,850.00

IDITAROD AIR FORCE

Our trail Air Force is composed of volunteers who are willing to fly their planes along the trail to move dog food, vets, hams, dropped dogs, race officials, and any other person or object needing to go from checkpoint to checkpoint. Because of the financial restrictions on the Iditarod, we have never been able to provide the full protection the private pilot needs. Airplanes and parts have become so expensive, we can no longer recruit pilots and expect them to "outofpocket" any damage to their plane while flying for the Iditarod.

Full coverage aviation insurance for Iditarod Air Force during March.....\$5,050.00

AIRCRAFT

Each year our trail manager must start earlier flying up the trail. Checkpoints and checkers must be secured. Trail breaking, marking, and maintenance must be coordinated. All of this is done before the race.

During the race, it is becoming essential ITC have a plane at our disposal. Each year brings different emergencies. We must get our Race Marshal to a checkpoint, or a doctor in to treat an injured musher, or a vet to an injured dog. To ensure the safety of our mushers and their teams, the enforcements of our rules, and a organized operation, we are requesting funding for a Maule M-6 airplane.

Cost.....\$48,000.00

RADIOS

For better communications so we are able to respond to problems and emergencies, we need high frequency portable radios. These radios may be used by our pilots or ground crews.

Four (4) HF Radios.....\$4,750.00

SNOWMACHINES

Of course there are times when all air support is grounded by weather. But our race continues. To enable our officials and trail breaking crews to operate we need double track machines. If we have an emergency somewhere a plane cannot land, we need the machines to get to the location. And, just to have the ability to maintain surveillance between checkpoints, the machines would be invaluable.

Two Alpine double track snowmachines.....\$10,400.00

Each year we offer a \$101,000.00 purse to the top twenty mushers. This distinguished the Iditarod as not only the longest sled dog race in the world, but also the richest. This purse also ensures the Iditarod a place in the major athletic events in the world. The purse gives mushers the incentive to train for the race. Consequently we have mushers and teams that are physically and mentally prepared to challenge the Iditarod Trail.

Money for purse.....\$35,000.00

TOTAL OF PROPOSAL #1

\$113,050.00

PERMANENT IDITAROD HEADQUARTERS

Each year interest in the Iditarod Sled Dog Race grows.

According to surveys done with our out of state visitors, the Iditarod fulfills the image and fantasy of Alaska. News media from the world over come to report the "Last Great Race." Because of the coverage, more and more tourists want to visit Iditarod Headquarters and see first hand operation of the race.

After ten years we have collected invaluable paraphernalia connected with each race. These items are a part of our history, but are perilously close to being lost because we have no place to store them. The impression each visitor or reporter leaves our headquarters with reflects on the Iditarod and our great state.

At present we are located above Teeland's Country Store in Wasilla. As our volume of traffic increases, not only is it disruptive to Teelands, but our own space is grossly strained. We have no place to store our race records or paraphernalia. Nor do we have the space to accommodate volunteers working on the race and visitors at the same time.

Because of the problems listed above, the Iditarod Sled Dog Race is requesting funding for a permanent headquarters in Wasilla. We want our building to be in the true spirit of Alaskan history and dog mushing, so our decor would be styled on a log cabin -- Roadhouse theme. To complement our building, we need an acre of land that can be landscaped to encourage visitors to stop and enjoy.

In our headquarters we need office space, storage area, conference room, retail sales outlet and a museum. Maximum exposure for our building is a must to ensure us the tourist and drop in trade we

will count on to cover operation and maintenance.

Our request is for: a 3350 sq. ft. building at \$100 per foot building .

Cost.....\$335,000.00

One acre land located on Parks Highway in or about Wasilla.

Cost\$ 26,000.00

Office equipment, furnishings, display cases, cash register, shelves, hangers, and protective equipment for museum.

Cost.....\$ 44,000.00

Landscaping, artwork, outside tables and benches and plaques.

Cost.....\$ 17,800

TOTAL REQUEST.....\$422,800.00