

By: Marna Sanford
Introduced: 04/22/2021

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 2021 – 15

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN APPLICATION BY THE NORDIC SKI CLUB OF FAIRBANKS TO THE STATE OF ALASKA FOR A RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM MATCHING GRANT FOR REQUIRED MAINTENANCE UPGRADES TO EXISTING AREA-WIDE NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS IN THE BIRCH HILL RECREATION AREA AND THE FORT WAINWRIGHT OWNED USE AREA

WHEREAS, The State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation administers the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grants; and

WHEREAS, The Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks, Alaska (NSCF) is a qualified applicant for this program; and

WHEREAS, The development of the Birch Hill Recreation Area (BHRA) has received strong community support, and the Borough and the NSCF have received multiple federal, State and non-profit grants to aid this development which have been supported by the Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Non-motorized recreational trail use (especially for cross country skiing) are popular year-round activities at the BHRA; and

WHEREAS, These physical activities are proven to be physically and mentally beneficial to the health of Borough residents; and

WHEREAS, About 11 km of lighted trails are supported at the BHRA/Use Area so that residents can ski after school and work during the many hours of winter darkness; and

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WHEREAS, The NSCF provides Junior Nordics, Fairbanks Cross Country, Adult Lessons and Fairbanks Cross Country Masters classes to all ages and skill levels of children and adults; and

WHEREAS, The BHRA provides the only competitive cross-country racing trails in the Fairbanks Area and the interior of Alaska certified by the International Ski Federation; and

WHEREAS, These facilities attract an annual series of local, state, national, and international competitive cross-country ski races each year; and

WHEREAS, These competitive events increase economic activity and benefits to the community through increased visitation and tourism; and

WHEREAS, Comprehensive, area-wide trails maintenance has not been undertaken on these trails in the past 15-20 years and such maintenance is necessary in order to maintain the safety and ecological sustainability of the environment and habitat of the area; and

WHEREAS, This grant proposal is for approximately \$150,000 and requires a 10% match of approximately \$15,000 by the NSCF; and

WHEREAS, This project is supported by the 2006 Birch Hill Recreation Area Master Plan and the Borough Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Fairbanks North Star Borough hereby supports the Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks, Alaska’s submission of a grant application to the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, for a

64 Recreational Trails Program matching grant, for the required maintenance upgrades to
65 the Birch Hill Recreation/Use Area trails.

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67 ADOPTED THE _____ DAY OF _____ 2021.

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Mindy O'Neall
Presiding Officer

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74 ATTEST:

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77 April Trickey, CMC
78 Borough Clerk