

Spenard Community Council Resolution 2023-05

A Resolution Urging the Alaska Railroad to Not Lease Out Property (a portion of Lot 2 of US survey 9083) For Private Residential Use, As Leasing This Area Would Preclude Options For A Planned Trail Connection Between Fish Creek and the Coastal Trail.

WHEREAS, Anchorage has a world-class trail system that is a beloved and needed amenity for residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Railroad Corporation (AKRR) has recently provided a ground lease application for AKRR property that might serve as a critical piece of a future Fish Creek-Coastal trail connection; and

WHEREAS, AKRR has stated this application is only available to the public for comment before September 21, 2023, after which the lease may be finalized; and

WHEREAS, in 1997 the Anchorage Areawide Trails Plan identified two future paved trails paralleling Fish Creek between Northern Lights and the Coastal Trail; and

WHEREAS in 2004 the Fish Creek Estuary was established through two conservation easements held by the Department of Natural Resources and the Great Land Trust, and both easements specifically allow a trail through the estuary with stipulations; and

WHEREAS in 2018 a Fish Creek Trail Connection was included in the AMATS TIP; and,

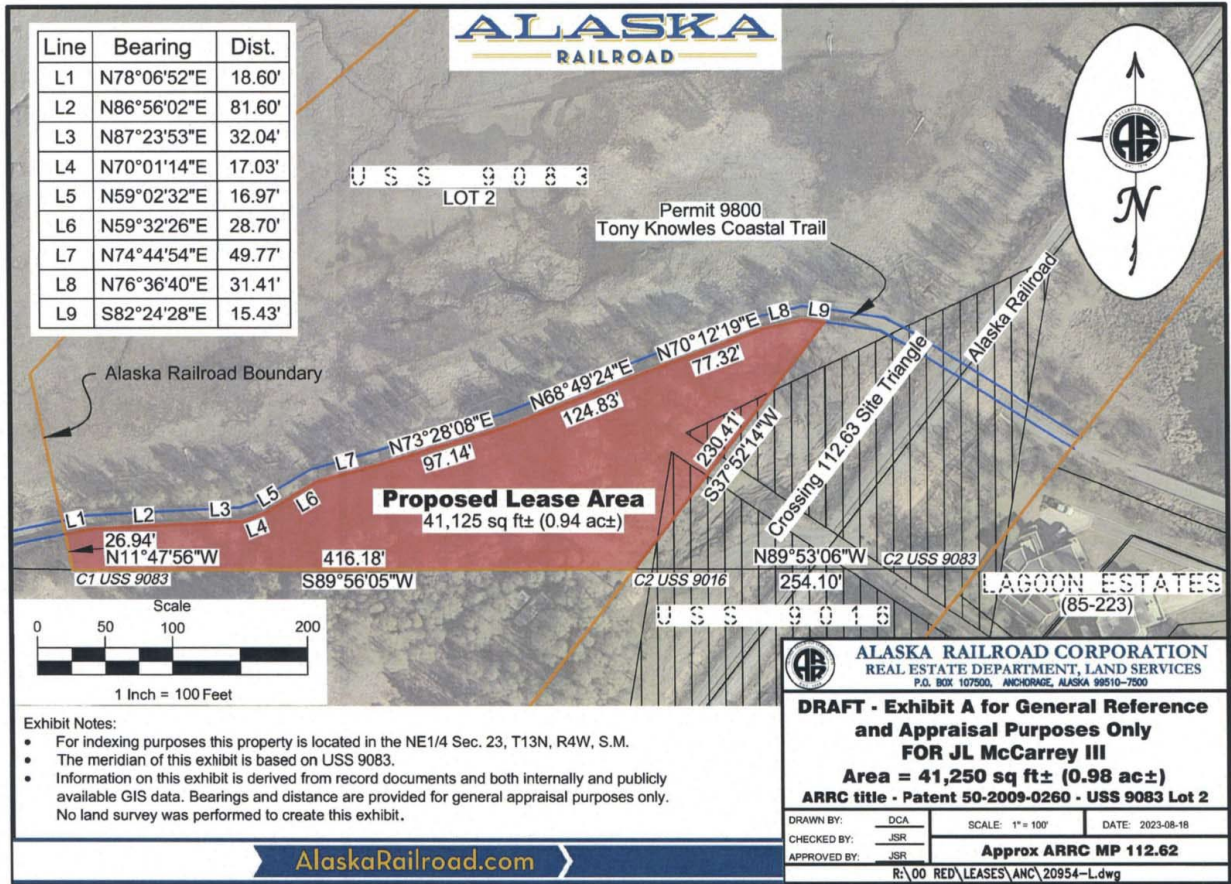
WHEREAS, In 2021, Anchorage voters approved a \$3.95m Parks and Recreation bond that included \$100,000 for the Fish Creek Connection called ‘Fish Creek Trail to Ocean’; and

WHEREAS, The federal government agreed to match the municipality’s funding at a ratio of approximately 9:1, providing over \$1.1 million for the trail.

WHEREAS in 2021 the AMATS Non-Motorized Plan was adopted and included the Fish Creek Trail connection project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Spenard Community Council strongly supports the carrying through the planned connection between the Fish Creek trail and the Coastal Trail; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Spenard Community Council urges the Alaska Railroad Corporation to deny this lease application for the good of the Alaskan public, as it would prevent a needed connection planned for and expected by the community.



Resolved, this 6th day of September, 2023

 Meg Mielke, Spenard Community Council President Date _____

Vote: __ in favor, and __ opposed