



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

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BUSINESS (907) 262-4441 FAX (907) 262-1892

JOHN J. WILLIAMS
MAYOR

August 2, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

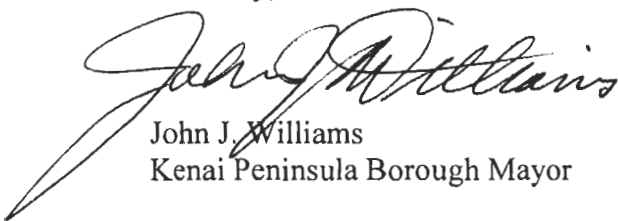
It is my understanding that the Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association is seeking funding for the capital acquisition phase to purchase and develop the Cottonwood Horse Park located in Homer, Alaska. I would like to add my support.

This park will serve as a safe, public area for horse and livestock programs and events. It will also serve as a multi use trailhead, linking a variety of recreational land uses and supporting adjacent public recreational facilities within the City of Homer.

The Cottonwood Horse Park will be a tremendous asset that will provide interested horse owners a place to work and train their horses much earlier and later in the seasons and will open existing trails to a broader array of users. A horse park has been included in past Homer recreation plans and this project will meet the identified need.

I strongly endorse this endeavor and encourage your consideration of their grant requests.

Sincerely,



John J. Williams
Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor

JJW/bd

Agenda Item P.2.*b.
Committee Legislative
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8/2/06

Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association

KBEA

Phone: 907-235-8214
 P.O. Box 2460
 Homer AK 99603

FAX TRANSMITTAL FORM

TO

The office of Mayor
 Kenai Peninsula Borough
 John Williams

262-8616

Urgent

For Review

Please Comment

Please Reply

FROM

Roberta Highland

Phone: 907-235-8214

P.O. Box 2460

Homer AK 99603

Date sent:

Time sent:

Number of pages including cover page: 2

THE OFFICE OF KENAI BOROUGH MAYOR, JOHN WILLIAMS

As discussed during my phone call here is an outline and summary of the Cottonwood Horse Park project. We are seeking letter of support from the community, area businesses and similar organizations as we seek funding to purchase property adjoining an existing recreational property in Homer.

Similar to Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula has an ever increasing horse and horse owner population. This is evident in all parts of the Kenai Peninsula as seen by the attendance at Soldotna Rodeo Ground and Ninilchik Fairgrounds. Currently horse owners are transporting horses across the Peninsula as they access, these and the other recreational trail opportunities.

Having a public use horse facility in Homer will allow earlier trail access to the Homer bench trails and beach area and relieve the congestion and safety issues of accessing the beaches and trail areas via the Homer Airport and Homer Spit.

We are asking you to review our project summary and request a letter of support from the Mayors Office as we seeking federal, state and private grants to assist us in purchasing one of the last areas suitable for horses and horse recreational access.

We have received letters of support form the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, Coalition for Homer Open Space and Trails, Kachemak Nordic Ski Club, Kenai Peninsula RC&D, Homer Advisory Planning Commission, Ninilchik Fair Association and approval for the Homer Planning Commission for the special use permit for our intended use.

*Sponsored by:
 (1) Gennaro
 (2) Martini
 cc: Sherry*

Project Description and Benefit

Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association is beginning a capital acquisition campaign for the purchase and development of the Cottonwood Horse Park located in Homer. KBEA is working with the local Resource and Conservation Development District (RC&D) seeking funding for the purchase and operation of an equestrian park within the City of Homer. This park will serve as a suitable safe and public area for horse and livestock programs and events. It will also serve as a multi use trail head linking a variety of recreational land uses and supporting adjacent public recreational facilities within the City of Homer. Kenai Borough residents will then have southern trail head and riding area that will allow residents with an additional 2 months of shoulder season riding opportunities. KBEA and the Kenai Peninsula RC&D Inc. have developed a funding strategy that outlines the operation, development and eventual purchase of the selected property. This park will be invaluable to the community in that it will link many existing recreational opportunities such as the bike trail, Jack Giste recreational area and the Beluga Lake trail network. One of the uses for this area will be for safe instructional riding practices and other horse and livestock events. It will be a tremendous asset in that it will provide interested horse owners a place to work and train their horses much earlier and later in the seasons and will open existing trails to a broader array of users. A horse park has been included in past Homer recreation plans and this project will meet the identified need.

Plans and Progress

KBEA and RC&D have developed a funding strategy that outlines the operation, development and eventual purchase of the selected property. Current funding has allowed KBEA to secure the property through a lease and purchase agreement and it has started the development which is now allowing for functionality as a horse park. The funds requested will be used for the purchase and continued development of the horse park parcel. Our goal is to either purchase the land within the next year or show substantial progress in our capital campaign which would allow the present owner to grant an extension to the current use and purchase agreement. . This will be accomplished by through KBEA fundraisers, public and private donations, grants and possibly even loans. The funding strategy has been broken into four phases. The first phase is acquiring funding to secure a purchase and sales agreement for the property. Second phase is to raise local funds, goods and services to allow for the functional use of the property. The third phase is to gather the needed funds to purchase the property. The final phase of the project is to implement an operation and maintenance plan for the property and plan for its future transfer of ownership from KPRC&D to an appropriate ownership in greater community of Homer. Current fund raising efforts have accomplished the first phase and KBEA is currently proceeding with fundraising for the capital acquisition phase.

Total Cost \$246,020 (phases 1 to 4)

Schedule: 2007-2008