

Introduced by: Long
Date: 08/05/08
Action:
Vote:

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
COMMENDING RESOLUTION**

**A COMMENDING RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF
SERVICE BY THE SEWARD IDITAROD HISTORIC TRAIL BLAZERS, INC.**

- WHEREAS,** In 1903 when Seward came into being there existed a series of trails from Resurrection Bay to the gold fields of Nome; and
- WHEREAS,** the Alaska Road Commission in 1908 surveyed a new trail from Seward to Nome to provide more direct winter transportation by dog sled; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1910-1911 nearly 1,000 miles of trail were marked and cleared that, although named by the Road Commission the “Seward to Nome Mail Trail” became known as the Iditarod Trail because the Iditarod mining district was the most common destination; and
- WHEREAS,** the trail fell into disuse after mining declined in the 1920’s, until interest was renewed in 1973 with the first running of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1978 the trail was declared a National Historic Trail including the nearly 1,300 miles of connecting trails from Seward to Nome; and
- WHEREAS,** across America only 16 trails have been honored as National Historic Trails; the Iditarod is the only Alaska trail and the only winter trail in the system, and the only trail celebrating the indispensable role of “man’s best friend” in the settlement of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1982 the Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers was organized to reestablish a continuous trail from Seward to Girdwood and has been working on this project ever since, and has received a 501 C-3 Certification; and
- WHEREAS,** since formation the Trail Blazers have been instrumental in the design and construction of the bike path from Mile Zero of the Trail at the south end of Seward along the waterfront and now extending to Mile 7 of the Seward Highway; and
- WHEREAS,** the Trail Blazers in 1995 sponsored a team that completed the entire Trail, from Seward to Anchorage to Nome; and

WHEREAS, the Trail Blazers have cleared, flagged, oversaw and funded construction of dozens of miles of trails from Seward northwards towards Girdwood and Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, in 2001 the Trail Blazers procured \$1.4 million in federal funds to further the work in progress developing the Seward to Girdwood segment; and

WHEREAS, the Trail blazers have also financed major Trail flood damage repair and have procured Trail easements from private owners; and

WHEREAS, the Trail Blazers are a credit to their community, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and to their mission, and are to be commended for their efforts and accomplishments.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly commends and congratulates the Seward Iditarod Historic Trail Blazers, Inc. in their accomplishments, and thanks them for their dedication.

SECTION 2. That a copy of this resolution be provided to the Seward Iditarod Historic Trail Blazers, Inc.

SECTION 3. That this resolution becomes effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 5TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2008.

Grace Merkes, Assembly President

ATTEST:

Johni Blankenship, Borough Clerk

Yes:

No:

Absent: