

Quinton, Madeleine

Subject: FW: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>A comment for all assembly members on Resolution 2024-025, Supporting the Efforts of The Homer Cycling Club and Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park to Establish Hiking, Biking or Equestrian Trails in the Cottonwood Eastland Unit of Kac

From: Meg Ciciarella <megciciarella1@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 1:23 PM

To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk <G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us>

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Dear President Johnson and all Assembly Members,

As a resident of the Cottonwood Eastland neighborhood off East End Road to the south, consisting of Ratone Road (running north/south) and Elmer's Way (running east-west) (see attached map prepared by Marcus Mueller), I am coming to you on behalf of the neighborhood to make sure you have complete information to make a decision on this resolution, since some very important background was not provided.

Though we overwhelmingly supported the 2022 trail development described in the Friends proposal that is included in your packets, based on the description provided [HERE](#) but that is not what is happening now. Since the former superintendent of Kachemak Bay State Parks, Jack Blackwell, instituted the good neighbor policy around 2022, which moved Cottonwood Eastland access out of the neighborhood because of public conflict, a small group has consistently sought access to our neighborhood. For example, at the time of the 2022 Friends request for public comment on their proposal, the artery trail junction (orange line) with the proposed trail inside the Park (yellow line) was well to the west of the neighborhood. This is what we supported and the beauty of it was the trail was routed around the neighborhood to avoid the public conflict we had been experiencing for years. After we gave our support, however, that junction was moved -- without soliciting public comment or even involving the neighborhood -- and is now actually inside our neighborhood at the intersection of Ratone and Elmer's Way as a connector into the Park.

Similarly, just this month, a trails design group was commissioned to create a comprehensive proposal of hiking, biking and equestrian trails that not only include our neighborhood, but also bump into us from the KPB-managed land immediately to the west. We asked for clarification about the flagging tape visible from throughout the neighborhood but were denied. We are concerned if your support of this resolution is open-ended, we will suffer more behind the scenes actions as has happened in the past, and that your support will be interpreted as a green-light for development outside the Park that would impact us.

For years we have experienced significant and regularly-occurring public conflict year-round. Parking problems (often blocking neighbors' in or out), loose dogs running into private property threatening livestock, disregard for privately maintained narrow roads, trash, road impact during break-up, traffic interfering with neighbors access/egress while driving, and general blatant disregard. Public safety was threatened when parked cars interfered with emergency vehicle access. Public/neighbor conflict was rapidly escalating.

In conclusion, we are losing trust in these groups because they continue to work toward getting closer to and into our neighborhood and often behind the scenes.

Therefore, we are requesting that if the Assembly supports this resolution, it be amended to support the trails shown on the map included in your packet.

We do feel the Assembly can add to its support of the trails shown on the map in the packet and the RTP grant that is being sought by taking any and all actions available that would result in DNR/Mining, Land and Water's approval of a permit issued to Parks or another appropriate entity to allow construction of a 15-space parking lot at the agreed-upon location of mile 17 East End Road, from which trail heads can be developed.

Respectfully,

Meg Cicciarella
Ratone/Elmer's Way neighborhood representative

KPB and State of Alaska Land At MP 17 East End Road

