

02023-04

Kenai Peninsula Archers Lease Renewal Statement

I am representing the Kenai Peninsula Archers (KPA) with respect to renewal of KPB lease 03-0501-00. I have been a member of this organization holding various officer positions since we organized in 1987 and currently hold the Gaming Officer position.

The KPA has leased land from the borough for the past 30 years off Arc Loop Road. KPA established a public outdoor archery range that is recognized and insured by the National Field Archery Association. In the past we have held competitive 3-dimensional archery competitions twice a month. Covid put a stop to these competitions but we hope to restart the program in the future. We have club members who travel to these competitions from the Southern Kenai Peninsula, Anchorage, and the Mat Su Valley. Every year, over the 4th of July weekend, we hold a two-day competition attended by individuals travelling from Fairbanks to Juneau and many places in between. This tournament has seen anywhere from 50 to 94 competitors over the past 12 years. Nearly all of these individuals contribute economically to the local community.

We provide the State department of Fish and Game hunter information and training a venue to conduct bowhunter and crossbow hunter safety courses (approximately 8 per year) that include mandatory proficiency evaluations of any individual who participates in an archery only big game season not only in this state but nationwide. In fact, many of our members volunteer their time teaching these courses. We store, repair, and maintain the targets and prepare the field course for these evaluations on our range off Arc Loop Road.

We partner with Kenai National Wildlife Refuge staff with their various community programs offering our facilities for their use.

We support the National Archery in Schools (NASP) program and have a NASP kit on location consisting of 10 mathews genesis bows, arrows, backstop, and targets. The program has used our facility to train instructors who then mentor and teach archery to students in schools or other locations.

We have actively supported the Junior Olympic Archery Development program (JOAD) both monetarily and with our expertise. Our members coach young adults with the primary goal of placing these kids nationally. We have kids here on the Kenai Peninsula that have the potential to win the Olympics.

We have taken middle school kids to the range teaching proper form on the static course before introduction to the field course. Boy and girl scout troops have practiced there as well. The JOAD kids use the static range for the longer distances required in some of their competitions.

The Arc Loop lease has worked well over the past thirty years and we want to keep a good thing going. We feel this area receives wide use from diverse groups of individuals from our community. KPA is operating under a land use permit. The new lease area is

suitable for our needs and will allow KPA to continue to provide the community with a safe and secure area to enjoy archery related activities.

The Kenai Peninsula Archers appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in favor of renewal of this lease. May you support us unanimously as the assembly did previously with the establishment of our range under Ordinance 92-33 and 2003-09. The KPA is a proven entity that has fulfilled the intent of Ordinance 92-33 and 2003-09. We look forward to continuing this partnership as a benefit to the community and providing an important public resource.

We appreciate the support of the borough has given us over the last thirty years.

Thank You,

Steven Latz – Gaming Officer

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