



Tsalteshi Trails Association

PO Box 4076 Soldotna, AK 99669

Charlie Pierce, Mayor
Kenai Peninsula Borough
144 North Binkley St.
Soldotna, AK 99669

Nov. 1, 2020

Hello Mayor Pierce,

On behalf of the Tsalteshi Trails Association Board of Directors, I request an extension of the current lease between the Borough and Tsalteshi Trails Association. The current 10-year lease expires at the end of December.

Since the previous lease extension, in 2010, Tsalteshi has implemented \$692,000 in federal Recreational Trails Program grant funds for facility improvements. With approved development plans from the Borough, these improvements include: Adding 98 lights for nighttime trail use; retrofitting our existing 50 lights with high-efficiency LED instruments; adding 7.5 kilometers of ski trails and 5 kilometers of single-track bike trails; constructing an outhouse at the Wolverine Trailhead and expanding that parking lot; adding kiosks and signage upgrades throughout the trails; and general trail improvements — widening, upgrading drainage, removing hazard trees, etc.

Actual investment in the trails since 2010 is considerably higher, with Tsalteshi's labor and financial investments, membership and community donations, City of Soldotna support, volunteer labor, and in-kind support from HEA, ACS, ADOT, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District and many other entities and organizations.

Further trail grants require that the grantee (Tsalteshi Trails Association) has title or lease of the land on which the trail work will be performed. Tsalteshi has evolved to become a world-class facility costing upward of a million dollars funded through grants, donations and volunteer effort, with no cost to Borough or state taxpayers. We believe the current lease agreement has worked well for both parties and request another 10-year extension so that we may continue to provide a venue for healthy, human-powered outdoor recreation for the central Kenai Peninsula, free to use for all ages and ability levels. We hope to continue this level of service for many years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Beeson".

Mark Beeson
TTA Board Chair

CC: Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly