



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

AM No. 297-2008

Meeting Date: May 6, 2008

1
2 **From:** MAYOR

3
4 **Subject:** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A NON-EXCLUSIVE
5 TRAIL EASEMENT TO THE U. S. FOREST SERVICE
6 ACROSS HERITAGE LAND BANK PARCELS 6-254, 6-255, 6-
7 268, 6-273, 6-275, 6-279, 6-294, 6-296 LOCATED IN AND
8 AROUND GIRDWOOD.
9

10 Action: Grant of non-exclusive trail easement

11 Grantee: United States Forest Service

12 Term: Perpetual, with HLB right to relocate trail, if development warrants
13

14 This ordinance authorizes Heritage Land Bank (HLB) to grant a non-exclusive trail
15 easement to the U. S. Forest Service. In 1997, a cooperative trail planning effort
16 between the Girdwood community and local, state and federal agencies produced
17 the "Girdwood-Iditarod Trail Route Study". The proposed route commemorates a
18 segment of the historic trail between Seward and Nome, and links Turnagain Arm
19 to the Crow Pass Iditarod Trailhead in the upper Girdwood Valley. The project
20 was initiated by the Girdwood Trails Committee and the Girdwood Board of
21 Supervisors after the discovery of a four mile-long abandoned historic trail,
22 believed to be a section of the original Iditarod Trail. Project participants studied
23 the feasibility, preferred route, and development standards for restoring the historic
24 trail, to create a "backbone" pedestrian trail in the valley. The Glacier-Winner
25 Creek Trail is one of the side trails leading out from the "backbone" of the Iditarod
26 National Historic Trail (INHT). The easement runs for a distance of approximately
27 10,132 linear feet. Because the trail provides an important public amenity, HLB
28 recommends no fee to be charged for the easement. In recognition that the trail
29 easement may affect or impede HLB's eventual development of property in the
30 upper Girdwood Valley, the easement provides for relocation of the trail corridor to
31 a mutually suitable location, at the expense of the HLB or its' assignee.
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33 **Public Process.** The HLB conducted an agency review and received no objection
34 from other municipal agencies for issuance of the easement. The Girdwood Board
35 of Supervisors consistently supported identification of the Iditarod Trail and
36 preservation of the route through easements, and passed Resolution 2004-08
37 supporting the Glacier Winner Creek segment. The public hearing was advertised
38 in the Anchorage Daily News March 11, 18, and 25, 2008. The HLB Advisory

1 Commission held a public hearing on March 27, 2008 and approved HLBAC
2 Resolution No. 2008-03 (Appendix B).

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4 **Recommendation.** Heritage Land Bank staff considers the proposed issuance of a
5 perpetual, relocatable easement of approximately 10,132 linear feet within the eight
6 parcels to be an appropriate use of HLB land. The proposed use is compatible with
7 the Girdwood Area Plan, the Girdwood Commercial Areas and Transportation
8 Plan, and the Girdwood-Iditarod Trail Route Study. At its March 27, 2008
9 meeting, the HLB Advisory Commission found the grant of a non-exclusive
10 easement is in the best interest of the Municipality of Anchorage. The HLB
11 Advisory Commission therefore recommends Assembly approval of the grant of a
12 non-exclusive easement (Appendix B).

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14 **THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF AN**
15 **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A NON-EXCLUSIVE TRAIL EASEMENT**
16 **TO U. S. FOREST SERVICE ACROSS HERITAGE LAND BANK**
17 **PARCELS 6-254, 6-255, 6-268, 6-273, 6-275, 6-279, 6-294, 6-296 LOCATED**
18 **IN AND AROUND GIRWOOD.**

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21 Prepared by: Heritage Land Bank
22 Approved by: William M. Mehner, Director
23 Heritage Land Bank
24 Concur: Mary Jane Michael, Executive Director
25 Department of Economic and Community Development
26 Concur: James N. Reeves, Municipal Attorney
27 Concur: Michael K. Abbott, Municipal Manager
28 Respectfully submitted, Mark Begich, Mayor

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30 Appendices:
31 Appendix A—Site Map
32 Appendix B—HLB Advisory Commission Resolution 2008-03
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