

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
WATERSHED & NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-01

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK IN ITS ENDEAVORS TO DAYLIGHT AND REHABILITATE FISH CREEK.

(WNRC Case No. 2022-01)

WHEREAS, Friends of Fish Creek (FoFC), a local 501(c)(3) organization, presented at the regularly scheduled March 23, 2022, meeting of the Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission regarding the mission and the short- and long-term activities of the non-profit; and

WHEREAS, the Commission discussed FoFC's request for support for its goals and activities; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has been closely following developments in the Fish Creek watershed and has taken positions and made recommendations regarding planning and direct project activities affecting the waterway; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is in general support of efforts that propose improvements of the long-term sustainability of the waterway applying green infrastructural principles; and

WHEREAS, most recently, the Commission made specific recommendations regarding WNRC Case No. 2016-02, Fish Creek Estuary - AWWU Project, which is a precursor to the current estuary trail development efforts after the completion of the sewer main improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Commission supports FoFC in its goals of daylighting and rehabilitating Fish Creek, also known as *Ch'atanaltsegh/Liq'aka Betnu* to the Upper *Tikahtnu* (Cook Inlet) *Dena'ina*; and

WHEREAS, the Commission supports daylighting to include a habitat focus on the cultural indicator species, *Oncorhynchus kisutch* (coho salmon), to be restored to the waterway; and

WHEREAS, because Fish Creek is a wetland creek, its hydrological functionality has suffered from Anchorage's urbanization more than other local creeks of alpine origins; and

WHEREAS, most of the wetlands and ponds within the Fish Creek system have been eliminated and over 70% of its open channel was piped, buried, and combined into piped stormwater infrastructure that is aging and deteriorating; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes the efforts of FoFC in rebuilding watershed health in this era of climate disruption, its thinking in terms of a green infrastructural context and practices and also its focus in building necessary resiliency into Anchorage's future by rehabilitating the waterway in a sustainable manner; and

WHEREAS, the Commission welcomes and strongly supports coalition building to further the stated goals of FoFC and recognizes that the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District are partnering with FoFC to assist in watershed rehabilitation and habitat restoration; and

WHEREAS, the Commission states that it is in a position to assist with technical advice and guidance and is pleased to be part of these collaborative efforts in the future; and


WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes that a Fish Creek daylighting feasibility study is on the project list for municipal bonds managed by the municipal Project Management & Engineering Department (Proposition #4) approved on April 5, 2022, and is interested in continuing its technical assistance and guidance through its standard process following voter approval; and

WHEREAS, the Commission tasks the Chair to provide this resolution and also authorizes formal letters of support being written to convey the above information to federal, state, and local agencies that work on Fish Creek watershed improvement initiatives, administer supporting grants, manage and assign available funding using federal, state, and local resources approved by legislation, most notably the federal infrastructure bill.

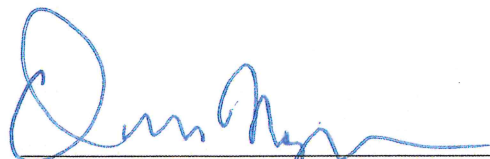
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission recommends:

- A. Formal support for Friends of Fish Creek in its endeavors to daylight and rehabilitate Fish Creek.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission on this 4th day of May 2022.



Craig H. Lyon
Secretary



David M. Nyman, PE
Chair