



# Eklutna Valley Community Council

## RESOLUTION 2022-01

### A RESOLUTION ASKING FOR A PUBLIC CEMETERY FOR THE CHUGIAK-EAGLE RIVER COMMUNITY

**WHEREAS**, Anchorage area cemeteries are running out of room; and

**WHEREAS**, the communities that comprise Chugiak-Eagle River have approximately 35,000 residents but no local public cemetery; and

**WHEREAS**, the Assembly funded the Chugiak-Eagle River Cemetery Preliminary Site Selection Study – with representatives from the Chugiak-Eagle River Cemetery Committee, Eagle River Parks and Recreation, and the Heritage Land Bank – that was completed in July 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the community-wide review of potential cemetery sites concluded that a site designated A-2 on Wolf Den Drive between Eagle River High School and the Hiland Road Correctional Center had the best potential based on a comparison of criteria that included ownership, location, zoning, existing use, adjacent uses, size, vehicular access, topography and drainage; and

**WHEREAS**, Site A-2 could be built in several phases and is projected to have enough room to serve the community for several hundred years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chugiak-Eagle River Advisory Board voted in favor of a public cemetery located at Site A-2 in May 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the site selection study contemplated cross-country ski and walking trails on or adjacent to the cemetery site; and

**WHEREAS**, the Heritage Land Bank, which manages the land, is insisting that the municipality acquire the land before it is sold to a developer; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Eklutna Valley Community Council

1. supports a public cemetery located at Site A-2; and
2. urges the Heritage Land Bank to work with the Mayor, the Assembly, Eagle River Parks and Recreation, and other municipal entities to place a bond proposition on the April 2023 municipal ballot that includes \$3 million for acquiring the land, designing and constructing the cemetery, and initial maintenance; and

3. acknowledges that the total bond package may include additional funding for a public cemetery in Girdwood and renovations to the Anchorage Memorial Cemetery; and
4. recommends that no cemetery bond indebtedness, cemetery project fees, or municipal tax revenue be used to maintain cross-country ski trails constructed as part of the cemetery project, and that maintenance of any such trails come from private donations and volunteers.

Passed this 9th day of November 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Sinnott". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rick Sinnott, President