

MEMORANDUM

CITY/BOROUGH OF JUNEAU

Lands and Resources Office
155 S. Seward St., Juneau, Alaska 99801
Dan.Bleidorn@juneau.org
(907) 586-5252

TO: Alicia Hughes-Skandijs, Chair of the Assembly LHED Committee
FROM: Dan Bleidorn, Lands and Resources Manager *Daniel Bleidorn*
SUBJECT: iRide Alaska Lease Request
DATE: February 7, 2023

In November, the Lands Office received a request for a commercial use permit on city property in the location of the West Douglas Pioneer Road (WDPR) from iRide Alaska LLC. After discussion with the applicant it was determined that this use conforms best to city code 53.09.260 as a non-exclusive lease of city property. This application requests use of the NDPR for guided e-bike tours between May 1st and October 30th. The application requests 3 tours a day for 6 days per week.

Currently the WDPR is primarily used in the summer by recreation bikers and hikers and for harvesting firewood. The Lands Office issues permits for firewood harvesting which helps remove trees that fall across the road. Allowing seasonal firewood harvesting on this property has minimized the illegal tree cutting for firewood on other CBJ properties. In the past, the City had also provided access to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for studying bats, to the USGS for monitoring stream flow, and for running competitions. In the winter, the Nordic Ski Club grooms the WDPR. The WDPR was completed in 2018 as a future development access corridor to City property.

At this point in time, the application has been received and the next step in processing the application is for the Assembly to determine "whether the proposal should be further considered and, if so, whether by direct negotiation with the original proposer or by competition after an invitation for further proposals. Upon direction of the Assembly by motion, the Manager may commence negotiations for the lease, sale, exchange, or other disposal of City and Borough land" (53.09.260).

The WDPR is a primitive pioneer corridor with no guardrails, frequent tree falls and the almost seasonal washout of a culvert. Allowing a commercial use, such

as this application, would provide some funding that could be used for maintenance of the WNPR and the parking lot. Eaglecrest and the Nordic Ski Cub also help with maintenance.

Staff requests that the LHED Committee forward a motion of support to the Assembly for the nonexclusive lease of City Property to iRide Alaska in accordance with 53.09.260

Attachments:

1. Permit Request dated 11/12/22
2. 09-30-2018 Juneau Empire Article