



# Chugiak Community Council

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## Chugiak Community Council Resolution

### From Council Meeting

October 20, 2022

### A resolution of the Chugiak Community Council regarding a CER area public cemetery

**Whereas**, the Chugiak Community Advisory Board on April 6, 2019 did pass a resolution supporting the CER Cemetery effort, and encouraging/requesting that the Parks and Rec, HLB and other MOA entities cooperate and help identify potential sites, and that local community councils solicit members to makeup a steering committee.

**Whereas**, the CER area community councils, Eagle River Chamber of Commerce, and CER Ministerial Association in April/May of 2019 did pass resolutions supporting formation of a steering committee that would work towards establishment of a community cemetery in Chugiak – Eagle River.

**Whereas**, the Municipal Assembly passed funding to support a Land Use study of the Chugiak Eagle River area for suitable sites for a public cemetery. The Heritage Land bank was to administer the Land Use Study.

**Whereas**, the CER Cemetery Steering committee worked in 2019 and 2020 to promote the cemetery and coordinate with the Consultant performing the Land Use Study. As well as presenting preliminary site selection information to the area Community Councils.

**Whereas**, the final results of the Land Use Study, identifies the property “A-2” which is adjacent to the correctional center, and Eagle River High School as the site with the “Best Development Potential”.

#### ***Excerpt from the Chugiak-Eagle River Site Selection Study July 2021***

*“The conceptual site plans were circulated among the Chugiak-Eagle River Cemetery Committee and the Community Councils of: Chugiak, Birchwood, Eagle River, and Eagle River Valley. It was the general consensus of these groups that site A-2 has the best development potential for a community cemetery based on the established selection criteria:*

- A. Ownership: This parcel is owned by Municipality of Anchorage/Heritage Land Bank, no additional property acquisition costs.*
- B. Location: This site is easily accessible from Yosemite Drive, which is a collector, and is in a central location that is advantageous all residents to offer equitable use of the facility.*
- C. Zoning: This parcel is currently zoned CE-PCD (Planned Community Development); a cemetery is a permitted use under this designation; however, does require a formal master plan process per AMC Title 21, specifically for the community cemetery use.*
- D. Existing Uses: The site is currently vacant, however there are plans in place to develop a recreational trail loop in the northeast portion of the parcel. The cemetery master plan will integrate these facilities to assure their continued accessibility, functionality and*

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*maintenance.*

- E. Adjacent Uses & Zoning: The adjacent parcels are zoned CE-PLI and CE-PCD. To the north of the site is the Hiland Mountain Correctional Center, to the west is the Alaska Division of Forestry maintenance shop, and to the south is Eagle River High School. These designations and existing uses are considered compatible with a cemetery.*
- F. Size: There is adequate acreage to accommodate approximately 17,600 full body burials with a projected life span of 440 years.*
- G. Vehicular Access: Vehicular access is easily provided from Yosemite Drive; no new road construction is required. As this is not a residential site and cemeteries do not generate significant vehicle trips, traffic impacts should be negligible.*
- H. Topography: The land on this site gently sloping and well drained and is suitable for development as a cemetery. Extensive earthmoving and grading are not anticipated.*
- I. Positive Drainage: There are no known flood hazards, wetlands, or drainage issues.”*

**Whereas** the Chugiak-Eagle River Advisory Board met at a public advertised meeting on May 19,2021 to hear the results of the Land Use Study presented by the Boutet Company. At that meeting the Board voted to acknowledge the importance and need for a local cemetery and voted to support the “A-2” location as the favored location.

**Whereas** there is currently support on the Anchorage Assembly for the establishment of a cemetery including potential funding.

**Therefore,** the Chugiak Community Council passed a resolution at their October 20, 2022 meeting. The motion for the resolution as worded below passed unanimously.

- 1. The Chugiak Community Council supports development of a public cemetery in the Chugiak Eagle River area, specifically at the site A-2 (across from Eagle River High School on Wolf Pack drive) as recommended in the 2021 Land Use study report prepared by the Boutet Company for the Heritage Land Bank.**
- 2. Funds would be raised for the Chugiak Eagle River (CER) Cemetery project by voter approval on the April 2023 ballot per one of two potential options.**
  - a. Our first preference is that the funds be raised by CER levy for up to \$3M land, design, construction, and initial maintenance.**
  - b. Our second preference is that the funds be raised as part of an Area-wide Cemetery bond where up to \$3M specifically for the land, design, construction, and initial maintenance be dedicated for the CER cemetery project in conjunction with funding the costs of other area cemeteries (Girdwood and Downtown Anchorage) through the same area-wide bond.**

**Jake Horazdovsky, President**

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