

HILLSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100  
Anchorage, AK 99503

April 7, 2024

Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage, Team AK Ski Jumpers  
ATTN: Andrea Samuel  
9170 Jewel Lake Rd, Ste 200  
Anchorage Alaska 99502  
(Delivered via email)

Dear Ms. Samuel,

Thank you for attending our April 3, 2024 Hillside Community Council meeting to discuss your work on behalf of the Nordic Ski Association of Anchorage (NSAA) and Team AK Ski Jumpers, to apply for a Community Challenge Grant from Anchorage Park Foundation (APF). You advised that if approved, grant funds will be used to repair the wooden stairs leading up to the 40 and 60-meter ski jumps at the Karl Eid Ski Jumps complex near Hilltop Ski Area, located within our Municipality, and within the Hillside Community Council boundaries.

Attendees expressed their appreciation for the detailed information you provided, including how these repairs will address significant degradation of the stairs over the past decade due to design challenges, use, and natural wear and tear from the impacts of Alaska's weather conditions.

We appreciated the background provided, including the critical role these stairs have as the only means of accessing the jumps for our home athletes and visiting ski jumpers from across the United States and Canada. Additionally, the stairs serve as an important and valuable community resource for Anchorage residents, including our Anchorage Fire Department (AFD), who use them as a part of their physical training activities.

We also appreciated hearing from Zak Hammill, NSAA ski jump coach, who shared these Ski Jumps provide valuable, year-round training for athletes here at home, so they do not need to travel outside Alaska for off-season training, which is critical for preparing for national and international competitions.

It was also impactful to hear from Julia Samuel, a youth athlete and member of the Ski Jump team, who discussed the benefits the Ski Jumps offer to her and her peers.

Importantly, you also shared that Team AK Ski Jumpers have already secured in-kind donations of time and professional expertise for completion of important design, survey and structural review; and, members of the Karl Eid Ski Jump Community have pledged to provide labor for this work.

The Hillside Community Council Board of Directors and HCC members in attendance at our April meeting unanimously support the repair of the wooden stairs leading up to the 40 and 60-

meter jumps at the Karl Eid Ski Jump Complex near Hilltop Ski Area, which will increase the safety and improve the infrastructure of this important community facility.

Community members discussed the important role the Karl Eid facility plays in supporting young Alaskans to develop confidence, character and skills through participation in sports, and shared their use of the stairs for outdoor recreation, physical training and good health practices.

In closing, we appreciate the opportunity to provide this letter of support. Please feel free to contact me if further information is required, or if I can be of help. Thank you for your work and efforts to help our fellow Alaskans.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C Warfield', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carmela Warfield, President  
Hillside Community Council

CC, delivered via email:

Anchorage Park Foundation  
Attn: Ally Merrill, Program Coordinator

Municipality of Anchorage  
Randy Sulte, Anchorage Assembly Member - District 6 South Anchorage  
Zac Johnson, Anchorage Assembly Member – District 6 South Anchorage

Hilltop Ski Area  
Trevor Bird, General Manager