



CITY OF WASILLA

290 E. HERNING AVE.
WASILLA, ALASKA 99654-7091
PHONE: (907) 373-9050
FAX: (907) 373-9085

COUNCIL MEMORANDUM NO. 96-100

From: Mayor Palin
Date: November 4, 1996
Subject: Relocation of Historical Park Buildings

The Historical Society and Parks and Recreation Commission requests the City immediately take action to acquire \$180,000 worth of commercial land near the museum for a parking lot and operational space. Present parking conditions are unsafe and cumbersome.

I would ask, for the sake of discussion, Council please consider the idea of relocating the buildings that are presently housed on the .64 acre lot at Herning/Swanson/Boundary Streets.

There is no room for growth at the present location.

The complex was moved once. It may be moved again to the Iditarod Re-Start area at the old airport site. The City already owns this land.

With the Wasilla Wonderland Park, the Iditarod Re-Start and the Iron Dog as additional draws, this complex could become an efficient, flourishing entity.

The community recognizes a need for a true tourist destination stop. The City also desires a "community center". The old airport site has such vast potential that discussion is warranted regarding moving the historical buildings to that site. Again, this is for healthy discussion only. Please include the Wasilla Planning Commission and the Historical Society in your discussions. (Please see the attached.)

Sarah H. Palin, Mayor

WASILLA PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
WASILLA, KNIK, WILLOW CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMORANDUM

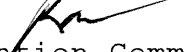
RECEIVED

DATE: October 24, 1996

OCT 28 1996

TO: Mayor Sarah Palin

CITY OF WASILLA, ALASKA

FROM: Ron Rucker, Chairperson 
Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission

LeRoi Heaven, President
Wasilla, Knik, Willow Creek Historical Society

REF: Operational Space for the Functions of the Department
of Museum and Recreation Services (MARS)

On October 22, the Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission (WPRC) and the Wasilla, Knik, Willow Creek Historical Society (HS) held a joint meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to share concerns developing as a result of the current and potential changes occurring in personnel and organizational structure under your new administration. A priority concern was the assurance of adequate space for effective operation of the various functions within MARS. We, therefore, jointly recommend the following series of phased actions:

First, the museum staff and the p&r administrative assistant will continue to operate out of the Dorothy Page Museum. The HS will maintain its office in the Townsite Cabin. The p&r maintenance function will continue to operate out of the City shop.

Second, when the Herning/Teelands Store renovation project is sufficiently completed, the HS will move its office to the Store. The p&r maintenance function will relocate its administrative functions to the Townsite Cabin. The museum staff, the p&r administrative assistant, and the p&r maintenance equipment will remain where they were in the first phase above.

Third, the City immediately takes action to acquire the Kurt Schreiber property, Block 2E, Lots 8, 9 and 10, on Boundary Street. Estimated price for this acquisition is \$180,000. Important information pertaining to and benefits of this action are as follows:

The City already owns Lot 6, and its intended use is for parking for the museum and Townsite Village.

Lot 7 is privately owned and already paved as a parking lot. The City could enter into a joint use agreement with the owner of Lot 7 and cooperatively develop a larger, more efficient parking area to meet both the property owner's and the City's needs.

Lot 8 would become the permanent home of "Shorty's Barn", temporarily stored on Lot 6, and the "Trick House", currently located behind the police station.

The buildings on Lots 9 and 10 could serve as the administrative office and shop for the p&r maintenance function. Since these buildings currently serve a similar function only minor modifications are anticipated.

The HS currently has earmarked \$40,000 in CIP funds for purchase of the Hetrick Property. Since this action appears to be indefinitely delayed, the HS is willing to have the Council redesignate these funds for purchase of the Schreiber property.

The Council would have to appropriate an additional \$140,000 in CIP funds to acquire the Schreiber property.

Eventually, if the Hetrick property is acquired sometime in the future, then the City could vacate Boundary Street between Herning Street and Swanson Street and create a significantly increased area for the Townsite Village.

Your support in general for the Department of Museum and Recreation Services is needed and appreciated. Your support for this specific action is highly desirable.

If you have questions or further information on this issue for the WPRC or the HS, please feel free to call Ron at home at 376-3935 or at work at 745-7571 or LeRoi at home at 376-5679. Thanks.

*LeRoi Hearon, President
WKAC Hist. Soc.*

*2003
2005*

YENLO ST.

Block 2 E

META ROSE SQUARE

Gravel	Paved		
Alley Parking (City)	Parking	Lot 8	Lot 9
			Lot 10

ED & CAROL CARNEY (9.50 ACRES)

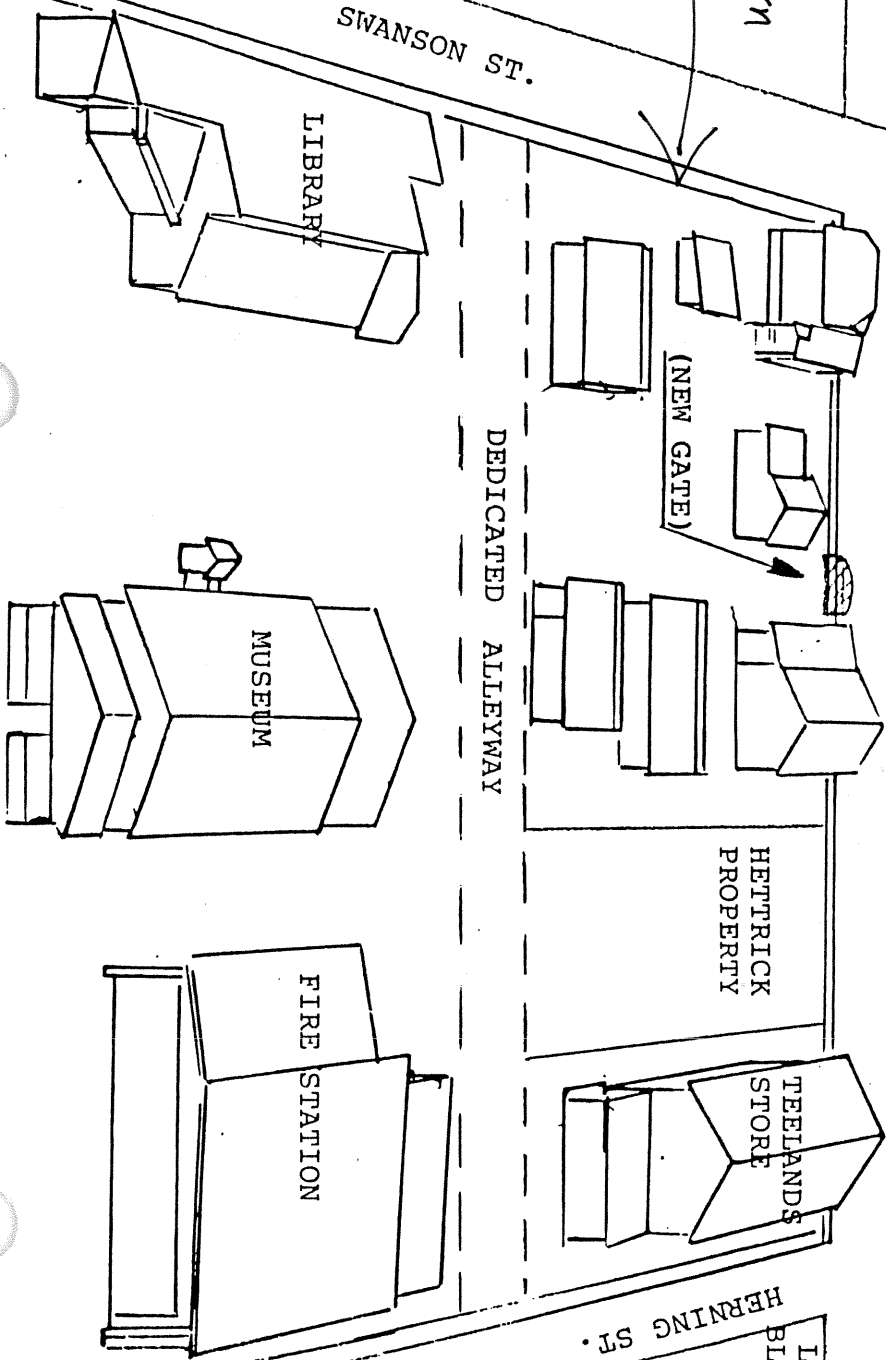
Old Wasilla Town Site Park

SWANSON ST.

BOUNDARY ST.

LOT BLOCK 24 FROM HERNING ST.

DEDICATED ALLEYWAY



POST OFFICE

Facsimile Cover Sheet

To: CITY CLERK
Company: CITY OF WASILLA
Fax: 907 3739092

From: GAIL HOLLINGER
Company: NATIONAL BANK OF ALASKA
Heritage Library Museum
Phone: 907 265-2834
Fax: 265-2002

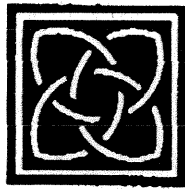
Date: 11/12/96
Pages sent: TWO

Comments:

Please distribute the attached letter to Wasilla City Council Members for the Wednesday, November 13th meeting.

Thank you,


Gail Hollinger



HERITAGE

LIBRARY MUSEUM

NATIONAL BANK OF ALASKA
P.O. BOX 100600 ANCHORAGE, AK 99510 (907) 265-2834 FAX 265-2002

November 11, 1996

Wasilla City Council Members
Wasilla, Alaska

Dear Council Members,

I am writing today concerning the closing of the Dorothy Page Museum and Old Wasilla Townsite Park, the result of recent city-wide budget cuts instituted by your new mayor. I respectfully question this decision for both cultural and economic reasons.

To close your museums is to deprive residents and visitors of an understanding of your community's unique history. Understanding local history gives residents a sense of place. Without this sense of place, and the feeling of belonging it engenders, it is difficult to obtain local support for any type of project, from better schools to better sewers. Local history museums are uniquely situated to provide that sense of place, a sense of community.

In addition, I expect that Wasilla, like any reasonable community, is looking for ways to attract business to their area. It has been demonstrated many times that when good businesses are looking for new locations, they look at the life style a community can offer, knowing that a community with attractive cultural amenities will draw the best people for their potential workforce. Museums, parks, performing arts programs, all of these combine to make a community a desirable place to live and a desirable place for new companies to do business. Supporting your local museum will encourage the long term economic growth of your community. Eliminating it is being "penny wise and pound foolish."

Sincerely,


Gail Hollinger, Director

November 12, 1996

Dear Mayor Palin and City Council Members.

This is my testimony in regards to Mayor Palin's proposal to move the Wasilla Historical Park from it's present location to the old Wasilla airport.

I have been an involved as a member of this community on two of its largest volunteer driven projects. I believe that we all have a duty to participate in enhancing our city. We also bare the responsibility to be good stewards with the results of the volunteer efforts of those before us. It is through this link among generations that makes our community our home. I am very proud of raising the funds for Wasilla Wonderland and being a Board Member of the Wasilla Knik Historical Society for the past three years.

The council members and Mayor of Wasilla are being put to the test as good stewards and how they will uphold partnerships established from the past and in the future with our community. Mayor Palin's proposed move of Old Town Square devalues and dishonors one of our communities largest successes. Our historical society has volunteered their talents, labor and financial support for the past thirty five years. Mayor Palin wants to undermine their efforts by tearing down their success. They have lovingly collected and preserved Wasilla's history. If you support Mayor Palin by breaking up their collection, you are committing this town to a cost that it will never be able to retrieve.

The value of the historical societies efforts will be greatly compromised if Mayor Palin is successful. Her proposal breaks Wasilla's long standing partnership with the historical society. Her efforts are not in compliance with this cities long range comprehensive development plan. It will also result in losing the National Registry on two of the buildings on the present site. The burden on all of the structures is a cost we cannot afford.

The money you are being asked to spend can be used to enhance this community far beyond what you may realize. A conservative estimate of moving these buildings could easily top half a million dollars. They are old and fragile. It would take great expertise and dollars to securely move them from their present location. That is the equivalent of two Wasilla Wonderlands!! This money could be used towards an outdoor skating rink, a skateboard park, picnic tables and a show-stopping garden area. If you support Mayor Palin's proposal you will put at risk every one of these projects. Her moves will irrevocably devastate all such future enhancements to our community.

This council and the Mayor have an obligation to care for donations directly given to the city from the community. Individuals and businesses will stop supporting capital improvements if the long term commitments are to be undermined by future administrations. Mayor Palin should approach the Council with partnership projects that will enhance our community not split it apart.

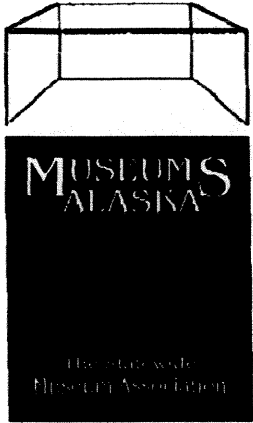
Wasilla, as a community, sent a resounding message to all when they took it upon themselves to build Wasilla Wonderland. The members and supporters of the Wasilla-Knik-Willow Creek Historical Society have consistently demonstrated that same enthusiasm for Old Town Square. In both instances these improvements have been at a very low cost to the city and resulted in a very high gain to the community. Please do not close the door in the faces of community donations and volunteerism.

The Dorothy Page Museum and Visitors Center along with the Old Town Site deserve the utmost pride, dedication, and support on the part of this and future administrations. Sending Mayors Palin's message of inclusion will halt future partnerships from developing in our community. Public-Private partnerships should be embraced by this community not torn down.

Sincerely,



Linda Beller
376-8111(w) 376-8242(h)



City Clerk 373-9072
Please distribute to Council members
prior to meeting of Wednesday, November 13

To the Wasilla City Council

Museums Alaska, the statewide organization, is alarmed by your proposed discussion to move the historic buildings in the Old Wasilla Townsite Park. Your museums and historic buildings tell an important story about the mining, farming, natural and human history in the region.

President:
Mary Pat Wyatt
Juneau-Douglas City Museum

Vice President:
John Cooper
Wasilla

Secretary: Bea Shepard
Friends of the Alaska
State Museum, Juneau

Treasurer: Gail Hollinger
Heritage Library &
Museum, Anchorage

Diane Brenner
Anchorage Museum
of History & Art

Rosemary Carlton
Sheldon Jackson
Museum, Sitka

Marian Johnson
Baranov Museum
Kodiak

Cynthia Jones
Sheldon Museum
Haines

Cathy Sherman
Cordova Historical Museum

Museums Alaska is committed to promoting the protection and preservation of objects, specimens, records and sites significant to the natural and human history of Alaska. We believe that the proposed move will potentially damage these historic buildings as well as compromise the national register status for two of the buildings. The historical context for the buildings will be lost, for the old town site itself is not a movable ingredient.

We look to historic centers and museums such as yours to illuminate our past and explain what our communities represent to visitors, newcomers, and our children. Your institution provides a home for the values and actions that have guided and built this community. The proposed change compromises this sense of identity and places a burden on the community in the cost of the move.

We are confident that as you reflect on this issue, you will acknowledge the wisdom of retaining the legacy of the living experience and maintain the Dorothy Page Museum and Townsite Park in its current location.

Sincerely,

Donna Matthews

Donna Matthews
Executive Director
Museums Alaska

PO BOX 242323
ANCHORAGE AK 99524
Phone: (907) 243-4714
Fax: (907) 243-4714

Dear Sarah,

Thank-you for your phone call this afternoon, after receiving my previous fax. I am very pleased to hear that you are reconsidering your position on moving the Old Town Site. It will please me to be the first volunteer on a commission to accomplish the already established long range plans, and how new ideas that have come forth since may fit to benefit Wasilla both culturally and economically. I am committed to the original site for the historical society's buildings, but am looking forward to the opportunities that these new ideas can bring.

Thank you again for calling. I will look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Linda Beller

RECEIVED
NOV 13 1996
CITY OF WASILLA, ALASKA

STATE OF ALASKA

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

3801 C STREET, SUITE 127B
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99509-5821
PHONE: (907) 269-6721
FAX: (907) 269-8908

November 13, 1996

Re: 3130-3 City of Wasilla

Sarah Palin, Mayor
Members, City Council
City of Wasilla
290 East Herning Ave.
Wasilla, Alaska 99687

Dear Mayor Palin and Members of the City Council:

I understand the Wasilla City Council will be discussing reducing hours the Page Museum is open and relocating the buildings of the historic park at its meeting this evening. I hope the discussion will also look at the positive good the museum has done for the City of Wasilla, the central core, and community residents.

Tourism is the fastest growing economic activity of the 1990s in Alaska. The totem parks at Ketchikan and Saxman, the gold rush era town of Skagway, the Anchorage Museum of History and Art, and the University of Alaska Museum were among the top ten destinations in a statewide visitors survey conducted in 1993 and 1994. While the Page Museum serves summer visitors from outside the state, it also serves an important role in the community. Teachers bring their students to the museum to learn community history. Many students also come independently to the museum to work on school projects or to share with their family and friends what they learned from an earlier visit. It is not prudent to lock the museum's doors in October and reopen in May. In addition to educational programming during the winter months, development of new exhibits, necessary maintenance and improvement of old exhibits, and conservation work on objects gets done.

Recent Page Museum initiatives have successfully attracted area residents to the city center. The Farmer's Market in the historic park has been a success. The lease of Teeland's Store for a coffee shop will attract local residents year round. Many Wasilla residents have worked to restore Teeland's Store and the other buildings in the historic park. They have developed a sense of ownership in their community, something that can not be built in other ways.

A community's museum should be located where the town began, which is usually in the city's center. Successful city centers offer a diversity of services and activities to attract people to the area. The museum is an asset to Wasilla's core. Several of the Wasilla

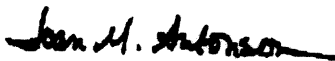
Mayor Palin
November 13, 1996
Page 2

museum buildings have been determined to be significant to understanding our nation's history and worthy of preservation through listing on the National Register of Historic Places. As manager of this program in the State of Alaska, I can state that these designations would in all likelihood be lost if the buildings were moved.

I hope you will thoroughly and carefully study the museum operations and the short and long-term benefits of the historic park to the community before you take any action. I urge you to ensure that all interested parties have an opportunity to participate in the discussion. The museum has been a part of the community, at its present location, for over twenty-five years, supported by the City of Wasilla. Prior to becoming the museum, the central building of the complex was the town's community center. The museum and historic park should be accorded careful consideration before any dramatic changes are made.

If I can answer any questions you or members of the City Council have about historic preservation issues and the Page Museum and historic park, please let me know. I can be reached at 907-269-8714.

Sincerely,



Joan M. Antonson
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
for National Register Programs and
State Historian

November 13, 1996

Madam Mayor and Councilmen:

Because of business commitments I am unable to attend the council meeting this evening and have asked Denny Wilde to read this in the public hearing for the ordinance reducing the mayor's salary.

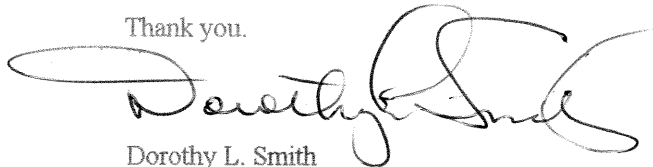
It is my feeling this ordinance is a mistake. The mayor's salary has already been determined for in the 1997 budget. However, if the mayor is really sincere and wishes to reduce her salary, I believe it should be reduced enough to make a real difference, for example to \$40,000 or less. This would partially make up for the salary of the Deputy Administrator she has hired, and who will be doing a great deal of the work she was elected to do.

I also think if the council does pass this ordinance there should be a sunset clause to end this ordinance at the end of this mayor's term.. At that time the salary would revert back to the same salary of \$68,000 as in the 1997 budget. This way it would not as likely become a big political issue for another candidate that may desire the full amount of \$68,000, and who may not wish to hire a deputy administrator. Our City code is for strong mayor government, and if the mayor does all of the work required they certainly earn the full amount budgeted in this years budget!

This ordinance does not appear to any way cut the cost of the City government, and I as a resident of the City oppose it's passing.

If you have any questions or comments please call me. My home phone #376-5693, my work #376-6005.

Thank you.



Dorothy L. Smith
401 Bogard Rd.
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

M.S.C.V.B. RESO. NO 97-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA SUSITNA CONVENTION AND VISITOR'S BUREAU MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DOROTHY PAGE MUSEUM AND FRONTIER VILLAGE AT THE OLD WASILLA TOWN SITE AS A VISITOR DESTINATION.

WHEREAS the MSCVB's mission is to promote economic development including the creation of jobs and the attraction of business investment in the Mat-Su area through tourism; and

WHEREAS the 170 members of the MSCVB include owners of hotels, bed and breakfast homes, motels, lodges, attractions, guide services, service stations, restaurants, tour companies, transportation companies and other visitor related businesses; and

WHEREAS the membership wishes to support business growth; and

WHEREAS the Page Museum and Frontier Village are located in the historic center of Wasilla and serve as the city's visitor information center; and

WHEREAS nearby business development is beginning to compliment the Museum and Frontier Village through the establishment of tourist-oriented shops, restaurants and services including the restored Hering-Teeland-Mead Building, Randy's Jewelers, new retail lease space and "The Brewery" micro brewery and restaurant; and

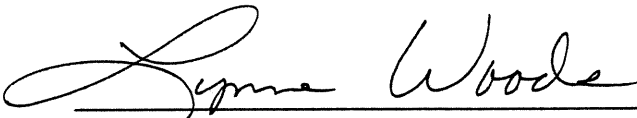
WHEREAS the Wasilla Comprehensive Plan approved in 1996 recognizes the development of this historic block as a cultural center; and

WHEREAS Wasilla needs a significant downtown attraction to encourage visitors to stop and spend time and money.


NOW THEREFORE the membership of the MSCVB hereby support the continued development of the Dorothy Page Museum and Frontier Village on the original Wasilla Town Site as a cultural center and visitor attraction.

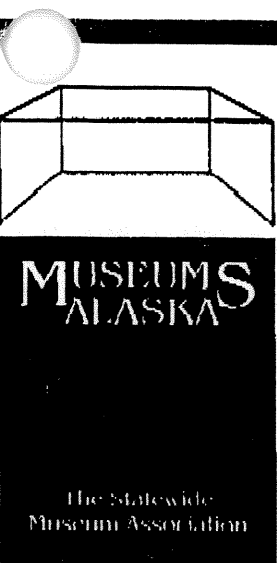
Passed and approved by a majority of members voting at the annual meeting held October 19, 1996 at Wasilla, Alaska.

Approved:

 _____ President

Attest:

 _____ Secretary
John Stein
Secretary



City Clerk 373-9072
Please distribute to Council members
prior to meeting of Wednesday, November 13

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Diane Brenner
Anchorage Museum
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Rosemary Carlton
Sheldon Jackson
Museum, Sitka

Marian Johnson
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Cathy Sherman
Cordova Historical Museum

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Sincerely,

Donna Matthews

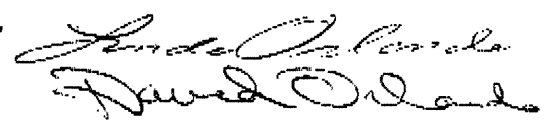
Donna Matthews
Executive Director

PO BOX 242323
ANCHORAGE AK 99524
Phone: (907) 243-4714

Wasilla City Council,

We are writing because we have heard of the 'plan' to move the historical area of Wasilla to wonderland. We feel that this would be a foolish waste of money. Main street Wasilla is so congested now that the area is only good for small elite businesses. In the long run hopefully we can develop those blocks into nothing but small shops that cater to an elite clientel and use our money to develop areas of Wasilla that have room into thriving businesses.

Thank you,



Linda and David Orlando