



## CITY OF WASILLA

290 E. HERNING AVE.  
WASILLA, ALASKA 99687  
PHONE: (907) 373-9050  
FAX: (907) 373-0788

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM NO. 90-16

TO: Council  
FROM: Deputy Administrator  
DATE: May 24, 1990  
RE: Alternatives for Museum Operations

Purpose: To outline alternative organizational structures for providing control, direction, funding and operations of the Wasilla Museum and historical structures located on City property. This document does not address the Borough project to restore the Teeland Store.

### Alternative 1

Designate the museum as a department of the City. The Mayor would appoint and supervise the Director/Curator. Museum employees would be subject to the City personnel regulations.

The Museum Director will prepare proposed Museum budget for capital, operational and maintenance expenses which will be an integral part of the City budget process.

Artifacts and museum display pieces that are not property of the City would continue to be maintained, preserved and displayed at the museum subject to recall/removal by the owners of the items. New items received should generally be donated to the City. The City would accept donation of artifacts and other personal property from the Wasilla-Knik-Willow Creek Historical Society (WKWCHS).

The WKWCHS would be requested to continue acting as sponsors and project coordinators with the Borough for the Teeland project. They would also be asked to continue working to acquire museum artifacts and displays, to donate restoration efforts, conduct fund raising activities for museum improvements, and to advise the Mayor and City Council on museum matters. The City would provide meeting space and office support for the Society.

Continuation of the present level of support and employees, without major repairs or improvements, would require about \$65,000 per year, plus another \$37,000 that is generated by the WKWCHS and the museum. The estimated cost for the City to operate and maintain the museum as a City department with three full-time employees is \$110,000 annually. A half-time director would cost about \$25,000 additional.

Alternative 2

Discontinue the City support to the museum as it is presently provided. The museum employees and the museum budget would not be considered as City assets or responsibilities.

The WKWCHS would be eligible to apply to the City of Wasilla for annual capital/operating grants which may be considered by the City Council.

The building and grounds occupied by the museum would be leased to the WKWCHS for a nominal fee. The terms and conditions of a lease for maintenance, insurance, etc. would be negotiable. Present value of land and the community hall (museum) is \$350,000.

This course of action could reduce the City budget about \$62,000 annually depending on the terms of the lease and any grant monies awarded by the Council.

Alternative 3

Continue the present arrangement wherein the museum employees are essentially City employees for pay and benefits except that working conditions, terms of employment, work direction and all other personnel actions are the purvue of the WKWCHS.

The WKWCHS prepares a portion of their annual operational and maintenance budget for consideration during the regular City budget process. In recent years, the City has budgeted about \$62,000 per year and has contributed occasional building repairs and maintenance work.



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Robert E. Harris  
Deputy Administrator