

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING THE ALASKA STATE FAIR'S REQUEST FOR A GRANT FROM THE CYNTHIA WOODS MITCHELL FUND FOR HISTORIC INTERIORS TO HELP FINANCE THE INTERIOR RESTORATION OF THE REBARCHEK FARMHOUSE.

AGENDA OF: February 4, 2020

Assembly Action:

Approved under the Consent
Agenda 2-4-20 (BMO)

MANAGER RECOMMENDATION: Present to the Assembly for consideration.

APPROVED BY JOHN MOOSEY, BOROUGH MANAGER: _____

Route To:	Department/Individual	Initials	Remarks
	Originator - A. Bradway	AB	
	Planning and Land Use Director	EP	
	Finance Director	CY	
	Borough Attorney	NS	
	Borough Clerk	JMM 1/27/2020	(BMO)

ATTACHMENT (S) : Fiscal Note: YES _____ NO x
Resolution Serial No. 20-013 (2 pp)
HPC Resolution Serial No. 20-01 (3 pp)

SUMMARY STATEMENT: In January, 2020 the Alaska State Fair (State Fair) approached the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (Borough) requesting support for their grant application to the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors. The grant is to fund interior restoration of The Rebarchek Farmhouse, a historic property owned by the State Fair, and located within the Borough. The Rebarchek farmhouse was one of the first farmhouses constructed as part of the "Matanuska Colony" program, and was one of the first farmsteads within the Borough to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The State Fair has undertaken stabilizing the farmhouse as part of a larger project to interpret, showcase and reuse the farm. Interior restoration, in keeping with its exterior, shall reflect the era of the Farm's peak production between 1950

and 1970.

The Borough, as a Certified Local Government, has a Historical Preservation Commission (HPC) to recommend local preservation projects for the Borough Assembly to support. The HPC reviewed the State Fair's request and found that the proposed project supports many of the Borough's historic preservation interests as outlined in MSB 4.46, Historical Preservation Code, and that the proposed project will help protect our area's cultural resources and strengthen local historical preservation partnerships. The HPC unanimously passed HPC Resolution 20-01 on January 16, 2020, recommending Assembly support of the Alaska State Fair's grant request.

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION: Staff respectfully recommends adoption of the resolution supporting the Alaska State Fair's request for a grant from the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors to help finance the interior restoration of the Rebarchek Farmhouse.

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 20-01**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDING ENDORSEMENT OF THE ALASKA STATE FAIR'S REQUEST FOR A GRANT FROM THE CYNTHIA WOODS MITCHELL FUND TO HELP FINANCE THE INTERIOR RESTORATION OF THE REBANCHEK FARMHOUSE.

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) is a Certified Local Government (CLG), with a Historical Preservation Commission that assists with the Borough's preservation planning by overseeing and supporting preservation projects within the borough; and

WHEREAS, the Raymond Rebarchek family with one daughter, arrived in Palmer (located approximately 40 miles northeast of Anchorage) in 1935 from Northern Minnesota to participate in President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal resettlement, Alaskan "Matanuska Colony" program, undertaken during the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, over 200 hundred families were resettled on numerous 40 - 80 acre farms surrounding the City of Palmer as part of the program; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Rebarchek was one of the first to finish constructing his farmhouse, ahead of schedule, in 1935; and

WHEREAS, Rebarchek, in 1977, proud of his farming accomplishments, contacted the State Office of History and Archaeology, requesting his farm be evaluated for nomination to

the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the Rebarchek Farm was one of the first Farmsteads within MSB to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic Farm; and

WHEREAS, following Mr. Rebarchek's passing, the farm, situated adjacent to the Alaska State Fairgrounds, was purchased by the Alaska State Fair; and

WHEREAS, the State Fair has undertaken stabilizing the farmhouse as part of a larger project to interpret, showcase and reuse the farm, thereby continuing compatibility with its original intent; and

WHEREAS, MSB, acquired initial stabilization funding for the Rebarchek Farmhouse from a Federal, Grants-in-Aid, State Historic Preservation pass-through grant, awarded by MSB to the Alaska State Fair with administration fees absorbed by the borough; and

WHEREAS, to maintain the historic integrity and character of the farmhouse, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, were followed in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's recommendations for historic buildings; and

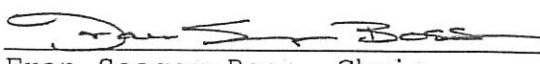
WHEREAS, the historic context for the interior of the farmhouse, in keeping with its exterior, shall reflect the era of the Farm's peak production between 1950 and 1970, during which time the exterior of the log building was stuccoed to insulate the

house; and

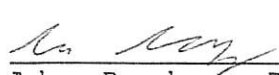
WHEREAS, Rebarchek's youngest daughter, Marilyn Messer and grand-daughter, Kathryn Van Zant will continue to work with the preservation team by providing historic photographs and valuable information on time periods of renovations, upgrades and paint colors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Historical Preservation Commission endorses the Alaska State Fair's request for a grant from the Cynthia Woods Fund to help finance interior restoration of the Rebarchek Farmhouse. It will be accomplished by applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity of materials, and features that convey the farmhouse historical, and architectural values, representing the era between 1950 and 1970.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Historical Preservation Commission this 16th day of January, 2020.

 1/16/2020
Fran Seager-Boss, Chair

ATTEST:

 1/16/2020
Adam Bradway, Planner II