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**Subject:** Re: Approach to TNC regarding Gustavus Forelands Preserve

**Date:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 17:58:51

Hi Mike,

Thanks for the additional background.

I have no objection to "put the City clearly on record as willing to take responsibility for the lands if/when TNC feels the need to pass them off." That seems significantly different to me than "resume careful consideration of Jim’s offer, and are interested in engaging in discussions about accepting transfer of the lands to the City." This seems to me the wrong time for the latter, but perhaps Ivy will prove me wrong by reopening ownership discussion now. In that case, I'll be glad the City is at the table.

I echo Greg's sentiment about acknowledging the spiritual connection of HIA members with their ancestral homeland. That shows respect. It costs nothing and begins a virtuous cycle of trust-building.

Thanks, Nate

On Mon, Feb 5, 2024 at 12:16 PM Mike Taylor <[mike.taylor@gustavus-ak.gov](mailto:mike.taylor@gustavus-ak.gov)> wrote:

Thanks, Nate, for sharing your perspective as one of the key folks here who worked so hard to move the Legacy lands from being at risk under Mental Health Trust ownership to more secure stewardship by The Nature Conservancy. I am truly grateful for your long involvement and continuing efforts to assure the future of the Gustavus Forelands Preserve. Below are my thoughts as a council member. I’m copying Mayor Owens and City Clerk Liesl Barker, plus the folks on your distribution list as well.

It’s easy to underappreciate how at-risk our Gustavus Forelands Preserve lands were, and may continue to be, despite Ivy Spohnholtz’s assurances. TNC’s priorities change over time, often creating concerns among donors. TNC both nationally and within the State of Alaska now has a program and policy to transfer TNC lands to American Native groups with the expectation that those Native groups will manage the lands for their conservation values as TNC would have. We are proud that the largest tract of TNC-purchased lands in Alaska is our Forelands Preserve. Transfer of TNC properties to Native groups is an appropriate policy at many locations in the US and world, such as environmental destruction through deforestation in the Amazon, but not for our Forelands Preserve lands. The people of Gustavus donated and worked hard to preserve these important community lands in perpetuity, and as responsible and engaged stewards, we know the lands best. We did not intend to give the lands to people in an outside community.

Ivy Spohnholtz could not assure us that the possible transfer of our lands here in Gustavus to