

TRAILS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

September 27, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

This meeting will be held at or hosted from the
Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers
Juanita Helms Administration Center
907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, AK

This meeting will be conducted in-person and by zoom or zoom-only with consideration given to the Borough Operational Status and if the Juanita Helms Administration Center is otherwise open to the public. Please visit <https://www.fnsb.gov/406/Boards-Commissions> or contact the Borough Clerk's Office (907) 459-1401.

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

C. MESSAGES

C.1. Citizens' Comments - limited to three (3) minutes

C.1.a. Agenda items not scheduled for public hearing

C.1.b. Items other than those appearing on the agenda

C.2. Disclosure and Statement of Conflict of Interest

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of consent agenda passes all routine items indicated by asterisk (*) on agenda. Consent agenda items are not considered separately unless any Commission member or citizen so requests. In the event of such request, the item is returned to the general agenda.

E. MINUTES

E.1. *Trails Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes from July 6, 2021.

Documents:

[07_06_2021_TAC_DRAFT MINUTES.pdf](#)

F. REPORTS

F.1. Staff Report by Bryant Wright, Trails Coordinator

F.2. Overview of FNSB park facility naming procedure for future consideration of proposing a Charlotte Davis memorial trail by Bryant Wright, Trails Coordinator, and Helyn Lefgren

G. NEW BUSINESS

G.1. Approval of a letter of support for the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department's grant application to the Recreational Trails Program, administered by Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, for funds to develop a trailhead and parking at Skyline Ridge Park.

Documents:

[09_27_21_TAC_Grant Support Letter Skyline \(PDF\).pdf](#)

G.2. Approval of a letter of support for the Interior Alaska Trails and Parks Foundation's grant application to the Recreational Trails Program, administered by Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, for funds to construct trail connections in the Bonanza Creek area of the Tanana Valley State Forest.

Documents:

[09_27_21_TAC_Recreational Trails Program Grant Letter \(PDF\).pdf](#)

G.3. Approval of a letter of support for the Interior Alaska Land Trust's grant application to the Recreational Trails Program, administered by Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, for funds to restore trails in the Chinook Park.

Documents:

[09_27_21_TAC_Grant for Chinook Letter of Support \(PDF\).pdf](#)

G.4. Approval of a memorandum of support for the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department's trail project nominations for the Fairbanks North Star Borough's FY 2021-30 Capital Improvement Program.

Documents:

[09_27_2021_TAC_CIP Letter of Support \(PDF\).pdf](#)

H. EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES

I. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

J. ADJOURNMENT

K. AUDIO FILE - TRAILS ADVISORY COMMISSION

[09.27.2021 TAC Audio Track 1](#)

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
Trails Advisory Commission
July 6, 2021
8:58 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Trails Advisory Commission was held Tuesday, July 6, 2021, in the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers of the Juanita Helms Administration Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

ROLL CALL

There were present appearing telephonically:

Leslie Kitchin, Vice Chairperson	Helyn Lefgren
Richard Shideler	Geoffrey Orth
John Morack	Maxwell Plichta
Brian Accola	

Comprising a quorum of the Commission, and

Adena Benn, CMC, Deputy Clerk
Alexis Fackeldey, Administrative Assistant III
Bryant Wright, Trails Coordinator

Absent & Excused

Seth Adams	Carol Kaynor, Chairperson
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MESSAGES

1. Mr. Wright informed the group that the meeting clerking duties have been moved to the Clerk's Office. He introduced a new kiosk at the Isberg Recreation Area trailhead and the initiative to install more at other trailheads. Mr. Wright also stated that the Summer Trails Challenge has begun.
- 2.a. Citizen's Comments on agenda items not scheduled for public hearing.

NONE

MESSAGES – continued

2.b. Citizen’s Comments on items other than those appearing on the agenda.

NONE

3. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest

NONE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

SHIDELER moved to approve the agenda and consent
Seconded by PLICHTA agenda as read.

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO ORDERED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. *Regular Commission minutes of June 7, 2021.

Without objection this measure was read by title and approved under the consent agenda.

EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES

NONE

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Accola spoke about the work he did on the Nome Creek Historic Trail and on other trails.

Mr. Shideler stated he was glad to see the Summer Trails Challenge and asked when the Trail Guide was going to come out.

Ms. Lefgren was pleased with the work being done by the commission.

Mr. Morack was concerned about his new borough e-mail, informed the commission of Charlotte Davis's passing, and asked that the commission consider doing something to memorialize her.

Mr. Plichta expressed enthusiasm for the new trailhead kiosks.

Ms. Lefgren reported the work that Charlotte Davis had done previously for the Trails Advisory Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Trails Advisory Commission the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.



Fairbanks North Star Borough

DEPARTMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY
Division of Boards and Commissions

clerks@fnsb.gov
Main: (907) 459-1401
Fax: (907) 459-1224

TO: Grants Coordinator
Alaska State Trails Program
550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1380
Anchorage, AK 99501

CC: Donnie Hayes, Director, Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks & Recreation
Department

FROM: Leslie Kitchin, Acting Chair, Fairbanks North Star Borough Trails Advisory
Commission

DATE: September 27, 2021

SUBJECT: Letter of support for the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks & Recreation Department's grant request for Recreational Trails Program funds to develop a trailhead and parking area for the Skyline Ridge trail system.

Dear Grant Coordinator,

At its September 27th, 2021 meeting the Fairbanks North Star Borough's (FNSB) Trails Advisory Commission (TAC) passed a motion to support the Parks & Recreation Department's grant request for funds to develop a trailhead with dedicated parking for the Skyline Ridge trail system, part of the FNSB's Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan. This trail system is one of the most popular in the FNSB's trail inventory during summer and winter seasons. It has only been made more popular in recent years due to improvements to the main ridge trail (thanks to two previous RTP-funded projects), community investment in volunteer events, and the outreach through the department's Trails Challenge program. With popularity has come issues and conflicts related to parking at the trailhead. There is currently no dedicated parking at the trailhead, located on the corner of a neighborhood road intersection. Weekend days regularly see 5-10 cars parked in the corner or along the road. Group events and pleasant weather can bring even more. Neighbors have experienced driveway blockages and roadway congestion due to parallel parking. Cars parked at the corner turn enter and exit the intersection with little to no visibility and no traffic signs. The slope at the makeshift trailhead floods in the spring. The FNSB has procured an engineered design and estimate for a dedicated parking area to address these issues. The Trails Advisory Commission is pleased to support this important project and requests your consideration.

Sincerely,



Leslie Kitchin, Acting Chair
Trails Advisory Commission
Fairbanks North Star Borough



Fairbanks North Star Borough

DEPARTMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY
Division of Boards and Commissions

clerks@fnsb.gov
Main: (907) 459-1401
Fax: (907) 459-1224

TO: Grants Coordinator
Alaska State Trails Program
550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1380
Anchorage, AK 99501

CC: Donnie Hayes, Director, Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks & Recreation
Department

FROM: Leslie Kitchin, Acting Chair, Fairbanks North Star Borough Trails Advisory
Commission

DATE: September 27, 2021

SUBJECT: The Trails Advisory Commission recommends supporting the Interior Alaska Trails & Parks Foundation's application for a Recreational Trails Program Grant to build multi-use trails linking existing Tanana Valley State Forest roads.

This letter is to demonstrate the Fairbanks North Star Borough Trails Advisory Commission's support for the Interior Alaska Trails & Parks Foundation's (Foundation) application for a Recreational Trails Program grant through the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, to build four miles of durable trail connections linking existing forestry roads in the Tanana Valley State Forest. The project will create an all-season multiple-use trail corridor, linking the existing 35 miles of Rosie Creek forestry roads with more than 18 more miles of forestry roads in adjacent complexes. The project also adds a trailhead map kiosk and signage along the trails and roads to assist with navigation. This project will be entirely on State Forest lands.

The Trails Advisory Commission supports constructing new routes proposed by this project to increase the quantity of high-quality, multi-use recreational trail opportunities within the Borough. There is a need for sustainably designed trails that can accommodate multiple uses during summer months. The terrain and routes identified in this project through the Tanana Valley State Forest system afford this opportunity. The routes will also facilitate the greater "Alaska Long Trail" concept, offering all-season connections between Nenana and Fairbanks. These new routes can be connected via other trails to the popular Rosie Creek-Cripple Creek trail, a winter-only trail that runs south of the proposed project, through Borough, State Forest, and other state land. This trail is identified in the Borough's Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan. Connections to trails in this plan are a priority.



The Trails Advisory Commission is pleased that the Foundation is working to continue momentum and development of recreational opportunities in the State Forest. We support the Foundation's grant proposal to increase recreational opportunities for Fairbanks' residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

Leslie Kitchin, Acting Chair
Trails Advisory Commission
Fairbanks North Star Borough



Fairbanks North Star Borough

DEPARTMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY
Division of Boards and Commissions

clerks@fnsb.gov
Main: (907) 459-1401
Fax: (907) 459-1224

TO: Grants Coordinator
Alaska State Trails Program
550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1380
Anchorage, AK 99501

CC: Donnie Hayes, Director, Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks & Recreation
Department

FROM: Leslie Kitchin, Acting Chair, Fairbanks North Star Borough Trails Advisory
Commission

DATE: September 27, 2021

**SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the Interior Alaska Land Trust's
Recreational Trails Program Grant Application for Construction of
the Chinook Conservation Park ATV Trail.**

Dear Grant Coordinator,

At its September 27, 2021, meeting the Fairbanks North Star Borough's Trails Advisory Commission passed a motion to support the Interior Alaska Land Trust's (IALT) grant request for funds to reconstruct a motorized trail in the Chinook Conservation Park.

The IALT proposes reconstruction of approximately 1 mile of existing ATV trail in Chinook Conservation Park in Fairbanks, Alaska. Rebuilding this trail is an integral part of developing the park, which will offer all-season outdoor recreation to people of all ages, abilities, skill levels, and backgrounds. The Trails Advisory Commission believes these trails will especially benefit underserved neighborhoods nearby, with particular benefits for kids.

The Chena River is the second-most-important spawning area for king salmon in the entire Yukon River watershed, and Cripple Creek, which meanders through the park, is the tributary with the most-impacted downstream area. Restoration is underway, offering a unique educational opportunity to watch the full process of stream restoration. Once the stream is restored, the park will continue to offer educational and recreational benefits to the community, with the creek being an important piece of the winter trail network and helping to create a loop with the restored ATV trail.



The Trails Advisory Commission believes this trail is an important addition to Fairbanks and the foundation of the new Chinook Park. We urge your support of this application.

Sincerely,

Leslie Kitchin, Acting Chair
Trails Advisory Commission
Fairbanks North Star Borough



Fairbanks North Star Borough

DEPARTMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY
Division of Boards and Commissions

clerks@fnsb.gov
Main: (907) 459-1401
Fax: (907) 459-1224

TO: Bryce. J. Ward, Mayor

CC: Donnie Hayes, Director, Parks & Recreation Department

FROM: Leslie Kitchin, Acting Chair, Trails Advisory Commission

DATE: September 27, 2021

SUBJECT: Letter supporting the Parks and Recreation Department's nominations of trails projects for the FNSB FY 2021-30 Capital Improvement Program

Dear Mayor Ward,

The Trails Advisory Commission wishes to express their support for the trail projects nominated by the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) Parks and Recreation Department for inclusion in the 2020 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). We recommend that you support the addition of these projects to the CIP. They include:

- Trail-a-Year Program: Develop public access for the Borough trail system
- Equinox Marathon Trail completion
- Skyline Ridge trail system development
- Isberg Recreation Area Master Plan implementation
- Peede Road open space tract access development

For years, the Trails Advisory Commission has consistently advocated for the FNSB to fund and address elements of these projects. These projects are aligned with the Trails Advisory Commission's priorities for the trail program to develop public access to trails, improve and maintain trail conditions, and to promote trail use through outreach. The projects also take critical steps toward implementing the Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan (Plan) by addressing primary trail issues in the Plan such as right-of-way acquisition, trail program implementation procedures, and specific trail recommendations. Also, because of recent interest in preserving access to trails in the North Pole area, specifically on Borough-owned land on Peede Road, the TAC is also supportive of a project to develop the Peede Road tract as a recreational trail park.



It is the Trail Advisory Commission's belief that having access to a local trail system woven throughout the Borough makes our community happier, healthier, more cohesive, and all around more attractive to live in and visit. Trails are popular with all kinds of outdoor enthusiasts and across all demographics, they are relatively low cost to develop compared to other recreational facilities and provide a high return on investment. Please consider recommending these capital improvement projects to the Borough Assembly so they may be added to the Capital Improvement Program.

Sincerely,

Leslie Kitchin, Acting Chair
Trails Advisory Commission
Fairbanks North Star Borough