

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH TRAILS ADVISORY COMMISSION

**MINUTES**  
**February 8, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Trails Advisory Commission was held via Zoom from the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers, Juanita Helms Administration Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Carol Kaynor Chair.

**A. ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Seth Adams	Helyn Lefgren
John Morack	Geoffrey Orth
Leslie Kitchin	Carol Kaynor

MEMBERS ABSENT (note if excused): Richard Shideler

OTHERS PRESENT: Bryant Wright, Administrator  
Alexis Fackeldey, Recording Clerk  
Sharon Wittenkeller, Zoom Technician  
Van Le, R&M Consulting  
Taryn Oleson, R&M Consultants  
John Underwood, R&M Consultants

**B. MESSAGES**

1. Citizen's Comments – limited to three (3) minutes

- a. Agenda items scheduled for public hearing
- b. Items other than those appearing on the agenda

Teka Lamade spoke about trail user conflict and a specific incident she witnessed between a musher and a trapper on the Dunbar Trail.

Gail Davidson discussed the state of the Isberg Recreation Area and iterated her support of the recommendations made by Mr. Spindler in his report provided in the agenda packet.

Stan Justice relayed the conditions of the trail at Creamer's Refuge and damage from ATVs and suggested that eminent domain be one of the tools used to attain the Trail Plan's goals.

Max Plichta introduced himself and stated that he applied for a position on the Trails Advisory commission.

Mike Schmetzer also introduced himself and stated he had submitted his application for a position on the Trails Advisory Commission.

2. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest – None.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** I move to amend the agenda by postponing the election until February 24, 2021 made by **Commissioner Morack** and seconded by **Commissioner Kitchin**.

ROLL CALL

Six (6) in Favor: **Adams, Lefgren, Morack, Orth, Kitchin, Kaynor**

Zero (0) Opposed: None.

**MOTION:** I move to approve the agenda made by **Commissioner Morack** and seconded by **Commissioner Kitchin**.

ROLL CALL

Six (6) in Favor: **Adams, Lefgren, Morack, Orth, Kitchin, Kaynor**

Zero (0) Opposed: None.

**D. MINUTES**

Minutes from October 12, 2020 approved by roll call vote.

**MOTION:** I move to approve the October 12, 2020 minutes by **Commissioner Morack** and seconded by **Commissioner Orth**.

ROLL CALL

Six (6) in Favor: **Adams, Lefgren, Morack, Orth, Kitchin, Kaynor**

Zero (0) Opposed: None.

**E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM BOROUGH**

Staff Bryant Wright updated the commissioners on the Trails challenge and on the reconstruction on the Isberg Powerline Trail. He stated the intent to put more information online so that more people may participate in the process and to emphasize the Trail Plan to the public.

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Election of TAC officers for 2021 – postponed to 2/24/2021
2. Isberg trail conditions: Recommendations for multi-use trail management

Staff Bryant Wright presented a packet compiled by Mike Spindler on the state of and proposed improvements to the Isberg Trail.

**Commissioner Morack** recommended that the public be aware of the limitations of the Trail Advisory Commission and suggested that the new Trails plan may help them overcome this.

**Chair Kaynor** commented that signage was an option and the recruitment of volunteers to help with trail maintenance was also put forward.

**Commissioner Orth** stated that the trails were not laid out for drainage and that it would be a hard sell to convince trail riders to not use four wheelers on said trail.

**Commissioner Lefgren** stated that the commission should do its best to provide for all trail users.

#### **G. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner's Comments

**Commissioner Lefgren** commented that the commission was doing well and that the report presented was very good.

**Commissioner Kitchin** enthused about the coming work session.

**Commissioner Morack** was excited about the new commissioners coming onboard.

**Commissioner Adams** gave an update on the land trust's activities and what parcels they are planning on buying.

**Chair Kaynor** stated she was grateful for the citizen testimony and was distressed by the conflict between trail users.

#### **H. WORK SESSION**

1. Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan Update – Van Le & Taryn Oleson-Yelle, R&M Consultants
  - a. Introduction to the Trail Plan update project, role and expectations of the TAC in the plan development process, introductory visioning exercise

Ms. Oleson Yelle and Ms. Le provided an introduction to the Trail Plan update process via the presentation slides in the agenda packet. Key steps will include data collection and inventory; visioning, goal setting

and issue identification; future trail corridor identification; development of implementation strategies; plan development and public review; plan adoption. The process will take place throughout this year with a goal of a draft produced by mid-October and a final adopted plan by spring 2022. The public engagement process will consist of TAC-hosted meetings and workshops, online commenting and interactive mapping, and a community-wide survey. During the visioning exercise, TAC members expressed desires for local trail systems to be publicly accessible, protected for many generations, interconnected throughout the community, to provide some place for all types of trail users, and to be taken care of by the community.

b. Trail issue identification at the Borough-wide level

TAC members brought up trail issues including the need for trails to be dedicated for public access, competing needs for different user groups, lack of connectivity, differing management authorities along trails, and barriers to volunteer management.

**I. AGENDA SETTING/NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was set for February 24, 2021.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.