

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
Chena Riverfront Commission
November 24, 2021
12:02 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Chena Riverfront Commission was held Wednesday, November 24, 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:

Diana Campbell	Robert Henszey
Julie Jones	Wade Binkley
Lee Wood	Gregory Barker
Annette Freiburger, Vice-Chair (arrived 12:06 p.m.)	
Buki Wright, Chair	

Comprising a quorum of the Commission, and

Alexis Fackeldey, Administrative Assistant III, Clerk
Kellen Spillman, Acting Community Planning Director
John Netardus, AK DOT&PF Representative
Brian Charlton, Project Coordinator
Ashley Carrick, Tanana Valley Watershed Association, Executive Director
Kayde Whiteside, Planner II
Sarah Bingham, Planner II
Melissa Kellner, Long Range Planner

MESSAGES

1.a. Chair's Comments

Chair Wright spoke about reappointments and the reason a certain commission candidate was not appointed. Chair Wright also introduced the clerk and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Liaisons, ex officio members, staff from the Community Planning and the Parks and Recreation Departments, and a member of the Tanana Valley Watershed Association introduced themselves.

MESSAGES - continued

2.a. Citizen’s Comments on agenda items not scheduled for public hearing.

NONE

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

NONE

3. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest

Commissioner Binkley stated that an individual who signed the rezone request was one of his employees. Chair Wright ruled there was not a conflict and Commissioner Binkley should remain on the dais.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

HENSZEY, moved to approve the agenda and consent
Seconded by CAMPBELL agenda as read.

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

Yeses: Barker, Binkley, Campbell, Jones,
Henszey, Wood, Freiburger, Wright

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 8 Yeses, 0 Noes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. *Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes from October 27, 2021.

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

REPORTS

1. Communications to the Chena Riverfront Commission

Kellen Spillman, Acting Community Planning Director, introduced two Community Planning staff members and confirmed all the reappointments went through.

Chair Wright asked if the rezone applicants would be attending the meeting. Melissa Kellner, Long Range Planner, answered they would not.

REPORTS - continued

2. Status updates on the Chena Riverfront Commission Project List by Kellen Spillman, Acting Community Planning Director

Mr. Spillman provided status updates on the Chena River Safety Signage projects. Commissioner Binkley and Commissioner Jones volunteered to continue working with Mr. Spillman on the project.

3. Status Updates on the Alaska DOT&PF Riverfront Projects by John Netardus, AK DOT&PF.

John Netardus, AK DOT&PF Representative, provided status updates on the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Riverfront Projects. Mr. Netardus also answered the questions posed at the October 27, 2021 Chena Riverfront Commission meeting including the reason behind the fences placed near the river and why an intersection was only open three ways. Mr. Netardus also gave the commission a chance to ask any more questions they might have.

The fences placed near the river and when the commission should be involved in design changes were discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Review and Make a Recommendation to the Department of Community Planning on RZ2022-005.
A request by Bev Floerchinger to rezone Lots 1A through 10, Block 13 and Lots 2 through 10A, Block 14 of Smith Subdivision.

Ms. Kellner presented information on the rezone request concluding that the rezone request was compatible with the Chena Riverfront Plan.

Discussion ensued on the area, the required setbacks, and the requested rezone.

HENSZEY,
Seconded by FREIBURGER

moved that the Chena Riverfront Commission advise the Planning Commission that RZ2022-005 is compatible with the Chena Riverfront Plan, particularly Goal 1, Policies 1, 4 and 5; Goal 5, Policy 2.

NEW BUSINESS - continued

MOVED THAT THE CHENA RIVERFRONT COMMISSION ADVISE THE PLANNING COMMISSION THAT RZ2022-005 IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE CHENA RIVERFRONT PLAN, PARTICULARLY GOAL 1, POLICIES 1, 4 AND 5; GOAL 5, POLICY 2.

Yeses: Henszey, Campbell, Wood, Freiburger, Binkley, Jones, Barker, Wright

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 8 Yeses, 0 Noes

2. Review and Discuss Possible Recommendation on Reducing the Membership of the Chena Riverfront Commission to the Borough and City of Fairbanks Mayors.

Chair Wright provided information for the discussion. The commission's sentiments were not in favor of the reduction and no formal action was taken. The possibility of advertising to fill the empty seats on the commission was also discussed.

EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES

Commissioner Barker is unavailable for the December 22, 2021 Chena Riverfront Commission meeting and Chair Wright excused his absence.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Henszey thanked the presenters and wished everyone a good Thanksgiving.

The other commissioners echoed Commissioner Henszey's sentiments.

Vice-Chair Freiburger apologized for her tardiness.

Brian Charlton, Project Coordinator, mentioned that the 2021 Winter Lights Walk would be held at Griffin Park on December 11, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Chena Riverfront Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

APPROVED: December 22, 2021