A. **ROLL CALL**

B. **MESSAGES**
   1. Citizen’s Comment – limited to three (3) minutes
   2. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest

C. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

D. **MINUTES**
   1. Minutes from July 12, 2018

E. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM BOROUGH**

F. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
   1. Discuss how the TAC can facilitate and strategize for a better plan for trail access in the Goldstream Valley in the area of the proposed rezone—Carol Kaynor
   2. Review draft letters of support for local Recreational Trail Program grant applications
      a) Fairbanks Cycle Club application for Ester Dome North Side Trail—Geoff Orth
      b) Fairbanks North Star Borough application for Skyline-to-Goldstream Connection—Carol Kaynor
      c) Fairbanks North Star Borough application for Isberg Uplands Summer Access—Carol Kaynor

G. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   1. Report from Trail Plan Revision Working Group—Jamie Hansen

H. **COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS**

I. **AGENDA SETTING / NEXT MEETING**
   September 11, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., Blue Room, Pioneer Park

J. **ADJOURNMENT**
A regular meeting of the Fairbanks North Star Borough (Borough) Trails Advisory Commission (TAC) was held in Blue Room on the third floor of the Centennial Center for the Arts at Pioneer Park, 2300 Airport Way, Fairbanks, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm by Carol Kaynor, Chair.

A. ROLL CALL
MEMBERS PRESENT: Geoffrey Orth  Jerry Rafson
Richard Shideler  Helyn Lefgren
Jamie Hansen  Leslie Kitchin
Carol Kaynor  Mathew Carrick

MEMBERS ABSENT: Seth Adams  Brian Accola
John Morack

OTHERS PRESENT: Bryant Wright, Trails Coordinator, Parks & Recreation
Martha Raynolds, Interior Alaska Land Trust

B. MESSAGES
1. Citizen’s Comments – limited to three (3) minutes – None.
2. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest – None.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
MOTION to approve the agenda made by Commissioner Shideler and seconded by Commissioner Orth. Carried without objection.

MOTION ADOPTED

D. MINUTES
Minutes from April 10, 2018.
MOTION to approve minutes made by Commissioner Orth and seconded by Commissioner Shideler. Grammatical edits had already been provided via email by Chair Kaynor. Carried without objection.

MOTION ADOPTED

E. PRESENTATIONS
1. The Interior Alaska Land Trust – Martha Raynolds
Martha Raynolds was welcomed by the TAC to discuss the role of the Interior Alaska Land Trust. She described the process of how the Trust conserves land in one of two ways: 1) By owning the property and 2) By owning a conservation easement on another landowner’s property. With a conservation easement, a landowner gives to the Land Trust certain rights in perpetuity, such as
the right to subdivide or develop for industrial or commercial uses. The conservation easements have to protect something of public value, so the conservation values of properties are evaluated. And the mission is to protect the land’s conservation value, to the land or easement has to be used for that. They have conserved about 1,200 acres in the Fairbanks area on 20 properties, 12 of which have conservation easements and 8 are owned in fee. When the Trust owns in fee, they are more flexible to do their own developments, but they also have full liability and tax burden for the land. A "building envelope" on the land with a conservation easement helps them deal with land occupants who can better monitor trespass issues. The Trust relies on volunteer stewards to inspect the conditions of their lands and easements. She described areas where they have conservation land such as the Chena Flats Greenbelt, Alder Creek and Cripple Creek, Goldstream Creek and the Peat Ponds, and under Old Chena Ridge near Pickering and Roland Roads. Many of the areas are sought after to connect greenbelts between islands of public lands. She went on to describe some of the current projects such as the new Cripple Creek stream crossing at Chena Pump Road. This area is an example of a place with trail potential, specifically to connect and create portions of the proposed 100-Mile Loop trail. The Goldstream conservation areas also have a lot of trail connection potential, but the Trust is focused on land conservation so does not specifically do trail easements. Their mission is to maintain a good quality of life that Fairbanksans enjoy due to the greenspaces that we live near. To do this, they need to be protected and made accessible. If people can get there out their door, they will use it, which is why trails are so important. Mrs. Raynolds answered some questions about their land locations, tax advantages, mineral rights and potential partnership with the Borough in the Goldstream Valley. She offered her email contact for additional questions: martharaynolds@gmail.com. The TAC was appreciative of her presentation.

F. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH

Mr. Wright provided updates on the following topics:

Skyline Ridge Trail and Eagle Trail: The Recreational Trails Program grant-funded projects are getting ready to go to bid so a contractor can begin work this summer.

Little Chena – Potlatch Creek Trails: Staff joined Land Management staff to map trails and monitor conditions in the area. A bear bait station had been reported in the spring. Staff encountered the active bait station which did not appear to be marked. The bait was on a trapping trail that connects to but is not officially part of the Trail Plan trails.

Fairbanks Summer Trails Challenge: The program is very popular this summer. There were more than 100 participants starting within the first 10 days and are now about 120 participants. Tracking that many people is challenging but Mr. Wright is recruiting the help of one of this summer’s recreation programming interns. The Cranberry Trail sign has been stolen but replaced.

Subdivision Plats: Title 17 requirements yielded new plats with trail easements for the Jeff Studdert Sleddog Trails and the Old Murphy Dome Road Trail.

G. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Continued discussion regarding Commissioners’ priorities for amendments to the Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan and how to make those changes – Trails Advisory Commissioners
    a. Commissioner Priorities for Amendments

Discussion: Mr. Wright provided a list of priority categories or issues in the Trail Plan based on summaries of what 4 commissioners had sent to him in since the last meeting.
Commissioner Shideler requested that the full comments be sent to the entire TAC for review. TAC Members discussed whether or not they thought the priorities should be voted on and ranked in order to come up with a plan of attack. Commissioners Lefgren and Shideler spoke to the distinction between those issues that are important vs. those that are feasible to address. Mr. Wright suggested looking at these issues in terms of which issue affects another. Perhaps one is very important, but to change it requires amendments in another subject. Coming up with a stepwise sequence might help. Chair Kaynor asked the TAC to consider their strategy, and whether it wants to look and the entire Plan for places to revise, or to make revision suggestions in pieces. She suggested individuals could take on issues to divide the workload. It needs to be broken into manageable sections.

Commissioner Lefgren thought to look at the entire Plan. Commissioner Hansen also thought a full revision is necessary. She suggested there will be main themes to investigate in detail, but the entire composition needs reviewed. This can be done with small groups that take on specific topics then give their suggestions to the entire TAC for review. They need to figure out who is working on what part and how. Commissioners Carrick and Kitchin thought this is too much to take on for a monthly meeting that only lasts a couple hours. They thought a heavier, Plan-focused work session with fewer, more motivated commissioners would be more productive. Otherwise it feels like going round-and-round the same questions every meeting, not getting anywhere. Chair Kaynor suggested a subcommittee could be tasked with outlining the Plan amendment process and could meet at odd times to keep the TAC productive, like in the winter when the whole TAC has a hard time making quorum. Commissioner Shideler brought up that Commissioner Orth’s proposed amendments address many of the priority issues on the list. Commissioner Hansen acknowledged that this proposed amendment is stimulating the planning already and that the process of discussing this could be more organized with a subcommittee.

MOTION to create a subcommittee to address a comprehensive rewrite of the FNSB Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan made by Commissioner Hansen and seconded by Commissioner Carrick.

Discussion: Mr. Wright read from the bylaws and FNSB code to address questions about subcommittee meeting requirements. Commissioners Hansen, Lefgren, Kitchin and Orth volunteered to be on the subcommittee. A possible meeting time for next week or the week of July 23rd was discussed and would be decided pending public meeting notice timelines.

Vote: Carried without objection, and Commissioner Rafson abstained.

MOTION ADOPTED

(Audio Tape Change)

H. ACTION ITEMS

   “Recreational Trail Use Designations” – Commissioner Orth

Discussion: Commissioner Orth summarized the edits he had made based on the last meeting in June. Commissioner Shideler questioned the reason to vote on this proposed amendment if the TAC intended to make more comprehensive proposed amendment to the Plan. Commissioner Carrick liked the edits but preferred to look at them I more detail later. Commissioner Orth thought the Plan could be revised to include other issues, but they should still forward this specific recommendation.

MOTION to send this proposed amendment to the Plan to the newly formed Trail Plan Revision Subcommittee made by Commissioner Carrick and seconded by Commissioner Lefgren.
Discussion: Commissioner Orth thought there were additional edits that could be made. Commissioner Shideler recommended that, when discussed, the amendment consider removing use designations from the Plan in favor of more specific management policy.

Vote: Carried without objection.

2. Draft memo stating questions and issues with facilitating a functional Adopt-a-Trail Program – Commissioner Hansen

Discussion: Commissioner Hansen introduced and paraphrased the letter.

MOTION to send this memorandum to the Borough Mayor made by Commissioner Lefgren and seconded by Commissioner Carrick.

Discussion: Commissioner Orth thought there were additional edits that could be made. Commissioner Shideler recommended that, when discussed, the amendment consider removing use designations from the Plan in favor of more specific management policy.

Vote: Carried without objection.

I. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Carrick appreciated everyone’s work.
Commissioner Lefgren had no comment.
Commissioner Hansen thanked staff for the Trails Challenge.
Commissioner Orth would like to find out what hole prior memos fell through.
Commissioner Kitchin would like to continue discussions about the meeting schedule to figure out what works. She thought more small group meetings and less whole Commission meetings might be more productive.
Commissioner Rafson had no comment.
Commissioner Shideler signed his dog up for the Trails Challenge.
Chair Kaynor thanked everyone. She would like to add to the next agenda that the TAC should take the lead on trail issues regarding the Goldstream Rezone. She mentioned the next community meeting is July 23rd.

J. AGENDA SETTING

August 14, 2018, Meeting.

- Informational Items:
  1. Discuss how the TAC can facilitate and strategize for a better plan for trail access in the Goldstream Valley in the area of the proposed rezone—Carol Kaynor

- Committee Meetings: Report from Trail Plan Revision Working Group.

K. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by,

R. Bryant Wright, Trails Coordinator
FNSB Parks & Recreation
MEMORANDUM

TO: Karl Kassel, Mayor, Fairbanks North Star Borough; Annmarie Billingsley, Assistant Borough Attorney
THROUGH: Bryant Wright, Trails Coordinator, Parks and Recreation Department; Mike Bork, Director, Parks and Recreation Department
FROM: Carol Kaynor, Chair, Trails Advisory Commission

DATE: July 10, 2018

SUBJECT: Requested Clarification Regarding the Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan’s Adopt-A-Trail Program

In the Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan (CRTP), the Fairbanks North Star Borough proposes the establishment of an Adopt-a-Trail Program, whereby volunteer groups assume responsibility for maintaining trails or segments of trails that are recognized in the Plan as Category B trails. The Trails Advisory Commission is requesting clarification on several issues related to the Adopt-a-Trail Program because though details on coordination of the program are addressed in the Plan many other critical aspects of an Adopt-a-Trail program are not. The purpose of this request for clarification is to identify how the Trails Advisory Commission may move forward with the Parks and Recreation Department on developing and possibly implementing a formal Adopt-A-Trail Program.

Adopt-A-Trail Program elements included in the Plan:

Purpose: “The primary focus of the Adopt-a-Trail Program will be to establish a more formalized version of the present, user maintained trail system. Depending on the conditions and use of a particular trail, the agreements should provide for a level of care to ensure that the trail is in reasonably safe condition for its intended use. The agreements could range from minimal safety inspections of trail conditions to regular grooming and track setting which might be needed on competitive cross-country ski trails. Although the main purpose of the program is to minimize Borough maintenance and operations costs and liability potential, the program could also be used for acquiring trail rights-of-way. In many instances, trail users are familiar with the landowners whose property a trail traverses and may be in a better position to negotiate easements than a public agency.” CRTP, p. 12

Establishment: “A volunteer or “Adopt-a-Trail Program” has already been informally initiated by the Division of Parks and Recreation through the agreements established with the Salcha Ski Club and Two Rivers Ski Club. The Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks is presently discussing a possible trail maintenance agreement for the Birch Hill Ski Trails with the Division of Parks and Recreation.

When Trail projects reach the point where cooperative agreements are felt necessary, the agreements should be worked out by the Trails Planner, the Division of Parks and Recreation, and the Attorney’s Office. When the Adopt-a-Trail Program becomes more established, trail maintenance equipment which may be provided by the Borough should be kept within the Division of Parks and Recreation.” CRTP, p. 12
Operation: “The second major component of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Recreational Trail Program is to establish an active, coordinated volunteer program. Within this program, trail user groups, service areas, homeowners associations or service organizations would assume specified responsibilities or “adopt” certain trails or segments of trails. These organizations will enter into cooperative agreements with the borough which define the organization’s and Borough’s responsibilities. These agreements should be sought for those trails which are identified components of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Recreational Trail System. These agreements should normally be in place prior to the Borough formally accepting the dedication of the trail right-of-way or identifying the trail for public use. In some situations, it may be necessary to develop cooperative agreements earlier in the trail dedication process in order for the Borough to meet maintenance requirements of state or federal grants. CRTP, p. 12

Questions and Clarification Requested:
1. What legal memos, responses, or other written reviews exist of the Adopt-A-Trail Program outlined in the CRTP? Please provide copies.

2. Which organizations have entered into an agreement with FNSB for trail maintenance? What are the names and type of trails covered under these agreements? Please provide the maintenance agreements with each of these organizations.

The next set of questions are on the details of establishing an Adopt-a-Trail program in FNSB.

Criteria for Trails
3. The CRTP proposes Adopt-a-Trail maintenance on Category B trails. Is Legal aware of any specific concerns that would require a different approach or treatment of FNSB-owned trails as opposed to those on publicly dedicated easements?

4. Would public notice to servient estate land owners be required for entry into a trail maintenance agreement?

Criteria for Organizations
5. Are there formal requirements for organizations that enter into agreements with FNSB for trail maintenance now? If so, what are they?

6. What department at FNSB would organizations work with on liability?

Sincerely,

Carol Kaynor, Chair, Trails Advisory Commission
Fairbanks North Star Borough
A regular meeting of the Fairbanks North Star Borough (Borough) Trails Advisory Commission (TAC) was held in the Blue Room on the third floor of the Centennial Center for the Arts at Pioneer Park, 2300 Airport Way, Fairbanks, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm by Richard Shideler, chairing the meeting in the absence of Chair Carol Kaynor and Vice Chair Brian Accola.

A. ROLL CALL
MEMBERS PRESENT: Geoffrey Orth Seth Adams
Richard Shideler Helyn Lefgren
Jamie Hansen Leslie Kitchin
John Morack Mathew Carrick

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carol Kaynor Brian Accola
Jerry Rafson

OTHERS PRESENT: Bryant Wright, Trails Coordinator, Parks & Recreation

B. MESSAGES

1. Citizen’s Comments – limited to three (3) minutes
   - Wendell Shiffler addressed Informational Item 1.a. and the suggested amendments to the Trail Plan, specifically to the description of Skarland Trail. He acknowledged it has been more than 10 years since the Plan was amended and that much is now incorrect. He provided written copies of his own suggested wording for an updated description of Skarland Ski Trail based on his experience with the trail. He read the description aloud and provided copies to the TAC. He requested this wording be considered and incorporated in the proposed amendments.
   - Stan Justice spoke about the section line easement at the top of Ester Dome along Section 36 in T1N R3W. He provided the Helfferich Estates Plat #2014-88 to show the TAC a portion of the platted easement. He would like to build a trail down this easement as an alternative to the Alder Chute section of the Equinox Marathon. He has asked the Borough for support to construct the trail and believes it is time to take advantage of the remaining option that exists. He also spoke to the Adopt-a-Trail system, saying that he considers it thoroughly implemented and currently working quite well, even if FNSB doesn’t have formal agreements with groups. He used examples of ADMA and Pearl Creek trail users. He believes the Borough does have a role to play, particularly to step up on their management of easements, by providing legal advice and securing funds to develop trails.
   - Commissioner Shideler closed Citizen’s Comments.

2. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest – None.
C. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION** to approve the agenda made by Commissioner Morack and seconded by Commissioner Orth. Carried without objection.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

D. **MINUTES**

*Minutes from April 10, 2018.*

**MOTION** to approve minutes made by Commissioner Lefgren and seconded by Commissioner Orth. Grammatical edits had already been provided via email by Chair Kaynor. Carried without objection.

**MOTION ADOPTED**

E. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH**

Mr. Wright provided updates on the following topics:

Trail inspections: Staff has been busy visiting trails because of warming weather and snowmelt and recent platting and rezoning applications. No big issues to report. Skyline Ridge Trail and the Goldstream Connector are draining especially well after the improvements made last fall.

Cleary Gilmore Trail – Staff received a notice that DNR has approved an early entry authorization for Fort Knox to begin rerouting the trail. They will begin work this summer. Staff and other trail users provided comments requesting additional drainage features to be integrated into the trail design. It appears those requests will be heeded.

Trails Challenge: Mr. Wright relayed the new Trail Challenge sign locations. The event will begin next week and go throughout the summer. There are already a lot of inquiries about the Challenge.

Goldstream Hills rezone: This is mostly in the O'Connor Creek Valley and some in the Eldorado Creek Valley. Staff attended a preliminary community meeting. Key issues highlighted by local residents were road access concerns, residential development suitability, and trails access and preservation. Mr. Wright showed a map that identified Trail Plan trails and unprotected trails. He requested that the TAC take the lead on identifying trail needs for this area. Commissioners Morack and Adams asked about land ownership in the area, why these lands are selected and how to protect non-CRTP trails. Mr. Wright pointed out details on the map, said this was to conform with the Regional Comprehensive Plan’s proposed zoning map, and reminded that the only way to currently guarantee protection of any of these trails is to include them in the Trail Plan. He encouraged the TAC to consider this when proposing amendments. Commissioner Kitchin asked about trailhead possibilities for these trails. Mr. Wright agreed trailheads would be important and pointed to problems with lack of convenient access to these trails from arterial roads and lack of connections to allow loops and varied routes. He hopes to eventually move forward with trailhead projects, but first hopes the TAC would help develop a better plan for trail access in these watersheds. One issue to confront will be redirecting use around degraded sections of the Big Eldorado Loop Trail and the O'Connor Creek Trail. He also spoke to the fact that these two trails are State-managed RS2477 right-of-ways, further complicating the Borough’s potential involvement in management and development. Commissioner Morack contrasted the past process of the Borough planning subdivisions on their land with the current process of the Borough disposing of their land for a developer to subdivide. He said the current process will make it more difficult to give trail recommendations. He wondered if something could be reserved while the land is in Borough hands. Mr. Wright said while there may be a possibility, the only way to currently guarantee protection of any of these trails when the land is subdivided is to include them in the Trail Plan. Commissioners spoke to the difficulties of amending the trail plan and
expressed a desire for an alternate way to preserve, dedicate or reroute trails. **Commissioner Adams** asked if the Borough could, when they sell, require that trails be provided for, and **Mr. Wright** thought this might be a possibility if written into the deed. **Commissioner Morack** asked whether any of the undedicated trails were developed enough to warrant inclusion in the Trail Plan. **Commissioner Shideler** mentioned the Moose Ridge trail as a well-used trail that could be added. **Mr. Wright** argued that a case could also be made to identify a new, undeveloped trail corridor for protection rather than limiting to just existing trails.

Trail easements on Mental Health Trust Lands: Mr. Wright met with the MHTLO representative and the FNSB Land Management director to discuss the possible easement. The next step is to gather more precise information about the location of proposed trails.

Procedure to amend the Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan: Mr. Wright provided an old draft procedure for amendment as well as a more detailed recent draft. He suggested these could serve as guidelines to keep the TAC on track and look ahead at steps to come. This would answer some recent questions about the process.

**F. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

1. Continued discussion regarding Commissioners’ priorities for amendments to the Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan and how to make those changes – Trails Advisory Commissioners  
   b. Questions and Issues with Facilitating a Functional Adopt-a-Trail Program—Commissioner Hansen & Commissioner Shideler

Discussion (Note- discussion drifted first to item b. and item a. was addressed afterward): **Commissioner Shideler** summarized some of the priorities already discussed which include updating trail descriptions, addressing the proposed Adopt-a-Trail program, and liability concerns. **Commissioner Hansen** added that use designations and trail management objectives (TMO’s) had been discussed, though it was still unclear whether TMO’s or specific management prescriptions should be part of the plan, or be another document referenced by the plan. **Commissioner Shideler** added this would help guide Adopt-a-Trail responsibilities. **Commissioner Orth** believed that the current practice of not implementing a formal Adopt-a-Trail program is a political decision by this and previous administrations. **Commissioner Hansen** said we need to come up with specific questions about why this isn’t working formally in Fairbanks. She suggested the variety of jurisdictions, trail types and location and easements have something to do with our struggles. For example, MatSu Borough has a formal program, but on trails and easements they own. She would like to send questions to Legal to see what criteria do trails and user groups need to meet to be eligible. And while there are people out there doing much of this work already, we should be encouraging them to work with FNSB and form an Adopt-a-Trail organization. **Commissioner Shideler** spoke to the trail planner at MatSu Borough and confirmed they operate on Borough land and Borough easements. He added that based on their model, the Borough will need to provide some kind of assistance (for example tools and training) to incentivize participation. **Commissioner Adams** wondered why this hasn’t moved forward, whether it is politically unfavorable or too low of a priority. **Commissioner Shideler** said it needs to start with the TAC pushing this issue more specifically. They haven’t been as motivated because trails users are informally taking basic care of the trails. But large scale maintenance may not happen without a more formal program. **Commissioner Adams** added that neither the Borough or anyone has the authority to decide what that maintenance should look like, leading to conflicts such as with Skarland trail.
MOTION to request that Mr. Wright write a memo to the Mayor and Legal asking how to move forward with the proposed Adopt-a-Trail program by Commissioner Orth and seconded by Commissioner Lefgren.

Discussion: Commissioner Shideler, Commissioner Morack and Mr. Wright noted the memo must come from the TAC and Chair, though the Trails Coordinator would be able to help with edits as needed.

MOTION TO AMEND the previous motion to read "that the TAC write a draft memo to the Mayor and Legal asking how to move forward with the proposed Adopt-a-Trail program" made by Commissioner Shideler and seconded by Commissioner Orth. Commissioner Hansen offered to draft the letter. Carried without objection.

MOTION ADOPTED

1. Continued discussion regarding Commissioners' priorities for amendments to the Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan and how to make those changes - Trails Advisory Commissioners

   a. Draft Amendments to the Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan—Commissioner Orth

Discussion: Commissioner Orth summarized the proposed amendments, saying they reflect suggested changes to previous draft amendments with the exception of adding three new trails: the Commuter Trail, the Pearl Creek Nordic Park, and the Goldstream Connector Trail. Commissioner Morack suggested replacing the proposed description of Skarland Trail with the description provided at this meeting by Wendell Shiffler. Commissioners expressed some overall confusion about what had been discussed before, what had been sent to the administration, and how this current proposal differed. In either case the TAC expressed frustration about not receiving feedback from the administration about other proposed amendments, and as a result were unsure how best to proceed. Commissioner Orth intended for this to be an updated draft of what had already been introduced many months ago. He was favorable to putting this on the next month's agenda as an action item in order to be voted on. Commissioner Adams asked about the definition of a snowmachine and the commission discussed this and other details of the proposed amendment such as use designations on Skyline Ridge and Sheep Creek Dredge path. Commissioner Lefgren expressed frustration about trying to address too many issues at once without keeping track of earlier progress. Commissioner Hansen thought this and other questions raised spoke to the process the TAC is choosing to amend the Trail Plan. She liked the idea of looking at the whole plan, taking specific issues one at a time or at least assigning issues to certain TAC members to better distribute and organize the workload. Commissioner Shideler saw two approaches: one is to pass this amendment forward and keep sending amendment ideas as they come, or to take a longer review and more organized approach. Commissioner Hansen suggested the TAC could go ahead and pass this, but keep working on a more organized approach to amendments. They should also meanwhile make a bigger effort to reach out to the public to scope for issues and feedback. Commissioner Lefgren suggested hosting meetings in different areas. Commissioner Orth was skeptical about how long a comprehensive review process would take and whether the TAC/FNSB would be able to manage or afford that, though he agreed it is the ideal method. He added that this proposed amendment mainly addresses "Issue 3 - Recreational Trail Use Designations" in the Trail Plan. Commissioner Shideler suggested keeping this on the agenda for next meeting with whatever changes need to be made and Commissioner Orth offered to provide the draft with modifications. Commissioner Morack provided some suggested modifications. Commissioner Shideler requested also that TAC members each bring with them 2-5 of their
priorities for amendments to the Trail Plan, or issues that need to be addressed in the Trail Plan.

G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS
Commissioner Adams had no comment.
Commissioner Orth had no comment.
Commissioner Lefgren said the budding Interior Alaska Parks & Trails Foundation is getting closer to being officially established.
Commissioner Kitchin had no comment.
Commissioner Shideler attended the Goldstream Rezone meeting and thought FNSB did a good job. There were lots of people who engaged in a civil manner and access was their biggest concern.
Commissioner Morack said there was a cleanup on Skyline Ridge Trail at the KUAC tower and thanked the Trails Coordinator for providing detailed steps for Trail Plan amendments.
Commissioner Carrick liked how readable the map for the Goldstream Rezone trails was.
Commissioner Hansen said she is not proposing going through a multi-year process to change the Trail Plan, but wants to at least begin the process by going through the plan and identifying priorities to have a starting point.

H. AGENDA SETTING
July 10, 2018, Meeting.
• Action Items:
  1. Draft Amendments to the Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan – Commissioner Orth
  2. Draft Memo to FNSB Legal Addressing Questions and Issues with Facilitating a Functional Adopt-a-Trail Program – Commissioner Hansen
• Informational Items:
  1. Continued discussion regarding Commissioners’ priorities for amendments to the Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan and how to make those changes—TAC Members
• Committee Meetings: None.

I. ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Submitted by,

R. Bryant Wright, Trails Coordinator
FNSB Parks & Recreation
xxx Date xxx

TO:  Darcy B. Harris
Alaska State Trails Program
550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1380
Anchorage, AK 99501

THROUGH: Bryant Wright
Trails Coordinator
Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation

Re:  Letter of Support for the Fairbanks Cycle Club Grant Application for Funds to Construct the Ester Dome - North Side Trail.

Dear Grant Coordinator:

At its xxx Date xxx meeting the Fairbanks North Star Borough's Trails Advisory Commission passed a motion to support the Fairbanks Cycle Club (FCC) grant request for funds to construct the Ester Dome - North Side Trail.

The FCC in partnership with other stakeholders, is proposing the construction of approximately 9 miles of multi-use, sustainably designed and constructed trail on the northern flanks of Ester Dome, 8 miles northwest of Fairbanks, Alaska. The trail is design driven for intermediate level snowmachine riders, but will attract ATV riders, mountain bikers, hikers, equistrians and runners during the summer and x-c skiers, fat bikers, snowshoers, snowmachiners, and dog mushers during winter months. The proposed trail is on public lands owned by the State of Alaska and will offer connectivity to other existing trails in the area.

As the economic consequences of health care becomes increasingly burdensome, recreational trails offer a piece of the solution. Also, trails are an important component to attracting tourists/visitors to the area. Alaska biggest draw is its wilderness. People use trails to experience the wilderness first-hand, even the places we don’t consider wilderness because it’s in our backyard (such as Ester Dome). And finally, trails help attract and keep a healthy community workforce and add immense recreational value for both local and visiting users and is an important source of revenue to local businesses.

The Trails Advisory Commission urges your support of the FCC grant application for funds to construct the Ester Dome - North Side Trail.

Sincerely,

Carol Kaynor, Chair
Trails Advisory Commission
Fairbanks North Star Borough
September 12, 2017

TO: Darcy B. Harris  
Alaska State Trails Program  
550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1380  
Anchorage, AK 99501

THROUGH: Bryant Wright  
Trails Coordinator  
Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation

Re: Letter of Support for the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department’s Grant Request for Funds to Develop a Connection between Skyline Ridge Park and the Goldstream Valley Public Use Area

Dear Grant Coordinator:

At its September 11th, 2018 meeting the Fairbanks North Star Borough’s Trails Advisory Commission (TAC) passed a motion to support the Borough’s grant request for funds to improve access to the Goldstream Valley Public Use area via Skyline Ridge Park.

The Goldstream Valley and surrounding hills host several recreational trails identified in the Fairbanks North Star Borough’s Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan including the Skyline Ridge Trail, Goldstream Valley Open Space and Public Use Area (GVPUA) winter trails, Tanana Valley Railroad Trail, the Big Eldorado Creek Loop, Eldorado Creek Trail, Eldorado Ridge trails, O’Connor Creek and East Ridge Trails, and the Cranberry Trail. This expansive, diverse and interconnected network of trails serves a wide variety of recreational trail users throughout the year with the most heavy use during winter for snowmachining, dog-mushing, cross-country skiing and winter biking. Skyline Ridge Park offers excellent access potential from the south, but unfortunately there are missing connections across public lands to access the GVPUA. The existing Goldstream Connector trail spurs off the Skyline Ridge trail but leaves Skyline Ridge Park and trespasses across private property before entering the GVPUA on State land. This project would establish a sustainably designed trail reroute across public lands so trail users can legally access the GPVUA and the Tanana Valley Railroad Trail from Skyline Ridge and nearby trails. The resulting trail would complete the proposed Goldstream Valley-Skyline Ridge Loop recommended in the Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan. The project would also facilitate trail access by adding wayfinding signage and improving a problematic trailhead at Skyline Ridge Park.

The TAC urges your support of the Borough’s grant request to improve access to trails in the Goldstream Valley from Skyline Ridge.

Sincerely,

Carol Kaynor, Chair  
Trails Advisory Commission  
Fairbanks North Star Borough
September 12, 2017

TO: Darcy B. Harris  
Alaska State Trails Program  
550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1380  
Anchorage, AK  99501

THROUGH: Bryant Wright  
Trails Coordinator  
Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation

Re:  Letter of Support for the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department’s Grant Request for Funds to Restore and Multiple-Use Trail Access through the Isberg Recreation Area

Dear Grant Coordinator:

At its September 11th, 2018 meeting the Fairbanks North Star Boroughs (Borough) Trails Advisory Commission (TAC) passed a motion to support the Borough’s grant request for funds to restore the multi-use powerline trail and improve year-round access to the upland trails in the east side of the Isberg Recreation Area.

The Isberg Recreation Area hosts a diverse network of trails west of Fairbanks. Within the recreation area are important connecting links for the Cripple Creek-Rosie Creek trail, the Chena-F.E. Ditch Trails, and the 100-Mile Loop trail, all of which are identified in the Borough’s Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan. Isberg is a popular launch-off point for long winter snowmachine trips and provides local families with an ATV corridor between the Chena Ridge and Ester communities. The recreation area is also popular for winter skiing, biking and skijoring and summer berry picking and dog walking.

A powerline trail connects the developed parking access on the park’s west side to the dry, upland trails in the east. This trail is identified in the park’s 2007 master plan as a multiple-use trail but has suffered from summer wheeled traffic over saturated soils. The result is a degraded, braiding trail that deters access to the upland trails. The TAC would like to see this trail restored and hardened to support its planned motorized uses and facilitate sustainable access to the park’s east side.

The TAC urges your support of the Borough’s grant request to improve year-round access to all parts of the Isberg Recreation Area by restoring and hardening the powerline trail.

Sincerely,

Carol Kaynor, Chair  
Trails Advisory Commission  
Fairbanks North Star Borough
TRAILS ADVISORY COMMISSION
TRAIL PLAN REWRITE WORKING GROUP MEETING
July 23, 2018

The Fairbanks North Star Borough (Borough) Trails Advisory Commission (TAC)’s Trail Plan Rewrite Working Group Meeting held a meeting in the West Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Big Dipper Ice Arena. The Working Group Chair Helyn Lefgren called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. on July 23, 2018.

A. Roll Call Members Present: Leslie Kitchen, Geoffrey Orth, Jamie Hansen, and Helyn Lefgren

Borough Attending: Bryant Wright, Trails Coordinator, Parks & Recreation

B. Messages

1. Citizen’s Comment – limited to three (3) minutes
   No Citizen’s attended. Bryant Wright reminded work group members of the message from Stan Justice encouraging the working group to take an alternative approach towards a complete revision of the trail plan, one that focuses on specific changes rather than a comprehensive re-write of the plan.

2. Commissioner’s Comments – Bryant Wright read a message from Commissioner Jerry Rafson expressing his opinion based on work at DOT that the best chance to complete a re-write of the plan is to seek money from FNSB to get it done. The higher end of the amount being $150,000. Commissioner Rafson also noted his continued concern that opening the plan will jeopardize elements that benefit the whole community.

C. Approval of Agenda

Geoff moved to approve, Leslie seconded.

D. New Business

1. Address Issues with and Procedure for a Comprehensive Rewrite of the FNSB Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan.

Commissioners started with discussion of what they thought needs to happen with the CRTP. Jamie Hansen said she thinks the plan is not currently useful to citizens. Firmly think the TAC should revise the entire Plan. We have heard from citizens on changes needed. They did not request a comprehensive re-write but wouldn’t expect that type of a request. This group needs to do our own legwork to build relationships with Borough staff, assembly members, and user groups to make sure the plan documents systems in place now and through this process identify and advocate for not just what needs to be in the plan but what needs to be available through FNSB. That may be details on an Adopt a Trail Program, how a citizen can get a trail through the public dedication process, etc. Firm
Helyn Lefgren said the plan needs to be useful to citizens and we need to hold the Borough’s feet to fire, based on what was promised. The pages on Introduction are seriously out of date and needs to be updated. Technical stuff on the previous plans needs to be investigated. We need to be careful on how everything is interconnected and to get things lined up. Helyn made the case that the TAC can advise on changes to the CRTP even if those changes are not written word for word from user groups or concerned citizens. We need to start and finish. She suggested to start with low hanging fruit; we will need to look at policy questions as well. We should take a section and really work on it, such as the Adopt-a-trail and other new things need to be identified. We also need to figure out how to work around or get the Borough to change. To get started on changing the plan, we need to look at different sections and take a specific one that we are interested in. We also need to get others on the commission to look at it. For example, some of the management descriptions are old; we need to sell TMOs even on Category C trails. Why can’t it be a public process for how trails are designated? Let each one be categorized and let it be a public process. Supports the idea of having the TAC meet quarterly and working commissions meet on a regular basis. And all the problems come together at the whole TAC meetings.

Leslie Kitchen said it’s worth the risk, no reason the Plan shouldn’t be revised. A flexible document is needed. This can’t be done during regular meetings. The schedule that seems more reasonable is quarterly meetings for the full Commission with additional (more frequent) work session meetings on plan. Another thought is to have retreats or meet on Saturdays, start the process. But nothing will happen on the Plan in monthly meetings. It may well be something a paid person can do. From what she’s seen, it is discussed at every meeting, nothing happens. Firmly believes some decision needs to be made but no decision can be made.

Geoff Orth said he’s re-read it, and it’s good. The problem is nothing has been implemented. We should incorporate Stan’s letter. Sure, little changes need to be made. But the three components of the plan are right, it’s that FNSB does not do it. The issues, goals, and objectives are clear. Best thing we can do is revise issues and get some graphics in here. Again, the main problem is that the FNSB has turned its back on this.

Helyn Lefgren and Geoff Orth discussed commission history, particularly examples of FNSB management and unwillingness to act. Geoff also noted that the TAC has codified responsibility to review land disposals. That no longer comes before the TAC. FNSB is also unwilling to make all the trail maps publicly available. This happens in other Boroughs, which have the same issue with the trails crossing private property. There is simply a disclaimer that not all trails are publicly available. Also noted, this is done by other Boroughs in the interest of public safety.

Geoff mentioned Trailmapper.org lists every trail in the Borough.

Jamie suggested to start with the 3 major components of trail program.

Helyn suggested we take one thing and see where it come up in the Plan and continue taking parts of the plan and chipping away at it.

Geoff noted that the Eva Creek Trail is plan and didn’t have any protection. Prefers that someone is acting on the memos. How to get anything done? Resign en mass. Talk to people. Geoff does not see a purpose in doing this. He is happy to go along.
Jamie said we need a guiding document. We need something that people (Commissioners, Borough staff, citizens) can read and use.

Helyn wants to do something. The danger is we try and get nothing done. We need a small group of people that looks at specific issues. Helyn offered to do review specific plans listed in the section titled - Summary of Plans related to the CRTP.

We should start with issues and goals. That is where the meat is. Then we have something to present to the TAC as a whole. Start with the issues. Find out what is important. And what the TAC wants to fight for.

Agreement from Helyn, Jamie and Leslie - We are going to divide it up.

Jamie will take 3 major components, check with Bryant on how to get other documents that have been produced on this. Like the Adopt-a-trail guidelines, brochure on trail dedication, protection of trails in CRTP.

Geoff - On all issues for which Geoff has already taken notes, he will send notes to work group.

Issue 3 & 4 – Jamie & Leslie
Issue 5 & 6 – Helyn

E. Agenda Setting/Next Meeting

August 13 – 5 to 6pm

F. Adjournment