Fairbanks North Star Borough
Trails Advisory Commission (TAC) Meeting Agenda
Blue Room, AK Centennial Arts Building, Pioneer Park @ 6:00 P.M.

July 11th, 2017

A. Roll Call
B. Approval of Agenda
C. Approval of Meeting Minutes for: June 13th, 2017
D. Citizen Comments
E. Presentations
   1. Courses of Action for Managing Trail Easements Across Non-FNSB Land – Bryant Wright
F. Communications from Borough
G. Action Items—None
H. Informational Items
   1. Review and discussion of a draft resolution “A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE BOROUGH TO TAKE OVER MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC EASEMENT TRAILS IN THE BOROUGH” — by Jamie Hansen, Carol Kaynor, and John Morack.
I. Committee Reports—None
J. Commissioner’s Comments
K. Agenda Setting / Next Meeting
   August 8th, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., Location TBD
L. Adjournment
Fairbanks North Star Borough

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TRAILS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING
June 13th, 2017

The Fairbanks North Star Borough (Borough) Trails Advisory Commission (TAC) held a meeting in the Blue Room, Alaska Centennial Arts Building, Pioneer Park.

Chair Carol Kaynor called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

A. Roll Call

Members Present: Carol Kaynor Geoffrey Orth
Richard Shideler Jerry Rafson
John Morack Helyn Lefgren
Jamie Hansen

Members Absent: Jeff Oatley Seth Adams
Brian Accola Joni Simpson
Larry Morris Mathew Carrick

Borough Attending: Bryant Wright, Trails Coordinator, Borough P&R;

B. Approval of Agenda:

MOTION: Commissioner Rafson moved to approve the agenda and Commissioner Shideler seconded the motion.

Discussion and Objections: None.

MOTION ADOPTED

C. Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Commissioner Rafson moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Orth seconded the motion.

Discussion and Objections:

Commissioner Shideler and Commissioner Kaynor provided minor edits to Mr. Wright. There were no objections.

MOTION ADOPTED

D. Citizen Comments:

Chair Kaynor noted that public comments should be limited to three minutes. She asked that if citizens wish to discuss an issue at length or have further questions, they should reach out to TAC members outside of the scheduled meeting.

- Wendell Shiffler noted that the resolution present at the meeting is not the same resolution as what was on the agenda. He was interested in progress on the Skarland Trail among the TAC’s working group. He had hoped that property owners and trail users would be contacted for input on this but had not heard any announcement and had not been contacted. He mentioned the new realignment is well established and coming in nicely and did not need to be re-worked with a cat or dozer. He expressed interest in hearing about any progress with the trail.

- Kevin Bjella mentioned that it is difficult to get any information from the TAC and that the website was not updated from previous meetings. He had not seen the agenda
until he arrived at the meeting and noticed that there may be some inconsistency between the agenda and the resolution that was passed out. He mentioned having sent an email last week outlining research he had done about easement definitions and that the easement for Skarland Trail was very ill-defined. He was very eager to hear from the trail’s working group. He would like to echo what Mr. Shiffler said about there being no reason to conduct heavy maintenance on the Skarland Trail. He said no one has shown to him that there is a right to conduct major or heavy maintenance on the trail.

- **Jason Downing** stated that he lives on Chad Street. He lives on the property neighboring Skyline Ridge Park where a truck was recently stuck on a trail. He expressed relief that they got the truck unstuck before the rains hit. In light of the damage, it has come up that there are discrepancies between how the trails are managed and what the Trails Plan says and how the trail has been traditionally used. He mentioned having worked with the Borough when the trails were established and adopted. He described that there has always been an understanding that the Ridge Trail and Connector Trail were available to ATVs and especially snowmachines when appropriate. When the bollards were installed, it was to stop highway-sized vehicles like the one that got stuck. He said that nowhere in the Borough does “motorized” mean you can take a highway-sized vehicle in the area. He thinks having these kinds of corridors to connect neighborhoods to historic areas and allows historic uses. He came to follow up with the Trails Commission to find out about what would be done about repairing the trail, seeking restitutions for the damage, and hopes there will be some clarity on allowable uses on Skyline Ridge trails.

**Chair Kaynor** closed Citizen Comments.

E. **Presentations:** None.

F. **Communications from the Borough:**

**Bryant Wright** acknowledged that he mistakenly printed the wrong resolution and apologized for the confusion. He provided general updates on current Borough trail efforts:

1. **National Trails Day Volunteer event:** Mr. Wright described a June 3rd event with trail maintenance work and training at REI and Secret Trail in Skyline Ridge Park. The day was possible through partnerships with Alaska Trails, Interior Trails, BLM and REI. There were about 15 volunteers working on the trail for about two hours after the training. Volunteers used hand tools to cut a bench into sections of Secret trail with exposed roots and a steep outslope. The finished product was about 100 feet of smoother trail that will be less prone to migrating. Many of the volunteers wished to continue working on projects like this in the future. Mr. Wright expressed his pleasure and excitement to see an organized trail maintenance and volunteer project like this take place successfully and suggested it could be a model for other event-style projects in the future.

2. **Skyline Ridge Area Trail Damage:** On 5/30/17, staff responded to reports of a truck stuck at the bottom of Goldstream Connector Trail on private property. A large party occurred over Memorial Day Weekend at Bender Mountain. Truck drivers accessed the Skyline Ridge trail and beyond after removing barriers. Upon inspection, staff found significant trail damage on both Skyline Ridge Trail and the Goldstream Connector Trail, dozens of live trees were uprooted or cut, and boulders blocking highway vehicle access to the trail had been moved. Damage is estimated to be around $10,000- $20,000. Staff photographed damage, posted new “non-motorized” signs at the trailhead and closed the Goldstream Connector Trail for safety concerns. The property owners filed Police Reports. The FNSB also filed a police report detailing property damage to FNSB. No charges have been filed by the Troopers. Staff was in
touch with the property and vehicle owners and provided assistance as necessary to facilitate use of the trail to extract the vehicle. A plan was set for Sunday, June 4th, but fell through due to the truck owner’s unavailability. The driver made new plans the following week and the truck was removed over last weekend, luckily before the rain. The extraction appears to have caused no further damage to the trail, except for some additional trees down.

Commissioner Morack asked if there was only a single truck. Mr. Wright suggested that appeared to have been more, but only one had gotten stuck. Commissioner Morack asked if the drivers were affiliated with the military. Mr. Wright said he did not know about other drivers but thought that the driver of the stuck vehicle was not affiliated with the military. Commissioner Morack noted that a truck had been stuck down there before. Mr. Wright noted that the area has just recently been rezoned officially as a park and that the department would begin to discuss with the community how the area should be managed. Commissioner Shideler asked Mr. Wright to address the designated use. Mr. Wright noted that until a park plan is develop and in place, all the Borough has for guidance is the Comprehensive Recreational Trails Plan which calls for non-motorized use. He said he posted signs to clearly indicate the current designated use and the department plans to begin by reinstalling the boulder barriers. Commissioner Morack asked about the definition of motorized use. Mr. Wright suggested that this hadn’t been very specifically defined in the trails plan or in the Land Management’s Casual Use Policy in FNSB Code. He suggested that this be looked at when looking into revisions to the Trails Plan. Commissioner Morack asked if the latest improvements on the trail were done to accommodate road vehicles. Mr. Wright stated that the trail work was done in the most cost-effective way to make the trail useable as currently planned and designated for non-motorized uses.

Commissioner Morack suggested that the trail is now wider than is needed to walk. Mr. Wright reminded him that the trail was in fact not widened during the project, but that new material was only placed in the deep holes through the existing corridor.

3. Summer Trails Challenge and Trail Walks: The Department hosted a Lake and Trail Festival where word was spread about kicking off the Summer Trails Challenge. Remaining signs will be posted this week. The event will be open until September 20th. There will also be a series of Trail Walks hosted on Monday evenings for ten weeks. The trail walks would help people get familiar with trailhead locations and provide a more social experience. Commissioners Shideler and Morack applauded the idea.

G. Action Items: None.

H. Informational Items

1. Review and discussion of a draft resolution “Supporting Communication and Identification of Tools to Resolve Conflict Over Use and Maintenance of the Skarland Trail”—by Jamie Hansen, Carol Kaynor, and John Morack.

Discussion:
There was some initial confusion because the resolution handed out at the meeting was the incorrect resolution. Commissioner Shideler noted that the TAC had been provided the correct resolution and could proceed to discuss the issue. Chair Kaynor asked a member of the working group to provide their report at this time. Commissioner Hansen described the draft resolution’s purpose. The resolution would ask the FNSB Parks and Recreation department to hold a meeting to discuss the tools currently available to help resolve conflicts stemming from trail maintenance. She also mentioned that they would like to get clarity about trail management options for easements that have very broad descriptions and how someone would go about changing the terms of an easement if they...
found them problematic. The meeting could also address methods of changing the Trails Plan and various other issues identified with maintaining trails through easements across private property. They hoped that a variety of issues and options could be addressed in one sitting with many trail users and property owners present. She mentioned the purpose of this meeting compared to the TAC meetings is to have a more open discussion with more back-and-forth between people on different sides of the issue. It may also help produce a document that would help outline options to address dissatisfaction with trail maintenance from either the property owner’s or trail user’s point of view. **Commissioner Lefgren** asked if this overview would address all trails in the Borough or just one? **Commissioner Hansen** said that the document could address all but the meeting might focus on Skarland Trail. **Commissioner Shideler** noted that the Skarland Trail should be the focus of the resolution at the beginning. He suggested it would be critical who would facilitate this meeting and suggested getting a professional facilitator involved in this. **Commissioner Morack** also suggested they might want a professional facilitator, asked if Parks and Recreation staff would have the capability to do this meeting and asked for Mr. Wright’s response. Mr. Wright asked more about the kind of meeting they envisioned and suggested that, based on their description, Parks and Recreation staff would provide that service. He reminded that they are in the middle of a public meeting like what was described and asked how this resolution was proposing anything different from a regular TAC meeting. He suggested that addressing these kinds of issues in the manner described are part of the purpose of the TAC. **Commissioner Hansen** suggested that the proposed meeting would allow more open discussion among community members following a presentation. She said it would be an extension of the TAC mission but would not look like a TAC meeting and might be help at a different location. **Commissioner Lefgren** asked if the Assembly would need to be there to arbitrate? She suggested there had already been a meeting like this at Pearl Creek and it would hash out the same old issues. **Commissioner Hansen** clarified that the meeting would serve not to re-hash old issues but the consolidate and present tools to address those already-identified issues. **Commissioner Lefgren** suggested that it should then be based on addressing Borough-wide trail issues and not just Skarland Trail to avoid going over old ground. **Commissioner Orth** reminded that one of the codified responsibilities of the TAC is to provide a public forum for discussing trail issues and to advise the administration of their findings. He reiterated Mr. Wright’s comment that they are fulfilling that responsibility right now by having a public TAC meeting. He agreed with Helen that they should address trail management issues Borough-wide, not just Skarland. He suggested that Trail Management Objectives (TMO) for each trail could be drafted by staff and submitted to the TAC for review. The TMO would be posted for public comment, adopted and provide management guidelines for staff and/or volunteers so that maintenance wouldn’t be done consistently and not at the whim of specific volunteers or staff. He said that this would help solve the shortcomings with the Trails Plan that only provides an outdated paragraph about each trail. **Commissioner Shideler** suggested that a Borough attorney be present for any kind of meeting as described. **Commissioner Orth** said that Wendy Doxey had already provided more than adequate information on this topic. **Commissioner Morack** asked whether they should go forward as an action item? He suggested that a resolution to decide how to go forward with some trail management direction might be misguided because the Borough’s powers to manage the trails are limited in the first place. Mr. Wright suggested that the TAC should be sure they are meeting about subjects upon which the TAC is empowered to act. That said, understanding what powers the TAC and Borough have for trail management is important. He cautioned not to suggest to people who might attend this meeting that the TAC or Borough can solve a problem in some specific way when in fact they do not have the power to do so. **Commissioner Rafson** suggested making a recommendation to the Borough to adopt a trail management policy.
Mr. Wright suggested that all of this still sounded like it could happen at a regular TAC meeting with staff presentation, public comment and TAC member discussion. He added that the Chair and TAC could decide to open up more discussion at a meeting and can always call on members of the public to ask or answer questions and deliberate further if they wish. And at the end, the TAC could recommend to administration a change in policy if they find that is needed. Commissioner Rafson said that any policy recommendation they suggest about Skarland would have and effect on other trails around the Borough. He was hesitant to make any policy changes based just on input from people embroiled in issues with this one trail. Commissioner Morack said that one option the working group had discussed was to advise the Borough to request trail management powers from the State Legislature. He said the Borough might need more authority on roads and trails. Commissioner Orth said that one option the working group had discussed was to advise the Borough to request trail management powers from the State Legislature. He said the Borough might need more authority on roads and trails. Commissioner Orth said that DNR does not have management authority in some of their areas and that they litigate all the time to resolve issues and that the Borough could be doing this too. Mr. Wright suggested that the option put forth by Commissioner Morack would be one of the many options that it seems would be sought to be identified in the proposed meeting. He reiterated that the process for this would begin at a TAC meeting. He also asked which was more important to them for the proposed meeting, to get input and ideas from the public, or to provide and present options for dealing with the already identified issues? Commissioner Shideler and Commissioner Hansen said it would be for both. They wanted to get discussion going by starting with options presented by staff. It would also help start conversations among community members. Mr. Wright added that members can ask the public for more input if they desire at TAC meetings. Commissioner Lefgren suggested just doing better advertisement to get more people involved. Chair Kaynor felt that because the TAC is an advisory-only commission, a meeting like the one proposed would be better facilitated by a Borough department. She also liked the idea of the TMOs. Commissioner Shideler said that suggesting a change like the TMOs would require a change in the Comprehensive Trails Plan and Assembly approval. Commissioner Lefgren said that such a meeting’s goal would be ultimately be advisory: to recommend, based on input and options at the meeting, some certain course of action. Mr. Wright offered to present at the next TAC meeting some options (like those mentioned in this meeting). He will focus on three main tools: the re-platting process, making changes to the Trails Plan, and Borough trail management authority. He suggested this would be the same information they had likely gone over before, but at least it would be consolidated. Commissioner Shideler suggested that consolidating such information would be very helpful.

I. Committee Reports: - None

J. Commissioner’s Comments:

Commissioner Lefgren had no comment.
Commissioner Orth welcomed Carol Kaynor as the new chair.
Commissioner Morack expressed his discouragement about what had happened on Skyline Ridge with the recent vandalism.
Commissioner Shideler congratulated Chair Kaynor on her first meeting and thanked the public for hanging in there so long on this issue.
Commissioner Hansen had no comment.
Commissioner Rafson had no comment.
Commissioner Kaynor had no comment.

K. Agenda Setting for the July 11th, 2017 Meeting:

- Presentations:
1. Staff to present on options or courses of action for addressing trail maintenance issues.
   - Communications from the Borough
   - Action Items: None.
   - Informational Items: Commissioner Morack to provide a draft resolution about advising the Borough to request trail authority.
   - Committee Meetings: None.

L. **Adjournment:** Chair Kaynor adjoined the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Submitted by,

R. Bryant Wright, Trails Coordinator
FNSB Parks & Recreation
The Fairbanks North Star Borough (Borough) Trails Advisory Commission (TAC) held a meeting in the Blue Room, Alaska Centennial Arts Building, Pioneer Park.

Chair Larry Morris called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

A. Roll Call
   Members Present: Carol Kaynor Geoffrey Orth
                    Richard Shideler Mathew Carrick
                    John Morack Larry Morris
                    Jamie Hansen Jerry Rafson
                    Joni Simpson Seth Adams
   Members Absent: Jeff Oatley Helyn Lefgren
                   Brian Accola
   Borough Attending: Bryant Wright, Trails Coordinator, Borough P&R; Luke Kline, Project Coordinator, Borough P&R

B. Approval of Agenda:

MOTION: Commissioner Rafson moved to approve the agenda and Commissioner Orth seconded the motion.
Discussion and Objections: None.

MOTION ADOPTED

C. Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Commissioner Kaynor moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Carrick seconded the motion.
Discussion and Objections:
Minor edits will be worked out by Bryant Wright and Commissioner Kaynor.
There were no objections.

MOTION ADOPTED

D. Citizen Comments:
Chair Morris noted that public comments should be limited to three minutes.
• Kevin Bjella mentioned trail issues with maintenance on Skarland Trail. He said he has seen no evidence for the right to conduct heavy maintenance. He said he has done research but found few cases in Alaska that deal with similar easement issues. He mentioned reading about cases in other states of problems with platted easement without specific terms attached. He suggested that the original intent of Skarland trail was to protect the trail for skiing, but not to build a developed trail. He does not support sanctioning proposed maintenance without establishing more specific terms that everyone agrees to. He understood that this process might be difficult but would be important because property owners would get very upset. He offered to send citations of the case law he found relating to trail easements in Virginia.
Stan Justice announced that DNR has given public notice about the ITPC’s application to use the section line that parallels the Alder Chute for use as part of the Equinox Marathon route. He expressed concern about discussions on Skarland Trail being taken on by a working group and not having access to these discussions. He feels users and landowners have been cut out of the process. He inquired about the process of getting access to what is discussed at these meetings. He reiterated that the Borough Attorney’s position was that the trail users are the dominant estate, and as such should be establishing the terms and conditions, not the servient estate.

Chair Morris closed Citizen Comments.

E.

Presentations:

Laurie Knutila presented on *Equestrian Trail Use and Events in the Fairbanks Area.* Laurie lives and rides in Two Rivers. She mainly rides there, at Ester Dome trails and at Chena Lakes Trails. These are also the three main areas where it is possible to hold a longstanding Competition Trail Ride event. The Competition Trail Ride occurs annually and alternates locations biennially between the Mat-Su region and the Fairbanks region. These three locations in Fairbanks provide adequate setting in that they have at least 60 miles of loop-able (non out-and-back) trails, provide a good location to gather, known as a “ride camp,” and have varied terrain including water features like creeks or lakes. The “competition” relates to displaying riding skills on varied terrain, rather than a timed, race style of ride, which is known as an “endurance” ride. It’s the only ride of this kind in the state so it is significant for the equestrian community. It is well-attended with as many as 52 riders. She provided more details about the event, which would occur this year at the end of July in Pleasant Valley. Regarding general trail use, there have been some issues with encountering four wheelers and logging trucks at excessive speeds in some areas, but nothing too significant. She mentioned that gravel is difficult for the horses to ride on, and that swampy areas can be very dangerous. She mentioned there are many people using horses in the greater Fairbanks area with a large economic impact. She asked for questions from the commission. Commissioners asked about spurring public interest (she mentioned needing more manpower and that it would increase awareness of equestrian use), popular general riding areas (Chena Lake, Two Rivers and Ester, about which she provided more detail), whether there were enough places to ride nearby (she mentioned needing more connectivity, citing struggles of having to traverse roadsides or having to trailer horses). Of note, she mentioned the potential of Chena Hot Springs Road Trail as a very important connector for the Two Rivers community that is in need of repair. Specifically there is a section about two miles long that is nearly impassable, that driveway crossings can be difficult, and that road culverts have washed out portions of the trail. She described a few places where maintenance had occurred on this trail in the past. Other, smaller, non-competition equestrian events occur more often during the summer.

F.

Communications from the Borough:

Bryant Wright provided general updates on current Borough trail efforts:

1. *Alaska Trails Statewide Conference:* Staff attended the conference in Anchorage and received training in sustainable trail design and layout.

2. *Summer Trails Events:*
   
a. *National Trails Day Volunteering:* Staff is in touch with the Alaska Trails to coordinate a National Trails Day volunteer training and work session on June 3rd. Alaska Trails has grant funding to provide training from trail professionals at Interior Trails. FNSB staff has developed a waiver with the Legal department for this kind of event. This will be a good test for this event-style model of trail volunteering. Other partners include REI and the BLM.
b. Summer Trails Challenge: The event will start on June 10th. The list of trails has been roughly developed to include trails mostly in the parks but a couple CRTP trails that are outside of the park. Staff asked for suggestions. Commissioner Shideler suggested trails off Old Murphy Dome Road area and Commissioner Adams suggested logging roads off the Parks Highway.

c. Summer Trail Walks: Staff plans to lead trail walks on weeknights along the trails in the Fairbanks Trails Challenge. Staff is working with Legal and Risk Management Departments to make this possible. The trail walks would help people get familiar with trailhead locations and provide a more social experience. Chair Morris mentioned past work that had been done to provide maps of trails in the areas behind Two Rivers School, but was unsure if these maps were ever finished.

G. Action Items
1. Election of Officers: Annual election of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. Chair Morris called for nominations.

MOTION:
Commissioner Morack moved to nominate Commissioner Kaynor for the Chair position. Commissioner Kaynor accepted and Commissioner Shideler seconded the motion.
Objections: None.

Motion approved.

MOTION:
Commissioner Morack moved to nominate Larry Morris for the Vice Chair position, but he did not accept the nomination.

Motion denied.

MOTION:
Commissioner Kaynor moved to nominate Commissioner Simpson for the Vice Chair position. Commissioner Simpson accepted and Commissioner Adams seconded the motion.

Motion approved.

MOTION:
Commissioner Orth moved to nominate Commissioner Shideler for the Secretary position. Commissioner Shideler accepted and Commissioner Kaynor seconded the motion.

Motion approved.

2. A Resolution Requesting The Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly Amend The Parks And Recreation Department's Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget For Trail Maintenance, Easement Acquisition, And Land Surveying For The Comprehensive Recreational Trails Plan Program- Larry Morris.

Chair Morris introduced the resolution and described it as recommending that $25,000 be allocated to the trails program toward the easement acquisition process (including land surveying) and $25,000 toward trail maintenance.

MOTION:
Commissioner Shideler moved to pass the resolution and Commissioner Kaynor seconded the motion.
Discussion:
Chair Morris mentioned that versions of this have been submitted to the administration for several years. There proceeded general discussion about the dollar amount of the request and the likelihood of the request being accepted. Mr. Wright suggested that this might be interpreted as a continued gesture from the TAC that these parts of the trail program need funding. Chair Morris and Chair Adams highlighted the value of leveraging maintenance monies as a match for potential grant funds. Chair Morris called for a vote.

All in favor

Motion accepted.

H. Informational Items
1. Commission Procedures for Advising on Trails Issues
   Discussion:
   Mr. Wright responded to previous confusion about what the TAC does with resolutions submitted by members of the general public. Resolutions need to be drafted and sponsored by a member or members of the TAC. TAC members can get input from the public during public comment. He reiterated that formal correspondence has to come from the TAC. Mr. Bjella requested that this process be published online. He was unsatisfied with having only three minutes to raise his concern and asked where there was an opportunity for more dialogue between the public and members of the TAC. Chair Morris suggested that some of this information already was online. Commissioner Shidelor suggested expanding this information and that this issue might be common to other commissions. Commissioner Kaynor suggested that commissioners could be better trained on these processes. Commissioner Adams suggested that there be a link to information for members of the public who want to comment at a meeting.

2. Open Meetings Act Compliance for Commission Subcommittee Meetings
   Discussion:
   Mr. Wright requested holding off subcommittee meetings until Open Meetings Act (OMA) was better understood. He stated that based on conversations with the Clerk’s Office and a review of the OMA it appeared that meetings outside of the regular TAC meetings could be considered public meetings and would need to be noticed. He suggested that since public notice requires having a meeting agenda about two weeks in advance, that the regular TAC meeting might be a good time to schedule the meeting. He suggested that official actions or decisions couldn’t be made at working group or subcommittee meetings and so might have some different rules about how the public is involved. Speaking to the concerns about dialogue with the public, Mr. Wright suggested that these smaller group meetings would be a good time for commissioners to request more detailed input from the public if they so desired. He asked for suggestions on how to make this work. Commissioner Kaynor pointed out a source of confusion in the OMA worksheet provided by the Clerk’s Office. Mr. Wright thought this would be interpreted to require public notice for even small group meetings. Chair Morris suggested that having people listen in to meetings telephonically might make this easier. Mr. Kline suggested that only certain venues might have that technological capability. Members asked several more specific questions about OMA compliance, such as email correspondence and how to work on detailed drafting of TAC documents. Mr. Wright did not know the answers and would have to get guidance from the Clerk’s Office or Legal.

I. Committee Reports:
   Trail Management Recommendations (Morack, Kaynor, Shidelor) –
Commissioner Shideler described issues with potential Adopt-a-Trail groups having the ability to pay for the insurance required, especially if they are smaller groups. Until this is sorted out, this committee couldn’t move forward.

Skarland Trail Management Recommendations (Hansen, Morack, Kaynor) –
Commissioner Kaynor said they had identified some options. First, the TAC could consider urging the Borough to request authority from the legislature to obtain authority to maintain platted trails in the Borough. Second, they could request that Parks and Rec Staff and the TAC meet with members of the public to seek an agreeable solution to Skarland Trail issues. Commissioner Morack said he met with Mayor Kassel to ask his thoughts on the Borough requesting trail maintenance authority. He suggested that the Mayor might be favorable to this idea. Because the FNSB is a Second-Class Borough, the FNSB would have to get permission from the Alaska Legislature. At this time, the Borough doesn’t have any more management authority over platted trails than any member of the public. He added that current issues would have to be adjudicated in the courts, which is not a satisfactory situation. Chair Morris suggested that it might not be too difficult for the Legislature to give away that authority to manage these kinds of trails. Commissioner Orth suggested that because the FNSB has plating authority, they could accept management authority of platted easements. Commissioner Hansen reiterated that there are two possible avenues to resolve some of these issues: one resolution to address the larger issue of who manages trails, and another to address issues specific to Skarland Trail. She plans to meet with Mr. Wright to talk about what role Parks and Rec can play in assisting. Chair Morris suggested that this committee set up a meeting during agenda setting.

J. Commissioner’s Comments:
Commissioner Adams is glad to be able to attend.
Commissioner Carrick appreciated the OMA handout.
Commissioner Rafson thanked Chair Morris for all his hard work as a Chair and commended the good job he has done.
Commissioner Simpson thanked Larry Morris for all of his service to the Commission. She thanked Mr. Wright for the progress made in the trails program and for asking about equestrian trail use.
Commissioner Orth was glad to be back and thanked Larry Morris for his years of service.
Commissioner Morack said not to lose faith even when it seems like not much is getting done at all these meetings, because every now and then something big gets done that is really significant. He noted the Skyline Ridge Park as a good example.
Commissioner Shideler thanked Chair Morris for all of his service and appreciated all his work. He liked Mr. Wright’s initiative for getting people out on the trails.
Commissioner Kaynor commended all of the work that Chair Morris has done in his position and said she will have big shoes to fill. She is excited about the direction of the trails program.
Chair Morris said it has been fun and interesting acting as Chair. He mentioned it has been his fourth year as a chair. He has plans to hike into Stiles Creek cabin this summer.

K. Agenda Setting for the June 13th, 2017 Meeting:
- Presentations:
1. **Commissioner Kaynor** asked to have someone from the Clerk's Office be available to field further questions about the Open Meetings Act.

2. **Commissioner Morack** would like to extend an invitation to the Mayor to attend or present at one of the TAC meetings.

3. **Commissioner Orth** offered to present on Sustainable Trail Design.
   - Communications from the Borough: Staff will report on the National Trails Day Event and any other developments.
   - Action Items: None.
   - Informational Items: Possible report from the Skarland Trail Maintenance Committee on recommendations for resolving Skarland Trail conflicts.
   - Committee Meetings: The Skarland Trail Maintenance Committee plans to meet on Monday, May 22nd. The Trail Management Committee has been suspended.

L. **Adjournment:** Chair Morris adjoined the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Submitted by,

R. Bryant Wright, Trails Coordinator
FNSB Parks & Recreation
FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
TRAILS ADVISORY COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-0?

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE BOROUGH TO TAKE OVER MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC EASEMENT TRAILS IN THE BOROUGH

Whereas: The Borough is a Second Class Borough and was not given authority by the State of Alaska Legislature to manage trails within the Borough except on Borough Land.

Whereas: Many recreational trails exist in the Borough that are dedicated by an easement to the Public.

Whereas: These trails are used by Borough residents for recreation and need to be maintained, including such things as grooming, clearing brush, and general maintenance.

Whereas: No one has the specific authority to monitor and see that such maintenance is done.

Whereas: Conflicts periodically occur between land owners and trail users as to how and who should perform such maintenance.

Whereas: In the past some of these trails have been blocked, denying users access.

Whereas: The only way to adjudicate such conflicts is by going to Court, which due to the cost and inconvenience is seldom used, leading to an unsatisfactory conclusion for all involved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the FNSB Trails Commission recommend to the FBNS Mayor that the FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH request that the ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE give the FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH management authority over Public Easement Trails.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS___ DAY OF _____2017