

Introduced by: Mayor Eberhart
Date: November 23, 2015

ORDINANCE NO. 5995

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE GOALS, POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CHENA RIVERFRONT PLAN

WHEREAS, the Joint City of Fairbanks/Fairbanks North Star Borough Riverfront Commission was established for purposes of planning and fostering the development of riverfront property along the Chena River; and

WHEREAS, the Commission was also established because there is a strong consensus in the Fairbanks community that the Chena River is a very special attribute and resource; and

WHEREAS, the Chena Riverfront Plan Section II, Goals, Policies and Objectives was adopted July 10, 1997, as an element of the Borough Comprehensive Land Use Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly adopted Ordinance No. 2009-08 with updated amendments on March 12, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the proposed plan update represents public input collected and documented by the Chena Riverfront Commission members in five community meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Chena Riverfront Commission has reviewed and recommended adoption of the proposed amendments to the goals, policies, and objectives of the Chena Riverfront Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed and recommended approval of the proposed amendments on September 21, 2015; and

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2015, the Planning Commission held a public hearing and voted to recommend approval of the proposed amendments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS, ALASKA, as follows:

Section 1. That the attached Goals, Policies and Objectives of the Chena Riverfront Plan are hereby adopted by the City of Fairbanks.

Section 2. That the effective date of this ordinance shall be the 12th day of December 2015.

John Eberhart, Mayor

AYES: Matherly, Gatewood, Pruhs, Cleworth, Huntington
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Walley
ADOPTED: December 7, 2015

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

D. Danyielle Snider, CMC, City Clerk

Paul Ewers, City Attorney



MEMORANDUM

TO: Fairbanks City Council

THROUGH: D. Christine Nelson, Director *DCN*
Department of Community Planning

FROM: Nancy Durham, MURP, CFM, Planner III *ND*
Department of Community Planning

DATE: November 13, 2015

SUBJECT: PA2014-002
An ordinance amending Section II, Goals, Policies and Objectives of the Chena Riverfront Plan.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) Code Title 2, Section 2.37.080(B), requires that the Chena Riverfront Plan be revised "from time to time". After the Parks and Recreation Commission and Planning Commission reviews and makes recommendations for the Plan, then the proposed revisions are to be adopted by the Fairbanks City Council and the FNSB Assembly. Currently, the Plan itself calls for updates every five (5) years. However, one proposed revision to the Plan is to change the time frame to "at least every ten (10) years".

The Chena Riverfront Commission (CRFC) held several presentations to introduce the Plan updates to the public. The CRFC was the Keynote Speaker at the Chena Riverfront Summit, sponsored by the Tanana Valley Watershed Association. The proposed revisions to the Plan were presented to various community service groups. These groups include the Fairbanks Downtown Rotary, College Rotary and North Pole Rotary. An open house was held at the Noel Wien Library's Auditorium on July 9, 2014. In addition, the Plan was presented in a work session to the Fairbanks City Council on August 25, 2014.

The CRFC voted to approve all revisions to the Plan on October 8, 2014.

The Plan was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission on September 21, 2015 for review. The Parks and Recreation Commission had no revisions and approved the Plan update. Their approved meeting minutes are attached as **Exhibit 1**.

The final draft of the Chena Riverfront Plan Update was reviewed by the Planning Commission on November 10, 2015. The Planning Commission made a recommendation of approval with no revisions (**Exhibits 2 & 3**).

After the Fairbanks City Council's public hearing to review and adopt the Plan, a public hearing will be scheduled before the FNSB Assembly for adoption. The proposed ordinance for the FNSB Assembly is attached as **Exhibit 4**.



Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks & Recreation

1920 Lathrop Street • PO Box 71267 • Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267 • (907) 459-1070 FAX 459-1072

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission occurred on September 22, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. in the Big Dipper Ice Arena conference room.

Vice Chair Nickles called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Judy Stoop
Clutch Lounsbury
Pete Haggland
Gerry Collins
Mary Ann Nickles
Judy Shiffler
Joy McDonald
Dave Welborn

ALSO PRESENT

Mike Bork, Director, Parks & Recreation
Laura Graham, Administrative Assistant III
Nancy Durham, FNSB Community Planning
Julie Jones, Chena Riverfront Commission

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Allen Shaw
Bill Chace
Leona McDaniels

REVIEW OF AGENDA - Commissioner Collins moved to accept the agenda as written. Seconded by Commissioner Nickles. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Commissioner Collins moved to accept the meeting minutes from June's meeting. Seconded by Commissioner McDonald. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

INTRODUCTIONS – Mike Bork introduced our new Commissioner Dave Welborn. Nancy Durham from FNSB Community Planning Department and Julie Jones from the Chena Riverfront Commission introduced themselves.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – Chena Riverfront Commission Plan Update; Julie Jones briefly explained the highlighted changes to the Chena Riverfront Plan. **Commissioner McDonald motioned to approve the Chena Riverfront Plan 5-Year Update, seconded by Commissioner Lounsbury. Commissioner McDonald moved to amend her motion to approve the Chena Riverfront Plan 5-Year Update and suspend the two meeting rule, seconded by Commissioner Lounsbury. Motion Passed unanimously.**

REPORTS

Weeks Field - Commissioner Nickles reported that park is looking very good, but they are discussing possibly changing the markers.

Staff Reports - Monthly Operations Report - Reviewed and stands as presented.

Directors Comments – The Mayor asked Mike to mention a proposed land sale for two parcels adjacent to Birch Hill, which would be used for recreational purposes. It will be discussed at the next Assembly meeting on September 24, and encourages the Commission to attend if they have any question on the proposal.



FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

Exhibit 2

Department of Community Planning

809 Pioneer Road • P.O. Box 71267 • Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267

(907) 459-1260 • FAX (907) 459-1255

November 12, 2015

Chena Riverfront Commission
c/o Fairbanks North Star Borough
Department of Community Planning
PO Box 71267
Fairbanks, AK 99707-1267

RE: Chena Riverfront Plan Update
PA2014-002 An ordinance amending Section II, Goals, Policies and Objectives of the
Chena Riverfront Plan.

Dear Chena Riverfront Commission:

At its regular meeting of November 10, 2015, the Planning Commission of the Fairbanks North Star Borough considered your request to recommend approval of the Chena Riverfront Plan Update to the Assembly.

The Commission voted seven (7) in favor, zero (0) opposed, resulting in a Planning Commission recommendation for **approval** of your request. The Fairbanks City Council and the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly will be holding a public hearing on this matter sometime in the near future.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact the Department of Community Planning, Division of Planning and Zoning, 809 Pioneer Road, or call 459-1260.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'D. Christine Nelson'.

D. Christine Nelson, AICP
Director, Department of Community Planning

DCN/nd

Cc: Fairbanks City Council, Attn: D. Danyielle Snider, CMC, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, AK 99701
Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly, Attn: Nancy A. Ashford-Bingham, MMC, 809 Pioneer Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701



FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

Department of Community Planning

809 Pioneer Road ☆ P.O. Box 71267 ☆ Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267

(907) 459-1260 ☆ FAX (907) 459-1255

November 12, 2015

RECEIVED
NOV 18 2015
CITY CLERKS OFFICE

Chena Riverfront Commission
c/o Fairbanks North Star Borough
Department of Community Planning
PO Box 71267
Fairbanks, AK 99707-1267

RE: Chena Riverfront Plan Update
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D. Christine Nelson, AICP
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Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly, Attn: Nancy A. Ashford-Bingham, MMC, 809 Pioneer Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701

Chena Riverfront Plan

5-Year UPDATE

DRAFT

Planning Commission Review
September 16, 2014

LEGEND:

Edits in blue lettering are *technical edits* (format, grammar, consistency, correcting mistakes).

Edits with yellow highlighting are more *substantive edits* (5 new policies/objectives proposed).

~~II.~~ **GOALS, POLICIES, and OBJECTIVES: The Riverfront Tomorrow**

This section ~~will present~~ GOALS, POLICIES and OBJECTIVES focused on five key issues affecting the riverfront: VALUE, OPPORTUNITIES, PARTICIPATION, ACCESS and STEWARDSHIP. Each goal statement is followed by general policy statements and specific objectives intended to carry out that goal. ~~Section II. This section represents the proposed~~ public policy concerning the Chena River.

VALUE: Recognize and R**estore the river as the crown jewel of the community.**

OPPORTUNITIES: **Develop &and integrate the river's multiple orientations to create an integrated whole.**

PARTICIPATION: ~~Create an environment and framework that enables people to contribute to the riverfront~~Encourage full participation by the entire community participation in implementing the Chena Riverfront Plan.

ACCESS: **Create and enhance physical and visual access to the river for all people.**

STEWARDSHIP: **Ensure that appropriate elements of public safety, protection of private property values and river planning efforts are maintained.**

VALUE

Intent

The Fairbanks community has both treated and mistreated the Chena River in several ways over the years. It is time now for Fairbanks to recognize the river as its crown jewel and to make sure it takes its rightful place as the central focus of the community. The time has come for all area residents and visitors to do what they can to promote the health and sustainability of the Chena River the second, most productive young King Salmon (Chinook) stream in the Alaskan portion of the Yukon River.

GOAL I: RECOGNIZE AND RESTORE THE RIVER AS THE CROWN JEWEL OF THE COMMUNITY.

1. **POLICY:** Encourage the creation and maintenance of areas of natural and man-made beauty along the river corridor.
 - A. **OBJECTIVE:** Develop voluntary riverbank management guidelines to assist property owners with erosion control and landscaping concerns.
 - B. **OBJECTIVE:** Implement ~~annual~~ litter control and river cleanup projects.
2. **POLICY:** Conserve as much as feasible the integrity of the river's natural system.
 - A. **OBJECTIVE:** Identify and inventory important/critical habitats within the river corridor.
 - B. **OBJECTIVE:** Create and maintain greenbelts in the watershed and river corridor.
 - C. **OBJECTIVE:** Consider hydrologic and sediment transport impacts of new bridge construction ~~must also be considered.~~
3. **POLICY:** Evaluate and review public and private development projects in the context of how well the project meets the adopted goals and objectives of the Chena Riverfront Plan ~~incorporates the river into the project's design.~~
 - A. **OBJECTIVE:** Create voluntary architectural and landscaping design guidelines for use along the river corridor.
 - B. **OBJECTIVE:** ~~Landscaping will be~~ Require landscaping of all borough funded projects. request landscaping for all other publicly funded projects along the corridor and strongly recommended landscaping for all private commercial and industrial projects.
4. **POLICY:** Maintain riverfront residential property land use through use of consistent zoning.

5. POLICY: Reduce pollution of the river.

A. OBJECTIVE: Apply economically achievable, best available technology to mitigate the effects of invasive aquatic species such as Elodea and possible pollutants including those borne in storm-water runoff on the river. ~~as well as those potentially born in storm-water runoff and invasive aquatic species such as Elodea.~~

B. OBJECTIVE: Encourage riverfront property owners (public and private) to use shoreline practices that provide for healthy fish and wildlife habitat, such as: retaining some natural stream bank vegetation to filter upland run-off and reduce erosion; properly disposing yard waste by avoiding the river or riverbank; and minimizing upland pollutants that could wash into the river.

6. POLICY: Support Chena River recreational fishery and habitat improvement efforts such as supporting river cleanup efforts; improving filtration methods for storm-water runoff and educating riverfront property owners about pollution sources.

7. POLICY: Enhance recreation value by encouraging incorporation of the river into the various other uses such as community events, recreation and fisheries.

8. POLICY: Update the Chena Riverfront Plan at least every ten (10) five (5) years.

OPPORTUNITIES

Intent

The intent of this goal is to take advantage of present and future opportunities as they relate to new economic investments, expanded historical/cultural awareness and recreational uses.

The Chena River presents numerous opportunities to the Fairbanks community. The Main Street Fairbanks (now called the Downtown Association) Chena Riverfront Design Workshop of 1990 representing a broad cross section of the community, identified the following three:

- 1) Economic linkages between existing developments can be strengthened. Tourism expansion can be enhanced by how we treat the river.
- 2) Historical and cultural ties to the river have been lost over the years. A sense of place developed through the river will promote Fairbanks' identity and image as a desirable place to live, visit and do business.
- 3) Opportunities to improve recreational uses exist up and down the river in both the urban and rural contexts.

GOAL II: DEVELOP AND INTEGRATE THE RIVER'S MULTIPLE ORIENTATIONS TO CREATE AN INTEGRATED WHOLE.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

1. **POLICY:** Encourage strategies to stimulate new private sector riverfront development.
 - A. **OBJECTIVE:** Develop methods by which use of property tax codes can provide incentives and encouragement for riverfront property enhancements~~improvements~~.
 - B. **OBJECTIVE:** Use public land resources and facilities to enhance river-oriented business opportunities.
 - C. **OBJECTIVE:** Develop a marketing plan that centers on the river to be used in attracting new private sector investment.
 - D. **OBJECTIVE:** Expand river-related winter tourism.

2. **POLICY:** ~~Establish~~ The Chena Riverfront ~~should be a~~ major focus of downtown core area revitalization.

3. **POLICY:** ~~Borough funding of economic development groups may~~ Give strong consideration for ~~Borough funding of economic development~~ to those who further the economic development elements of the Chena Riverfront Plan.

HISTORICAL / CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES

4. **POLICY:** Celebrate the river's contribution to Fairbanks history.

A. **OBJECTIVE:** Develop appropriate signage for historic buildings and districts, natural features and associated points of interest within the riverfront corridor.

B. **OBJECTIVE:** Support ~~and promote the~~ designation ~~and restoration~~ of historic districts, ~~and historic site restorations~~ sites, and ~~historic buildings~~ within the riverfront corridor.

5. **POLICY:** Support the creation and development of a native cultural center at an appropriate location.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

6. **POLICY:** Build upon and increase the recreational opportunities of the river for individual, public, and commercial purposes.

A. **OBJECTIVE:** Expand winter tourism through use of a variety of creative concepts.

B. **OBJECTIVE:** Provide linkages between parks through use of greenbelts, ~~designated pathways~~, conservation easements or consistent landscaping.

7. **POLICY:** Focus existing riverfront properties such as Pioneer Park and Griffin Park toward the river.

A. **OBJECTIVE:** Maintain and enhance year-round public access to the river at Griffin Park, the ~~park greenspace~~ at the FNSB administrative center, Golden Heart Plaza and additional access points in order to enhance their contributions to the Yukon Quest, the Open North American, cross country ski races, Golden Days and other river-related activities.

8. **POLICY:** Plan for both passive and active year-round recreation on the riverfront and the river.

PARTICIPATION

Intent

The success of any plan is measured by the degree to which the plan is implemented. All aspects of the Chena Riverfront Plan must, therefore, involve people from the community. The goal is to promote and encourage formal participation by community groups and individuals in the riverfront planning process by community groups and individuals now and in the future.

GOAL III: ENCOURAGE FULL PARTICIPATION BY THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY IN IMPLEMENTING THE CHENA RIVERFRONT PLAN.

1. **POLICY:** Provide for community-wide involvement of volunteers and civic organizations in the development, improvement and implementation of existing and future riverfront projects.
 - A. **OBJECTIVE:** Establish a volunteer database.
 - B. **OBJECTIVE:** Develop educational programs about the river's cultural and natural history.
 - C. **OBJECTIVE:** Develop a task list to implement the Plan's goals, policies and objectives.
2. **POLICY:** Encourage marketing assistance for businesses that cooperate with design and riverbank management.
3. **POLICY:** Inspire a riverfront-promotions campaign that involves some aspects of the river into various celebrations or events of all seasons.
 - A. **OBJECTIVE:** Support ongoing growth and development of riverfront events such as ice/snow sculpting, dog mushing, canoe races, ski races and other races.
4. **POLICY:** Develop a review procedure for the Chena Riverfront Commission to review development in the river corridor in order to determine consistency with this Plan.
5. **POLICY:** Provide the FNSB Planning Commission and the Fairbanks City Council with annual updates on progress and challenges in implementing the Chena Riverfront Plan.

ACCESS

Intent

Making physical connections between town and river is fundamental to any riverfront planning effort. Parks, greenways, trails, boating access points and other public lands can guarantee that people can reach the water. Landowners also can make useful connections by 1) orienting uses to the water in ways that result in a heightened awareness of river qualities, and 2) encouraging public access to and along the river ~~through private property~~ to establish continuous connections for public trail systems. The ~~Riverfront pPlan~~ does not advocate the use of eminent domain or inverse condemnation on property to achieve its goals, policies or projects and instead, the Plan advocates the use of incentives, negotiated agreements and other positive inducements to implement the ~~pPlan~~.

GOAL IV: CREATE AND ENHANCE PHYSICAL AND VISUAL ACCESS TO THE RIVER FOR ALL PEOPLE.

1. **POLICY:** Incorporate the river into the community's daily life by increasing visual and physical access to and along the river when it is compatible with riverfront habitat sustainability.
 - A. **OBJECTIVE:** Improve existing access points with landscaping, parking, signage, maps and seating where practical.
 - B. **OBJECTIVE:** Create a safe environment for public riverfront use through additional lighting, appropriate landscaping and maintenance.
 - C. **OBJECTIVE:** Add new public access points to the river designed to accommodate public use for year-round summer fishing and wintertime sports and recreation activities.
 - D. **OBJECTIVE:** Construct new paths along, above, and as close as possible to the riverbank in order to take full advantage of river views.
 - E. **OBJECTIVE:** Enhance boat accessibility to and along the Chena River downtown and elsewhere.
 - F. **OBJECTIVE:** Enhance trails along the riverfront.

- 2. POLICY:** Encourage public and private partnerships that facilitate appropriate access to, on and along the river.
- A. OBJECTIVE:** Provide for and encourage multi-modal transportation options, such as boat launches, canoe/kayak launch sites and river marina.
 - B. OBJECTIVE:** Develop year-round transportation and design linkages that will serve and connect riverfront attractions to other nearby attractions with emphasis on the downtown core area.
 - C. OBJECTIVE:** Develop appropriate incentives for landowners who provide public access along the river.
 - D. OBJECTIVE:** Develop new bike path routes that are compatible with adjacent land use and are safe and relaxing to use.
 - E. OBJECTIVE:** Support beneficial projects that will utilize waste heat from the Aurora Chena River power plant.
 - F. OBJECTIVE:** Encourage and assist commercial property owners to seek public funding to develop boat launches.
 - G. OBJECTIVE:** Work to enhance the connection between river corridor from Pioneer Park and the downtown along the river corridor.
- 3. POLICY:** Ensure that the urban riverfront corridor is pedestrian friendly.
- A. OBJECTIVE:** Encourage riverfront development that gives aesthetic consideration to all new and existing facilities within the riverfront corridor, including transportation projects.
 - B. OBJECTIVE:** Encourage proposed riverfront development be consistent with the adopted Chena Riverfront Plan.
 - C. OBJECTIVE:** Support public events scheduled along roadways adjacent to the river, including events that involve pedestrian-only roadway use.
- 4. POLICY:** Consider the aesthetic effect of all new bridge construction and evaluate new bridge projects from the perspective to the river as well as from the river.
- 5. POLICY:** Refer to comprehensive road plan policies for all new transportation projects planned within the river corridor.

STEWARDSHIP

Intent

Coordinating with agencies, groups and organizations that have interest in the river is a fundamental responsibility of the Commission. Many functions are well-established and others are continually evolving. This Plan advocates for actions that will improve and sustain the riverine health of the river, without adding additional regulatory oversight. Working within existing legal and policy structures, the Plan will continue to promote the well-being of the river and its riverfront for all Borough residents.

GOAL V: ENSURE THAT APPROPRIATE ELEMENTS OF PUBLIC SAFETY, PROTECTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY VALUES AND RIVER PLANNING EFFORTS ARE MAINTAINED.

FLOOD-PLAIN MANAGEMENT

1. **POLICY:** Support and encourage local flood-plain management efforts related to land use planning for the areas affected by the flood control project ~~which should include~~ being riparian zone management, channel capacity, impacts to fisheries, and public awareness programs related to flood hazards.
 - A. **OBJECTIVE:** Work proactively to pursue a plan to educate the public on ~~harm caused to the river by~~ sedimentation dynamics.
 - B. **OBJECTIVE:** Work proactively to pursue a plan to avoid sedimentation buildup within the Chena River.
 - C. **OBJECTIVE:** Support pertinent local, state and federal agencies in gathering new information on the basic physical and habitat characteristics of the Chena River through cost-shared studies, such as the 1997 USGS Chena River Watershed Study for future planning purposes.

REGULATORY

2. **POLICY:** Support appropriate comprehensive planning and zoning to achieve development that is consistent with this plan.

- A. **OBJECTIVE:** Modify the FNSB zoning code to include an optional “Riverfront Influence Area” that offers greater flexibility to riverfront property owners in exchange for certain public amenities.
- B. **OBJECTIVE:** Create a rational and variable river setback distance based on consideration of river erosion rates, bank stability, aesthetics and habitat.
- C. **OBJECTIVE:** Promote provision of a comprehensive, public source of all waterway regulations by all agencies affecting development and use within the riverfront corridor.

COORDINATION PROACTIVELY WITH OTHER AGENCIES ON PROACTIVE EDUCATION

- 3. **POLICY:** Coordinate with other river-interested parties to minimize duplication of regulatory and educational effort.
 - A. **OBJECTIVE:** Support further development of collaborative programs to assist property owners with bank erosion control guidelines.
 - B. **OBJECTIVE:** In cooperation with the US Coast Guard and other enforcement agencies (including ADF&G and USFWS), create and implement a series of short courses and a signage program that address boat safety, multi-use courtesy and navigational hazards of the river.
 - C. **OBJECTIVE:** Work with appropriate local, state and federal agencies, and the private sector to plan for the implementation of NPDES Storm Water regulations in both urban and rural areas along the Chena River corridor.
 - D. **OBJECTIVE:** Support the continuation of studies on the basic physical and biological habitat of the Chena River Watershed.
 - E. **OBJECTIVE:** Support corrective action to increase the water flow through the Chena River Watershed, including Badger (Chena) Slough and Noyes Slough.
 - F. **OBJECTIVE:** Coordinate closely with the Tanana Valley Watershed Association (TVWA) to enhance the progress of both the Chena Riverfront Commission and the TVWA.

END

1 **Proposed substitute by**
2 **Planning Commission**

By: Planning Commission
Introduced:
Adopted:

5 FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

7 ORDINANCE NO. 2015 –

10 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION II, GOALS, POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE
11 CHENA RIVERFRONT PLAN

13 WHEREAS the joint City of Fairbanks/Fairbanks North Star Borough
14 Riverfront Commission was established for purposes of planning and fostering the
15 development of riverfront property along the Chena River; and

17 WHEREAS the Commission was also established because there is a
18 strong consensus in the Fairbanks community that the Chena River is a very special
19 attribute; and

21 WHEREAS the Chena Riverfront Plan Section II, Goals, Policies and
22 Objectives was adopted July 10, 1997 as an element of the Borough Comprehensive
23 Land Use Plan; and

25 WHEREAS the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly adopted
26 Ordinance No. 2009-08 with updated amendments on March 12, 2009; and

28 WHEREAS the proposed plan update represents public input collected
29 and documented by the Chena Riverfront Commission members in five community
30 meetings; and

31
CODE AMENDMENTS ARE SHOWN IN LEGISLATIVE FORMAT

Text to be *added* is underlined

Text to be *deleted* is [BRACKETED AND CAPITALIZED]

32 WHEREAS the Chena Riverfront Commission has reviewed and
33 recommended approval of the proposed amendments to GOALS, POLICIES, &
34 OBJECTIVES of the Chena Riverfront Plan; and

35
36 WHEREAS the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation
37 Commission reviewed and recommended approval of the proposed amendments on
38 September 21, 2015; and

39
40 WHEREAS on November 10, 2015 the Planning Commission held a
41 public hearing and voted to recommend approval of the proposed amendments;

42
43 WHEREAS on December 14, 2015 the Fairbanks City Council held a
44 public hearing and adopted the proposed amendments;

45
46 NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Assembly of the Fairbanks
47 North Star Borough:

48
49 Section 1. Classification. This ordinance is of a general nature and not of
50 a permanent nature and shall not be codified.

51
52 Section 2. II. GOALS, POLICIES, & OBJECTIVES: The Riverfront
53 Tomorrow is hereby amended as follows:

54
55 [II] GOALS, POLICIES[,] AND OBJECTIVES: The Riverfront Tomorrow

56
57 This section [WILL PRESENT]presents GOALS, POLICIES and OBJECTIVES
58 focused on five key issues affecting the riverfront: VALUE, OPPORTUNITIES,
59 PARTICIPATION, ACCESS, and STEWARDSHIP. Each goal statement is

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Text to be *added* is underlined

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60 followed by general policy statements and specific objectives intended to carry
61 out that goal. [SECTION II]This section [REPRESENTS]presents the
62 [PROPOSED]public policy concerning the Chena River.

63

64 VALUE: Recognize and [RESTORE]restore the river as the crown
65 jewel of the community.

66 OPPORTUNITIES: Develop [&]and integrate the river's multiple orientations to
67 create an integrated whole.

68 PARTICIPATION: [CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT AND FRAMEWORK THAT
69 ENABLES PEOPLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE
70 RIVERFRONT]Encourage community participation in
71 implementing the Chena Riverfront Plan.

72

73 Section 3. VALUE Intent is hereby amended as follows:

74

75 Intent

76 The Fairbanks community has both treated and mistreated the Chena River in
77 several ways over the years. It is time now for Fairbanks to recognize the river as
78 its crown jewel and to make sure it takes its rightful place as the central focus of
79 the community. The time has come for all area residents and visitors to do what
80 they can to promote the health and sustainability of the Chena River, the second-
81 most productive young King Salmon (Chinook) stream in the Alaskan portion of
82 the Yukon River.

83

84 Section 4. Goal I, 1 Policy, Objective B, is hereby amended as follows:

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86 B. OBJECTIVE: Implement [ANNUAL]litter control and river cleanup
87 projects.

CODE AMENDMENTS ARE SHOWN IN LEGISLATIVE FORMAT
Text to be added is underlined
Text to be deleted is [BRACKETED AND CAPITALIZED]

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Section 5. Goal I, 2 Policy, Objective A, is hereby amended as follows:

A. OBJECTIVE: Identify and inventory ~~[CRITICAL]~~important habitats within the river corridor.

Section 6. Goal I, 2 Policy, Objective C, is hereby amended as follows:

C. OBJECTIVE: Consider ~~[HYDROLOGIC]~~hydrologic and sediment transport impacts of new bridge construction~~[MUST ALSO BE CONSIDERED]~~.

Section 7. Goal I, 3 Policy, is hereby amended as follows:

3. POLICY: Evaluate and review public and private development projects in the context of how well the project ~~[INCORPORATES THE RIVER INTO THE PROJECT'S DESIGN]~~meets the adopted goals and objectives of the Chena Riverfront Plan.

Section 8. Goal I, 3 Policy, Objective B, is hereby amended as follows:

B. OBJECTIVE: ~~[LANDSCAPING WILL BE REQUIRED]~~Require landscaping of all borough funded projects, request landscaping for all other publicly funded projects along the corridor and strongly ~~[RECOMMENDED]~~recommend landscaping ~~[OF]~~for all private commercial and industrial projects.

Section 9. Goal I, 5 Policy, Objective A, is hereby amended as follows:

CODE AMENDMENTS ARE SHOWN IN LEGISLATIVE FORMAT
Text to be added is underlined
Text to be deleted is [BRACKETED AND CAPITALIZED]

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A. OBJECTIVE: Apply economically achievable, best available technology to mitigate the effects of invasive aquatic species, such as Elodea, and possible pollutants, including those borne in storm-water runoff, on the river.

Section 10. Goal I, 5 Policy, Objective B, is hereby added as follows:

B. OBJECTIVE: Encourage riverfront property owners (public and private) to use shoreline practices that provide for healthy fish and wildlife habitat, such as: retaining some natural stream bank vegetation to filter upland run-off and reduce erosion; properly disposing yard waste by avoiding the river or riverbank; and minimizing upland pollutants that could wash into the river.

Section 11. Goal I, 6 Policy, is hereby added as follows:

6. POLICY: Support Chena River recreational fishery and habitat improvement efforts, such as supporting river cleanup efforts; improving filtration methods for storm-water runoff and educating riverfront property owners about pollution sources.

Section 12. Goal I, 8 Policy, is hereby amended as follows:

8. POLICY: Update the Chena Riverfront Plan at least every [FIVE (5)]ten (10) years.

Section 13. OPPORTUNITIES Intent is hereby amended as follows:

CODE AMENDMENTS ARE SHOWN IN LEGISLATIVE FORMAT
Text to be added is underlined
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Intent

The intent of this goal is to take advantage of present and future opportunities as they relate to new economic investments, expanded historical/cultural awareness and recreational uses.

The Chena River presents numerous opportunities to the Fairbanks community. The Main Street Fairbanks (now called the Downtown Association) Chena Riverfront Design Workshop of 1990 representing a broad cross section of the community, identified the following three:

- 2) Historical and cultural ties to the river have been lost over the years. A sense of place developed through the river will promote Fairbanks' identity and image as a desirable place to live, visit and do business.

Section 14. Goal II, 1 Policy, Objective A, is hereby amended as follows:

- A. OBJECTIVE: Develop methods by which use of property tax codes can provide incentives and encouragement for riverfront property ~~[IMPROVEMENTS]~~enhancements.

Section 15. Goal II, 1 Policy, Objective B, is hereby amended as follows:

- B. OBJECTIVE: Use public land resources and facilities to enhance river-oriented business opportunities.

Section 16. Goal II, 1 Policy, Objective D, is hereby amended as follows:

CODE AMENDMENTS ARE SHOWN IN LEGISLATIVE FORMAT
Text to be added is underlined
Text to be deleted is [BRACKETED AND CAPITALIZED]

172 D. OBJECTIVE: Expand river-related winter tourism.

173

174 Section 17. Goal II, 2 Policy, is hereby amended as follows:

175

176 2. POLICY: Establish [THE]the Chena Riverfront [SHOULD BE]as a
177 major focus of downtown core area revitalization.

178

179 Section 18. Goal II, 3 Policy, is hereby amended as follows:

180

181 3. POLICY: [BOROUGH FUNDING OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
182 GROUPS MAY GIVE]Give strong consideration for Borough funding to
183 those who further the economic development elements of the Chena
184 Riverfront Plan.

185

186 Section 19. Goal II, 4 Policy, Objective B, is hereby amended as follows:

187

188 B. OBJECTIVE: Support and promote the designation and restoration of
189 historic districts, [AND]historic [SITE RESTORATIONS]sites and
190 historic buildings within the riverfront corridor.

191

192 Section 20. Goal II, Recreation Subtitle, is hereby amended as follows:

193

194 RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

195

196 Section 21. Goal II, 6 Policy, Objective B, is hereby amended as follows:

197

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198 B. OBJECTIVE: Provide linkages between parks through use of
199 greenbelts, designated pathways, conservation easements or
200 consistent landscaping.

201

202 Section 22. Goal II, 7 Policy, Objective A, is hereby amended as follows:

203

204 A. OBJECTIVE: Maintain and enhance year-round public access to the
205 river at Griffin Park, the [PARK]greenspace at the FNSB administrative
206 center, Golden Heart Plaza and additional access points in order to
207 enhance their contributions to the Yukon Quest, the Open North
208 American, cross country ski races, Golden Days and other river-related
209 activities.

210

211 Section 23. Goal II, 8 Policy, is hereby amended as follows:

212

213 8. POLICY: Plan for both passive and active year-round recreation on
214 the riverfront and the river.

215

216 Section 24. PARTICIPATION Intent is hereby amended as follows:

217

218 Intent

219 The success of any plan is measured by the degree to which the plan is
220 implemented. All aspects of the Chena Riverfront Plan must, therefore, involve
221 people from the community. [THE]This goal [IS TO PROMOTE]promotes and
222 [ENCOURAGE]encourages formal participation by community groups and
223 individuals in the riverfront planning process [BY COMMUNITY GROUPS AND
224 INDIVIDUALS]now and in the future.

225

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226 Section 25. Goal III, 1 Policy, is hereby amended as follows:

227

- 228 1. POLICY: Provide for community-wide involvement of volunteers and
- 229 civic organizations in the development, improvement and
- 230 implementation of existing and future riverfront projects.

231

232 Section 26. Goal III, 3 Policy, is hereby amended as follows:

233

- 234 3. POLICY: Inspire a riverfront-promotions campaign that involves some
- 235 aspects of the river into various celebrations or events of all seasons.

236

237 Section 27. Goal III, 4 Policy, is hereby amended as follows:

238

- 239 4. POLICY: Develop a review procedure for the Chena Riverfront
- 240 Commission to review development in the river corridor in order to
- 241 determine consistency with this [PLAN]Plan.

242

243 Section 28. ACCESS Intent is hereby amended as follows:

244

245 Intent

246 Making physical connections between town and river is fundamental to any

247 riverfront planning effort. Parks, greenways, trails, boating access points and

248 other public lands can guarantee that people can reach the water. Landowners

249 also can make useful connections by 1) orienting uses to the water in ways that

250 result in a heightened awareness of river qualities, and 2) encouraging public

251 access to and along the river [THROUGH PRIVATE PROPERTY]to establish

252 continuous connections for public trail systems. The [RIVERFRONT]Riverfront

253 [PLAN]Plan does not advocate the use of eminent domain or inverse

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254 condemnation on property to achieve its goals, policies or projects and, instead,
255 the Plan advocates the use of incentives, negotiated agreements and other
256 positive inducements to implement the [PLAN]Plan.

257

258 Section 29. Goal IV, 1 Policy, Objective C, is hereby amended as follows:

259

260 C. OBJECTIVE: Add new public access points to the river designed to
261 accommodate [SUMMER FISHING AND WINTERTIME SPORTS AND
262 RECREATION]public use for year-round activities.

263

264 Section 30. Goal IV, 2 Policy, Objective A, is hereby amended as follows:

265

266 A. OBJECTIVE: Provide for and encourage multi-modal transportation
267 options, such as boat launches, canoe/kayak launch sites and river
268 marina.

269

270 Section 31. Goal IV, 2 Policy, Objective B, is hereby amended as follows:

271

272 B. OBJECTIVE: Develop year-round transportation and design linkages
273 that will serve and connect riverfront attractions to other nearby
274 attractions with emphasis on the downtown core area.

275

276 Section 32. Goal IV, 2 Policy, Objective E, is hereby amended as follows:

277

278 E. OBJECTIVE: Support beneficial projects that [WILL]utilize waste heat
279 from the [CHENA RIVER]Aurora power plant.

280

281 Section 33. Goal IV, 2 Policy, Objective G, is hereby amended as follows:

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G. OBJECTIVE: Work to enhance the connection between [RIVER CORRIDOR FROM]Pioneer Park [TO]and downtown along the river corridor.

Section 34. Goal IV, 3 Policy, Objective C, is hereby amended as follows:

C. OBJECTIVE: Support public events scheduled along roadways adjacent to the river, including events that involve pedestrian-only roadway use.

Section 35. Goal V, STEWARDSHIP is hereby amended as follows:

Intent

Coordinating with agencies, groups and organizations that have interest in the river is a fundamental responsibility of the Commission. Many functions are well-established and others are continually evolving. This Plan advocates for actions that will improve and sustain the riverine health of the river, without adding additional regulatory oversight. Working within existing legal and policy structures, the Plan will continue to promote the well-being of the river and its riverfront for all Borough residents.

Section 36. Goal V, 1 Policy, is hereby amended as follows:

1. POLICY: Support and encourage local flood-plain management efforts related to land use planning for the areas affected by the flood control project, [WHICH SHOULD INCLUDE]including riparian zone

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309 management, channel capacity, impacts to fisheries, and public
310 awareness programs related to flood hazards.

311
312 Section 37. Goal V, 1 Policy, Objective A, is hereby amended as follows:
313

314 A. OBJECTIVE: Work proactively to pursue a plan to educate the public
315 on [HARM CAUSED TO THE]river [BY]sedimentation dynamics.
316

317 Section 38. Goal V, COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES ON
318 EDUCATION Subtitle, is hereby amended as follows:
319

320 [COORDINATION]COORDINATE PROACTIVELY WITH OTHER AGENCIES
321 ON [PROACTIVE]EDUCATION
322

323 Section 39. Goal V, 3 Policy, Objective E, is hereby amended as follows:
324

325 E. OBJECTIVE: Support corrective action to increase the water flow
326 through the Chena River Watershed, including Badger (Chena) Slough
327 and Noyes Slough.
328

329 Section 40. Effective date. This ordinance shall be effective at 5:00 p.m.
330 on the first borough business day following its adoption.
331

332 PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2016.
333

334
335 _____
336
337 Presiding Officer
338

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339 ATTEST:

340

341

342

343 _____
Nanci Ashford-Bingham, MMC
344 Municipal Borough Clerk
345

346

APPROVED:

A. René Broker
Borough Attorney

CODE AMENDMENTS ARE SHOWN IN LEGISLATIVE FORMAT

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