

**CHENA RIVERFRONT COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA**

December 22, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

This meeting will be held at or hosted from the  
Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers  
Juanita Helms Administration Center  
907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, AK

This meeting will be conducted in-person and by zoom or zoom-only with consideration given to the Borough Operational Status and if the Juanita Helms Administration Center is otherwise open to the public. Please visit <https://www.fnsb.gov/406/Boards-Commissions> or contact the Borough Clerk's Office (907) 459-1401.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. ROLL CALL**

**C. MESSAGES**

C.1. Chair's Comments

C.2. Citizens' Comments - limited to 3 minutes

C.2.a. Agenda items not scheduled for public hearing

C.2.b. Items other than those appearing on the agenda

C.3. Disclosure and Statement of Conflict of Interest

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of consent agenda passes all routine items indicated by asterisk (\*) on agenda. Consent agenda items are not considered separately unless any Commission member or citizen so requests. In the event of such request, the item is returned to the general agenda.

**E. MINUTES**

**E.1. \*Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting minutes from November 24, 2021**

Documents:

**F. REPORTS**

**F.1. Communications to the Chena Riverfront Commission**

**F.2. Status update on the Chena Riverfront Commission project list  
by Kellen Spillman, Acting Community Planning Director**

Documents:

[Project List.pdf](#)

**F.3. Status updates on State of Alaska Department of Transportation  
and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) riverfront projects by John  
Netardus, AK DOT&PF**

**G. NEW BUSINESS**

**G.1. Review and make recommendations to Community Planning  
Department staff and FNSB contracted graphic designer on the  
draft Chena River Safety Signage project**

Documents:

[Draft Chena River Safety Sign.pdf](#)

**G.2. Discussion on vacant Chena Riverfront Commission seats**

**H. EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES**

**I. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

**K. AUDIO FILES - CHENA RIVERFRONT COMMISSION**

[12-22-2021 Audio Track 1 \(MP3\)](#)

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

A regular meeting of the Chena Riverfront Commission was held Wednesday, November 24, 2021, in the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers of the Juanita Helms Administration Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

**ROLL CALL**

There were present appearing telephonically:

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

Comprising a quorum of the Commission, and

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

**MESSAGES**

1.a. Chair's Comments

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

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

**MESSAGES - continued**

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

NONE

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

NONE

3. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

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

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 8 Yeses, 0 Noes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

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

**REPORTS**

1. Communications to the Chena Riverfront Commission

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

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

## **REPORTS - continued**

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

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

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

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

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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

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

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

HENSZEY,  
Seconded by FREIBURGER

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

**NEW BUSINESS - continued**

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

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

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 8 Yeses, 0 Noes

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

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

**EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES**

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

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

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

The other commissioners echoed Commissioner Henszey's sentiments.

Vice-Chair Freiburger apologized for her tardiness.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

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



## Chena Riverfront Commission

### PROJECT LIST

December 2021

Listed below are the adopted priority tasks for the Joint City/Borough Chena Riverfront Commission. These tasks serve to implement the goals and objectives outlined in the Chena Riverfront Plan adopted by the City of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

- A. Elodea Infestation. Support the efforts of FSWCD, TVWA, USFWS, and others to achieve desired control of invasive plant species in our waterways.

Update: from Aditi Shenoy with FSWCD on May 8, 2019

- B. Chena Riverwalk. Work collaboratively with the ADOT&PF, ARRC, FAST Planning and Festival Fairbanks on riverfront bike path projects, particularly on the north side of the river, e.g. on the Phillips Field Road realignment project, to ensure that the bike path is as close as possible to the Chena River bank. Keep track of upcoming subdivision and collaborate with ARRC to engage new property owners about current riparian zone concerns.

Update: CRFC recommendation letter submitted on March 14, 2018  
from Jackson Fox with FAST Planning fall and summer 2021  
Working on possible maintenance agreement between ARRC and  
CoF/FNSB  
Updated e-mail from Jackson Fox at 8.25.21 Meeting and 10.27.21.  
ARRC wants a long term lease with CoF for market value, FAST Planning  
put funding in Program (TIP) for right-of-way. Estimates vary between  
DOT and ARRC.

- C. Riverfront Riparian Zone Education. Continue collaboration with the local, state, and federal agencies and other stakeholders to bring communities together by using common terminology and definitions for evaluating the health and condition of the riparian zone, and by disseminating information through training on fish and wildlife friendly techniques for riverfront landowners to stabilize their streambanks.

Follow the TVWA WRAP (Watershed Resource Action Plan) and build support through community leaders, including the Borough Planning Commission, the Borough Assembly and the City Council. Work to develop a fact-based riparian management plan and update/expand rational riverfront setback standards.

Support TVWA public education program regarding the impacts of dumping debris in the river and Noyes Slough. Expand education effort to include other Fairbanks Green Infrastructure Group actions.

Update: Living Alongside Salmon Homes brochure completed, printed and distributed as of June 30, 2019 (mailed out 2,000)  
Update from Kellen Spillman with FNSB on June 13, 2018  
As of Aug 2021 several hundred more brochures, what do we want to do with them? – TVWA to work with FNSB to send out to owners adjacent to the Noyes Slough.

- D. River Safety Signage. Facilitate bringing together key parties, including FAST Planning and ADOT&PF during bridge reconstruction projects, the Fairbanks branch of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and other river users, to improve on river safety issues, including bridge signage and mile markers, “Kids Don’t Float” stations and other features. [Update: Slowed due to Pandemic. Get funding to get final design, then go from there. Plan lead TVWA, Cynthia has changed. Wade create letters to send out to community. Brian Charlton – AK529 Program “Kids Don’t Float”- ask for sponsor. Graehl Park 1<sup>st</sup> Proposed Site.]

Update: from Commissioner Wade Binkley with CRFC on August 26, 2020  
Jackson Fox, FAST Planning, is working on project to put signs on all of the bridges. Possible collaboration between CRFC, FAST Planning, and possible funding from FNSB, Aug 2021, Commission voted for letter of support at August meeting.  
Kellen Spillman found funding for a graphic designer, Wade and Julie to act as Commissioner Representatives with design process.

- E. Pioneer Park Masterplan. Coordinate with the FNSB Parks & Recreation Department and other community groups, including the TVWA, FSWCD and FGIG to pursue design and implementation of the waterfront facilities upgrade at Pioneer Park. Address improvements and link to the Chena Riverwalk.

Update: from TVWA on March 9, 2016  
Aiming for an update by the project manager fall of 2021  
When completed will make recommendation.  
Update at August meeting, action item at September meeting (recommendation to PC)  
**Approved by Assembly – Recommend deleting**

- F. Fairbanks Downtown Plan & Downtown Street Reconstruction. Provide input and support to FMATS and City of Fairbanks contractors and landowners to include



green zones near sidewalks and streets that help filter pollutants, slow water runoff and trap sediment before it reaches the storm drains and river.

Update: from Kellen Spillman with FNSB on December 11, 2019  
Worksession with consultant at spring of 2022 meeting  
FNSB hired Agnew Beck to finalize plan.

- G. Alaska DOT&PF Projects. Work with ADOT&PF on projects that may come before the Commission to review and comment on their compatibility with the Chena Riverfront Plan. See the ADOT&PF Active Project List, attached, provided courtesy of Joe Kemp, ADOT&PF, specifically for CRFC-related projects.

Update: from John Netardus with ADOT&PF monthly

- H. TVWA Projects.

Update: from Ashley Carrick with TVWA at regular meetings.

Any specific projects that CRFC participation is desired?

- I. FNSB Recreational Trail Plan Update. Will continue to track and provide input to the FNSB Administration and/or the Trails Advisory Commission (TAC) regarding updating of the FNSB Recreational Trail Plan. Specific emphasis should be looked at regarding trails on or along the Chena River or its tributaries. Investigate best practices to incorporate salmon friendly vegetation with trails. This is a consultant led effort.

Update: from Kellen Spillman with FNSB quarterly with work sessions as needed  
Aiming for an update by the project manager fall of 2021  
Try to schedule work session spring 2022.

### ACRONYMS

ADOT&PF	Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
ARRC	Alaska Railroad Corporation
FAST Planning	Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation Planning
FNSB	Fairbanks North Star Borough
FSWCD	Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District
FGIG	Fairbanks Green Infrastructure Group
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
TVWA	Tanana Valley Watershed Association
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

# Chena River Summer Recreation Information

## KIDS DON'T FLOAT!

Give Them Something That Does

### Life Jacket Loaner Station



- By law all persons under 13 must wear a personal flotation device while in an open boat or on a dock.
- All vessels must carry a PFD for all passengers on board, no matter their age.

## Be Weather Wise



Intense heat can lead to dehydration on the water. Bring shade and drinking water on hot days.



Afternoon showers and storms can come on quick. Be prepared!

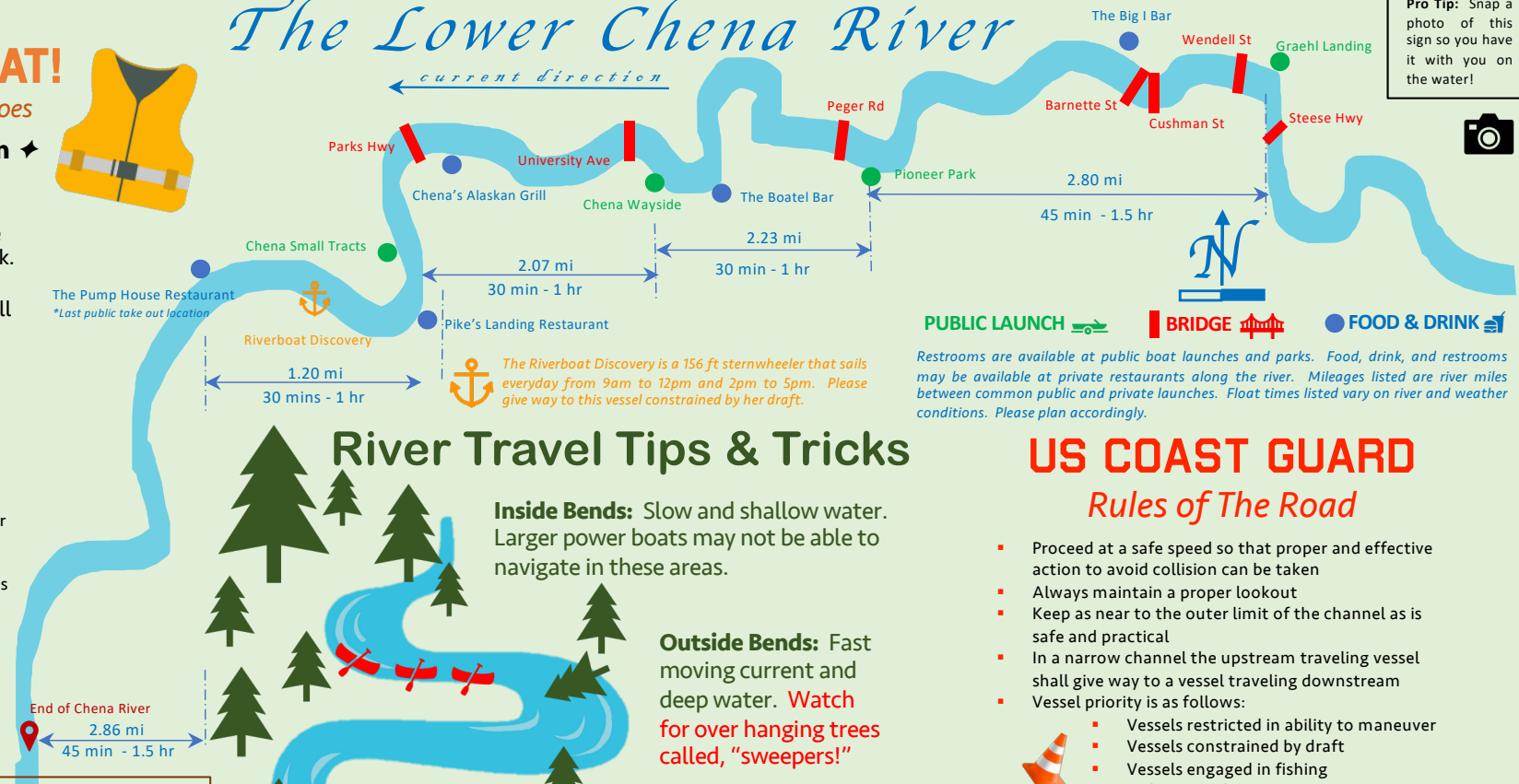


West winds often blow in mid afternoon. A heavy wind can greatly increase your float time on the water.

## Welcome to the Neighborhood!

Most land on the river is privately owned. Please respect land owners by keeping noise down at night, properly disposing of trash and not trespassing on their property. Our neighbors thank you!

## The Lower Chena River



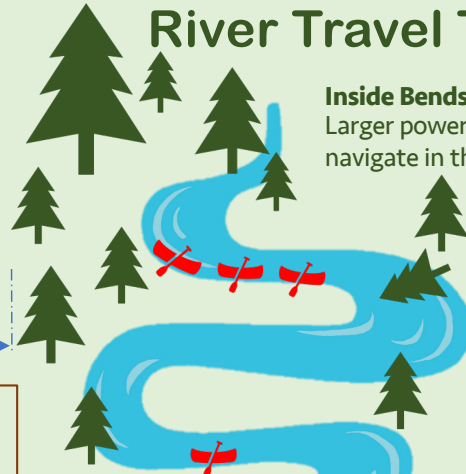
**Pro Tip:** Snap a photo of this sign so you have it with you on the water!



**PUBLIC LAUNCH** **BRIDGE** **FOOD & DRINK**

Restrooms are available at public boat launches and parks. Food, drink, and restrooms may be available at private restaurants along the river. Mileages listed are river miles between common public and private launches. Float times listed vary on river and weather conditions. Please plan accordingly.

## River Travel Tips & Tricks



**Inside Bends:** Slow and shallow water. Larger power boats may not be able to navigate in these areas.

**Outside Bends:** Fast moving current and deep water. **Watch for over hanging trees called, "sweepers!"**

**Group Travel:** Always travel single file!

## US COAST GUARD

### Rules of The Road

- Proceed at a safe speed so that proper and effective action to avoid collision can be taken
- Always maintain a proper lookout
- Keep as near to the outer limit of the channel as is safe and practical
- In a narrow channel the upstream traveling vessel shall give way to a vessel traveling downstream
- Vessel priority is as follows:
  - Vessels restricted in ability to maneuver
  - Vessels constrained by draft
  - Vessels engaged in fishing
  - Sailing vessels
  - Power driven vessels
- Be prepared to depart from the "Rules" if necessary to avoid collision



Thank you for responsibly enjoying Fairbanks' Chena River! For more info scan QR code to visit The Alaska Office of Boating Safety website.