

FNBP Trail Improvement Plan (D59813)

Meeting with the Friends of Far North Bicentennial Park

Attendees: Pixie Siebe; John Weddleton; Dan Rosenberg; Walt Parker

Date: April 8, 2008

- Holly informed the group that the Single Track Advocates (STA) wanted to build 10 miles of trail this summer and they were presenting this proposal to the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting on Thursday, April 10, 2008 (at the Spenard Recreation Center).
- The sentiment from the group (Friends) is that they should do a pilot project of 4 miles or so. The following year they could finish the other 6 miles and then propose other trails (north of the Campbell Airstrip Road). This would give the public and the Parks & Recreation Department some time to see (evaluate) these built trails.
- There was discussion about a trailhead or trail access off Nettleton Drive (subdivision area). The neighborhood uses this access point, but Parks & Recreation does not want to develop a formal trailhead with parking that would attract residents from outside the neighborhood area.
- John Weddleton thought it would be good to talk to the residents about how access is currently working and with the newly proposed STA trails, how more people might be accessing the trails off of Nettleton Drive.
- They are concerned about an encroachment into FNBP from neighbors along the south side of the Hillside Ski Area. It looks like someone has built a shed or out-building onto park property. The Friends were wondering what the procedure was for notifying this individual and how the Parks & Rec Department might address this.

## FNBP Trail Improvement Plan (D59813)

### Stakeholder Meeting with Equestrians

Attendees: Ann Gabler; Blair Christensen; Hugh McPeak

Date: August 21, 2008

- Single Track Advocates (STA) proposed trails on the north side of Campbell Airstrip Road, south of the gasline trail, are not a good use for this area, since equestrians use this area – accessing it from the Stuckagain Heights subdivision.
- Blair mentioned that we should have notified the Audubon Alaska society here in Anchorage to be a part of the discussions on developing new trails in FNBP. She also mentioned that bird counts have been done in the FNBP area for many years and could give us a contact (Vivian Mendenhall?) in order to get that information. She also noted that bird walks/tours also occur in FNBP – starting at the Campbell Creek Science Center.
- Holly mentioned that it appears that FNBP’s concessionaire for horse riding uses the off-leash dog area and the Tank Trail as their “loop” or “route” from the North Bivouac Trailhead. She needs to verify their routes.
- They (Ann, Blair, and Hugh) noted that they like to go on trails that are smaller or narrower in nature. They don’t necessarily like the wider or more wide open trails.
- They feel like there is nowhere else for the equestrians to go in this park. They feel as if they are getting squeezed out of the park by the other trail users (dog mushers, skijorers, bikers).
- Steep trails are okay for horses. If humans can hike up a trail that is steep, then a horse would do fine going up the same trail.
- They were wondering how many trails the other user groups had - that are specific to their use. What are the percentages of trails by user group?
- Holly noted that we will need to go to the Parks & Recreation Commission (PRC) and the Urban Design Commission (UDC) for site plan review of this public land.
- Ann drew a large area on the map to the north of Campbell Airstrip Road that she would like to see as an **open-natural area** with **no new trail development** in this zone.